

Jane Capozzelli

EDUCATION

Master of Science Aug 2016 – May 2019

Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*thesis on shrubland birds & early-successional ecosystem restoration

Bachelor of Arts Sept 2010 – May 2014

Biology

Oberlin College

EMPLOYMENT

Owner, Bird Biologist, Forestry Specialist February 2025 - Current

Bird Folk Forestry

Full Time

August 2023 - July 2024

Part Time

Specialty: forest management through carbon easements, state and federal assistance programs, and commercial harvest; and forest habitat restoration

Coverage: West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio

Natural Resource Specialist July 2024 – February 2025

NRCS West Virginia Full time

Specialty: ag-land restoration, including forestry and wildlife

Coverage: Lewis, Gilmer, Harrison, & Doddridge counties in West Virginia

Partner Bird Biologist February 2021 – July 2024

NRCS & West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Full time

Specialty: forest management planning to create early-successional habitat for birds on private lands

Coverage: Mon, Marion, Lewis, Gilmer, Harrison, Doddridge, Upshur, Tyler, Randolph, Wetzel, & Preston counties, & both panhandles, in West Virginia

Researcher May 2019 – January 2021

Wild Animal Initiative, 501(c)3 Full time

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

NRCS CONSERVATION PLANNING

Wrote 40 NRCS plans (725 ac total restored acres) to create early-successional forest habitat following cerulean warbler and golden-winged BMPs

Marked 360 ac of forest stand improvements (crop tree release, area-wide thinnings, clearcuts with residuals, hinge cut areas, edge featherings, and mid sized commercial harvests for bird habitat) to implement NRCS plans

Certified 245 ac of early-successional wildlife habitat on forests, pastures, and old hayfields that practices met NRCS practice specifications

Designed 2 early-successional habitat inventories that are currently used by foresters and non-forestry staff at NRCS: 1), the cerulean warbler forest habitat inventory, and 2), the golden-winged warbler shrubland habitat inventory

ArcGIS, R Statistics & NRCS Business Tools (Protracts, CART, CD) skills

Applied ESA/NEPA compliance tools to 40 NRCS conservation plans: WHEG (to document habitat as a resource concern), SVAP2 (stream quality), PCS (quality of shrublands & old fields), Forest Farming Site Evaluation Report (agroforestry), Web Soil Survey (soil health), CART (congressional reporting); and the ICT, NEPAssist & CPA-52 (ESA/NEPA documentation)

OUTREACH

Educated and persuaded landowners on 250 site visits and counting

Presented 2 in-person seminars to loggers at WV Division of Forestry BMP courses to educate loggers on NRCS forestry opportunities so that more forestry contractors might become available to implement NRCS practices in real life

Designed and mailed outreach materials (letters or postcards) to 2500 landowners during Spring 2021, Summer 2022, and Winter 2024 campaigns

Presented 3 webinars to the public about NRCS forestry programs hosted by WV University Extension Services and Future Generations University, Pendleton County, WV; & led 1 landowner workshop in Preston County, WV

RELEVANT CERTIFICATES

NRCS Conservation Planner Level I

Forester, Pennsylvania

Forestry Specialist, West Virginia

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles

1. Capozzelli JF, Miller JR, Debinski DM, Schacht WH (2020) Restoring the fire-grazing interaction promotes tree-grass coexistence by controlling woody encroachment. *Ecosphere* 11:e02993.
2. Capozzelli JF, Hecht LBB, Halsey SJ (2020) What is the value of wild animal welfare for restoration ecology? *Restoration Ecology* 28:267-270.
3. Capozzelli JF, Miller JR, Debinski DM, Schacht WH (in prep) Evaluating the function of early-successional habitats managed with prescribed fire and cattle grazing as hotspots of avian biodiversity and suitable habitat for songbirds of conservation concern.

Other Articles

1. Capozzelli JF (2024) Assistance available to farm owners and operators. Working Lands for Wildlife Program, NRCS, WV.
2. Capozzelli JF (2022) Assistance available to farm owners and operators. Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS, WV.
3. Capozzelli JF. (2022). Increased demand for contractors to complete forestry jobs on West Virginia private lands. West Virginia Forestry Association Mountain State Forestry.

REFERENCES

Kyle Aldinger

State Wildlife Biologist, USDA NRCS West Virginia

kyle.aldinger@usda.gov | (717) 557-4835

Richard Bailey

State Ornithologist, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

richard.s.bailey@wv.gov | (304) 642-6998