



NFWF



## Southern Company Power of Flight Bird Conservation Program

### About the Program

The Power of Flight Program is a partnership among Southern Company, its four operating companies - Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Gulf Power and Mississippi Power - and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Launched in 2003, the goal of the program is to conserve birds characteristic of the southern U.S. through habitat restoration, species management and environmental education.



Southern Company contributes \$300,000 annually, which is leveraged by additional funds from NFWF to be awarded through a competitive grants program to support bird conservation efforts. In addition, grantees provide a minimum of 1:1 match (dollars and/or in-kind).



Projects of interest include habitat restoration and management; species conservation through implementing priority management actions; environmental education that targets urban or underserved youth; and applied research with direct implications for management and conservation.

### Funding Priorities

- Addressing conservation needs of bird species characteristic of the southern U.S., including red-cockaded woodpecker, northern bobwhite quail, whooping crane, coastal waterbirds and other imperiled species
- Implementing actions that achieve specific species' or other regional habitat conservation plan goals
- Promoting collaborative relationships or enhancing existing partnerships
- Taking actions that result in direct and measurable conservation benefits



### Accomplishments\*

Since 2003, Southern Company has awarded \$3.2 million to 79 projects which, combined with \$3.7 million in partner matching funds and \$13.6 million in grantee matching funds, results in a total investment of over \$20.6 million to benefit nearly 476,000 acres of southern bird habitat.

*\*Figures are approximate and include completed and anticipated results, estimated for funded projects cumulatively through 2014.*

## 2014 Power of Flight Grants

**Mississippi Land Trust** will apply fire on 7,760 acres of private lands to reintroduce fire to inactively managed pinelands and enhance bird habitat for multiple species of high conservation need. Targeted, localized prescribed burning campaigns will encourage the sustained use of prescribed burning by private landowners and ultimately seek to return fire to the landscape on a large scale. Partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Mississippi Forestry Commission, National Wild Turkey Federation, Mississippi Prescribed Fire Council, and Mississippi State University Extension Service.



**Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF)** will begin its second phase of a program that delivers technical assistance to landowners to establish or enhance native grasses. AWF will continue to maintain the 10 demonstration sites developed during the project's first phase and develop case studies and management bulletins to serve as educational tools for resource professionals, contractors and landowners. The project will establish 5,000 acres of native warm season grasses and support several bird species conservation initiatives in Ala. Partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Auburn University.



**College of William and Mary** will conduct a Red Knot resight program along the Atlantic Coast of Georgia in fall 2014 and spring 2015 to be paired with ongoing programs within the Delaware Bay. The data produced on the population utilizing Georgia in the spring and fall will be used to analyze ongoing questions regarding Red Knot habitat choice decision-making on the south Atlantic Coast. The project will also develop a partnership to address the management needs of the species. Partners include the Center for Conservation Biology, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Non-game Section, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



**Dauphin Island Park & Beach Board** will preserve, restore, and properly manage 133 acres of critical birding habitat at the Audubon Bird Sanctuary on Dauphin Island by executing a comprehensive prescribed burn regimen and implementing an invasive species management strategy to enhance birding and wildlife habitat. In addition, highly visible educational signage and outreach and service opportunities will engage the public in conservation and natural resource issues. Partners include Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Alabama Forestry Commission, and The Nature Conservancy.



### About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife and habitats. Working with federal agencies, corporations, foundations and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 4,000 organizations and committed more than \$2.3 billion to conservation projects. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).