



# NFWF

## “Central Apps Stewardship Program” 2017 Grant Slate

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### FUNDING PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Richard King Mellon Foundation
- American Forest Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Eastern hellbenders | Credit: David Herasimtschuk

### OVERVIEW

In 2017, the Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program is awarding more than \$1.7 million in funding to 15 projects that will enhance forest age and structural diversity, improve aquatic habitats and restore streamside forests for the benefit of species including American woodcock, golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, eastern hellbender and eastern brook trout. The grants will be matched by more than \$1.9 million from grantees for a total conservation impact of more than \$3.6 million.

The Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program, established in 2017, invests in on-the-ground restoration and planning to restore the quality of forest and freshwater habitats in the Central Appalachian-Allegheny Plateau landscape, including the Appalachian regions of Ohio, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

### PROGRAM STRATEGY I - ENHANCING FOREST AGE AND STRUCTURAL DIVERSITY

The following projects seek to enhance the age and structural diversity of forests in the region by restoring a mosaic of successional stages that provide habitat for a diversity of bird species, including young forest-dependent species associated with young, mature- and late-successional-forest-associated species.

#### Restoring Multiple Forest Stages to Provide Habitat for Priority Birds in the Pennsylvania Wilds

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

NFWF Award Amount:	\$199,999
Matching Funds:	\$230,000
<b>Total Amount:</b>	<b>\$429,999</b>

American Bird Conservancy will improve forest management practices on 3,200 acres

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Wood thrush

of public and private land in the Pennsylvania Wilds of north central Pennsylvania, one of the largest contiguous forest habitats in the eastern United States. The project will create at least 500 acres of young forest habitat, 140 acres of middle-aged forests and 500 acres of mature forest, utilizing prescribed fire and other methods to benefit species of greatest conservation need, including golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler and wood thrush.

**Demonstrating Benefits of Forest Stewardship Networks among Family Woodland Owners in Pennsylvania (PA)**

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$74,907  
Matching Funds: ..... \$75,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$149,907**

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will demonstrate the utility of forest landowner stewardship networks for improving management practices and forest habitat structure on 1,000 acres of family-owned woodlands through

development of forest management plans. The project will build two to four networks of neighboring forest properties that all have stewardship plans and actively manage for diverse stand ages and habitats, increasing populations of species of concern, including cerulean warbler, golden-winged warbler and American woodcock.

**Restoring Young Forest Habitat on Legacy Mineland in Moshannon State Forest for American Woodcock (PA)**

Grantee: Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$61,895  
Matching Funds: ..... \$61,895  
**Total Amount:..... \$123,790**

Pennsylvania Environmental Council will restore young forest habitat with a mix of white pine and quaking aspen on legacy minelands in Moshannon State Forest using the Forestry Reclamation Approach recommended by the Appalachian Regional Restoration Initiative. The project will improve habitat conditions on 55 acres for

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early successional bird species, including golden-winged warbler and American woodcock, improve water quality and educate the public and industry on the benefits of this technique across Appalachia.

### **Improving Forest Management in the Allegheny Highlands to Benefit Key Bird Species (NY, PA)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$149,437  
Matching Funds: ..... \$157,865  
**Total Amount:..... \$307,302**

National Audubon Society will improve management of private, family forests in the Upper Allegheny and Sinnemahoning watersheds of New York and Pennsylvania to increase young and mature forest habitat structure to benefit cerulean warbler and golden-winged warbler populations. The project will create at least 200 acres of young forest habitat and at least 550 acres of mature forest habitat, certify at least six consulting foresters to provide assistance to family forest owners and assess 5,000 acres to prioritize future management.

### **Improving Management of Family Forestland Using a Landowner Service Model to Optimize Outcomes (MD)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$199,960  
Matching Funds: ..... \$202,218  
**Total Amount:..... \$402,178**

The Nature Conservancy will enhance management of private family woodlands in western Maryland by utilizing a landowner service model that coordinates the full spectrum of available private and public service providers to meet the needs of landowners seeking to implement best management practices. The project will implement forest stewardship and habitat improvements that maintain and enhance age and structural diversity for mature and late successional habitat on a total of 400 acres owned by 20 different landowners.

### **Developing a Landowner Outreach and Communications Strategy in the Greenbrier Watershed (WV)**

Grantee: Wildlife Management Institute  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$100,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$100,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$200,000**

Wildlife Management Institute will develop a detailed outreach strategy that targets landowners in the Greenbrier watershed of eastern West Virginia and is designed to motivate landowners to create a mixed mosaic of forest habitat that supports species of greatest conservation need. The project will hire a consultant to develop effective language that encourages landowners to improve forest management practices in this key watershed identified by

both the American Forest Foundation and the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture.

### **Improving Outreach and Communications to Private and Public Landowners in the Greenbrier Watershed (WV)**

Grantee: National Wild Turkey Federation  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$100,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$100,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$200,000**

National Wild Turkey Federation will create a communications and outreach strategy to engage landowners in the Greenbrier watershed of eastern West Virginia in creating diverse forest habitat that supports species of greatest conservation need. The project will partner with the Wildlife Management Institute and a consultant to develop effective language that encourages landowners to improve forest management practices in this key watershed identified by both the American Forest Foundation and the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture.

### **Enhancing Forest Habitat through Oak-Hickory Restoration in Appalachian Ohio (OH)**

Grantee: Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$50,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$50,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$100,000**

Ohio Department of Natural Resources will enhance habitat for a diversity of forest wildlife in Appalachia Ohio by restoring oak-hickory forests. The project will complement and expand the impact of an ongoing collaborative oak management project in Appalachia Ohio by focusing outreach and technical assistance efforts at the landscape scale, using a new interagency business model with key state and federal partners.

### **A Strategic Conservation Action Plan for the Scotia Barrens Wildlife Corridor (PA)**

Grantee: The ClearWater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania  
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$87,053  
Matching Funds: ..... \$87,053  
**Total Amount:..... \$174,106**

The ClearWater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania will support early successional forest habitats for golden-winged warbler and American woodcock on privately owned forest lands in Pennsylvania. The project will partner with conservation professionals and volunteers to prioritize locations for habitat restoration activities and implement an outreach and education campaign to involve landowners and municipalities in a shared commitment to restore, enhance and connect important young forest habitats in the Scotia Barrens region.



Golden-winged warbler | Credit: Melanie C. Underwood

### Creating Young Forest Habitat for Early Successional Species in Western Pennsylvania Forestland (PA)

Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$159,500  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$173,900  
**Total Amount: ..... \$333,400**

Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania will create and restore young forest habitat for early successional species such as American woodcock, Appalachian cottontail and golden-winged warbler in western Pennsylvania forestland. The project will result in restoration of more than 270 acres of high-quality habitat and demonstrate techniques that will be transferable to thousands of acres of forestland in the area.

### PROGRAM STRATEGY II - IMPROVE AQUATIC HABITATS

The following projects seek to improve the quality of aquatic habitats by restoring fish passage to improve access to high quality upstream habitat and restore complex in-stream habitat.

### Aquatic Habitat Connectivity in Laurel Highlands and Upper Allegheny Focal Geographies (PA)

Grantee: American Rivers  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$100,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$100,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$200,000**

American Rivers will rectify four fish passage barriers in the Laurel Highlands and Upper Allegheny areas of Pennsylvania

to benefit wild brook trout and freshwater mussels. The project will provide a total of 47.5 miles of reconnected habitat and one mile of reconnected river side channel.

### Aquatic Connectivity and Riparian Corridor Enhancement in the Upper Clinch River Watershed (VA)

Grantee: Canaan Valley Institute  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$65,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$65,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$130,000**

Canaan Valley Institute will restore instream habitat, implement agricultural best management practices and assess the presence of eastern hellbenders in the upper Clinch watershed. The project will benefit 12 species of endangered mussels, three threatened fish species and the eastern hellbender by providing access to 30.2 acres of upstream habitat and 3 acres of instream habitat, among other outcomes.

### Hellbender Nest Boxes as an Innovative Restoration Strategy and Tool for Engaging Landowners (VA)

Grantee: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$65,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$65,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$130,000**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University will restore critical shelter, nesting habitat, and population connectivity in Copper Creek, Virginia, to enhance the longterm population resilience of hellbenders. The project



Eastern brook trout

will remove a fish passage barrier to create 247 acres of habitat and integrate hellbender nest boxes — engaging landowners to promote interest in further riparian conservation activities.

### PROGRAM STRATEGY III - RESTORE STREAMSIDE FORESTS

The following projects seek to restore the integrity and complexity of streamside forests that provide edge habitat and wildlife corridors while also protecting water quality.

#### Restoring Aquatic and Forest Habitat on Youghiogheny River Tributaries to Benefit Multiple Species (PA)

Grantee: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
 NFWF Award Amount:..... \$199,998  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$357,867  
**Total Amount:..... \$557,865**

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will restore aquatic and forest habitat on the Youghiogheny River in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania to benefit eastern brook trout, American woodcock, golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler and other priority species that inhabit streams and

young and mature forest habitat. The project will result in 30 acres of young forest and riparian tree plantings, removal of two barriers to fish passage, installation of 50 fish habitat structures and reduction of sediment runoff by 35 tons annually.

#### American Woodcock and Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Management in Penns Creek (PA)

Grantee: Penns Valley Conservation Association  
 NFWF Award Amount:..... \$106,842  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$124,102  
**Total Amount:..... \$230,944**

Penns Valley Conservation Association will integrate woodcock habitat establishment with brook trout habitat improvement by establishing native riparian flora that maintain cold water temperatures and stabilize river banks and planting seedlings and singing grounds at Pine and Muddy creeks. The project will create 19 acres of American woodcock habitat and enhance 1,450 feet of streambanks.