



# NFWF

## Southeast Aquatics Program 2017 Grant Slate

### NFWF CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS



Bluehead chub | Credit: Jeremy Monroe, Freshwaters Illustrated

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the first round of funding for Southeast Aquatics projects. Five new or continuing freshwater conservation and capacity grants totaling \$700,000 were awarded. The five awards announced generated \$1.71 million in match from grantees, resulting in a total conservation impact of \$2.41 million.

Launched in 2017, the Southeast Aquatics program supports watershed-based restoration to improve the health of aquatic systems and secure populations of native freshwater aquatic species in the Southeast, with a particular focus on at-risk aquatic species. The program’s habitat-based approach will benefit diverse species including those at risk for future listing under the Endangered Species Act.

### Stevens Creek Stream Restoration Project (NC)

Grantee: Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services	
Grant Amount: .....	\$120,000
Matching Funds: .....	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Amount:</b> .....	<b>\$1,120,000</b>

Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services will restore approximately 1.9 miles of severely degraded stream in the Goose Creek watershed, which has been identified as habitat for the federally endangered Carolina heelsplitter freshwater mussel. The project will supplement the stream restoration project with six bed-load stabilization structures, which will also be used to re-establish laboratory, propagated or transplanted freshwater mussels within the project area.

*(continued)*

### ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation’s fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

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Carolina heelsplitter freshwater mussel | Credit: USFWS

**Water Efficiency for Streamflow Restoration in Georgia’s Upper Flint River System (GA)**

Grantee: American Rivers  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$75,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$75,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$150,000**

American Rivers will implement a peak demand management program in the Fayette County water system to conserve water and increase flows within the ecologically significant shoal habitat of the Flint River. The project will help reduce impacts to stream flows, especially during drought conditions, which will improve habitat for species of concern include the shoals spiderlily, bluestripe shiner, shoal bass and several species of federally endangered freshwater mussels.

**Water Conservation through Smart Irrigation Technologies for Agricultural Producers in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (FL, GA)**

Grantee: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$200,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$335,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$535,000**

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife will deploy low-cost soil moisture sensors in the agricultural regions of southwest Georgia and northwest Florida to conserve 834 cubic-feet per second annually in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin and educate growers on the effective methods of irrigation. The project will aid local economies dependent on these water sources and benefit freshwater species, including six federally listed mussels, as well as the threatened gulf sturgeon, shoal bass and numerous other fish species.

**Identifying Habitat Requirements of the Carolina Heelsplitter to Inform Habitat Restoration and Species Recovery (NC, SC)**

Grantee: Clemson University  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$175,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$175,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$350,000**

Clemson University will identify and prioritize on-the-ground management actions to benefit the federally endangered Carolina heelsplitter freshwater mussel and their host fish, the bluehead chub, in the Lynches River watershed of the greater Pee Dee River Basin. The project will develop a novel protocol to detect the mussel and host fish from stream water via environmental DNA, apply the protocol to understand habitat requirements of each species, and synthesize the information gathered to prioritize on-the-ground actions to improve aquatic habitat throughout the study area.

**Assessing Aquatic Connectivity in the Black River Watershed (NC)**

Grantee: Cape Fear Resource Conservation & Development  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$130,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$130,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$260,000**

Cape Fear Resource Conservation & Development will assess, rank and prioritize 200 culverts and barriers for removal and/or restoration in the lower Black River Basin, a Tier 1 conservation priority of the Cape Fear River Basin. The project will utilize the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership Barrier Prioritization Tool to prioritize barriers, and select up to five barriers to groundtruth, evaluate for feasibility, and develop preliminary engineering design and construction estimates for future removal.