



NFWF

Southeast Aquatics Fund 2018 Grant Slate

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Southern Company

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Black Warrior waterdog | Credit: James C. Godwin, Alabama Natural Heritage Program

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Southern Company announced the second round of funding for the Southeast Aquatics Fund. Six new watershed-based restoration, monitoring and assessment projects totaling \$940,000 were awarded, leveraging \$1.1 million in match from grantees and generating a total conservation impact of more than \$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. This year's request for proposals targeted projects within the Conasauga, Locust Fork and Middle Coosa watersheds of the Alabama-Mobile-Tombigbee Basin as well as the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Basin.

Fish and Mussel Population Monitoring at Holly Creek (GA)

Grantee: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Grant Award:\$65,000
Matching Funds:\$70,112
Total Amount:\$135,112

Build on an initial year of sampling to conduct two annual surveys of mussels and fish and collect basic water quality data within Holly Creek in northwest Georgia, a hotspot

(continued)



Locust Fork, Alabama

Credit: Jason Throneberry, The Nature Conservancy

for aquatic biodiversity. Project surveys will provide a baseline understanding of aquatic community composition, including spatial and temporal variability, to help evaluate the potential effects of management interventions.

Watershed Assessment, Habitat Restoration and Landowner Engagement at Locust Fork (AL)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$255,346
Total Amount:..... \$505,346

Create a Watershed Coordinator position focused on landowner engagement, data collection, and project management within the Locust Fork and Big Canoe Creek watersheds in Alabama. Project will involve the completion of a full-scale watershed assessment to prioritize sites for future restoration and project implementation within the Locust Fork watershed. This project will engage 30 landowners in cost-share programs and prioritize sites for improved management along 25 miles of stream.

Reversing and Preventing Declines in Native Mussel Populations in Holly Creek (GA)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$75,000
 Matching Funds: \$75,000
Total Amount:..... \$150,000

Improve populations of Alabama rainbow and Coosa

creekshell mussels through propagation and augmentation of populations in the Holly Creek watershed. In addition, a comprehensive barrier assessment of 200 road crossings for aquatic organism passage will be conducted. Project actions will help slow a regional decline of aquatic biodiversity and provide a basis for implementing future conservation actions in the watershed.

Improving Fish Passage for Species Endemic to the Conasauga River (GA)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$100,000
 Matching Funds: \$160,003
Total Amount:..... \$260,003

Remove and replace a collapsed set of pipe culverts to restore connectivity within Mill Creek, a major tributary to the Conasauga River in the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia. The project will provide fish passage to an additional 6 miles of stream habitat for as many as 20 native, endemic species including the blue shiner, trispot darter, southern pigtoe and Coosa creekshell and restore access for adjacent land management.

Understanding the Distribution and Range of the Trispot Darter in the Middle Coosa Watershed (AL, GA)

Grantee: Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council
 Grant Award:..... \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$182,848
Total Amount:..... \$332,848

Collect stream water samples and conduct field visits in the Middle Coosa watershed to enhance knowledge of the distribution and range of the trispot darter, a species proposed for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Project will collect information that will help focus conservation actions into smaller, more manageable areas and introduce new conservation opportunities for the species.

Farmer to Farmer Marketing for Water Conservation (GA, FL)

Grantee: Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife
 Grant Award:..... \$300,000
 Matching Funds: \$364,800
Total Amount:..... \$664,800

Conduct a targeted outreach and marketing campaign to increase the number of landowners adopting water conservation practices in the southern portion of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basin. Project will produce materials explaining the costs and benefits behind adoption and appeal to farmers through various marketing techniques. The effort is expected to reach over 229,000 people and identify 50 producers interested in adopting conservation practices.