



Bats for the Future Fund

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NextEra Energy Resources
- Southern Company
- Avangrid Foundation

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Tri-colored bat

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Avangrid Foundation, NextEra Energy Resources and Southern Company announced a 2023-year round of funding for Bats for the Future Fund projects. Five new grants to slow the impact of white-nose syndrome (WNS) on bat populations, totaling \$769,100, were awarded. The five awards announced generated \$693,300 in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$1,462,400.

Since 2017, the Bats for the Future Fund has provided funding for existing and novel treatments for WNS, a disease that has killed millions of bats over the past two decades. More than half of the bat species in the United States and Canada hibernate to survive the winter and are potentially susceptible to this disease. Without a solution to this devastating problem, several bat species may be in danger of extinction. The goal of the program is to implement strategies that will have a meaningful impact on survival of bat populations.

(continued)



Big brown bat

Advancing Recovery of Two Bat Species through Comprehensive Foraging Habitat Management in Pennsylvania

Grantee: Bat Conservation International
 Grant Amount:.....\$249,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$49,800
 Total Project Amount:.....\$299,700
 Collaborate with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to identify and incorporate key foraging habitats near summer and winter roosts as part of a state-wide management plan for recovering little brown and tri-colored bats, two species severely impacted by WNS. Project will identify sites by assessing the quality of insect prey during the summer and fall and monitor 12 sites when bats are active and building up fat reserves for hibernation.

Assessing the Long-term Persistence in Hibernacula of the Fungus Causing White-Nose Syndrome (ON)

Grantee: University of Waterloo
 Grant Amount:.....\$97,400
 Matching Funds:.....\$34,800
 Total Project Amount:.....\$132,200
 Determine the long-term persistence of the fungus causing WNS in hibernacula in North America. Project will provide insight into whether bats are still being exposed to the fungus from environmental reservoirs in hibernacula in the WNS-endemic zone, which will guide decision making on whether it is necessary to treat sites that have shown a decline in fungal presence since it was detected four years ago.

Evaluate Targeted Implementation Strategies for Environmental Control of White-Nose Syndrome (OH, PA, WV)

Grantee: Temple University
 Grant Amount:\$204,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$127,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$332,600
 Evaluate targeted implementation strategies for

environmental control of the fungal pathogen that causes WNS during the critical period of early winter and develop specific protocols for management intervention. Project will implement treatment using polyethylene glycol in 40 hibernacula to protect 622 little brown bat, big brown bat, and tricolored bats within contaminated hibernacula and reduce or delay environmental transmission of the fungal pathogen.

Field Implementation of a Probiotic Treatment to Reduce Fungal Infection in Bats (BC, WA)

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
 Grant Amount:.....\$57,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$173,200
 Total Project Amount:.....\$231,100
 Implement a probiotic treatment cocktail in 11 bat maternity colony study sites in Washington state and British Columbia and refine protocols in preparation for potential upscaling of this disease management tool. Project will tag individual bats, spray substrates in colonies and continue to refine and compare annual per-site survivorship rates to eventually quantify the disease management tool’s efficacy to reduce mortality caused by WNS.

Protecting and Enhancing Hibernaculum for Indiana Bats in the Sodalis Nature Preserve (MO)

Grantee: Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation
 Grant Amount:.....\$159,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$307,800
 Total Project Amount:.....\$466,800
 Utilize existing partnerships with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to enhance habitats through tree planting and various forest-management strategies which promote tree species of importance to the Indiana bat lifecycle. Project will implement invasive species removal, carry out prescribed burns, engage dozens of private landowners in creating a buffer and enhance the conservation management plan for the Sodalis Nature Preserve hibernaculum.