



Southeast Aquatics Fund

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PARTNERS

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Southern Company
- Altria Group

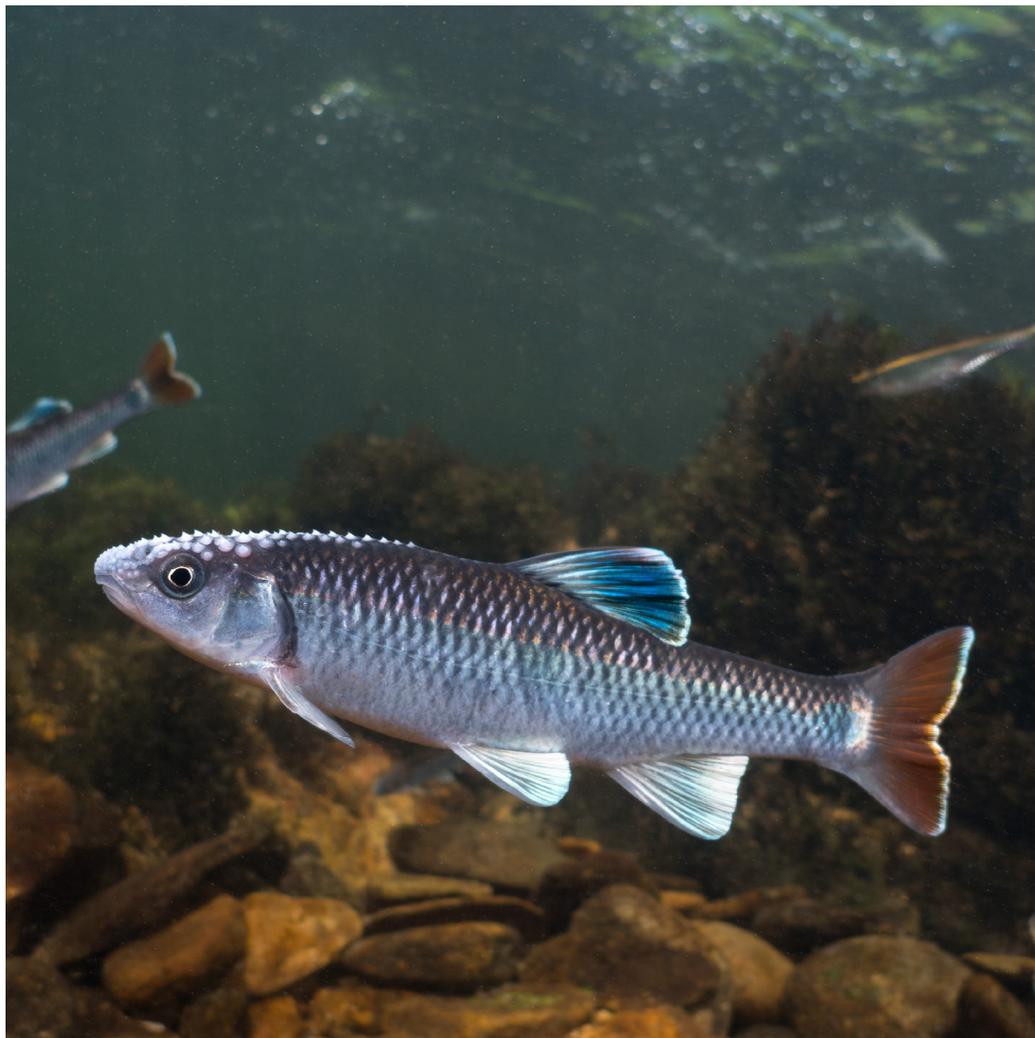
ABOUT NFWF

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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Alabama shiner

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Company and the Altria Group announced a sixth year of funding for Southeast Aquatics Fund projects. Five watershed-based habitat restoration, enhancement and assessment projects were awarded a total \$1.1 million. The five awards announced generated \$1.1 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$2.2 million.

The Southeast Aquatics Fund is a competitive grants program that supports watershed-based restoration to improve the health of southeastern aquatic systems and secure populations of native freshwater aquatic species. Utilizing a habitat-based approach means a diversity of species benefit, from game species to at-risk species, helping to reduce the possibility of future listings under the Endangered Species Act.

(continued)



Freshwater mussel

Assessment and Prioritization of Barriers to Connectivity in the Uchee Creek Watershed (AL)

Grantee: Auburn University
 Grant Amount:\$160,000
 Matching Funds:\$162,500
 Total Project Amount:\$322,500
 Conduct Sediment Risk Index assessments for road-stream crossings in Alabama’s Uchee Watershed and survey biological assemblages at high and moderate risk sites to identify barriers to connectivity, prioritizing sites for remediation. Project will assess 500 barriers and provide a catalyst for conservation activity in this watershed to benefit aquatic species of greatest conservation need and to build relationships with the community through land stewardship education.

Assessment and Restoration in the Upper Locust Fork Subwatershed (AL)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:\$250,000
 Matching Funds:\$204,300
 Total Project Amount:\$454,300
 Conduct environmental DNA (eDNA) and Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) analyses and implement streambank stabilization and riparian enhancement within the Upper Locust Fork subwatershed. Project will provide baseline data for species distribution, help prioritize restoration efforts and enhance aquatic habitat at a landowner demonstration site to benefit state and federally protected species, including the Black Warrior waterdog and flattened musk turtle.

Fish and Mussel Population Monitoring at Holly Creek (GA)

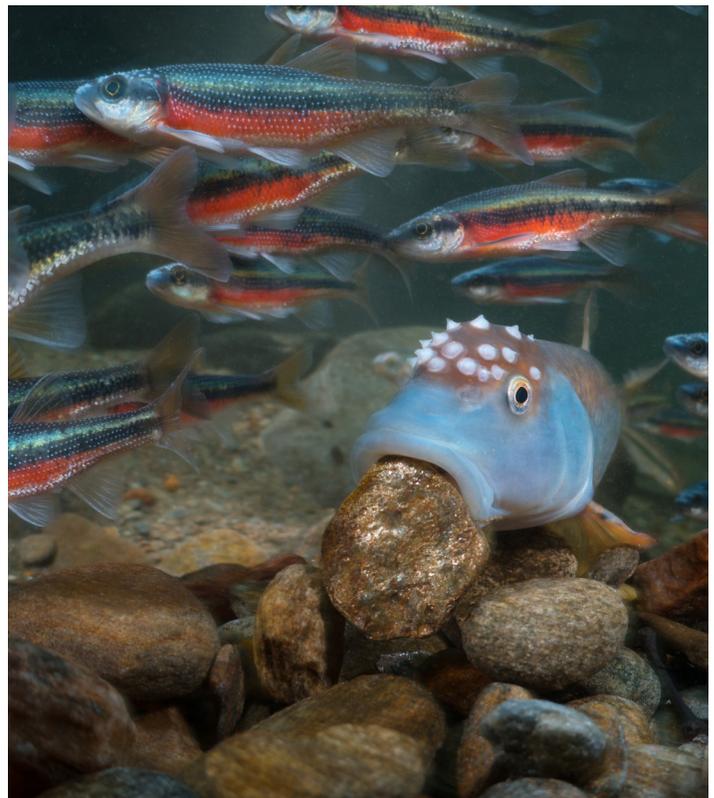
Grantee: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 Grant Amount: \$60,000
 Matching Funds: \$60,400
 Total Project Amount:\$120,400
 Build on current sampling to conduct two additional years of monitoring for fish, mussels, non-mussel invertebrates and water quality within Holly Creek in northwest Georgia, a hotspot for aquatic biodiversity. Project surveys will provide a baseline understanding of aquatic community composition, including spatial and temporal variability, to help evaluate the potential effects of management interventions.

Holly Creek and Tar Creek Restoration in the Conasauga Watershed (GA)

Grantee: Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
 Grant Amount:\$300,000
 Matching Funds:\$314,000
 Total Project Amount:\$614,000
 Remove invasive species, stabilize streambanks and restore riparian buffers at two sites in Holly Creek and Tar Creek within the Conasauga watershed in Georgia. Project will improve nearly a mile of stream habitat, reduce sediment impacts and exclude livestock access to improve water quality to benefit aquatic species, including the trispot darter and blue shiner.

Promoting Agricultural Soil Health to Support Aquatic Species in the High Rock Lake Watershed (NC)

Grantee: NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation
 Grant Amount:\$340,600
 Matching Funds:\$338,900
 Total Project Amount:\$679,500
 Increase technical assistance and outreach capacity and provide funding for best management practices to promote agricultural soil health in the High Rock Lake watershed within the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin. Project will reduce nutrient and sediment loading to improve water quality and benefit freshwater aquatic species health, increase technical assistance, advance soil health knowledge and increase underserved farmer participation in Farm Bill and state conservation programs.



Bluehead chub surrounded by rosyside dace in North Carolina