



Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund

NFWF CONTACTS

Jonathan Birdsong
Director,
Western Regional Office
jonathan.birdsong@nfwf.org
415-243-3101

Jana Doi
Director,
Alaska and Pacific Islands Programs
jana.doi@nfwf.org
415-243-3102

PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

ABOUT 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. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1625 Eye Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C., 20006
202-857-0166



Grizzly coastal brown bear yearlings in Alaska

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced a 2025 round of funding for Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund projects. Nine new forest and riparian restoration, and wildlife management and monitoring grants totaling \$1.5 million were awarded. The nine awards announced leveraged \$1.9 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$3.4 million.

The Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund aims to achieve measurable on-the-ground conservation outcomes and fill key information gaps through assessments and strategic monitoring that result in improved habitat or population management actions. The program also works to conduct outreach to Alaskan communities to broaden engagement and conservation stewardship of natural resources, and to foster knowledge sharing that develops proactive management strategies.

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REGIONAL STRATEGIES

The Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund's strategies focus on targeted geographies including the North Slope, Cook Inlet/Matanuska-Susitna Basin, and the Chugach and Tongass National Forests, as well as Pacific salmon conservation projects in Alaska.



Map of targeted geographic regions for Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund

PACIFIC SALMON CONSERVATION

In partnership with federal agencies, NFWF is protecting, enhancing and restoring essential salmon habitat to ensure long-term viability of the stock complex, and to fill data gaps that will directly inform Pacific salmon subsistence managers.

CHUGACH AND TONGASS NATIONAL FORESTS

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, NFWF is supporting projects on these national forests to improve Pacific salmon habitat. Grants support watershed assessments, instream habitat restoration, and aquatic-organism passage projects on national forests and adjacent public and private lands for the benefit of Pacific salmon, while engaging Alaska Natives.

COOK INLET, KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO AND MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BASIN

Federal agencies in Alaska, in partnership with NFWF, are supporting comprehensive watershed-management approaches to conserve fish and wildlife in the Cook Inlet and Matanuska-Susitna Basin regions. Projects include incorporating outreach to Alaska Native communities to foster traditional ecological knowledge sharing and stewardship that will lead to proactive management actions and measurable conservation benefits.

NORTH SLOPE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with NFWF, continues to focus on opportunities to implement and fill key information gaps for wildlife populations that will result in improved monitoring and management of species in the North Slope.

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Sockeye salmon

2025 GRANTS

Assessing Shorebirds in Western and Central National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (AK)

Grantee: Manomet
 Grant Amount:.....\$99,300
 Matching Funds:.....\$285,800
 Total Project Amount:.....\$385,100
 Conduct shorebird surveys in western and central National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) following the protocols developed by the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring in one of the highest density shorebird nesting areas on the Arctic Coastal Plain. Project will assess shorebird abundance, distribution, and population trends while field testing Automated Recording Units to determine their effectiveness at monitoring shorebirds remotely.

Building Capacity for Indigenous-led Community Forest Partnerships in Southeast Alaska (AK)

Grantee: Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
 Grant Amount:.....\$199,500
 Matching Funds:.....\$199,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$399,100
 Restore 6 acres of temperate rainforests and 3 miles of instream habitat for Pacific salmon species in the Tongass National Forest and on tribally-owned lands in Southeast Alaska. Project will support tribally-led work crews in restoration activities, complete watershed assessments, identify priority fish passage barriers for removal by community forest partnerships and provide local workforce development opportunities that incorporate indigenous knowledge into decision-making processes to meet ecological goals.

Developing Community-led Nature-based Solution Projects in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (AK)

Grantee: Alaska Wildlife Alliance
 Grant Amount:.....\$53,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$53,900
 Total Project Amount:.....\$107,800
 Collaborate with tribal partners to develop nature-based risk reduction strategies that restore ecosystems, increase biodiversity and support the resilience of species important for subsistence-use in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska. Project will work with local tribal communities to identify project concepts that are supported by the tribes and informed by both traditional ecological knowledge and modern science to implement future successful restoration projects.

Establishing a Wildlife Monitoring Network across the Kenai Peninsula (AK)

Grantee: Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station
 Grant Amount:.....\$151,200
 Matching Funds:.....\$281,300
 Total Project Amount:.....\$432,500
 Establish a landscape-scale wildlife camera monitoring network across 3 million acres on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. Project will integrate traditional ecological knowledge with monitoring data of large mammals important for subsistence-use to generate predictive models of present and future wildlife distributions to inform conservation and management of wildlife habitat by federal and tribal land managers.

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Identifying Causes of Boreal-Breeding Shorebird Declines in Cook Inlet (AK)

Grantee: University of Massachusetts Amherst
 Grant Amount:.....\$96,700
 Matching Funds:.....\$96,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$193,400
 Investigate potential drivers of recent population declines in boreal-breeding shorebirds across Cook Inlet, Alaska. Project will quantify the effects of bog-water levels on shorebird reproductive success and repeat breeding shorebird surveys in bogs to quantify changes in local breeding shorebird population sizes.

Supporting Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program Students in Advancing Conservation (AK) – IV

Grantee: University of Alaska, Anchorage
 Grant Amount:.....\$72,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$72,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$144,000
 Support the placement of Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program student internships with agency partners and local organizations benefiting salmon and wildlife management projects across Alaska. Project will



Whimbrel in Alaska

strengthen the existing pathway for Alaska Native youth to engage in on-the-ground conservation activities that provide workforce development opportunities dedicated to supporting natural resources that Alaska Natives depend on for sustaining a subsistence lifestyle.

Building a Coordinated Framework for Chinook Salmon Conservation and Restoration in the Yukon River Watershed (AK)

Grantee: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
 Grant Amount:.....\$286,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$287,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$573,900
 Enhance Chinook salmon conservation in the Yukon River watershed, Alaska, by engaging partners and strengthening regional collaboration to improve data integration and coordination. Project will: 1) conduct habitat surveys and fish presence assessments, 2) standardize data collection protocols and integrate data into the Yukon River Watershed Ecosystem Action Plan framework, 3) facilitate regional restoration prioritization and planning, and 4) identify priority community-supported restoration projects for implementation.

Developing a Habitat Restoration Plan for Salmon Conservation at Fish Lake on the Tanana River (AK)

Grantee: Tanana Valley Watershed Association
 Grant Amount:.....\$98,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$170,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$268,900
 Develop a habitat restoration plan to support Chinook and chum salmon conservation at Fish Lake, Alaska, that is informed by field data and community knowledge. Project will: 1) conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify and verify salmon spawning and rearing habitats, 2) establish baseline ecological and hydrological conditions, 3) train a team of local stewards to perform long-term ecological monitoring, and 4) analyze field data to identify and prioritize future restoration projects in preparation for design, permitting and implementation.

Mapping, Sampling and Modeling Salmon Distribution in the Tanana Valley Watershed (AK)

Grantee: University of Alaska Fairbanks
 Grant Amount:.....\$466,600
 Matching Funds:.....\$500,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$966,600
 Map and collect data on salmon distribution and abundance in the Tanana Valley Watershed, Alaska, as these are critical steps towards rebuilding Yukon River salmon stocks. Project will: 1) map salmon habitat suitability using geomorphic characteristics to predict salmon occupancy, 2) conduct fish surveys and collect environmental DNA samples to validate occupancy mapping and estimate abundance, and 3) streamline permitting processes for land managers by developing a decision-making tool to identify key salmon habitats that require rehabilitation and protection.