



Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program

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PARTNERS

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

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

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Wood thrush. Credit: Juan Zamora

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Shell Oil Company and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a 2021 round of funding for Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program projects. Ten new or continuing quality and connectivity of forest and freshwater habitat grants totaling more than \$1.7 million were awarded. The 10 awards announced generated over \$1.9 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of over \$3.6 million.

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Freshwater mussels

Promoting Soil Health and Riparian Buffers to Support Aquatic Diversity in Northwest Pennsylvania

Grantee: Stroud Water Research Center

Grant Amount: \$191,158

Matching Funds: \$218,347

Total Project Amount: \$409,505

Restore stream health by addressing excessive sedimentation in the French Creek and Shenango River waterways that threatens freshwater species. Project will create a multi-county no-till drill rental program to increase implementation of cover crops and no-till crop establishment and provide funding to establish forested streamside buffers for sediment control and overall stream health functions.

Restoring Riparian Buffers to Bolster Freshwater Species in the Upper Casselman River (MD, PA)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$189,711

Matching Funds: \$237,336

Total Project Amount: \$427,047

Restore riparian buffers, implement conservation practices on agricultural lands, and reforest abandoned mine lands in the Upper Casselman River. Project will bolster brook trout, hellbender, and mussel populations in the watershed; reduce the impacts of sedimentation; and establish early successional habitat for golden-winged warbler.

Restoring Fish Passage and Reducing Flood Risk in Cussewago Creek (PA)

Grantee: French Creek Valley Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$50,000

Matching Funds: \$67,450

Total Project Amount: \$117,450

Remove the obsolete lowhead Cussewago Dam on Cussewago

Creek in Meadville, Pennsylvania, which serves as a barrier for aquatic organism passage and also is a safety hazard. Project will open 46 miles of stream, reduce flood risk, restore fish passage and stream health to positively impact freshwater mussel species and their host species, conduct species monitoring, and restore the riparian buffer.

Increasing Capacity for Bird-friendly Forestry on West Virginia's Private Forest Lands

Grantee: The Forest Stewards Guild

Grant Amount: \$143,336

Matching Funds: \$111,206

Total Project Amount: \$254,542

Increase awareness, capacity, and acreage for bird-friendly forestry in West Virginia's Monongahela Forest Focal Geography. Project will develop a dynamic forest management plan for at least 5,000 acres of private forest lands and create demonstration sites to engage students, landowners, foresters, and loggers.

Implementing Dynamic Forest Restoration in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania

Grantee: Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute

Grant Amount: \$199,141

Matching Funds: \$217,000

Total Project Amount: \$416,141

Design and implement dynamic forest block restoration to support eastern forest bird species in three state parks and one state game land in Pennsylvania. Project will result in implementation of comprehensive forest management that provides a long-term strategy for balancing forest age classes and increasing structural complexity across more than 76,260 acres.

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Cerulean warbler

Developing a Conservation Framework and Action Plan for Freshwater Mussel Conservation (PA)

Grantee: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$194,250
 Matching Funds:\$241,976
 Total Project Amount:\$436,226

Develop a framework for the conservation of freshwater mussels across Pennsylvania. Project will complete planning activities and collect field data to determine which restoration actions are important for the long-term conservation of freshwater mussels in the state.

Automatic Acoustic Monitoring of Focal Birds Species in Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks (PA)

Grantee: University of Pittsburgh

Grant Amount: \$183,568
 Matching Funds:\$185,003
 Total Project Amount:\$368,571

Survey avian communities in three dynamic forest restoration blocks in the Pennsylvania Wilds and Laurel Highlands. Project will continue and expand the use of automated acoustic recorders to monitor populations of golden-winged warbler; wood thrush, cerulean warbler, and four additional avian focal species.

Dynamic Forest Restoration to Support Wildlife in Southwest Virginia

Grantee: Ruffed Grouse Society

Grant Amount:\$199,929
 Matching Funds:\$209,605
 Total Project Amount:\$409,534

Plan a dynamic forest restoration block and implement active forest management to aid in the recovery of focal wildlife populations in southwest Virginia. Project will implement forest management that results in a mosaic of mixed-aged forests that support a diversity of bird and wildlife species on state and private lands.

Implementing Forest Practices that Create Habitat Structure for Wildlife and Sustain Forest Health (PA)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$207,200
 Total Project Amount: \$407,200

Improve forest management within the Pennsylvania Wilds region where forest health is limited by a lack of age class diversity and structural complexity. Project will employ a variety of management practices to create or enhance more than 75 acres of young forest habitat, 440 acres of mature forest habitat, and at least 180 acres of late successional habitat to support the entire reproductive cycle of golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush.

Restoring Aquatic Connectivity to Strengthen Brook Trout Habitat in Pennsylvania

Grantee: Potter County Conservation District

Grant Amount: \$199,943
 Matching Funds: \$232,000
 Total Project Amount: \$431,943

Sustain and improve eastern brook trout populations in Card Creek and Little Portage Creek by removing three barriers to aquatic organism passage. Project will result in the opening of 10.75 miles of previously inaccessible stream and the improvement of flood resiliency at each site.