



**Southern Appalachian Program
Development and Accomplishments**

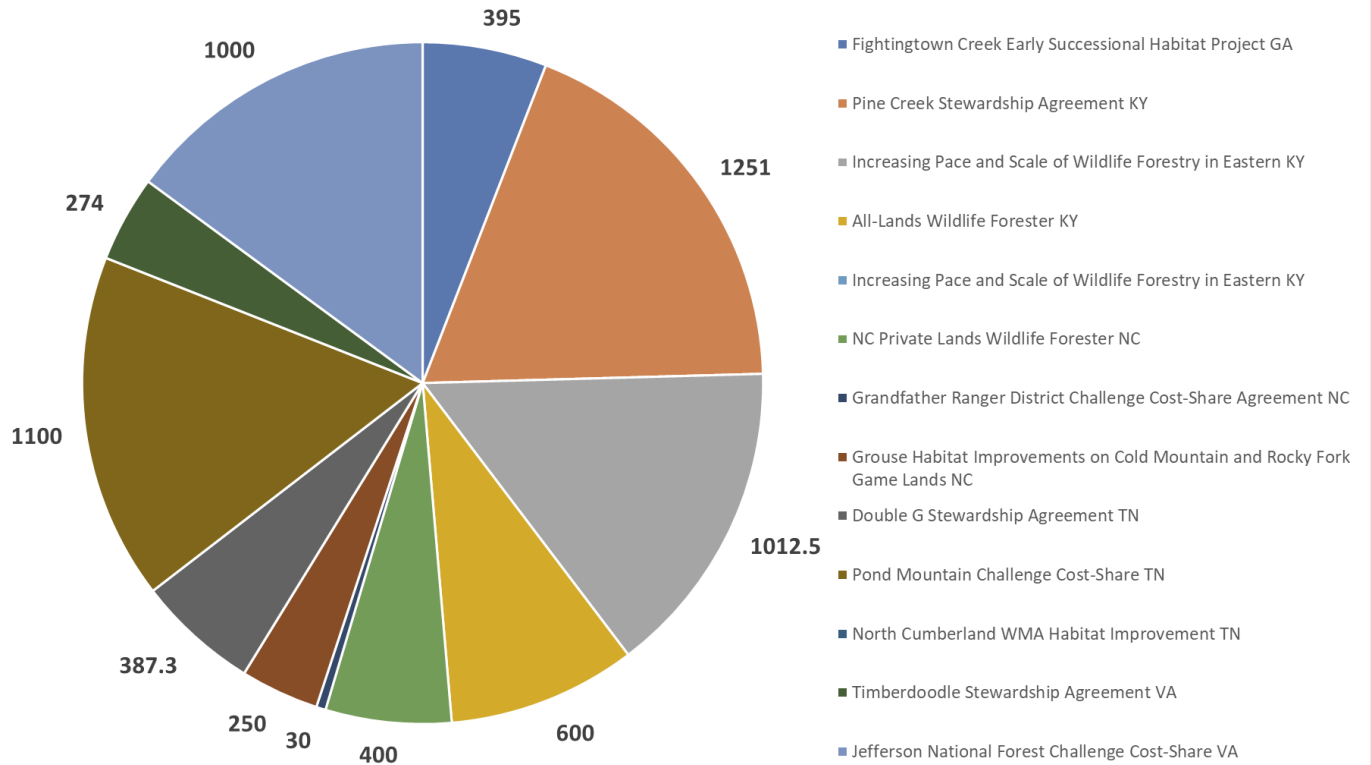
Executive Summary

2020 - 2021

Our Southern Appalachian Program has accomplished the following for 2020-2021:

- \$1.3 million in grants and agreements has been pledged or awarded to RGS & AWS for the next 1-3 years. \$3.9 million in grants and agreement has been requested by RGS & AWS and our partners.
- With current funding pledge or awarded, we will directly impact 6,700 acres of habitat on-the-ground. This year, we completed 500 acres of habitat management with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency on the North Cumberland WMA.
- RGS & AWS will indirectly impact many more acres through planning and advocacy over the next 1-3 years. For example, RGS & AWS provided public comments to the Draft Forest Plan for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests in spring 2020, which encompasses 1.04 million acres. RGS & AWS has also provided public comments to 11 USDA Forest Service vegetation management projects across the region.
- RGS & AWS has executed three Stewardship Agreements with the USDA Forest Service on the Cherokee National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, and the Daniel Boone National Forest. These three Stewardship Projects will generate \$751,086 in forest product value and will impact 1,912 acres (commercial and noncommercial treatments).
- RGS & AWS has three additional Stewardship Agreements in development on the Cherokee National Forest, Sumter National Forest (Andrew Pickens Ranger District), and the Daniel Boone National Forest. We anticipate these Stewardship Projects to be executed late 2021 or early 2022. Stewardship Projects are in the earlier stages of development on the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests and the Chattahoochee National Forest. Our goal is to have active Stewardship Projects across all 8 National Forest units within our first 5 years of program buildout.
- RGS & AWS hired a North Carolina Private Lands Wildlife Forester, Charles Faires, in fall 2020. To-date, Charles has completed 8 projects with \$340,000 in NRCS-WLFW funds budgeted. RGS & AWS has far exceeded previous progress in the delivery of NRCS' WLFW program for golden-winged warbler in North Carolina.
- This year, RGS & AWS will hire a Kentucky All-Lands Wildlife Forester to manage our Stewardship Projects with the Daniel Boone National Forest, habitat management at the Kentucky Ridge State Forest, and private lands technical assistance in southeast Kentucky. RGS & AWS will also hire a Southwest Virginia Public Lands Wildlife Forester in collaboration with the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests to assist with habitat project planning and implementation across the Clinch Ranger District, Eastern Divide Ranger District, and Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.
- 5-year goal is to have 1-2 Wildlife Foresters in each state in the Southern Appalachians and 1-2 regional program managers to supervise staff and manage projects.

Planned Impact Acres from Confirmed Funding over Next 1-3 Years



Funding Awarded or Pledged by Funder and State: \$1,301,164

