



ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation

NFWF CONTACTS

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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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Greater sage-grouse

BACKGROUND

Birds are critical to the health of natural communities everywhere. Their migrations represent a vital and irreplaceable flow of energy and nutrients among ecosystems across the globe, and they include some of the most spectacular phenomena of the natural world. In addition, they drive many economically important activities such as bird-watching, hunting and tourism.

In 2005, ConocoPhillips, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) came together to help sustain imperiled bird populations and the many values they provide. Under the banner of the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation program, this partnership supports work to improve the quality and connectivity of important bird habitats and accelerate innovations for understanding bird conservation needs across their ranges.

Within landscapes heavily dominated by working grasslands, wetlands and sagebrush, the program emphasizes voluntary partnerships with ranchers, farmers, and other private and public land managers. In this way, it strives to conserve bird populations and their habitats while providing important benefits to local communities.

(continued)



Pintail duck

IMPACT

Spanning multiple regions, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program supports birds across their life cycles, secures essential migratory pathways and drives innovation that shapes the next generation of conservation. Since 2005, the program has awarded 134 grants worth more than \$16 million. Grantees have matched this funding with \$48 million, for a total investment of \$64 million. This investment has supported the protection, restoration and enhancement of more than 541,000 acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife. Some of these outcomes include:

- Protection of 2,170 acres of a Wyoming ranch to conserve habitat for migratory birds.
- Partnering with private landowners in Louisiana to improve 4,500 acres of habitat for mottled ducks and grassland birds through the Coastal Grassland Restoration Incentive Program.
- Collaborating with private landowners in eastern South Dakota to evaluate 600 conservation easements that will improve habitat for wetland and grassland-dependent birds.

2023 GRANT AWARDS

In 2023, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation awarded \$1.1 million to six projects that are helping to conserve more than 13,400 acres of breeding, stopover and wintering bird habitat. These six projects are protecting and restoring grassland, sagebrush, wetland and coastal habitats; tracking and monitoring bird populations using innovative techniques; and facilitating conservation practices on working ranchlands.

In 2023 grants are supporting habitat conservation in Louisiana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. The grants will leverage more than \$1.5 million in matching contributions for a total conservation benefit of more than \$2.6 million. Among other outcomes, this combined investment is supporting work to:

- Protect 110 acres of coastal prairie in Texas to conserve habitat for migratory birds.
- Work with private landowners in eastern North Dakota to implement conservation grazing on 4,180 acres to improve habitat for grassland birds.
- Improve 6,500 acres in northeast Wyoming to enhance habitat connectivity for greater sage grouse and other birds in grassland and sagebrush ecosystems.