



Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program

NFWF CONTACTS

Jake Reilly

Program Director,
Northeast Regional Office
jake.reilly@nfwf.org
202-595-2610

Oleksandr Faryga

Program Manager,
Northeast Regional Office
oleksandr.faryga@nfwf.org
202-595-2453

PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Richard King Mellon Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Altria Group
- Cleveland-Cliffs

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 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1625 Eye Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C., 20006
202-857-0166



Cerulean warbler

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Richard King Mellon Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Altria Group and Cleveland-Cliffs announced a 2024-year round of funding for Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program projects. Seven new or continuing grants totaling \$2.2 million will support projects to reforest legacy mine lands, improve forest habitat management for birds, improve agricultural practices, and restore aquatic connectivity. The seven awards announced leveraged \$1.9 million in matching contributions from grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$4.1 million.

Created in 2017, the overall goal of the program is to improve the quality and connectivity of forest and freshwater habitat in order to increase the distribution and abundance of birds, fish and other wildlife, as evidenced by a suite of species that collectively are indicators of forest and freshwater habitat condition. Specifically, the program seeks to improve the management of public and private forestlands to create large blocks with a mosaic of mixed-age forests that support a diversity of bird and wildlife species, especially targeting golden-winged warbler, wood thrush and cerulean warbler. The program also seeks to improve stream health by removing passage barriers, restoring riparian buffers, and improving water quality and hydrology to bolster populations of brook trout, eastern hellbender and native freshwater mussels.

(continued)



Wood thrush

Improving Forest Management and Habitat on Private Lands in Pennsylvania

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount:..... \$483,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$478,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$961,100
 Improve 900 acres of forest habitat for golden-winged warbler and wood thrush by addressing a need for foresters who can provide non-commercial forestry technical assistance to private landowners in the Central Appalachian region. Project will also provide training on bird-friendly forest management practices for consulting foresters and pilot a student intern program to expose forestry students to alternative career paths.

Improving Soil Health, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat in Russell County, Virginia

Grantee: Clinch Valley SWCD
 Grant Amount:..... \$420,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$300,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$720,900
 Improve soil health and water quality by implementing agricultural best management practices in Russell County, Virginia. Project will implement 5 miles of livestock exclusion fencing, restore a half mile of riparian forest buffer, and enhance conservation and productivity on agricultural lands through conservation tillage, cover cropping and soil quality improvements.

Increasing Private Forest Lands Management with Woodland Stewardship Networks (MD, PA)

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
 Grant Amount:..... \$400,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$503,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$903,000
 Increase stewardship and management of private forest lands in central Pennsylvania and western Maryland. Project will build 10 Woodland Stewardship Networks to leverage state and federal cost-share programs, resulting in 4,000 acres of private forest covered by updated forest management plans and at least 200 acres of habitat improvement for avian species of concern.

Restoring Dynamic Forest Habitat in the Pennsylvania Wilds and Upper Middle Alleghenies (PA)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy
 Grant Amount:..... \$331,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$310,560
 Total Project Amount:..... \$641,700
 Implement forest management practices on more than 650 acres and avian monitoring covering approximately 3,125 acres across five Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks in the Pennsylvania Wilds and Upper and Middle Allegheny focal geographies. Project will address threats to forest resilience and the full breeding-season habitat needs of golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler and wood thrush.

Developing and Implementing Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks in West Virginia

Grantee: The Ruffed Grouse Society
 Grant Amount:..... \$221,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$206,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$427,800
 Plan and restore two new dynamic forest restoration blocks on Calvin Price and Seneca State Forests in West Virginia. Project will use forest management practices and prescribed fire to improve 1,000 acres of habitat for golden-winged warbler, cerulean warblers, ruffed grouse and other wildlife.

Headstarting Hellbender Larvae to Prevent Extinctions and Preserve Biodiversity

Grantee: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Grant Amount:..... \$379,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$95,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$474,600
 Deploy the latest science to guide the development of an innovative captive rearing and release technique for hellbenders in Virginia. Project will work with private landowners to prevent the extinction of remnant populations by removing eggs from nests before they can be destroyed through predation, rearing these eggs in captivity, and headstarting large numbers of young larvae into their natal sites.