

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



Outdoor Classroom, Photo Courtesy of USGS

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas Master Naturalist Program

The West Virginia Master Naturalist Program educates people about the wildlife and vital natural places of West Virginia, conserving them and enhancing our own quality of life. Funded with State Wildlife Grants, the program trains and manages volunteers who become stewards and advocates for natural resources in their communities. Naturalists help in maintaining State Wildlife Management Areas and assist with various field projects and interpretive programs at state parks. The Master Naturalist Program educates people on the importance of good stewardship, ensuring that wildlife and vital natural areas will be there for future generations.



Purple Loostrife, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Controlling Invasive Species

Plants and animals that do not naturally occur in an area can often have a negative impact on the natural balance of the place. Over 100 million acres across the country are affected by invasive plants and animals, and damages and losses to the environment are estimated to be \$138 million annually. In West Virginia, State Wildlife Grants are funding biologists and botanists to find and eradicate invasive species. By finding and controlling invasive species before they disrupt natural communities and cycles we can prevent problems that would become more costly to fix if left unchecked.



Cheat River, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife West Virginia Biodiversity Scorecard

Information is the key to good decision-making. State Wildlife Grants are now helping us make important wildlife management decisions by funding the Biodiversity Scorecard. This project will compile and analyze information on wildlife, producing a fully understandable distribution of key species and ecological communities. Organizing the information we have in this manner will allow us to make the best management decisions, conserving wildlife and natural places that bring peace and relaxation to our daily lives.

Congress has appropriated \$3.6 million in State Wildlife Grants to West Virginia since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$650 thousand state and partner dollars.