NFWF

Bats for the Future Fund

NFWF CONTACT

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Southern Company
- Avangrid Foundation

Tri-colored bat

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Southern Company and the Avangrid Foundation announced a 2022 round of funding for Bats for the Future Fund (BFF) projects. Three new or continuing innovative research and field treatment implementation grants totaling $478,490 were awarded. The three awards announced generated $125,875 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of $605,365.

Since 2017, BFF has provided grant funding to develop and deploy field treatments, management tools and conservation strategies for bat populations that are currently impacted or are likely to be impacted by white-nose syndrome (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)

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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Big brown bat

Developing a Targeted Treatment for White-Nose Syndrome Using RNA Interference Gene Silencing (OR)
Grantee: Bat Conservation International
Grant Amount:.....$142,300
Matching Funds:.....$ 89,900
Total Project Amount:.....$233,200
Develop a novel tool using RNA interference (RNAi) to target and disable key cellular functions in the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in bats. Project will conduct the first step in the development of this treatment tool, which involves the design of genetic markers to target the fungus and determine the efficacy of interference by RNA to inhibit fungal growth via in vitro lab experiments.

Developing Management Strategies to Reduce White-Nose Syndrome and Increase Bat Survival (MI)
Grantee: Michigan Technological University
Grant Amount:.....$103,900
Matching Funds:..... $35,900
Total Project Amount:.....$139,800
Test the effects of utilizing two methods to create cooler temperatures in bat hibernacula (mines) to slow the growth of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome and improve the over-winter survival of bats. Project will develop, implement and disseminate a guide to management strategies to agencies and landowners that have bat populations affected by white-nose syndrome.

Investigating Fungal Host Invasion Mechanisms to Develop Preventive Interventions in Bats (IL)
Grantee: Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Grant Amount:.....$232,200
Matching Funds:..... N/A
Total Project Amount:.....$232,200
Investigate the process used to invade host tissue by the fungus causing white-nose syndrome to develop preventative interventions for bats. Project will first verify whether the structures are present and, if so, target gene regions that regulate structure formation to create a method that allows testing of chemical treatments and genetic modifications to the fungus that will inhibit its ability to create the structures.