

Greetings,

On behalf of the USCA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS or Service) and the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) would like to announce the recipients of the 2015 funding made available by the USFWS New York Field Office. As you are aware, \$49,000 was made available by the Service to help stimulate and fund projects that address USCA priorities. The funds have been placed in a cooperative agreement with the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District who will manage the funds on our behalf.

The ranking criteria used in our decision included relevance to USCA priorities, the funds or services leveraged, and the numbers of USCA collaborators involved in the project. With only \$49,000 available and total requests of \$98,976, hard decisions had to be made. We did our best to advance the priorities of the USCA.

Congratulations to all who submitted projects. Please consider submitting additional proposals when additional funding becomes available. We will be happy to work with others to develop grant proposals to pursue additional funding.

We are happy to announce that all of the proposals submitted received awards. The \$49,000.00 will be awarded as follows:

- 1) Finger Lakes Land Trust – Logan Hill/Catatonk watershed. **Awarded \$8,600.00**
(Match \$26,000.00).
- 2) Tioga County SWCD Bank stabilization, Owego Creek project - Holgate, Town of Candor, NY.
Awarded \$10,000 (Match \$61,170.10). (Project substituted for the Apalachian Creek Project).
- 3) SUNY Oneonta Eel/mussel Project in Chemung River watershed. **Awarded \$4,440.00**
(Match 4,440.00).
- 4) USGS/Walt Keller fish passage project. **Awarded \$2,000.**
- 5) Hellbender proposals
 - a) SUNY Buffalo – Hellbender eDNA work. **Awarded \$9,700.00** (Match \$29,467.00).
 - b) USC Hellbender projects – **Awarded \$14,260.00** (Match \$53,397.00).

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. If you have any questions please give me or Sandie Doran a call (607/753-9334).

David Stilwell
USFWS, New York Field Office