



# Southeast Aquatics Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cargill
- Southern Company
- The Altria Group

## 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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Bridled darter

## BACKGROUND

The Southeast Aquatics Fund is dedicated to improving the status and sustainability of freshwater species in the Southeast. Started in 2017, the Fund supports projects that improve and restore habitat within targeted watersheds to benefit aquatic systems and the tremendous diversity of species dependent upon them.

To date, the Southeast Aquatics Fund has awarded \$8 million to 38 projects, leveraging more than \$9.8 million in matching funds, for a combined conservation impact of over \$17.8 million and expected benefit to nearly 500,000 acres of working lands and riparian areas and over 60 miles of stream habitat.

The Southeast Aquatics Fund is a public-private partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cargill, Southern Company and The Altria Group.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Southeast Aquatics Fund supports the following key strategies with the goal of improving populations of native freshwater species:

- Provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners and producers
- Implement agricultural and forestry best management practices to improve water quality and quantity
- Improve stream habitat connectivity
- Restore riparian and in-stream habitat
- Support assessment, prioritization and monitoring activities in targeted watersheds

The Southeast Aquatics Fund's investments are targeted in priority watersheds within the Southeast, including within three watersheds in Alabama and Georgia—the Conasauga, Middle Coosa and Locust Fork. These watersheds were selected based on their conservation need as demonstrated by the Southeastern Aquatic Biodiversity Strategy and through input from regional and local conservation partners working on these systems, as outlined in the Longleaf Forests and Rivers Business Plan. Additional geographies are incorporated as needed to address developing priorities.