

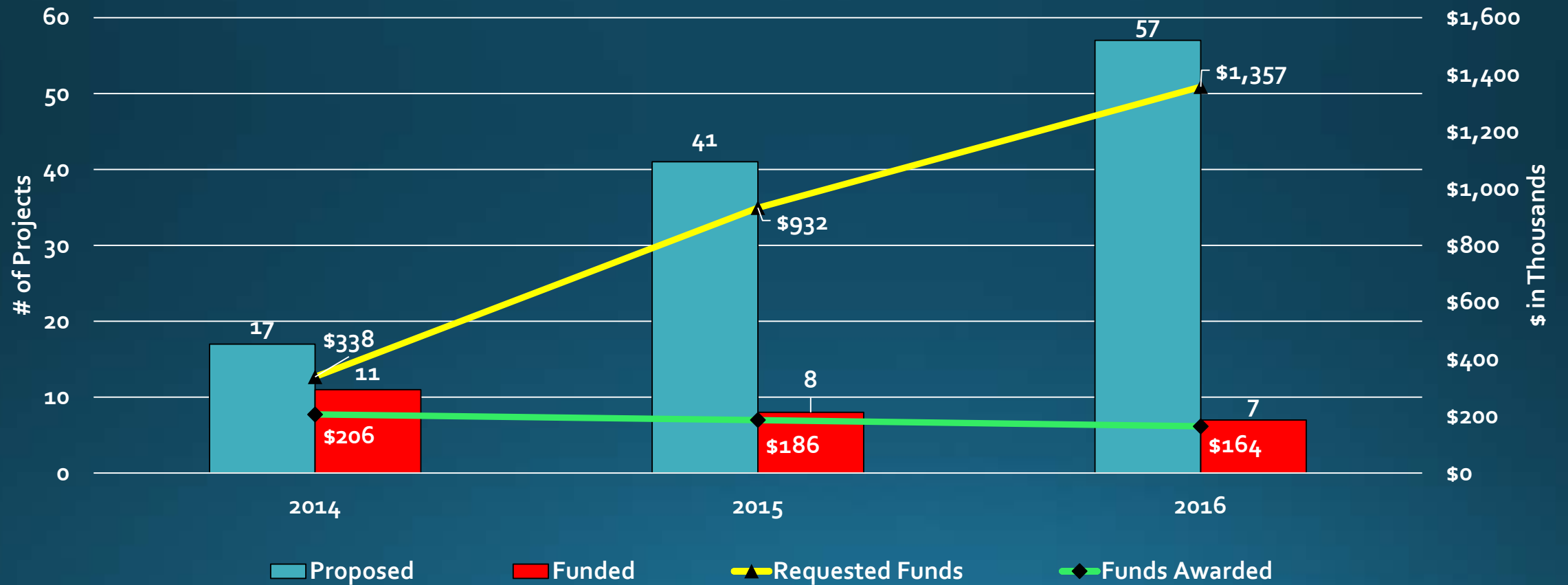


Update on the Selected Projects for 2016

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4 AIS Program Small Grants Program

Overview

ANS Small Grants Program



Stephen F. Austin State University

Field Trials of an Endocidal Compound of Giant Salvinia to Control Giant Salvinia.

- To develop spray formulas and dosage of a salvinia endocidal compound to effectively control giant salvinia;
- To determine the selectivity of the endocidal compound on 30 other plant species.
- June 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017 (16 months).



Photo by James Ballard

USGS Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

Effects of Asian Carp Invasion on the Food Web of a Mussel Biodiversity Hotspot in Tennessee.

- To evaluate diet niche overlap between native mussels and Silver Carp across three seasons in the Duck River.
- Evaluate indirect pathways in which Silver Carp could affect native mussels by quantifying diet niche overlap between the carp and representative host fish for mussel glochidia.
- June 15, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017 (15.5 months)

U.S. Geological Survey

Range Expansions of Introduced Aquatic Plants in the USFWS Southeast Region.

- Expand the newly reestablished aquatic invasive plant database by continuing to find new data sources to fill data gaps in states that have relatively few recorded AIS sightings
- Develop a report consisting of a compilation of the introduced aquatic plants in USFWS Region 4 that have expanded their ranges in the past 10 years. Maps will be a prominent part of the report; but text will accompany each species explaining the biology and range expansions.
- June 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017 (16 months).

California University of Pennsylvania

Developing Effective Environmental DNA Protocols for the Early Detection of Rusty Crayfish in Lotic Systems.

- Develop a standard sampling methodology for the early detection of rusty crayfish in lotic systems using environmental DNA (eDNA) techniques.
- Identify parameters most critical to the detection of rusty crayfish by eDNA methods.
- Field test the methodologies in lotic environments known to contain rusty crayfish and ones most likely to be invaded.
- June 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017 (16 months).

Jacksonville State University

Improved Monitoring of the Invasive Freshwater Snail, *Melanooides tuberculata* and Associated Trematode Pathogens in Florida Waters.

- Identify locations where *M. tuberculata* is infected by trematodes and establish habitat-specific associations for infected and non-infected snails.
- Identify *M. tuberculata*-associated trematodes via DNA barcoding and evaluate parasite risks to ecosystems health.
- Evaluate genetic relatedness of *M. tuberculata* populations to elucidate mechanism(s) of dispersal throughout Florida.
- June 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017 (16 months)

University of Georgia

Assessing the Potential for Trophic Transfer of a Novel Cyanotoxin Associated with Aquatic Plant Invasions.

- Measure whether tadpole feeding on toxic *Aeotokthonus hydrillicola* (Ah)-positive *Hydrilla* harbor cyanotoxins,
- Determine whether salamanders and juvenile watersnakes are vulnerable to Ah toxins through the consumption of tadpoles.
- August 1, 2016 – November 30, 2017 (16 months).

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Asian Carp Effects on Age-0 Fish Dynamics in the Lower White River, Arkansas

- Quantify the impacts of invasive Asian carps (silver and bighead carp) on juvenile fish dynamics across fifteen previously studied oxbow lakes following the establishment of Asian carp.
- June 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017
(16 months)



Photo by Naseka, A.M.

Preparations for Next Year

- Possibly revise the RFP for 2017 to narrow the scope of proposed projects.
- Look at expanding the membership on the Review Committee.
- How do we want to display the findings from the funded projects that have been completed?

Questions?



James Ballard
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
jballard@gsmfc.org