



NFWF

Conservation Partners Program 2018 Grant Slate

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Burrowing owl

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, recently announced the 2018 round of funding for the Conservation Partners Program. Twenty-two new technical assistance grants totaling \$4.35 million were awarded, leveraging \$5.37 million in match from the grantees and generating a total conservation impact of \$9.72 million.

Private landowners are responsible for the use and management of more than two-thirds of our nation's land, including some of the most important fish and wildlife habitats in the United States. Every year, farmers, ranchers, foresters and other landowners voluntarily participate in federal Farm Bill conservation programs designed to address some of the nation's most pressing conservation issues.

The Conservation Partners Program provides vital grant funding to support organizations that provide staff and technical assistance to private landowners in order to maximize the benefits of Farm Bill programs on working lands. Funding for this program seeks to build technical assistance capacity in multiple conservation priority areas.

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Engaging Wabasha County Landowners in Water Quality Planning and Habitat Improvement (MN)

Grantee: Wabasha Soil & Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$117,979
 Matching Funds: \$518,770
Total Amount:..... \$636,749

Sustain employment of a technician to engage Wabasha County landowners and others from the agricultural sector in best management practices and land stewardship that benefit water quality, fish and wildlife. Project will improve water and habitat quality through whole farm planning efforts and public outreach education.

Agronomical Technical Assistance for Conservation and Profit in the Cedar and Root River Watersheds (MN)

Grantee: Mower Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$292,545
 Matching Funds: \$440,000
Total Amount:..... \$732,545

Employ a conservation agronomist in the Cedar and Root River watersheds to leverage existing relationships with the agricultural industry to provide technical assistance, focusing on the link between profitability and conservation, to a new population of landowners. Project will increase knowledge among farmers on the positive links between profitability and conservation practices and increase whole-farm management assessments identifying water-quality risks and mitigation of those risks.

Farm Bill Promotion and Conservation Planning Addressing Wildlife and Water Quality in Iowa (IA)

Grantee: Iowa Department of Natural Resources
 Grant Amount: \$251,588
 Matching Funds: \$301,273
Total Amount:..... \$552,861

Support two wildlife biologists to use Farm Bill programs and conservation planning to provide technical assistance to producers within the Mississippi River Basin's priority areas. Project will address wildlife and water quality by promoting diverse native grassland, pollinator and wetland habitats.

Responding to Farmer Demand for Targeted Technical Support in the Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed (IL)

Grantee: American Farmland Trust
 Grant Amount: \$218,265
 Matching Funds: \$235,597
Total Amount:..... \$453,862

Provide targeted technical assistance and one-on-one conservation planning to agricultural producers in the Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed. Project will reach more than 300 individuals, resulting in more than 300 best management practice recommendations, a significant reduction in sediment and nutrient runoff, and 15,000 acres under

improved soil and nutrient management.

Implementing Conservation Practices to Improve Water and Habitat Quality in the Raccoon Watershed (IA)

Grantee: Iowa Soybean Association
 Grant Amount: \$299,999
 Matching Funds: \$473,700
Total Amount:..... \$773,699

Increase outreach and targeted technical assistance to advance landowner adoption of conservation practices that will improve water quality and aquatic habitat in the North Raccoon Watershed. Project will reduce nutrient losses and evaluate the efficiency of data-driven watershed analytics and diffusion modeling.

Increasing Quality Habitat for Endangered Pollinators in the South Skunk River Watershed (IA)

Grantee: Prairie Rivers of Iowa Resource Conservation and Development
 Grant Amount: \$251,369
 Matching Funds: \$285,968
Total Amount:..... \$537,337

Work with local partners to implement targeted conservation practices that provide quality habitat in the priority South Skunk River Watershed for three endangered pollinator species: rusty patched bumble bees, Poweshiek skipperlings, and Dakota skippers. Project will increase awareness and implementation of targeted conservation practices to decrease nutrient and sediment load reduction.

Reducing Nutrient and Sediment Loading to Increase Water Quality in the Lower St. Croix Watershed (MN)

Grantee: Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$150,000
Total Amount:..... \$300,000

Provide technical assistance to landowners in the priority Lower St. Croix Watershed to improve local water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment loading from agricultural lands. Project will develop conservation plans and will increase enrollment in Farm Bill programs.

Professional Technical Assistance for Audubon Conservation Ranchers in Eastern North and South Dakota

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$167,204
 Matching Funds: \$167,204
Total Amount:..... \$334,408

Create an Audubon Range Ecologist position to support bird-friendly land management practices in eastern North Dakota and South Dakota. Project will expand technical assistance and market connections to enrolled Audubon conservation ranchers.



American black duck

Agricultural and Biological Technical Assistance for Landowners Using Healthy Soil Practices (ND)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$276,388

Matching Funds: \$292,000

Total Amount: \$568,388

Increase biological support for healthy soil practices with a new agronomist position that will build soil health, enhance productivity of croplands and grasslands, and increase operational sustainability in North Dakota. Project will provide agricultural technical assistance for landowners interested in conservation programs that assist with grazing infrastructure on cropland acres.

Grassland Conservation through the Implementation of the Audubon Conservation Ranching Program (OK)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Amount: \$299,320

Matching Funds: \$299,325

Total Amount: \$598,645

Bring successful grassland stewardship programs through an Oklahoma State Coordinator to positively impact multiple grassland obligate species, and support the economic stability of rural communities through cattle production. Project will combine conservation technical

assistance expertise with the Audubon's Conservation Ranching Program to deliver a one-stop-shop for grassland conservation and ranching stewardship.

Designing Nutrient Management Plans in the Saginaw Bay Watershed (MI)

Grantee: Saginaw Conservation District

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Matching Funds: \$300,000

Total Amount: \$600,000

Market and design nutrient management plans for local producers within the priority watersheds that drain into the Saginaw Bay. Project will reduce sedimentation, eutrophication, and algae blooms within the watershed.

Implement Best Management Practices for Sediment Reduction in Keyes and Larson Creek Watersheds (WI)

Grantee: Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department

Grant Amount: \$87,089

Matching Funds: \$87,200

Total Amount: \$174,289

Implement best management practices to reduce or eliminate nonpoint and point-source pollution from cropland and livestock facilities. Project will reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and document stream health



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within the Keyes Creek and Larson Creek watersheds through water quality chemistry analysis and evaluation of aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Streamflow Technical Assistance for Coho Salmon in the Russian River Watershed (CA)

Grantee: Sonoma Resource Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$149,204
 Matching Funds: \$150,000
Total Amount:..... \$299,204

Provide technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forestland owners for enhancing streamflow for the recovery of endangered central California coast coho salmon in the priority Russian River subwatersheds in Sonoma County, California. Project will decrease water use by enhancing irrigation efficiency, storing winter rainwater for dry season use, recharging groundwater for base flow enhancement, arresting stream incision, and controlling erosion and sediment to reduce flow impairment.

Placing Conservation Easements on Working Rangelands Containing Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat (UT)

Grantee: Summit Land Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$77,625
 Matching Funds: \$91,000
Total Amount:..... \$168,625

Work with private landowners to place permanent conservation easements on working rangelands in Summit and Morgan counties that currently or could potentially contain greater sage-grouse habitat, breeding ground and migratory corridors. Project will conduct outreach, reduce financial barriers to landowners, assist in developing and finalizing easements, create sustainable land-management plans to improve and enhance sage-grouse habitat, and monitoring each preserved property in perpetuity.

Using Precision Agriculture to Increase Habitat for Bobwhite Quail in the Savannah Project Area (GA)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever
 Grant Amount: \$289,236
 Matching Funds: \$332,000
Total Amount:..... \$621,236

Build technical assistance capacity for bobwhite quail in the Savannah Project Area through the hiring, training and work of a precision agriculture and conservation specialist. Project will engage farmers directly to analyze precision agriculture data on bobwhite ranges, identify positive economic return through Farm Bill programs for landowners to implement precision agriculture, and increase awareness of the benefits of integrating precision agriculture with precision conservation programs.

Supplying Landowner Resources to Create Northern Bobwhite Habitat and Improve Water Quality (OH)

Grantee: Madison SWCD
 Grant Amount: \$73,950
 Matching Funds: \$80,400
Total Amount:..... \$154,350

Provide technical assistance, lead outreach and distribute educational materials to connect landowners with the resources they need to create northern bobwhite habitat, improve water quality and conserve their natural resources. Project will create habitat conservation plans with recommended best management practices catered to local landowners to promote northern bobwhite quail habitat connectivity and improved water quality to aid the aquatic species in the creeks and rivers.

Creating and Enhancing Golden-Winged Warbler, Northern Bobwhite and American Black Duck Habitat (NJ)

Grantee: New Jersey Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$217,351
 Matching Funds: \$218,000
Total Amount:..... \$435,351

Improve and create habitat for three priority species in New Jersey: golden-winged warbler, northern bobwhite and American black duck. Project will provide technical assistance to private landowners enrolled in the Working Lands for Wildlife incentive program to continue work on landscape-scale conservation initiatives to rebuild and maintain healthy bird populations by advancing habitat creation and restoration.

Developing a Strategic Framework for Delivering Quality Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Habitat (NM)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$298,444
 Matching Funds: \$331,353
Total Amount:..... \$629,797

Leverage existing activities and technical capacity at Audubon New Mexico to maximize technical assistance for Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, landowners and irrigation districts by hiring a field conservation professional. Project will provide a strategic framework for delivering quality southwestern willow flycatcher habitat and a strong foundation for improved conservation plans.

Target Habitat Conservation in Colorado Priority Areas through Agricultural Conservation Easements

Grantee: Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
 Grant Amount: \$110,000
 Matching Funds: \$125,000
Total Amount:..... \$235,000

Increase capacity to complete agricultural conservation



Cutthroat trout

easements that advance the implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs within Colorado priority areas. Project will engage with willing landowners to participate in the Agricultural Land Easement Program to protect habitat of high priority for sage-grouse, burrowing owl and cutthroat trout.

Developing Habitat Conservation Plans on Private Lands for the Threatened Gunnison Sage-Grouse (CO)

Grantee: Gunnison Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$51,000
 Matching Funds: \$115,950
Total Amount:..... \$166,950

Support a Conservation District employee who will be implementing Gunnison sage-grouse habitat improvement projects and developing conservation plans on private lands. Project will restore critical habitat in the Gunnison Basin and develop new partnerships with private landowners.

Increasing Landowner Engagement in Golden-Winged Warbler Conservation (NC)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$165,350
 Matching Funds: \$165,350
Total Amount:..... \$330,700

Increase the capacity for private land biologists to assist with landowner engagement and recruitment into the Working Lands for Wildlife initiative. Project will increase landowner participation in conservation of the golden-winged warbler and strengthen the relationship between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Audubon Society.

Increasing Landowner Participation in Restoring Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitat in NE Wyoming

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
 Grant Amount: \$209,803
 Matching Funds: \$210,016
Total Amount:..... \$419,819

Build an informed and engaged stakeholder network to achieve healthy sagebrush habitat and viable sage-obligate bird populations, including the greater sage-grouse, on working rangelands in northeast Wyoming. Project will disseminate information about healthy sagebrush ecosystems, providing technical assistance to landowners willing to enhance or restore sagebrush habitat and convert current barriers to wildlife friendly fencing.