



# NFWF

## Conservation Partners Program

### NFWF CONTACT

#### Greg Pilchak

Program Director,  
Working Lands  
greg.pilchak@nfwf.org  
202-938-0640

#### Dalton Schmitz

Manager,  
Working Lands  
dalton.schmitz@nfwf.org  
202-992-9456

#### Alexander Pageotte

Coordinator,  
Regional Programs  
alex.pageotte@nfwf.org  
202-992-9459

### FUNDING PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- PepsiCo
- General Mills
- The J.M. Smucker Co.
- Cargill
- Nestlé

### 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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than \$12 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)



Cattle on a ranch in Kansas

### BACKGROUND

Every year, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners voluntarily participate in federal Farm Bill conservation programs designed to address some of the nation's most pressing conservation issues. Since 2011, the Conservation Partners Program has been dedicated to supporting voluntary conservation partnerships on private, working lands. Grant recipients provide technical assistance to landowners and operators to help them participate in Farm Bill programs and design and implement best management practices.

The Conservation Partners Program advances key strategies on working lands, including grazing management, soil health practices on cropland, irrigation efficiency and wildlife habitat enhancement. Over its 15-year history, the Conservation Partners Program has awarded 338 grants worth more than \$97 million and leveraged an additional \$95 million in matching contributions, generating a total conservation investment of more than \$192 million.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) manages the Conservation Partners Program with generous support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Cargill, The J.M. Smucker Co., Nestlé, and additional support from a collaboration among General Mills, Walmart and Sam's Club. This program not only enhances water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration, it also provides important benefits to rural communities.

(continued)



Mule deer

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Partners Program awards competitive grants that accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture principles and conservation practices on private lands. Grant recipients provide technical assistance to landowners and operators to help them:

- Develop management plans
- Design and implement best practices
- Participate in Farm Bill programs
- Share their experiences and lessons learned

Grants are geographically targeted to place expert staff where they can both fulfill unmet technical assistance needs and maximize the soil, water and wildlife benefits of Farm Bill conservation programs.

The Conservation Partners Program addresses working lands conservation needs in priority geographies, including the Great Lakes Basin, Northern Great Plains, Prairie Pothole Region, Southern Great Plains, Upper Mississippi River Basin and western grazing lands. Implementing conservation at scale in those working landscapes is possible only through partnering with the farmers, ranchers and other landowners who serve as the primary stewards of the land and its resources.