



NFWF

Acres for America

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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 \$12 billion.



Mule deer in Colorado

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Walmart announced its 21st year of funding through the Acres for America program, one of the most effective public-private partnerships in the history of U.S. land conservation efforts. Seven new grants totaling \$5.4 million were awarded to projects toward the protection of more than 177,000 acres. These seven awards will leverage an additional \$135.8 million in matching contributions, creating a total conservation impact of \$141.2 million. Additional funding was provided this year by the Life Time Foundation.

Acres for America is NFWF's premier land conservation program. Since 2005, NFWF and Walmart have supported the conservation of critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife; connection of existing protected lands to unify wild places and protected migration routes; providing access for people to enjoy the outdoors; and safeguarding the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching and recreation.

Since its inception, Acres for America has funded more than 130 projects in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to permanently protect more than 2.2 million acres — far surpassing its original goal of 100,000 acres.

(continued)



Ruffed grouse

Acquiring Snowbird Mountain Tracts (NC)

Grantee: Open Space Institute

Grant Amount: \$600,000

Matching Funds: \$24,500,000

Total Project Amount: \$25,100,000

Acquire 4,400 acres of conservation land in partnership with Mainspring Conservation Trust, creating a new ridge-to-ridge conservation bridge between the Snowbird and Unicoi mountains. Project will connect hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands, including the Snowbird Wilderness Study Area and the Appalachian Trail Landscape, and protect dozens of miles of pristine trout streams.

Conservation Easement in the Flint Hills (KS/OK)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$546,000

Matching Funds: \$6,000,000

Total Project Amount: \$6,546,000

Protect the ranching legacy and conservation values of a multigenerational ranch, via a voluntary conservation easement on 20,200 acres, in the Flint Hills of Kansas and Oklahoma. Project will protect imperiled native tallgrass prairie to support several ecosystem services, including clean air and water, food production, and habitat for resident and migratory wildlife.

Conserving Ghost Ranch and the Rio Chama (NM)

Grantee: New Mexico Land Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$800,000

Matching Funds: \$19,975,000

Total Project Amount: \$20,775,000

Preserve the 19,316-acre Ghost Ranch and its 5 miles of Rio Chama frontage with a conservation easement that guarantees public access. Project will protect a critical inholding surrounded by two National Forests and Abiquiú Lake by restricting development on all of Ghost Ranch's waterfront and shortgrass prairie habitat to ensure connectivity.

Conserving Habitat and Providing Public Access in the Cumberland Highlands (VA)

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000

Matching Funds: \$11,820,000

Total Project Amount: \$12,820,000

Secure a conservation easement to permanently protect and provide public access to 62,238 acres of critical wildlife habitat in the Cumberland Highlands. Project will conserve habitat for elk, black bear, ruffed grouse and threatened aquatic species; enhance regional landscape connectivity; safeguard headwater streams; and provide permanent public access, supporting long-term ecological resilience and outdoor recreation.

Expanding Habitat Connectivity by Preserving the Multigenerational Estill Ranch (CA)

Grantee: California Rangeland Trust

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000

Matching Funds: \$4,389,000

Total Project Amount: \$5,389,000

Conserve the 13,472-acre Estill Ranch in Modoc and Lassen counties in northeastern California. Project will preserve a multigenerational cattle and sheep ranch, while expanding habitat connectivity to adjacent Modoc National Forest lands, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holdings and the 1,950-acre Silver Creek Wildlife Area managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Musket Mountain Forest: Establishing Oklahoma's First State Forest

Grantee: The Conservation Fund

Grant Amount: \$650,000

Matching Funds: \$20,550,000

Total Project Amount: \$21,200,000

Permanently protect 11,333 acres as Oklahoma's first State Forest, conserving habitat for federally threatened leopard darter, federally threatened and endangered mussels, and other species of concern. Project will also secure habitat connectivity, public recreation access, opportunities for wildfire and invasive species training, sustainable management demonstrations and forestry-related jobs.

Protecting the La Jara Basin via Landscape-scale Conservation in the Headwaters of the Rio Grande (CO)

Grantee: Western Rivers Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$535,000

Matching Funds: \$48,526,000

Total Project Amount: \$49,061,000

Conserve the 45,952-acres of Colorado State Land Board ownership on La Jara Creek by conveying the lands to Colorado Parks & Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service and BLM to protect 30 miles of perennial cold-water streams with native Rio Grande cutthroat trout and important habitat for big game including elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer in the southwest corner of Colorado's San Luis Valley. Project will keep this vast landscape intact for fish and wildlife, guarantee public access and preserve important cultural sites.