

Appendix A

Priority Fish and Wildlife

For the purposes of the Chesapeake Wild Program, **imperiled species** are fish, wildlife, invertebrate, and plant species of concern dependent upon important Chesapeake Bay watershed habitats and living resources, and include species identified as At-Risk, State designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), Regional SGCNs by the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and/or species identified in tribal stewardship or fish and wildlife plans.

Proposal narratives should incorporate conservation action recommendations consistent with Federal, Tribal, or State habitat conservation or species recovery plans, or with actions listed for the species within state wildlife action plans, NFWF's Business Plan, and/or fish and wildlife habitats identified as important by Chesapeake Bay Program. Below are information resources and links to help inform competitive grant proposals, including examples of priority conservation actions eligible for funding. While this is not an exhaustive list of resources that could be included as supportive information in a proposal narrative, it does provide easy access to enough information to guide competitive project proposals.

Chesapeake WILD priority fish and wildlife

Table 1 (pg. 18) contains Federal, State, Joint Ventures and Chesapeake Bay Program information and conservation plan resources for the following:

- Chesapeake logperch
- Diadromous Fishes (river herring): American shad, alewife, blueback herring
- Eastern brook trout (wild)
- Eastern regal fritillary
- Forest songbirds: golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush
- Freshwater mussels and associated fishes: brook floater, yellow lamp mussel, Tidewater mucket, green floater, American eel
- Game birds: American woodcock and ruffed grouse
- Grassland and early successional birds: Eastern meadowlark and American kestrel
- Marsh birds: black rail and American black duck
- Northeast turtles: bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle, wood turtle
- Pollinators: American bumble bee, rusty patched bumble bee, monarch and frosted Elphin butterflies
- Saltmarsh sparrow



To identify the potential for rare species or ecosystems on project sites, applicants may find the [USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#) useful for planning purposes (note: formal environmental review may be required).

Tribal resources

There are 7 federally recognized Tribes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, each is a Sovereign government and should be individually consulted about fish and wildlife conservation action recommendations consistent with their respective stewardship or habitat conservation and management plans:

- [Chickahominy Indian Tribe](#), Providence Forge, VA
- [Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division](#), Providence Forge, VA
- [Monacan Indian Nation](#), Amherst, VA
- [Nansemond Indian Nation](#), Suffolk, VA
- [Pamunkey Indian Tribe](#) King William, VA
- [Rappahannock Tribe](#), Indian Neck, VA
- [Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe](#), King William, VA

Additional national and spatial Tribal natural resources information:

- [Native American Fish and Wildlife Society](#)
- [Native Land Information System](#), a repository of learning resources, information, and data to help defend and protect Native lands for the benefit of Native people.

State resources

NE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies [Fish & Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee](#):

- [NE Regional Conservation Synthesis for 2025 State Wildlife Action Plans](#)
- [2023 Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need database](#)

For more information about conservation action recommendations consistent with their respective habitat conservation or species recovery plans, or with actions listed within State Wildlife Action Plans:

[D.C.](#)

[Maryland](#)

[Pennsylvania](#)

[West Virginia](#)

[Delaware](#)

[New York](#)

[Virginia](#)

Additional priority fish and wildlife resources

Eastern brook trout and American Black Duck are priority wildlife identified in the following plans:



- [National Fish and Wildlife Chesapeake Bay Business Plan](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Program Habitat Goal Implementation Team](#)

Table 1. Federal, State, Joint Ventures and Chesapeake Bay Program information and conservation plan resources for Chesapeake WILD priority fish and wildlife. For state specific habitat conservation or species recovery recommendations, refer to individual State Wildlife Action Plans (links above).

Priority Federal Fish and Wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Priority Actions Eligible for Funding	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links and Priority Locations	Decision-Support or Prioritization Tool Links
Chesapeake logperch	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) improve riparian habitats and water quality through streambank fencing, instream restoration, dam removal, culvert replacements, vegetative buffer strip installation, riparian buffer restoration, streambank stabilization, and floodplain restoration and revegetation, (2) voluntary conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania and Maryland Wildlife Action Plans (see links under 'State resources')</p>	<p>USFWS's Chesapeake Logperch information website</p> <p>Fact sheet Pennsylvania Species Action Plan</p>



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Diadromous Fishes (river herring): American shad, alewife, blueback herring	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) provide alternative fish passage, (2) remove passage barriers, (3) restore, enhance, and/or connect riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams, (4) voluntary conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) engage dam owners/operators, landowners and communities to increase awareness of fish passage needs and the importance of native fish populations and habitat connections, (2) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, and (3) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Program's Fish Passage Work Group webpage with links to management plans and other recommendations</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Program's Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to assess potential outcomes</p>



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Eastern brook trout (wild populations)	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) provide alternative fish passage, (2) remove passage barriers, (3) restore, enhance, and/or connect riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams, (4) voluntary conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) engage dam owners/operators, landowners and communities to increase awareness of fish passage needs and the importance of native fish populations and habitat connections, (2) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, and (3) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact Brook Trout Joint Venture biologists or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>USDA/US Forest Service modified culvert inventory and assessment protocol (revised 2012)</p> <p>Northeast Aquatic Connectivity Report</p>	Multiple Eastern brook trout decision support tools and mapper tools from Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture EBTJV



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Eastern regal fritillary	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) grassland habitat restoration and connection, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation, (3) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) Citizen Science efforts to captive rear, release, and monitor Regal fritillary to fill science/data gaps.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>US Forest Service article about fritillary pollinators</p> <p>Pennsylvania Dept. of Military Veteran Affairs Regal Fritillary Fact Sheet</p>
Forest songbirds: golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) forest habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) voluntary conservation of headwater and high elevation forest habitat, including forested riparian areas.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) trained foresters or biologists: to assist with developing forest management guidelines that integrate habitat needs of the priority species in a way that makes sense to foresters and will be easy for them to implement when developing prescriptions. (2) trained communication and outreach practitioners: to engage with property owners, foresters,</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>Existing focus areas developed by the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture and Golden-winged Warbler Working Group.</p>	<p>Wood thrush landscape capability models</p> <p>Breeding habitat management guidelines for Cerulean Warblers</p>



NFWF



Priority Federal Fish and Wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Priority Actions Eligible for Funding	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links and Priority Locations	Decision-Support or Prioritization Tool Links
	<p>and partnering organizations in focal areas and generate interest in participating in improving forest habitat for imperiled birds. (3) facilitators: to help with team coordination and organization. (4) scientists to help design species and conservation monitoring and assessment protocols: develop monitoring strategies and specific monitoring designs to gather more data on forest bird responses to forest habitat management.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) Collection of more survival data to estimate both annual and seasonal survival of all three priority songbird species, especially for females. (2) evaluating the site-level and landscape-level responses of forest songbirds to forest management activities, especially monitoring associated with implementing forest songbird best management practices. Important parameters include occupancy, estimated abundance, and reproductive success, and (3) assess non-breeding habitat use of different forest types and landscape configurations on the wintering grounds for all three focal species. Important parameters include occupancy, estimated abundance, measures of body condition (e.g., weight, fat reserves, endocrine profiles), and seasonal survival.</p>		



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Freshwater mussels and associated fishes: American eel, brook floater, green floater, Tidewater mucket, and yellow lampmussel	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) restore and connect key riparian and freshwater habitats identified in State Wildlife Action Plans and other conservation plans, (2) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>American eel restoration plan for the Susquehanna River Basin</p> <p>American eel restoration</p> <p>Brook floater conservation</p> <p>Green floater</p> <p>Tidewater mucket</p> <p>Yellow lampmussel</p>
Game birds: American woodcock and ruffed grouse	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) grassland habitat restoration and connection, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation, (3) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife biologists and State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>American woodcock</p> <p>American woodcock conservation plan</p> <p>Eastern ruffed grouse conservation plan 2025 - 2034</p>



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Grassland and early successional birds: American kestrel and Eastern meadowlark	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) grassland habitat restoration and connection, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation, (3) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	Locations: Contact State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	
Marsh birds: American black duck and black rail	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) marsh habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) voluntary conservation of marsh habitat, including key marsh habitat corridors and lands to permit marsh migration.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and</p>	Locations: Contact Atlantic Coast Joint Venture biologists, Chesapeake Bay Program Black Duck Action Team , or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	<p>American black duck decision support tool for Chesapeake Bay priority watersheds</p> <p>ACJV coastal restoration project inventory a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck</p>



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	monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.		
Northeast turtles: bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle and wood turtle	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i>, (1) restore and connect key habitats identified in State Wildlife Action Plans and other conservation plans, (2) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) sampling and monitoring in focal core areas and sampling landscapes, (2) reduce threats, (3) research addressing data gaps outlined in the Plans.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>Northeast Turtles website for Conservation Plans, sampling protocols, and conservation recommendations for Eastern box, spotted, and wood turtles.</p> <p>ECOS page with bog turtle Recovery Plan</p> <p>Diamondback Terrapin Recovery Strategy</p>	<p>Turtles of the Northeast United States (2023) A quick reference information guide for states in the Northeast. For up-to-date information, please consult the state websites.</p> <p>Management Guidelines for Wood Turtles</p> <p>Spotted turtles Regional Conservation Needs Assessment in MD and DE</p>
Pollinators: American bumble bee, rusty-patched bumble bee, monarch and frosted Elphin butterflies	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) restore and connect key habitats identified in State Wildlife Action Plans and other conservation plans, (2) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>NRCS American Bumble Bee Fact Sheet with habitat and restoration recommendations</p> <p>Focal areas: farmland, grassland, urban gardening/farming</p>	<p>Center for Pollinator Conservation USFWS Pollinator information website</p> <p>USFWS Monarch information website</p> <p>USFWS Bumble Bee information website</p> <p>USFWS Rusty Patched Bumble Bee information website</p> <p>USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Program information website</p>



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	monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.		
Saltmarsh sparrow	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) marsh habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) voluntary conservation of marsh habitat, including key marsh habitat corridors and lands to permit marsh migration.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) rapid assessments and surveys and monitoring in focal core areas and landscapes, (2) research addressing species and habitat data gaps outlined in the Plans.</p>	Locations: Contact Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	<p>Saltmarsh Sparrow restoration priority mapper an interactive mapping tool to identify priority salt marshes within each state that are good candidates for restoration, enhancement, and/or management to provide high-quality saltmarsh sparrow nesting habitat.</p> <p>ACJV coastal restoration project inventory a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck</p>