



ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation

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PARTNERS

- ConocoPhillips
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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 \$6.8 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Brewer's sparrow

OVERVIEW

The ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program awards grants to help conserve and recover populations of imperiled birds. A longstanding partnership between NFWF, ConocoPhillips and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the program supports efforts to restore bird habitat, improve bird-focused conservation on working lands, and gather bird data that informs future conservation. With a focus on grassland, sagebrush, wetland and coastal habitats, the program helps advance voluntary solutions that improve the connectivity and quality of key breeding, stopover and overwintering habitats.

In 2021, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program awarded \$1.3 million to support 10 projects. Grantees are matching the grant awards with more than \$7.7 million in additional contributions to generate a total conservation investment of more than \$9 million. Collectively, the 10 funded projects will:

- Protect 14,900 acres of prairie, sagebrush and wetland habitat for birds and other wildlife
- Help landowners implement conservation practices on 12,090 acres of working lands
- Control invasive plants to restore 1,200 acres of mountain grasslands
- Expand the Motus telemetry network to improve bird data collection across the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert

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Protecting Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat through Conservation Easement on X Bar T Ranch (WY)

Grantee: Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$55,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$695,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$750,000

Permanently protect a working family ranch in Sweetwater County, Wyoming to conserve wetland, riparian and grassland habitat which provides critical habitat for migratory birds and greater sage-grouse. Project will place 1,691 acres of the working X Bar T Ranch under a permanent conservation easement.

Supporting the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program to Restore Working Lands Habitat (OK, TX)

Grantee: Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas

Grant Amount:..... \$186,615
 Matching Funds:..... \$200,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$386,615

Support the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program, a multi-organization effort aimed at achieving grassland bird conservation objectives in focus areas throughout the Oaks and Prairies Ecoregion of Texas and Oklahoma. Project will restore nearly 9,000 acres of private working lands habitat for grassland-obligate species.

Expanding the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert Motus Network (Multiple States)

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Grant Amount:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$250,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$500,000

Expand efforts to build a network of automated radio telemetry stations (Motus) throughout the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert that will help fill demographic knowledge gaps, characterize stop-over and migratory connectivity, and strategically inform full annual cycle habitat conservation for steeply declining grassland birds. Project will install 10 new Motus stations and deploy bird tags to inform future conservation delivery for grassland birds.

Permanently Protecting Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat along the Weber River in Summit County (UT)

Grantee: Summit Land Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$550,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$700,000

Permanently preserve and restore scarce wetlands along the Weber River in Summit County, Utah, saving key migratory bird stopover habitat that would otherwise likely be sold for conversion to residential housing. Project will place 107 acres of agricultural land under permanent conservation easement and implement targeted grazing efforts to improve wetland habitat quality for migratory species and permanently protect all ecosystem services provided by this land.



Thick-billed longspur on Colorado plains

Restoring Grassland Habitat by Removing Woody Invasives in the Blackfoot River Watershed (MT)

Grantee: The Blackfoot Challenge

Grant Amount:..... \$74,149
 Matching Funds:..... \$175,730
 Total Project Amount:..... \$249,879

Restore intermountain grasslands in the Helmville Valley through the removal of invasive Rocky Mountain juniper and Douglas-fir trees. Project will increase desirable plant productivity and health, provide additional forage for livestock and wildlife, improve hydrologic functions, and revitalize an important stronghold for Brewer's sparrows, trumpeter swans, and many other bird species.

Permanently Protecting Grassland and Migratory Bird Habitat on the Southern Plains (CO)

Grantee: Southern Plains Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$3,810,209
 Total Project Amount:..... \$4,060,209

Acquire and protect shortgrass prairie adjacent to Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve in Bent County, Colorado to enhance habitat connectivity and quality for many grassland species. Project will acquire and then place 8,720 acres under easement to permanently protect critical nesting habitat for grassland bird species, including mountain plovers, burrowing owls, and golden eagles.

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Trumpeter swans in Montana

Restoring Riparian, Wetland and Shortgrass Prairie Habitat through Improved Grazing Management (WY)

Grantee: Laramie County Conservation District
 Grant Amount:..... \$50,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$100,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$150,000
 Improve grazing management along lodgepole creek in southeast Wyoming to restore riparian, wetland and shortgrass prairie habitat important for wetland and prairie bird species. Project will use exclusionary fencing and rotational grazing to restore 240 acres and improve management on more than 700 acres of private working lands.

Permanently Protecting Migratory Bird Stopover and Breeding Wetland Habitat on Chokurei Ranch (CO)

Grantee: Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust
 Grant Amount:..... \$100,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$320,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$420,000
 Permanently protect Chokurei Ranch in Saguache County, Colorado through a conservation easement to conserve wetland habitats that provide important landscape linkage and breeding and stopover sites for a diversity of bird species. Project will place 2,000 acres under conservation easement to ensure the ecological integrity of the Ranch remains intact.

Permanently Protecting Migratory Bird Stopover and Breeding Habitat on Rocking Chair Ranch (MT)

Grantee: Five Valleys Land Trust
 Grant Amount:..... \$75,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,345,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,420,500
 Permanently protect Rocking Chair Ranch in the Flint Creek Valley of western Montana through a conservation easement to conserve breeding and stopover habitat for a variety of bird and wildlife species and safeguard a critical wildlife movement corridor between the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Project will place more than 2,400 acres under conservation easement to benefit wildlife and sustain the rural heritage of the valley.

Improving Grassland Bird Habitat with the Coastal Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (TX)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever
 Grant Amount:..... \$150,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$300,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$450,000
 Provide incentive payments and technical assistance to landowners for land management practices that improve and restore habitat for grassland birds and mottled ducks in coastal areas of Texas. Project will restore more than 3,000 acres of coastal grassland habitat by improving habitat diversity and structure on private working lands.