

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | September 18, 2019

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Upper Delaware River Receives a Much Needed Economic and Ecological Shot in the Arm

New Federal Grants Fund UDR Conservation Investment to Create Local Jobs, Boost Recreational Economy, and Protect Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat

Hancock, NY - Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) received three federal grant awards totaling close to \$750,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for stream protection and restoration projects in the upper Delaware River watershed.

The grant awards support the conservation goals of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with NFWF. The awards provide funding for on-the-ground stream projects that preserve water quality, restore aquatic habitat and protect the wild trout fishery, enhance river based recreational opportunities, and mitigate the damaging impacts of flooding.

"The Upper Delaware River is an enormous economic engine for our region and this new conservation investment is a great example of how the river generates resources for our local communities. These grant awards happened because the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition - a broad coalition representing diverse local interest groups and municipalities - came together with the common recognition that protecting the river serves everybody's interests," said Jeff Skelding, Executive Director, Friends of the Upper Delaware River.

Trout Unlimited, working in close partnership with FUDR, also received two grant awards totaling close to \$500,000 for stream restoration projects in the Delaware River tailwaters region. In total, the federal Delaware River program awarded close to \$1.8 million in restoration grants for the upper river in New York and Pennsylvania.

FUDR's grants will fund multiple stream conservation and restoration projects below the NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs in the New York towns of Deposit, Colchester, and Hancock, and in Wayne County, PA.

Stream Projects include:

- Protection of municipal infrastructure (bridges, culverts, roads)
- Enhancement of recreational opportunities and public access to the river
- Stabilizing eroded streambanks to control sediment pollution and mitigate flooding
- Managing the spread of invasive Japanese Knotweed
- Stream corridor habitat restoration
- Identification of critical fish habitat through fiber optics technology
- Aquatic habitat characterizations to supplement the NY/PA Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan

"This new conservation investment serves multiple economic and ecological objectives. It protects our natural environment, boosts our recreational economy, addresses public safety and economic issues associated with flooding, and creates local jobs," said Skelding.

[Click here for more information on the watershed-wide grants](#)

For more information on the FUDR grants contact:

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