



NFWF

Conservation Partners Program 2019 Grant Slate

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PARTNERS



Brook trout

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, recently announced the 2019 round of funding for the Conservation Partners Program. Fifteen new technical assistance grants totaling \$2.2 million were awarded, leveraging \$9.2 million in match from grantees and generating a total conservation impact of \$11.4 million.

Private landowners are responsible for the use and management of more than two-thirds of our nation's land, including some of the most important fish and wildlife habitats in the United States. Every year, farmers, ranchers, foresters and other landowners voluntarily participate in federal Farm Bill conservation programs designed to address some of the nation's most pressing conservation issues.

The Conservation Partners Program provides vital grant funding to support organizations that provide staff and technical assistance to private landowners in order to maximize the benefits of Farm Bill programs on working lands. Funding for this program seeks to build technical assistance capacity in multiple conservation priority areas.

(continued)

GRASSLAND BIRD HABITAT
Advancing Grassland Bird Conservation through Landowner Outreach (MT, SD)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$189,158

Matching Funds: \$191,000

Total Amount:\$380,158

Promote educational opportunities and land stewardship activities in the Northern Great Plains by offering workshops and providing conservation technical assistance, developing conservation plans, and assisting private landowners in enrolling in Farm Bill programs. Project will enhance landowner knowledge of grassland conservation and soil health, implement sustainable wildlife-compatible management across the project area, and restore and improve management practices on 3,500 acres.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN
Increasing Adoption of Voluntary Conservation Practices on Private Lands (IL, KY)

Grantee: Illinois Corn Growers Association

Grant Amount: \$257,782

Matching Funds: \$293,053

Total Amount:\$550,835

Address natural resource concerns on a field-by-field basis by identifying conservation practices that effectively address environmental issues in a financially viable way throughout Illinois and Kentucky. Project will prevent 95 tons of nutrient pollution and 6,375 tons of sediment from entering the system annually by increasing best management practices on 33,000 acres.

Engaging Landowners in Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat Farm Bill Programs (IA, IL, MN, WI)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$199,961

Matching Funds: \$250,000

Total Amount:\$449,961

Restore cold-water streams and watersheds in the Driftless Area, creating habitat practices for fish, amphibians, reptiles and other aquatic biota. Project will improve management on 525 acres, restore 30 miles of stream, prevent 9,000 tons of sediment and four tons of nutrient pollution from entering the system annually.

Increase Landowner Adoption of Wetland Construction to Address Nutrient Pollution Run-Off (IL)

Grantee: The Wetlands Initiative

Grant Amount: \$143,393

Matching Funds: \$428,345

Total Project Amount:\$571,738

Accelerate implementation of constructed wetlands, reducing nutrient runoff in priority watersheds across



Golden-winged warbler

Bureau, Ford, LaSalle, Livingston, and Marshall-Putnam counties in north-central Illinois. Project will reach 300 landowners, install six new constructed wetlands and increase on-the-ground sustainability efforts.

PACIFIC SALMON
Improving Irrigation Efficiency and Water Quality in the Crooked River Basin (OR)

Grantee: Crooked River Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$119,488

Matching Funds: \$5,980,911

Total Amount:\$6,100,399

Plan and implement conservation projects that will result in measurable change on instream flows and water quality in the Lower Crooked River watershed in Oregon. Project will bring 1,500 acres under improved management, targeting 1,400 producers and landowners.

Restoring Streamflow for Steelhead Trout in the Petaluma River Watershed (CA)

Grantee: Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Grant Amount: \$51,890

Matching Funds: \$52,000

Total Amount:\$103,890

Improve instream flow in the Petaluma River watershed, California, for steelhead trout by providing on-farm



Sockeye salmon

technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of conservation practices. Project will target 12 people with outreach and technical assistance, and develop farm water conservation plans and engineered designs at 4 properties, consisting of at least 10 best management practices in stream reaches where insufficient flow is a limiting factor limiting steelhead survival.

SOIL HEALTH

Technical Assistance for Producers in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (OR)

Grantee: Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$134,910
 Matching Funds: \$135,705
Total Amount:\$270,615

Administer soil health education and outreach, provide technical assistance to producers, and monitor outcomes in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area in Oregon. Project will increase awareness, implementation and technical assistance in conservation practices for producers, targeting 1,300 producers to prevent 1,200 tons of sediment, 54 tons of phosphorus and 123 tons of nitrogen runoff from entering the system annually.

Advancing Soil Health through Best Management Practice Adoption and Installation (NC)

Grantee: Wake Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$95,820
 Matching Funds: \$445,000
Total Amount:\$540,820

Provide technical field assistance to farmers, provide training on the benefits of cover crops and grazing cover and encourage long-term adoption of best management practices (BMPs) that improve soil health in Wake County, North Carolina. Project will improve wildlife and aquatic habitats

and benefit both above and below ground ecosystems by implementing BMPs on 500 acres that prevent 2,000 tons of sediment and 5.5 tons of nutrient pollution from entering the system annually.

WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE

Conserving Sage-Grouse Habitat through Strategic Technical Assistance to Landowners (OR)

Grantee: Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$71,958
 Matching Funds: \$144,413
Total Amount:\$216,371

Support existing Soil and Water Conservation District positions to provide technical assistance to benefit the Greater Sage-Grouse in Crook and Deschutes Counties, Oregon. Project will develop nine site-specific plans for bringing 300,000 acres under improved management by targeting ranches with the largest amount of high priority sagebrush habitat.

Enhancing Forest Habitat for Cottontails, Golden-Winged Warbler, and American Woodcock in New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)

Grantee: Wildlife Management Institute
 Grant Amount: \$156,290
 Matching Funds: \$200,000
Total Amount:\$356,290

Enhance participation in Farm Bill programs by employing contract habitat biologists and outreach specialists to interface with private landowners to provide young forest habitat for more than 50 Species of Conservation Need in New England. Project will develop forest management plans that utilize existing Best Management Practices, develop healthy diverse forest age classes, and protect riparian habitat values, improving management on 200 acres.

Supporting On-the-Ground Riparian Restoration on Private Lands (CA)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$136,591

Matching Funds: \$137,081

Total Amount:\$273,672

Increase participation of private landowners in California to restore riparian habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher by providing technical assistance for on-the-ground riparian restoration projects using Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation practices. Project will engage 200 landowners and will improve management on 500 acres of riparian habitat to support the species recovery plan of the southwestern willow flycatcher.



American woodcock

Increase Landowner Enrollment in Farm Bill and Sage Grouse Initiative Conservation Programs (CO)

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Grant Amount: \$200,554

Matching Funds: \$201,460

Total Amount:\$402,014

Launch a wide-spread, collaborative network of partners to deliver sagebrush conservation outreach resulting in increased enrollment in Farm Bill and Sage Grouse Initiative conservation programs. Project will bring 10,100 acres under improved management, enrolling 10 landowners in Farm Bill programs using existing best management practices to advance conservation and management plans for each ranch.



Sage grouse

Coordinating Range Wildlife Conservation in the Lesser Prairie Chicken Range (CO, KS, NM, OK, TX)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$101,436

Matching Funds: \$101,711

Total Amount:\$203,147

Support a Range and Wildlife Coordinator to work with private landowners and other partners to implement on the ground habitat restoration across the lesser prairie chicken range. Project will enroll landowners into voluntary contracts that will restore or improve management on 30,000 acres of southwestern grassland habitat.

acres under improved management, targeting 75 producers through presentations, site visits, and conversations.

Increasing On-the-Ground Capacity to Improve Shorebird Habitat (LA)

Grantee: Manomet, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$250,139

Matching Funds: \$255,647

Total Amount:\$505,786

Increase on-the-ground capacity and technical assistance in support of the implementation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Working Lands for Wildlife, Shorebirds in Louisiana Wetlands program. Project will bring 6,000

Providing Technical Assistance to Landowners to Increase Conservation Efforts in the Rio Grande (NM)

Grantee: Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$115,197

Matching Funds: \$389,000

Total Amount:\$504,197

Expand conservation efforts in the middle Rio Grande River, New Mexico by building and strengthening relationships between the agricultural community, conservation stakeholders, agencies, and water users and managers to increase the pace of conservation using agency conservation programs. Project will bring 300 acres under improved management by implementing 13 best management practice recommendations that will change 30 landowner behavior practices.