



North Carolina State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

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



Black Tern, Photo Courtesy of IAFWA

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas Attracting Waterbirds to North Carolina's Coast

The North Carolina shoreline has historically been home to black skimmers, common terns and gull-billed terns but unfortunately these species have become rarer in recent years as their nesting areas have been lost. State Wildlife Grants have helped efforts to conserve the birds by funding a highly successful project to provide safe nesting sites. Using decoys and recorded bird calls to attract terns and skimmers, the 2005 nesting season saw the hatch of hundreds of chicks. Biologists are highly encouraged by this success and believe efforts such as this will help stem declines and ultimately protect populations of other types of waterbirds for future generations.



Neuse River Bridge, Photo Courtesy of DOT

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Urban Wildlife Project

Over the past two decades, North Carolina has been one of the most rapidly growing states in the nation with the bulk of the population increase occurring in and around Piedmont urban centers. State Wildlife Grants have helped initiate the Urban Wildlife Pilot Project in the Piedmont area to promote open space conservation through land use planning and land conservation. This is a proactive approach that steers development away from sensitive wildlife habitat and encourages compact communities with associated connected open spaces. As our communities grow, this project is helping us fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and vital natural areas which in turn enhance our own quality of life.



Neuse River, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People North Carolina Watershed Enhancement Initiative

Clean water. Outdoor recreation. Wildlife conservation. These are some of the things the North Carolina Watershed Enhancement Initiative is working towards with the help of State Wildlife Grants. The program staffs specialists who work with other government agencies as well as non-profits to improve wildlife habitat, increase access for hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers, and conserve wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations. This is a cost-effective way to protect the areas that are important to many of our family traditions.

Congress has appropriated \$8.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to North Carolina since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.8 million state and partner dollars.