



NFWF

Bats for the Future Fund

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Southern Company
- Avangrid Foundation

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 \$6.8 billion.

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Little brown bat

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with Southern Company and the Avangrid Foundation, announced a 2021 round of funding for Bats for the Future Fund projects. Four new or continuing grants were awarded, totaling \$770,000 for implementation of field treatments and management strategies to reduce the impacts of white-nose syndrome (WNS). The four awards announced leveraged \$371,000 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$1.1 million.

Since 2017, the Bats for the Future Fund has awarded grants to projects that develop and deploy field treatments, management tools and conservation strategies for bat populations that are currently impacted or are likely to be impacted by WNS in the future.

The objectives of the BFF are to advance field treatments, strategies and management tools that provide the greatest potential to prevent exposure of bat populations to WNS, improve survival of already affected bat populations and perpetuate viable populations of bats.

(continued)



Mexican free-tailed bats

Creating Native Prairie in Right-of-Ways to Increase Insects for Declining Bat Populations (IL, WV)

Grantee: Bat Conservation International

Grant Amount:.....\$224,999
 Matching Funds:.....\$124,777
 Total Project Amount:.....\$349,776

Improve foraging conditions for bats as a long-term and scalable strategy to improve survival and aid recovery of bat populations impacted by WNS. The project will determine if restoring native plant communities on rights-of-way in Illinois and West Virginia, compared to turf grass and natural seed bank, can increase available insect prey, particularly during fall and spring.

Using Whole-Room Ultraviolet Light in Mines to Reduce the Impact of White-Nose Syndrome (MI, NJ, NY)

Grantee: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Grant Amount:.....\$268,661
 Matching Funds:.....\$125,093
 Total Project Amount:.....\$393,754

Test the efficacy of using whole-room ultra-violet light treatment in 10 mines that host hibernating populations of little brown bats in Michigan, New Jersey and New York. Project will test the ability of commercially available UV technology to benefit bats by killing or slowing growth of the fungus in summer, when bats are not present.

Testing the Efficacy of Aerosolized Treatments in Reducing Prevalence of White-Nose Syndrome (GA)

Grantee: Kennesaw State University

Grant Amount:.....\$87,164
 Matching Funds:.....\$16,513
 Total Project Amount:.....\$103,677

Create artificial cave environments to mimic bat hibernation conditions and evaluate the effectiveness of aerosolized compounds in reducing the growth of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. Project will test aerosolized versions of existing experimental treatments like polyethylene glycol (PEG) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and evaluate their use in future management.

Improving Survival of Little Brown Bats in Agricultural Landscapes of the Northern Great Plains (Canada)

Grantee: University of Saskatchewan

Grant Amount:.....\$189,519
 Matching Funds:.....\$105,212
 Total Project Amount:.....\$294,731

Determine best management practices for conserving little brown bat populations in agricultural landscapes at the leading edge of WNS in the Northern Great Plains. Project will identify how agricultural practices and exposure to pesticides influence bat activity, condition, survival and reproductive success. Research will be used to inform more effective targeting of conservation strategies for WNS-affected bat populations.