



Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund

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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

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Resurrection Bay, Alaska

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced 2021 funding for Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund projects. Eight new and continuing fish and wildlife conservation grants totaling nearly \$589,000 were awarded. The eight awards announced generated nearly \$607,000 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$1.2 million.

The Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund aims to fill information gaps for important Alaskan fish and wildlife species, restore and maintain habitats they rely on, while engaging Alaska Native communities to increase shared stewardship and foster traditional ecological practices that may be incorporated into management strategies.

The eight projects awarded will support the goals and priority geographies of the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund by examining shorebird populations and developing a monitoring tool for important indicator species on Alaska's North Slope, creating a monitoring plan for sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet, restoring habitat and collecting data to improve Pacific salmon populations throughout Alaska, and engaging Alaska Native students in various conservation projects throughout Alaska, including the Chugach National Forest.

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Sockeye salmon | credit: Jason Ching

Engaging Tribal and Community Partners to Restore Salmon Habitat in Margaret Creek Watershed (AK)

Grantee: Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

Grant Amount: \$74,793

Matching Funds: \$75,265

Total Project Amount: \$150,058

Restore habitat for four Pacific salmon species, trout, and char in Margaret Creek on the Tongass National Forest, Alaska. Project will construct log jams in stream channels and thin floodplain forest to accelerate recovery of old-growth conditions, as well as build tribal and community capacity to foster watershed stewardship.

Developing a Strategic Sockeye Salmon Plan for the English Bay Lakes on the Kenai Peninsula (AK)

Grantee: Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Grant Amount: \$86,384

Matching Funds: \$86,566

Total Project Amount: \$172,950

Develop a strategic sockeye salmon monitoring plan to prioritize and conduct Indigenous-led research initiatives for the English Bay Lakes on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. Project will create a 5-year fisheries strategic plan and operate a community-based weir monitoring program that will enhance long-term viability of escapement models and data collection, and incorporate Nanwalek community knowledge and engagement in fisheries management.

Assessing and Monitoring Water Quality in the Chilkat and Chilkoot River Watersheds (AK)

Grantee: Takshanuk Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$49,055

Matching Funds: \$54,656

Total Project Amount: \$103,711

Continue to collect hydrologic and benthic macroinvertebrate baseline data at 16 study sites in the Chilkat and Chilkoot River Watersheds, Alaska to improve understanding of climate change impacts on local aquatic habitats essential to wild Pacific salmon populations. Project will map the thermal landscape and identify areas of thermal refugia important for Pacific salmon conservation to inform future management and development decisions.

Assessing Juvenile Chinook Salmon Outmigration on the Yukon River Delta - II (AK)

Grantee: Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

Grant Amount: \$91,119

Matching Funds: \$106,477

Total Project Amount: \$197,596

Assess out-migrating juvenile Chinook salmon conditions on the Yukon River Delta in Alaska. Project will gather data on juvenile Chinook salmon size, diet, and energetic condition to fill information gaps on growth, outmigration timing, and health.

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Assessing and Developing Monitoring Tools for Lemmings on the North Slope (AK)

Grantee: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - US Fish and Wildlife Service

Grant Amount: \$39,341
 Matching Funds: \$39,358
 Total Project Amount: \$78,699

Develop a novel remote monitoring tool for lemmings, an important species in arctic food webs. Project will create an improved monitoring method for small mammals by increasing the spatial and temporal coverage of small mammal monitoring, as well as gather lemming abundance data to help inform future management decisions.



Lemming

Assessing Shorebirds in Teshekpuk Lake Special Area of the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (AK)

Grantee: Manomet

Grant Amount: \$95,765
 Matching Funds: \$117,357
 Total Project Amount: \$213,122

Conduct shorebird surveys in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) following the protocols developed by the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM). Project will provide a comparison of changes in shorebird populations, and provide critical information on the distribution of shorebirds breeding in the NRP-A.



Stellar's eider

Monitoring and Assessing Stellar's and Spectacled Eider to Support Conservation and Recovery (AK)

Grantee: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Conservation Office

Grant Amount: \$86,600
 Matching Funds: \$50,000
 Total Project Amount: \$136,600

Continue Stellar's and spectacled eider conservation through research, monitoring, and management at Utqiagvik on the North Slope, Alaska. Project will provide community outreach and education, collect demographic data of nesting populations, and fill key information gaps for Steller's and spectacled eiders that will inform recovery efforts.

Supporting Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program Students in Advancing Conservation (AK)

Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage

Grant Amount: \$65,488
 Matching Funds: \$77,088
 Total Project Amount: \$142,576

Provide support to the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) to advance conservation efforts on the Chugach National Forest, Yukon River Delta, and North Slope of Alaska. Project will provide hands on experiences for five students as they work alongside conservation professionals on projects that support data collection, habitat restoration, and community outreach efforts for the benefit of Pacific salmon, polar bears, and migratory birds.



Polar bear