



# Chesapeake WILD Grants Program

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## FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Altria

## 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. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)



Brook trout

## BACKGROUND

The Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (Chesapeake WILD) Grants program supports efforts to conserve and enhance wildlife habitats, sustain natural resources and benefit human communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation manages the Chesapeake WILD Grants program in partnership with government agencies and private corporations and in close coordination with the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. Major funding for the Chesapeake WILD Grants program is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Ruffed grouse

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Awards made through this competitive grant program build conservation capacity under a framework developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stakeholders with the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, and state fish and wildlife agencies across the Bay watershed. Key pillars of this framework and priorities for the Chesapeake WILD program include:

- Conserving, restoring, enhancing and sustaining a resilient network of fish and wildlife habitats and connecting corridors, with an emphasis on at-risk and federally listed species and habitats
- Advancing climate change adaptation and land-use planning by increasing science capacity to support improved strategic planning, conservation design, monitoring and applied science activities necessary to ensure resilience of natural ecosystems and habitats
- Increasing capacity and support for coordinated restoration and conservation activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, particularly in historically and

systemically under-resourced communities, through outreach, education, and civic engagement

- Enhancing recreational opportunities and public access, with a strong emphasis on equitable access to nature and all associated benefits, consistent with the ecological needs of fish and wildlife habitats
- Improving and sustaining water quality, upgrading water management capability, and reducing flood damage to support fish and wildlife, habitats of fish and wildlife, and drinking water for people

### RESULTS TO DATE

To date, the Chesapeake WILD Grant Program has awarded 37 projects totaling \$11 million in grant awards, leveraged by \$15.5 million in local matching funds, for a total conservation impact of \$26.4 million. These investments collectively will:

- Protect 3,320 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat,
- Restore 947 acres of forest and marsh habitat
- Restore 136.5 miles of freshwater habitat