



NFWF

“Central Appalachia” 2018 Grant Slate

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- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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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

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Cerulean Warbler | Credit: Melanie C. Underwood

OVERVIEW

In 2018, the Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program is awarding more than \$1.4 million in funding to nine projects that will enhance diversity of 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 \$2.1 million from grantees for a total conservation impact of more than \$3.5 million.

The Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program was established in 2017 and 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 New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. Funding priorities for this program include forest conservation, connectivity and management and healthy river systems.

Restoring Dynamic Forest Structure for Priority Wildlife and Forest Health in the Pennsylvania Wilds

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Award: \$175,000

Matching Funds: \$220,000

Project Total: **\$395,000**

Expand forest planning and habitat management in the Pennsylvania Wilds of north central Pennsylvania to balance forest age classes and increase structural habitat complexity for the reproductive cycle of at-risk bird species, including golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler and wood thrush. Project will result in improved management of multiple 5,700 to 25,000 acre forest blocks using prescribed fire and invasive plant removal to restore 100 acres of young forest and 350 acres of mature forest.

(continued)



Eastern hellbender

Restoring Forest Habitat Complexity for Focal Bird Species in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania

Grantee: Ruffed Grouse Society

Grant Award:..... \$199,422

Matching Funds:\$210, 000

Project Total: \$409,422

Enhance habitat diversity for key bird species at multiple spatial scales on 5,000 acre blocks on State Game Land 42, Forbes State Forest and private lands in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. Project will provide technical assistance and streamlined funding for family forest landowners to implement best management practices, including invasive plant removal and prescribed fire. Project will result in 20,000 acres under improved management and monitoring of species response to the changes.

Eliminating Erosion from an Unimproved Road and Restoring Connectivity in Upper Jerry Run, Pennsylvania

Grantee: Cameron County Conservation District

Grant Award:..... \$179,570

Matching Funds:\$490, 058

Project Total: \$669,628

Restore aquatic connectivity and habitat for eastern brook trout through modification of a culvert barrier and

elimination of erosion and sediment from an unimproved road along the Upper Jersey Run watershed in Cameron County, Pennsylvania. Project will address the major limiting factors in the watershed at one time allowing for complete watershed-scale restoration, resulting in six miles of improved road, 1.25 miles of stream opened and elimination of 140 tons of sediment runoff annually.

Assessing and Modifying Road Stream Crossings in McKean County, Pennsylvania to Benefit Aquatic Species

Grantee: McKean County Conservation District

Grant Award:..... \$200,000

Matching Funds:\$226, 967

Project Total: \$426,967

Assess road stream crossings and dirt and gravel roads in McKean County, Pennsylvania, using Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) principles to identify high priority projects that will reduce stream sedimentation and improve aquatic connectivity and habitat for eastern brook trout, eastern hellbenders and freshwater mussels and their host fish species. Project will rectify three fish barriers, open 8 miles of stream and improve 5 miles of road in the Upper Allegheny watershed.



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Black-throated blue warbler | Credit: Don Faulkner

Expanding Forest Stewardship Networks Among Family Woodland Owners in Pennsylvania

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Grant Award:..... \$199,711
Matching Funds: \$200,000
Project Total: \$399,711

Expand the Woodland Stewardship Network Program in central Pennsylvania to further demonstrate the value of small and medium forest landowner stewardship networks by offering technical assistance to increase landscape-scale management. Project will increase the adoption of forest management plans that meet Natural Resource Conservation Service criteria on 3,000 acres and implement best management practices that increase populations of cerulean warbler, golden-winged warbler and American woodcock.

Providing Technical Assistance to Enhance Habitat and Reconnect Strongholds for Eastern Brook Trout (PA)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Award:..... \$144,100
Matching Funds: \$149,500
Project Total: \$293,600

Provide technical assistance and facilitate a collaborative prioritization process to select high priority sites to address nonpoint source sediment pollution, aquatic connectivity

and instream habitat in resilient and stronghold eastern brook trout patches in four focal geographies of western Pennsylvania. Project will build capacity and perform a minimum of 300 culvert surveys, complete six partial designs for culvert modification and six designs for dirt and gravel road improvements.

Providing Incentives to Improve Trout Habitat in the Upper South Branch of the Potomac River (VA)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Award:..... \$181,197
Matching Funds: \$187,900
Project Total: \$369,097

Provide outreach, technical assistance, and incentives to private landowners in the Upper South Branch of the Potomac River in Virginia to improve riparian habitat, connect to large upland blocks of managed forest and reconnect aquatic habitat to benefit eastern brook trout populations. Project will remove three fish passage barriers, open 3 miles of stream, restore 7 miles of riparian buffers with a minimum 35 foot width and install 10 miles of cattle exclusion fencing.

Developing Long-Term Forest and Habitat Management Plans for Large Industrial Forest Blocks (PA, WV)

Grantee: Wildlife Management Institute
Grant Award:..... \$75,000
Matching Funds: \$275,000
Project Total: \$350,000

Develop detailed forest management plans to create landscape scale forest blocks in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia that create a mosaic of forest successional stages and riparian buffers that benefit multiple focal bird species including golden-winger warbler, cerulean warbler, black-throated blue warbler, wood thrush and American woodcock. Project will complete management plans for 67,000 acres in Pennsylvania and 163,000 acres in West Virginia recently acquired by Lyme Timber.

Sampling of Previously Unassessed Streams for Presence of Eastern Brook Trout and other Wild Trout (PA)

Grantee: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Grant Award:..... \$80,000
Matching Funds: \$140,605
Project Total: \$220,605

Assist the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission with the Unassessed Waters Initiative by coordinating identification and sampling of priority streams, streamlining data collection and ensuring that data from contracted partners is entered into the state's database. Project will sample at least 1,000 streams statewide with a focus in western Pennsylvania.