



Southeast Aquatics Fund

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PARTNERS

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cargill
- Nestlé
- 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 \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Freshwater mussel

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Southern Company, Cargill, and Nestlé announced a seventh round of funding for the Southeast Aquatics Fund projects. Eight new watershed-based habitat restoration, enhancement and assessment projects totaling \$2.4 million were awarded. The eight awards announced generated \$1.8 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$4.2 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.

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Bluehead chub, yellowfin shiners, central stonerollers, and warpaint shiners

Research and Assessment of the Trispot Darter and Alabama Rainbow Mussel (AL)

Grantee: Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council

Grant Amount:\$397,700
 Matching Funds:\$113,300
 Total Project Amount:\$511,000

Support surveys to assess and propagate Alabama rainbow mussels and study the range and habitat of the trispot darter. Project will survey within the Big Canoe Creek and other subwatersheds in the Middle Coosa Watershed and will continue work on suitability assessments and reintroduction efforts for Alabama rainbow mussel.

Restoration Planning and Sediment Reduction in Urban Headwaters of Locust Fork and Middle Coosa (AL)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:\$100,000
 Matching Funds:\$188,300
 Total Project Amount:\$288,300

Complete a conceptual design for stormwater planning and implementation in the urban headwaters of Locust Fork watershed and design and install a bioswale in the urban headwaters of Big Canoe Creek watershed. Project will help abate stormwater and reduce sedimentation in the Locust Fork watershed and will reduce sedimentation in the Big Canoe Creek watershed, benefiting the trispot darter and Coosa creekshell mussel.

Assessing Freshwater Mussel Distribution and Potential Remediation in the Upper Chipola River (AL, FL)

Grantee: Troy University

Grant Amount:\$125,000
 Matching Funds:\$205,400
 Total Project Amount:\$330,400

Reassess 20 listed historical freshwater mussel sites in the Upper Chipola River and identify locations suitable for remediation and stocking of mussels. Project will search and model for new populations, quantify habitat connectivity barriers and other environmental constraints to guide management, and hold landowner workshops focused on environmental stewardship in the context of stream integrity resulting in insight on freshwater mussel declines.

Managing Ranchlands in Central and South Florida to Improve Water Quality

Grantee: Florida Conservation Group

Grant Amount:\$550,000
 Matching Funds:\$596,800
 Total Project Amount:\$1,146,800

Provide technical assistance to south-central Florida's ranchers enrolled in NRCS cost-share programs to develop grazing and other management plans that utilize best management practices for prescribed grazing and burning. Project will improve cattle and land management through prescribed fire and rotational grazing, decreasing soil compaction and nutrient run-off, as well as encouraging native vegetation retention and wildlife habitat, thus improving quality and quantity of surface water.

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Banded sculpin

Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning to Improve Grazing Lands Management (FL)

Grantee: National Grazing Lands Coalition
 Grant Amount:\$449,000
 Matching Funds:\$101,300
 Total Project Amount:\$550,300

Use remote sensing, machine learning and artificial intelligence to help producers optimize stocking rates; plan rotations, rest and recovery days; monitor forage growth; and improve forage-based beef production efficiency. Project will utilize improved grazing management practices to increase soil carbon sequestration and increase water holding capacity and filtration of the soil, benefitting water quality and aquatic species in Lake Okechobee and the surrounding watersheds.

Landowner Education for the Implementation of Sustainable Grazing Practices (FL)

Grantee: Association of Florida Conservation Districts
 Grant Amount:\$450,000
 Matching Funds:\$0
 Total Project Amount:\$450,000

Educate landowners in north and central Florida to promote improved grazing lands management through state and federal cost share programs. Project will engage 480 landowners resulting in 55,000 acres with improved grazing practices, improving carbon sequestration and water quality on the landscape.

Engaging Agricultural Producers to Stabilize Flow in the Lower Flint River (GA)

Grantee: Flint Riverkeeper
 Grant Amount:\$50,000
 Matching Funds:\$15,700
 Total Project Amount:\$65,700

Work with landowners in the lower Flint River watershed to implement an auction for irrigation, conduct monitoring, and improve irrigation efficiency. Project will help stabilize flows in the lower Flint River, benefiting species such as freshwater mussels and striped bass.

Riparian Restoration and Plant Propagation in the Conasauga River Basin (GA, TN)

Grantee: Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
 Grant Amount:\$327,300
 Matching Funds:\$583,200
 Total Project Amount:\$910,500

Improve riparian habitat through landowner outreach and conservation assistance while also promoting riparian plant propagation for the Conasauga basin. Project will provide technical assistance to farmers to implement best management practices to protect streams, and will establish a repository of local ecotype native plant material for future riparian restoration, benefiting aquatic species such as the blue shiner, trispot darter, bridled darter, Alabama moccasin shell, and others.