

Georgia State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Georgia's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Long-leaf Pine Forest, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Long-Leaf Pine Restoration**

Long-leaf pine forests are disappearing and so is the wildlife that lives there. Once covering 90 million acres from Virginia to east Texas, today only three percent of the original long-leaf pine ecosystem remains. State Wildlife Grant money is helping to conserve this vital natural landscape by restoring long-leaf pine forests on state lands. This will improve habitat for endangered species like the red-cockaded woodpecker, eastern indigo snake, and flatwoods salamander and prevent other species from becoming endangered in the first place. By acting to conserve this area now, we not only protect vital natural areas that bring peace and relaxation to our daily lives, but also help species before they become more rare and more costly to protect.



Bog Turtle, Photo Courtesy of Georgia WRD

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Putting Bog Turtles Back in Bogs**

At least one third of the nation's threatened or endangered species live in wetlands and Southern Appalachian bogs, in particular. These bogs support a wealth of rare and unique life forms, many of which are found nowhere else on earth. With the aid of State Wildlife Grants, the Georgia Mountain Bog Enhancement Project is helping to conserve some of this wildlife by putting more bog turtles back into Georgia's bogs. The program will release 20 baby bog turtles a year for five to 10 years and will continually monitor their progress and health with radio transmitters. This proactive approach to conservation helps us fulfill our responsibility to pass on these wildlife and vital natural places to our children.



Swallow-Tailed Kite, Photo Courtesy of Georgia WRD

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Swallow-Tailed Kite Management**

Swallow-tailed kites are large birds of prey with a striking black and white coloration. They live in the southern U.S.—or at least they used to. Their numbers have been declining as forests with larger trees have disappeared. Biologists think this is because they don't have a place to build their nests anymore, but they need more conclusive information. State Wildlife Grants are helping fill this knowledge gap by funding research that will tell us more about the swallow-tailed kite's biology and preferred habitats. Good information leads to cost-effective decisions that will ultimately benefit both wildlife and people.

Congress has appropriated \$9 million in State Wildlife Grants to Georgia since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$4 million state and partner dollars.