Southeast Aquatics Fund 2019 Grant Slate

OVERVIEW
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Southern Company announced the third round of funding for the Southeast Aquatics Fund. Six new watershed-based habitat restoration and enhancement projects totaling nearly $1.1 million were awarded, leveraging $1.1 million in match from grantees and generating a total conservation impact of $2.2 million. These projects will restore and enhance wetland and riparian habitat, improve connectivity for fish passage, and provide technical assistance and outreach within the Conasauga and Locust Fork watersheds of the Alabama-Mobile-Tombigbee Basin, the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Basin, and the Colorado River Basin in Texas.

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)
GRANTS

Implementing Innovative Technologies and Science-Driven Watershed Management in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (FL, GA)
Grantee: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife
Grant Amount: .............................................$114,525
Matching Funds: ..............................................$115,000
Total Project Amount: .................................... $229,525

Increase implementation of agricultural best management practices for irrigation efficiencies by providing technical and financial assistance to farmers to improve water conservation and benefit native aquatics species in the lower Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin. This project is a partnership among the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District and Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Calvert Prong and Turkey Creek Stream Restoration in the Locust Fork Watershed (AL)
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount: .............................................$146,000
Matching Funds: ..............................................$149,000
Total Project Amount: .................................... $295,000

Restore and enhance riparian forests and support federally-listed species on two sites within the Locust Fork watershed in Alabama. Project will restore approximately 10 acres of riparian buffer and .5 miles of streambank, preventing an estimated 400 cubic yards of sediment from entering the watershed annually, and improve critical habitat for the Black Warrior waterdog, flattened musk turtle, vermilion darter and other listed species. Project partners include Freshwater Land Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Jefferson County Environmental Services.

(continued)
Improving Fish Passage for Aquatic Organisms in the Holly Creek Watershed  (GA)
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount: $250,000
Matching Funds: $250,000
Total Project Amount: $500,000
Replace one culvert in the Holly Creek watershed in northwest Georgia that has ranked as either a significant or severe barrier to aquatic organism passage. Project will result in approximately 4 miles of stream habitat opened and benefit aquatic species including the trispot darter, bridled darter, Coosa creekshell and Alabama rainbow. Partners include Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership.

Farm Bill Program Delivery and Support to Improve Water Quality within the Colorado River Watershed (TX)
Grantee: Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Grant Amount: $150,474
Matching Funds: $150,500
Total Project Amount: $300,974
Increase technical assistance capacity to accelerate delivery of voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs and practices that address water quantity and quality, as well as wildlife habitat, within the Colorado River watershed in Texas. Project will improve partners’ ability to deliver technical assistance to Texan landowners for wildlife and natural resource conservation.

Holly Creek Habitat Restoration (GA)
Grantee: Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
Grant Amount: $249,475
Matching Funds: $250,000
Total Project Amount: $499,475
Restore over 20 acres of wetland and riparian forest habitat and construct 1,500 feet of stream channel in the Holly Creek watershed in Georgia. Project will provide water quality improvement, habitat creation, and education, and benefit species, including Conasauga Blue Burrower crayfish, trispot darter, blue shiner, bridled Darter, finelined pocketbook, Alabama creakmussel, Coosa creekshell and Alabama rainbow. Project partners include Georgia Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and Carmeuse.

Protecting Continuous Flows on the Headwaters of the Colorado River (TX)
Grantee: Texas Water Trade
Grant Amount: $189,293
Matching Funds: $196,556
Total Project Amount: $385,849
Provide landowner outreach and technical assistance within the Llano, Pedernales and San Saba sub-basins of the Texas Colorado River. Project will increase landowner enrollment in programs supporting improvement of irrigation water management, benefitting threatened freshwater mussels species.