



NFWF



SPIRIT of Conservation Program 2018 Grant Slate

NFWF CONTACT

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Working ranchland

OVERVIEW

In 2018, the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program is awarding \$660,000 in funding to eight projects that will address the four strategies of the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program: 1) technical assistance on working lands; 2) restoration of grasslands, sagelands and wetlands; 3) remove or modify migration barriers; and 4) protect key habitats along migratory routes. The eight projects will be leveraged by \$2.88 million in grantee match contributions, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$3.54 million.

The ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program will improve habitat quality and landscape connectivity in ways that facilitate migrations of avian and terrestrial species, with an emphasis on working lands within focal geographies. The program will help reduce barriers to migration, restore priority habitats and improve conservation practices on working lands.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON WORKING LANDS:

The following two projects seek to provide technical assistance on working lands to help working land managers/producers develop management plans, implement conservation practices, and enroll in Farm Bill programs to improve working lands function and enhance migration pathways across an array of land ownership.

Habitat Restoration for Grassland Birds and Pollinators on Private Lands in Oklahoma and Texas

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Award: \$75,000
Matching Funds: \$75,000

Total Amount: **\$150,000**

Restore and enhance 1,000 acres of priority habitat on private lands to increase the

(continued)

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Baird's sparrow

quantity and quality of grassland habitat for bird and pollinator species of greatest conservation need. Project will work directly with private landowners to remove brush, reseed native grasses and follow prescribed burning and grazing management practices.

Grassland and Riparian Habitat Restoration for Migratory Species like Pronghorn and Monarchs (TX)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy
 Grant Award: \$77,713
 Matching Funds: \$77,713
Total Amount: \$155,426

Implement at least 2,500 acres of grassland and riparian habitat restoration and enhancement projects that support birds, wildlife and people in the Trans-Pecos region and South Texas. Project will restore habitats to benefit pronghorn, monarch butterflies and other migratory species on privately owned land.

RESTORATION OF GRASSLANDS, SAGELANDS AND WETLANDS:

The following three projects seek to restore grassland, sageland and wetland habitats by conducting restoration activities to expand or improve patch size and connectivity; remove/modify structures or remove encroaching woody vegetation that negatively impact grassland-nesting birds; and restore wetland hydroperiods more beneficial to resident and migrating wildlife.

Prioritizing Conservation Practices throughout the Full Migratory Range of the Baird's Sparrow (CO)

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
 Grant Award: \$60,000
 Matching Funds: \$60,000
Total Project: \$120,000

Prioritize on-the-ground management practices for the Baird's sparrow using a new analytical tool developed from data collected across the full Baird's sparrow migratory cycle to simulate different conservation actions and the resulting effects on the Baird's sparrow population. Project will determine the most effective conservation actions that can be taken to lessen Baird's sparrow population decline and then communicate these findings with project partners and landowners for implementation.

Texas Coastal Plain Wetland Restoration for Migratory Birds on Private Lands

Grantee: Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment
 Grant Award: \$56,500
 Matching Funds: \$56,500
Total Project: \$113,000

Create 1,000 acres of wetlands in the Texas coastal plain region by constructing levees and installing water control structures to benefit migratory and non-migratory wetland wildlife including shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl and seabirds. Project will work on private lands with



Elk, Wyoming

existing conservation easements and within wildlife refuge acquisition boundaries to meet the needs of the millions of birds that travel through the area every year.

Technical and Financial Capacity Assistance for Working Grassland Habitat Conservation (ND, SD)

Grantee: North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
 Grant Award: \$79,500
 Matching Funds: \$123,998
Total Project: \$203,498

Restore, enhance and protect at least 7,500 acres of priority grassland habitat areas in the core of grassland bird diversity in the Northern Great Plains. Project will compare landscape changes and areas of highest threat of farmland conversion with species distribution models to identify the areas of greatest conservation need.

REMOVE OR MODIFY MIGRATION BARRIERS:

The following project seeks to remove or modify fences and other impediments to facilitate wildlife passage; construct or improve wildlife passage structures; or implement innovative wildlife habitat connectivity techniques.

Pasture Fence Conversion to Facilitate Pronghorn Migration Routes through Wyoming

Grantee: Wyoming Game and Fish Department
 Grant Award: \$80,000
 Matching Funds: \$105,000
Total Amount: \$185,000

Convert 12 miles of interior pasture fences in central Wyoming to wildlife-friendly standards to restore pronghorn migration routes that have been impacted by fence barriers. Project will use camera traps and collar data to identify crossing points used by wildlife and document

the frequency and difficulty of movement prior to and following fence modification.

PROTECT KEY HABITATS ALONG MIGRATORY ROUTES:

The following two projects seek to support conservation easements for parcels with priority migration bottlenecks, other important habitat linkage/connectivity functions, or important breeding, wintering or stopover sites.

Protecting the Agricultural and Wildlife Values in Sublette County, Wyoming from Fragmentation

Grantee: Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust
 Grant Award: \$206,286
 Matching Funds: \$1,861,350
Total Project: \$2,067,636

Implement a conservation easement on 1,330 acres of productive agricultural lands and important mule deer, greater sage-grouse, moose and elk habitat in Sublette County, Wyoming. Project will permanently conserve a portion of the "Hoback to Red Desert" mule deer migration corridor.

Protecting Productive Farmland and Wildlife Connectivity along the Flathead River (MT)

Grantee: Flathead Land Trust
 Grant Award: \$25,000
 Matching Funds: \$48,020
Total Project: \$73,020

Implement a conservation easement on 155 acres of priority riparian wetland habitat and rich farmland on private lands along the Flathead River in northwest Montana. Project will connect two major ecosystems for grizzly bears, sustain water quality and riparian habitat function for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, and protect stopover habitat used by thousands of migratory birds.