Bats for the Future Fund

NFWF CONTACT

Amanda Bassow
Program Director,
Northeastern Regional Office
amanda.bassow@nfwf.org
202-857-0166

John Wright
Manager,
Northeastern Regional Office
john.wright@nfwf.org
202-595-2478

FUNDING PARTNERS

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

Little brown bat

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, the Avangrid Foundation and Southern Company announced a 2019 round of funding for Bats for the Future Fund projects. Three new or continuing grants were awarded to further test treatments for white-nose syndrome (WNS) and enhance winter survivability, totaling over $547,000. The three awards announced generated more than $351,000 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of over $898,000.

The Bats for the Future Fund awards grants preferentially for projects that focus on development and deployment of field treatments, management tools and conservation strategies within the WNS established area (i.e., where WNS is endemic) and on the leading edge of its spread across North America. These three projects will continue to measure the effectiveness of polyethylene glycol and volatile organic compounds as a means to suppress the Pseudogymnoascus destructans (Pd) fungus, and use light and chemical attractants around hibernacula to enhance insect prey populations and foraging efficiency. Bats that put on weight before and after hibernation are more likely to survive WNS.

(continued)

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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of $6.1 billion.

Learn more at **www.nfwf.org**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
1133 15th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C., 20005
202-857-0166

Big brown bat

Using Polyethylene Glycol to Control the Fungus that Causes White-Nose Syndrome in Bats (OH, PA)
Grantee: Temple University
Grant Amount:.....$179,724
Matching Funds:..... 125,147
Total Project Amount:.....$304,871
Treat and monitor hibernation sites used by little brown bats and other species to test the effectiveness of polyethylene glycol 8000 to suppress the fungus that causes WNS. Project will conduct field trials at three control and three treatment hibernacula in Ohio and Pennsylvania, evaluate the effects on non-target flora and fauna, and strive to reduce the fungal infection rate by 50 percent.

Enhancing Foraging Habitat for Bats Affected by White-Nose Syndrome in Michigan and Canada
Grantee: Bat Conservation International
Grant Amount:.....$249,995
Matching Funds:.....$178,713
Total Project Amount:.....$428,708
Improve survival of bats with WNS by enhancing their foraging efficiency near hibernacula in the fall, when bats accumulate critical fat reserves, and in spring, when bats are recovering from WNS. Project will use light and chemical attractants at seven sites in Michigan and Manitoba to concentrate insects near hibernacula in fall and spring to determine whether more insect prey improves survivability, with the goal of reducing the mortality rate from 71 percent to 30 percent.

Testing Volatile Organic Compounds to Combat White-Nose Syndrome at Black Diamond Tunnel in Georgia
Grantee: Kennesaw State University
Grant Amount:.....$117,422
Matching Funds:..... $48,000
Total Project Amount:.....$165,422
Implement an integrated disease management system to increase survivorship of tri-colored bat populations affected by WNS at Black Diamond Tunnel in Georgia. Project will fumigate Black Diamond Tunnel with volatile organic compounds to reduce the amount of the fungus that causes WNS and compare fungal loads and bat mortality with four other significant sites that are not receiving treatment, with the goal of reducing the fungal load to zero and reducing the mortality rate by 50%.

Tri-colored bat