

South 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 South Carolina's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Robust Redhorse, Photo Courtesy of the Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas Robust Redhorse Reintroduction

Robust redhorse, a South Carolina fish, were thought to be extinct for more than 120 years until their re-discovery in 1991. A regional cooperative effort was initiated in 1995 to work towards recovery of the species and avoid having it listed as endangered. State Wildlife Grant funds were used to provide information on the species population and habitat. This led to the decision to reintroduce the species to the Broad River as part of a conservation plan developed through the regional effort. State Wildlife Grants will be used to continue support of robust redhorse recovery efforts in South Carolina, a proactive program that is cost-effectively conserving wildlife for future generations.



Kiawah Island, Photo Courtesy of NOAA

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Hammock Island Best Management Practices

Hammock islands are small coastal islands surrounded by salt marshes and tidal creeks. They provide important habitat for a diverse group of wildlife species, including the painted bunting, a high priority species for conservation in South Carolina. As coastal development spreads on the mainland, the value of hammock islands as habitat for both people and wildlife increases. With significant support from State Wildlife Grant funds, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is learning how to minimize the impacts of development on hammock islands. This project will help wildlife by putting knowledge to work in a public/private collaborative process that will lead to guidelines for the islands' development and management.



American Oystercatcher, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife American Oystercatcher Conservation and Management

A signature shorebird on South Carolina's coast, the American oystercatcher has been experiencing sharp declines in recent years, mostly as a result of increasing human activity on beaches and waterways. Funded by State Wildlife Grants, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources biologists are learning more about how to maintain healthy populations of the oysters that both humans and oystercatchers depend on. This is a proactive and cost-effective way to conserve the American oystercatcher while at the same time benefiting people.

Congress has appropriated \$4.5 million in State Wildlife Grants to South Carolina since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.3 million state and partner dollars.