



NFWF

Central Appalachia Stewardship Program, 2019 Grants

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- Shell Oil Company
- American Forest Foundation

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Wood thrush

OVERVIEW

The Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program was established in 2017 to improve the quality and connectivity of forest and freshwater habitat in portions of the Appalachian region of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

In 2019 the Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program is awarding more than \$1.5 million in funding to 11 projects that will improve the management of public and private forestlands in order to create large, dynamic blocks of mixed-age forests that support a diversity of bird and wildlife species, especially targeting golden-winged warbler, wood thrush and cerulean warbler.

These grants also will bolster populations of eastern brook trout, eastern hellbender and native freshwater mussels by removing barriers to fish passage and restoring riparian and in-stream habitat. The grants will be matched by over \$1.8 million from grantees for a total conservation impact of over \$3.3 million.

Restoring Large Forest Blocks in State Parks for Key Bird Species in the Laurel Highlands (PA)

Grantee: Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute

Grant Amount:.....\$199,896

Matching Funds:.....\$214,282

Project Total:\$414,178

Restore multiple forest age classes and habitat complexity for key bird species in large forest blocks in two state parks in the Laurel Highlands of south central Pennsylvania, which serve as anchors in a network of forested lands in the region. Project will write comprehensive forest management plans for more than 33,000 acres of forest and

(continued)



implement habitat management practices that benefit golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler and wood thrush while also monitoring population responses.

Assessing Eastern Brook Trout Patches to Determine Future Actions that Improve Connectivity (PA)

Grantee: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Grant Amount:..... \$186,863
Matching Funds:.....\$213, 964
Project Total:\$400,827

Assess population status and habitat condition within previously identified eastern brook population patches in the Mid-Upper Allegheny River and Pennsylvania Wilds focal geographies to determine the most appropriate restoration actions to improve aquatic connectivity. Project will assess at least five patches by completing 100 electrofishing surveys, reconnect at least two priority patches through culvert replacement and restore 1.5 miles of forested riparian buffer to reduce sedimentation.

Propagating and Restoring Native Freshwater Mussel Species in the Upper Clinch River (VA)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount:..... \$199,787
Matching Funds:.....\$199, 787
Project Total:\$399,574

Restore populations of three native freshwater mussel species by propagating them, raising them to a suitable size for release into the wild and introducing them into suitable historic habitat in the Virginia portion of the Clinch River in southwestern Virginia. Project will release 100,000 native mussels considered ecosystem engineers that are currently under-represented in the river, with the goal of raising overall mussel assemblage densities beyond 10 mussels per square meter.

Restoring Dynamic Forest Structure to Improve Wildlife Habitat for Birds in the Pennsylvania Wilds

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy
Grant Amount:..... \$175,000
Matching Funds:.....\$200, 000
Project Total:\$375,000

Improve forest management planning and habitat management within the Pennsylvania Wilds region where forest health is limited by a lack of age class diversity and structural complexity. Project will deploy both timber harvests and non-commercial methods to create or enhance 450 acres of young forest habitat, 500 acres of mature forest habitat and 400 acres of late successional habitat to support the entire reproductive cycle of golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush.



Freshwater mussel

Increasing Nesting Habitat and Water Quality for Eastern Hellbender in the Upper Clinch River (VA)

Grantee: Canaan Valley Institute
Grant Amount:..... \$155,588
Matching Funds:.....\$270, 000
Project Total:\$425,588

Increase nesting habitat for the eastern hellbender and improve water quality by reducing sedimentation to benefit the hellbender and freshwater mussels in the Upper Clinch River in southwestern Virginia. Project will install 10 hellbender nest boxes, install two miles of livestock exclusion fencing to reduce sedimentation, restore three miles of riparian forest buffer, and determine future habitat restoration priorities through environmental DNA sampling.

Advancing Conservation-Based Estate Planning with Private Forest Landowners (PA)

Grantee: The Pennsylvania State University
Grant Amount:..... \$79,987
Matching Funds:..... \$79, 987
Project Total: \$159,974

Advance conservation-based estate planning through a targeted workshop series to increase awareness and implementation of evolving legal and financial tools to achieve conservation-based estate planning in Pennsylvania. Project will implement outreach



to estate planning attorneys, financial planners and consulting foresters. At least 350 professionals will use newly established best practices for conservation-based estate planning.

Implementing a Landscape-Scale Approach to Managing Private Forestlands for Birds and Resilience (PA)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
Grant Amount:..... \$183,419
Matching Funds:.....\$188, 433
Project Total:\$371,852

Implement strategic, landscape-scale forest conservation to benefit forest birds on private lands in Pennsylvania through financial incentives provided by the American Forest Foundation’s Family Forest Carbon Program. Project will restore 900 acres of mature forest habitat for wood thrush, 225 acres of late successional forest habitat for cerulean warblers and enroll 20 landowners in habitat management on their lands that will also facilitate carbon sequestration.

Testing a Methodology for Monitoring Eastern Brook Trout Restoration Response in the Cross Fork Watershed (PA)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Amount:..... \$139,987
Matching Funds:.....\$140, 000
Project Total:\$279,987

Develop a methodology and conduct eastern brook trout population response monitoring in the Cross Fork Creek watershed, the largest drainage in the Kettle Creek watershed in Pennsylvania. The methodology will be suitable for replication range-wide. Project will replace one culvert, opening 8.5 miles of previously inaccessible stream habitat and improve 1,500 feet of dirt and gravel road to reduce sedimentation and improve water quality, and then will monitor brook trout population response.

Project Name: Expanding the Woodland Stewardship Network Program in the Blue Ridge Focal Geography (VA)

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Grant Amount:..... \$50,000
Matching Funds:..... \$50,000
Project Total:\$100,000

Expand the existing Woodland Stewardship Network Program into the Blue Ridge geography of Virginia by building at least two additional networks of private landowners with forest management plans written to facilitate active management that will increase the quantity and quality of forest management on privately owned, non-industrial forestland. Project will create management plans for 2,000 acres of forest and improve management of 150 acres to benefit golden-winged and cerulean warblers.



Golden-winged warbler

Linking Stream Habitat on Public and Private Lands in the Upper Greenbrier River to Benefit Brook Trout (WV)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Amount:..... \$95,415
Matching Funds:..... \$122,863
Project Total:\$218,278

Expand the footprint of the Upper Greenbrier River Watershed restoration efforts from the headwaters located on public lands in the Monongahela National Forest to the downstream watersheds dominated by private lands, in one of the largest identified eastern brook trout patches on the river. Project will install three miles of livestock exclusion fencing, restore six miles of riparian forest buffer and implement best management practices for sediment reduction on 200 acres.

Installing Hellbender Nest Boxes as a Restoration Strategy that Engages Private Landowners (VA)

Grantee: .. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Grant Amount:..... \$116,474
Matching Funds:..... \$146,474
Project Total:\$262,948

Install hellbender nest boxes in Copper Creek, VA in the second phase of an effort to restore limited hellbender shelter and nesting habitat on private land that will lead to increased survival and reproduction. Project will install 60 nest boxes for hellbenders, repeatedly monitor species response and produce behavior change in 12 households with agricultural property on the river by incentivizing them to implement best management practices.