



Southern Company Power of Flight Bird Conservation Program

About the Program

The Power of Flight Program is a partnership among Southern Company, its four operating companies - Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Gulf Power, and Mississippi Power - and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The goal of the program is to conserve birds characteristic of the southern U.S. through habitat restoration and environmental education.

Launched in 2003, the program is the largest public/private funding effort for bird conservation in the South. Each partner contributes \$300,000 annually to this 10-year partnership, with the combined \$600,000 made available through a competitive grants program. Grantees match all awards on at least a one-to-one basis. In addition, Southern Company provides \$60,000 annually to support the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's bird conservation efforts.

Projects of interest include habitat restoration and management; species conservation through implementation of priority management actions; environmental education that targets urban or underserved youth; and applied research with direct implications for management and conservation.

Funding Priorities

- Addressing conservation needs of species characteristic of the southern U.S. Focal species include red-cockaded woodpecker, northern bobwhite quail, coastal waterbirds, and other species characteristic of the South (e.g., painted bunting, swallow-tailed kite, etc.)
- Implementation of urban education initiatives and projects on public lands
- Promoting collaborative relationships or enhancing existing partnerships
- Actions that result in direct and measurable conservation benefits

Projected Program Accomplishments to Date

- Awarded 48 grants to 27 different conservation organizations and agencies
- More than \$2.6 million dedicated in Southern Company/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funds
- Over \$4.8 million in grantee match
- Total on-the-ground impact of over \$7.5 million
- Funded 12 multi-state projects, 3 in Alabama, 9 in Mississippi, and 12 each in Florida and Georgia
- More than 120,000 acres restored or enhanced
- More than 1.5 million people received environmental education messages





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2007 Power of Flight Grants

Habitat Conservation

- Savannah National Wildlife Refuge received \$30,000 to restore approximately 200 acres of degraded wetlands within the Savannah NWR management units. This funding will allow control of invasive cut-grass and cattail, restoration of water control, and construction of equipment access points.
- The National Wild Turkey Federation received \$139,870 to enhance 3,000 acres within the Piedmont NWR and the Oconee National Forest to accelerate recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker by creating habitat corridors between occupied and unoccupied clusters.

Species Conservation

- Mississippi State University received \$28,875 to continue research to gather baseline ecological information for marshbirds of conservation concern found in three tidal marsh habitats in coastal Mississippi. This project will help establish management guidelines for marshbirds in tidal marsh systems.
- The Avian Research and Conservation Institute received \$75,000, including a \$25,000 contribution from the Turner Foundation, to apply focused management and education actions to increase nesting success, productivity, and survival of swallow-tailed kites to help protect the southeastern population.

Nature-Based Tourism

- The Wildlife Foundation of Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission received \$40,000 to benefit northwest Florida's Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern by conducting workshops to promote ecotourism and habitat conservation through birding and making enhancements to the Great Florida Birding Trail.

Education

- The Francis M. Weston Audubon Society received \$75,000 to continue and expand a program for elementary age students in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, Florida, focused on Gulf Coast bird conservation with hands-on lessons and field trips.

A nonprofit established by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation sustains, restores and enhances the Nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Through leadership conservation investments with public and private partners, NFWF is dedicated to achieving maximum conservation impact by developing and applying best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes. Since its establishment, NFWF has awarded nearly 9,500 grants to over 3,000 organizations in the United States and abroad and leveraged – with its partners – more than \$400 million in federal funds into over \$1.3 billion for conservation. NFWF is recognized by Charity Navigator with a 4-star rating for efficiency and effectiveness. Ninety-five cents of every dollar contributed to NFWF is directed to on-the-ground efforts, with three cents supporting management and administration of the NFWF's multi-million dollar grants program and two cents funding partnership development and fundraising.

For additional information on the Power of Flight grant program, and other grant opportunities, please contact Suzanne Sessine at Suzanne.Sessine@nfwf.org, or visit www.nfwf.org. For updates on the Power of Flight program and other Southern Company environmental programs, please contact Leslie Montgomery at LCMontgo@southernco.com, or visit www.southerncompany.com/planetpower.