

Private Stewardship Grants Program Regional Award Summaries

Region 1

California

Santa Cruz Island Native Plant Restoration Project (Application by The Nature Conservancy / County of Santa Barbara) - California - (\$40,000) - This is a multi-phase project designed to restore the native plant communities through removal of priority non-native invasive vegetation that will provide habitat benefits for the eight Federal or State endangered plants such as the Santa Cruz Island bush mallow, Hoffmann's rock cress Santa Cruz Island chicory and Santa Cruz Island silver lotus as well as 20 species of concern including Island tree poppy, Island jepsonia, Santa Cruz Island ironwood, big-pod wild lilac, and Santa Cruz Island oak. The focus this project is the removal of non-native woody species on Santa Cruz Island.

River Ridge Ranch Restoration and Demonstration Project (Application by River Ridge Ranch, LLC) - California - (\$104,404) - To improve habitat and assist in the recovery of numerous species including the endangered Kaweah brodiaea, and Springville clarkia and the State listed Swainson's hawk and several at-risk species such as foothill yellow-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, burrowing owl, and horned lark. The 722-acre ranch is in the midst of the largest blue oak ecosystem in the State. Restoration includes two components - aquatic restoration and blue oak habitat improvement and restoration.

Endangered Plant Habitat Restoration at the Former Humboldt Buggy and ATV Association Property (Application by Center for Natural Lands Management) - California - (\$80,000) - To complete phase 1 of the restoration of the Humboldt Buggy and ATV Association property. This work will include all the manual eradication of invasive weeds such as European beachgrass, yellow bush lupine, and iceplant and restoration of two rare plant communities, dune mat and northern foredune grassland. Four special status species will benefit from the dune restoration including Humboldt Bay wallflower and beach layia, both federally and state endangered.

Hawaii

Lana'ihale Summit Fence Project, Increment II (Application by Castle & Cook Resorts, LLC)- Hawaii - (\$245,000) - To protect and restore the native forest ecosystem of the Lana'ihale Cloud Forest on the island of Lana'i. To highlight the high level of endemism this project is expected to benefit 28 endangered plants; further 2 proposed tree snails (*Partulina semicarinata* and *P. variabilis*) commonly called the Lana'i tree snail, 1 bird and 38 arthropods will also benefit. 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. Among other plans and complementary agreements, the project begins the implementation of 25-year biodiversity plans as described in a critical habitat memorandum of agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Castle & Cooke Resorts, LLC.

Keauhou Forest Restoration (Application by Hawaiian Silversword Foundation) - Hawaii - (\$100,000) - For a comprehensive restoration program for 3,000 acres (1,214 hectares) of forest and former ranch lands at Keauhou Ranch. The project area contains diverse native forest and provides habitat for three endangered forest bird species, including the endangered Hawaiian Hawk, the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, as well as, nine endangered plant species. The overall objectives of the project are to protect and manage a large contiguous area of the landscape, enhance the long-term survival and integrity of native plant and animal communities and the natural processes on which they depend, and promote recovery of endangered species. The priority on-the-ground management actions necessary to achieve these objectives are fencing, alien animal control, alien plant control, reforestation, and endangered plant reintroduction.

Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetland Preserve Protection and Recovery Project (Application by Maui Coastal Land Trust) - Hawaii - (\$107,080) - This project will initiate long-term (10-year plus) restoration activities on the coastal dunes and wetlands of the 250-acre Waihe'e Preserve, to restore and enhance habitat for numerous coastal species including the endangered Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Duck and Hawaiian Gallinule, two endangered insects, and at least five endangered plants. The objective of this first phase will be: removal of invasive exotic plants from selected wetland and upper dune areas, widening the open water drainage corridor, expansion of the mudflat areas adjacent to open water in the wetlands, predator control in the wetlands areas to protect nesting birds, removal of old structures within and adjacent to the wetlands boundaries, plot plantings of native rare and endangered plant species on selected upper dune areas.

Auwahi Dryland Forest Restoration, Southwest Haleakala, Maui (Application by Ulupalakua Ranch) - Hawaii - (\$45,000) - To support the continued community-based restoration of selected diverse tracts of dryland forest at Auwahi, 'Ulupalakua Ranch, Maui.' This ecosystem restoration effort will benefit the Endangered Blackburn's sphinx moth and eight Endangered plants, some of which are reduced to only a few specimens in the wild, as well as, populations of many other depleted plant and animal species. The project objectives include fencing to exclude domestic and feral ungulates, control of invasive non-native plant species, and strategic propagation and outplanting that match those of the recovery plans prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Endangered species considered in this project. Based on the recent progress in an integrated multi-agency effort, supported by community volunteerism, the goal of diverse self-sustaining dryland forest containing resident Endangered species appears increasingly achievable.

Conservation Management in Partnership on Private Lands, Lumahai Valley (Application by University of Hawaii) - Hawaii - (\$155,100) - To initiate management activities in Lumaha'i Valley to address the three most pressing conservation problems, the critical threats posed by feral ungulates, invasive habitat modifying plant species, and further loss of endangered species habitat. Two listed seabirds, the Hawaiian petrel and Newell's shearwater, will benefit from this project. Ten endangered and rare plants are known to be on site and the area has been designated critical habitat for ten plants. All of these species will benefit from the project through protection and propagation. Activities have been separated into two projects for funding: Initiation of Ungulate Control, and Protection and Propagation of 20 species of rare plants.

Kauai Private Lands Program (Application by Ducks Unlimited) - Hawaii - (\$145,858) - This project will restore approximately 40 acres of freshwater wetlands, 100 acres of brackish water wetlands and 115 acres of associated upland and riverine habitat on 2 private properties on the island of Kauai. Five listed birds will benefit from this project; the Hawaiian duck, Hawaiian Goose, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Moorehen and Hawaiian Stilt. The restoration efforts will include sculpting wetland basins to encourage natural plant growth, installing predator proof fencing, noxious weed control and wetland and native plant restoration program.

Hawaii Forest, Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project, Umikoa Ranch (Application by Fujitory Hawaii, Inc. DBA Umikoa Ranch) - Hawaii - (\$127,700) - The primary goal of this project is to enhance forest, wetland and riparian habitat and establish protected sites for recovery of endangered plant, bird and insect populations. The project is expected to benefit 14 Endangered species (3 forest birds, the Hawaiian hawk, Hawaiian duck, Hawaiian goose, and 8 plants) and another 15 species that are candidates or species of concern. Management activities will include: site preparation; collection, propagation, and out-planting of common and endangered plants; and alien plant removal. Construction of a water resource will provide wetland habitat for out-planting efforts and riparian restoration. The secondary goal is to establish management practices that can help restore and protect native ecosystems and that are attainable, feasible and which can be successfully replicated on other lands.

Ku'O'hia Laka Hawaiian Rainforest Restoration Project (Application by Private Landowner) - Hawaii - (\$64,800) - To establish a plant propagation program for common forest plants as well as endangered, candidate and rare plant species. The project will improve existing native habitat to insure forest health necessary to support existing populations of endangered animals (I`o or Hawaiian Hawk/*Buteo solitarius* and `Ope`ape`a or Hoary Bat/*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*).

Manana Valley Fire Rehabilitation (Application by Manana Valley Farm, LLC) - Hawaii - (\$43,367) - By understanding natural post-fire regeneration pattern, controlling post-fire invasive weeds, enhancing natural native koa (*Acacia koa*) recruitment, and augmenting forest rehabilitation with koa outplantings, this project will create habitat for the natural succession and recovery of rare and endangered species. This project will also secure the regrowth of a vibrant mixed koa forest for future rare species outplanting and formulate a template from which to conduct similar restoration and/or fire rehabilitation projects in the future.

Koa Forest Restoration at 'Ulupalakua, Maui (Application by Ulupalakua Ranch) - Hawaii - (\$54,000) - To begin the outplanting stage of restoration of a *koa* (*Acacia koa*) forest of Pu'umakua on Ulupalakua Ranch lands. A new watershed restoration partnership is being formed by landowners of western and southern slopes of Haleakala to facilitate restoration of *koa* watershed forests. This project will likely serve as a regional model project for the restoration of this important forest type. The goals of exclusion of ungulates, control of invasive plant species, and re-establishment of original native *koa* watershed forests follow the recovery plan priorities for the Endangered Blackburn's sphinx moth and eight Endangered plant species. The listing of two Candidate species may be precluded by conservation actions such as those described here.

Wiliwili Forest restoration at Pu'u-o-kali (Application by University of Hawaii) - Hawaii - (\$75,325) - After years of planning and preparation, a 236 acre parcel will be protected from access by deer using an 8-foot deer proof fence. The objectives of the next phase of this project are to conduct outplantings for eight rare plant species, five of which are Endangered. One of the Endangered plants that will benefit is the Hawaii State flower (Hibiscus brackenridgei), or ma'o hau hele, one of the rarest hibiscus in the world. The intent is to control selected invasive plant species throughout the enclosure area including the elimination of non-native trees from 80 acres, about half of the open lava lands included within the to-be-fenced area.

Idaho

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Habitat Restoration Project (Application by Friends of the Teton River, Inc.) - Idaho - (\$110,000) - The Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat restoration project will improve habitat at five locations along the Teton River, Idaho. The state of Idaho has established the cutthroat trout as a "Category A" priority species on the list of species of special concern. Restoration work will increase overhanging vegetative cover and in-stream woody debris. In addition, 2,815 feet of stream bank will be fenced.

Nevada

Preston Big Spring Habitat Restoration for the Native Fish of the White River Valley (Application by Private Landowner) - Nevada - (\$89,000) - To: restore 2.0 kilometers of stream habitat at Preston Big Spring for native fish of the White River Valley; reintroduce the endangered White River spinedace and White River desert sucker, a species of concern, at Preston Big Spring; restore and enhance 2.0 kilometers of stream habitat for the Preston White River springfish, White River speckled dace, and one invertebrate species of concern, the White River springsnail; install fish screen, at the pipeline intake structure in order to deliver water to irrigation users without entraining fish into the irrigation system; restore 35 acres of riparian habitat and additional 35 acres upland sagebrush/herbaceous understory habitat for migratory and breeding birds; ensure that irrigation companies and users continue to utilize entire flow of water from Preston Big spring; and develop a Safe Harbor Agreement and multi-species Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances between landowners, irrigation companies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Nevada Division of Wildlife.

Oregon

Willamette Valley (Application by The Nature Conservancy of Oregon) - Oregon - (\$289,760) - To restore riparian, prairie, and oak woodland habitat and habitat conditions for a total of 21 separate populations of 7 federally listed species including Fender's blue butterfly, Oregon chub, Willamette Valley daisy, Bradshaw's lomatium, 1 candidate species - streaked horned lark, and 5 Federal species of concern including northwestern pond turtle, yellow-breasted chat, and white-tip aster. The project will provide additional benefits for 8 at risk species including western meadowlark (the State bird), and western gray squirrel. This project will build on existing at-risk species benefits at 5 ecoregionally important sites in the Willamette Valley Ecoregion. The project will also provide a foundation of restored habitat and restoration capacity on which to base coordinated species recovery efforts on targeted private lands throughout the Willamette Valley.

Upper Tualatin River Floodplain Restoration Project (Application by Ducks Unlimited) - Oregon - (\$152,565) - To restore, enhance, and protect a native riparian forest corridor, wetlands and oak savanna in the Upper Tualatin River Watershed for the benefit of fish and wildlife, including the threatened winter run steelhead and Nelson's silalcea and species of concern including coastal cutthroat trout, northern red-legged frog, and northwestern pond turtle. The project's goal is to improve water quality in the Tualatin River for the benefit of steelhead and trout, wildlife and citizens of Washington County. This project will serve as a demonstration project for community education and as a catalyst for additional restoration efforts on private land in the Tualatin River Basin.

Thomas Creek Riparian Restoration Project (Application by Ducks Unlimited) - Oregon - (\$234,099) - The project plans to restore 3000 acres of palustrine emergent marsh and 8 miles of riparian habitat along Thomas Creek. Thomas Creek flows through a 10,000 acre ranch and is the largest tributary flowing into Goose Lake, Lake County, Oregon. This restoration effort will benefit the endangered Modoc sucker as well as redband trout (Category II) and other state sensitive fishes including Goose Lake tui chub and pit sculpin.

Washington

Columbia River Estuary - Deep River Habitat Restoration Project (Application by Columbia Land Trust) - Washington - (\$130,000) - To protect and restore approximately 143 acres of disconnected floodplain habitat to benefit four listed salmonid species, and to enhance habitat function for a variety of wildlife species including bald eagle, marbled murrelet and other priority species. Restoration activities will include side channel reconstruction, tidegate removal, dike breaching, partial road removal, invasive vegetation removal, planting, and monitoring.

South Puget Sound Prairie Restoration Project (Application by The Nature Conservancy of Washington) - Washington - (\$85,702) - To restore high-quality prairie and oak woodland habitat suitable for the colonization or introduction of eight at-risk animal species including western bluebird, and Puget blue butterfly and to establish new populations of four at-risk plant species. The species benefitting from this project include one federally threatened species the golden paintbrush and four species recently petitioned for emergency listing including western gray squirrel, western pocket gopher Mardon skipper, and Taylor's checkerspot. The project will restore degraded prairie habitat on a new conservation parcel with the short-term goal of enhancing native habitats sufficiently to introduce selected at-risk species.

Steamboat Marbled Murrelet Habitat Protection and Enhancement (Application by Rayonier Timberlands Operating Company) - Washington - (\$59,250) - For the abandonment, with strict environmental controls, of 4435 feet of road running through the middle of an old growth forest called Steamboat. This includes abandoning the main logging road, 5 spur roads and 6 logging landings covering a total of 6 acres. Seven culverts will be removed and erosion prevention structures will be constructed. A 30' wooden stringer bridge controlling vehicle access to Steamboat will also be removed, permanently blocking vehicle access to the abandoned road. These actions will ensure the protection high quality marbled murrelet nesting habitat.

Tarboo Watershed Early Action Fish Passage Project (Application by Northwest Watershed Institute) - Washington - (\$143,510) - Project partners propose correction of five high priority fish passage barriers on private lands in the Tarboo watershed. The Tarboo Watershed is on the North Hood Canal region of Washington. Removal of these fish barriers will open up 5 miles of stream length for rearing and spawning of coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

Tenmile Creek Watershed Volunteer Riparian Pilot Program (Application by Whatcom Conservation District) - Washington - (\$116,632) - To support ongoing grassroots efforts of voluntary in-stream and riparian habitat restoration along reaches of Ten Mile, Four Mile, and Deer Creeks which are tributaries to the Nooksack River in Whatcom County, WA. Restoration activities will restore critical spawning and rearing habitats for listed chinook, bulltrout, and coho salmon.

Habitat Improvement, San Juan Valley Golden Paintbrush Site (Application by Private Landowner) - Washington - (\$4,400) - To provide increased habitat for golden paintbrush at the San Juan Valley golden paintbrush site by mowing approximately one acre currently dominated by snowberry and hawthorn. The project includes a complete census and mapping of the population in the year after mowing. The project contributes toward a priority 1 recovery task by maintaining the largest and most vigorous population on private land.

Region 2

Arizona

Bat Conservation International, Inc. (Application by Private Landowner) - Arizona - (\$26,964) - For installation of “bat friendly” cave gates as an alternative to back-filling abandoned mines. This process will assist in maintaining habitat for the California leaf-nosed bat and cave myotis, both considered to be species of special concern and that may be proposed for listing as threatened or endangered in the future.

Malpai Borderlands Group (Application by Private Landowner) - Arizona - (\$100,000) - To improve habitat on the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge for endangered and sensitive species of the Rio Yaqui River system. This will be accomplished by constructing small diversion structures on private lands outside the refuge boundaries to reduce and reverse erosion along tributary drainages. This work will be accomplished throughout the watershed upstream of the refuge. Thirty four federally listed, state listed or at-risk species could potentially benefit from this project. Noteworthy from this list are the Huachuca water umbel (an endangered plant found only in cienegas); numerous desert fish to include Yaqui chub, Yaqui shiner and Yaqui topminnow; Chiricahua leopard frog, Northern Aplomado falcon, southwestern willow flycatcher and the yellow-billed cuckoo.

New Mexico

Heritage Ranch Institute (Application by Private Landowner) - New Mexico - (\$155,384) - To implement a variety of conservation strategies on private lands, ponds and streams that will benefit endangered, threatened and imperiled species by introducing extirpated species, protecting nesting and roosting habitats, restricting detrimental human intrusion, controlling nonnative competitors, improving pond and stream habitats through fencing and grazing management and supporting other efforts to reintroduce endangered species. Species expected to benefit from this project include the Mexican long-nosed bat, Mountain plover, black-tailed prairie dog, Rio Grande chub, yellow-billed cuckoo and, possibly, the Mexican gray wolf.

Turner Endangered Species Fund, Black-tailed Prairie Dog Reintroduction (Application by Private Landowner) - New Mexico - (\$22,000) - To reintroduce black-tailed prairie dogs to historically occupied habitat and manage them to benefit additional imperiled species. This is part of an on-going effort that has successfully reintroduced 31 colonies and the plan is to reintroduce an additional 21 colonies over the next 3 years.

Oklahoma

High Plains RC&D Council (Application by Private Landowner) - Oklahoma - (\$250,000) - To assist private landowners who voluntarily wish to restore 40,020 acres of habitat for High Plains species-at-risk and other grassland species in northwest Oklahoma. This project will assist in meeting priorities of the Arkansas/Red Rivers Ecosystem Team for conservation and recovery of listed, proposed, candidate and/or species of concern. Focal species include Arkansas River shiner (Threatened), interior least tern (Endangered), lesser prairie chicken (species of Concern), black-tailed prairie dog (species of Concern), mountain plover (Proposed for listing) and three “at-risk species” to include Oklahoma phlox, ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl.

The Nature Conservancy - Ozark big-eared bat (Application by Private Landowner) - Oklahoma - (\$28,850) - To reduce habitat degradation and restore degraded habitat vital to the recovery of the Ozark big-eared bat through the removal of toxic material from existing dumps in the cave recharge areas and foraging areas. The project will also reduce human disturbance of Ozark big-eared bat colonies by restricting access to hibernation and maternity caves used by the bats in the Oklahoma Ozark Plateaus and by gating roads, providing educational signs and repairing vandalized gates.

Great Eastern Timber Company SFG-HCK Timber Partnership (Application by Private Landowner) - Oklahoma - (\$44,000) - To replace existing bridge structures over Honobia Creek to improve stream hydrology and remove fish migration barriers for the Federally endangered leopard darter.

Texas

Texas Prairie Rivers Region, Inc. (Application by Private Landowner) - Texas - (\$91,875) - To assist landowners who wish to voluntarily restore approximately 20,786 acres of habitat for High Plains species-at-risk and other grassland species within the Texas Prairie Rivers Region in the northeastern Texas panhandle. This will be accomplished by developing grazing systems (with fencing, cross-fencing and water developments); invasive tree and brush control; native grass and forb restoration and restoration of extirpated black-tailed prairie dog colonies and species associated with prairie dogs, including the burrowing owl. Additional species targeted include the Arkansas River shiner, Texas horned lizard and the lesser prairie chicken.

Cook's Branch Conservancy (Application by Raven Environmental Services, Inc.) - Texas - (\$36,000) - To create twelve red-cockaded woodpecker recruitment cluster sites using artificial cavity technology and midstory control to achieve the landowner goal of increasing the resident red-cockaded woodpecker population from thirteen groups to twenty to twenty five groups. Other imperiled species are also projected to benefit, including the Henslow's sparrow, Bachman's sparrow with potential benefits to the Louisiana pine snake.

Pines & Prairies Land Trust (Application by Private Landowner) - Texas - (\$4,345) - To build a breeding pond for the Federally listed as endangered, Houston toad. The project will involve construction of a small and shallow pond, consistent with other known Houston toad breeding ponds.

Coastal Prairies Coalition of the GLCI (Application by Private Landowner) - Texas - (\$300,000) - To provide habitat for viable populations of imperiled prairie wildlife species through financial and technical assistance. The project will involve reclamation, restoration and conservation of the native coastal prairie in Texas. Control of invasive vegetation, grazing management, fire management and native vegetation restoration will be used. Species the project should benefit include Attwater's prairie chicken, Northern aplomado falcon and such at-risk and imperiled plants as coastal gayfeather, Texas prairie dawn flower and Refugio zephyr lily. Other species occur in the coastal prairie that might potentially benefit, including mountain plover, white-tailed hawk, wood stork and Texas horned lizard.

Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (Application by Private Landowner) - Texas - (\$100,000) - To carry out black-capped vireo habitat restoration in conjunction with the Leon River Restoration Project and the Guadalupe River Restoration Project. Funding will be applied to private lands surrounding Fort Hood (Coryell and Bell Counties) and the Kerr Wildlife Management Area (Kerr County). This project will involve black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler habitat restoration, water quantity and water quality improvement and incorporation of long-term management practices to maintain wildlife habitat and water quality/quantity.

The Peregrine Fund, Northern Aplomado Falcon (Application by Private Landowner) - Texas - (\$100,000) - To reestablish viable wild populations of the Northern Aplomado Falcon (the only falcon on the Endangered Species List) in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico through the release of young captive-bred falcons. This is a continuation of an on-going program.

Multi-State

The Wild Turkey Center, Riparian Habitat Improvement (Application by Private Landowner) - Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma - (\$220,841) - To work cooperatively with private landowners in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma with land ownership along the Canadian River and tributaries to improve riparian and associated habitats. Such work will involve control/elimination of invasive plant species, tree planting to supplement existing native vegetation, revegetation of denuded areas, fencing out riparian zones, establishing or improving grazing systems. 6000 acres is targeted for this effort. Species that are expected to benefit from this project include the federally listed interior least tern and the Arkansas River shiner. Candidate species include lesser prairie chicken and Arkansas darter.

Region 3

Illinois

Managing Habitat for the Threatened Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid in Northern Illinois (Application by Fox Valley Land Foundation) - Illinois - (\$79,500) - Increase the size and number of eastern prairie fringed orchid populations on private lands in northern Illinois through management and monitoring activities and managing habitat on sites to support stable or increasing populations.

Canebrake Restoration at Shellbark Bottoms Natural Heritage Landmark, Lawrence County, Illinois (Application by Private Landowner) - Illinois - (\$9,700) -To restore 25 acres of canebrake to provide additional habitat for the eastern ribbon snake, copperbelly water snake, Indiana bat, and leatherflower populations in SE Illinois.

Menard County Loess Hill Prairie Landscape Restoration (Application by Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District) - Illinois - (\$35,000) - To initiate restoration of 50 acres of the hill prairie community and the ecological process necessary to ensure the continued health of those communities. The project will include the re-introduction of pale false foxglove, prairie dandelion, and clustered broomrape and promote a landscape for metapopulation dynamics of hill prairie species.

Indiana

McAllister Prairie Deer Exlosures (Application by Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Inc.) - Indiana - (\$5,000) - To erect fencing to protect areas of high quality wet prairie habitat containing several at-risk species including long-beaked bald rush and narrow-leaved sundew from an overpopulated white-tailed deer herd.

Iowa

Habitat Restoration in the Hills (Application by Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development) - Iowa - (\$116,942) - Habitat Restoration in the Hills will assist private landowners throughout the Loess Hills of western Iowa in completing habitat restoration on private lands. Approximately 100 species of concern have been identified as benefitting from management activities including the regal fritillary, prairie dunewort, and eared milkweed.

Michigan

Stewardship and Training to Advance Conservation of Imperiled Species in Southern Michigan Fens (Application by The Nature Conservancy Michigan Chapter) - Michigan - (\$80,415) - To advance the stewardship of fens and associated natural communities on privately owned lands at 20 sites across southern Michigan. The project will accomplish the abatement of the threats of invasive species and fire suppression, increase the stewardship capacity numerous partners, and train conservation partners for effective fen stewardship implementation. Stewardship activities will benefit over 70 at-risk species, including the endangered Mitchell's satyr.

Stewardship to Advance Conservation of Imperiled Species in Michigan Grassland and Great Lakes Shoreline Communities (Application by The Nature Conservancy Michigan Chapter)- Michigan - (\$36,632) - To advance the stewardship of native grassland communities and Great Lakes shoreline communities on privately-owned lands at seven sites within Michigan. Accomplishments will be made through direct implementation of stewardship, education, and training of private landowners and a variety of other partners. There are at least 83 at-risk species identified from these sites including piping plover, Karner blue butterfly, Pitcher's thistle, Houghton's goldenrod and dwarf lake iris.

Minnesota

Prairie Ecosystem Restoration Project (Application by Private Landowner)- Minnesota - (\$35,800) - To utilize local sources of native plant materials to reestablish native plant communities. Additional native species will be added to supplement the restoration. The project will incorporate at-risk species (e.g. prairie bush clover, eared false foxglove) in the plantings and work to restore the habitat for several at-risk species such as the Powesheik, Ottoe, Dakota and Arogos skippers. This project will be conducted on private lands protected under perpetual conservation easements.

Red Rock Prairie Restoration: Protection and Enhancement of Prairie Bush Clover (Application by The Nature Conservancy Minnesota Chapter) - Minnesota - (\$33,548) - This project targets protection and enhancement of prairie bush clover and nine additional species of concern at Red Rock Prairie Reserve. Approximately 268 acres of cropland will be restored to tallgrass prairie.

Missouri

Endangered Gray and Indiana Bat Riparian and Hibernation Habitat Protection (Application by Private Landowner) - Missouri - (\$21,374) - To increase the populations of gray and Indiana bats by protecting, restoring and managing riparian corridors and upland forests, and preserving suitable foraging/roosting/hibernation habitats for these species. Management strategies include fencing out cattle, decreasing human disturbance, and restoration of plant biodiversity by eliminating non-native plant species, which will increase plant density and insect species populations needed by the endangered bats.

Ohio

Protection of the State Threatened Plant Raven's Foot Sedge in a Private Class One Forest Wetland (Application by Private Landowner) - Ohio - (\$8,203) - To erect and maintain a perimeter fence around a class one forested wetland. The fencing will restrict the area from grazing and will enhance habitat conditions for the Raven's foot sedge.

Oak Openings Habitat Restoration at the Kitty Todd Preserve (Application by The Nature Conservancy Ohio Chapter) - Ohio - (\$86,711) - For restoration of 40 acres of black oak lupine barrens and 20 acres of twig-rush wet prairie within the Kitty Todd Preserve to support Karner blue butterfly, Persius dusky wing, frosted elfin, and Edward's hairstreak conservation.

Wisconsin

Prairie Recovery in Southern Wisconsin (Application by The Prairie Enthusiast) - Wisconsin - (\$198,030) - For restoration of 13 high priority prairie remnants of original prairie supporting conservation efforts for 33 listed species including prairie bush clover, prairie white-fringed orchid, and Mead's milkweed on privately owned land in southern Wisconsin.

Mississippi River Blufflands and Prairie Restoration in Southwest Wisconsin (Application by Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Inc.) - Wisconsin - (\$72,124) - For enhancing and increasing available habitat for 28 state listed goat prairie species including yellow giant hyssop, cliff goldenrod and Bell's vireo within the Mississippi River valley in southwest Wisconsin.

Remnant Prairie Enhancement and Expansion (Application by West Wisconsin Land Trust, Inc.) - Wisconsin - (\$60,800) - Provides stewardship for landowner groups within the goat prairie and floodplain forest landscape in western Wisconsin. Habitat conditions in these prairie remnants currently protected under conservation easements will be enhanced through management activities to benefit these at-risk species including snowy campion, prairie bush clover, and rough rattlesnake root.

Multi-State

Woody Plant Thinning to Improve Habitat for Targeted Species at Kankakee Sands (Application by The Nature Conservancy Illinois Chapter) - Illinois, Indiana - (\$30,350) - To increase the long-term viability of at least 15 at-risk species including Eastern prairie fringed orchid, worded oval sedge, and Regal fritillary by protecting, restoring, and managing habitats on privately owned and protected properties. The project will provide stewardship resources to private landowners who agree to restrict use and development through easements. The project will also enhance and accelerate management activities identified on high priority private lands in Kankakee Sands.

Phase I Landscape Scale Habitat Restoration for Landscape Scale Habitat Restoration for the Copperbelly Water Snake and Associated Species in NE Indiana and NW Ohio (Application by Purdue University) - Indiana, Ohio - (\$26,400) - Grant funds will be used to cut drainage tiles, construct ditch plugs, and excavate shallow basins for habitat for the northern population copperbelly water snakes, Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, and Blanchard's cricket frog.

Region 4

Alabama

Habitat Restoration for the Federally Endangered Canebrake Pitcher Plant (Application by Atlanta Botanical Garden) - Alabama - (\$11,000) - To survey for new populations of the canebrake pitcher plant and perform restoration actions on 5 privately-owned sites, including controlling hardwood/over story plants, use of herbicides, removal of non-natives; and initiating prescribed burning. This project will provide for protection and management of at least 3 of the 20 existing populations of the federally-listed Alabama canebrake pitcher plant.

Paint Rock River Habitat Enhancement Project (Application by The Nature Conservancy) - Alabama - (\$207,000) - To lead an effort with local landowners to enhance riparian habitat in the upper Paint Rock River watershed. Using a strategic plan, contractors will be hired to deploy stream bank stabilization methods (planting, soft armoring). Fences will be erected to exclude cattle from stream and provide alternative water sources. The Paint Rock River and its major tributaries (Estill Fork, Hurricane Creek, and Larkin Fork) support one of the most diverse aquatic assemblages in North America, including more than 100 fish species (5 globally rare or imperiled such as the chunky madtom, snail darter and sawfin shiner) and approximately 45 mussel species, including the Fine-rayed pigtoe, pink mucket, and Tennessee heelsplitter (9 globally rare or imperiled - 2 currently restricted to the Paint Rock).

Exotic bush honeysuckle removal on Monte Sano Mountain (Application by The Land Trust of Huntsville and Northern Alabama) - Alabama - (\$30,000) - To implement exotic plant control on 366 acres of property via: surveys and assessments; mapping; assessing the effects of exotic/invasive plants on 11 listed plants; and on-the-ground chemical and mechanical control. Controlling this invasive/exotic will improve the existing listed plant populations.

A Plan to Enhance and Maintain Longleaf Pine Habitat in Mobile County (Application by Mobile Area Water and Sewer System) - Alabama - (\$106,046) - To implement management actions to preserve, enhance and sustain gopher tortoise populations and other species, including restoration of a longleaf pine ecosystem. Management actions include prescribed burning on 1,000 acres; using herbicides to control exotics on 300 acres; placement of 4.5 miles of perimeter fencing; and constructing two creek crossings for management purposes. The identified management actions would be performed on 1,000 acres, to the benefit of 8 or more listed species.

Arkansas

Ozark Big-Eared Bat Management in Marion County, Arkansas (Application by The Nature Conservancy Arkansas Chapter) - Arkansas - (\$24,500) - To implement management measures on privately-owned cave sites, including removal of toxic materials in cave recharge areas, and protection of caves from uncontrolled human access. The project will implement existing strategies/management plans. The Ozark big-eared bat and 8 other species will benefit from identified management actions.

Implementation of Kingsland Prairie site conservation plan (Application by The Nature Conservancy Arkansas Chapter) - Arkansas - (\$25,375) - To implement an existing management plan for the 820 acre Kingsland Prairie site. Management actions include prescribed burning, removal of loblolly pines, and habitat and species monitoring. The project will provide direct benefits to 1 of the 5 remaining populations of *Geocarpon minimum* (globally imperilled & federally-listed).

Florida

Protection and Management of Coastal Bird Colonies in Florida (Application by National Audubon, Audubon Florida, Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries) - Florida - (\$85,000) - To continue management of 86 colonies of colonially nesting waterbirds (30 species). Management actions include security, monitoring, invasive plant control, habitat restoration, and public outreach. 51,000 nesting pairs of birds will be conserved & managed on 86 colonies. 12 of the 30 birds are federally and/or state-listed. Species likely to benefit from this project include the brown pelican, white ibis, tricolored heron, black skimmer, wood stork and roseate spoonbill. Project programs will include education and outreach.

Ecosystem and Threatened and Endangered Species Management on the Lathrop Bayou & Wetappo Creek Areas (Application by St. Joe Timber Company) - Florida - (\$136,530) - To enhance & maintain a fire-dependent old-growth longleaf pine ecosystem; survey and monitor habitat/species; promote red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) population management; and evaluate and enhance wetland hydrological functions. The project will also: deploy management on 1,465 acres, including the use prescribed burns; creation of fire lines; forest thinnings; use of techniques to control understory vegetation; survey RCW populations; drill RCW cavities; and reclaim wetland firebreaks. Management and monitoring actions will directly benefit the RCW and a host of other species dependent upon the longleaf pine ecosystem. Wetlands management and reclamation will directly benefit approximately 20 other sensitive, and/or state-/federally- protected plants and animals including the pine-woods aster.

Lykes Brothers Longleaf Pine Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) (Application by Private Landowner) - Florida - (\$70,000) - To perform management actions on 1,706 acres of land, including prescribed burning, mechanical thinning, and habitat/species monitoring to promote an extant RCW population. The primary focus of this project will be on RCW; however the Florida scrub jay, Eastern indigo snake, Florida panther, Audubon's crested caracara, and gopher tortoise will also benefit from the management actions.

Louisiana

Money Hill Conservation Area Longleaf Pine Landscape Restoration Project (Application by The Nature Conservancy Louisiana Chapter) - Louisiana - (\$46,500) - Money Hill Conservation Area and adjacent private landowners in St. Tammany Parish, LA, will develop Safe Harbor Agreements and habitat restoration plans on 5,000 acres of private lands; implement a Forest Management Plan for 2,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat on Money Hill Plantation; develop longleaf restoration plan for an adjacent landowner (135 acres); develop a timber management plan to include 3,800-acres; and restore and enhance 300 acres of longleaf pine and associated communities with prescribed burning on the Money Hill Plantation. Management actions as identified above on at least 5,000 acres of threatened longleaf pine habitat and associated communities will benefit over 26 state-rare species and 10 globally-rare, at-risk species, including but not limited to, the red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, and Louisiana quillwort.

Black Bear Conservation Committee (Application by Black Bear Conservation Committee) - Louisiana - (\$85,200) - To conduct 742 acres of habitat restoration with 9 willing landowners (reforestation of marginal agricultural lands & control of exotics). Primary benefits are to the federally-listed Louisiana Black Bear, but general wildlife/plant benefits to other species as a result of bottomland hardwood restoration.

Mississippi

South Mississippi Private Lands Project (Application by The Nature Conservancy Mississippi Chapter) - Mississippi -(\$35,000) - To manage two properties (Sweet Bay Bogs Preserve 210 acres and Willie Farrell Brown Preserve 300 acres) by prescribed burning and other management actions including management/monitoring of visitor impacts, with a partnership/outreach effort. Two listed species (gopher tortoise, bog spice bush) will be the primary species to benefit, however benefits to more than 10 other species will result from the management actions.

North Carolina

Simpson Longleaf Pine Restoration (Application by Private Landowner) - North Carolina - (\$16,560) - To restore approximately 149 acres of longleaf pine wiregrass native community. Management activities will include: understory/brush management and removal; prescribed burning, and adding fire lines. This private tract is a critical piece in the larger Sandhills Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) recovery population. The project focuses on improving RCW habitat and longleaf pine ecosystem elements within a large RCW recovery population in the sandhills of North Carolina. Secondary benefits are expected to dozens of rare plants and animals commonly associated with RCW and endangered longleaf pine habitats.

Upper Tennessee River Stewardship and Restoration (Application by The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee) - North Carolina - (\$50,000) - To develop models of land stewardship & habitat restoration in the watershed including monitoring, access control, invasive plant control, restoration of river cane brakes/open woodland, wetland, and streambank/riparian stabilization. The 25 miles of river downstream of Franklin, NC is designated Critical Habitat for an endangered mussel, the Appalachian elktoe and a threatened fish, the spotfin chub. In addition, the endangered littlewing pearly mussel, as well as a fish species of federal concern, the sicklefin redhorse, are found in the river. This reach of river has half the native freshwater fish species and perhaps the most diverse mussel assemblage in the state of North Carolina.

Tar River Project (Application by The Tar River Land Conservancy) - North Carolina - (\$58,206) - To protect and enhance aquatic habitats and species by protection of stream riparian buffers, restoration of buffers via planting, and removal of cattle (fencing and provision of alternative water source). Sixteen aquatic species will benefit from reduced sedimentation and cattle exclusion.

South Carolina

Implement South Carolina Statewide Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) Safe Harbor Program (Application by Milliken Forestry Consultants) - South Carolina - (\$260,000) - For management actions with 32 landowners owning 177,300 acres & 103 RCW groups. The project manager will coordinate management actions on these properties to benefit RCW and longleaf pine dependent species. This includes prescribed burning of approximately 37,000 acres; providing chemical release of 1,300 acres; and planting 450 acres of longleaf pine. The proposal focuses on improving RCW habitat and longleaf pine ecosystem elements within a large RCW population in South Carolina and will enhance the existing State-led Safe Harbor program. Secondary benefits are expected to dozens of rare plants and animals commonly associated with RCW and endangered longleaf pine habitats.

Longleaf Pine and Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) restoration in the South Carolina Coastal Plain (Application by Sabine and Waters, Inc.) - South Carolina - (\$40,000) - A private forestry consultant, will assist as many as 9 private landowners, in participating in the South Carolina State-wide Safe Harbor program for the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). Management actions will include conducting RCW habitat management and long leaf pine restoration via prescribed burning on 8,900 acres, and conservation of approximately 330 acres of longleaf pine by silviculturally-compatible site preparation. In addition to RCW, this project will benefit at least 20 other rare and at-risk species (including some federally and state listed) within the longleaf pine ecosystem.

Hardwood Midstory Control Program for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) on Arcadia Plantation (Application by Arcadia Plantation) - South Carolina - (\$12,000) - For management activities to control hardwoods via mechanical means and prescribed burning on 700 acres. The management actions will apply to 700 acres of RCW habitat. Approximately 11 groups of RCWs and 1 bald eagle nest will benefit.

Multi-State

Red Hills Ecological Stewardship Consortium (Application by Tall Timbers Research Station) - Georgia, Florida - (\$97,504) - The Tall Timbers Research Station, in cooperation with other partners, will promote red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) conservation by (1) promoting the values of the longleaf pine ecosystem; (2) resurveying RCW populations; (3) recruiting landowners into Safe Harbor agreements; (4) augmenting the regional RCW population; (5) translocation of RCW groups; (6) providing incentives for conservation; (7) mapping and (8) maintaining a GIS database, (9) providing technical assistance. The project focuses on the largest population of RCW remaining on private lands, but it will also benefit dozens of rare plants and animals commonly associated with RCW and endangered longleaf pine habitats.

ABC, AFF, ED, and MS Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Proposal to restore longleaf & southern pine forest habitat (Application by American Bird Conservancy, American Forest Foundation, Environmental Defense, and Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation) - Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi - (\$315,475) - To develop & implement a multi-species Safe Harbor Agreements/Candidate Conservation Agreements simultaneous to performing pine ecosystem habitat restoration actions (including prescribed burning, thinning, hardwood control, regeneration, etc) and conducting systematic outreach and education to landowners using “Field Day” Demos, producing a “Conservation Handbook”, and conservation education trail. The effort will be in 23 counties in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. This project will restore fire-maintained long leaf and other southern pine habitat for the benefit of gopher tortoise, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, black pine snake, Northern Bobwhite, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, leConte's Sparrow, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, mimic glass lizard, eastern hognose snake, Eulophia ecristata, and other species. The project will encompass entire range of tortoise (listed) & black pine snake (candidate).

Region 5

Maine

Waterbird Management on Stratton Island, Maine (Application by National Audubon Society) - Maine - (\$18,200) - To protect nesting waterbirds such as the federally endangered roseate tern and the state threatened arctic tern, from human disturbance and predators during the nesting season and to improve nesting habitat by removing invasive plants from heron colonies, wetlands, and tern nesting habitat.

Downeast Maine Atlantic salmon Watershed Non-Point Source Site Restoration Project (Application by Project SHARE) - Maine - (\$33,321) - This project intends to stabilize and restore identified non-point sources of sedimentation in the Dennys, E. Machias, Machias, Pleasant, and Narraguagus River Watersheds. The project will also restore and/or enhance riparian buffer areas adjacent to know Atlantic salmon habitat.

Maryland

Hydrological and Ecological Restoration of Finzel Swamp in Garrett County, Maryland (Application by The Nature Conservancy Maryland/DC Chapter) - Maryland - (\$23,913) - To improve habitat for rare and common native wetland species by restoring the natural hydrological function and integrity of Finzel Swamp; to improve water quality in the swamp; and to improve habitat for upland species by restoring the ecological function and integrity of upland forest natural communities surrounding the swamp. Some of the species likely to benefit from this project include the; Henslow's sparrow, sege wren, Compton's tortoiseshell, wild calla, goldthread, and larch.

Habitat Improvement for the Delmarva fox squirrel (DFS) in Dorchester County, Maryland (Application by Private Landowner) - Maryland - (\$33,322) - This project will improve disturbed woodlands for the benefit of the endangered DFS. The project will include a survey on an existing benchmark site from the DFS recovery plan. An area or previously clearcut and select cut woods in lower Dorchester County will be improved by clearing dead debris and grading the woodland floor. Replanting with trees and seed/fruit bearing shrubs will offer along term food source for the DFS.

New York

F.E.E.T. On the Ground, Long Island, New York (Application by The Nature Conservancy) - New York - (\$82,500) - To improve on the ground management of piping plovers and other beach dependent species such as the common tern and black skimmer on eastern Long Island. This work will focus on nesting areas that are privately owned or are significantly impacted by the activities of adjacent private landowners.

Glacial Lake Albany Karner blue butterfly Habitat Restoration, New York (Application by The Nature Conservancy Eastern New York Chapter) - New York - (\$126,911) - This project will employ forestry and land clearing practices to facilitate Karner blue butterfly (KBB) habitat restoration of 30 currently forested acres within the Glacial Lake Albany Federal KBB Recovery Unit.

Control and Monitoring of the Invasive Plant Species Glossy Buckthorn (Application by Research Foundation on behalf of SUNY Oswego) - New York -(\$24,625) - The objective of this project is to reduce and control the spread of the invasive plant species glossy buckthorn which threatens the terrestrial fen habitats and species at a hub of regional biodiversity in Oswego County, New York. This unique wetland complex currently provides sanctuary to a diverse assemblage of rare natural communities and state or federally listed species, including the federally threatened bog turtle and the state endangered bog buckmoth.

Control of the Invasive Common Reed at a Unique Calcareous Fen (Application by Research Foundation on behalf of SUNY Oswego) - New York - (\$49,725) - To reduce and control the spread of the invasive common reed that threatens a unique and rich mixture of rare habitats and species. This project will benefit at least seven state listed rare plants including brown bog sedge, Sartwells's sedge, low nutrush and marsh arrow-grass. In addition, the federally endangered bog turtle and a state species of concern, the spotted turtle, will also benefit from this project.

Pennsylvania

Muddy Creek “Friends of the Mussels” Streambank Restoration and Riparian Protection, Pennsylvania (Application by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy) - Pennsylvania - (\$75,000) - To improve water quality and habitat for federally endangered freshwater mussels such as the clubshell mussel, and state listed freshwater mussels and fish species that include the creek heelsplitter mussel and the Ohio lamprey. The project will protect state listed riparian and wetland plant species through revegetation of riparian areas with native species; restoration of eroded streambanks using vegetative stabilization techniques; fencing of livestock from streams, riparian, and wetland areas; and wetland restoration.

Vermont

Conservation of Nickwacket and Mt. Aeolus Caves, Vermont (Application by Private Landowner) - Vermont - (\$34,085) - This project will restore historic Indiana bat hibernacula and develop conservation plans to manage hibernacula and adjacent lands to conserve Indiana bats and other bat species of state concern including the Eastern small-footed bat and the Northern long-eared bat.

Virginia

Pine Savanna Restoration and Safe Harbor Outreach for Recovery of the Red-cockaded woodpecker in Virginia (Application by The Nature Conservancy of Virginia) - Virginia - (\$60,000) - This project will support recovery efforts for the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) in Virginia through the implementation of model forest and fire management on private lands, in conjunction with the Virginia RCW Safe Harbor. Restoration of pine savanna habitat will be focused on Piney Grove Preserve, Virginia.

West Virginia

Bat Colony Preservation, West Virginia (Application by The Institute for Earth Education) - West Virginia - (\$18,210) - The objectives of this project are to install cave gating at three entrances to Greenville Saltpeter Cave in West Virginia; to install a gate at the entrance to the designated parking area for the cave; and to place boulders along the roadside in an area often used for parking by people attempting to enter the cave without the required permission. This project will primarily benefit the federally endangered Indiana bat, but will also provide benefits to other at risk species such as the cave salamander, small-footed bat, and spring cave amphipod.

Habitat Management and Restoration for 12 at Risk Species in the Central Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia (Application by The Nature Conservancy) - West Virginia - (\$50,000) - To enhance and restore the habitat for 12 at risk species including the federally threatened Cheat Mountain salamander, and the federally endangered northern flying squirrel, in the Central Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. Management and restoration efforts will focus on three strategies: 1) non-native or invasive weed control and removal; 2) livestock browse and off-road vehicle exclosures around rare species and select habitats; and 3) restoration of red spruce forest habitat by planting red spruce tree seedlings.

Region 6

Colorado

Crooked/Pole Boreal Toad Recovery Project (Application by Private Landowner) - Colorado - (\$81,600) - To create a metapopulation of the boreal toad by developing new, crucial habitat for the toad on private lands within the historic range of the species and to introduce the toad into those habitats. The project fully addresses the major threats to this severely declining species, disease and habitat loss, and is designed to reverse their effects.

Kansas

Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation/High Plains Partnership (Application by Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation) - Kansas - (\$100,000) - This project will continue a rancher-led initiative that has a proven record of success in enhancing mixed-grass and prairie stream habitat for species at risk, such as the candidate black-tailed prairie dog and lesser prairie chicken and the federally listed Arkansas River shiner and Arkansas darter. Participating ranchers will draw from a variety of resource management tools including altered grazing management, prescribed burning, cutting of invasive woody species and stream restoration to improve habitat for targeted prairie species at risk. By actively encouraging ranchers to assist other ranchers in making improvements, good conservation practices for species at risk will continue to expand over a large multi-county area.

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance (TLA) Habitat Enhancement Through Invasive Species Control for the Greater Prairie Chicken, Henslow's Sparrow, Short-eared Owl and Other Species of Concern (Application by Tallgrass Legacy Alliance) - Kansas - (\$100,000) - To restore 35,000 acres of a tallgrass prairie and stream ecosystem that is in multiple private ownership for prairie species at risk through control and removal of two invasive and ecosystem-degrading species. The 35 at-risk species that will benefit include the federally listed Topeka Shiner, Neosho Madtom, American Burying Beetle and Mead's Milkweed. This project draws on multiple resources and strong partnerships and cultivates cooperation among landowners. Perhaps most important, it will stimulate a long term approach and commitment to conservation of prairie species through conservation of an ecosystem while maintaining profitable ranching.

Montana

Brackett Creek Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project (Application by Confluence Consulting, Inc.) - Montana - (\$96,374) - This project will dramatically improve habitat for the Yellowstone cutthroat trout by restoring channelized reaches of a stream, reducing sediment loading, restoring riparian habitat and enhancing wetlands.

Working Together for Grave Creek Restoration - Phase II (Application by Kootenai River Network, Inc.) - Montana - (\$100,000) - This project utilizes the local community commitment to restoring riparian and stream habitat for the listed bull trout and state imperiled westslope cutthroat trout, as well a numerous riparian species at risk. A landowner working group has partnered with several state and federal agencies to restore riparian habitat and stream channel functioning to conditions present prior to human settlement. This project promises

long-term success and sustained commitment from landowners by producing economic benefits through a reduction in flooding.

Bear Proofing an Agricultural Landscape: Working with private landowners and residents to reduce conflicts and mortalities with grizzly bears in Montana (Application by Blackfoot Challenge) - Montana - (\$104,700) - To work with landowners in an agricultural landscape to reduce conflicts with grizzly bears that travel through a valley between two mountain ranges by bear-proofing certain attractants to the species. The valley is designated in the grizzly bear recovery plan as a travel route for the species.

Nebraska

Platte River Channel Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (Application by Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.) - Nebraska - (\$97,500) - This project will restore a key Platte River segment to habitat for whooping cranes, piping plovers and least terns, as well as declining native fish. Lacking adequate flows to restore natural flooding, this project will use mechanical means to remove vegetation and create backwaters. A large acreage of habitat will be restored and numerous partnerships have formed with private landowners to achieve success.

Platte River Backwater Restoration and Meadow Enhancement (Application by Private Landowner) - Nebraska - (\$9,000) - To restore backwater, wet meadow and adjacent native prairie habitat along the Platte River to benefit a number of wildlife and plant species at risk, including the federally listed whooping crane as well as the candidate black-tailed prairie dog and state imperiled burrowing owl. The project will compliment similar river restoration work currently underway on adjacent properties, thereby increasing the benefits to species at risk over a larger landscape.

Habitat Restoration and Conservation on the Niobrara River, Cherry County, Nebraska (Application by Private Landowner) - Nebraska - (\$21,138) - This project will restore wetlands and improve grazing management on and adjacent to the Niobrara River to benefit grassland and wetland-dependant species at risk, particularly numerous declining birds, such as the federally listed Whooping Crane and the state imperiled Lark Bunting and Long-billed Curlew. The landowner applicant has demonstrated sound knowledge of wildlife management needs and costs of providing them on this portion of his ranch and a strong commitment to making the project a success by a willingness to manage the site in perpetuity.

Kugler Platte River Wet Meadow and Grassland Restoration (Application by Kugler Farms, Inc.) - Nebraska - (\$28,329) - This project will restore wet meadows and grasslands along the Platte River to the natural habitat it was generations ago. The intention is to address a major threat to natural river functions by increasing available surface water, removing woody debris and maintaining the open habitats by burning and grazing. More than 20 at-risk species will benefit, including the federally listed Whooping Crane, Least Tern, Piping Plover and Bald Eagle.

South Dakota

Restoration of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs to the Bad River Ranches, South Dakota (Application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) - South Dakota - (\$60,000) - To restore a black-tailed prairie dog ecosystem to a ranch within the historic range of the species as part of a large prairie restoration program. This project will expand a small complex of prairie dog colonies by establishing new colonies through translocation and encouraging expansion of existing colonies through intensive grazing management and prescribed burning. The hope of the applicant is to have sufficient acreage of prairie dogs to support a population of black-footed ferrets.

Restoration of Swift Fox to the Bad River Ranches and Environs in South Dakota (Application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) - South Dakota - (\$40,000) - To re-establish a self-sustaining population of swift fox to a prairie ranch as part of a large prairie restoration program. Through pilot re-establishment efforts, the applicant has demonstrated that this project will be a success. Once a self-sustaining population is established and re-establishment techniques are optimized, the applicant intends to further conservation of the species by providing animals for re-establishment elsewhere in the northern Great Plains.

Tallgrass Prairie Legacy (Application by South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts) - South Dakota - (\$87,500) - This project for tallgrass prairie and riparian habitat restoration for seven species is timely in that pressures to convert grassland in the area to cropland are tremendous. Much of the funding will be targeted for restoration and enhancement of tallgrass prairie through the use of native seeds that will provide food plants for five imperiled species of butterflies, including the candidate Dakota Skipper and state imperiled Powersheik Skipperling, species that are often overlooked in grassland restoration work. Perhaps most important for the long term, it will serve as a model to many traditional ranchers and farmers illustrating ways to benefit wildlife while maintaining profitable farming.

Utah

Rosebud Ranch Sensitive Species Initiative (Application by Arimo Corporation) - Utah - (\$146,000) - This project is part of a larger habitat restoration program and will restore habitats for imperiled native fish using water previously committed to irrigation. The project will provide sorely needed fish habitat in this part of the arid west and the landowner is committed to maintaining the restored wetland and open water habitats over the long term.

Wyoming

Rimfire Ranch Trumpeter Swan Habitat Enhancement Project (Application by Rimfire Ranch, LLC) - Wyoming - (\$87,000) - The goal of this project is to restore, expand and enhance wetland habitat for the Trumpeter Swan by following management recommendations from the Pacific Flyway Plan. Following habitat restoration, swans will be introduced into this site of historic occupation.

Multi-State

Valley Springs Wetlands and Swan Breeding Facility Initiative (Application by Wyoming Wetland Society) - Wyoming, Montana, Idaho - (\$97,000) - To develop an outdoor captive breeding facility and long-term habitat for the trumpeter swan as part of an implementation plan to prevent the need to list the species. The facility will provide swans to re-establish populations in a three-state region thereby making a positive conservation impact over a large landscape.

Private Lands Habitat Restoration for High Plains Species At Risk (Application by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory) - Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska - (\$76,090) - This focused project will enable landowners in the High Plains to implement habitat management projects to benefit species at risk over a large landscape, including the Black-tailed Prairie Dog and 24 declining grassland birds, such as the Mountain Plover (proposed for listing) and state imperiled Long-billed Curlew and Ferruginous Hawk. The project will restore grassland habitat on over 10,000 acres and two miles of stream by altering grazing management on ranches for a minimum of 10 years and re-seeding cropland with native seed.

Partnering with Private Landowners to Conserve Piping Plovers on Alkali Lakes in North Dakota and Montana (Application by The Nature Conservancy) - North Dakota, Montana - (\$71,981) - This is an essential project to continue recovery of the Piping Plover while restoring habitat for additional declining shorebirds. On-site management activities that reduce predation and increase nesting success to restore populations will be initiated to reduce the decline of this species.

Region 7 - Alaska

Moonwort Protection and ATV User Outreach (Application by Yakutat Salmon Board) - Alaska - (\$34,870) - This is a two part project that protects two rare moonwort (*Botrychium*) species which are threatened by a number of biological and anthropogenic factors including ATV use. Part one will provide for immediate site protection of populations near Yakutat, Alaska by cordoning off high-density *Botrychium* areas and redirecting ATV traffic away from those areas. Part two will create a half hour educational video using footage of site protection efforts that were used in the first part of the project, including responsible ATV use.

Restoration and Enhancement of Habitat Adjacent to Barrow (Application by North Slope Borough) - Alaska - (\$176,814) - This project will restore and enhance habitat near Barrow to reduce mortality and increase the nesting success of the federally threatened Steller's and spectacled eiders and other species at risk. The project will have three components: Trail hardening to reduce ATV disturbance to nesting areas; installation of bird flight diverters to power lines to reduce mortality to birds due to collisions with wires; and installation of a predator-proof gate at the barrow landfill.

Working in Voluntary Partnership with Private Landowners to Provide Technical Assistance and avoid Habitat Frag. And Loss in Upper Cook Inlet State Game Refuges (Application by Great Land Trust) - Alaska - (\$65,260) - To work with private landowners with inholdings in 3 Southcentral Alaska State Game Refuges to identify habitat restoration and conservation management activities. These refuges are in close proximity to Anchorage, Alaska's most populated area, and have been deemed essential habitat for dozens of wildlife species, including many at-risk species such as the Tule species of the greater white-fronted goose, Hudsonian godwit, redthroated loon, Pribilof Island species of rock sandpiper, olive-sided flycatcher, peregrine falcon, blackpoll warbler, gray-cheeked thrush, Townsend's warbler, short-billed dowitcher, arctic tern, arctic warbler, Smith's Larkspur, and McKay's Bunting. Protection of this habitat will help minimize habitat loss and fragmentation negatively impacting these and other wildlife species.

Afognak Island Timber Road/Culvert Removal (Application by Wildlife Forever) - Alaska - (\$66,421) - This project will help Native Corporations remove roads and culverts and restore riparian habitat in the Waterfall area of Afognak Island. The Waterfall area is important high quality habitat for the Afognak Island population of at-risk Kodiak Brown Bears. Habitat protection and restoration activities conducted under this grant will minimize the area's vulnerability to future human disturbance and restore the natural integrity to this area.

Pribilof Rock Sandpipers on St. George Island Face an Unforeseen Enemy: The Local Reindeer Herd (Application by St. George Tanaq Corporation) - Alaska - (\$18,405) - This project will reduce the reindeer herd on St. George Island from 400 to 250 animals. Reindeer are an introduced species that damage habitat, eat eggs, and trample the nests of rock sandpipers. Rock sandpipers nest on only 4 islands in the Bering Sea and are recognized as a species of concern.

Two Rivers East Habitat Enhancement Project (Application by Two Rivers Resource Trust) - Alaska - (\$107,970) - To restore habitat on 900 acres of formerly forested lands on the Kenai Peninsula. These lands were salvage-logged as a result of spruce bark beetle infestation and have not regenerated naturally. These lands were formerly prime brown bear habitat and this project will restore that habitat.