

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



Bat Gate, Photo Courtesy of NPS

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People** **Gating Bat Caves**

Bats hibernate in the winter, requiring undisturbed sleep. Bats disturbed by cave users and vandals use limited energy resources when awakened and because they have no food sources in the winter they cannot make up for this excess use of stored energy. Meanwhile, people who wander into caves and abandoned mines endanger themselves as these structures are often unstable and may collapse. In order to contribute to the overall conservation and recovery of bat populations in Pennsylvania and to protect people, State Wildlife Grants have been used to gate bat caves. This protects people while ensuring bats have the important habitat they need, and improving the livability of nearby areas as bats naturally pursue and consume nuisance insects.



Hemlock Forest, Photo Courtesy of USDA

### **Research: Gathering Information to Take Action** **Mapping Hemlock Communities**

A diverse wildlife community that includes the state endangered northern flying squirrel, depends upon forests that contain eastern hemlock, a tree species that is being threatened by a non-native pest. A mapping project funded by State Wildlife Grants will show where hemlock and other coniferous trees grow in Pennsylvania, where flying squirrels live, and help establish a recovery plan for both species. By protecting the forests, which bring peace and relaxation to our daily lives and are important to many of our family traditions, this project will benefit both wildlife and people.



Peregrine Falcon, Photo Courtesy of PGC

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife** **Learning About Peregrine Falcons**

Many adult peregrines do not migrate in the winter, yet each fall, young falcons disappear from their home ranges. Although presumably migrating, few of these juvenile falcons are ever seen again. Satellite telemetry units were placed on nestling peregrine falcons in Pennsylvania to track their activity for up to three years. Through the use of satellite telemetry and web-based outreach efforts, viewers and school classrooms were able to follow each peregrine's migration route to their wintering grounds in Mexico, Panama, Columbia, Brazil or the Mid-Atlantic States. Video cameras have also been set up to monitor peregrine nests and live footage can be viewed at

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/> .

**Congress has appropriated \$11.9 million in State Wildlife Grants to Pennsylvania since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$4.3 million state and partner dollars.**