

# Partnerships With States

## *Tools for Helping Communities and Landowners Conserve Species Habitat*

Because more than half of all species currently listed as endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life cycle on privately owned lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that success in conserving species will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with landowners, communities, and tribes to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on private lands. States play a key role in catalyzing these efforts.

A variety of tools are available under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to help States and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. The *Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund* (section 6 of the ESA) has been available for several years to provide grants to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed and listed species. An additional grant program, the *Private Stewardship Program*, is being funded in FY 2004 to assist landowners in managing their lands in ways that benefit species and their habitats.

The Service will award approximately \$86.5 Million in Federal funding in FY 2004 under the following five types of grants:

### **Private Stewardship Grant Program (\$7.4 M)**

provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk-species. A diverse panel of representatives from State and Federal government, conservation organizations, agriculture and development interests, and the science community will assess applications and make recommendations



*The Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition program is helping to acquire habitat for endangered species such as the Quino checkerspot butterfly. The habitat purchased will bolster the Multiple Species Conservation Program, a cooperative effort that includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of California, local jurisdictions, the building industry, and environmental groups within southwest San Diego County. Photo by B. Moose Peterson/WRP*

to the Secretary of the Interior, who will award the grants to proposals submitted by March 31, 2004.

### **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (\$79 M)**

provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands. States and Territories must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25% of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or

Territory must currently have, or enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. Most States and Territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species.

Four grant programs are available through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act):

*Conservation Grants (\$7.4 M)* provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement conservation projects for listed species and species at risk. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

*Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (\$8.6 M)* provide funds to States and Territories to support the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), through support of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach, and similar planning activities.

*HCP Land Acquisition Grants (\$49.3 M)* provide funding to States and Territories to acquire land associated with approved HCPs. Grants do not fund the mitigation required of an HCP permittee; instead, they support conservation actions by the State or local governments that complement mitigation.

*Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (\$13.5 M)* provide funds to States and Territories for acquisition of habitat for endangered and threatened species in support of approved recovery plans. Acquisition of habitat to secure long term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species.

For more information on how to apply for Federal grants to assist States, Territories, and landowners in conserving species on non-Federal lands, please contact the Assistant Regional Director at your Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Consultation, Habitat  
Conservation Planning, Recovery and  
State Grants  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420  
Arlington, VA 22203  
703-358-2061



*Section 6 funding has helped protect fragile ecosystems and the creatures that live there, such as the threatened Bog turtle. Photo by Bern W. Tryon*

#### **Regional Contact Information**

*Region One — Pacific*  
Eastside Federal Complex  
911 N.E. 11th Avenue  
Portland OR 97232-4181  
503/231 6118  
<http://pacific.fws.gov>  
Jurisdiction: California, Hawaii, Idaho,  
Nevada, Oregon, Washington, American  
Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands, Guam and the Pacific  
Trust Territories

*Region Two — Southwest*  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
505/248 6282  
<http://southwest.fws.gov>  
Jurisdiction: Arizona, New Mexico,  
Oklahoma, and Texas

*Region Three — Great Lakes, Big  
Rivers*  
Bishop Henry Federal Building  
One Federal Drive  
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056  
612/713 5301  
<http://midwest.fws.gov>  
Jurisdiction: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,  
Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and  
Wisconsin

*Region Four — Southeast*  
1875 Century Boulevard  
Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
404/679 7086  
<http://southeast.fws.gov>  
Jurisdiction: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida,  
Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi,  
North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee,  
Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

*Region Five — Northeast*  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589  
413/253 8200  
<http://northeast.fws.gov>  
Jurisdiction: Connecticut, Delaware,  
Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New  
Hampshire, New Jersey, New York,  
Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont,  
Virginia, and West Virginia

*Region Six — Mountain Prairie*  
134 Union Boulevard  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
303/236 7920  
<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov>  
Jurisdiction: Colorado, Kansas, Montana,  
Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota,  
Utah, and Wyoming

*Region Seven — Alaska*  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907/786 3542  
<http://alaska.fws.gov>  
Jurisdiction: Alaska

