



# Southeast Aquatics Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

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

## 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 more than \$11.3 billion.

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



Greenhead shiners

## 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 \$22.2 million to 69 projects, leveraging more than \$16 million in matching funds, for a combined conservation impact of more than \$38 million and is expected to improve more than 200 miles of stream habitat.

The Southeast Aquatics Fund is a public-private partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service with funding from the RESTORE Council, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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 instream 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.