

25 YEARS OF CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP



NFWF



ConocoPhillips



25 YEARS OF CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

In 1999, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and ConocoPhillips awarded their first three grants together, setting the stage for what would become an enduring legacy of wildlife conservation.

Twenty-five years later, this partnership has funded more 200 grants, leveraging private and public grant funds with matching contributions to achieve a total conservation impact that exceeds \$100 million.

Spanning 27 states and seven countries, this investment has catalyzed an astounding scope of conservation action. From restoring bird

habitat across the Great Plains and along the coasts, to securing big-game migratory corridors in the Rocky Mountains, to monitoring marine mammals in Alaska, to advancing innovative data tools, collaboration with more than 100 grantee organizations has strengthened and preserved populations of many imperiled species in the United States and across the world.

For a quarter century, NFWF and ConocoPhillips have worked hand-in-hand toward this shared conservation purpose, and this report celebrates the remarkable on-the-ground outcomes achieved through this partnership.



ConocoPhillips

ConocoPhillips is one of the world's leading exploration and production companies based on both production and reserves, with a globally diversified asset portfolio. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, ConocoPhillips had operations and activities in 13 countries, \$96 billion of total assets, and approximately 9,900 employees at Dec. 31, 2023. Production averaged 1,826 MBOED for the twelve months ended Dec. 31, 2023, and preliminary proved reserves were 6.8 BBOE as of Dec. 31, 2023.

For more information, go to www.conocophillips.com.

Snow geese



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, foundation and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at nfwf.org



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Mule deer





Thank you, ConocoPhillips, for 25 years of support

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), I am honored to recognize and celebrate ConocoPhillips for its 25-year contribution and dedication to conservation.

Our partnership, which has achieved an on-the-ground conservation impact of more than \$100 million, has led to remarkable outcomes for numerous imperiled species and their natural habitats. That staggering accomplishment is a result of the visionary leadership at ConocoPhillips.

In fact, ConocoPhillips became one of NFWF's first corporate partners, paving the way for many others to join in the effort. Thanks to the early commitment, we have improved habitats for wildlife across 27 states and seven countries.

NFWF is proud to partner with ConocoPhillips, and we look forward to many more years of success for the fish, wildlife, plants and habitats that we treasure.

Happy 25th anniversary, ConocoPhillips!

With appreciation,

Jennifer Mull Neuhaus
*Board of Directors Chair,
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

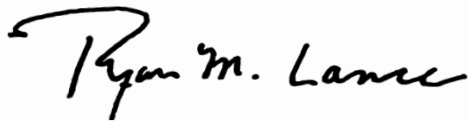
ConocoPhillips believes the best is yet to come!

ConocoPhillips is proud of its long relationship with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to advance species and habitat conservation. Over our 25-year partnership, more than 200 grants across 27 U.S. states and seven countries have resulted in significant improvements to habitat quality, conservation of critical winter range and protection of migration corridors for both bird and big-game populations and we've advanced the science in this field through monitoring, mapping and so much more.

Conservation has been important to ConocoPhillips and its heritage companies since the early 1900s. We have a responsibility to the communities that we operate in, and this focus is part of our company's SPIRIT values.

I've been excited about the opportunities and have learned from the people: the scientists, landowners and others that we have engaged with over the years. We have accomplished a great deal and have much to be proud of, but we are just scratching the surface of what's possible. I think the next 25 years will be even better. I can't wait to see what's next!

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan M. Lance". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" being the most prominent.

Ryan M. Lance
ConocoPhillips Chairman and CEO



A partnership embracing the SPIRIT of conservation

The relationship between NFWF and ConocoPhillips began with a focus on bird conservation. Birds are important indicators of environmental condition, often galvanizing essential conservation and monitoring actions that improve the health of ecosystems as a whole. Birds play an unmatched role in supporting biodiversity while generating many important services for local communities. In these and many other ways, birds are a vital component of natural systems across the globe, and they provide irreplaceable benefits to people everywhere.

To continue providing these values, birds require breeding, stopover and wintering habitats so they can complete their annual life cycles. Past and ongoing habitat loss and degradation have contributed to population declines of many bird species. Global bird numbers have dropped by billions over the past half century, highlighting the need to implement science-driven, strategic conservation. Given their importance and need, birds were central to this partnership's initial conservation investment strategy,

and they remain at its heart 25 years later.

Beginning in 1999, many of the projects supported early in this collaboration helped promote education and awareness of bird conservation needs, through International Migratory Bird Day, school programs and web-based information. Early grants also provided key support for efforts to recover the endangered whooping crane, such as the innovative reintroduction and habitat

enhancement efforts that would help establish a new population in Florida.

The partnership's ongoing investment in birds matured into its own grants program in 2005, becoming known as the ConocoPhillips

The ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program has helped improve the quality and connectivity of important bird habitats and accelerated innovations for understanding bird conservation needs across their ranges.

SPIRIT of Conservation Program. A collaboration among ConocoPhillips, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NFWF, this program has helped improve the quality and connectivity of important bird habitats and accelerated innovations for understanding bird conservation needs across their ranges. The program emphasizes voluntary partnerships with ranchers, farmers and other land managers within landscapes dominated by working

Whooping crane





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grasslands, sagebrush and wetlands. In this way, it strives to conserve bird populations and their habitats while providing benefits to local communities.

The SPIRIT of Conservation Program and the early bird-focused grant-making that preceded it have supported 157 projects led by 78 organizations. The \$17.8 million in grant funding awarded has been matched by grantees with an additional \$50.5 million, for a total conservation impact of \$68.3 million. This investment has supported the protection, restoration and enhancement of more than 568,000 acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Grassland and Sageland Restoration: The SPIRIT of Conservation Program has funded restoration and enhancement of more than 518,000 acres of uplands across the plains and sagebrush regions of the United States. With SPIRIT funding, organizations such as American Bird Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and Winnet ACES have worked collaboratively with ranchers and other private landowners to improve grazing management and control invasive species on rangelands in places like Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota,

Texas and Wyoming. Often providing benefits for ranch productivity, this work has improved habitat for imperiled birds such as Baird’s sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague’s pipit, thick-billed longspur, greater sage-grouse, lesser prairie-chicken and many other species.

CONSERVATION INNOVATIONS

Over 25 years, the SPIRIT of Conservation Program has supported the development and early use of several conservation innovations, including:

- Use of an ultralight plane to lead whooping cranes on a 1,200-mile migration from Wisconsin to Florida
- Development of the Motus radio telemetry network for monitoring birds throughout Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert
- Construction of an Attwater’s prairie-chicken breeding facility in Texas
- Deployment and evaluation of aquatic invasive species cleaning stations
- Use of radio telemetry to study the ecology, stopover locations and staging sites for several bird species

Aquatic Habitat Restoration:

Investment by the SPIRIT of Conservation Program has supported restoration and enhancement of nearly 18,000 acres of aquatic habitat, including inland and coastal wetlands, marine waters, streams and riparian zones. The program has funded the work of groups like Manomet, National Audubon Society, Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment and U.S. Geological Survey, which have restored vital wetlands along the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts. It has funded wetland restoration across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, through projects led by groups like

Ducks Unlimited, Flathead Land Trust, and Popie Agie Conservation District. Each year, these wetlands provide critical breeding, stopover and overwintering habitat for millions of waterfowl and shorebirds, such as mottled duck, blue-winged teal, greater white-fronted goose, greater yellowlegs and black-necked stilt.

Habitat Protection: From Alaska to Peru, the SPIRIT of Conservation Program has funded projects to protect more than 32,000 acres of bird habitat. Groups like Flathead Land Trust, Montezuma Land Conservancy, Southern Plains Land Trust and Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust have worked with willing landowners to protect bird habitat on working ranches in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. American Bird Conservancy protected more than 1,000 acres of neotropical bird habitat in Peru by expanding a national reserve. Through conservation easements and other voluntary land transactions, these projects have secured high-quality habitats for hundreds of bird species, including greater sage-grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, cerulean warbler, rock sandpipers and many waterfowl and shorebirds.

Research, Monitoring and Innovation: The SPIRIT of Conservation Program has funded research, monitoring and technological innovation to support current and future bird initiatives. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies has used SPIRIT funding to build a network of radio telemetry stations that is filling data gaps for grassland birds like Sprague's pipit, chestnut-collared longspur and Baird's sparrow. Groups like Ducks Unlimited Canada, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Manomet, New Mexico State University and Wildlife Conservation Society have used SPIRIT funding to gather key population data for other species like lesser prairie-chicken, loggerhead shrike, red knot and common eider. Through these efforts, the SPIRIT of Conservation Program has helped improve understanding of many high-priority species and strengthened the foundation for the next generation of bird conservation.



Partnership expands beyond a feathered focus

One strength of the partnership between NFWF and ConocoPhillips is its ability to respond to new conservation needs. Over two and a half decades, the partnership has evolved and expanded to address emerging issues and opportunities. In addition to the conservation efforts funded through the SPIRIT of Conservation Program, NFWF and ConocoPhillips have worked together through several other programs to advance vital conservation strategies across the United States, in places like Alaska, the Delaware River estuary, the Rocky Mountains and the Desert Southwest.

Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund: In the early 2000s, the partnership awarded its first grants in Alaska, where it funded essential research and monitoring to help improve conservation and management of species like polar bears and beluga whales.

This Alaska-focused grant-making eventually grew into its own program, officially becoming the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund in 2008. With support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other private partners, this program has generated measurable on-

the-ground conservation outcomes for fish and wildlife populations and helped fill key information gaps for the past two decades.

As an active participant in this program through 2015, ConocoPhillips supported 27 Alaska projects that benefited many iconic northern species by advancing innovative survey and monitoring techniques. Some of these efforts included: photo-identification to monitor Cook Inlet beluga whales; satellite tagging to track bearded seal movements and habitat use; aerial telemetry to track red knot movements and chick survival; mark-recapture studies to monitor polar bear and walrus populations; and testing of nonlethal methods for counting Pacific salmon.

Delaware Estuary Grants Program: Between 2003 and 2007, ConocoPhillips supported 13 conservation projects through NFWF's Delaware Estuary Grants Program. This program provided grants to watershed associations and other organizations working at a local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Delaware River Estuary of Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

With additional funding provided by the U.S. Fish and





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Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other state and private partners, this program helped groups gain the experience and technical expertise necessary to plan and implement watershed enhancement activities in their communities. Key strategies included developing watershed management plans, reducing storm-water runoff into local waterways, restoring riparian buffers and wetlands, controlling invasive vegetation, and engaging students and community members in local conservation activities.

Through these efforts, this program helped build the local stewardship capacity that provided a foundation for implementing the large-scale Delaware River watershed restoration initiatives that NFWF and its partners established in the following decades.

Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund: The Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund conserves critical winter range and migration corridors to maintain healthy populations of pronghorn, elk and mule deer and preserve the phenomenon of big-game migration.

Launched in 2019 with ConocoPhillips funding that leveraged federal investment, this program helps private landowners, community-based nonprofit organizations, tribal entities and state agencies work toward this shared purpose. Funding priorities include:

CONSERVATION INNOVATIONS
Additional innovative conservation approaches supported by ConocoPhillips and NFWF include:

- Photo-identification to assess and monitor Cook Inlet beluga whales
- Mark-recapture methods to gather polar bear population data
- Virtual fencing to improve grazing management and enhance big-game habitat
- Stable isotope analyses to estimate beluga whale diets
- Satellite tagging to compare habitat use of ringed seals and bearded seals

restoring degraded priority winter range, stopover areas and migration corridors; removing and modifying fencing to reduce passage barriers; and developing conservation easements and management agreements that preserve key migration corridors in areas threatened by habitat fragmentation.

In collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and several other private partners, ConocoPhillips has supported 13 projects spanning Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and

Wyoming. Funding for these projects has enabled the restoration, enhancement and protection of more than 94,000 acres and the removal or modification of 300 miles of fencing, helping ensure safe passage and long-term health of big-game populations.

Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative: The Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative awards grants to restore and sustain healthy rivers, streams and



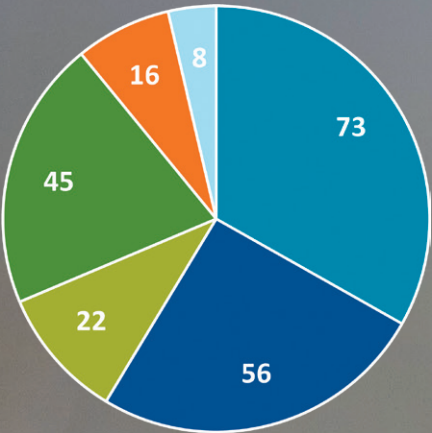
grasslands in the Pecos River watershed of southeastern New Mexico and West Texas. ConocoPhillips began supporting this program in 2020, becoming an important part of a unique funding coalition comprised of several energy companies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Key strategies supported by this program include: improving riparian and grassland habitat; addressing water quality and scarcity concerns for wildlife and agriculture; and species-specific actions to restore and monitor small and remnant populations of fish and wildlife found only in the Chihuahuan Desert. Providing funding for 10 projects through this program since 2020, ConocoPhillips has supported the restoration of nearly 21,000 acres of grassland and riparian habitat in the Pecos River watershed.

Implemented in collaboration with willing landowners, this work is improving sustainability and productivity of working ranch lands while benefiting grassland species like chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague’s pipit and pronghorn, along with aquatic species such as Pecos pupfish, Pecos gambusia, Texas hornshell and Rio Grande cooter.



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



PROJECTS BY PRIMARY ACTIVITY, 1999-2024

- Grassland and Sagebrush Restoration
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration
- Habitat Protection
- Research, Monitoring and Innovation
- Education and Outreach
- Other Conservation

BY THE NUMBERS, 1999-2024

\$105 MILLION

TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT
Project funding and matching contributions

220

Projects funded

109

Grantee organizations funded

683,500

Total acres of habitat restoration,
enhancement and protection

598,400

Acres of grassland/sagebrush restoration and
enhancement

19,600

Acres of aquatic habitat restoration and
enhancement

65,500

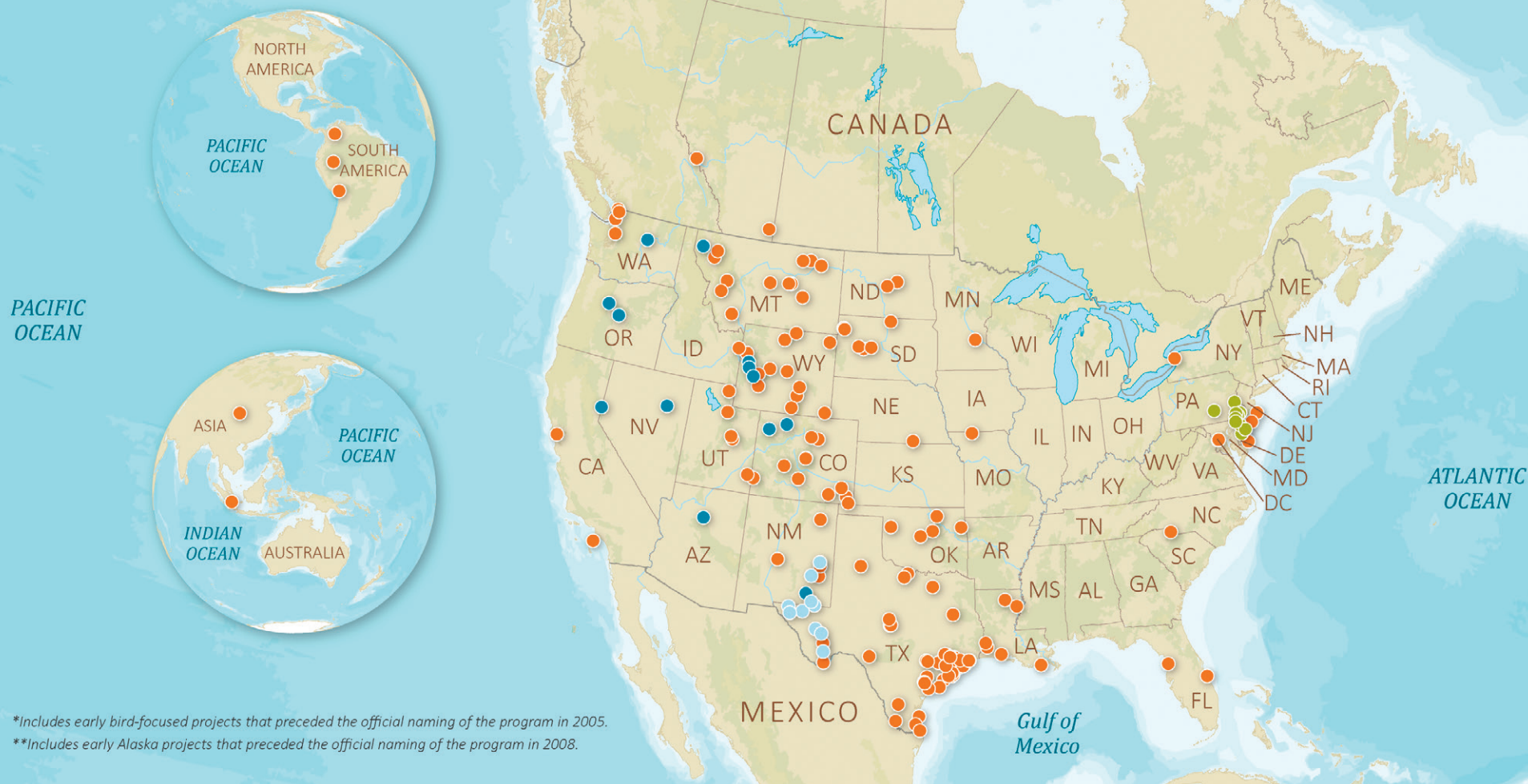
Acres of habitat protection in cooperation
with willing landowners



Thick-billed
longspur

Grants awarded through partnership with ConocoPhillips, 1999-2024

- ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program*
- Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund**
- Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program
- Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund
- Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative



*Includes early bird-focused projects that preceded the official naming of the program in 2005.

**Includes early Alaska projects that preceded the official naming of the program in 2008.



Mottled ducks

Grants restore wetlands along Texas coast for birds

Wetlands along the Texas Gulf Coast provide foraging, overwintering and breeding habitat for millions of birds each year. However, land-use conversion and lack of management have eliminated or impaired many of these wetlands, reducing the landscape's capacity to support these birds during key stages of their annual life cycles.

For two decades, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program has supported work to restore and enhance these habitats, providing benefits to a vast array of waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife.

With funding awarded through the SPIRIT program, the Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment (Texas R.I.C.E.) has implemented eight projects that have restored more than 8,000 acres of coastal wetland habitat. This work has benefited many of the highest-value wildlife areas along the Texas coast, including Anahuac and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges, the Guadalupe, Delta, Stringfellow and Mad Island Wildlife Management Areas, as well as many private lands.

Projects have constructed and repaired levees, installed water control structures and controlled invasive species to create large, shallow wetland units

that offer high-quality bird habitat. These wetland units hold water throughout the winter and into the spring, providing vital freshwater resources during critical migration and breeding periods. In addition, restoring these sites has increased floodwater storage, reduced soil runoff and improved water quality in coastal waterways, providing benefits to local communities.

This work advances priorities of several conservation plans such as the North American Waterfowl Plan, Gulf Coast Joint Venture Mottled Duck Conservation Plan, North American Colonial Waterbird Plan, and Gulf Coast Joint Venture Shorebird Conservation Plan.

These restorations are benefiting more than 100 species of resident and migratory birds. By creating shallow water units with emergent vegetation, they provide high-quality nesting habitat for resident waterfowl like mottled duck.

By creating places to rest and refuel, they provide essential overwintering habitat for migrants like white-fronted goose and northern pintail. This work helps put these birds in better condition to migrate long distances and breed in the spring, achieving conservation benefits that carry across their ranges, far beyond the Texas coast.



Tricolored heron



Whimbrel

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS IN TEXAS: Grants awarded through NFWF's partnership with ConocoPhillips have restored and enhanced vast coastal marshes that benefit over 100 species of resident and migratory birds.



ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS IN ALASKA: Grants awarded through NFWF’s partnership with ConocoPhillips have focused not just on beluga whales, but also polar bears, seabirds, salmon and other wildlife.

Alaska investments guide conservation of whales

Effective conservation often requires innovative approaches for gathering key information about wildlife populations. A prime example occurs in Alaska, where many partners have worked for decades to help recover the endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale population. Between 2002 and 2015, NFWF, ConocoPhillips and other partners provided funding for seven grants that supported research to inform conservation efforts for these iconic, northern whales.

Led by LGL Alaska Research Associates, the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Photo-identification Project used the distinct markings visible on many belugas to monitor individual whales, population dynamics and threats facing the population. Over the 12 field seasons supported by the seven grants, LGL Alaska Research Associates conducted more than 420 surveys and developed a photo-identification catalog that contained records for nearly 400 individual beluga whales.

This effort complemented and augmented aerial surveys and tagging studies conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service, helping managers learn more about beluga life history, movement patterns, habitat use, and exposure to threats. For example, it provided valuable data on social structure, survival, reproduction and cow-calf

relationships. Distribution and movement data helped identify areas important for protection and management within specific areas of Cook Inlet. This information also helped assess local stranding risks and informed the development of local response plans.

This research enabled assessment of risks associated with human activities, such as vessel traffic, seismic exploration, military exercises, and habitat alteration. The catalog of whale markings allowed researchers to quantify the frequency of trauma, such as ship strikes, gunshots, debris entanglement and predation attempts.

In these ways, this long-term research improved understanding of population trends and dynamics, allowed better assessment of risk factors impacting population recovery, and offered a strong foundation for making science-driven management decisions. Still in operation in 2024, the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Photo-identification Project has been providing these benefits for more than two decades.

The initial funding from ConocoPhillips and other partners provided the early support essential for developing and establishing this innovative approach that continues to be critical for guiding Cook Inlet beluga whale recovery to this day.



Beluga whale



Partners protect habitats for Western wildlife

The western United States is home to some of North America's largest herds of wild native ungulates, such as mule deer, elk and pronghorn. However, barriers to seasonal migrations and poor habitat conditions can threaten the health and reproductive success of these herds, requiring coordinated conservation efforts across large landscapes.

In 2023, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) received funding from ConocoPhillips and other partners through the Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund to improve forage quality and landscape connectivity for mule deer and other wildlife. Focused on migration corridors and winter range habitat for the Dubois, North Bighorn, Platte Valley, Sublette and Wyoming Range mule deer herds, this project addresses key priorities for big-game conservation across Wyoming.

The project includes three main elements. First, WGFD is working with private landowners and many other partners to remove or modify more than 25 miles of fencing that pose barriers to wildlife movement. Incorporation of wildlife-friendly fence designs, such as top rails, smooth bottom wire, and minimum and maximum wire heights will allow wildlife to pass

safely under and over many fences that segment the landscape. Second, WGFD and its partners are controlling invasive species that degrade wildlife habitat. With a focus on invasive annual grasses, the project is improving habitat and watershed conditions across more than 5,000 acres within the five priority herd units. Third, this project is enhancing an additional 3,000 acres of aspen, shrubland, and wet meadow through conifer removal, grazing management, and water management. Improved forage and water resources in these habitats are benefiting mule deer and a wide variety of other species.

This project builds on a decade of collaboration between state and federal agencies, county conservation districts, non-governmental organizations, and the private landowners who serve as stewards of the land. By working together, these partners have eliminated hundreds of miles of fencing barriers and improved tens of thousands of acres of habitat.

Spanning federal, state, local and private ownership, these efforts are generating benefits at a landscape level to preserve and protect the vital habitats and corridors that iconic western species like mule deer need to thrive.



Greater sage-grouse



Grasshopper sparrow

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS IN WESTERN STATES: Grants awarded through NFWF's partnership with ConocoPhillips have focused not only on big-game species such as mule deer and elk, but also numerous grassland bird species.



Pecos
pupfish



Texas
hornshell

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS IN DESERT GRASSLANDS: Grants awarded through NFWF's partnership with ConocoPhillips have benefited grasslands birds as well as aquatic species such as Pecos pupfish and Texas hornshell.

Energy partners invest in unique desert grasslands

The Pecos River in the Chihuahuan Desert of southeastern New Mexico and West Texas supports some of the most biodiverse arid and semiarid ecosystems in the world. Across its watershed, invasive species and land-use decisions have degraded native grasslands and strained scarce water resources, putting pressure on not only fish and wildlife populations, but also the working ranches that depend on healthy, functioning rangelands.

With support from ConocoPhillips and other energy company partners, the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative is helping the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Rio Grande Joint Venture, University of Texas, and grazing lands lessees restore more than 16,000 acres of dry mixed prairie grasslands in northern Hudspeth County, Texas. This area contains some of the largest remaining high-quality, intact grasslands in the Trans-Pecos region. It currently supports the region's healthiest populations of pronghorn and provides high-quality habitat for chestnut-collared longspur and Sprague's pipit.

Encroachment of invasive brush like creosote and mesquite threatens to negatively impact it as one of the

last strongholds for these species in West Texas.

With emphasis on connecting patches of intact prairie, the project is applying herbicide to control these and other invasive species. These treatments are designed to maximize compatibility with ongoing grazing management and create wildlife habitat without negatively impacting rangeland productivity.

This collaboration between the State of Texas, the Rio Grande Joint Venture, and grazing lands lessees demonstrates the important conservation outcomes that can be achieved when partners come together to tackle the decline of once-vast Chihuahuan grasslands and the native species that inhabit them. The habitat restoration conducted by this project will result in a diverse and species-rich native plant assemblage, supporting the needs of many priority grassland species, such as chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague's pipit and pronghorn. It will also benefit other habitats, including riparian areas, by improving water infiltration and reducing erosion. This project benefits all residents of the region, by restoring high-quality habitat and enhancing wildlife populations, and by promoting sustainable land use and sound management of Chihuahuan Desert grasslands.

Chestnut-collared longspur





CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Grants awarded through partnership with ConocoPhillips, 1999-2024

**CONOCOPHILLIPS
SPIRIT OF CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

Note: Includes early bird-focused projects that preceded the official naming of the program in 2005.

American Bird Conservancy

Conserving the Cerulean Warbler (Colombia) (2006)

Acquire and protect 1,597 acres of wintering habitat for the cerulean warbler. Project nearly doubled the size of the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve in Colombia, the first area in Latin America specifically designated to protect neotropical birds.

\$62,000

American Bird Conservancy

Expansion of Abra Patricia Reserve in Peru’s Yunga (2006)

Acquire 1,371 acres for the Abra Patricia Reserve. Project leveraged funds for the conservation of an additional 487,280 acres of outstanding Peruvian Yungas forest for migratory and critically endangered endemic birds.

\$190,000

American Bird Conservancy

Bird Conservation in the Allpahuayo-Mishana National Reserve (Peru) (2009)

Acquire 1,828 acres of private inholdings within the Allpahuayo-Mishana National Reserve of Peru. Project included constructing a second ranger station, maintaining infrastructure, and adding capacity to address wildfires.

\$226,446

American Bird Conservancy

Bird Conservation in Allpahuayo-Mishana National Reserve - II (Peru) (2011)

Consolidate Allpahuayo Mishana National Reserve in Peru to protect endangered and migratory birds. Project acquired 2,372 acres of threatened private inholdings and built local conservation capacity.

\$110,000

American Bird Conservancy

Restoring Grassland and Riparian Habitats in Texas (2018)

Implement 5,258 acres of grassland and riparian habitat restoration and enhancement that support birds, wildlife and people in the Trans-Pecos region and South Texas. Project restored habitats to benefit pronghorn, monarch butterflies and other migratory species on privately owned land.

\$77,713

American Bird Conservancy

Increasing Native Grassland Habitat for Priority Grassland Birds in South Texas (2022)

Partner with private landowners to implement land-management practices that increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of native grassland habitat for priority grassland birds. Project is improving 1,000 acres of degraded habitat within a key geography for migratory and resident species in south Texas.

\$201,450

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Conservation of Shortgrass Prairie Birds (CO, WY) (2006)

Conduct landowner outreach to enhance 15,223 acres of privately owned grasslands and riparian habitat in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. This region hosts 292 bird species, including 21 species of conservation concern and 11 endemic species.

\$125,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Conservation of Shortgrass Prairie Birds - II (CO, WY) (2008)

Conduct landowner outreach to enhance 15,825 acres of privately owned grasslands and wetlands in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. Projects will occur on properties supporting multiple at-risk bird species.

\$125,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Enhancing Bird Habitat on Private Land (CO) (2009)

Engage private landowners to enhance 21,299 acres of habitat for birds identified by the Colorado Wildlife Action Plan as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

\$150,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Enhancing Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat in Colorado (2010)

Raise awareness and implement habitat enhancement projects on private lands in Colorado to benefit the lesser prairie-chicken. Project reached more than 50 private landowners and enhanced over 10,000 acres.

\$148,164

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation on Private Lands in Colorado (2011)

Hire a biologist for two years in the Gunnison Natural Resources Conservation Service office to provide technical assistance and deliver Farm Bill and other habitat enhancement programs.

Project enhanced 8,297 acres benefiting Gunnison sage-grouse.

\$200,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

High-Priority Bird Species Conservation on Private Lands (CO) (2013)

Raise landowner awareness and enhance/protect 10,200 acres of shortgrass prairie, sagebrush and wetland ecosystems on private lands in Colorado for prairie-chicken, sage-grouse, and waterfowl/shorebirds.

\$195,500

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Integrating Science and Habitat Delivery to Advance Grassland Bird Conservation across the Great Plains (MT, CO) (2015)

Investigate factors limiting survival and productivity of grassland birds (including Sprague’s pipit, Baird’s sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur and thick-billed longspur) on their breeding grounds in the Northern Great Plains to inform, improve and deliver conservation and management actions at multiple scales.

\$200,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Demographic Monitoring of Declining Grassland Birds in the Northern Great Plains (MT) (2016)

Collect and analyze grassland bird demographic monitoring data for Baird’s sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, Sprague’s pipit, chestnut-collared longspur and lark bunting in eastern Montana for two field seasons.

\$200,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Prioritizing Management Practices for the Baird’s Sparrow in Grasslands Across North America (2018)

Use an analytical tool to simulate different conservation actions and the resulting effects on the Baird’s sparrow population. Project helped prioritize on-the-ground management practices and communicated findings with partners and landowners.

\$60,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Implementing Radio Telemetry in the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert to Monitor Grassland Birds (2019)
Build a collaborative network of automated radio telemetry stations (Motus) throughout the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert to monitor the annual cycle of grassland birds, including Baird’s sparrow, Sprague’s pipit and chestnut-collared longspur.
\$250,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Expanding the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert Motus Network to Inform Migratory Bird Conservation (2021)
Expand a network of automated radio telemetry stations (Motus) throughout the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert to help fill demographic knowledge gaps, characterize stopover and migratory connectivity, and inform full annual cycle habitat conservation for declining grassland birds.
\$250,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Informing Full Annual Cycle Grassland Bird Conservation in the Great Plains for Declining Species: Phase 3 (2022)
Complete the third phase of a radio telemetry (Motus) project by tagging additional birds (Baird’s sparrow, Sprague’s pipit, chestnut-collared longspur and thick-billed longspur), analyzing bird movement data, and developing management recommendations.
\$206,431

Borderlands Research Institute-Sul Ross State University
Restoring Marfa and Marathon Grassland Habitat for Wintering Migratory Birds (TX) (2020)
Restore wintering habitat for migratory grassland birds in the Marfa and Marathon grasslands of Texas. Project treated mesquite on 1,472 acres to increase habitat connectivity and patch size for wintering bird populations.
\$180,674

Brigham Young University
Strawberry Valley Sage Grouse Recovery Project (UT) (2006)
Enhance recovery of the greater sage-grouse population and increase genetic diversity through relocation. Project tagged relocated grouses and monitored them using radio telemetry.
\$75,000

Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Examining Bottlenecks for Hard-Shell Clam Production and Developing Recovery Strategies in Alaska (2015)
Establish sanctuaries at two barren beaches once known to have healthy shellfish populations to examine the bottleneck in recruitment and help rebuild depleted stocks of wild adult littleneck clams, butter clams and basket cockles.
\$78,200

City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department
Migratory Bird Urban Conservation Treaty Program (TX) (2002)
Enhance habitat for neotropical migrants and other avian species and increase birdwatching and other environmental education opportunities in Houston, Texas, as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Conservation Treaty Program.
\$80,000

Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program Partnership
Coastal Bend Migratory Waterbird Program (2006)
Enhance coastal migratory bird populations by evaluating, improving and creating nesting opportunities. Project facilitated nesting by planting native vegetation, constructing platforms and removing predators.
\$145,985

Coastal Prairie Conservancy
Improving Nesting Habitat for Mottled Ducks at Katy Prairie (TX) (2009)
Enhance prairie habitat and construct wetlands to increase the number of mottled ducks, nesting sites and broods on 550 acres of the Katy Prairie in Texas.
\$75,000

Coastal Prairie Conservancy
Enhancing Grassland Conservation for Wildlife Habitat in the Katy Prairie (TX) (2019)
Enhance grassland habitat and landscape connectivity and aid regional flood control in the Katy Prairie of Waller County, Texas. Project improved management on 200 acres and restored 145 acres of grassland to benefit multiple declining bird species of concern.
\$89,257

Coastal Prairie Conservancy
Grassland Conservation for Birds of Coastal Prairie (TX) (2023)
Purchase a conservation easement to protect 110 acres of Texas coastal prairie. Project is improving landscape connectivity and important bird habitat.
\$251,908

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

Delaware Bay Shorebird Stewardship (NJ, DE) (2006)

Recruit and train volunteer Shorebird Stewards to prevent disturbance to shorebirds on Delaware Bay migratory stopover sites. Volunteers educated beachgoers and residents on the importance of horseshoe crabs as sustenance for shorebirds.

\$24,642

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

Coordinated Statewide American Oystercatcher Conservation (NJ) (2011)

Develop a coordinated statewide conservation program for American oystercatchers in New Jersey. Program elements included management of human disturbance and predators, population monitoring, and enhanced public education.

\$120,000

Council For Environmental Education

Flying WILD Environmental Education (2000)

Create an environmental education program to complement International Migratory Bird Day. Project encouraged middle school participation in bird education events, such as school bird festivals and habitat restoration activities.

\$81,000

Council For Environmental Education

Flying WILD Environmental Education-II (2003)

Continue to develop an environmental education program to complement International Migratory Bird Day. Project encouraged middle school participation in school bird festivals and habitat restoration activities.

\$93,000

Council For Environmental Education

Flying WILD Environmental Education - III (2004)

Expand an environmental education program to complement International Migratory Bird Day. Project developed a middle school bird festival and associated distribution network.

\$114,800

Delaware Department of Natural Resources

Red Knot Roost Habitat Management (DE) (2010)

Develop and implement an adaptive resource management plan for coastal impoundments in Delaware to improve roosting opportunities for red knots.

\$17,213

Ducks Unlimited

Ouachita Wildlife Management Area Restoration (LA) (2012)

Restore hydrology on 725 acres of emergent wetland and 466 acres of forested wetland habitat on the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area in Louisiana. Project benefited a diversity of waterfowl and shorebird species.

\$100,000

Ducks Unlimited

Texas Playa Restoration Initiative (TX) (2015)

Restore 34 drained playas on private lands within a two-county focus area in the Texas Panhandle. Project resulted in increased recharge of the High Plains Aquifer and 654 acres of restored freshwater wetland habitat for migratory waterbirds.

\$71,644



Snowy egret

American
oystercatcher



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Ducks Unlimited

Restoring Habitat through the Northern Grasslands Restoration Incentives Program (MT, ND, SD, WY) (2020)
Provide technical assistance through the Northern Grasslands Restoration Incentives Program to help agricultural producers provide habitat for declining grassland birds. Project restored 155 acres of grassland habitat and improved management on 10,746 additional acres.
\$128,533

Ducks Unlimited

Strategic Conservation Partnerships on Working Lands for Grassland and Wetland Birds (ND) (2023)
Partner with private landowners to implement conservation grazing and other land management practices that improve grassland and wetland bird habitat in eastern North Dakota. Project is supporting conservation grazing on 4,180 acres, restoring 300 acres of grasslands, and restoring 5 acres of wetlands.
\$125,000

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Migratory Bird Boreal Habitat Assessment (Alberta) (2007)
Develop a tool for identifying important migratory bird habitats across the boreal forest and begin assessing impacts of landscape change on waterfowl abundance in the Utikuma Lake region of Alberta, Canada. Project identified key regions to focus conservation efforts.
\$174,000

Environment for the Americas

The Birder’s Conservation Commitment and Footprint (2009)
Implement “Birder’s Conservation Footprint and Conservation Commitment,” a nationwide effort to secure public commitment to migratory bird conservation. Project encouraged conservation action among birdwatchers through International Migratory Bird Day.
\$53,215

Five Valleys Land Trust

Protecting Migratory Bird Stopover and Breeding Habitat in Western Montana (2021)
Permanently protect 1,801 acres of ranchland in the Flint Creek Valley of western Montana through a conservation easement. Project conserves breeding and stopover habitat for a variety of bird and wildlife species and safeguards a critical wildlife movement corridor.
\$75,000

Flathead Community Foundation

Crown of the Continent Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention (MT) (2015)
Coordinate efforts to keep harmful aquatic invasive species out of the Crown of the Continent region in Montana. Project combined two successful pilot programs to establish an innovative regional Aquatic Invasive Species prevention strategy.
\$164,786

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Flathead Land Trust

Connecting Ecosystems in Northwest Montana (2018)

Purchase a conservation easement to preserve 155 acres of riparian wetland habitat and rich farmland along the Flathead River in northwest Montana. Project helped maintain habitat connectivity for grizzly bears, water quality for bull trout and cutthroat trout, and stopover habitat for migratory birds.

\$25,000

Friends of Big Bend National Park

Rio Grande Village Wetlands Restoration (TX) (2014)

Rehabilitate 22 acres of wetlands along the Rio Grande River, providing improved habitat for nesting and migrating birds. Project provided interpretive information to teach visitors about the restoration.

\$35,000

Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Whooping Crane Habitat Enhancement (FL) (2002)

Help the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge restore approximately 500 acres of prime foraging habitat in Florida for the endangered whooping crane as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s experimental reintroduction program.

\$80,000

Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust

Wetland Restoration at Aransas NWR (TX) (2006)

Create a reliable method for delivering freshwater to 750 acres of wetlands at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Project benefited hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and provided an educational environment for high school students.

\$213,000

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Bird Chenier Habitat Restoration (LA) (2006)

Restore migratory bird stopover habitat in Louisiana damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Project cleaned and revegetated 52 acres at Grand Isle Sanctuary and Peveto Beach Woods.

\$60,000

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

American Oystercatcher Stewardship in Texas (2010)

Reduce gaps in knowledge of the American oystercatcher population status and breeding parameters on the Texas Gulf Coast. Project informed development and prioritization of conservation strategies for this species.

\$95,190

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

American Oystercatcher Stewardship in Texas - II (2011)

Increase understanding of where subadult American oystercatchers go between fledging and breeding at three years of age and how they use coastal habitats during this time.

\$20,666

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Texas American Oystercatcher Conservation (2012)

Reduce the gaps in knowledge of American oystercatcher population status and breeding parameters, and begin implementation of conservation strategies on the Texas Gulf Coast.

\$143,213

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Studying Migrant and Resident Populations of Loggerhead Shrike to Inform Conservation (TX) (2019)

Study habitat affiliations for both migrant and resident loggerhead shrikes along the Texas Gulf Coast to determine whether migrants are using suboptimal wintering habitat. Project performed genetic and stable isotope analyses to compare bird origin and habitat quality.

\$92,359

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Upgrading Radio Tracking Infrastructure to Improve Migratory Bird Detection (TX) (2020)

Improve existing radio telemetry (Motus) infrastructure to provide more-detailed bird position information. Project updated 15 structures to support monitoring of migrating birds throughout the Texas coast.

\$32,021

Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History

Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project (1999)

Implement a program for K–12 students to study the ruby-throated hummingbird and share information with peers in other states. Project raised awareness about the natural history and interconnectedness of the Western Hemisphere.

\$35,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History

Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project - II (2001)

Continue a program for students in grades K–12 to study the ruby-throated hummingbird and share information with their peers. Project raised awareness about the natural history and interconnectedness of the western hemisphere.

\$35,000

Houston Audubon Society

Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary Acquisition (TX) (2001)

Acquire a 615-acre tract of gulf-front beach, salt marsh, and uplands adjacent to the Houston Audubon Society’s Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary in Texas. Project benefited numerous migrating birds including waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds.

\$100,000

Houston Wilderness

Galveston Bay Oyster Reefs and Migratory Bird Habitat (TX) (2016)

Increase understanding of benefits provided by oyster reefs in Galveston Bay, including storm-surge protection, water-quality improvements, carbon sequestration, and ecotourism. Project information guided subsequent reef restoration activities.

\$50,000

Houston Wilderness

Galveston Bay Oyster Reefs and Migratory Bird Habitat Part II - Additional Living Shorelines Project (TX) (2017)

Create living shorelines in Galveston Bay to establish oyster reefs and improve aquatic habitat. Project provided many benefits, including stabilizing bottom sediments, reducing wave energy, improving hydrology, and reducing erosion.

\$52,853

Houston Wilderness

Restoring Riparian Habitat along the Port of Houston Ship Channel (TX) (2019)

Reforest riparian areas by planting 10,000 native trees along 25 miles of the Port of Houston Ship Channel. Project restored and improved management on 120 acres to benefit a multitude of migratory and resident birds.

\$100,000

Houston Zoo

Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken Breeding Facility (TX) (2005)

Build a new breeding facility in Texas for the endangered Attwater’s prairie-chicken to enable better breeding success and higher chick production.

\$100,000

Houston Zoo

Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken Recovery (TX) (2006)

Expand an Attwater’s prairie-chicken breeding facility in Texas by adding 12 pens to enable significant increases in numbers of birds produced for release.

\$100,000

International Crane Foundation

Flyway Habitat Protection for Cranes in China (2006)

Establish partnerships to address conservation needs for endangered cranes and their ecosystems along the east China flyway.

\$450,000

Kenai Watershed Forum

Crooked Creek Fish Passage Improvement (AK) (2016)

Determine the efficacy of a fish passage barrier removal completed at a major highway crossing on Crooked Creek in Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula. Project quantified and compared the number of juvenile Chinook and coho salmon passing underneath the crossing before and after construction.

\$123,976

Laramie County Conservation District

Restoring Riparian, Wetland and Shortgrass Prairie Habitat through Improved Grazing Management (WY) (2021)

Improve grazing management along Lodgepole Creek in southeast Wyoming to restore riparian, wetland and shortgrass prairie habitat for wetland and prairie birds. Project used exclusionary fencing and rotational grazing to restore 240 acres and improve management on 709 acres of private working lands.

\$50,000

Legacy Philanthropy Works

Developing Incidental Groundwater Recharge Markets (ID, WY) (2017)

Develop a pilot market for incidental groundwater recharge in the Teton Basin. Project resulted in average annual recharge of 6,272 acre-feet over two years, helping to improve wetland health and base flows in the Teton River.

\$149,139

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes in Louisiana (2011)
Establish a self-sustaining whooping crane population on and around White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area in Louisiana.
\$100,000

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation
Monitoring Reintroduced Whooping Cranes to Establish a Self-Sustaining Population (LA, TX) (2019)
Study habitat use across various life stages of a whooping crane population reintroduced into southwest Louisiana. Project tracked habitat use and home ranges to help federal and state agencies develop whooping crane management plans and recommendations.
\$46,541

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation
Improving Grassland Bird Habitat with the Coastal Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (LA) (2023)
Implement habitat improvements through the Coastal Grassland Restoration Incentive Program. Project is providing incentives for landowners to improve and restore 450 acres of habitat for grassland birds and mottled ducks.
\$54,999

Manomet
Recovering Rufa Red Knots (Chile) (2010)
Employ science-driven, site-based conservation and rigorous success measures to help recover populations of the Rufa subspecies of red knots. Project conducted ground and aerial monitoring and mapped key habitats in Tierra del Fuego, Chile.
\$314,713

Manomet
Determining Post-breeding Sites for Arctic Coast Shorebirds of Conservation Concern (AK) (2017)
Use cutting-edge tracking technologies to determine the most important staging sites for different shorebird species that breed on the Arctic Coast in Alaska. Project examined the relative importance of staging sites and informed conservation efforts to reduce or mitigate impacts.
\$74,569

Manomet
Improving Management of Birds Migrating through the Gulf Coastal Plain of Texas (2020)
Use GPS tracking devices to identify stopover locations for birds passing through the Gulf Coastal Plain of Texas. Project documented habitat use and threats and developed a species distribution model to indicate areas of high importance for shorebirds.
\$86,103

Medicine Bow Conservation District
Shirley Basin Habitat Enhancement and Management (WY) (2014)
Improve grazing infrastructure to enhance habitat management on 36,725 acres of ranchland near Medicine Bow, Wyoming. Project promoted a healthy and diverse landscape for species such as greater sage-grouse, ferruginous hawk, and swift fox while maintaining agricultural production.
\$60,000



Whooping cranes



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

Dunn Ranch Acquisition (MO) (1999)

Support populations of greater prairie-chickens and other grassland birds by providing suitable habitat for nesting, brooding, and winter cover.

\$200,000

Montana State University

Filling Demographic Information Gaps for the Declining Thick-Billed Longspur (MT) (2019)

Identify limiting factors for the thick-billed longspur and actions needed to slow the population decline. Project assessed information gaps on breeding and migratory demographics and restored 1,601 acres of marginal cropland to native grassland cover in northeastern Montana.

\$194,034

Montezuma Land Conservancy

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Critical Habitat Protection (CO) (2013)

Purchase two conservation easements to permanently protect 1,940 acres of sageland in western Colorado. Project preserved important habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse.

\$36,607

National Audubon Society

Gros Ventre Riparian Complex Restoration (WY) (2007)

Restore 75 acres of wetlands throughout the National Elk Refuge in northwest Wyoming. Project replaced water control structures and reconstructed dikes within the area's ponds to improve trumpeter swan habitat.

\$118,000

National Audubon Society

Restoring Texas Grassland and Savannah Bird Habitat (2009)

Restore or enhance 75,512 acres of native Texas grasslands and savannahs. Project improved habitat for threatened populations of bobwhite quail, red-cockaded woodpecker, and other grassland and shrub-obligate birds.

\$44,230

National Audubon Society

Enhancing Tidal Mudflats and Marshes on Aramburu Island (CA) (2011)

Enhance 36 acres of degraded tidal mudflat and marsh habitat on Aramburu Island in California to improve habitat conditions for migratory shorebirds and waterbirds.

\$135,000

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Interactive Birding Website (1999)

Develop and construct an interactive birding website that serves as an information hub for scientists, educators, local birding groups and birding enthusiasts.

\$66,306

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

International Migratory Bird Day (2001)

Continue providing support for International Migratory Bird Day, an annual continent-wide celebration of bird watching. Project assisted partners in the production of educational materials.

\$25,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

International Migratory Bird Day (2003)

Provide continuing support for International Migratory Bird Day, an annual event that educates the public about bird conservation.

\$87,286

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

International Migratory Bird Day/Bird IQ (2006)

Continue providing support for International Migratory Bird Day, an annual event that promotes awareness about migratory birds and bird conservation. Project also supported the Bird IQ website, which provided information about birds and conservation.

\$100,000

National Wild Turkey Federation

Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Grassland Bird Restoration Focus Area (TX) (2013)

Restore and enhance 36,763 acres on private lands in Texas. Project improved habitat for northern bobwhite, Attwater’s prairie-chicken and many other grassland species.

\$84,944

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Wetland Restoration and Demonstrations in Alberta, Canada (2015)

Restore 5 miles of riparian habitat on actively grazed lands in Alberta. Project sites functioned as demonstration sites to both study and showcase the benefits of technologies such as fencing coupled with remote watering systems.

\$102,740

New Mexico State University

Understanding Impacts on Lesser Prairie-Chicken Populations (NM) (2013)

Determine factors driving population declines of the lesser prairie-chicken in managed landscapes in New Mexico. Project assessed historic changes in land use, vegetation characteristics, habitat selection and demography.

\$78,668

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Working Prairies for Grassland Birds (ND, SD) (2018)

Improve management on 7,117 acres of working grasslands in the western Dakotas. Project worked with private landowners to enhance habitat in the core of grassland bird diversity in the Northern Great Plains.

\$79,456

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation

Derelict Fishing Net Removal in Puget Sound (WA) (2008)

Remove derelict fishing gear from marine waters in and around the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, located in the Puget Sound, Washington. Project restored 16 acres of priority migratory marine bird habitat.

\$60,375

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation

Derelict Fishing Net Removal in Puget Sound (WA) (2011)

Remove derelict fishing nets from marine waters of north Puget Sound, Washington in habitats where derelict nets have been known to cause bird fatalities. Project removed 172 nets and restored 35 acres of priority migratory marine bird habitat.

\$99,977

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation

Derelict Fishing Net Removal in Whatcom County (WA) (2012)

Remove all of the known remaining derelict fishing nets from the marine waters of Whatcom County, Washington near ConocoPhillips’ Ferndale refinery. Project removed 154 nets and restored 25 acres of priority migratory marine bird habitat.

\$105,783

Operation Migration-USA

Endangered Whooping Crane Reintroduction (2002)

Purchase an ultralight plane and trailer as part of the experimental Whooping Crane Reintroduction program that teaches captive-reared whooping cranes a new migratory path in the eastern United States.

\$15,000

Operation Migration-USA

Endangered Whooping Crane Reintroduction - II (2003)

Lead whooping cranes on a 1,200-mile migration path from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s reintroduction program.

\$50,000

Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas

Restoring Habitat for Grassland Birds on Private Lands (2016)

Restore and enhance 12,138 acres of grassland bird habitat in Texas and Oklahoma. Project provided direct payments to private landowners in return for conducting conservation practices such as brush removal, reseeding native grasses, prescribed burning and prescribed grazing.

\$220,000

Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas

Supporting the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program to Restore Working Lands Habitat (OK, TX) (2021)

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 restored 8,485 acres of grassland habitat on private working lands.

\$186,615

Paul Konrad

ConocoPhillips Flyway Bird Education (1999)

Assist with the development of the ConocoPhillips Flyway bird education website to provide information to birders, educators and the public.

\$18,000

Pheasants Forever

Accelerating Technical Capacity to Improve Private Land Grasslands for Wildlife (OK, TX) (2017)

Provide private landowners with technical assistance for implementing voluntary practices (e.g., brush management, prescribed fire) that improve habitat for grassland birds in Oklahoma and Texas. Project improved 20,595 acres.

\$180,939

Pheasants Forever

Habitat Restoration for Grassland Birds and Pollinators in Oklahoma and Texas (2018)

Work through the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program to restore and enhance habitat for birds and pollinators in Oklahoma and Texas. Project provided incentives and technical assistance to help landowners restore and enhance 29,749 acres of grassland habitat.

\$62,053

Pheasants Forever

Providing Technical Assistance to Landowners Conducting Habitat Restoration for Grassland Birds (TX) (2019)

Support a Range and Wildlife Conservationist to increase technical assistance capacity for grassland bird habitat restoration in southeast Texas. Project is working with private landowners to restore 5,000 acres and improve management of 2,000 acres.

\$36,506

Pheasants Forever

Providing Technical Assistance to Improve Grassland Bird Habitat in Edwards Plateau (TX) (2020)

Promote habitat stewardship actions designed to conserve priority grassland and shrubland birds in the Edwards Plateau ecoregion. Project is restoring 2,000 acres of grassland habitat and helping landowners improve management on 20,097 acres.

\$236,322

Pheasants Forever

Improving Grassland Bird Habitat with the Coastal Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (TX) (2021)

Provide incentive payments and technical assistance to help landowners improve and restore habitat for grassland birds and mottled ducks in coastal areas of Texas. Project is restoring more than 3,000 acres of coastal grasslands by improving habitat diversity and structure on private working lands.

\$150,000

Pheasants Forever

Collaborative Grassland and Sagebrush Conservation for Birds (WY) (2023)

Improve habitat connectivity for birds in grassland and sagebrush ecosystems in northeast Wyoming. Project is enhancing 6,500 acres, restoring 1,200 acres and fencing 3 miles for conservation grazing.

\$256,392

Popo Agie Conservation District

Bighorn Draw Wetland Improvement (WY) (2013)

Enhance and restore 125 acres of shallow wetland habitat in Wyoming by repairing five low-level dikes, constructing a junction box and using produced water from an adjacent oil field.

\$50,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust

Permanently Protecting Migratory Bird Stopover and Breeding Habitat on Picture Rock Ranch (CO) (2021)

Permanently protect 1,120 acres of ranchland in Saguache County, Colorado through a conservation easement. Project conserves wetland habitats that provide important landscape linkage and breeding and stopover sites for a diversity of bird species.

\$100,000

Santa Catalina Island Conservancy

Restoring the Population of Xantus’s Murrelet on Catalina Island (CA) (2012)

Conduct population surveys and nest site habitat assessments for Xantus’s murrelet on Catalina Island, California to set baselines for restoration and threat-reduction activities. Project engaged volunteers to restore habitat through revegetation.

\$67,949

Second Century Habitat Fund

Creating Habitat on Working Lands for Pheasants, Pipit, and Other Grassland Species (SD) (2022)

Partner with willing landowners to transform marginal cropland into productive hay and grazing acreage. Project is restoring 519 acres of habitat for pheasants, Sprague’s pipit and other grassland wildlife species.

\$150,000

Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana

Transition Agriculture (MT) (2014)

Use a web portal and transition agriculturalist to overcome barriers agricultural producers face in making changes to their operations or making the most of available programs/ resources to address water issues in Montana. Project paid for riparian fencing and water tanks to help restore 1,000 acres of riparian habitat.

\$75,000

Southern Plains Land Trust

Protecting Grassland and Migratory Bird Habitat on the Southern Plains (CO) (2021)

Protect 8,720 acres of shortgrass prairie adjacent to Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve in Bent County, Colorado. Project acquired and then placed the land under easement to permanently protect habitat for grassland birds, including mountain plovers, burrowing owls and golden eagles.

\$250,000

Summit Land Conservancy

Permanently Protecting Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat along the Weber River in Summit County (UT) (2021)

Preserve and restore 107 acres of scarce wetlands along the Weber River in Summit County, Utah. Project plans include placing the land under permanent conservation easement and implementing targeted grazing efforts to protect and improve wetland habitat for migratory birds.

\$150,000



Burrowing owl

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Tamarisk Coalition

Innovative Restoration Tools for Riparian Landscapes Impacted by Invasive Woody Vegetation (CO, NM, OK, UT) (2015)

Develop innovative tools for the removal of invasive vegetation and restoration of riparian lands across the western United States. Project hosted workshops to share new tools and techniques with land managers working to improve riparian ecosystems.

\$46,737

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment

Anahuac NWR Wetlands Initiative (TX) (2012)

Restore 467 acres of wetland/moist soil units and refurbish a 100-acre abandoned reservoir on the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas to create high-quality habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife.

\$48,250

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment

San Bernard NWR Marsh Restoration (TX) (2013)

Restore 990 acres of intermediate marsh on the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Project improved habitat by restoring the hydrology of the marsh.

\$22,000

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment

Texas Coastal Wetland Habitat Creation and Restoration (2014)

Create, restore and enhance 2,126 acres of wetlands on two national wildlife refuges, a wildlife management area and private lands on the Texas coast. Project created excellent migratory bird habitat for a multitude of species.

\$130,000

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment

West Galveston Bay Watershed Wetlands (TX) (2015)

Restore 190 acres of freshwater wetlands in the west Galveston Bay watershed in Texas. Project provided high-value overwintering and breeding habitat for many species, including wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl.

\$40,000

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment

Central Texas Coast Wildlife Management Areas (2016)

Restore and enhance 2,100 acres of native prairie and wetland habitat on the four Wildlife Management Areas on the Texas coast. Project replaced failing water control structures, refurbished deteriorated levees and controlled invasive species.

\$47,125

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment

Texas Working Lands Initiative (2018)

Create 1,100 acres of wetlands on the middle Texas coast and in the Texas coastal plain. Project provided high-quality bird habitat on private lands protected through conservation easements and on National Wildlife Refuge lands.

\$56,500

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment

Restoring Wetland and Prairie Habitat at the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (TX) (2019)

Restore habitat for a wide range of grassland birds, butterflies, other pollinator species and mammals on Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Project created and restored 490 acres of freshwater wetlands and native prairie habitat.

\$27,300

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment
Restoring and Enhancing Wetlands and Native Prairie along the Texas Coastal Plain (2022)
Establish, restore and enhance 1,883 acres of wetlands and 1,107 acres of native prairie on state, federal and private lands. Project benefited priority wetland and grassland birds as well as declining native pollinators along the Texas coast and coastal plain.
\$100,000

The Blackfoot Challenge
Restoring Grassland Habitat by Removing Woody Invasives in the Blackfoot River Watershed (MT) (2021)
Restore 1,200 acres of intermountain grasslands in the Helmville Valley in Montana through removal of invasive Rocky Mountain juniper and Douglas-fir trees. Project is improving habitat for Brewer’s sparrows, trumpeter swans and many other bird species.
\$74,149

The Conservation Fund
Dolan Tract Acquisition, Neches River National Wildlife Refuge (TX) (2014)
Acquire 80 acres to protect a pivotal tract of forested river frontage within the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. Project connected two protected parcels of 6,715 acres encompassing 8 river miles.
\$120,000

The Conservation Fund
Eklutna River Lower Dam Removal (AK) (2017)
Remove the Lower Eklutna River dam located 25 miles northeast of Anchorage as the first step in a multi-pronged approach to restoring the Eklutna River. Project reconnected 11 river miles and benefited five species of Pacific salmon.
\$86,000

The Conservation Fund
Protecting Migratory Bird Habitat on Kasilof River (AK) (2020)
Acquire 309 acres along the Kasilof River on the western Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. Project protected migratory, breeding and overwintering habitat for more than 160 bird species.
\$100,000

The Conservation Fund
Restoring Coastal Prairie to Benefit Grassland Birds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (TX) (2020)
Restore coastal prairie habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas to provide habitat for aplomado falcon, black rail and many other species. Project restored 525 acres through invasive species management and planting of native grasses and forbs.
\$156,600

The Great Land Trust
Protecting Key Bird Habitat by Expanding the Settlers Bay Coastal Park (AK) (2022)
Acquire 187 acres of wetlands, uplands and more than 1 mile of a stream habitat adjacent to Settlers Bay Coastal Park in Alaska. Project added the land to the Settlers Bay Coastal Park, bringing the total park size to 482 acres.
\$150,000

The Learning Center at the Eucheé Butterfly Farm
Restoration of Milkweed/Monarch Habitats (2015)
Train Native American youth to collect seed, propagate milkweed and native plants, and restore pollinator habitat on tribal lands in Oklahoma. Project trained 314 Native American youth and restored 400 acres of pollinator habitat.
\$50,000

The Nature Conservancy
Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken Recovery (TX) (2005)
Restore 10,245 acres of native prairie on the Refugio-Goliad Prairie of Texas, begin planning to increase captive breeding capacity for the endangered Attwater’s prairie-chicken, and create management plans for private landowners.
\$50,000

The Nature Conservancy
Salt Lakes Habitat Protection (TX) (2006)
Purchase a conservation easement on 697 acres of ranchland in Willacy County, Texas. Project protected Tamaulipan thornscrub habitat and shallow salt lakes used by migratory and wintering waterbirds.
\$140,444

The Nature Conservancy
Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken Recovery - II (TX) (2007)
Enhance 30,000 acres of coastal prairie along the Texas Gulf Coast. Project developed a plan for Attwater’s prairie-chicken releases on private lands within the Refugio-Goliad Prairie.
\$100,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Nature Conservancy

Nickel Preserve Stewardship for Migratory Birds (OK) (2012)

Restore 7,500 acres of grasslands at the Nickel Preserve in northeastern Oklahoma. Project completed prescribed burning, invasive species control, and native plantings to provide habitat for migratory and resident birds.

\$100,000

The Nature Conservancy

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation (UT) (2012)

Protect and improve habitat for Utah’s only population of Gunnison sage-grouse. Project purchased 1,080 acres located within the core area and enhanced 150 acres by controlling invasive species and planting sagebrush.

\$270,050

The Nature Conservancy

Four Canyon Preserve Stewardship for Bird Habitats (OK) (2013)

Restore and enhance fire-dependent native plant communities to improve habitat quality for a suite of grassland bird species, including lesser prairie-chicken. Project conducted prescribed burning on 475 acres in western Oklahoma.

\$7,359

The Nature Conservancy

Southern Great Plains Critical Habitat Restoration (CO) (2014)

Restore 56,000 acres of high-priority grassland habitat on central shortgrass prairie near Denver, Colorado. Project developed and implemented an individualized grazing management plan for the project site with focus on providing benefits to grassland birds.

\$74,439

The Nature Conservancy

Piping Plover Habitat Improvement in Central North Dakota (2014)

Enhance and restore 57 acres of degraded piping plover nesting habitat in central North Dakota. Project renovated gravel nesting sites, removed predator perches, and eliminated encroaching vegetative species.

\$50,492

The Nature Conservancy

Establishing a Decision Support Tool for Conservation Priorities in the Missouri River Headwaters (MT, ND, SD, WY) (2016)

Complete modeling and resulting map products that identify watersheds of critical and highest conservation priority for both wildlife and working lands within the Missouri River headwaters and prairies of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

\$62,168

The Nature Conservancy

Using Natural Water Storage Solutions to Improve Flows in the Missouri Headwaters Basin (2016)

Increase critical late-season flows and restore aquatic habitats across the Missouri Headwater Basins by reconnecting floodplains and removing conifers from wetlands previously dominated by willows. Project restored 398 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat.

\$159,250

The Nature Conservancy

Prairie Canyonlands Big Horn Sheep and Grassland Birds Restoration (CO) (2017)

Restore grassland habitat in southeast Colorado by reducing pinyon-juniper encroachment through mechanical clearing. Project restored 1,004 acres of habitat for grassland birds and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

\$110,643

The Nature Conservancy

Conservation Easements in the Prairie Pothole Region (SD) (2023)

Complete landowner outreach and evaluations needed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase conservation easements in eastern South Dakota. Anticipated outcomes include 600 evaluations that will lead to 36,000 acres of grasslands and wetlands protected under conservation easement.

\$155,050

The Trust for Public Land

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration (LA) (2006)

Acquire a 1,274-acre addition to the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge and restore 560 acres of the protected property to bottomland hardwood forest in Louisiana. Project protected and increased habitat for neotropical migrant songbirds and Louisiana black bear.

\$499,290

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Tierra International Foundation DBA Tierra Foundation

Mangrove Air Seeding: An Innovative Approach to Habitat Conservation (LA) (2017)

Air-seed coastal habitat to establish mangroves in suitable areas between Port Fourchon and Leeville, Louisiana. Project air-seeded 54 acres determined to be conducive to mangrove establishment.

\$108,673

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

Old Tyonek Creek Fish Passage Restoration (AK) (2014)

Replace two undersized culverts with a larger embedded culvert to restore fish passage and prevent road washouts on Old Tyonek Creek in Alaska. Project restored connectivity to 10.4 miles of upstream habitat for Chinook salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon and eulachon.

\$100,000

University of Oklahoma

Developing Tools to Advance Grassland Bird Wintering Habitat Management Practices (CO, NM, OK, TX) (2019)

Study the wintering ecology of longspurs and other grassland birds through distribution modeling, automated radio telemetry biologging, and weather radar analysis in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Project developed tools to improve field surveys for grassland birds to more accurately estimate abundance and habitat usage.

\$138,145

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Shorebird Sister Schools Program (2000)

Enhance and expand a national education and outreach program focused on shorebird and wetland habitat conservation. Project engaged students and teachers in tracking shorebird migration through data collection and sharing over the internet.

\$50,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pelican Island Centennial Trail and Tower (FL) (2002)

Build a boardwalk and observation tower in Florida for visitors to the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, the first national wildlife refuge created in 1903, as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System’s centennial.

\$60,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Market Street Mud Flat Restoration (NJ) (2006)

Restore 70 acres of wetlands in New Jersey by implementing water-control techniques. Project limited the spread of invasive Phragmites, exposed mudflats for foraging shorebirds including red knot, and improved waterfowl habitat.

\$35,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Whooping Crane Critical Habitat Enhancement (TX) (2008)

Enhance whooping crane critical habitat designated in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Project conducted prescribed burning and invasive species control on 800 acres to benefit whooping cranes and other migratory birds and fauna.

\$60,000



Sprague's pipit



Great blue
heron

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Forest Service

Support Recovery of Lesser Prairie-Chicken (CO) (2017)

Restore lesser prairie-chicken habitat in Colorado by removing 29 windmills and replacing them with solar pumps. Project removed impediments to lesser prairie-chicken nesting and brood-rearing activities on 7,385 acres, aiding efforts to restore a healthy population on the Comanche National Grassland.

\$75,000

U.S. Geological Survey

Conserving San Francisco Bay Scoter Habitats (CA) (2009)

Identify and promote conservation of critical foraging areas for sea ducks in the highly urbanized San Francisco Bay in California. Project mapped surf scoter density to assess key habitat features and inform decisions for habitat protection and enhancement.

\$189,270

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Price River Drainage Wet Meadow Enhancement (UT) (2003)

Restore and enhance 2,000 acres of wet meadows and surrounding uplands in two target areas within the Price River basin in Utah. Project improved habitat critical for sage-grouse and other wildlife species.

\$60,000

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Pinyon-Juniper Removal within Sagebrush Communities in Southeast Utah (2012)

Remove encroaching pinyon pine and juniper on 2,232 acres of sagebrush habitat. Project benefited many wildlife species, including golden eagles and other sagebrush-grassland birds.

\$44,460

Web Spectrum

ConocoPhillips Flyway Website Update (2003)

Update and add new features to the PhillipsFlyway.com website. Website provided information on birds and bird conservation.

\$17,000

Web Spectrum

ConocoPhillips BirdIQ Website (2004)

Update and continue development of the BirdIQ.com website. Website served as a source of information on environmental education activities involving birds.

\$17,000

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Restoration (CO, KS, NM) (2016)

Remove trees from grasslands to restore lesser prairie-chicken nesting and brood-rearing habitat in Colorado, Kansas and New Mexico. Project worked with landowners in target areas to remove trees on 911 acres.

\$195,913

Whatcom Land Trust

Drayton Harbor Estuary: Coastal Wetlands (WA) (2012)

Acquire 53 acres of land, including 3,400 feet of prime freshwater shoreline, on the South Fork of the Nooksack River in Washington. Project protected critical fish and wildlife habitat and supported recovery efforts for Chinook salmon.

\$75,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Wildlife Conservation Society

Mapping Common Eider Use of Sea Barrier Islands (AK) (2017)
Evaluate use of northern Alaska’s barrier island ecosystem by nesting seabirds. Project ranked Beaufort Sea barrier islands by common eider nest density, providing information to help guide oil response planning.

\$69,448

Wildlife Forever

Deploying CD3 Cleaning Stations (2016)
Install and evaluate the effectiveness of an aquatic invasive species cleaning station prototype at pilot locations across Minnesota. Project developed a cost-effective station design that helps boaters prevent the spread of invasive species.

\$151,007

Winnett ACES

Improving Habitat Connectivity for Grassland and Sagebrush-Dependent Bird Species (MT) (2020)
Restore 1,775 acres and improve management on 25,000 acres of grassland and sagebrush habitat in Montana. Project improved habitat for greater sage-grouse, Baird’s sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur and thick-billed longspur.

\$214,611

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Facilitate Pronghorn Movements and Migration (WY) (2018)
Identify crossing points used by wildlife to document frequency of use following fence modification in Wyoming. Project used camera traps and collar data to inform fence conversion that benefits pronghorn during their daily and seasonal migrations.

\$80,000

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Richie Ranch II Conservation Easement (WY) (2018)
Purchase a conservation easement on ranchland in Sublette County, Wyoming. Project protected 1,041 acres of productive agricultural land that provides habitat for greater sage-grouse, mule deer, moose and elk.

\$179,000

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Protecting Migratory Bird Habitat on Waliser Ranch through a Conservation Easement (WY) (2020)
Purchase a conservation easement on ranchland in Carbon County, Wyoming to preserve the agricultural, wildlife and other conservation values of the property. Project protected 1,432 acres, securing habitat for more than 160 bird species.

\$137,500

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Protecting Resident and Migratory Bird Habitat (WY) (2022)
Purchase a conservation easement on ranchland in northern Wyoming to protect habitat for sharp-tailed grouse, mule deer and pronghorn. Project plans include protecting 2,498 acres of productive and ecologically important grazing land.

\$250,000

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Van Fleet Ranch Conservation Easement (WY) (2023)
Purchase a conservation easement on ranchland in northern Wyoming to preserve the conservation and agricultural values of the property. Project plans include protection of 2,172 acres of habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife.

\$275,000

Zoological Society of London

Helping Conserve Tigers in the Dangku Landscape, Indonesia (2014)

Advance efforts to conserve tigers in the Dangku landscape of Indonesia. Project facilitated collaborative patrolling by government authorities and community members, gathered data on tiger movements, and engaged in efforts to improve wildlife corridors.

\$175,000

ALASKA FISH AND WILDLIFE FUND

Note: Includes early Alaska projects that preceded the official naming of the program in 2008.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Reducing Conflicts Between Grizzly Bears and Oil Development (AK) (2009)

Identify denning habitat, develop den detection methods and study food conditioning mechanisms to help reduce conflicts between grizzly bears and humans in Alaska.

\$218,400

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Reducing Conflicts Between Grizzly Bears and Oil Development - II (AK) (2010)

Continue to identify denning habitat, develop den detection methods, and study food conditioning mechanisms to reduce conflicts between grizzly bears and North Slope oil development in Alaska.

\$236,000

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Reducing Conflicts Between Grizzly Bears and Oil Development - III (AK) (2011)

Evaluate grizzly bear den detection methods, identify and map denning habitat, and study effects of food-conditioning in Arctic Alaska. Project provided information to aid industry in reducing disturbance to active dens.

\$138,650

Canadian Wildlife Service

Estimating Numbers of Polar Bears (Canada) (2003)

Monitor the population size, age structure and reproductive rates of polar bears in the Canadian sector of the Southern Beaufort Sea population in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey.

\$100,000

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Photo-Identification of Beluga Whales (AK) (2002)

Use photo-identification to assess and monitor individual and population characteristics of Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska. Project provided information to better understand and manage the beluga whale population and its habitat.

\$299,500

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Beluga Whales in Upper Cook Inlet - II (AK) (2005)

Use photo-identification of beluga whales to develop abundance estimates, provide detailed behavior data, and assess population characteristics of Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska.

\$170,000

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Beluga Whales in Upper Cook Inlet - III (AK) (2007)

Use photo-identification to assess individual and population characteristics of Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska. Project provided data necessary to better monitor and manage the population.

\$340,440

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Photo-Identification of Beluga Whales in Upper Cook Inlet - IV (AK) (2010)

Continue to use photo-identification to assess and monitor individual and population characteristics of endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska.

\$300,000

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Photo-Identification of Beluga Whales in Upper Cook Inlet - V (AK) (2011)

Continue to use photo-identification to assess and monitor individual and population characteristics of endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska.

\$46,343

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Photo-Identification of Beluga Whales in Upper Cook Inlet – VI (AK) (2012)

Continue to use photo-identification to assess and monitor individual and population characteristics of endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska.

\$46,249

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Eulachon and Beluga Whales: Indicators of Ecosystem Health (AK) (2014)

Examine the role of eulachon and beluga whales as indicators of ecosystem health in the Cook Inlet of Alaska. Project collected and summarized data, identified information gaps, and developed a model of the relationships important for a viable Cook Inlet beluga whale population.

\$149,983

LGL Alaska Research Associates

Photo-Identification of Beluga Whales in Upper Cook Inlet – VII (AK) (2015)

Continue to use photo-identification to assess and monitor individual and population characteristics of endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska. Project provided information on critical habitat use, survival, reproduction, incidence of disease and trauma, and frequency of exposure to human activities.

\$334,965

Native Village of Kotzebue

Comparative Habitat Use of Ringed and Bearded Seals (AK) (2009)

Compare habitat use of ringed and bearded seals in the Chukchi and Bering seas in Alaska. Project used satellite tags to record movements and diving behavior.

\$94,380

North Slope Borough, Alaska

Satellite Tracking of Eastern Chukchi Sea Beluga Whales (AK) (2010)

Satellite-track eastern Chukchi Sea beluga whales in Alaska to better understand distribution, habitat use, population size and impacts from anthropogenic sounds.

\$59,214

North Slope Borough, Alaska

Beluga Diets - Baselines and Indirect Diet Assessments (AK) (2011)

Measure fatty acids and stable isotopes in beluga whale tissues to provide baseline data and refine methods for estimating diet of whales from the Chukchi and Beaufort seas in Alaska. Project helped assess potential impacts from climate change and other human activities.

\$83,038

Northern Forum

Seabird Data Portal: Sharing Alaska's Seabird Data (2012)

Expand the data management and sharing capabilities of the Seabird Data Portal. Project helped facilitate collaborative and progressive research on seabirds in Alaska and the North Pacific.

\$39,999

Polar Bears International

Estimating Numbers of Polar Bears - II (AK, Canada) (2004)

Collect polar bear population data using mark and recapture methods in the Southern Beaufort Sea in Alaska and Canada. Project data helped guide efforts to prevent over-harvesting.

\$200,000

Polar Bears International

Estimating Numbers of Polar Bears - III (AK, Canada) (2005)

Collect polar bear population data using mark and recapture methods in the Southern Beaufort Sea in Alaska and Canada. Project data helped guide efforts to prevent over-harvesting.

\$201,500

Polar Bears International

Estimating Numbers of Polar Bears - IV (AK) (2006)

Continue work studying polar bear survival in the South Beaufort Region in Alaska. Project used mark and recapture methods to evaluate numbers, weight, height and age of polar bears, and data helped guide efforts to prevent bear overharvesting.

\$233,000

Sea Research Foundation

Baseline Health Measurements on Wild Belugas (AK) (2011)

Conduct baseline health measurements on wild beluga whales in Point Lay, Alaska. Study results provided reference points for assessing impacts of climate change, oil and gas exploration, and other threats to wild belugas.

\$75,000

**Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science
DBA Alaska SeaLife Center**

Pacific Walrus Haulout Attendance and Disturbance (AK) (2010)

Monitor historic and newly established walrus terrestrial haulout sites to record walrus attendance, duration, and level of disturbance and provide baseline site-specific animal counts.

\$69,263



Grizzly bear



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Nature Conservancy

Hydrographic Mapping in the Mat-Su Basin (AK) (2014)

Update the National Hydrographic Dataset and National Hydrographic Dataset Plus for the Matanuska-Susitna Basin. Project integrated the update with stream and watershed mapping tools elsewhere in Alaska, helping guide management and conservation of salmon and other aquatic species.

\$72,757

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Traditional Knowledge and Satellite Tracking of Polar Bears in the Chukchi Sea (AK) (2010)

Collect telemetry data and Native knowledge on distribution, habitat use and ecology of polar bears in the Chukchi Sea in Alaska to inform mitigation plans, critical habitat identification and harvest management.

\$74,972

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mapping Suitable Habitat for Polar Bear Denning (AK) (2011)

Develop improved polar bear den habitat models to predict the occurrence of suitable snow drifts for dens in North Slope and Beaufort Sea coastal zone region of Alaska. Project produced refined, more-accurate den habitat predictions in map form.

\$61,913

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pacific Walrus Abundance Estimations (AK) (2012)

Conduct a long-term, genetics-based, capture-mark-recapture program to gather and analyze abundance and demographic data for Pacific walrus in Alaska.

\$78,948

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Innovative Technology to Monitor Salmon Returns (AK) (2014)

Test an innovative application for fisheries management: the use of non-lethal, graduated-field fish guidance technology to redirect returning adult salmon into counting chambers in Alaska.

\$99,587

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Post-Breeding Migratory Movements of the Red Knot (AK) (2015)

Monitor movements and reproduction of red knots in western Alaska to inform conservation efforts. Project identified autumn staging areas, assessed breeding productivity and chick survival, and tracked daily movements with aerial telemetry.

\$59,578

DELAWARE ESTUARY WATERSHED GRANTS PROGRAM

Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association

Ridley Creek Headwaters Conservation (PA) (2003)

Involve students and community members in riparian buffer restoration along Ridley Creek in Pennsylvania. Volunteers removed invasive species, planted trees and created a wetland.

\$13,700

Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association

Toft Woods Restoration (PA) (2005)

Eliminate a stormwater runoff and erosion problem in the Toft Woods drainage section of Ridley Creek, Pennsylvania. Project restored 1 acre of wetland, forest edge and meadow habitat.

\$20,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

Delaware Bay Shorebirds Stewards (NJ) (2006)

Train community members to steward nine Delaware Bay beaches in New Jersey, assuring resting and foraging sites for migratory shorebirds. Project conducted shorebird surveys and installation of gull-exclusion devices.

\$35,000

Ducks Unlimited

Cohansey Emergent Wetlands Management (NJ) (2005)

Restore 15 acres of wetlands and establish a surrounding 26-acre grassland in Greenwich, New Jersey. Project increased wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other bird species.

\$10,434

Fairmount Park Commission

Cliffs Ruins Bird Habitat Restoration (PA) (2005)

Restore 15 acres of meadow, wetland and successional woodland with the help of volunteers in Philadelphia. Project created suitable habitat for neotropical migrant songbirds.

\$34,900

Friends of the Heinz Refuge at Tinicum

Restoring Ecological Integrity to the Lower Darby (PA) (2004)

Develop a restoration plan for the Lower Darby Creek Watershed in Pennsylvania. The plan addressed improving water quality, enhancing habitat for migratory birds, spawning fish and other wildlife, and increasing cooperation among stakeholders.

\$24,310

Integrated Vegetation Management Partners

Delaware Estuary Phragmites Control Partnership (DE) (2003)

Coordinate eradication of Phragmites on 300 acres of tidal wetlands in New Castle County, Delaware. Treatments demonstrated an integrated vegetation management approach on industrial, state and municipal lands.

\$25,000

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Corporate Environmental Stewardship Program (DE) (2003)

Work with employees of participating businesses in Delaware to implement three restoration projects on corporate lands that collectively restore 20 acres of habitat.

\$16,291

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Cobbs Creek Wetlands Restoration Project (PA) (2004)

Use the Cobbs Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan to evaluate sites for potential wetland-creation opportunities in Pennsylvania.

\$10,000

Pennsylvania Resources Council

Ridley Creek Wetland Restoration Project (PA) (2004)

Install a native plant buffer to act as a biofiltration system between an equestrian facility and a pond and wetland that serve as headwaters to a Ridley Creek tributary in Pennsylvania.

\$5,000

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

Kentucky Warbler Habitat Enhancement Project (PA) (2004)

Restore breeding habitat for Kentucky warbler in Pennsylvania. Project controlled invasive species, planted seeds and shrubs, and enhanced 2,000 feet of riparian buffer.

\$17,860

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

Habitat Restoration for Pennsylvania Birds (2007)

Restore 10 acres of forest and riparian habitat in Pennsylvania. Project conducted invasive vegetation and earthworm control along with other forest enhancement.

\$15,530

The Nature Conservancy

Habitat Restoration at Milford Neck (DE) (2007)

Project restored 36 acres as part of efforts to fully restore the wetland and upland forest at the Milford Neck Nature Preserve, located in the coastal zone of Delaware Bay.

\$25,050

WESTERN BIG GAME SEASONAL HABITAT AND MIGRATION CORRIDORS FUND

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Restoring Pronghorn Habitat by Removing Juniper (AZ) (2021)

Remove encroaching juniper and pinyon pine trees from historic grassland areas to restore habitat for mule deer, pronghorn and elk. Project restored and improved management on 9,119 acres that serve as a critical ungulate migration link between winter and summer grounds.

\$220,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Increasing Connectivity at the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area through Post-Fire Restoration (CA) (2022)

Restore the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area in California, a prioritized mule deer winter range habitat burned by wildfires. Project is controlling invasive species and planting bitterbrush, forbs and native grasses to restore 180 acres as part of post-fire rehabilitation efforts.

\$165,027

Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District

Improving Grasslands and Fences to Restore Habitat Connectivity for Pronghorn (NM) (2021)

Restore grassland habitat quality and connectivity in Eddy County, New Mexico by reducing barriers to pronghorn movement and treating invasive mesquite and creosote. Project controlled invasives species on 6,766 acres and removed or modified 8 miles of fencing.

\$378,603

Conservation Northwest

Using Virtual Fence Technology to Enhance Big Game Habitat through Improved Grazing Management (WA) (2022)

Improve grazing management with virtual fence technology to enhance big game habitat in the Columbia Plateau Mule Deer Management Zone in Washington. Project is improving management on 36,400 acres of shrub-steppe habitat for mule deer, pronghorn and greater sage-grouse.

\$192,110

Deschutes Land Trust

Conserving the Aspen Valley Ranch and Pitchfork T Properties to Benefit Big Game (OR) (2023)

Conserve the Aspen Valley Ranch and Pitchfork T properties in Oregon to preserve habitat for pronghorn, elk and mule deer. Project plans include placing 4,000 acres under conservation easements.

\$50,199

Jackson Hole Land Trust

Enhancing Mule Deer Habitat Connectivity through a Conservation Easement in Wyoming (2019)

Permanently protect habitat and landscape connectivity between the Upper Green River Basin and the Gros Ventre and Wyoming Mountain ranges in Wyoming. Project purchased a conservation easement to preserve 280 acres of migration corridor and stopover habitat for the Sublette mule deer herd.

\$100,000

Jackson Hole Land Trust

Protecting Big Game Migration Habitat with the Middle Piney & Lead Creek Conservation Easements (WY) (2022)

Protect key migration habitat in Wyoming to benefit the Sublette County and Wyoming Range mule deer herds and enhance landscape connectivity in the Upper Green River Basin for elk, moose and pronghorn. Project plans include preserving 980 acres of private working lands through conservation easement.

\$97,775

Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Protecting Migration Habitat via a Fee Title Transfer to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation (OR) (2024)

Protect vital winter range for mule deer and elk on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains in north-central Oregon. Project plans include transfer of 300 acres of high-priority winter range to the Confederated Tribe of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

\$199,998

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Protecting Sagebrush Habitat for Migratory Species in Nevada through a Conservation Easement (2019)

Purchase a conservation easement on 2,151 acres of private rangeland along the base of the Ruby Mountains in northern Nevada. Project protected habitat along a critical migratory corridor for the largest population of mule deer in Nevada and habitat for pronghorn, elk and other species.

\$150,000

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Conserving Ungulate Wintering Habitat with a Conservation Easement on Buffalo Horn Ranch (CO) (2020)

Protect 11,752 acres of ungulate winter range habitat on the Buffalo Horn Ranch in northwestern Colorado. Project secured habitat connectivity across public and private lands, with benefits for mule deer and elk.

\$100,000

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Protecting Migration Corridors via the Wolf Mountain VII Conservation Easement (CO) (2024)

Protect aspen woodlands, sagebrush, and riparian habitat, as well as a migration corridor and pathway for two of Colorado’s largest migratory ungulate herds. Project plans include purchase of a conservation easement on 1,634 acres, with benefits for mule deer, elk and greater sage-grouse.

\$100,000

The Trust for Public Land

Conserving Habitat Connectivity in Kootenai Forestlands with a Permanent Conservation Easement (MT) (2020)

Purchase a conservation easement on 11,940 acres of highly productive timberland in Lincoln County, Montana. Project protected habitat and landscape-scale connections for big game, public access to outdoor recreation and clean drinking water for nearby communities.

\$300,000

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Improving Migration Corridors and Winter Range for Priority Mule Deer Herds (WY) (2023)

Improve forage quality and connectivity between seasonal ranges in Wyoming for mule deer and other wildlife. Project is improving 25.4 miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly standards and restoring 8,826 acres of rangeland and riparian habitat.

\$732,500

PECOS WATERSHED CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Big Bend Soil and Water Conservation District

Native Grassland Restoration to Benefit Pronghorn and Grassland Bird Species (TX) (2023)

Restore 1,500 acres of native grassland habitat for use by pronghorn and migratory grassland birds in Brewster and Jeff Davis counties in Texas. Project is controlling invasive brush species and modifying fencing to include pronghorn-friendly design.

\$250,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Regional Surveying for Grassland Bird Communities in the Trans-Pecos (TX) (2021)

Conduct monitoring to further understand the nonbreeding ecology of grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert of Texas. Project is installing a new automated telemetry (Motus) site and tracking movement and survival of tagged birds to inform on-the-ground range management.

\$236,000

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Implementing a Monitoring Program for Wintering Grassland Birds in the Chihuahuan Desert (NM, TX) (2023)

Survey wintering grassland birds including Sprague’s pipits and chestnut-collared longspurs in the Chihuahuan Desert. Project is estimating the density of wintering grassland birds to provide baseline numbers that inform on-the-ground habitat management.

\$300,000

Pronghorn





CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District

Vegetative Restoration of Blue Springs (NM) (2021)

Remove salt cedar, Russian olive trees, and mesquite from riparian zones and uplands at Blue Springs in Eddy County, New Mexico. Project controlled invasive species on 202 acres to enhance soil, water, vegetation, and wildlife habitat.

\$207,501

National Wildlife Refuge Association

Watershed Restoration on Bitter Lake NWR (NM) (2024)

Remove invasive salt cedar from 1,681 acres on Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent Bureau of Land Management property in New Mexico. Project is expected to increase flow of springs that feed into Bitter Creek.

\$482,075

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Fence Management to Improve Habitat (NM) (2022)

Modify, remove and install 40 miles of fence on 27 Wildlife Management Areas in New Mexico. Project is increasing connectivity, improving grazing management and improving habitat for grassland wildlife.

\$195,000

North Carolina State University

Assessment of the Rio Grande Cooter Population (NM) (2022)

Conduct high trap intensity Rio Grande cooter surveys along the Delaware River and compare findings to capture data on the Black River in New Mexico. Project is enhancing knowledge of species occupancy, distribution and habitat preferences to inform sound management practices.

\$88,808

Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas

Northern Hudspeth County Grassland Restoration (TX) (2021)

Conduct herbicide application to restore 7,925 acres of brush-invaded dry mixed prairie in northern Hudspeth County, Texas. Project is controlling creosote and mesquite to expand habitat for grassland species, such as chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague’s pipit and pronghorn.

\$250,000

Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas

Northern Hudspeth County Grassland Restoration (TX) (2022)

Conduct herbicide application to restore 8,128 acres of brush-invaded dry mixed prairie in northern Hudspeth County, Texas. Project is controlling creosote and mesquite to expand habitat for grassland species, such as chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague’s pipit and pronghorn.

\$250,000

Toyah Limpia Soil and Water Conservation District

Central Trans Pecos Native Grassland Restoration and Management (TX) (2022)

Restore Chihuahan native grasslands on private land in Reeves, Jeff Davis, Culberson and Pecos counties, Texas. Project is improving 1,270 acres of habitat for migratory birds and pronghorn by controlling encroaching woody species like mesquite, tarbrush, whitebrush, acacia and creosote.

\$195,000

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Stimac (cover, northern pintail; p. 2, spectacled eiders), Tony Bynum (p. 3, mule deer), Kevin League (p. 12, pronghorn), Sonder Selvig (p. 14, thick-billed longspur), Edward Myles, Minden Pictures (p. 16, mottled ducks), Donald M. Jones, Minden Pictures (p. 23, chestnut-collared longspur), Brad Hacker (p. 39, Sprague's pipit), Yva Momiatiuk and John Eastcott, Minden Pictures (back cover, whooping crane). All other images by Getty Images, NFWF grantees and NFWF staff.



Greater
sage-grouse



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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ON THE FRONT COVER

Northern pintail

ON THE BACK COVER

Whooping crane