



NFWF

Chesapeake WILD Program

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Altria

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Ruffed grouse

BACKGROUND

The Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (Chesapeake WILD) program supports efforts to conserve, steward, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation manages the WILD Program in partnership with government agencies and private corporations, and in close coordination with the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. Major funding for the Chesapeake WILD Grants Program is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with additional funds provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service and Altria.

(continued)



American bittern

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Awards made through this competitive grant program build conservation capacity under a framework developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stakeholders with the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, and state fish and wildlife agencies across the Bay watershed. Key pillars of this framework and priorities for the Chesapeake WILD program include:

- Conserving, restoring, enhancing and sustaining a resilient network of fish and wildlife habitats and connecting corridors, with an emphasis on at-risk and federally listed species and habitats
- Supporting improved strategic planning, conservation design, monitoring and applied science activities necessary to ensure resilience of natural ecosystems and habitats
- Increasing capacity and support for coordinated restoration and conservation activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, through outreach, education and civic engagement
- Enhancing recreational opportunities and public access, with a strong emphasis on access to nature and all associated benefits, consistent with the ecological needs of fish and wildlife habitats
- Improving and sustaining water quality, upgrading water management capability, and reducing flood damage to support fish and wildlife, habitats of fish and wildlife, and drinking water for people

RESULTS TO DATE

To date, the Chesapeake WILD Grant Program has awarded 99 projects totaling \$26.4 million, leveraged by \$34.1 million in local matching funds, for a total conservation impact of more than \$60.5 million. These investments collectively will:

- Protect nearly 19,000 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat
- Restore nearly 1,000 acres of forest, grassland, and wetland habitat
- Restore and reconnect more than 1,700 miles of aquatic habitat