OVERVIEW

The ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation and Innovation Program is a public-private partnership focused on two priority areas. The conservation of critical habitats as well as the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches that address water and biodiversity issues.

The Conservation priority area is a continuation of the long-standing SPIRIT of Conservation and Innovation Program. The objective of this priority area is to support projects focused on the restoration of ecosystems and habitats, particularly those focused on high-priority North American migratory species, in areas where ConocoPhillips has an operating presence. The Conservation Innovation priority area supports projects focused on water and biodiversity issues. The objective of this priority area is to support projects focused on stimulating and leveraging the development and adoption of innovative conservation technologies and techniques in areas where ConocoPhillips has an operating presence.
These five projects seek to improve water and biodiversity conservation through the restoration or enhancement of ecosystems and habitats. Projects address important aquatic habitats and species of conservation concern.

**Restoration of Milkweed and Monarch Habitats in Eastern Oklahoma**  
*The Learning Center at the Euchee Butterfly Farm, Inc.*  
NFWF Award Amount $50,000  
Matching Funds $55,152  
Total Project $105,152

The Learning Center at the Euchee Butterfly Farm, Inc. will address the capacity issues limiting efforts to restore monarch and pollinator habitat in Oklahoma by enlisting the support of area tribes. Through this program, Native American youth will learn the horticultural techniques necessary for the production of milkweed and native plant seeds and plugs, and also creates native plant demonstration sites at tribal headquarters to offer conservation outreach to tribal members for expanding habitat restoration efforts on tribal and private lands.

**Wetland Restoration and Demonstration Sites (Alberta)**  
*Nature Conservancy of Canada*  
NFWF Award Amount $102,740  
Matching Funds $102,860  
Total Project $205,600

Nature Conservancy of Canada will restore 10 natural or human-built wetlands on land in Alberta that are actively grazed. A key outcome will be five miles of restored riparian habitat. Project sites will function as demonstration sites to both study and showcase the impact of technologies, such as fencing, coupled with remote watering systems on the overall health and conservation state of the areas.

**West Galveston Bay Watershed Wetlands (TX)**  
*Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment*  
NFWF Award Amount $40,000  
Matching Funds $60,000  
Total Project $100,000

Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment will create 190 acres of freshwater wetlands on the Halls Bayou Ranch. This will provide high value habitat to a very diverse number of species including wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl. Because of its location it will attract enormous numbers of birds throughout the year. It will also provide important watershed values by cleaning and improving quality of the runoff before it runs into the Halls Bayou and other watersheds that dump directly into West Galveston Bay.

**Integrating Science and Habitat Delivery Capacity to Strategically Advance Grassland Bird Conservation across the Great Plains**  
*Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory*  
NFWF Award Amount $200,000  
Matching Funds $200,000  
Total Project $400,000

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, in collaboration with state, federal and non-governmental partners, will investigate factors limiting survival and productivity of grassland birds on their breeding grounds in the Northern Great Plains to inform, improve and deliver conservation and management actions at multiple scales. This project will increase capacity for on-the-ground conservation delivery in a key area for grassland birds by hiring a biologist with range and grassland bird expertise to work with landowners and other partners in central/southeastern Montana to conserve and enhance habitat for Sprague’s Pipit, Baird’s Sparrow, Chestnut-collared and McCown’s Longspur and other grassland species.
WATER AND BIODIVERSITY INNOVATION

These three projects seek to improve water and biodiversity innovation through stimulating and leveraging the development and adoption of innovative conservation technologies and techniques. The objective of this strategy is to improve conservation efforts by encouraging and dispersing new technologies and tools.

Crown of the Continent Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (MT)
Flathead Community Foundation
NFWF Award Amount .............................................. $168,656
Matching Funds ....................................................... $198,500
Total Project ......................................................... $367,156

Flathead Basin Commission will partner with Alberta and the Blackfeet Nation to coordinate efforts to keep harmful aquatic invasive species out of the Crown of the Continent region. The project will combine two successful pilot programs to establish an innovative regional AIS prevention strategy with the use of invasive mussel detecting dogs and AIS boat detection stations.

Innovative Restoration Tools for Riparian Landscapes Impacted by Invasive Woody Vegetation
Tamarisk Coalition
NFWF Award Amount .............................................. $46,738
Matching Funds ....................................................... $77,925
Total Project ......................................................... $124,663

Tamarisk Coalition will develop innovative tools for the removal of invasive vegetation and successful restoration of riparian lands across the western United States. This project aims to package and distribute these new tools and techniques dealing with invasive species removal, native plant revegetation, rapid vegetation monitoring protocols, biocontrol mapping, and current restoration research and science information and distribute them to land managers in order to improve the overall health of riparian ecosystems.

Examining Hard-shell Clam Production and Developing Innovative Strategies for Assisting with their Recovery (AK)
Chugach Regional Resources Commission
NFWF Award Amount .............................................. $78,200
Matching Funds ....................................................... $91,000
Total Project ......................................................... $169,200

Chugach Regional Resources Commission will establish bivalve shellfish spawning sanctuaries near Port Graham and Seldovia to examine the bottleneck in recruitment and help rebuild depleted stocks of wild adult littleneck clams, butter clams and basket cockles. The project is divided into three components; identifying if spawning occurs and its timing, tracking larval development and settling, and measuring post settlement growth and survival.