



Total acreage of landscape: 345,710

Partners

- American Bird Conservancy
- Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station
- Private Landowners



Missouri Pine Oak Landscape © Bill Duncan

The Current River Hills is home to Missouri’s largest contiguous forest and three scenic riverways. The area is a haven for a suite of wildlife species, including turkey, summer tanager, eastern tiger salamander, red bat, and ornate box turtle. Through thinning and controlled burn treatments, the Pine-Oak Woodlands Project is making the Missouri woodlands more resilient to wildfire, drought, insects, and climate change across the 115,860 acre CFLR project area.

2015 Results

- \$5.7 million in estimated total labor income
- 17,287 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 18,626 ccf timber sold
- 3,043 acres of forest vegetation improved

Contact information

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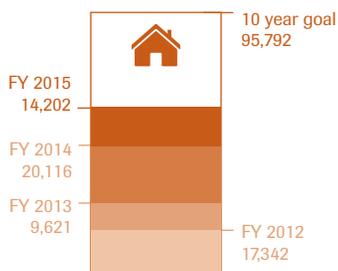
The restoration of shortleaf pine and pine-oak woodlands on the Mark Twain National Forest will help maintain high biodiversity across the Missouri Ozarks, and provide important local economic and social benefits. They are home to several species of conservation concern, from the red-headed woodpecker to the blue-winged warbler, and provide clean water to the area’s scenic riverways. These rivers provide habitat for the endangered Ozark hellbender and clean water for drinking and recreation.



Melissa Roach

Although the fire-adapted pine-oak woodlands once covered more than 6 million acres of the Missouri Ozarks, due to wide-spread clearcutting in the early 1900s followed by decades of fire suppression, these ecosystems now occupy less than 1 million acres. The oak forests that replaced them are severely overstocked, contributing to declining health and habitat quality.

The Missouri Pine-Oak Woodlands CFLR Project is restoring health and diversity to the woodlands, ensuring nature and people continue to enjoy the many benefits they provide. According to Melissa Roach, a master’s candidate at the University of Missouri’s School of Natural Resources studying the response of breeding birds to restoration efforts, “by opening the canopy through thinning and prescribed burns – which allows a healthy layer of shrubs and grasses to grow – shrub-nesting birds like the blue-winged warbler and yellow-breasted chat are growing in number.” In working to balance ecological, social, and economic sustainability, project activities support local jobs by providing a supply for commercial harvests and benefitting recreational opportunities as well.



Fire Risk Reduction

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced

Today, visitors can see the positive impacts, and local landowners engaged in restoration activities are sharing their experiences with other private landowners. With its strategic focus on a high-priority landscape and the vital resources it provides, CFLR is broadening the reach of restoration beyond the project boundaries to other areas in the region.