

Louisiana 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 Louisiana's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Swallow-Tailed Kite, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Swallow-Tailed Kite Surveying**

The swallow-tailed kite experienced a dramatic decline in numbers and reduction in range around the turn of the 20th century. Populations now survive in only six southern states, one of which is Louisiana. State Wildlife Grants are providing funds for aerial surveying and monitoring of swallow-tailed kite activity, including helicopter surveys for nests. The information obtained from this study will ultimately be used to answer questions about how to best maintain and manage the swallow-tailed kite population. By acting now, we can prevent this bird from becoming more rare and costly to protect.



Gulf Sturgeon Research, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Identifying Gulf Sturgeon Habitat**

At present, little is known about the gulf sturgeon's habitat needs in Louisiana's coastal waters. A recent Recovery and Management Plan developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries declared that finding good habitat for gulf sturgeon is a priority. This project will address this need by identifying critical habitat—especially winter habitat—for gulf sturgeon and provide researchers with a better understanding of the seasonal migration of the fish. Proactive management will help conserve the gulf sturgeon for future generations



Red-cockaded woodpecker, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Agreement**

The red-cockaded woodpecker needs longleaf pine forests to survive, but only three percent of this forest type remains in the United States. Publicly owned long-leaf pine forests provide a small fragment of habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Now, with the help of State Wildlife Grants, private landowners are also helping to conserve this bird through the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Agreement. Raising awareness and building public support for endangered species management by helping landowners intentionally manage for woodpecker habitat benefits landowners by reducing the uncertainty of having an endangered species on their property. This is a proactive and cost-effective program that engages local people.

Congress has appropriated \$5.6 million in State Wildlife Grants to Louisiana since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.9 million state and partner dollars.