



Acres for America

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PARTNERS



ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Tule elk

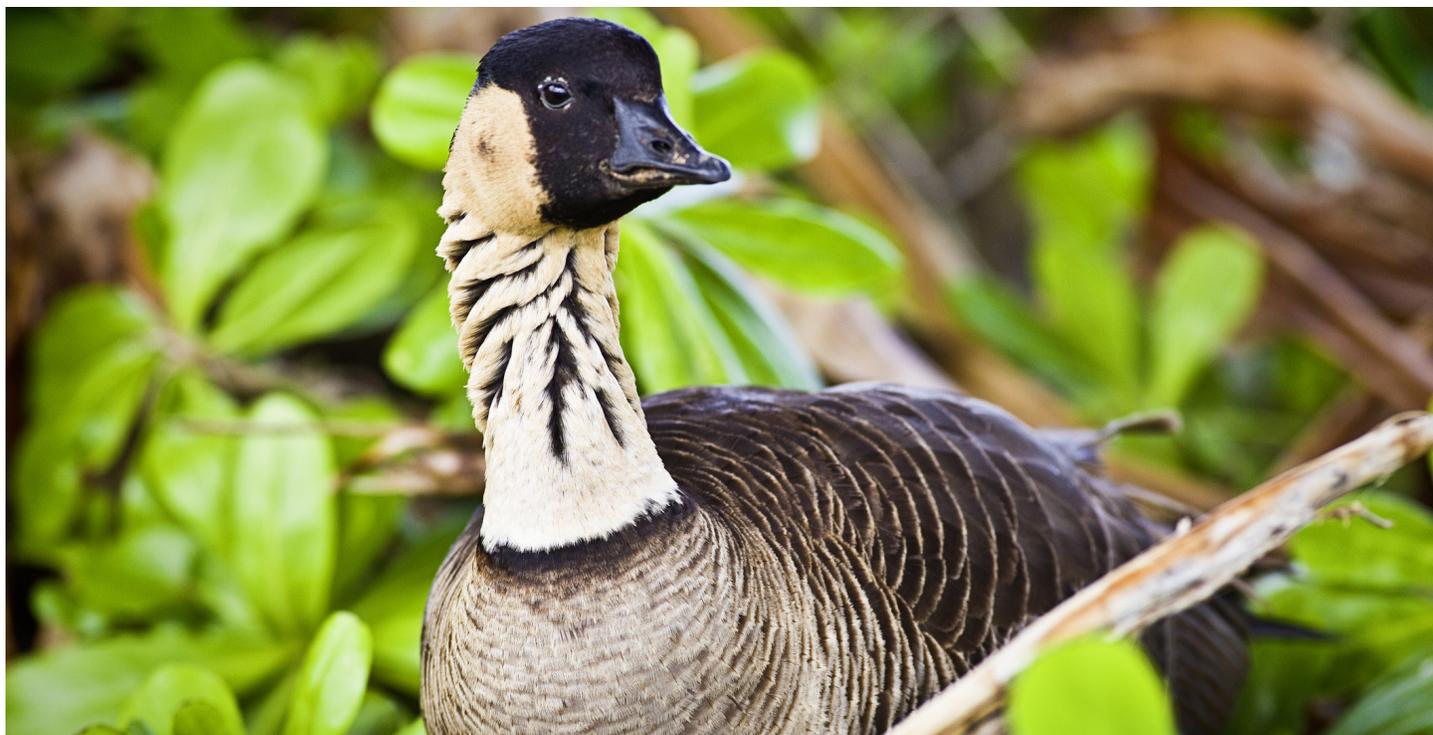
OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Walmart announced its 16th year of funding through the Acres for America program, one of the most effective public-private partnerships in the history of U.S. land conservation efforts. Six new grants totaling \$3.1 million were awarded to projects in Hawaii, California, Tennessee, Maine, and for the first time, Virginia and Ohio, towards the protection of over 113,500 acres. These six awards will leverage an additional \$103.7 million in matching contributions, creating a total conservation impact of \$106.8 million.

Acres for America is NFWF's premier land conservation program. Since 2005, NFWF and Walmart have supported the conservation of critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife; connection of existing protected lands to unify wild places and protected migration routes; providing access for people to enjoy the outdoors; and safeguarding the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching and recreation.

Since its inception, Acres for America has funded 100 projects in 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to permanently protect more than 1.6 million acres — far surpassing its original goal of 100,000 acres.

(continued)



Nene (Hawaiian goose)

Acquisition of Hawai'i Koa Forest for Inclusion in the Hilo Forest Reserve

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Matching Funds: \$9,471,900

Total Project Amount: \$9,971,900

The Trust for Public Land is working with the state of Hawaii and local community and conservation organizations to acquire the 13,129-acre Koa Forest for addition into the Hilo Forest Reserve. This forest is the largest area of old growth koa, Hawaii's most ecologically valuable and iconic native timber tree, prized for furniture, instruments, and traditional canoes. The property includes 61 miles of streams and countless waterfalls that cascade for 4 miles and ultimately connect to the ocean, providing fresh water for people, agriculture, and the marine environment, as well as scenic views enjoyed by residents and visitors. Permanently protecting this forested watershed will allow proper management and recreational access to previously inaccessible areas of the reserve, encourage sustainable forestry, aid the recovery of 28 listed endangered or threatened species, and prevent subdivision and development threats.

Conserving the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness

Grantee: Appalachian Mountain Club

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Matching Funds: \$18,500,000

Total Project Amount: \$19,000,000

The Appalachian Mountain Club will purchase and permanently conserve a 26,740-acre parcel of working forestland known as the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest

in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness landscape. These former industrial timberlands will be restored to a more ecologically natural and mature condition, providing habitat benefits for wildlife and promoting the growth of higher value timber products for the local economy through sustainable forestry operations. Securing permanent conservation of these lands will allow Atlantic salmon to return to the headwater streams of the Pleasant River watershed, restore a renowned native brook trout habitat, provide public outdoor recreational opportunities, and prevent future development. The Conservation Fund was a key partner in the acquisition through their Working Forest Fund program.

Acquiring Land for Inclusion into the Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area (OH)

Grantee: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife

Grant Amount: \$535,000

Matching Funds: \$53,103,775

Total Project Amount: \$53,638,775

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife will acquire 40,596 acres of land for inclusion into the Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area. This property offers a variety of recreation opportunities for locals and tourists, including hunting, trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Preventing fragmentation and applying proper management over these lands will provide priority habitat for threatened and at-risk grassland bird species such as the grasshopper sparrow, bobolink, sedge wren, and state-endangered northern harrier; as well as habitat for woodland species such as the federally listed northern long-eared bat.

Protecting Upland Forest Habitat on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Grantee: The Conservation Fund

Grant Amount: \$600,000

Matching Funds: \$7,590,000

Total Project Amount: \$8,190,000

The Conservation Fund and Virginia's Department of Wildlife Resources will protect a total of 8,654 acres of upland forest along Virginia's Eastern Shore. Protection of this property will contribute to a larger landscape-scale conservation effort by expanding and strengthening the connectivity between 133,000 acres of already protected lands. The property encompasses a matrix of upland forest habitat critical to resident and migratory birds in the Atlantic Flyway, including black rail, American kestrel, osprey, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and merlin. This project will mitigate for the future loss of the Eastern Shore's coastal marsh due to sea-level rise and provide protected migratory bird stopover sites up and down the Eastern Shore. In addition, this land will be open for public recreation for the first time, boosting conservation tourism in the area.

Conserving the Cumberland Forest in Tennessee

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$620,000

Matching Funds: \$7,029,000

Total Project Amount: \$7,649,000

The Nature Conservancy and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will conserve at least 15,000 acres in Tennessee for public recreation, sustainable forestry and wildlife habitat management in the Central Appalachians. The property is home to headwater streams, providing habitat to multiple high-priority aquatic and terrestrial species and ecosystems, while also creating critical habitat between adjacent conservation properties. These lands generate revenues for the local economy via sustainable forestry management and also support a robust outdoor recreation economy connecting people to nature through hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, birding and camping.

Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement (CA)

Grantee: California Rangeland Trust

Grant Amount: \$376,000

Matching Funds: \$8,023,000

Total Project Amount: \$8,399,000

The California Rangeland Trust will place a conservation easement on 9,418 acres of rangeland in the Gabilan Mountain Range to eliminate the potential for subdivision, development and cropland intensification. This active cattle ranch located just outside of Salinas, California is adjacent to numerous protected areas, which together will provide more than 27,600 acres of uninterrupted migration corridor and conserve habitat for at least seven special-status animals and three special-status plants. The project will help to maintain water quality in the Salinas River Watershed and will support agricultural productivity through improved grazing practices. In addition, the project will encourage tule elk distribution and support public hunting opportunities.



Osprey