

Pennsylvania Bog Turtle Habitat Restoration

The Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania, Habitat Forever, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have established a bog turtle recovery initiative. The initiative is funded with FWS Region 5's Climate Change funds and supplemented with funds from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and focuses on implementing the bog turtle recovery plan. Fencing is installed along the stream channel to protect the stream banks from impacts of livestock grazing and to maintain bog turtle habitat through more effective grazing.

The management plan maintains low density grazing to control unwanted woody vegetation, and maintains the necessary emergent wetland characteristics for bog turtle recruitment and survival. The Habitat Forever crew installs electrified stream bank fence on both sides of the stream channel. Emergent wetland will be maintained and proper site monitoring will document bog turtle use of the newly restored areas.

At other sites, crews use chainsaws to remove overstory. A follow-up treatment of herbicide is applied and includes using the EZ-Ject system to inject herbicide capsules into trees and stumps.



While bog turtles have occurred in the watershed, this site in Monroe County has become overgrown and is no longer suitable for bog turtles. Crews from Foundation for CalU and The Nature Conservancy used chainsaws to remove the trees (maintaining 10-20% of native cover) and followed up with herbicide treatment. While the treatment should be effective, it is nonetheless a short-term solution to maintaining habitat where cattle cannot.