

Draft Project Descriptions Arranged by State  
FY2007 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

**Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants by State:**

**California**

**\*Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard HCP** (Riverside County, CA): \$1,542,000. The grant will contribute to the acquisition and conservation of blowsand habitat for the federally listed Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. The 480-acre acquisition will protect the sand source and occupied habitat that are integral to the survival and recovery of the species. The acquisition will also complement existing protected areas for the lizard.

**\*San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Plan** (San Diego County, CA): \$23,103,592. The grant will aid in the acquisition of 8,000 acres of land, benefiting numerous federally listed species, including the coastal California gnatcatcher, arroyo toad, San Diego fairy shrimp and Stephens' kangaroo rat. This acquisition will complement the County of San Diego MSCP's reserve design by securing key regional wildlife linkages and preserving core areas of habitat. These areas of coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodlands, grasslands, riparian habitat, and vernal wetlands constitute an exceptional concentration of regionally and globally significant resources.

**San Joaquin Multi-Species HCP** (San Joaquin County, CA): \$7,000,000. This project will acquire 2,000 acres of ecologically valuable habitat for federally listed species, including San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, three vernal pool shrimp species, and numerous sensitive species. The parcels are part the largest contiguous annual grassland remaining in the area, and contain more alkali grassland, alkali wetland, and vernal pools than does any other portion of San Joaquin County or adjacent East Contra Costa County. The land will play a pivotal role in securing a northwest-southeast movement corridor for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, and protect habitat of regional importance for the threatened California red-legged frog. This acquisition is also a cooperative effort between two adjoining counties.

**Georgia**

**Lands Adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge** (Charlton County, GA): \$1,500,000. Working in partnership with The Conservation Fund and others, this grant will secure timber rights on 16,000 acres of land, and will lead to the establishment of a 9,200 acre Wildlife Management Area. The project will complement the ongoing conservation efforts in the Georgia Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for the red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle and flatwoods salamander. The project will offer significant opportunities for expanding the red-cockaded woodpecker population at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and will benefit many other species included in the Georgia Wildlife Action Plan, such as gopher tortoise, and Eastern indigo snake.

## **Montana**

**\*Native Fish HCP: Blackfoot Easement Project** (Lewis & Clark County, MT): \$3,887,375.

The Blackfoot watershed provides crucial connectivity for many imperiled wildlife species including native bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish. Intrinsic to this system as well are the imperiled grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The lands proposed for conservation easement acquisition are adjacent to National Forest and State lands and fill a critical void in maintaining the unfragmented landscape.

## **Texas**

**Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Purcell Tract** (Travis County, TX): \$5,742,500. This project in partnership with Travis County will protect 17.6 acres of habitat within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve that is vital for conservation of five endangered karst species and three karst species of concern. The tract surrounds entrances to three caves containing endangered karst species, including Bone Cave harvestman, Tooth Cave ground beetle, Tooth Cave spider, Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion, and Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle. These karst species cannot be recovered without protection of these features. The acquisition will also benefit two endangered songbirds, the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. This tract is adjacent to preserve lands already owned by Travis County; therefore, fee title purchase of this tract by the County will provide important connectivity with existing protected lands.

## **Washington**

**Plum Creek HCP – I-90 Wildlife Corridor, Phase III – Keechelus Ridge** (Kittitas County, WA): \$4,191,500. The Keechelus Ridge acquisition will acquire up to 670 acres along Interstate Highway 90, near Snoqualmie Pass, Washington. The acquisition will prevent development; protect habitat for northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, gray wolf, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout; and contribute to improved habitat connectivity between the north and south Cascade Mountains for another 160 species including bald eagle, wolverine, marten, and Pacific giant salamander.

## **Wisconsin**

**\*Karner Blue Butterfly HCP Land Acquisition Wisconsin** (Waupaca and Burnett Counties, WI): \$192,000. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is awarded \$192,000 to partially fund the acquisition of a 97 acre parcel and a 320 acre parcel located within Waupaca and Burnett Counties, respectively. Each of the parcels is located within Wisconsin State Natural Area acquisition boundaries. Purchase of the Sawyer property significantly benefits the restoration and management of the prairie/savanna/barrens ecosystem present on the complex of lands owned by the DNR in central Wisconsin. The Plum Creek property as well as Crex Meadows and Fish Lake State Wildlife Areas lie within the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape, a globally imperiled ecosystem. Acquisition of this parcel will enhance restoration and management of this rare ecosystem.

## **Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants by State:**

### **Arizona**

**Monitoring Plan and Protocol for the Pima County Multi-Species Conservation Plan** (Pima County, AZ): \$274,505. Pima County, in collaboration with local stakeholders, initiated a Habitat Conservation Planning project in 1999. The grant will enable Pima County to design a biological monitoring plan and protocols that will ensure biological monitoring required by the

Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSCP) is scientifically valid and adequate for permit compliance. The MSCP covers 36 species of concern, including lesser long-nosed bat, southwestern willow flycatcher, desert pupfish, Gila chub, Gila topminnow, Chiricahua leopard frog, Huachuca water umbel, and Pima pineapple cactus.

## **Arkansas**

**The Big Woods of Arkansas – Year 3** (Arkansas, Phillips, Prairie, Monroe, St. Francis, White and Cross Counties, AR): \$231,250. This grant will help the state of Arkansas undertake its third year of planning for a multi-species, landscape-level Habitat Conservation Plan in the Big Woods Area of Arkansas. The plan will focus on six federally listed endangered species including the Ivory-billed woodpecker, the interior least tern, the red-cockaded woodpecker, and three federally listed endangered mussels: the fat pocketbook, the pink mucket and the scaleshell. The State and its partners will work together to address ways to avoid disrupting traditional economic activities, such as hunting, farming, fishing and forestry while at the same time exploring ways to foster ecotourism that can lead to conservation for the involved species.

## **California**

**Butte County HCP/NCCP** (Butte County, CA): \$319,200. At the northern end of the Sacramento Valley, Butte County is on the threshold of unprecedented growth. The Butte County Association of Governments, the county, and its five incorporated communities are developing a regional HCP. Potentially it will cover 330,000 acres that are home to federally listed species, including all known populations of the endangered Butte County meadowfoam, plus other species at risk. This second successive grant for the Butte HCP/NCCP will be used to continue the planning process.

**El Dorado County Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan** (El Dorado County, CA): \$604,831. This first-year grant will help rapidly growing El Dorado County integrate their growth with species protection at a landscape level. The plan would cover about 550,000 acres that is home to 29 special status species, including four federally protected plants that exist only in the unique Pine Hill soil formation.

**Santa Barbara County Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan** (Santa Barbara County, CA): \$267,300. The grant provides funding for the first year of the HCP planning process for a multi-species habitat conservation plan for approximately 190,000 acres in Santa Barbara County. The HCP will streamline the permitting process and benefit at least four federally listed species including the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, La Graciosa thistle, and vernal pool fairy shrimp, and several non-listed species.

**Santa Clara County HCP/NCCP** (Santa Clara County, CA): \$222,000. The grant will complete the planning effort that has been underway since 2003. Santa Clara County, three cities and two other regional agencies have joined to develop this HCP. The plan will cover 520,000 acres, which is 70 percent of the acreage expected to be affected by the county's projected population increase of 500,000 people by 2030. The HCP will cover 29 federally listed and sensitive species, including 75 percent of the remaining San Francisco Bay Area's serpentine soils that are home to 7 unique species, including the threatened bay checkerspot butterfly.

**Yolo County HCP/NCCP** (Yolo County, CA): \$349,785. Covering all 653,663 acres of Yolo County, this HCP is vital to integrate the projected growth in the County with preserving species. Yolo County is located between the rapidly growing San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento

area. The HCP will be designed to conserve numerous federally listed and sensitive species. The funding will be used to continue preparation of environmental documents and outreach efforts.

## **Florida**

### **Development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for Escambia County Beaches, Florida**

(Escambia County, FL): \$492,000. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will use this grant to help develop a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan for Escambia County's portion of Perdido Key. It will address twelve species including six that are federally listed. The federally endangered Perdido Key beach mouse only lives on Perdido Key. Escambia County's beaches were hit hard by Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis and Katrina in 2004-05. Current pressures to re-develop the area offer an opportunity for citizens, county government and others to work with state and federal agencies to protect endangered and threatened species while at the same time developing a vision for coastal protection and tourism.

**Development of a Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches** (Bay, Brevard, Broward, Citrus, Collier, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Martin, Miami Dade, Monroe, Pasco, Pinellas, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Santa Rose, Sarasota, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gulf, Hernando, Hillsborough, Indian River, Jefferson, Nassau, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Taylor, Volusia, Wakulla and Walton Counties, FL): \$257,247. This grant will provide funds to start a statewide, coastal, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan. The plan will bring partners and stakeholders together to address potential impacts of shoreline coastal construction and to consider protection measures on beach habitat important to 15 federally listed species and two candidate species. The plan will address five species of sea turtles, five subspecies of beach mice, the roseate tern, red knot, Florida scrub jay, and four plants. The Florida coast is particularly susceptible to hurricanes. This planning process will help the State address shoreline protection while also ensuring that the needs of endangered, threatened and at-risk species are addressed in an environmentally acceptable way during shoreline recovery efforts. During the first year, the state will establish a steering committee, hold meetings with local governments and potential partners, determine the specific activities to be covered, and identify avoidance and minimization measures.

## **Hawaii**

### **Coordination and Planning of a Regional Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan on**

**Kaua'i, Hawai'i.** (Kaua'i County, HI): \$367,718. The grant will help support the development of a multi-species HCP for Kaua'i County, Hawai'i. The habitats affected by the development of an HCP include mountain forests in the interior of the island as well as lowland coastal areas within urbanized zones. These areas connect many watersheds and provide the habitat necessary to restore and recover federally listed Newell's shearwater, Hawaiian petrel, puaiohi, large Kaua'i thrush, Kaua'i O'o, Hawaiian hoary bat, green sea turtle, Blackburn sphinx moth, and Newcomb's snail. In addition the band-rumped storm petrel and Kaua'i creeper, both candidates, will benefit.

## **Indiana**

**HCP for the Indiana Bat on Indiana State Forest Lands** (State-wide): \$375,000. This grant will help support the development of an Indiana Bat HCP covering all of the Indiana State Forest system containing about 150,000 acres in ten management units. Many of these forests contain caves in which a large proportion of endangered Indiana bats hibernate. These caves are considered essential to the continued survival of the species. This HCP also has the potential to benefit more than 30 other State-listed or species of concern which use similar portions of Indiana's State Forests. Completion of this HCP will be the first to address Indiana bat management concerns on an actively managed forest, providing a positive model for other States and forest managers.

## **Kentucky**

**See Multi-State Grants**

## **Multi-State Grants**

### **Tennessee and Kentucky**

**Development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Cumberlands Region** (Wayne, McCreary, Pulaski, Clinton, Rockcastle, Laurel, Knox, Bell, Jackson, Harlan, Whitley and Lincoln Counties, KY; Anderson, Roane, Rhea, Scott, Campbell, Morgan, Cumberland, Bledsoe, Fentress, Pickett, Putnam and Overton Counties, TN): \$451,505. Well-known for its biologically diverse ecosystems, the Northern Cumberlands region supports more than 20 federally listed species. Local communities, private landowners and state agencies in Tennessee and Kentucky have been developing a multi-species, multi-county, landscape level Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern Cumberlands to minimize or avoid impacts to threatened and endangered species as planned growth continues. Planning efforts have now evolved such that two HCPs will be produced, one for water resources in Tennessee, including water supply projects, and another one to cover forestry and forestry-related activities in Tennessee and Kentucky. The development of two HCPs will take advantage of shared planning resources, thereby minimizing overall project costs. Project objectives will focus on: supporting the work of the steering and technical teams for both HCPs; research; GIS support; legal assistance; public outreach; and developing draft mitigation strategies for each HCP. Species expected to benefit include the spotfin chub, blackside dace, Cumberland elktoe, and Cerulean warbler, among others.

### **Washington and Oregon**

**Walla Walla Basin Bi-State HCP** (Walla Walla and Columbia Counties, WA and Umatilla County, OR): \$547,458. This grant will fund the sixth and final year of an ongoing planning process for the Walla Walla Basin HCP. The HCP development process will result in benefits to listed bull trout and mid-Columbia River summer steelhead by addressing municipal and agricultural water issues in a forum with several State and local entities in Oregon and Washington.

## **Nebraska**

**Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands HCP** (Lancaster and Saunders Counties, NE): \$150,000. This HCP will cover an approximately 200 square mile area, which encompasses the entire range of the endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle. This project is essential to preclude extinction of the tiger beetle, which is one of the rarest insects in the United States. At least 11 other species will be covered by the HCP. Given the limited range of these saline wetlands in Nebraska, their isolation from other such habitats in the Midwest, and their unique environmental conditions, it is likely that additional rare and possibly endemic invertebrate species occur in these saline wetlands.

## **North Carolina**

**HCP for Boiling Spring Lakes, North Carolina** (Brunswick County, NC): \$106,745. With tremendous pressures for residential development in Boiling Spring Lakes, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the City of Boiling Spring Lakes, the Brunswick County Association of Realtors, Reeves-Telecom, The Nature Conservancy and other partners have agreed to work together to develop a city-wide Habitat Conservation Plan. It will focus on protecting 22 clusters (family groups) of red-cockaded woodpecker within the city limits and 13 other species dependent upon the longleaf pine ecosystem, such as Venus flytrap, Carolina gopher frog, Venus flytrap cutworm moth, rough-leaved loosestrife and yellow fringeless orchid, Southern hognose snake and savanna indigo bush.

## **Oregon**

**Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan** (Benton County, OR): \$333,000. This second phase of funding will assist the County to complete development of a programmatic HCP and related NEPA documentation for multi-species prairie habitat HCP. The HCP will provide for protection of the federally listed Fender's blue butterfly, Nelson's checkermallow, Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette daisy, and Kincaid's lupine. The Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and streaked horned lark, both candidates for listing, will also be provided protection.

## **See Multi-State Grants**

## **Tennessee**

## **See Multi-State Grants**

## **Washington**

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Area HCP** (Statewide, all 39 counties, WA): \$575,000. This grant funds the third year of an HCP process for the State's wildlife areas covering a total of approximately 830,000 acres. The HCP will offer benefits to protected species and land users by providing certainty that land management activities meet Federal species protection requirements. Listed species that will benefit include but are not limited to: pygmy rabbit; woodland caribou; snowy plover; spotted owl; marbled murrelet; bull trout; Chinook salmon; steelhead; Oregon silverspot; golden paintbrush; and Kincaid's lupine. Unlisted species include greater sage-grouse, northern goshawk, burrowing owl, Oregon spotted frog, Larch Mountain salamander, coho salmon, Mardon skipper, Taylor's checkerspot, and giant Columbia River limpet.

**Washington State Hydraulic Project Approval HCP** (Statewide, all 39 counties, WA): \$686,312. Funding is for the third year of the HCP process for the State's primary fish-protection regulatory program, the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) program. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife seeks an HCP as a means of continuing conservation of fish and shellfish species and habitat, while achieving long-term certainty that the HPA program meets Federal species protection requirements. Listed species that will benefit include bull trout; steelhead; and Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon. Unlisted species include but are not limited to: coastal cutthroat trout; green sturgeon; Pacific, river, and western brook lamprey; California floater mussel; and giant Columbia River limpet.

**Also see Multi-State Grants**

## **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:**

### **Arizona**

**Yarbrough Acquisition** (Cochise County, AZ): \$685,000. The acquisition will protect through conservation easement approximately 140 acres along the San Pedro River, one of the most imperiled river systems in the Southwest. It will benefit the Southwestern willow-flycatcher and Huachuca water umbel. Preservation of the property will help prevent ongoing rapid subdivision and residential development, and attendant groundwater pumping that removes the biological effectiveness of habitat. The San Pedro Valley supports one of the largest sub-populations of the flycatcher.

### **California**

**Amargosa Vole and Amargosa Niterwort, Tecopa Hot Springs** (Inyo County, CA): \$121,200. This grant will support the purchase of a 40-acre parcel that contains important desert wetland and upland habitats for two federally endangered species: one small mammal, the Amargosa vole, and one plant, the Amargosa niterwort. Amargosa voles have an extremely limited distribution (< 250 acres) and currently occupy habitats on the parcel. The acquisition will assist future conservation and management of both species and permanently protect habitat connectivity between protected areas owned and managed cooperatively by the Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, and the Amargosa Conservancy.

**Los Vaqueros Ranch Conservation Easement** (Monterey County, CA): \$500,000. This grant will support The Nature Conservancy's acquisition of a conservation easement on the 2,438-acre Los Vaqueros Ranch. The property supports high quality aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats that provide connectivity with other protected areas in the watershed. The project includes securing nearly two miles of the Arroyo Seco River along with several miles of two major tributaries. The Arroyo Seco watershed is centrally located between two primary release and recovery sites for the federally endangered California condor and the easement will secure and protect potential foraging and roosting habitats. The easement and subsequent management will also enhance and protect habitats for the federally threatened California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.

**Laguna Mountain Skipper, Palomar Mountain** (San Diego County, CA): \$1,372,000.

The grant will assist in the protection of approximately 571 acres of core Laguna Mountains skipper and San Bernardino bluegrass habitat. The proposed acquisition/conservation lands are key areas for skipper nectaring and ovipositing and support the last known stronghold for the species. The proposed acquisition will prevent further loss and fragmentation of core skipper and bluegrass habitat in a large and essential portion of habitat and could ultimately prevent extinction of the skipper.

**\*Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Santa Rosa Mountains** (Riverside County, CA): \$972,485. The grant will assist in the acquisition of land to further recovery of the Peninsular bighorn sheep by eliminating development threats to the species. Lands proposed for acquisition are within currently occupied, core habitat that supports one of the largest concentrations of the species in California. The lands proposed for acquisition provide for some key foraging and lambing areas. Conservation of the proposed acquisition lands will contribute to the long-term survival and recovery of Peninsular bighorn sheep and to maintaining connectivity of desert tortoise habitat in the Peninsular Ranges.

## **Georgia**

**Acquisition of Tract within Raccoon Creek Basin for the Etowah and Cherokee Darters** (Paulding County, GA): \$1,000,000. This grant will enable the final complete acquisition of 7,091 acres of lands to benefit listed fish (Etowah and Cherokee darters). This project is expected to result in protection of over two miles of stream frontage and buffers along the main stem of Raccoon Creek. The acquisition will also complement previous State acquisitions in the area, like the Sheffield Wildlife Management Area.

## **Hawai'i**

**\*Kilauea Coastal Preserve Acquisition** (Kauai County, HI): \$1,631,132. The objective of this acquisition is to acquire and permanently protect 20 acres of privately owned lands. The property acquisition is located at the mouth of Kilauea stream at Kahili beach and is adjacent to the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. The area contains occupied habitat for five federally listed endangered bird species, the Hawaiian goose, Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian gallinule, and Hawaiian duck and the Hawaiian hoary bat.

## **Kentucky**

**Acquisition of Three Tracts Fronting the Licking River for Mussel Recovery** (Fleming County, KY): \$673,820.50. This grant will enable the acquisition of 455 acres along the Licking River in Kentucky, principally for the protection of the endangered freshwater mussel, the fanshell. This parcel will aid in the recovery of the fanshell by enabling greater protection to one of the only three reproducing populations of this mussel and growing acreage of protected land along this river system. Acquiring this parcel and managing it in perpetuity will also benefit a candidate species (sheepnose; freshwater mussel), indirectly benefit four other federally listed, endangered mussels, and provide protected habitat for potential reintroduction efforts.

## **Missouri**

**Windy Bar Island Acquisition** (Cape Girardeau County, MO): \$483,504. The Missouri Department of Conservation is awarded \$483,504 to acquire a 705-acre Mississippi river island for the purpose of protecting a critically important habitat type for pallid sturgeon recovery. This project will effectively protect and enhance habitats that support federally endangered pallid sturgeon within the Middle Mississippi River, endangered interior least terns, and Indiana bats.



Windy Bar Island provides habitat for both federally endangered and state listed species. Populations of pallid sturgeon, interior least terns, and Indiana bats (summer roosting habitat) are all supported by habitats present on Windy Bar and within Schenimann Chute.

## **Nebraska**

**Habitat Protection for Whooping Cranes, Interior Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Central Platte River** (Buffalo County, NE): \$196,006. Funding will be used to purchase an important tract of stop-over critical habitat for the endangered whooping crane, and essential breeding habitat for the threatened piping plover and endangered least tern. Wetlands and adjacent uplands in this section of the Platte River have a high risk of development in the next few years. This section of the river is also an important migratory habitat for many species of ducks, geese, and shorebirds.

**\*Salt Creek Tiger Beetle** (Lancaster County, NE): \$174,000. This grant will help acquire and restore Eastern saline wetland habitat, a habitat type that has experienced major losses (~80 percent) in Nebraska and is considered critically imperiled. Without the project, this property is vulnerable to development which could result in a loss of habitat benefits for least terns, piping plovers and Salt Creek tiger beetles. In addition, the indirect and direct effects of urban development could compromise the habitat benefits of nearby protected saline wetlands. The property is the highest priority acquisition for the Salt Creek tiger beetle, a declining, narrowly distributed species endangered species. The property would be managed in perpetuity for the beetle.

## **Ohio**

**\*Land Acquisition Initiative Along the Little Darby Creek State and National Scenic River to Aid in the Recovery of Clubshell and Northern Riffleshell** (Madison County, OH): \$247,395. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves will use this funding to purchase the 174 acre Riverwood Property. The property is adjacent to Little Darby Creek and its acquisition will secure habitat for two endangered mussels, the clubshell and Northern riffleshell. The property consists of riparian forest buffer and floodplain, several small tributaries with associated forested ravines, forest wetlands, and upland habitat.

## **Oregon**

**Pocket Creek Ranch Conservation Easement at Zumwalt Prairie** (Wallowa County, OR) \$557,000. This grant is for the acquisition of a conservation easement over 5,817 acres adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in northeast Oregon. The conservation easement will protect additional habitat for the largest known Spalding's catchfly population in Oregon and habitat for the Snake River steelhead, both federally listed threatened species. This acquisition is also expected to benefit Columbia spotted frog, nesting raptors including ferruginous hawks and northern goshawks, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

## **Puerto Rico**

**Acquisition of San Miguel Natural Reserve for Leatherback Sea Turtles:** \$1,500,000. This grant will enable the complete acquisition of 270 acres, which includes 1.2 miles of coastline in Puerto Rico that will benefit 14 federally listed species. This area is part of the proposed Northeastern Ecological Corridor that Puerto Rico is trying to establish to protect unique strands of functional wetlands together with undeveloped shoreline, where associations of flora typical of the Puerto Rico coast prior to Spanish colonization still exist. The Luquillo beaches in the San Miguel property are the most important nesting beaches for leatherback sea turtles in areas under US jurisdiction and their long term protection is identified as a high priority. Hawksbill sea turtles also nest on these beaches. In addition, acquiring this property will benefit several other listed species including the West Indian manatee, brown pelican, and Puerto Rican boa.

## **Tennessee**

**Acquisition of Dry Branch for Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass** (Lewis County, TN): \$517,550. This grant will enable the complete acquisition of 2,171 acres of habitat to be protected as a State Natural Area for the recovery of Tennessee yellow-eyed grass, an endangered plant. Dry Branch is one of only a few known extant locations that this plant exists in Tennessee, all of which are in Lewis County. Hundreds of specimens of this plant stretch for 1.5 miles along the creek of this property. Acquisition of this site will bring two Tennessee populations into state protection.

## **Texas**

**Whooping Crane Seadrift Habitat** (Calhoun County, TX): \$412,750. This project proposes to acquire a conservation easement by The Nature Conservancy to preserve the 2,160-acre J. Welder Ranch, an area of coastal marsh that is optimal habitat for the endangered whooping crane and brown pelican, and the threatened piping plover. Increasing commercial and residential development pressures within, and adjacent to, currently used whooping crane habitat in Aransas and Calhoun counties make the need for habitat protection measures paramount for the recovery of these species.

**Morton Golden-cheeked Warbler Preserve** (Comal County, TX): \$652,312.50. This project proposes to preserve, through fee title purchase by Comal County, the 288.25-acre Morton tract to benefit the endangered golden-cheeked warbler on-site, and the endangered fountain darter, Peck's Cave amphipod, Comal Springs riffle beetle, and Comal Springs dryopid beetle, downstream of the property. This property lies within a larger block of endangered golden-cheeked warbler habitat and is within the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, which supports habitat for the endangered aquatic species (fish and invertebrates). The property is near the rapidly urbanizing city of New Braunfels, in proximity to San Antonio, Texas, making protection important.

## **Utah**

**White Dome Nature Preserve** (Washington County, UT): \$380,000. The White Dome Rare Plant Preserve will benefit the endangered dwarf bear poppy, threatened Siler pincushion cactus and desert tortoise, and other sensitive species. The dwarf bear poppy is an endemic found only in Washington County, Utah, and only on gypsum soils. This project will protect 1 of 7 remaining populations of the poppy, which cannot be grown in captivity or survive transplanting to new sites. The project also will protect the threatened Siler pincushion cactus, which is confined to two geographically restricted geological formations. For both dwarf bear poppy and Siler pincushion cactus, White Dome provides an environment that includes a sufficient population, represented by all age classes, genetic heterogeneity, and a number of sexually mature individuals to producing viable offspring.

## **Vermont**

**LaPlatte Headwaters Initiative on Bissonette Farm** (Chittenden County, VT): \$500,000. This grant will contribute towards the purchase of a conservation easement on two properties within the LaPlatte Headwaters portion of the Champlain Valley bioregion. The two parcels total 301 acres, and the conservation easements will result in the permanent protection of the largest Indiana bat summer roosting and foraging habitat in the geographic area. The northern most known maternal colony of the Indiana bat is located on the LaPlatte Headwaters property.

## **Virginia**

**Purchase of Madison Cave Isopod Habitat** (Augusta County, VA): \$401,135. This grant will contribute towards the purchase of two tracts totaling 120 acres in Augusta County, Virginia. The acquisition will contribute to the recovery goals for the Madison Cave isopod by protecting a significant karst area and surface recharge area. One of the most robust and viable populations of the Madison Cave isopod is located within the purchase area, which will be protected in perpetuity and dedicated as a State Natural Area Preserve.

## **Washington**

**\*San Juan Islands *Castilleja* Conservation Project** (San Juan County, WA): \$1,000,000. The objective of this acquisition is to permanently protect one of the last surviving populations of golden paintbrush in the Northern Puget Sound area. Globally, golden paintbrush is known to occur at only 11 sites.

\* Indicates partial funding awarded