

Habitat GIT Funding Updates

Communications Workgroup March Call: 3.7.18



2017 GIT Funded Projects

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Workgroup:

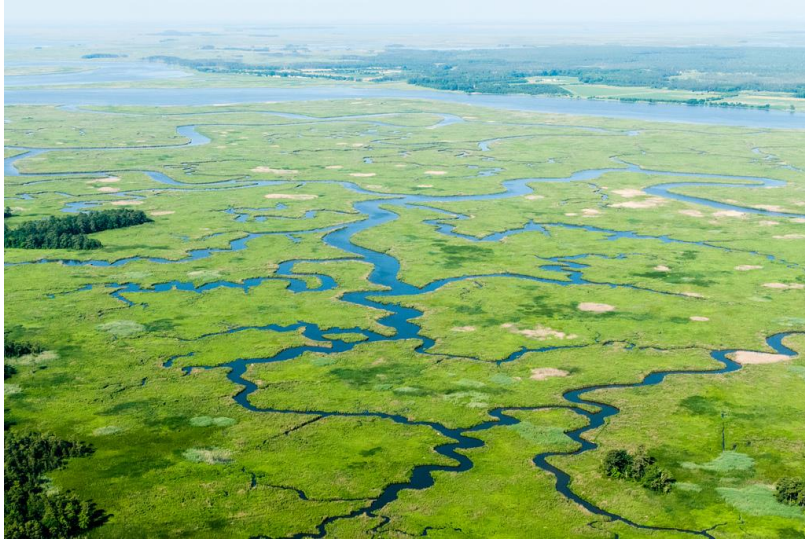
(1) Development of Citizen Scientist SAV Monitoring Protocol and Certification Program AND (2) Review of statuses and regulations that Protect SAV

- ▶ Received: \$50k (\$25k for each component)
- ▶ Justification: Facilitate expansion of SAV monitoring by citizen scientists with established protocol; Examine current regulations that protect SAV from additional threats to ensure adequate protection for recovery
 - ▶ Goal: Encourage more wide-spread monitoring and discourage perceptions of SAV being a nuisance
- ▶ Scope Of Work:
 - ▶ 1.1) Work with watershed organizations to establish SAV survey methods and protocols
 - ▶ 1.2) Engage with Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative to develop and initiate a volunteer training and certification program
 - ▶ 2.1) Examine existing regulatory programs and determine if adequately protect SAV
 - ▶ 2.2) Identify inconsistent SAV protection measures or “loop holes”
 - ▶ 2.3) Repeal, or change regulations that do not provide adequate protection

Black Duck Action Team:

Targeted Outreach for Wetland Protection and Restoration

- ▶ Received: \$75k
- ▶ Justification: Carry out targeted outreach to conservation practitioners and private landowners using previous GIT funded project data
 - ▶ Goal: Increase wetland restoration and protection in high priority areas through increased NRCS funding utilization
- ▶ Scope of Work:
 - ▶ 1) Employ contractor for 2 years to engage landowners in subset of DelMarVA Counties
 - ▶ 2) Work to connect interested parties with available funding sources



2016 GIT Funded Projects

Wetland Workgroup:

Increasing Landowner Participation in Wetland Restoration Programs (information access and program cross training)

- ▶ Received: \$50k
- ▶ Justification: Phase 2 of the landowner survey funded by 2015 GIT funding
 - ▶ Goal: Encourage landowner participation in state wetland programs
- ▶ Scope of Work:
 - ▶ 1) Develop website with all available wetland programs by state
 - ▶ 2) Develop a marketing and outreach plan for each state on the opportunity to restore wetlands (brochure)
 - ▶ Perform education/ marketing of the website and materials to wetland practitioners and other conservation staff (webinar, 3 workshops)
- ▶ Status: currently ongoing - progress on SOW1

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Workgroup:

Watershed Group and Citizen Monitoring of Fish Habitat & SAV

- ▶ Received: \$52k
- ▶ Justification: provide SAV and forage gear data to local, state, federal and academic partners, while fostering relationships between multiple watershed groups and CBP partners
 - ▶ Goal: Encourage and allow watershed groups to meet their own local conservation and restoration objectives
- ▶ Scope of Work:
 - ▶ 1) Work with watershed groups to design monitoring and testing programs
 - ▶ 2) Watershed groups survey/sample and provide status reports regularly throughout the year
 - ▶ 3) Watershed groups provide final reports, conclude project at final meeting
- ▶ Status: Complete - final meeting held 1.23.17, final report currently being written

Fish Passage Workgroup:

Updates to the Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Prioritization Tool

- ▶ Received: \$70k
- ▶ Justification: Use to track progress toward CBP Outcome Goal
 - ▶ Goal: Identify high priority projects
- ▶ Scope of Work
 - ▶ 1) Move from “Flash” to “Java Script” - fix for outdated software
 - ▶ 2) Update Dam Database to include climate change layers related to impacts to anadromous fish, brook trout data, NAACC culvert data
- ▶ Status: Complete

Upcoming Communication Needs

For 2017 GIT Funded Projects...

- ▶ SAV:
 - ▶ Potential to develop a campaign in conjunction with regulation analysis to promote positive attitudes surrounding SAV growth
- ▶ Black Duck:
 - ▶ Assistance promoting wetland resource website and outreach efforts

Additional HGIT Communication Interests...

- ▶ A project promoting hunting and fishing at public access points to underserved communities
 - ▶ Cross GIT focused: Diversity, Stewardship, Habitat
- ▶ A landscape scale video highlighting importance of watershed habitats
 - ▶ Potentially “Follow a Pollinator” to highlight value to agricultural economies
- ▶ Join the 50 years of Wild and Scenic Rivers Campaign



Questions?

- ▶ Margot Cumming - Habitat Goal Team Staffer
 - ▶ Cumming.margot@epa.gov
- ▶ Jennifer Greiner - Habitat Goal Team Coordinator
 - ▶ Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov