

Private Stewardship Grants Program Regional Award Summaries FY 2006

Alabama

Paint Rock River (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Jackson County, Alabama – (\$190,000) - The Nature Conservancy proposes to work with two private landowners in the upper Paint Rock River watershed to enhance approximately 1000 feet of riparian habitat to benefit imperiled fish and mussel species. The Paint Rock River and its tributaries are well known for aquatic species diversity, especially for freshwater mussels. This project will directly benefit 6 federally-endangered mussels --the shiny pigtoe, fine-rayed pigtoe, pink mucket, Alabama lampmussel, rough pigtoe and pale lilliput and the federal candidate, the slabside pearlymussel. Additionally, 5 rare fish species are also expected to benefit, including the endangered palezone shiner and the threatened snail darter.

Alaska

Habitat Conservation for Khantaak Islands, Yakutat – (application by The Nature Conservancy of Alaska) – Alaska – (\$53,571) - The Nature Conservancy, in cooperation with the Yak-Tat Kwaan, the Yakutat tribe, and the Yakutat Salmon Board, will initiate a conservation assessment of habitats owned by the Kwaan on and near the Khantaak Islands for the purpose of developing habitat stewardship prescriptions. Species that will benefit from a systematic conservation assessment and subsequent protection include Kittlitz's and marbled murrelets, as well as yellow-billed loons, black oystercatchers, and Steller's sea lions.

Restoration & Enhancement of Habitat Adjacent to Barrow II – (application by the North Slope Borough) – North Slope Borough, Alaska – (\$59,830) - The North Slope Borough will work with the local utilities cooperative to restore and enhance habitats in areas adjacent to Barrow, Alaska, to reduce mortality and increase nesting success of threatened and at-risk species, including Steller's and spectacled eiders. Power lines will be marked with bird flight diverters to reduce bird mortalities from collisions with wires.

Afognak Island Motorized Access Denial: Phase IV – (application by Wildlife Forever) – Alaska – (\$100,000) – Wildlife Forever will work with a large Native Corporation landowner to reclaim forest roads to reduce habitat fragmentation and minimize habitat disturbance for brown bears. The project will also benefit Pacific salmon. Phase IV will continue enhancing natural resource and riparian qualities on lands in proximity to other protected habitat areas.

Stabilization of Degraded Wetlands Trails Project – (application by Cook Inlet Tribal Council) – Alaska - (\$79,786*) - Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. will collaborate with private landowners to protect wetland habitats on Alaska's Lower Kenai Peninsula. Wetlands have been adversely impacted by extensive off-road vehicle use, which has created a network of trails. Degraded trails will be stabilized, which will protect two significant anadromous fish-producing watersheds, benefiting coho and sockeye salmon.

Arkansas

Arkansas Blackland Ecosystem (application by The Nature Conservancy – Arkansas Chapter) – Hempstead County, Arkansas – (\$56,250*)

- The Nature Conservancy of Arkansas will work on their lands and also with private landowners to aid in the restoration of the blackland prairie ecosystem. They will: (1) assist with the implementation of the strategies, including removal of eastern red cedar from 200 acres; (2) reduce exotic species by 75 percent on 100 acres; (3) reduce erosion on 200 acres by 50 percent; and (4) measure results. The project will result in benefits for many rare plant and animal species including the Diana fritillary butterfly, the bald eagle, Bachman's sparrow and LeConte's sparrow.

Strawberry River Best Management Practices (application by The Nature Conservancy – Arkansas Chapter) - Various Counties, Arkansas

– **(\$28,000)** - The Nature Conservancy, as a part of its Strawberry River Watershed initiative, will work with two private development landowners to reduce sedimentation resulting from unpaved roads on over 3,000 acres of privately developed land. This project would help protect the endangered Scaleshell mussel in this reach of the river and also would benefit at least 12 other freshwater mussel species of concern, such as the Western fanshell, snuffbox, purple lilliput, pyramid pigtoe and Ozark pigtoe, among others.

Cave Crayfish – (application by The Nature Conservancy – Arkansas Chapter) – Washington County, Arkansas – (\$20,748*) -The Nature Conservancy will undertake a project at Elm Springs designed to provide protection for the endangered cave crayfish, one of the rarest crayfish in the world. They will reduce habitat disturbance through fencing and reduce habitat degradation by installing off-site watering locations for cattle and planting of riparian vegetation at the location. The project will also result in reduced toxins entering groundwater habitat through removal of the toxic materials at the Elm Springs site.

Mulberry River – (application by The Nature Conservancy – Arkansas Chapter) – Franklin County, Arkansas – (\$63,750) - The Nature Conservancy will work with a private landowner to conduct streambank restoration and re-vegetate adjacent riparian areas using native species. This project is being undertaken to benefit the scaleshell mussel in the Mulberry River.

California

Santa Cruz Island Native Plant Restoration – (application by Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office) - Santa Barbara County, California – (\$103,700*) - Removal of invasive exotic plants will benefit 11 federally and/or state threatened or endangered species such as the Santa Cruz Island chicory, island rushrose, Santa Cruz Island silver lotus, and Santa Cruz Island Dudleya, on a Pacific channel island that contains a large number of unique endemic plant species, several of which exist only on Santa Cruz Island. A total of 23 acres containing several species of invasive weeds present an imminent threat to the recovery of three federally listed plant species (Hoffmann's rock cress, island bedstraw, and Santa Cruz Island lacepod). The area will be directly restored through manual removal of exotics.

“Walking Wetlands” at Staunton Farms – (application by Staunton Farms) - Siskiyou County, California – (\$145,000) - This project will create rotational “walking” wetlands on agricultural lands in the Klamath Basin. The project will illustrate how agriculture can provide important habitats for imperiled species while improving crop yields, controlling weeds, reducing cost, and increasing profitability. A total of 188 acres of

wetland habitat will be created adjacent to the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. Water will be impounded for three years to create productive seasonal and permanently flooded wetlands that will provide nesting and/or foraging habitats for more than 10 federally and/or state-listed species or species of concern including the bald eagle, black tern, white-faced ibis, and yellow-headed blackbird. In year four the wetland will be moved or “walked” to another area of the ranch to start the process anew. It is anticipated that once the project at Staunton Farms is shown to be successful, many other farmers in the Basin will want to create their own “walking wetlands.”

Southern Pacific Pond Turtle Hatchling Survival – (application by National Audubon Society, Kern River Preserve) - Kern County, California – (\$26,215) - California Audubon’s Kern River Preserve will develop predator proof ponds for the benefit of the Southern Pacific pond turtle, a federal and state species of concern and the only native turtle in the Pacific states. The project will help address a dramatic decline of 95% of the pond turtle population that has occurred in the Kern River Valley during the last 125 years. Due to predation from non-native fish, it is believed that no juvenile turtles remain in the Valley. The Preserve staff and Audubon volunteers will collect and incubate turtle eggs and raise the young in the protected ponds until they reach 3 years of age, after which the turtles will be released in the wild.

Wildlife Friendly Pond Restoration – (application by Alameda County Resource Conservation District) - Alameda County, California – (\$103,400 total [\$14,587 (2006 funds); \$88,813 (2004 funds)])** - The grant will restore and enhance deteriorating livestock ponds on 11 cattle ranches for the federally threatened California red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders, and other imperiled species. Surrounding upland areas will be maintained and enhanced to provide additional habitat for threatened amphibians, federally endangered San Joaquin kit foxes, and other imperiled upland species. The program will encourage livestock producers to practice voluntary habitat-focused stewardship on their lands for the benefit of a variety of imperiled species.

Coastal Sage Scrub Restoration at an Audubon California Sanctuary – (application by National Audubon Society) - Orange County, California – (\$80,300) - Funds will be provided for the removal of invasive nonnative plant species and the restoration of 88 acres of native coastal sage scrub habitat, an imperiled southern California vegetation type, at Audubon California’s Starr Ranch Sanctuary. The project will benefit the federally threatened California gnatcatcher and benefit as many as 21 additional imperiled species such as the San Diego Coast horned lizard, red coachwhip snake, northern red-diamond rattlesnake, coastal cactus wren, and grasshopper sparrow that are the target of a large-scale regional habitat conservation plan in southern Orange County. The project is part of a long-term effort to fully restore coastal sage scrub habitat to the 2,151-acre ranch.

Laguna de Santa Rosa Middle Reach Restoration Project (Balletto Ranch Element) – (application by Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation) – Sonoma County, California – (\$75,000) - The project will restore 1.8 miles of native riparian habitat and 3-5 acres of seasonal wetlands by erecting livestock exclusion fencing. By improving water quality and habitat conditions, these restoration activities will benefit six imperiled species; coho salmon, steelhead trout, Sebastopol meadowfoam, Burke’s goldfields, golden eagle, and bald eagle.

Mattole River Headwaters Endangered Species Habitat Restoration Project – (application by Mattole Restoration Council) - Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, California – (\$109,200*) - The project will benefit aquatic species along the entire stem of the Mattole River and estuary by treating 183 sediment sources within the stream. Species that will benefit include coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, green sturgeon, foothill yellow-legged frog, tailed frog, and southern torrent salamander.

Middle Spring Branch Creek Restoration Pilot Project - (application by Solano Land Trust) - Solano County, California – (\$50,000*) - The removal of the exotic perennial pepperweed will enhance a ephemeral creek, tidal marsh and muted tidal wetland habitat within the Suisun Marsh. Riparian vegetation will be restored and a host of imperiled species will benefit including the salt-marsh harvest mouse, California clapper rail, Suisun thistle, and soft bird's-beak.

Clear Lake Watershed Sagebrush -Grassland Restoration Project – (application by Lava Beds-Butte Valley Resource Conservation District) - Modoc County, California – (\$120,000*) - The objective of this project is to restore and enhance the sagebrush-grassland community to benefit associated wildlife species including the greater sage grouse, Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed jackrabbit. Project considerations include increased base flows to springs and seeps to enhance habitat for dependent species such as the western toad, sandhill crane, and pallid bat.

Colorado

Navajo River Brood Lake Development for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Conservation – (application by Trout Unlimited Inc.) – Archuleta County, Colorado – (\$34,300) – Trout Unlimited will work with a private landowner and the Colorado Division of Wildlife to restore habitat and create and stock a brood pond for a unique genetic lineage of Colorado River cutthroat trout in southwestern Colorado. The brood pond will enable future stocking of this population into additional portions of the historic range.

Private Lands Habitat Enhancement for Riparian and Grassland Species At-Risk in Colorado – (application by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory) – Elbert County, Colorado - (\$50,099*) – Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will work with two ranchers in eastern Colorado to restore riparian habitat that transects shortgrass prairie by fencing livestock out of the riparian areas and providing alternative watering sources and improved grazing management for them. This restoration will benefit numerous bird and fish species, including scaled quail, lark bunting and Arkansas darter.

Florida

Working Across the Fenceline – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Polk, Highlands, Lake, Orange, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hardee, Desoto, Manatee, Sarasota, Osceola and Brevard Counties, Florida – (\$75,000) - Through the Central Florida Lygodium Strategy, a public/private partnership, The Nature Conservancy will work with at least six private landowners towards a landscape approach to controlling two invasive species of climbing ferns on 110 acres of land. Old World climbing fern is invading from south Florida and Japanese climbing fern is spreading from the north. This project will help implement a comprehensive landscape level approach to control these invasive species that choke native vegetation, increase fire by allowing it to reach tree canopies, and otherwise destroy the value of the habitat for wildlife. Species expected to benefit from this project include the eastern indigo snake, red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork, snail kite, Florida panther and bald eagle. Additionally, the federally endangered Beautiful Pawpaw and 32 other state-listed plants, such as celestial lily, spoon-leaved sundew, and star anise will benefit from this project.

Project Green Sweep II – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Monroe County, Florida – (\$101,903) – Working with private landowners, The Nature Conservancy will treat invasive exotic plant infestations with a focus on coastal areas adjacent to public conservation lands in the Florida Keys. Over 28 landowners have expressed interest in this program which will also benefit four species of sea turtles, Key deer, the Lower Keys marsh rabbit, rice rat, bald eagle and other species. To complement this project, the State of Florida will be supplying \$26,000 of contracted exotics removal for public lands in the area.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Georgia

Please See Multi-State Proposals

Hawaii

Hawaii Island Coastal Restoration – (application by Yamanaka Enterprises, Inc.) – Hawai‘i County, Hawai‘i – (\$73,250*) – The project seeks to improve hawksbill sea turtle nesting habitat by minimizing threats posed by non-native mammalian predators including mongooses, rats, feral cats, and feral dogs; controlling non-native plants such as fountain grass; and minimizing impact of human activities by restricting beach access. Green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals will also benefit as a result of this restoration project.

Kualoa Ranch Endangered Species Restoration and Management – (application by Kualoa Ranch and Activity Club, Inc.) – Honolulu County, Hawai‘i – (\$111,035) – The objective of this project is to establish new populations of five endangered or candidate plant species (*Cyanea acuminata*, *Cyanea crispera*, *Gardenia manni*, *Psychotria hexandra* spp. *oahuensis*, and *Cyanea truncate*). Newly established populations will be protected by the construction of enclosure fences which will total approximately 10 acres.

Lana‘ihale Summit Fence Project – (application by Lana‘i Institute for the Environment) – Maui County, Hawai‘i – (\$245,000) – This project will protect and restore the native forest ecosystem of the Lana‘ihale Cloud Forest on the island of Lana‘i, benefiting a number of endangered species including *Bonamia menziesii*, *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *mauiensis*, *Ctenitis squamigera*, *Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyanea macrostegia* ssp. *gibsonii*, *Cyrtandra munroi*, *Gahnia Lana‘iensis*, *Hedyotis manni*, *Hedyotis schlechtendahlia* var. *remyi*, *Labordia tinifolia* var. *lanaiensis*, *Melicope munroi*, *Spermolepis hawaiiensis*, and *Viola lanaiensis*. Lana‘ihale also includes occupied habitat for *Partulina semicarinata* and *Partulina variabilis*, two tree snails proposed for listing as endangered. This restoration effort will include installation of an enclosure fence that

will restrict feral ungulates from accessing the forest and allow restoration and natural regeneration of native plants to occur. The project is in conjunction with the implementation of 25-year biodiversity plans for the property.

Reintroduction and Conservation of Five Endangered Plants and a Bird Species on Tiana Partners Property – (application by Ohu ‘Ohu Ko’Olau, Inc.), Honolulu County, Hawaii – (\$26,532) The objective of this project is to reintroduce, monitor, and maintain a single population of five endangered species (*Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyrtandra polyantha*, *Diellia erecta*, *Lobelia monostachya*, and *Tetraplasandra lydgatei*) and enhance the habitat of a sixth endangered species (*Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis*) in appropriate and protected habitat on Tiana Partners land.

Threat Abatement in Haiku Uka, East Maui – (application by Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. and East Maui Watershed Partnership) – Maui County, Hawai‘i – (\$82,500) – The objective of this project is to control and reduce the presence of invasive plant species that compete for the habitat of 12 listed and 4 proposed species, and to control and reduce the occurrence of feral ungulates present in the project area, whose browsing and trampling reduce habitat for at-risk species.

Idaho

Restoration of the Dunn Property within the Rainier Reach of the Upper Teton River – (application by Teton Regional Land Trust) – Teton County, Idaho – (\$57,906*) The goals of the streambank restoration on the Dunn Property within the Rainier Reach of the Upper Teton River are to restore approximately 2,000 feet of the Teton River to increase and establish riparian cover and fence approximately 1 mile (both banks) of the Teton River corridor to exclude cattle. Restoration activities will benefit the Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Indiana

Habitat enhancement for state-listed and conserved fen species - (application by private landowner) - Marshall County, Indiana – (\$18,125) - The landowner will use chemical applications to control exotic and invasive species in and around a high-quality fen wetland. Approximately 12 acres of the fen will be managed through a prescribed fire by certified wildland firefighters to increase sedge, grass, and forb coverage. Species benefiting from stewardship activities include northern leopard frog, Blanding’s turtle, eastern massasauga, and marsh club moss.

Iowa

Southern Iowa oak savanna and tallgrass prairie restoration initiative - (application by the Decatur County Economic Development Board) - Decatur and Ringgold Counties, Iowa – (\$125,000) - The project features coordinating efforts of private lands biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to provide landowners with several methods of oak savanna habitat enhancement including mechanical brush removal, prescribed fire, grazing, invasive species removal, and native species establishment. There are already seven landowners identified where treatment would occur. These practices will benefit the Henslow’s sparrow, greater prairie chicken, the eastern prairie

fringed orchid, and at least 12 other at-risk plant species. This project is a collaborative effort among Decatur County, Graceland University, Southern Iowa Oak Savanna Alliance, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy.

Kansas

Stewart Creek At-Risk Species Habitat Restoration Project – (application by Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation) – Barber County, Kansas – (\$90,817) – The Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation will partner with two ranchers to restore 14.2 miles of riparian habitat for the Arkansas darter and red spotted frog and 4,454 acres of prairie habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken in south-central Kansas. The darter and prairie-chicken are candidate species for Federal listing. This will be accomplished by removing invasive trees and modifying livestock grazing techniques.

Prairie Dog Colony Complex & Associated At-Risk Wildlife Species Conservation Project – (application by Audubon of Kansas) – Logan County, Kansas – (\$83,000) – Audubon of Kansas will work with four ranchers to conserve black-tailed prairie dogs on their lands while implementing measures to prevent the prairie dogs from encroaching on neighboring lands. The resulting increased acreage of prairie dogs will provide sufficient habitat for restoration of the endangered black-footed ferret to western Kansas.

Louisiana

Louisiana Black Bear (application by the Black Bear Conservation Committee) – Various Counties in Louisiana – (\$89,997) - The Black Bear Conservation Committee will work with partners and private landowners to conduct chemical thinning of exotics and reforestation activities on 500 acres of land to help establish forest corridors for the Louisiana black bear. They will control invasive species and plant native species in areas where there are gaps in the landscape-scale forest corridor from Arkansas to the Gulf of Mexico. This project is being undertaken primarily to help connect populations of the federally threatened Louisiana black bear although other species expected to benefit include the Ivory-billed woodpecker, Swallow-tailed kite and Swainson's warbler.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Maine

Crystal Bog Preserve: management of impacts to a circumneutral fen supporting the prairie white-fringed orchid – (application by The Nature Conservancy) - Crystal, Sherman, and Aroostook counties, Maine – (\$14,243*) Crystal Bog Preserve is a 4,076 acre preserve located east of Maine’s Baxter State Park. Phragmites (an invasive plant) is threatening the long term viability of the only New England population of the federally threatened prairie white-fringed orchid, also known as the Eastern prairie fringed orchid. This grant will assist in the elimination of non-native phragmites, as well as evaluate the impacts of occasional beaver activity in Little Crystal Fen and the need to install a water control structure on the major culvert draining the fen.

Michigan

Endangered Great Lakes piping plover protection and monitoring in Northern Michigan - (application by Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy) - Alger, Chippewa, and Schoolcraft Counties, Michigan – (\$69,373) - This project consists of piping plover monitoring and protection at Grand Marais, Vermilion, and Gulliver, Michigan. One staff person will be hired with funds to monitor and protect plover nesting sites from May to August. Private landowners will assist in erecting nesting exclosures, signage, and provide plover observations. Signs will be developed to alert beach users of piping plover activity. Activities supported by this grant are a part of a multi-agency partnership among the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, and will be conducted over a two year period.

Kalamazoo Nature Center fen and upland restoration project - (application by Kalamazoo Nature Center) - Kalamazoo County, Michigan - (\$28,559*) Stewardship funds will be used to assist in implementing the Kalamazoo Nature Center's 2005 Land Management Plan. Restoration is targeted in several zones within the nature center and is focused on protecting and enhancing fen and upland habitats that support 21 state-listed species including the eastern massasauga (snake), Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, and the cut-leaved water parsnip. Work entails cutting invasive woody species and then a follow-up treatment with chemical application.

Minnesota

Southeast Minnesota Prairie and Savanna Restoration Project - (application by Prairie Smoke Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts) - Fillmore, Houston, Mower, and Olmsted Counties, Minnesota - (\$99,500*) - The habitat in the top 4 four priority identified prairie remnants will be recovered, enhanced and expanded to benefit at-risk species including cliff goldenrod, Hill's thistle, and the timber rattlesnake. The long-term conservation of these rare habitats and the associated species will be fostered by the 16 private landowners through the stewardship plan. Private conservation groups including the Minnesota Land Trust, Zumbro Valley Audubon Society and landowners will be engaged in the cooperative effort to conserve these rare natural resources.

Rare species habitat restoration within an 80-acre residential property – (application by private landowner) - Anoka County, Minnesota - (\$40,000*) - This private landowner will restore, enhance and manage habitats supporting the tubercled rein orchid, lance-leaved violet, and Blanding's turtle. Tasks will include invasive species removal, herbicide treatments, and local ecotype seed collection and dispersal.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Mississippi

Please See Multi-State Proposals

Missouri

Maries River Watershed Restoration for private landowners and Niangua darters - (application by private landowner) - Osage and Maries Counties, Missouri – (\$85,000*) - The Maries River Watershed Landowner Committee will implement technically and socially accepted best management practices within the Maries River watershed to benefit the endangered Niangua darter as well as 12 other at-risk species such as plains topminnow, grotto salamander, and black sandshell. The Niangua darter only occurs in eight small basins of the Osage River watershed in southwest Missouri. This is a collaborative conservation effort among the landowners, Osage and Maries Counties Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Farm Services Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri Extension, Maries/Osage Cattleman's Association, Osage Independent Pork Producers, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Specific practices will include riparian corridor reestablishment, streambank stabilization, alternative watering systems, reinforced stream crossings, and warm season grass/forb reestablishment.

Groundwater protection in the Tumbling Creek Cave Recharge Area - (application by Ozark Underground Laboratory, Inc.) - Taney County, Missouri – (\$26,988) - This grant addresses management activities located in the groundwater recharge area to Tumbling Creek Cave which provides habitat for 10 species of conservation concern, including the endangered Tumbling Creek cavesnail, Indiana bat, and gray bat. The cave is designated a Priority 1 gray bat hibernacula and provides winter habitat for the Indiana bat. This grant will clean up at least eight dumps and pump-outs of 12 private on-site septic systems in the recharge area for Tumbling Creek. These are Priority 1 recovery actions identified in the Tumbling Creek Cavesnail Recovery Plan.

Montana

Big Hole River Arctic Grayling Riparian Enhancement Project – (application by Arctic Grayling Recovery Program) – Beaverhead County, Montana – (\$22,050) – The Arctic Grayling Recovery Program will work with a private landowner to restore riparian habitat in an important spawning reach for the riverine form of the arctic grayling in southwestern Montana. Planting native riparian trees to restore the riparian habitat will cool the river water for the grayling, a candidate species for Federal listing.

Working Together for Grave Creek Restoration--Phase 3 – (application by Kootenai River Network, Inc.) – Lincoln County, Montana – (\$100,000) – The Kootenai River Network will work with partners to restore the lower mainstem of Grave Creek, which is an important spawning reach for the threatened bull trout, to its proper form and function. The project includes restoration of proper stream cross-sectional dimensions and revegetating over a mile of riparian floodplain.

Livestock Water System at Pine Butte Swamp Preserve – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Teton County, Montana - (\$40,626) – The project will enable The Nature Conservancy to minimize conflicts between grizzly bears and livestock by providing an alternate water source for livestock and fencing them away from a wetland that is used as a bedding area and travel corridor by the bears. Livestock exclusion will also benefit several sensitive plant species from livestock trampling during the growing season.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

***Multi-State**

North Dakota/Montana

Partnering with Private Landowners to Conserve Piping Plovers – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Burke, Divide, McLean, Mountrail, Renville, Sheridan and Williams Counties, North Dakota and Sheridan County, Montana – (\$88,841) – The Nature Conservancy will boost reproductive success of the endangered piping plover by removing manmade structures that increase nest predation by mammalian predators because the predators can hide behind them. The targeted alkaline lakes region of the two States is an important breeding area for the species.

South Carolina/Georgia

Milliken (application by Milliken Forestry Company, Inc.) - Jasper, Hampton, Allendale, Barnwell, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Orangeburg, Berkeley, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Marion, Sumter, Calhoun, and Richland Counties in South Carolina and Screven County, Georgia - (\$464,925) - Milliken Forestry will work in partnership with over 45 private landowners, many of whom are engaged in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Safe Harbor Program, to restore and improve longleaf pine habitat on approximately 17,645 acres. The project involves mid-story hardwood control and prescribed burning to benefit the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, a key indicator species for the longleaf ecosystem, as well as chaff-seed, pond berry, Canby's dropwort and other species dependent upon this ecosystem. The project also will complement other major landscape level conservation efforts in the area.

Alabama/Mississippi

Native Prairie Ecosystem – Phase II (application by Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation) – Various Counties, Mississippi and Alabama – (\$160,043) - Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi State University, BASF Corporation and Environmental Defense will work with private landowners to restore and enhance 750 acres of native prairie habitat within the Blackland Prairie of the Mobile River Basin. Using funds from other sources, the project partners will hold workshops and outreach events that will result in increased landowner interest in proper management of the native prairie ecosystem and in how management of non-point source pollution can benefit many aquatic species. Species expected to benefit from this prairie restoration project include the Mississippi-state listed Bewick's wren, the federally-threatened plant Price's potato bean, and freshwater mussels such as the federally-endangered southern combshell, southern clubshell, ovate clubshell, heavy pigtoe and the federally-threatened Alabama moccasinshell. During Phase I of this project, approximately 1,462 acres were converted to native warm season grasses in the historical Blackland Prairie region.

Tennessee/Louisiana/North Carolina

Mussels and Darters (application by Wildlife Forever) – Lawrence and Wayne Counties, Tennessee; Grant and Rapides Parishes, Louisiana; Franklin County, North Carolina – (\$35,600) - International Paper and Wildlife Forever will partner to protect and enhance two federally-listed aquatic species on lands owned by International Paper. The project will conduct slab rock habitat enhancement and reintroduce the federally-endangered Boulder darter to Shoal Creek, Tennessee. In Louisiana, the partners will undertake surveys for the federally threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel and assess and implement actions to improve habitat artificially to benefit this species.

Florida/Georgia

Red Hills Ecological Stewardship - (application by Tall Timbers Research Station) – Leon County, Florida; Thomas and Grady Counties, Georgia – (\$69,301) - Tall Timbers Research Station, working through the Red Hills Ecological Stewardship Consortium, will work with private landowners in the Red Hills region to demonstrate the far-reaching effects that private lands management can play in the conservation of the federally-endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and other species dependent upon the longleaf pine ecosystem. Specifically, the project will result in the construction of 75 artificial cavities for the red-cockaded woodpecker, translocate at least three sub adult pairs of red-cockaded woodpeckers into unoccupied habitat, augment single bird groups, promote and recruit up to four landowners into Safe Harbor Agreements, monitor nest productivity, assist landowners in obtaining incentives for management activities, and work on the Century Forest Initiative.

Nebraska

Central Platte Valley Wet Meadow and River Channel Restoration Project – (application by Platte River Whooping Crane Trust) – Buffalo, Hall, Hamilton and Merrick Counties, Nebraska - (\$105,215) – The Platte River Whooping Crane Trust will work with numerous partners and nine participating landowners to restore wetland and adjacent grassland habitat along the Platte River in central Nebraska for migrating whooping cranes and other Federally listed and declining birds, including piping plover, least tern and Henslow's sparrow. Habitat restoration projects include invasive tree removal, wetland slough construction and maintenance of open water habitat in the main river channel.

Northeast Nebraska Tallgrass Prairie Restoration – (application by Northeast Nebraska RC&D) – Knox and Antelope Counties, Nebraska – (\$93,000) – The RC&D will work with 29 private landowners to restore and enhance over 5,000 acres of tallgrass prairie in northeast Nebraska by removal of invasive red cedar trees. The project will benefit several State-sensitive species, including greater prairie-chicken and Henslow's sparrow.

New Jersey

Lenape/Restoration of Atlantic white cedar – (application by Lenape Farms, Inc.) - Atlantic County, New Jersey – (\$152,550) This grant will provide the funds needed to restore 60 acres of globally endangered Atlantic white cedar ecosystems. Cedar swamps support high breeding bird densities, habitat for rare invertebrates, and hibernation sites for the state listed timber rattlesnake. Atlantic white cedar forested wetlands are important as a water filter for coastal estuaries. Specifically, the tidal marshes of the Great Egg Harbor River will benefit from this project.

North Carolina

Wildlife Habitat Improvement – Hoke County (application by private landowner) – Hoke County, North Carolina – (\$23,841) - This project will restore the longleaf pine ecosystem on lands enrolled in the Safe Harbor program and which support the federally-endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and other at-risk species. Specifically, the landowner will treat 177 acres of woodland to control hardwood encroachment and conduct prescribed fire on an additional 57 acres.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

North Dakota

Please See Multi-State Proposals

Ohio

Restoration of oak savanna and wet prairie communities at St. Michael's Ridge - (application by private landowner) - Defiance County, Ohio – (\$11,050*) - This project will help restore 20 acres of black oak savanna on a centennial farm on St. Michael's Ridge (beach deposit by post-glacial Lake Erie) along with 30 acres of wet prairie and swamp forest. Activities will benefit 10 state-listed species including the frosted elfin and Persius dusky wing butterflies. Grassland habitat within existing fields will be enhanced through native seed plantings and herbaceous plugs (lupine, rattlesnake master, puccoon). Bur and black oak and shagbark hickory seedlings will be planted to restore 20 acres of oak savanna.

Oregon

Elkhead Oak Woodland and Riparian Restoration – (application by Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District) – Douglas County, Oregon – (\$40,922) – This project will restore 175 acres of oak woodland, oak savannah, and riparian forest and 1.8 miles of stream habitat through

the removal of invasive species such as English hawthorn, Scotch broom, and Himalayan blackberry. Several fish, wildlife, and plant species such as bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northwestern pond turtle, foothill yellow-legged frog, Oregon coast steelhead, coho salmon, and rough popcorn flower will benefit as a result of the habitat restoration.

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement for At-Risk Species in Wallowa County, Oregon – (application by Wallowa Resources) – Wallowa County, Oregon – (\$53,600*) - This project will restore and enhance riparian and upland habitat. The Zumwalt Prairie Preserve Old Field Restoration and Hardwood Enhancement will benefit Snake River steelhead and Spalding's catchfly (both threatened species), as well as other species such as Ferruginous hawks and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

McDaniel II, Wallowa River Channel Reconstruction – (application by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation) – Wallowa County, Oregon – (\$59,233) – This cooperative project among the Bonneville Power Association, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Services Administration, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and the landowner will restore approximately 2,000 feet of the Wallowa River channel, replacing approximately 1,550 feet of channelized stream. Restoration efforts will benefit bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, interior redband trout, and Pacific lamprey.

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Through Restoration of Prairies and Oak Woodlands in the Willamette Valley – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Benton, Lane, Linn, and Marion Counties, Oregon – (\$112,717*) – Working with private landowners, The Nature Conservancy will implement four projects which will directly benefit Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette Valley daisy, and other native plants. All projects seek to reduce or control invasive, non-native, or undesirable vegetation and replace it with native species associated with prairie, riparian forest, and creek habitats.

Klatskanine River Estuary Restoration – (application by Ducks Unlimited) – Clatsop County, Oregon – (\$59,250 (2003 funds))** – This cooperative project among Natural Resources Conservation Service, Columbia Land Trust, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Ducks Unlimited will restore approximately 50 acres of tidally influenced forested wetland and 20 acres of bottomland along the Klatskanine River. Restored tidally influenced wetlands will serve as habitat for both juvenile and adult steelhead and Chinook, coho, and chum salmon as well as coastal cutthroat trout.

Pennsylvania

Edinboro Lake Fen rare plant restoration project – (application by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History) - Erie County, Pennsylvania – (\$63,000) Edinboro Lake Fen is a 13 acre sedge shrub fen located on the northeast side of Edinboro Lake. This grant will allow for the removal of invasive species including narrow-leaf cattail and phragmites, and will benefit three state listed species, the black tern, least bittern and marsh wren. The shrub fen is a natural community of global and state significance. On a global scale, these ecosystems are considered imperiled/vulnerable. From a state perspective, shrub fens are deemed critically imperiled.

South Carolina

Good Hope Plantation (application by Good Hope Corporation) – Beaufort and Jasper Counties, South Carolina – (\$61,200) - The grantee will conduct prescribed burning on approximately 6,000 acres to control hardwood mid-story and benefit 16 active groups of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. These lands are enrolled in the South Carolina Red-cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Program. Other species expected to benefit from this project include two bald eagle territories on the site, swallow-tailed kites that have been observed on the property, and potentially, Backman's sparrow.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

South Dakota

Lower Brule Partnership for Conservation of Black-footed Ferret Habitat – (application by Lower Brule Sioux Tribe) – Lyman County, South Dakota – (\$66,094) – The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe will work with landowners whose private lands are in the vicinity of a reintroduction site for the endangered black-footed ferret. Landowners will be encouraged to maintain black-tailed prairie dogs on their lands to increase contiguous habitat for the ferret.

Implementation of Prescribed Burning-Grazing Programs on Private Lands in the Prairie Coteau Region of South Dakota (application by The Nature Conservancy) Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Marshall, Moody and Roberts Counties, South Dakota – (\$171,893*) – The Nature Conservancy will initiate a program to restore tallgrass prairie over a large landscape through the use of prescribed burning and patch grazing. These techniques mimic historic processes that shaped the tallgrass prairie landscape and will restore habitat for numerous species of State and Federal concern, including the Dakota skipper, prairie white-fringed orchid and small white lady's slipper.

Tennessee

Please See Multi-State Proposals

Texas

Trans-Pecos Wetland Habitat Project – Constructed Wetlands for the Conservation of Endangered Species and Migratory Birds - (application by Organic Aquaculture Institute, Inc.) – Pecos County, Texas (\$216,714*) – The Organic Aquaculture Institute, Inc. will provide important brackish water wetland habitats near the Pecos River to benefit the Pecos pupfish, and Pecos gambusia, and adjacent habitat will benefit the Pecos sunflower. The grant will be used to enhance existing aquatic habitats and create new and expanded brackish wetlands to benefit the species. Wetlands will be enhanced by modification of existing artesian wells on the property and will significantly contribute to the conservation of the target species and migratory birds.

Northern Aplomado Falcon Restoration – (application by The Peregrine Fund) – West and Southwest Texas (\$268,571*) - The Northern Aplomado Falcon is the only falcon species remaining on the Endangered Species List. This project will be funded to assist The Peregrine Fund to re-establish viable wild populations of the Northern Aplomado Falcon in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico through release of young captive-bred falcons and ultimately to see the species removed from the Endangered Species List. Landowner participation through a Safe Harbor program has been the cornerstone to the success of this recovery effort.

Barton Springs Salamander Protection and Golden-cheeked Warbler Habitat Creation, Restoration and Enhancement on The Storm Ranch – (application by Hill Country Conservancy) – Hays County, Texas (\$50,857*) – This project is proposed to protect the Barton Springs salamander by improving and increasing water quality on land that is a vital and dynamic recharge area that contributes directly to the water quality of the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer. This aquifer contributes to Barton Springs, the only known habitat of the Barton Springs salamander. Additionally, habitat favorable to the Golden-cheeked warbler will be restored and enhanced by mechanical habitat manipulation, grazing management and prescription burns.

Fire Restoration at Edwards Plateau Priority Conservation Areas - (application by The Nature Conservancy) - 10-county area of south central Texas (\$207,429*) – The Nature Conservancy will establish prescribed fire as a primary conservation tool to restore native habitats on private lands within priority conservation sites in Bandera, Bexar, Blanco, Comal, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Travis Counties, Texas. Habitat will be enhanced and restored for a large suite of species including black-capped vireo, golden-cheeked warblers and multiple other species that rely on the habitats targeted.

Modeling Habitat Restoration in the Texas Hill Country for Endangered Black-capped Vireos and Golden-cheeked Warblers - (application by Bat Conservation International) - Comal County, Texas (\$46,429*) – Bat Conservation International will re-establish faunal and floral diversity on their Bracken Bat Cave and Nature Reserve northwest of San Antonio, Texas. This 697-acre former ranch will have habitat for the endangered black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler maintained and improved through grazing management and prescription burns.

Texas Prairie Rivers Region Pease River Partners – Riparian Restoration on the Pease River Watershed - (application by Texas Prairie Rivers Region) - Foard County, Texas (\$120,000*) – This project will provide financial and technical assistance to private landowners who wish to voluntarily remove invasive plant species and restore native riparian habitat along the Pease River in Foard County, Texas. The project will benefit

the federally listed Interior least tern and “at-risk” species that occupy suitable riparian habitat, including the American woodcock (wintering), Mourning dove, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Red-headed woodpecker, Loggerhead shrike, Grasshopper sparrow, Painted bunting, and Eastern meadowlark. Riparian restoration work will also benefit water quality and quantity and the associated aquatic species that depend on it.

Conservation and Restoration of Star Cactus and Other At-Risk Species – (application by The Nature Conservancy) - Starr County, Texas - (\$79,200*) – This project will assist private landowners in conserving, restoring and monitoring star cactus and other at-risk species on at least 2,500 acres of private lands in Starr County, Texas, including the Nature Conservancy’s 415-acre Las Estrellas Preserve. Additionally, the critical poaching threat will be abated and the project will complement existing ongoing conservation efforts.

Restoration and Enhancement of Habitats on Private Lands for the Endangered Ocelot and other Rare Tamaulipan Thornscrub Species – (application by Environmental Defense) - Cameron County, Texas - (\$72,800*) – This project will allow Environmental Defense to work cooperatively with private landowners to restore and enhance a variety of dwindling thornscrub habitats on private lands in South Texas to maximize recovery potential for the endangered Ocelot and increase the amount and quality of available thornscrub habitat for a variety of rare or threatened songbirds, raptors, bats, reptiles, amphibians and plants.

Virginia

Restore Virginia’s longleaf pine-pitcher plant ecosystem at Joseph Pines Preserve – (application by Meadowview Biological Research Station) - Sussex County, Virginia – (\$26,616) The Joseph Pines Preserve is located in the gently rolling terrain of Sussex County, Virginia in the heart of the historic range of the longleaf pine-pitcher plant ecosystem. The Preserve is dedicated to protecting the entire remaining population of native pitcher plant. Less than 100 clumps of the yellow pitcher plant remain in the wild in 2 natural sites in southern Virginia. Funds from this grant will be used to restore and enhance one of these remaining sites.

Conservation of nesting shorebirds and colonial waterbirds on the barrier islands of Virginia – (application by The Nature Conservancy) - Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia – (\$13,508.44) The Virginia Coast Reserve (VCR) is a program of the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. This proposal focuses on VCR’s efforts to conserve and protect breeding waterbirds and shorebirds on the barrier islands of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. With an increase in the number of people drawn to the Eastern Shore, VCR has recognized the need for an increased use of signs and symbolic fencing to protect bird colonies and nesting areas on the islands. Piping plover and American oystercatchers occur throughout the barrier island chain and nesting locations are often in close proximity to boat landing areas. The islands support approximately 15 percent of the federally threatened Atlantic Coast population of the piping plover and support over 500 pairs of breeding oystercatchers, the highest number relative

to other east coast states for this species.

Washington

Kandoll Farm Estuary Restoration – (application by Ducks Unlimited) – Wahkiakum County, Washington – (\$129,000) – This project will protect and restore 163 acres of floodplain habitat to benefit Chinook, coho, and chum salmon and steelhead trout and to enhance habitat function for a variety of wildlife, including bald eagle, peregrine falcon and other sensitive species.

Restoration of a Native Prairie at Ebey’s National Historic Reserve – (application by Whidbey Camano Land Trust) – Island County, Washington – (\$87,610) – This project will restore a native prairie system, home to the Federally-threatened golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*). Restoration of this site is vital because it is one of only 11 remaining sites and one of the three largest sites on which this plant is found.

Tarboo Creek and Wetland Restoration – (application by Northwest Watershed Institute) – Jefferson County, Washington (\$161,813) – This project is a cooperative effort among Jefferson Land Trust, Jefferson County Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hood Canal Coordinating Council and others to restore 1.5 miles of Tarboo Creek mainstem, 1.5 miles of tributaries, and 120 acres of exceptionally rare forested bottomland wetlands on the 200-acre property. The restored stream channels and riparian areas will benefit coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and threatened Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal summer chum salmon.

West Virginia

Limestone herbaceous woodland, mesic forest, and glade habitat restoration and protection in the Smoke Hole Canyon of West Virginia – (application by The Nature Conservancy) - Grant County, West Virginia – (\$46,413) The Smoke Hole Lodge is the largest private tract in the Smoke Hole Canyon totaling 1,126 acres. This grant will provide the funds to restore a limestone herbaceous woodland community site to its historic condition within the Smoke Hole Lodge property. Additionally, funds will be used to improve and protect habitat of limestone ecosystem based species of concern that are threatened by Japanese stilt grass, garlic mustard and other invasive exotic plant species. Several plant species of concern will directly benefit from this project, including the Smoke Hole bergamot and yellow nailwart. Indirectly, this project will benefit five species of migratory birds (Golden-winged, Prairie, Cerulean and Kentucky warblers and the Wood Thrush) and the federally endangered Virginia big eared bat, by enhancing the habitat upon which they depend.

Wisconsin

Kinnickinnic River canyon prairie and oak savanna recovery project - (application by the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust) - Pierce County, Wisconsin – (\$40,000*) - The grant will help restore prairie and oak savanna habitats that have been degraded by invasive trees, shrubs, and non-native weeds for seven private landowners. Management activities will improve habitat for several at-risk species including prairie bush clover

(threatened), timber rattlesnake, prairie fame-flower, and kitten-tails. The Prairie Enthusiasts are partners in this effort and have contributed planning and oversight. Volunteers and staff of cooperators will conduct the management of these sites.

Critical habitat restoration in driftless area of southwest Wisconsin - (application by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy) - Crawford, Grant, La Crosse, and Vernon counties, Wisconsin – (\$40,000*) - This grant will target six areas for restoration on over 1,250 acres of bluffland, sand prairie, goat prairie, riverine wetland, and grassland habitats. These areas support 28 at-risk species including timber rattlesnake, Blanding's turtle, Henslow's sparrow, Hill's thistle, and northern monkshood (threatened). Management activities include fencing sensitive areas, signage, invasive plant removal and chemical treatments, seeding, and monitoring. Northern Engraving Corporation will contribute matching funds, grantee will provide volunteer labor, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will provide technical assistance.

Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area Prairie Restoration Project - (application by The Prairie Enthusiasts) - Dane and Iowa counties, Wisconsin – (\$75,000*) - Funds will restore 236 acres of degraded prairie remnants on 11 sites with nine different ownerships. In addition, non-remnant prairie grassland habitat that is contiguous with or near these targeted areas totals 935 acres, which when combined with the restored prairie, creates large tracts of uninterrupted habitat for eight at-risk species including regal fritillary, turberous Indian plantain, Hill's thistle, white lady's slipper, Bell's vireo, and ornate box turtle. Stewardship involves invasive tree and shrub removal by mechanical means followed by herbicide treatment, and removal of invasive herbaceous plants by pulling, mowing, and selective herbicide treatment. Prairie seed collecting and planting will also be done at most sites. The Prairie Enthusiasts will lead stewardship implementation, and volunteers will conduct seed planting and tree, brush and weed control.

Karner blue butterfly and associated declining species of savanna and barrens - (application by Sand County Foundation, Inc.) - Portage, Waupaca, Outagamie, Waushara, Adams, Marquette, Green Lake, Jackson, Wood, Juneau, and Monroe counties, Wisconsin – (\$111,743*) - Working in partnership with 15 landowners, 500 acres of habitat will be enhanced and restored through invasive species control, prescribed fire, tree canopy reductions, and native prairie seeding. The private lands are in areas where recovery and conservation of the species are likely to be achieved. The areas have been identified in the Recovery Units in the Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan and as Significant Population Areas and Areas of Conservation Emphasis in the Statewide HCP. It is estimated 56 at-risk species will benefit from this project including the prairie bush clover, Karner blue butterfly, loggerhead shrike, Blanding's turtle, eastern massasauga, ottoe skipper, and frosted elfin butterfly. The Sand County Foundation will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to develop agreements with private landowners.

Wyoming

Grade Creek Reconnection Project – (application by Trout Unlimited, Inc.) – Lincoln County, Wyoming – (\$120,000) – This project will re-water a portion of Grade Creek to enable Bonneville cutthroat trout to migrate from feeding and wintering grounds to historic spawning and juvenile rearing grounds on Grade Creek. Two State-sensitive species also will benefit from the habitat restoration.

* Denotes projects receiving partial funding

** Denotes projects utilizing funding recovered from previous years