

Appendix A

Priority Fish and Wildlife

NFWF is soliciting proposals that restore, conserve, steward, and enhance important Chesapeake Bay watershed habitats and ecosystems for imperiled fish and wildlife.

For the purposes of the Chesapeake Wild Program, **imperiled species** are fish, wildlife, invertebrate, and plant species of concern dependent upon important Chesapeake Bay watershed habitats and living resources, and include species identified as State designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN) in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), Regional SGCNs by the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and/or species identified in tribal stewardship or fish and wildlife plans.

Proposal narratives should incorporate conservation action recommendations consistent with Federal, Tribal, or State habitat conservation or species recovery plans, or with actions listed for the species within state wildlife action plans, NFWF's Business Plan, and/or fish and wildlife habitats identified as important by Chesapeake Bay Program. Below are information resources and links to help inform competitive grant proposals, including examples of priority conservation actions eligible for funding. While this is not an exhaustive list of resources that could be included as supportive information in a proposal narrative, it does provide easy access to enough information to guide competitive project proposals.

Federal resources

Table 1 (below) contains federal information and conservation plan resources for the following priority fish and wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

- Chesapeake logperch
- Diadromous Fishes (river herring: American shad, alewife, blueback herring)
- Eastern regal fritillary
- Forest songbirds (golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, wood thrush)
- Freshwater mussels (brook floater, yellow lamp mussel, Tidewater mucket, green floater)
- Northeast turtles (bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle, wood turtle)
- Saltmarsh sparrow

Additionally, to identify the potential for rare species or ecosystems on project sites, applicants may find the [USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#) useful for planning purposes (note that formal environmental review may also be required).

Tribal resources

There are 7 federally recognized Tribes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, each is a Sovereign government and should be individually consulted about fish and wildlife conservation action



recommendations consistent with their respective stewardship or habitat conservation and management plans:

- [Chickahominy Indian Tribe](#), Providence Forge, VA
- [Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division](#), Providence Forge, VA
- [Monacan Indian Nation](#), Amherst, VA
- [Nansemond Indian Nation](#), Suffolk, VA
- [Pamunkey Indian Tribe](#) King William, VA
- [Rappahannock Tribe](#), Indian Neck, VA
- [Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe](#), King William, VA

Additional national and spatial Tribal natural resources information:

- [Native American Fish and Wildlife Society](#)
- [Native Land Information System](#), a repository of learning resources, information, and data to help defend and protect Native lands for the benefit of Native people.

State resources

NE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) [Fish & Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee](#):

- [NE Regional Conservation Needs](#) database of final reports
- [Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(2023\)](#) database

For more information about conservation action recommendations consistent with their respective habitat conservation or species recovery plans, or with actions listed within State Wildlife Action Plans:

[D.C.](#) [Maryland](#) [Pennsylvania](#) [West Virginia](#)
[Delaware](#) [New York](#) [Virginia](#)

Additional priority fish and wildlife resources

Eastern brook trout and American Black Duck are priority wildlife identified in the following plans and tools:

- [National Fish and Wildlife Chesapeake Bay Business Plan](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Program Habitat Goal Implementation Team](#)
- American black duck decision support tool for [Chesapeake Bay priority watersheds](#)
- Atlantic Coast Joint Venture [ACJV coastal restoration project inventory](#), a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck



- Multiple Eastern brook trout decision support tools and mapper tools from [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](#)

Table 1. Federal information resources for priority fish and wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. For state specific habitat conservation or species recovery recommendations, refer to individual State Wildlife Action Plans.

Priority Federal Fish and Wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Priority Actions Eligible for Funding	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links and Priority Locations	Decision-Support or Prioritization Tool Links
<p>Chesapeake logperch</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) improve riparian habitats and water quality through streambank fencing, instream restoration, dam removal, culvert replacements, vegetative buffer strip installation, riparian buffer restoration, streambank stabilization, and floodplain restoration and revegetation.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania and Maryland Wildlife Action Plans (see links under 'State resources')</p>	<p>USFWS's Chesapeake Logperch information website</p> <p>Fact sheet Pennsylvania Species Action Plan</p>
<p>Diadromous Fishes: river herring (American shad, alewife, blueback herring)</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) provide alternative fish passage, (2) remove passage barriers, (3) restore, enhance, and/or connect riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams, (4) permanent conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) engage dam owners/operators and communities to increase awareness</p>	<p>Locations: Contact state wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Program's Fish Passage Work Group webpage with links to management plans and other recommendations</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Program's Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to assess potential outcomes</p>



	<p>of fish passage needs and the importance of native fish populations and habitat connections.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>		
<p>Eastern regal fritillary</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) grassland habitat restoration and enhancement, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) Citizen Science efforts to captive rear, release, and monitor Regal fritillary to fill science/data gaps.</p>		<p>US Forest Service article about fritillary pollinators</p> <p>Pennsylvania Dept. of Military Veteran Affairs Regal Fritillary Fact Sheet</p>
<p>Pollinators: American bumble bee, Monarch, rusty patched bumble bee</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) ??</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>NRCS American Bumble Bee Fact Sheet with habitat and restoration recommendations</p> <p>Focal areas: farmland, grassland, urban gardening/farming</p>	<p>Center for Pollinator Conservation USFWS Pollinator information website</p> <p>USFWS Monarch information website</p> <p>USFWS Bumble Bee information website</p> <p>USFWS Rusty Patched Bumble Bee information website</p> <p>USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Program information website</p>



<p>Forest songbirds: Golden-winged warbler, Cerulean warbler, wood thrush</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) forest habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) permanent conservation of headwater and high elevation forest habitat, including forested riparian areas.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) trained foresters or biologists: to assist with developing forest management guidelines that integrate habitat needs of the priority species in a way that makes sense to foresters and will be easy for them to implement when developing prescriptions. (2) trained communication and outreach practitioners: to engage with property owners, foresters, and partnering organizations in focal areas and generate interest in participating in improving forest habitat for imperiled birds. (3) facilitators: to help with team coordination and organization. (4) scientists to help design species and conservation monitoring and assessment protocols: develop monitoring strategies and specific monitoring designs to gather more data on forest bird responses to forest habitat management.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) Collection of more survival data to estimate both annual and seasonal survival of all three priority songbird species, especially for females. (2) evaluating the site-level and landscape-level responses of forest songbirds to forest management activities, especially monitoring associated with implementing forest songbird best management practices. Important parameters include occupancy, estimated abundance, and reproductive success, and (3)</p>	<p>Existing focus areas developed by the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture and Golden-winged Warbler Working Group.</p>	<p>Wood thrush landscape capability models</p> <p>Breeding habitat management guidelines for Cerulean Warblers</p>
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	<p>assess non-breeding habitat use of different forest types and landscape configurations on the wintering grounds for all three focal species. Important parameters include occupancy, estimated abundance, measures of body condition (e.g., weight, fat reserves, endocrine profiles), and seasonal survival.</p>		
<p>Freshwater mussels: Brook floater, Yellow lampmussel, Tidewater mucket, green floater, and associated fishes (e.g., American eel)</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity actions identified in Plans. (2) improve fish passage through dam and barrier removal</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) conservation area designation planning and coordination, (2) techniques development, (3) assistance with environmental review and permitting processes, (4) species and habitat management planning and coordination, (5) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) species propagation and reintroduction research, survey, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact state wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	
<p>Northeast turtles: bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle, wood turtle</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) land acquisition in “focal areas” identified in Conservation Plans, (2) habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity actions identified in Plans.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional planning and partner coordination capacity.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) sampling and monitoring in focal core areas</p>	<p>Northeast Turtles website for Conservation Plans, sampling protocols, and conservation recommendations for Eastern box, spotted, and wood turtles.</p>	<p>Turtles of the Northeast United States (2023) A quick reference information guide for states in the Northeast. For up-to-date information, please consult the state websites.</p>



	<p>and sampling landscapes, (2) reduce threats, (3) research addressing data gaps outlined in the Plans.</p>	<p>ECOS page with bog turtle Recovery Plan</p> <p>Diamondback Terrapin Recovery Strategy</p> <p>Locations: Contact state wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>Management Guidelines for Wood Turtles</p> <p>Spotted turtles Regional Conservation Needs Assessment in MD and DE</p>
<p>Saltmarsh sparrow</p>	<p><i>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions:</i> (1) Marsh habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) permanent protection (e.g., conservation easement, fee simple purchase) of marsh habitat, including key marsh habitat corridors and lands to permit marsh migration.</p> <p><i>Expertise and technical support:</i> (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p><i>Science and research:</i> (1) rapid assessments and surveys and monitoring in focal core areas and landscapes, (2) research addressing species and habitat data gaps outlined in the Plans.</p>	<p>See decision-support and mapper tool links</p>	<p>Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV)</p> <p>Saltmarsh Sparrow restoration priority mapper an interactive mapping tool to identify priority salt marshes within each state that are good candidates for restoration, enhancement, and/or management to provide high-quality saltmarsh sparrow nesting habitat.</p> <p>ACJV coastal restoration project inventory a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck</p>