

# NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



NFWF



# NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together.



Rocky Mountain elk  
in Montana

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Built to Last**  
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Pronghorn  
in Montana

# Born in a Time of Change, Built to Last

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) was created by Congress in 1984, amidst a dramatic political shift in the United States. Ronald Reagan had won a decisive victory over Jimmy Carter in the 1980 presidential election, ushering in a new era of conservative leadership. For the first time since 1954, Republicans held the Senate majority.

Yes, the '80s were the age of Spielberg blockbusters, Atari consoles and neon everything — but they were also marked by an unwavering push to trim government spending and bolster national defense. These were, after all, very pivotal years in Cold War history.

It was during this crucial time that a bold, bipartisan coalition in Congress came together with a visionary idea to create a foundation that could protect America's awe-inspiring wildlife and wild places, regardless of the political winds in Washington.

Since day one, NFWF's mission to use federal funds as a catalyst to spark private-sector investment in conservation has been clear. Operating as an independent, private nonprofit organization, NFWF serves as a trusted, nonpartisan leader for conservation initiatives. Efficiency, competitive grant-making and measurable impacts serve as guiding principles. NFWF does not fund advocacy or environmental litigation — NFWF's focus was, and remains, boots-on-the-ground work.

Over the past four decades, NFWF has stayed true to that mission. By earning the trust and support of some of the nation's leading corporations and collaborating with every administration since 1984, **NFWF has been able to raise nearly \$1 billion in private conservation dollars.** The result? A legacy of trust, innovation and tangible results for America's fish, wildlife and wild places.

## A NATION UNITED FOR NATURE

In fiscal year 2024, NFWF once again stood at the heart of America's conservation movement, serving in an irreplaceable role and driving bold, on-the-ground action furthering the legacy we all share. The Foundation awarded grants to nearly 1,000 conservation initiatives across the United States.

Thanks to these projects, iconic wildlife across the country continues to thrive. Majestic elk, mule deer and pronghorn will continue to migrate freely between their seasonal ranges in the West. Migratory songbirds will find healthy stopovers and nesting grounds as they journey across the country. Grassland birds will continue their fascinating courtship rituals throughout the Great Plains. And native fish — including trout, salmon, shad



**JENNIFER MULL NEUHAUS**  
CHAIR, NFWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

and river herring — will move through stream systems, providing life-sustaining nutrients for forests, wildlife and people alike.

But none of this would be possible without a powerful network of conservation nonprofits, local governments, Tribal Nations, farmers, ranchers, timberland owners and business leaders who form the backbone of this work. Their passion, expertise and commitment are what turn ideas into results.

We are also deeply grateful for the support of our federal agency partners, other public-sector partners (p. 36-39), corporate allies (p. 31-35), philanthropic foundations (p. 41-43) and individual donors (p. 45-46), whose investments make our mission possible.

On behalf of the thousands of communities that have benefited from NFWF's conservation investments and the remarkable assortment of American wildlife this work helps sustain, we extend our deepest thanks. Together, we are shaping a future where nature and people thrive.

**JENNIFER MULL NEUHAUS**  
CHAIR, NFWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together.

Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. NFWF works with the public and private sectors to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations.

Since its founding, NFWF has supported more than 7,000 grantee organizations and funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than \$11.3 billion.

A private, independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, NFWF is governed by a 30-member Board of Directors appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Foundation uses public funding as a springboard to build new partnerships with corporations, philanthropic foundations and individual donors to fund conservation projects based on sound science and designed to produce measurable results. NFWF supports projects that draw willing participation by landowners, community leaders and natural resource managers across the nation.

NFWF's staff provides unrivaled expertise in the implementation of competitive grant programs, maximization of conservation returns on philanthropic investments, and analysis of results on the ground.

The Foundation does not fund advocacy or litigation, and does not conduct membership campaigns. Instead, NFWF remains sharply focused on building public-private partnerships that support highly vetted conservation projects.



Rainbow shiners  
in Alabama



FISCAL YEAR 2024

**\$1.4 BILLION**

**TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT**  
NFWF's conservation investments and grantee match in fiscal year 2024

**\$761 MILLION INVESTED BY NFWF**  
The Foundation awarded \$630 million in federal funds and \$88 million in private contributions. NFWF also awarded \$43 million in Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts funds, including \$16.5 million from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

**\$597.2 MILLION IN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS**  
Investments made by our grantees

**982 PROJECTS**  
Across all states and U.S. territories

1984–2024

**\$11.3 BILLION**

**TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT**  
NFWF's investments and grantee match, from 1984 through the end of fiscal year 2024

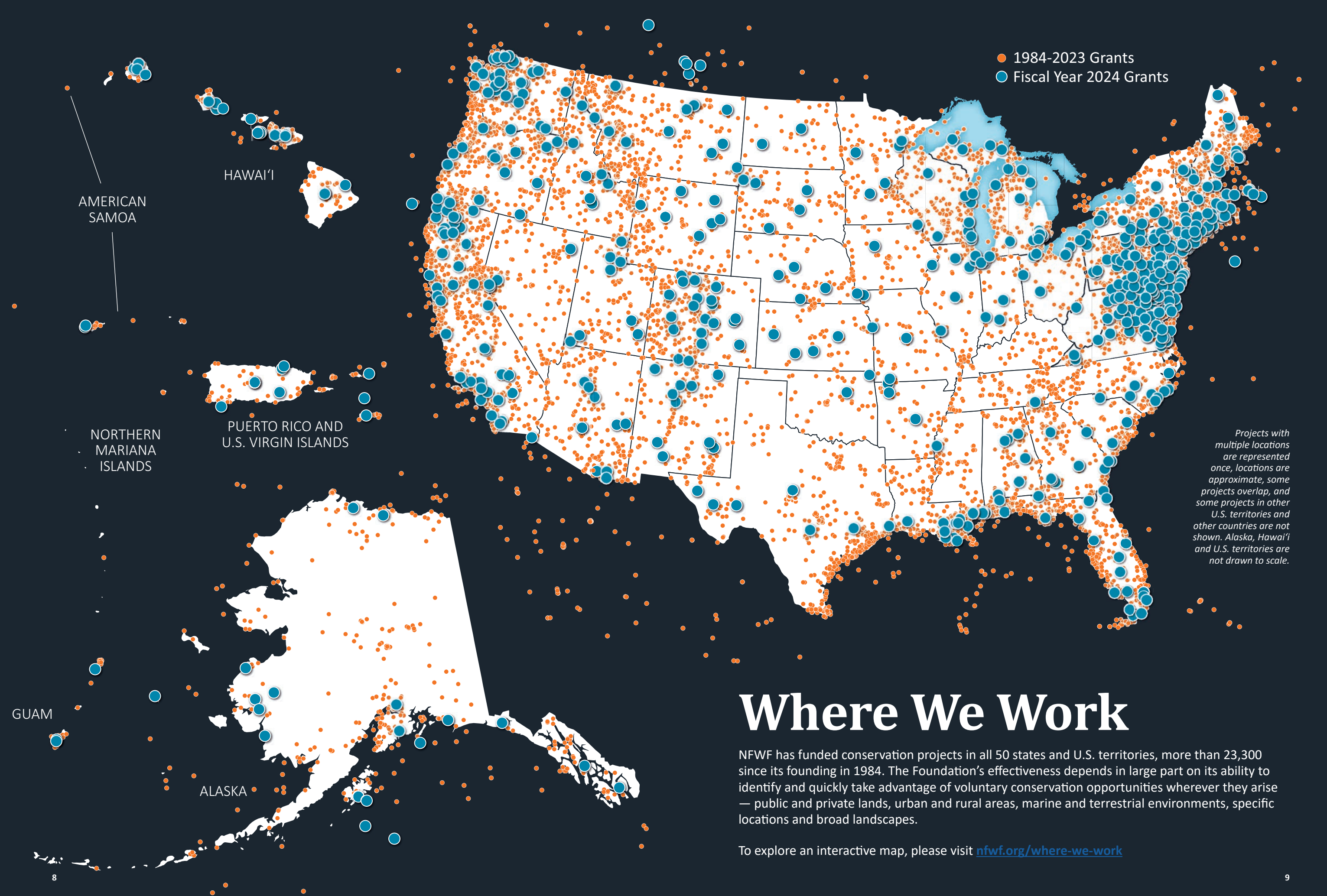
**23,300+**

Projects funded throughout all states and U.S. territories

**7,000+**

Grantee organizations funded throughout all states and U.S. territories

Moose  
in Wyoming



# CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

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Gray foxes, like this one in California, have rotating wrists and semi-retractable claws. They are one of only a few canine species that can climb trees.



Brook trout in an Appalachian stream

# Reconnecting streams in the Appalachian Mountains

Think about brook trout as an Appalachian early warning system: If they're not where they're supposed to be, something's wrong. Too much silt has washed into their stream, covering gravelly spawning grounds. An old, failing road culvert has blocked their ability to move around a given stream system. Healthy stream-side forests have disappeared, along with their essential shading, filtering and water-slowng functions.

Fortunately, many of these watershed ills can be remedied. But keeping Appalachian streams clean, cold and connected for brook trout requires tough, gritty and sometimes expensive work. Throughout 2024, NFWF continued to fund such vital projects through conservation programs and funding partnerships focused on central Appalachia and the upper reaches of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Many grants focused on brook trout strongholds in small rural communities that couldn't afford to tackle

such projects on their own, but will still reap the benefits of cleaner drinking water, modernized road-stream crossings, tourist dollars from fly-fishing aficionados and, of course, top-notch fishing right down the road.

Throughout Appalachia, work crews funded by NFWF grants are now putting boots on the ground, and waders in the water, to restore trout habitat in places like Deer Lick Hollow and Hammer Creek in Pennsylvania, Halfmoon Run and Lost River in West Virginia, Savage River and Double Pipe Creek in Maryland, and Quassaick Creek and Cohocton River in New York.

One 2024 grant of \$936,800 to Trout Unlimited enabled the nonprofit to reconnect brook trout strongholds in central Pennsylvania by replacing failing, undersized culverts and reducing sediment pollution. Crews also strategically placed large woody structures into streams to slow the flow of water, fight erosion and establish deeper pools into which trout can retreat during summer heat or winter freezes.

**CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS:** ALTRIA GROUP, CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM, CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

## 2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS: NFWF'S NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia

Golden-winged warbler in Pennsylvania



**RESTORING DYNAMIC FOREST STRUCTURE FOR SONGBIRDS:** NFWF supports efforts to improve the structural diversity of forests to sustain long-term forest health and benefit sparrows, thrushes, vireos, warblers and other songbirds.

Spawning horseshoe crabs in New Jersey



**BOLSTERING VITAL SHORELINE HABITATS:** Multiple national and regional programs support conservation and restoration of coastal habitats crucial to wildlife, as well as the livelihoods and quality of life of tens of millions of people who live in Northeastern coastal states.

Striped bass and blue crab in the Chesapeake Bay



**IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY:** NFWF's long-running *Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund* helps nonprofits, government agencies, farmers and other private landowners decrease pollution entering the Bay's watershed and improve wildlife habitat.

Moose calves in Maine



**CONSERVING WORKING WOODLANDS IN MAINE:** In 2024, NFWF awarded \$1 million to The Trust for Public Land to conserve more than 31,000 acres of forestland in the Katahdin Region of Maine, enhancing local outdoor recreation opportunities and boosting local economies.

# 2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS: NFWF'S SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi,  
North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas



**BOOSTING QUAIL NUMBERS:** Over \$12.4 million in grants supported projects with northern bobwhite as a noted beneficiary. Grantees are supporting farmers, timber-owning families and other private-sector stakeholders working to reverse declines in quail populations.



**PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN STREAMS:** NFWF's *Southeast Aquatics Fund* supports the health of Southern streams and the incredible array of aquatic wildlife found within, from darters and stonerollers to Black Warrior waterdogs and freshwater mussels.



**RESTORING BEACHES AND DUNES IN THE SOUTHEAST:** NFWF's regional and national programs fund efforts to conserve and enhance beaches, dune systems and barrier islands along the Southeastern coast. NFWF funds projects that benefit both coastal wildlife and communities.



**SUPPORTING LOWER MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY:** NFWF awarded nearly \$2.6 million to grantees working to restore habitats in this region and support wildlife such as Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbit, cerulean warbler, green-winged teal, wood duck and mallard.



## Advancing forestry practices to support Southern wildlife

To unfamiliar visitors, the longleaf pine forests of the South might seem stately and beautiful ... but quiet, at times seemingly devoid of wildlife. Nothing could be further from the truth — you just need to know where to look, and have patience.

The remaining fragments of these once-immense forests hold some of the greatest plant and animal biodiversity in the United States. Warblers, vireos, bluebirds, sparrows, hawks, kites and many more types of birds either live there or move through on annual migrations. White-tailed deer, wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail and black bears all call it home. So do lesser-known species that have evolved to flourish in these fire-dependent forests. Gopher tortoises, eastern indigo snakes and flatwoods salamanders are just a few of the reptiles and amphibians that can be found. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are longleaf specialists, but they share the wealth of insect life with pileated, red-bellied, red-headed, hairy and downy woodpeckers.

For decades, NFWF has supported efforts across this mostly privately owned landscape to conserve existing stands of longleaf, advance forestry practices such as controlled burning and forest thinning, and replant seedlings where opportunities arise. Longleaf conservation exemplifies a sweet-spot for the Foundation, with a focus on voluntary, public-private partnerships. Work unfolds with enthusiastic partners across private and public lands, from family-owned timberlands to military installations, state parks, national forests and federal wildlife refuges.

In 2024, NFWF awarded \$33.5 million in grants through its *Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund*. Grants supported the crucial work of stalwart conservation nonprofits such as The Longleaf Alliance, The Nature Conservancy and Pheasants Forever, as well as state agencies and forestry stakeholders such as the Forest Landowners Association, American Forest Foundation and Tall Timbers Research.

**CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS:** ALTRIA GROUP, BEZOS EARTH FUND, ENERGY TRANSFER, INTERNATIONAL PAPER, ORTON FOUNDATION, SOUTHERN COMPANY, WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



Black skimmer  
catching fish along  
Florida's Gulf Coast

# Helping birds of the Gulf Coast bounce back after an oil spill

Sit long enough on one of the beautiful beaches of Florida's Gulf Coast and you're likely to see a black skimmer gliding above the glassy water, its lower bill slicing the surface. The instant that lower bill strikes a fish, the skimmer dips its head, snaps its bill closed and flies off with a meal.

You might also enjoy the amusing spectacle of tiny, mottled-white shorebirds — most likely piping, snowy or Wilson's plovers — skittering along the shore.

The natural beauty and bounty of Florida's Gulf Coast offer delicious seafood, endless fun and a treasured way of life for hundreds of communities, large and small. These coastal destinations also draw millions of nature-loving visitors, including birders, from around the world.

In the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, NFWF has worked closely with state officials, federal agencies and conservation nonprofits to guide the use of more than \$2.5 billion that was directed to the Foundation under plea agreements related to the spill. Since its inception in 2013, NFWF's *Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF)* has awarded more than 90 percent of those restoration funds to projects in the Gulf States

that benefit wildlife affected by the disaster.

The GEBF's 2024 slate of awards continued to provide much-needed support to wildlife along the Gulf Coast, including Florida's wondrous collection of coastal birds. The fund awarded nearly \$15 million to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Audubon Florida to increase populations of beach-nesting birds. The fund awarded another \$5.3 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore nesting habitat for wading birds on Sanibel Island.

Such efforts funded through the GEBF in Florida have produced consistent population growth for black skimmers and least terns since 2011, with statewide counts increasing by 50 percent to 60 percent over 10 years of monitoring. These results suggest a significant rebound in the populations of the imperiled coastal bird species. Similar efforts supported by NFWF and other partners across the Gulf Coast build upon these important conservation outcomes.

Such investments will help black skimmers, plovers, terns, egrets, herons, pelicans and other birds continue their long recovery in the aftermath of one of the worst ecological disasters in the history of the United States.

## 2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS: GULF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT FUND

In 2013, a U.S. District Court entrusted NFWF to direct \$2.544 billion to fund projects benefiting natural resources of the Gulf Coast that were impacted by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill.



Red drum along  
the Gulf Coast

**ALABAMA:** The GEBF has completed the full obligation of \$356 million to projects in south Alabama. Project work continued throughout 2024, including large-scale efforts to stabilize shorelines and restore intertidal marshes that benefit sport fish, birds and coastal communities.



Pintails and  
roseate spoonbill  
in Louisiana

**LOUISIANA:** The GEBF has awarded over \$1.27 billion to projects in Louisiana. Massive projects continue to unfold, including the restoration of barrier islands that not only benefit wildlife, but also serve as a first line of defense against storms for communities and energy infrastructure.



Great blue  
herons in  
Mississippi

**MISSISSIPPI:** The GEBF has awarded over \$211 million in the state, fueling once-in-a-lifetime projects to conserve vital coastal habitats and improve ecological function for generations to come. One project conserved more than 14,000 acres along the Wolf River and its headwaters.



Kemp's ridley  
sea turtle in Texas

**TEXAS:** The GEBF has awarded \$203.5 million to projects that have conserved large, intact coastal habitats, opening many for public use. Other projects restored eroding beaches in McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge and elsewhere that serve as vital nesting sites for sea turtles.

## 2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS: NFWF'S CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin



Smallmouth bass  
in the Great Lakes



Wild turkey  
in Kansas

**IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND HABITATS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION:** NFWF awarded \$13.8 million in 2024 through its *Sustain Our Great Lakes* program, leveraging \$12.1 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$25.9 million.

**HELPING FARMERS ACHIEVE CONSERVATION GOALS:** NFWF expanded conservation investments in Midwestern states where agricultural producers play leading roles in efforts to improve wildlife habitats, conserve native grasslands and adopt farming practices beneficial to wildlife.



Monarch  
butterfly  
in Iowa



Lake sturgeon  
in the Great Lakes

**SUPPORTING POLLINATORS:** NFWF awarded \$5.2 million through its *Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund*. Though projects unfolded across the nation, many focused on Midwest farming communities where beneficial insects serve a critical role in crop production.

**RESTORING AQUATIC CONNECTIVITY:** NFWF grants awarded in 2024 helped ensure that brook trout, lake sturgeon and other native species of fish in the Midwest can move freely between streams, ponds and lakes to complete their life cycles.

Western meadowlark  
and sharp-tailed grouse  
in North Dakota



# Rallying partners for wildlife in the Northern Great Plains

Visitors to the Northern Great Plains are often surprised by what they see. Herds of elk, pronghorn, mule deer and bison still roam the great open spaces, offering glimpses of the continent's prehistoric past. Strutting grassland birds perform elaborate courtship rituals that play out not in tree branches, but on "lekking grounds" nestled in the rolling grasslands.

The place certainly left an impression on Theodore Roosevelt, an iconic figure in American conservation who spent formative years on his cattle ranch in North Dakota. "It was here that the romance of my life began," Roosevelt once said. "... I have always said I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota."

Cattle ranching and other agricultural pursuits still play a defining role in North Dakota and South Dakota, as well as the neighboring states of Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming that together encompass much of the Northern Great Plains.

Conservation success in the Northern Great Plains hinges on finding — and funding — win-win projects that generate measurable results for wildlife while earning enthusiastic support from local landowners, many of whom share Roosevelt's deep connection to wildlife and appreciation of the natural beauty of America's vast grasslands.

In 2024, NFWF leveraged multiple conservation programs to invest more than \$30 million in landscape-scale projects across the Northern Great Plains. This critical work drew support from a range of funding partners, from federal agencies to energy companies, major food producers and distributors, and philanthropic foundations.

The grants included \$2.5 million to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to enhance, restore and sustain native grasslands. Such projects will help ensure that wildlife and rural communities continue to thrive in a bedrock region of American conservation.

**CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS:** BEZOS EARTH FUND, BURGER KING, CAPRI HOLDINGS, CARGILL, MARATHON OIL, MARGARET A. CARGILL PHILANTHROPIES, NATIVE AMERICANS IN PHILANTHROPY, NESTLÉ, OCCIDENTAL, SYSCO, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



Mule deer  
in Colorado

# Helping Western stakeholders sustain migrations of big game

To survive the seasonal weather extremes of the American West, big-game species such as mule deer, elk and pronghorn must migrate between summer and winter ranges. Time-worn migration paths, some hundreds of miles long with dramatic changes in elevation, take free-roaming herds across a patchwork of land ownership — private ranches, public government lands, Tribal lands and ever-growing suburbs.

The need to identify and conserve these critical migration pathways and seasonal ranges has never been more important.

In 2024, NFWF continued to invest in efforts to support these iconic and economically vital big-game species. The Foundation's *Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund* awarded 10 new grants totaling \$3 million to help restore habitat and improve migration corridors across seven Western states. The 10 awards leveraged \$8.8 million in matching contributions, generating a total conservation

impact of \$11.8 million.

A grant of \$961,300 awarded to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department focused on restoring migration corridors for the Bates Hole, Dubois and Platte Valley mule deer herds. This crucial funding will enable state resource managers to combat invasive weeds across 13,530 acres, modify 46 miles of fences to make them more wildlife-friendly, and restore 150 acres of habitat.

Another grant of \$275,000 awarded to the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance in Montana will improve 18 miles of fencing and restore 1,000 acres of grassland for added natural habitat.

In Colorado, the Mule Deer Foundation will leverage a NFWF grant of \$100,000 to improve 1,630 acres of migration corridors for elk and winter range for mule deer.

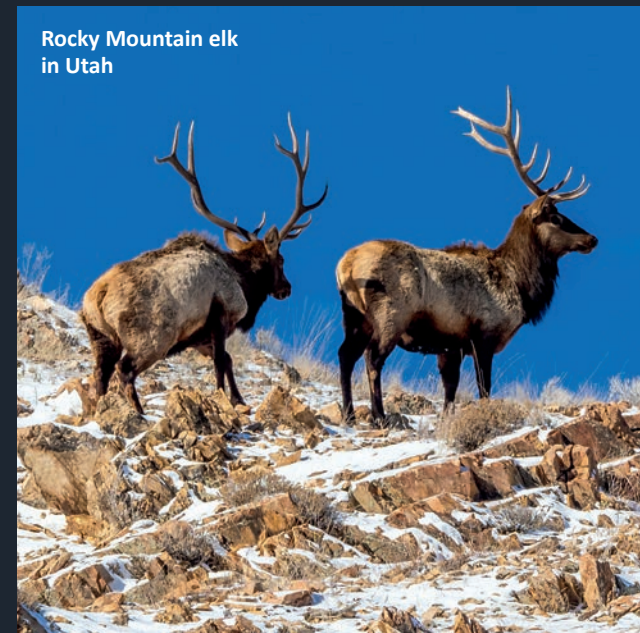
These and other such projects will ensure that the nation's herds of elk, mule deer and pronghorn will continue to flourish across the magnificent landscapes of the West.

**CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS:** CONOCOPHILLIPS, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

## 2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS: NFWF'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming

Rocky Mountain elk  
in Utah



**CONSERVING WORKING LANDS IN UTAH:** Sustaining habitats on ranches that support big game, grassland birds and other wildlife remains a high conservation priority for NFWF. One of many 2024 grants focused on working lands helped conserve habitat on a 4,292-acre ranch in Utah.

Cutthroat trout  
in Colorado



**BOOSTING COLORADO'S ICONIC FISH SPECIES:** NFWF's grantees worked throughout Colorado in 2024 to restore natural river channels, reduce excess sediment, revitalize spawning habitat and support voluntary efforts by farmers and ranchers to conserve water.

Pronghorn  
in New Mexico



**WORKING WITH CORPORATE PARTNERS IN THE PECOS WATERSHED:** Working with energy companies and other funding partners, NFWF has awarded \$12 million — nearly \$3.5 million in 2024 alone — to 59 projects to conserve wildlife along the Pecos River in New Mexico and Texas.

Grizzly bear in the  
Rocky Mountains



**REDUCING CARNIVORE CONFLICTS:** NFWF supports the conservation of big cats, bears, wolverines and other carnivorous wildlife. One 2024 grant awarded to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks empowers landowners to adopt non-lethal techniques to prevent carnivore conflicts.

## 2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS: NFWF'S WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Alaska, California, Hawai'i, Nevada, Oregon and Washington



Kelp greenling  
in Alaska



Crested honeycreeper  
in Hawai'i

**ALASKA:** Grants awarded in 2024 to projects in Alaska included population assessments and habitat improvements for shorebirds and salmon, support of voluntary innovations to reduce fisheries bycatch, improved management of kelp forests, and shellfish seeding in coastal waters.

**HAWAI'I:** Grants awarded to projects in Hawai'i supported efforts to prevent the extinctions of forest birds, expand the capacity of land-based coral nurseries, and protect critical nesting sites for petrels, shearwaters and other seabirds.



Roosevelt elk  
in Oregon



Chinook salmon  
in Washington

**OREGON:** NFWF grantees are working in Oregon and other areas of the Pacific Northwest to improve migration corridors for elk and deer, elevate streamflows for trout and salmon, and help Tribal Nations improve the management of natural resources.

**WASHINGTON:** Many grants awarded here focus on Chinook salmon, steelhead and other ecologically and economically important fish. Grantees worked with Tribes, ranchers and other stakeholders to conserve water and restore habitats along spawning migration routes.



Anna's hummingbird  
gathering lichen for her nest  
in Southern California

# Restoring headwater forests for people and wildlife

Urgent conservation work can be challenging, no matter where it is needed. You've got to find funding, the right partners and projects, and the right balance of benefits to wildlife and people.

This is certainly the case in California, a state rich in wildlife and people, forests and farms, highways and rivers, vast wilderness and enormous metropolitan areas. The stakes are high, especially considering that much of the state's forested landscapes are naturally prone to wildfire, moreso in the modern world.

Partnering in 2024 with the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service, NFWF announced \$53 million in grants through its *California Forests and Watersheds Program*. Projects funded through this and other NFWF programs will help dramatically increase the pace and scale of wildfire-resilience work in California.

Grantees are thinning forest understories and removing excess fuels so future wildfires won't move quite as fast and burn quite as hot. They are replacing

flammable, invasive grasses with native species more resistant to wildfire. They are reforesting wildfire scars and collecting native seeds for future restoration efforts. They are collaborating closely with state and federal forest managers, private landowners, Tribal authorities, and other conservation nonprofits.

One grant of more than \$9.8 million will enable the Mid Klamath Watershed Council to boost restoration across 1.2 million acres in the Western Klamath watershed, a critical habitat for endangered coho salmon that was damaged by wildfire. This landscape-scale project will increase prescribed fire and forest thinning to protect people and recover fish and wildlife.

Another grant of \$6.1 million to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy will reinforce and accelerate wildfire-resilience efforts already underway in the Angeles National Forest, where wildlife and combustible vegetation mix tightly with 18.4 million people in the Greater Los Angeles area.

**CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS:** ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION, CAL FIRE, LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER, SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE



Spruce grouse  
in Michigan

# Opening public access in Michigan's working forests

The *Acres for America* program stands today as the leading public-private land conservation partnership in the United States. The program began in 2005, when Walmart and NFWF joined forces to establish *Acres for America* as a groundbreaking effort to support and catalyze the conservation of lands and wildlife habitat of national significance, and to benefit local communities and economies. The program has far surpassed its original goal to permanently conserve an acre of wildlife habitat for every acre of land developed by Walmart stores.

To date, the 126 projects supported through the program have conserved 2 million acres and created incredible new opportunities for the public to hunt, fish, hike, camp and otherwise enjoy some of the nation's most beautiful and bountiful landscapes.

One "Acres" grant of \$1 million awarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2024 serves as a prime example of how conservation projects can generate cascading benefits to wildlife, communities, local industries and regional economies.

This grant, one of 18 totaling \$11.7 million awarded in the 2024 fiscal year, helped conserve 73,000 acres of working forests, remote lakes and trout streams in Michigan's famed Upper Peninsula. The easement will conserve 37 miles of rivers, 220 miles of perennial streams, 96 lakes and ponds, and more than 13,600 acres of wetlands.

These habitats support an incredible assortment of wildlife, from moose, black bears and grouse to fish such as northern pike, bass and trophy "coaster" brook trout highly prized by anglers. Once complete, the project will have opened public recreational access to all of these natural resources, while at the same time ensuring that sustainable timber harvests can continue for generations to come.

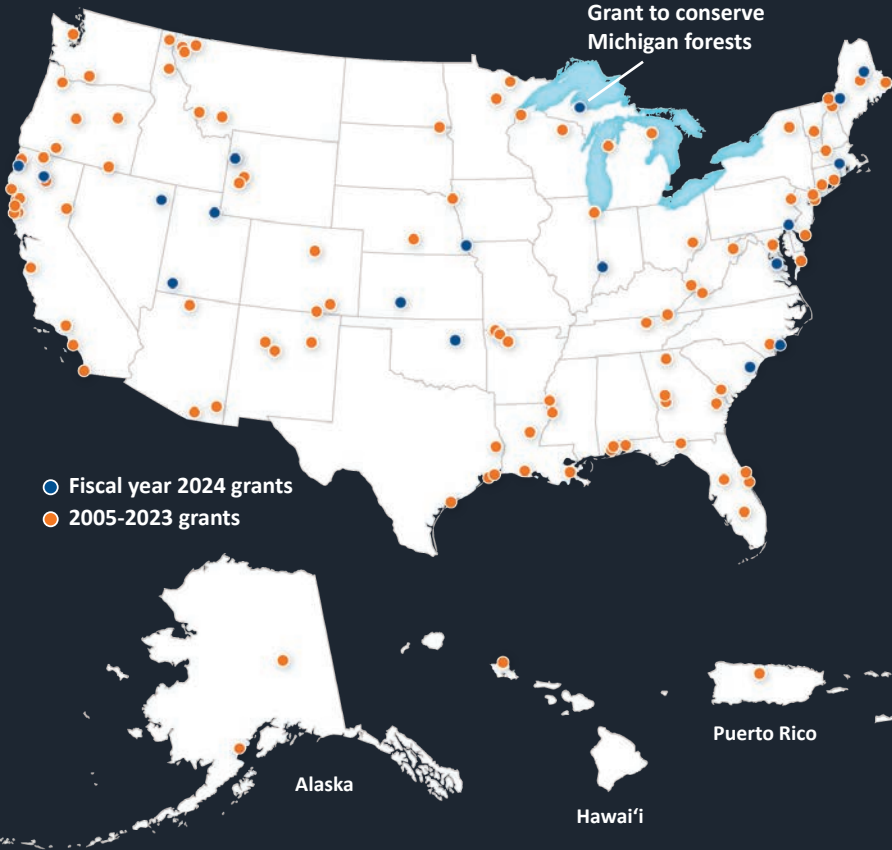
In November 2024, NFWF and Walmart announced a 10-year renewal to continue this exceptional program's work for another decade. As the *Acres for America* program marks its 20th anniversary in 2025, both Walmart and NFWF look forward to supporting landscape-scale conservation efforts across the nation.



# Acres for America

Walmart and NFWF mark 20 years of conservation success

Over the past 20 years, *Acres for America* has proven to be a remarkable success. The program has far surpassed its original goal to permanently conserve 1 acre of wildlife habitat for every acre of land developed by Walmart stores. In November 2024, NFWF and Walmart announced a 10-year renewal to continue this exceptional program's work for another decade. To date, Walmart's *Acres for America* program has funded 126 projects across the nation.



**2 MILLION ACRES  
CONSERVED SINCE 1984**

**\$1.2 BILLION  
CONSERVATION IMPACT**

**126 PROJECTS  
FUNDED IN ALL 50 STATES**



Acres for America  
site in West Virginia

**HUNTING:** One project funded through *Acres for America* helped create the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in West Virginia. The former coal mining property has undergone restoration and is now open to the public for hunting and hosts a herd of reintroduced, protected elk.



Acres for America  
site in New Hampshire

**FISHING:** Another *Acres* project conserved pristine woods and prime brook trout waters in New Hampshire's White Mountains. The state has opened the property to the public for fishing, hunting and access to state-maintained snowmobile trails.

## 2024 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS: COASTAL AND MARINE CONSERVATION

NFWF's conservation investments along the nation's coasts  
and throughout U.S. marine waters



American  
oystercatcher  
in New York



Coral reef  
off Hawai'i

**RESTORING COASTAL HABITATS:** NFWF funded conservation projects all along the nation's coastlines in 2024, from bird-nesting beaches of New York to barrier islands of the Southeast, Florida's Biscayne Bay, oyster beds along the Gulf Coast and coastal marshes of the West Coast.

**INCREASING CAPACITY OF CORAL NURSERIES:** Grants supported the expansion of land-based coral nurseries in Hawai'i and Puerto Rico. Corals grown there will be out-planted at degraded or damaged reef sites. NFWF also supported coral out-planting efforts in Florida.



Green sea turtle  
off the East Coast

**IMPROVING RECOVERY OF COLD-STUNNED SEA TURTLES:** Sea turtles stunned by sudden cold weather can perish without help. NFWF funded efforts in Massachusetts, at the northern end of their migratory range, to increase rehabilitation capacity for turtles rescued along the coast.



Tarpon along  
the Gulf Coast

**CONSERVING MANGROVE NURSERIES FOR FLORIDA'S SPORT FISH:** NFWF supported efforts by the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust to restore more than 1,000 acres of vulnerable mangrove and marsh wetlands in Florida, critical habitats for that state's renowned sport fish populations.



Diamondback terrapin  
coming ashore to nest  
in the Mid-Atlantic

# Restoring healthy shorelines for wildlife and communities

Coastlines hold some of the nation's most productive habitats and greatest concentrations of wildlife — water birds of all shapes and sizes, marine mammals, crustaceans, marine reptiles and unimaginable numbers of fish.

The coasts are also home to about 40 percent of the nation's population, an estimated 130 million people, along with major metropolitan areas, industrial facilities and military installations.

NFWF's portfolio of coastal and marine investments grew in 2024 to unprecedented levels. Through just one of many programs focused on marine and coastal conservation, the *National Coastal Resilience Fund*, NFWF awarded 109 grants totaling more than \$144 million.

These investments were made with measurable results for wildlife as a guiding principle, but the benefits of healthy marshes and stable shorelines cascade well beyond wildlife conservation.

One grant of \$2.4 million to the Southern Maryland

Resource Conservation and Development Board will enable the organization to construct a living shoreline near Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

Erosion has been eating away at the shoreline, destroying valuable habitat for wildlife and threatening infrastructure at the station, where pilots test some of the nation's newest and most advanced jets, helicopters and drones.

The loss of gently sloping shorelines and grassy marsh areas is particularly onerous for diamondback terrapins, a small marine turtle that must climb ashore to nest in those marshes.

New offshore breakwaters created by this project will protect the valuable shoreline from boat wakes and intense wave action during storms that regularly pound the Mid-Atlantic states.

The project will also restore marsh habitat along nearly a mile of shoreline, restoring vital habitat not only for diamondback terrapins, but also shorebirds and other wildlife.

**CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS:** CHUBB CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, OCCIDENTAL, SHELL USA, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



2024

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

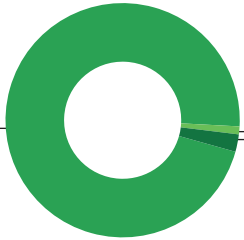
(in millions of dollars, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024)

	2024	2023
REVENUE, EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS		
Total Revenue and Support	\$544.7	\$432.6
Total Expenses	\$486.2	\$387.7
Change in Net Assets	\$58.5	\$44.8
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$331.5	\$286.7
Net Assets, end of year	\$390.0	\$331.5

USE OF FUNDS

\$486,207,845

Program/Mission 96.5%  
\$469,199,945



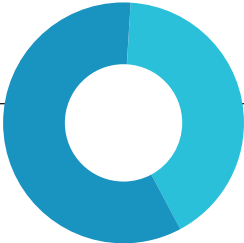
Fundraising 1.1%  
\$5,308,272

Management and General 2.4%  
\$11,699,628

TOTAL REVENUE

\$544,683,360

Nonfederal/Other 59%  
\$321,837,019



Federal 41%  
\$222,846,341

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in millions of dollars, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024)

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$2,953.0	\$2,569.8
Other Assets	\$104.9	\$98.8
Total Assets	\$3,057.9	\$2,668.6
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$2,667.9	\$2,337.1
Net Assets	\$390.0	\$331.5
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,057.9	\$2,668.6

# CORPORATE PARTNERS

NFWF collaborates with many of America's leading corporations to implement philanthropic conservation strategies and invest in conservation projects based on sound science and measurable outcomes.



Altria

**Altria** supports conservation programs in the Chesapeake Bay, Cumberland Plateau, and longleaf pine ecosystems to conserve water, restore aquatic habitats, and promote more sustainable agriculture.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **Apache Corporation** is taking on a new way of addressing conservation in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico.



**Aramco** supports the *Coral Reef Stewardship Fund*, which helps respond to the decline of one of the world's most valuable ecosystems in terms of ecological, economic and cultural capital.



**AstraZeneca** supports the restoration of horseshoe crab populations in Delaware Bay, as well as migrating shorebirds like the red knot that rely on horseshoe crab eggs. AstraZeneca also partners with NFWF to plant and sustain one million trees in the United States to increase carbon storage, improve water quality and restore wildlife habitats.



**Bayer Crop Science** is partnering with NFWF, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to support work under the *Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund*. Established in 2015, the Fund is catalyzing efforts to improve the quality, quantity and connectivity of habitat for monarch butterflies and other at-risk pollinators.



**BNSF Railway** supports programs in Chicago, the Desert Southwest and Pacific Coast cities to conserve wildlife and their habitats, improve water quality for residents, and link human communities with the benefits of natural resource stewardship.



The partnership between NFWF and **Burger King** funds projects to assist ranchers and private landowners in implementing voluntary grazing-lands management practices. Through this partnership, NFWF and Burger King will invest in ranching communities and work together to improve the health of grazing lands across the Southern Great Plains.



VERSACE JIMMY CHOO MICHAEL KORS

**Capri Holdings** and NFWF are accelerating the adoption of regenerative agricultural and conservation practices by working with ranchers and local organizations to create a more sustainable future for the leather industry.



**Cargill** supports NFWF programs focused on expanding the adoption of rancher-led conservation practices and accelerating the improvement of grazing lands and grassland habitat in priority landscapes across the United States. As part of its BeefUp Sustainability initiative, Cargill supports programs to assist ranchers and private landowners in implementing voluntary grazing lands management practices to improve soil health and increase forage for cattle and restore habitat for native bird species.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative and the *RESTORE Colorado Program*, **Chevron Corporation** is developing a new way to address conservation challenges in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico, and Colorado.



Rainbow trout  
in Idaho



Gopher tortoise  
in Georgia



**Cleveland-Cliffs** supports conservation programs across the Great Lakes basin to restore critical wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and enhance the health and accessibility of the region's waterways.



**Danone North America** supports on-farm conservation efforts across the United States to improve on-the-ground agricultural practices, conduct soil health research and provide leadership in regenerative agriculture.



As a corporate partner of the *Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative*, **ExxonMobil** is developing a new way to address conservation challenges in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico.



**General Mills** supports projects that restore and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes Basin through the *Sustain Our Great Lakes* program and in the Southern Great Plains through the *Conservation Partners Program*. The projects funded by General Mills help farmers accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture principles.



As a corporate partner of the *Northern Great Plains Program*, **Marathon Oil Corporation** is supporting projects designed to conserve mixed grass prairie and associated wildlife populations of the northern prairie.



**NextEra Energy Resources** supports the *Bats for the Future Fund*, which awards grants to help develop and deploy field treatments, management tools and conservation strategies for bat populations that are currently impacted or are likely to be impacted by white-nose syndrome.



**ConocoPhillips** supports conservation programs with a geographic focus that spans multiple priority landscapes. This partnership supports NFWF's efforts to provide for the needs of wildlife across their full life cycles, secure essential migratory pathways and drive innovations that shape the next generation of wildlife conservation.



**Energy Transfer** supports the *Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund*, which expands, enhances and accelerates longleaf pine ecosystem restoration across longleaf pine's historical range throughout the southern United States.



**FedEx** supports the *Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program*, working in 18 U.S. cities to fund community-based conservation projects. With FedEx team member engagement, the projects restore watersheds, improve air quality, encourage environmental stewardship, and foster community environmental outreach and support.



**International Paper** supports conservation programs in the coastal Carolinas, Cumberland Plateau, piney woods of Texas and Louisiana, and Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Projects restore and enhance many different forests in support of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, the Louisiana black bear and the eastern hellbender.



**Nestlé** supports NFWF programs focused on implementing voluntary, rancher-led practices to help improve water management and restore wildlife habitats across more than 15 states in the Great Plains, Mountain West, Midwest and Southeastern portions of the United States.



**Occidental** works with NFWF, federal, state and private partners to support conservation in areas where it operates. Occidental is a founding partner of the *Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative* and supports the *RESTORE Colorado Program*, *National Coastal Resilience Fund*, *Northern Great Plains Program* and *California Forests and Headwaters* business plan.



Saffron shiners  
in Tennessee



Rocky mountain elk  
in Montana



**The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation** partners with NFWF, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to support work under the *Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund*.



The *Shell Marine & Wildlife Habitat Program* is a partnership between **Shell USA** and NFWF that supports conservation of priority habitats and species in the communities where Shell USA lives and operates. Since 1998, this partnership has funded more than 385 projects conserving key species and habitats across the nation.



**Southern Company** supports conservation programs primarily across the southeastern United States, but also beyond, in support of at-risk species recovery through both landscape-scale and community-based stewardship efforts.



**Stonyfield** supports projects in Vermont that help organic, pasture-based dairy farms implement agricultural practices that improve soil health and reduce air and water pollution, while conserving fish and wildlife habitats.



**Sylvamo** supports the *Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund*, which is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations in New England and eastern New York.



Through the *Southern Plains Grassland Program*, **Sysco** and NFWF help ranchers implement sustainable grazing practices to improve soil health, promote biodiversity and protect the environment for future generations.



**Taco Bell** supports NFWF programs focused on implementing voluntary, rancher-led practices to improve water management and restore wildlife habitat across the Intermountain West, a vast area stretching from the Colorado Rockies to the Great Basin.



THE J.M. SMUCKER Co

**The J.M. Smucker Co.** supports the *Conservation Partners Program*, which invests in projects that provide farmers with technical assistance to accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture principles and conservation practices on private working lands.



**Truterra**, the sustainability business at Land O'Lakes, partners with NFWF to support conservation specialists deployed alongside agricultural retailers, to build knowledge and capacity in order to support conservation practices around the country.



In partnership with NFWF, **Walmart's Acres for America** conservation program has helped to protect 2 million acres of vital wildlife habitat across the nation since its creation in 2005.



The **Zoetis Foundation** supports projects in the Northeast to help dairy farmers develop more sustainable businesses through tools to drive economic viability, thrive in increasingly dynamic marketplaces, and help protect family legacies.

# FEDERAL AND STATE PARTNERS

NFWF was established by Congress in 1984 to conserve fish, wildlife and plant species through innovative partnerships with federal agencies, corporations, foundations and nonprofit organizations to generate new resources for conservation.



The **U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** provides farmers, ranchers, foresters and other private working landowners the tools they need to restore and protect the productivity of their lands. NFWF partners with NRCS to support outreach, education and conservation technical assistance on farms and ranches. The partners invest in projects that provide conservation benefits for wildlife, water quality and soil health, while at the same time strengthening local economies.



NFWF partners with the **U.S. Forest Service (USFS)** across the country, through both the national forest system and the state, private and Tribal forestry programs. The partnership supports restoration of priority USFS landscapes, including national forests, national grasslands, and state and private forests within NFWF's priority landscapes. Partnership activities focus on forest management to improve forest health and resilience, fuels management to protect critical infrastructure and habitat, post-fire restoration, and grassland enhancement to support rural economies and sensitive wildlife species.



The partnership between NFWF and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** was formalized by Congress in 1994. NOAA and NFWF work together to support marine and coastal conservation including sustainable fisheries, coral reefs, marine debris removal, sea turtles, and the restoration of living shorelines and other coastal habitats. The partnership also focuses on increasing ecosystem resilience by strengthening natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities and wildlife.



NFWF, in partnership with the **U.S. Department of Defense**, is working to conserve, restore and manage habitat off-base to improve military training and readiness on base. Actions include protecting installations and neighboring communities through the establishment of nature-based infrastructure, improving the status of priority species, and supporting the goals of the Sentinel Landscapes. The partnership is managed through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program.

Eared grebe  
in North Dakota





NFWF works with the **U.S. Air Force** to support recovery of Tyndall Air Force Base from damage by Hurricane Michael. Funding supports the installation of nature-based solutions, including living shorelines, oyster reefs, and dune restoration to protect against future storms.



NFWF is implementing a 10-year conservation plan that will guide off-base activities to benefit desert tortoise in the Mojave Desert in partnership with the **U.S. Marine Corps** (USMC) Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and U.S. Army Fort Irwin. NFWF also partnered with USMC Air Station Camp Pendleton to support habitat conservation for federally listed species. These partnerships will improve military operations and species recovery throughout Southern California.



NFWF and the **U.S. Navy** are implementing a five-year plan to support restoration of the limestone and ravine forest ecosystems on Guam to support resilience for the island's unique plant and animal species. The partnership builds off an existing program at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawai'i where NFWF is helping to protect and enhance seabird colonies, enabling long-term recovery of the birds and improved operations at the base. In collaboration with Naval Base Kitsap, NFWF also supports habitat conservation actions that benefit Chinook salmon, a key prey species for killer whales in Puget Sound.



In partnership with the **Bonneville Power Administration** and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, NFWF supports an innovative, grassroots, incentive-based program to improve stream flows for at-risk fish throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. The Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program, founded in 2002, is the first regional effort of its kind in the United States to enhance flows in tributaries through cooperative partnerships between flow restoration practitioners and farmers and ranchers. The program supports a combination of practices to restore instream flows to key Columbia Basin tributaries that support important anadromous and resident fish populations.



The **U.S. Department of the Interior** (DOI), working through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, supports a multi-Department effort to implement large-scale and cross-boundary conservation projects. These locally led, voluntary projects invest in corridors and connectivity, watershed restoration, forest and grassland conservation, community resilience, access, and workforce development. Funding from DOI goes to projects led by states, Tribal Nations and U.S. territorial governments.



The **Bureau of Land Management** (BLM) partners with NFWF to support migration corridors for big game such as elk, mule deer and pronghorn. The enhancement of these important migration routes provides outsized benefits to a suite of species, including sage-grouse, that depend on the health of these landscapes. NFWF also works with BLM to support conservation of desert tortoise habitat in the Mojave Desert of Southern California and restoration of the Pecos River watershed in the Permian Basin of New Mexico.



The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (FWS) has been a core partner since NFWF's founding by Congress in 1984. The partnership between FWS and NFWF benefits a wide range of landscapes and associated species nationwide including the Delaware River, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Central Appalachia, Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Klamath Basin and the sagebrush ecosystem. FWS funding serves as the critical base to a broad range of NFWF conservation programs. The partnership allows NFWF to raise private-sector funds to amplify and complement the federal agency's conservation efforts across the nation, on both public and private lands.



NFWF works with the **Bureau of Reclamation** (Reclamation) within three defined watersheds. In the Middle Rio Grande of New Mexico, NFWF and Reclamation work with the local irrigation district and landowners to pilot voluntary water leasing and other conservation solutions that support the needs of the farming and ranching community while supporting fish habitat. NFWF also supports Reclamation's coho salmon recovery goals in the Lower Klamath Basin and Trinity River watersheds through grant programs focused on improving flow and habitat in Northern California. In Western Nevada, NFWF works with the Walker Basin Conservancy under a Reclamation grant to restore and maintain Walker Lake while protecting agricultural interests and supporting new opportunities for public recreation in the Walker River Basin.



The **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) and NFWF partnership began in 1999 with the Chesapeake Bay Program, where NFWF supports community restoration and large nutrient-reduction grants that improve water quality through natural restoration. It soon expanded to include large-scale community-based conservation programs in the Great Lakes and Long Island Sound. NFWF also works with EPA to support community engagement and nature-based infrastructure across the country through the *Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program*.



NFWF partners with two state of Colorado entities on the *RESTORE Colorado Program*, which supports coordinated restoration, improvement and management of wildlife habitat within Colorado. Funding comes from **Great Outdoors Colorado**, which invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open spaces. Additional support comes from the **Colorado Department of Natural Resources** through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program.

In 2024, NFWF also received funding or had active partnership agreements with the following entities:

- **Arizona Game and Fish Department**
- **Cal Fire**
- **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power**
- **Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District**
- **New Mexico Department of Game and Fish**
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
- **U.S. Coast Guard**
- **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**

Harris's hawks  
in Arizona

# FOUNDATION PARTNERS

NFWF works with many foundations to advance conservation across the country. These foundations actively supported NFWF conservation programs in 2024.



The **Bezos Earth Fund** is Jeff Bezos’s \$10 billion commitment to fund scientists, activists, NGOs and other actors that will drive climate and nature solutions. By allocating funds creatively, wisely and boldly, the Bezos Earth Fund has the potential for transformative influence in this decisive decade. Funds will be fully allocated by 2030, the date by which the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved.



As part of the **Chubb Charitable Foundation’s** focus on strengthening the climate resilience of the natural environment and vulnerable communities around the world, financial support was provided through NFWF’s *National Coastal Resilience Fund*.



The **Crown Family Philanthropies** supports the *Chi-Cal Rivers Fund*, which invests in the health and vitality of the waterways, natural resources and habitats of Chicago and the Calumet region.



The **Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation** supports the *Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund*, which invests in natural resources in Southeast Michigan to improve water quality, restore and create habitat, and enhance public green space and natural areas.



The **Gates Family Foundation** supports the *RESTORE Colorado Program*, which was established to fund large-scale restoration and stewardship projects across several habitat priorities in Colorado.



The **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** supports the *Chi-Cal Rivers Fund*, which invests in the health and vitality of the waterways, natural resources, and habitats of Chicago and the Calumet region.



The **Hunter Family Foundation** supports the *Chi-Cal Rivers Fund*, which aims to restore the health, vitality, climate resilience and accessibility of the waterways in Chicago and the Calumet region.

## TheJoyceFoundation

The **Joyce Foundation** supports the *Chi-Cal Rivers Fund*, which invests in the health and vitality of the communities, waterways and natural resources of Chicago and the Calumet region.



The **Kresge Foundation** supports the *Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund*, which increases the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan by reducing the impact of urban flooding caused by climate change and stormwater, by improving water quality, enhancing habitat, and increasing public green space and natural areas.

Texas horned lizard  
in Oklahoma



Spotted  
salamander  
in Illinois



**LIFE TIME FOUNDATION**

The **Life Time Foundation** supports NFWF land conservation projects that permanently protect forests. This effort is part of Life Time’s long-standing “Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Healthy Way of Life” mission. Its initial investment will impact two forest projects in Maine and Michigan covering more than 100,000 acres.



**NATIVE AMERICANS  
IN PHILANTHROPY**

Support from **Native Americans in Philanthropy** (NAP) funds the *America’s Ecosystem Restoration Initiative* (AERI) match requirements for awarded Native Nation projects. The AERI requires nonfederal matching funds from grantees, and NAP’s contribution will cover the full match needs for these projects.



**RICHARD  
KING MELLON  
FOUNDATION**

The **Richard King Mellon Foundation** supports NFWF’s conservation efforts through the *Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program*, which works to improve the quality and connectivity of forest and freshwater habitat, and increase the distribution and abundance of native fish, birds and other wildlife.



The **Walder Foundation** supports the *Chi-Cal Rivers Fund*, which invests in the health and vitality of the waterways, natural resources, and habitats of Chicago and the Calumet region.



The **Walton Family Foundation** is investing in conservation efforts, leveraged by NFWF, that restore bottomland hardwoods and improve water quality in the Lower Mississippi River Basin. The foundation supports projects that use nature-based solutions to enhance resilience, protect communities and safeguard water resources.

**WilliamPennFoundation**

The **William Penn Foundation** funds the restoration of water quality and aquatic habitats of the Delaware River and its tributaries.



**Margaret A. Cargill  
PHILANTHROPIES**

**Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies** supports the *Northern Great Plains Program*, which directly maintains or improves 1 million acres of interconnected, native grasslands in focal areas within the Northern Great Plains to sustain healthy populations of grassland-obligate species while fostering sustainable livelihoods.



**ORTON  
FOUNDATION**

The **Orton Foundation**, an affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation, founded by Louis Bacon, supports the *Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund*, which expands, enhances and accelerates longleaf pine ecosystem restoration across longleaf pine’s historical range.



The **Trinchera Blanca Foundation**, an affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation, founded by Louis Bacon, supports the *Rio Grande Program*, which improves the ecological function of the river mainstem and its headwaters by working collaboratively with stakeholders to restore aquatic and riparian habitats that directly support native fish and wildlife.



Red-headed  
woodpecker  
in Arkansas



American bison  
in South Dakota

# 2024 DONORS

In 2024, generous gifts from these donors furthered NFWF’s actions to sustain and restore wildlife and their habitats. We greatly appreciate their support.

- Joy Akabude

Heather Chase Alexander

Altria Group

American Endowment Foundation

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Mark Amster

Anonymous

Apache Corporation

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The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation  
The Grant Family Fund  
The Greg Oswald Charitable Fund  
of the Community Foundation of  
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The J.M. Smucker Company  
The Joyce Foundation  
The Mark Family Fund  
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John Alexander Zuryk

Wood duck at nest cavity  
in North Carolina





Mountain goat  
in Montana

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*Rocky Mountains*



Yellow-crowned  
night heron in Georgia

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

D. Robert Franz (inside cover, elk; p. 20, mule deer), Stephen McDonough (p. 1, p. 19, sharp-tailed grouse), Isaac Szabo (p. 4-5, rainbow shiners; p. 12, brook trout; p. 14, Coosa crayfish; p. 34, saffron shiners), Jeff Waldorff (p. 16, black skimmer), Deena Sveinsson (p. 6-7, moose), Jessica Hadley (p. 10-11, gray fox; p. 21 grizzly bear), Jay Fleming (p. 13, striped bass and blue crab), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (p. 14, Louisiana black bear; p. 22, Chinook salmon), Kelley Luikey (p. 14, red knots; inside back cover, yellow-crowned night heron; back cover, American avocets), Matt Buckingham (p. 15, southern coal skink), Engbretson Underwater Photography (p. 18, smallmouth bass), Freshwaters Illustrated (p. 18 lake sturgeon), Darcy Daniels (p. 18, wild turkey), Martin Perea (p. 21, pronghorn), Patrick Clayton/Engbretson Underwater Photography (p. 21, cutthroat trout; p. 32, rainbow trout), Jack Jeffrey (p. 22, crested honeycreeper), Kevin Lohman

(p. 23, Anna’s hummingbird), Mark Bias (p. 25, white-tailed deer and kayakers), Andre Johnson (p. 26, green sea turtle), Jason Arnold (p. 17, redfish; p. 26, tarpon), David Fleetham (p. 26, coral reef), Jared Lloyd (p. 30, black bear), Barrett Hedges (p. 35, Rocky Mountain elk) Melissa Groo (p. 37, eared grebe).

Minden Pictures: Donald M. Jones (cover, bighorn sheep; p. 28 pronghorn), Steve Gettle (p. 2, sandhill crane; p. 24, spruce grouse), Sean Crane (p. 13, horseshoe crabs), Rolf Nussbaumer (p. 17, Kemp’s ridley sea turtle), Shane Gross (p. 22, kelp greenling), Doug Wechsler (p. 26, diamondback terrapin), Pete Oxford (p. 33, gopher tortoise), Jack Dykinga (p. 40, Harris’s hawks), Emanuele Biggi (p. 43, spotted salamander), Jeff Foott (p. 44, American bison), S.D and K Maslowski (p. 47, wood duck) Sumio Harada (p. 48, mountain goat).

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## FRONT COVER

Bighorn sheep in Montana

## BACK COVER

American avocets in Utah

