



NFWF

National Species Recovery Grants

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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.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Whooping crane

BACKGROUND

The National Species Recovery Grants program (NSRG), established in 2026 through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and NFWF, seeks to rapidly accelerate the recovery of endangered and threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NSRG makes targeted investments to partners undertaking voluntary implementation of priority recovery actions that will ultimately lead to measurable progress toward downlisting, delisting or long-term recovery of listed species across the nation. Working with NFWF, FWS identified a list of priority species that, with additional funding, are likely to warrant delisting or downlisting within the next three years, as well as species in areas of substantial overlap with land-use activities.

To manage listed species, FWS develops and implements recovery plans, which include recovery criteria, that are the conditions necessary for a species to be considered for removal from the endangered species list, and the actions necessary to achieve recovery criteria. NSRG strives to fill gaps in survey data, restore fragmented habitat, reduce conflict, remove invasive species, and produce decision-quality data and management tools needed to down and delist species.

FWS and NFWF will award more than \$47 million through 118 projects undertaking voluntary implementation of priority recovery actions across the nation to directly impact 82 species.

(continued)



Dakota skipper, Luke Toso/USFWS, Public Domain, [\(original image\)](#)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

NSRG affects species in which focused funding can help unlock measurable progress toward downlisting, delisting or long-term recovery through the restoration of habitat, invasive species removal, population monitoring and surveys, and captive breeding and release. The grants awarded through this program include modern recovery tools, methodology standardization, eDNA, acoustic monitoring, remote sensing and development of habitat suitability models. Priority species fit within one or both of the following grant categories:

- **Category 1:** Projects to fund recovery actions that are likely to warrant delisting or downlisting of species
- **Category 2:** Projects to fund recovery actions for species that are in areas of substantial overlap with land-use activities such as energy, timber, mineral development and ranching

Collectively, the grants awarded through NSRG will contribute to the overarching program objective to develop and implement recovery actions designed to make a direct contribution to listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend through the following types of activities:

1. **Habitat Restoration and Protection:** restore, enhance and/or protect habitat necessary for species recovery
2. **Population Management:** rear individuals for reintroduction or augmentation to increase species resiliency and redundancy
3. **Threat Reduction and Human Conflict Management:** reduce or eliminate ongoing threats identified in FWS recovery planning documents
4. **Monitoring and Research:** track progress toward recovery criteria