



Southeast Aquatics Fund

NFWF CONTACTS

Suzanne Sessine
 Program Director,
 Southern Coastal Programs
suzanne.sessine@nfwf.org
 202-595-2477

Zachary Bernstein
 Program Coordinator,
 Southern Regional Office
zachary.bernstein@nfwf.org
 202-595-2433

PARTNERS

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Southern Company

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a conservation impact of \$6.8 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 1133 15th Street, NW
 Suite 1000
 Washington, D.C., 20005
 202-857-0166



Morning light on a wetland in Alabama

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Southern Company announced a fifth year of funding for Southeast Aquatics Fund projects. Four new watershed-based habitat restoration and enhancement grants totaling \$646,000 were awarded. The four awards announced generated \$648,000 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$1.3 million.

The Southeast Aquatics Fund is a competitive grants program that supports watershed-based restoration to improve the health of southeastern aquatic systems and secure populations of native freshwater aquatic species. Utilizing a habitat-based approach means a diversity of species benefit, from game species to at-risk species, helping to reduce the possibility of future listings under the Endangered Species Act.

(continued)



Black warrior waterdog. Photo by Todd Pierson.

Improving Fish Passage for Aquatic Organisms in the Holly Creek Watershed of Northwest Georgia (II)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:\$250,000

Matching Funds:\$250,000

Total Project:\$500,000

Improve connectivity in the Holly Creek watershed in Northwest Georgia by replacing an undersized plastic culvert at Yellow Creek and Piney Road, which will open 1.9 miles of fish passage. Project will address a significant barrier to aquatic species passage and greatly reduce sediment loading from active erosion around the culvert, benefitting species including the trispot darter, bridled darter, blue shiner, Coosa creekshell and Alabama rainbow.

Priority Stream Restoration Planning and Outreach in Locust Fork and Big Canoe Creek Watersheds (AL)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:\$133,507

Matching Funds:\$133,508

Total Project:\$267,015

Provide landowner outreach, field support, technical assistance, and initial project planning efforts to facilitate priority stream restoration projects within the Locust Fork and Big Canoe Creek watersheds in Alabama. Project will improve downstream effects of sedimentation and non-point source pollution resulting in improved water quality and expansion of critical habitat for impacted species, including Black Warrior waterdog, flattened musk turtle and trispot darter.

Water Conservation in Orchards in the Lower Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (GA)

Grantee: Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount:\$49,839

Matching Funds:\$51,000

Total Project:\$100,839

Expand adoption of water conservation practices within the lower Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basin orchard industry through capacity building and outreach. Project will reach over 1,000 local producers and partners and implement irrigation efficiency practices/management plans across 400 acres, and provide flow resiliency to benefit state and federally listed species, such as the gulf sturgeon, gulf striped bass, Dougherty plain cave crayfish and the Georgia blind salamander.

Nature-Based Restoration of Shoals in the Conasauga River (GA, TN)

Grantee: University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.

Grant Amount:\$213,340

Matching Funds:\$213,798

Total Project:\$427,138

Restore three shoals in the in the Upper Conasauga River mainstem through the addition of logs and the re-establishment of American water willow and riverweed. Project will improve habitat quality for imperiled fishes and mussels within the Conasauga River, a hotspot for freshwater biodiversity, and provide information essential to the management and conservation of target species.