Private Stewardship Grants Program Regional Award Summaries FY 2004

Alabama

Paint Rock River Habitat Enhancement Project - (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Jackson County, Alabama - ($200,000) – To restore riparian habitat in the upper Paint Rock River Watershed. Projects include application of bioengineering methods, planting, root wads, riparian fencing, provision of alternative water sources for livestock, and demonstrating effective best management practices. The benefits of this project include reduced sedimentation and a reduction in threats associated with incompatible agricultural and livestock practices in this area of the watershed. Specific restoration techniques will involve: fencing, stream bank restoration, provision of alternative watering sources, and reforestation in the riparian zone. 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 species of fish (5 globally rare or imperiled) and approximately 45 mussel species (9 globally rare or imperiled – 2 currently restricted to the Paint Rock).

See Also Multi-State Proposals

Alaska

Preventing and Monitoring Avian Collisions with Towers and Wires – (application by Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association) – Alaska – ($62,424) – To install bird deterrent devices and predator-proof fences at wind turbine sites in three remote communities in Southwest Alaska. The goal of the project is to reduce mortality of a variety of Endangered Species Act listed (Steller's and spectacled eiders) and at-risk (emperor goose, marbled godwit) avian species. The project will include an experimental component to examine pre-and post- installation mortality levels, and a continuing "citizen science" monitoring effort.

Afognak Island Motorized Access Denial Phase II – (application by Wildlife Forever) – Alaska – ($67,500) - Continuing an effort initiated under a fiscal year 2003 Private Stewardship grant, this project will use physical barriers and forest road reclamation techniques to deny all-terrain vehicle access to approximately 10 miles of forest roads. The project's goal is to provide approximately 1,000 acres of security habitat for brown bears, thus reducing human-caused mortality. The project will also reduce sedimentation into anadromous fish streams. These road reclamation activities are additive to post-harvest actions required under Alaska's forest practices act.

Chester Creek Rehabilitation Project – (application by Cook Inlet Housing Authority; Venture Development Group, LLC) – Alaska – ($96,124) – To recreate approximately 2000 feet of channel of the South Fork of Chester Creek, a channelized urban stream in Anchorage. The project will recreate pools and meanders and use bioengineering techniques to create a vegetated riparian zone. The project will benefit Coho salmon, which historically reared on this stream reach and are greatly reduced throughout the highly-degraded watershed, and will complement several other on-going or anticipated riparian and fish passage restoration projects along the creek.

Stabilization of Degraded Wetlands Trails Project – (application by Cook Inlet Tribal Council) – Alaska – ($75,000) – To construct approximately 800 feet of porous pavement all-terrain vehicle trail across highly degraded wetlands providing rearing habitat for 2 species of Pacific salmon and also benefiting at least 5 species of regionally-rare, wetland-dependant plants.

Arkansas

Lands Restoration to Benefit Endangered Indiana Bats and Gray Bats in Arkansas - (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Newton and Benton Counties Arkansas - ($24,500) - To enhance habitat for the largest Indiana bat hibernaculum cave remaining in Arkansas (Sherfield Cave) by adding maternity opportunities and increasing the availability of suitable brood trees close to the cave on this 1200-acre property. The project will also help protect this site through fencing, gating roads, educational signage, and restricting access during certain seasons. The project also proposes to help reduce human disturbance of a gray bat colony by protecting the bat flyway from Logan Cave exurgence to Osage Creek by fencing, gating roads, and installing educational signage. This project will benefit six species including gray and Indiana bats, Benton cave crayfish, Ozark cavefish, Ozark cave amphipod, and the cave isopod.

California

Habitat Protection Along the Eastern Edge of Furnace Creek Wash Adjacent to Death Valley National Park - (application by Bat Conservation International) - Inyo County, California - ($20,000) - Bat Conservation International will gate three abandoned mines to preserve habitats for 16 species of bats, including Townsend's big eared bats, in the Death Valley area.

Dooley Creek Restoration Project - (application by Bioengineering Institute) - Mendocino County, California - ($38,351) – To restore riparian and instream habitat and stabilize banks along a 2,734-foot stretch of Dooley Creek. Salmonid habitat will be enhanced by structures that increase native riparian vegetative cover and pool habitat and reduce sediment from eroding banks.

Colorado

Lasater Ranch Black-tailed Prairie Dog Project - (application by ROE Ecological Services, LLC) – Elbert County, Colorado - ($17,570) - To establish a viable black-tailed prairie dog colony on native prairie within the historic range of the species, which in turn will provide nesting habitat for several avian species at risk that thrive on prairie dog colonies.

See Also Multi-State Proposals

Connecticut

Wetland restoration at Beeslick Pond and Benton Hill Fen preserves - (application by The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut) – Litchfield County, Connecticut – ($66,343) - To control invasive species at two separate wetlands in Connecticut. Control efforts will include herbicide applications to invasive plants and, at Benton Hill Fen only, mechanical control through mowing of adjacent early successional habitat. This project will help maintain Connecticut's small bog turtle population.

Florida

Introduction of the Federally-Listed Endangered Shrub Florida Ziziphus at Tiger Creek Preserve - (application by The Nature Conservancy) - Polk County, Florida - ($40,870) - Florida ziziphus is the most imperiled plant on the Lake Wales Ridge and is one of the rarest plants in Florida. Five of the six known remaining populations are incapable of producing viable fruit. This project implements the main goal of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Plan for Florida ziziphus which is to establish sexually reproductive populations on protected sites containing appropriate habitat. The Nature Conservancy, working in partnership with others, will establish a reproductively viable population of Florida ziziphus at Tiger Creek Preserve. The project entails site preparation (prescribed burning and installation of irrigation system), propagation, genetic analysis of propagules, transplanting, and maintaining the introduced propagules.

Management of a Nascent Population of the Endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker and its Habitat in Northern Florida - (application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) – Jefferson County, Florida - ($28,890) - To expand the size of the nascent population of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker at the Avalon Plantation in northern Florida using a combination of on-the-ground management activities and long-term habitat management agreements. Twelve breeding groups currently reside on the Plantation. The population goal is for 25 to 30 active groups. The population will be increased through targeted intra-population translocation and augmentation, construction of recruitment clusters in key areas, and identification and protection of active cavity trees. A Safe Harbor Agreement is being developed for the property. The target species for this project is the federally endangered Red cockaded woodpecker, but other species are expected to benefit including Sherman's fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, and Florida pine snake.

Restoration of Scrub and Cutthroat Grass Communities on the Lake Wales Ridge – (application by Archbold Biological Station) - Highlands County, Florida - ($36,358) – To conserve and manage 3,648 acres on the south end of Lake Wales Ridge to meet many of the recovery actions for the 13 federally threatened and endangered species on the site that are identified in the South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan. The work involves preparation of a 10-year burn plan for this newly acquired property, designation of burn units and fire return intervals, preparation of fire breaks around units and fire lanes around the perimeter of the property, construction and repair of fencing to exclude unapproved public access onto lands with rare plants, and implementation of prescribed burns. This project site is located in globally imperiled Florida scrub habitat, mesic flatwoods, cutthroat seeps and bayhead.

Restoration of Privately-Owned Pine Rocklands: Recovering Critical Habitat for six Fish and Wildlife Service Listed Plant Taxa - (application by The Institute for Regional Conservation) – Dade County, Florida - ($115,131) - Pine rocklands are globally imperiled and the fragments that remain represent less than 2% of the original pine rockland. They only occur in South Florida and a few islands in the Bahamas. The last remaining privately owned pine rocklands are in a "state of alarming decline in habitat quality" (Proposal). The Institute for Regional Conservation will develop and initiate active restoration of privately-owned pine rocklands, by working with individual landowners, and hire professional crews to undertake restoration on private properties. This project will result in restoration of 20 sites (approximately 30 to 50 acres) representing the best remaining critical habitat for endangered pine rockland plants. Restoration will include exotic pest plant removal, control of native hardwoods, prescribed burning, debris cleanup, rare plant re-introductions, and re-establishment of a pine canopy.

See Also Multi-State Proposals

Georgia

See Multi-State Proposals

Hawaii

Auwahi Dryland Forest Restoration - (application by Ulupalakua Ranch) - Maui County, Hawaii - ($26,000) - To assist the continued community-based restoration of especially diverse tracts of dryland forest at Auwahi, Ulupalakua Ranch, Maui by embarking on an 8-hectare exclosure. This exclosure will protect five endangered plant species, *Xanthoxylum hawaiiense*, *Melicope knudsenii*, *Melicope adscendens*, *Alectryon macrococcus* var. *auwahiensis*, and *Santalum freycinetianum* var. *lanaiense*. Funds will be used toward collecting, germinating, and propagating the endangered plants; controlling non-native invasive plants; and irrigating to ensure outplanting success.

Keauhou Fencing and Feral Animal Control - (application by Hawaiian Silversword Foundation) - Hawaii County, Hawaii - ($114,125) – To build a 3-mile fence to protect 15,000 acres of forest and former ranch lands from ingress by alien animals (feral pigs, mouflon sheep, and goats) and control alien animals within the fenced unit. The project area contains diverse native forest and provides habitat for three endangered forest bird species, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, and nine endangered plant species. The long-term objectives are to protect and manage a large contiguous area of the landscape to enhance the long-term survival and integrity of native plant and animal communities and the natural processes on which they depend, promoting recovery of endangered species.

WiliWili Dryland Forest Restoration at Pu'U-O-Kali Lava Flows, Western Haleakala - (application by Ulupalakua Ranch) - Maui County, Hawaii - ($56,000) - To completely eliminate all remaining ungulates within the existing 236-acre parcel, propagate and outplant 6 endangered native plant species, and control selective invasive species in Pu'u-o-kali WiliWili dryland forest.

Feral Ungulate Perimeter Fence for Limahuli Upper Valley Preserve - (application by National Tropical Botanical Garden) – Kauai County, Hawaii – ($336,000) - To construct 4.5 miles of feral ungulate-proof fence along the perimeter boundary of 400 acres of Limahuli Upper Valley. Any pigs inside the fence will be removed. This area is a biologically rich native Hawaiian lowland and montane wet forest that is habitat for wild populations of 10 federally listed species. Considerable restoration efforts have already occurred in Upper Limahuli and this fence project will secure the area from future damage from feral pigs and goats.

Habitat Enhancement for Koloa and Nene - (application by Ducks Unlimited) - Hawaii County, Hawaii - ($49,800) - To restore and increase the number of wetland and associated upland habitats available to breeding populations of Koloa and Nene on the Island of Hawaii. The work will be carried out on 2 parcels (23 acres and 74 acres), 2.6 miles south of Honoka'a Town in the Ahualoa District of the Island of Hawaii at Cloud Forest Coffee organic farm.

North Pualii Gulch Ungulate Exclosure - (application by The Nature Conservancy) - Hawaii County, Hawaii - ($65,750) – To construct a 9.8-acre pig and goat fence exclosure in North Pualii Gulch to protect an intact stand of dry-mesic native forest containing 5 listed endangered species including plants and the elepaio, 5 species of concern, and 1 candidate species. Install a 500 gallon tank, 10 x 16 foot catchment surface, and irrigation system, to provide water for weed control and watering of outplants. Reintroduce 12 listed endangered plant species within the fenced exclosure.

Conservation and Restoration of Rare and Endangered Flora and Fauna Along Honolii Stream, South Hilo, Island of Hawaii – (application by Waialae Falls LLC) - Hawaii County, Hawaii - ($48,818) - To restore a 1/3-mile long section of land along the Honoli'i Stream by removing pigs and invasive tree species and planting State and federally listed plant species that once occurred in the area, restoring habitat for the plants as well as two endangered birds, the 'Io and Koloa. Fencing will help protect the restoration site from further ingress of pigs.

Dryland Forest Restoration at Ka'upulehu - (application by Hawaii Forest Industry Association) - Hawaii County, Hawaii - ($108,515) – To enhance 70 acres of the existing dryland forest remnant at Ka'upulehu by continuing on-the-ground conservation actions during a 1-year period: reintroducing the nine target endangered plant species, managing nonnative competitors, ensuring ample supply of water for irrigation, reducing threats from alien mammals, reducing threats from fire, and ensuring stable and consistent management of dry forest restoration.

Nene and Riparian Restoration for the Kohala Mountains - (application by Pacific Plains) - Hawaii County, Hawaii - ($61,200) To enhance 100 acres of pasture to a condition that would provide suitable habitat for reintroduction of the nene goose; construct a nene breeding pen, and restore 20 acres of native riparian ohia forest and plunge pool habitat on adjacent lands in the Kohala Mountains on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Locking Gate for an Interior Cave Entrance in Makauwahi Sinkhole - (application by Grove Farm Company, Incorporated) - Kauai County, Hawaii - ($18,810) - To protect the unique cave habitat by placing a locking gate at the cave entrance located in the south end of Makauwahi Sinkhole. This will protect the endangered Kauai cave wolf spider and Kauai cave amphipod that are known to occur in the area. Protection and restoration of cave habitat is fundamental to the recovery of Kauai's endangered cave spider and cave amphipod.

No Na Mamo Project For the Future Generation Project - (application by Fujitory Hawaii, Inc. DBA Umikoa Ranch) - Hawaii and Kauai Counties, Hawaii - ($189,250) - To fence and restore three habitats, including koa and ohia forest, for threatened and endangered species. Work sites will be on both Hawaii (the Big Island) and Kauai. Umikoa Ranch has obtained a Safe Harbor Agreement and is expected to complete a Candidate Conservation Agreement with assurances by the end of this year. This Candidate Conservation Agreement will be the first such executed agreement in Hawaii.

Ku'Ohi'a Laka Rainforest Restoration Project - (application by private individuals) - Hawaii County, Hawaii - ($43,600) – To support the establishment of a plant propagation and out-planting program for common forest plants as well as endangered, candidate, and rare plant species, and improve existing native habitat to ensure forest health, which will support existing populations of endangered animals such as the Hawaiian hawk and hoary bat.

Idaho

Esche Diversion Fish Passage and Thomas Fork Habitat Restoration - (application by Trout Unlimited) – Bear Lake County, Idaho - ($170,000) - To provide upstream and downstream fish passage for spawning Bonneville cutthroat trout and their offspring during seasonal irrigation diversion along the Thomas Fork River; repair degraded riparian and aquatic habitats along the Thomas Fork River, and decrease agricultural inputs of fine sediment and nutrients into the Thomas Fork and Bear Rivers.

Illinois

Managing Habitat for the Threatened Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid in Northeastern Illinois – (application by Abbott Laboratories) – Lake County, Illinois – ($25,000) - Brush clearing and herbicide applications will reduce competition from shading canopy shrubs at sites where Eastern prairie fringed orchid exists.

Menard County Illinois Hill Prairie Restoration – (application by Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District) – Menard County, Illinois – ($19,800) – Nine acres on two properties will be cleared and seeded to initiate restoration of the hill prairie community and restore the ecological processes necessary to ensure continued health. Pale false foxglove, prairie dandelion, and clustered broomrape will be collected and seeded on the properties. The project shall also provide outreach to landowners by teaching land management and increase their awareness about the hill prairies. Specific management includes brush and tree removal and re-seeding with local genotype prairie species.

Indiana

Fen Restoration - (application by a private individual) – Marshall County, Indiana - ($13,900) – To restore and enhance a prairie fen. This area is unique in the landscape of southern Marshall County, as well as northern Indiana.. The fen has been owned and preserved by the same family for several generations, and with active restoration efforts we can continue to maintain it as a high quality natural area. At-risk species that are expected to benefit from the restoration include eastern massasauga rattlesnake, false asphodel, and slender bog arrow grass.

NIPSCO Dune Acres/Calumet Trail Restoration -(application by NiSource) – Porter County, Indiana – ($11,082) - To conserve and enhance the habitat of several at-risk species identified along the Calumet Trail. There have been 16 state listed plants found within the Trail, as well as the eastern massasauga. The restoration sites have been targeted to preserve the highest quality areas of the land adjacent to the trail while seeking to control exotic and invasive species.

Iowa

Control of Invasive Honeysuckle to Protect and Improve Habitat for Endangered Species - - (application by Amana Society) – Iowa County, Iowa- ($10,000) - Exotic honeysuckle will be controlled in areas where it exhibits vigorous growth and dominates the understory vegetation. The expected results will be an opportunity for native species, including running pine and woodland horsetail, to reestablish and increase in population in the target area.

Kansas

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance Integrated Approach to Managing Kansas Tallgrass Prairie - (application by Tallgrass Legacy Alliance) – Greenwood, Lyon, Chase, Marion, Morris, Dickenson, Geary, Wabaunsee, Potawatomie, Riley, Greenwood, Elk, Butler, and Chautauqua Counties, Kansas – ($130,000) - This project is an integrated approach toward containment and control of two invasive plant species in the Flint Hills of Kansas to benefit at-risk species, particularly declining grassland birds. Management actions to be undertaken include rotational prescribed burning in autumn, spot spraying of herbicides and grazing management.

Comanche Pool Prairie resource Foundation/High Plains Partnership – (application by Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation) - Barber, Clark, and Comanche Counties, Kansas – ($109,230) - To continue a rancher-led initiative that has a proven record of success in enhancing mixed-grass and prairie stream habitat for species at risk. 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.

Louisiana

Restoration and Enhancement of Habitat in South Louisiana to Benefit the Louisiana Black Bear and Related Species - (application by Black Bear Conservation Committee) – Iberia and Point Coupee Counties, Louisiana - ($65,802) – To work with private landowners to improve habitat for the Louisiana black bear, particularly in key corridor areas with or near high bear density areas in the Atchafalaya River Basin and the coastal zone of Louisiana. The focus will be on salt dome hardwood forest, coastal live oak-hackberry forest, and bottomland hardwood forest restoration. This project will result in direct benefits to the federally listed Louisiana black bear as well as other species of plants and wildlife, including the Swallow-tailed kite and Swainson's warbler. It will result in invasive species removal on 500 acres, reforesting of 300 acres, and removal of wild hogs. Importantly, this project also can be expected to help link existing Louisiana black bear subpopulations (Pointe Coupee and Tensas).

Maryland

See Multi-State Proposals

Massachusetts

Conservation of Endangered Birds, Especially Roseate Terns, on Muskeget and Tuckernuck Island – (application by Staten Island University) – Nantucket County, Massachusetts – ($19,854) - To promote the re-establishment of roseate and common terns as breeders on Muskeget Island by: (1) harassment of nesting great black-backed gulls using a trained sheepdog; (2) destruction of gull eggs; (3) attraction of roseate and common terns to two sites on Muskeget using decoys, wooden nest boxes and broadcast tern vocalizations; (4) monitoring of tern reproductive success; and (5) detection and deterrence of potential tern predators.

Study and control of predators at coastal waterbird nesting sites in MA – (application by Massachusetts Audubon Society) – Barnstable, Bristol, and Dukes Counties – ($52,646) – To erect electric fencing on Sampsons Island with corresponding monitoring and data collection, and the testing of new exclosures on Martha's Vineyard. This will provide essential support in the assessment of the viability of these new methods of protecting coastal waterbirds.

Habitat restoration for rare openland sandplain species on MA Islands – (application by The Nature Conservancy of Massachusetts) - Dukes and Nantucket Counties – ($31,361) – To restore openland habitat at multiple sites for rare species of plants and animals, including short-eared owl, barrens metarranthis, and Persius dusky wing, using various management techniques: clearing, mowing, restoring soil chemistry and prescribed fire. By creating openlands the project hopes to promote the expansion of bird and invertebrate populations.

Michigan

Endangered Great Lakes Piping Plover Protection and Monitoring in Northern Michigan - (application by Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy) – Alger County, Michigan - ($16,635) – To monitor and protect piping plover nests to determine their status and help alleviate human or pet disturbance. Nest exclosures will be erected around nest sites to reduce nest predation. Interpretive kiosks will be installed which will explain piping plover biology and protective measures that beach users can follow to protect piping plovers. Other outreach material that will be developed include signage for "piping plover chicks in the area" and door knob flyers.

Stewardship of a Regionally Significant Conservation Area in Michigan - (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Multiple Counties, Michigan - ($100,000) – Stewardship, training, and monitoring are the tactics that will be employed to achieve the goals of the project. The Nature Conservancy and its partners will implement proven stewardship methods to abate threats, benefiting over 100 at-risk species across 15 management areas. In the management areas, The Nature Conservancy will work to remove invasive species, restore fire, and protect natural communities from damage by ORVs. Federally listed species benefited by this work include the Mitchell's satyr, Indiana bat, piping plover, Karner blue butterfly, copperbelly watersnake, Pitcher's thistle, Dwarf lake iris, Houlton's goldenrod, and eastern massasauga.

Minnesota

Southeastern Minnesota Prairie and Savanna Restoration Project - (application by Prairie Smoke Chapter, The Prairie Enthusiasts) – Filmore, Houston, Olmsted, and Mower Counties, Minnesota - ($70,300) – The habitat in the identified prairie remnants will be recovered, enhanced and expanded to benefit at-risk species. Management activities include prescribed fire, invasive plant removal, and seed harvesting and planting. There are 10 state listed species that will benefit from stewardship activities including timber rattlesnake, Blanding's turtle, rough-seeded fameflower, prairie bush clover, Hill's thistle, and cliff goldenrod. The long-term conservation of these rare habitats and the associated species will be fostered by the private landowners through the stewardship plan.

Restoring Topeka shiner habitat on the Rock river in southwest Minnesota – (application by Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District) – Rock County, Minnesota - ($30,000) –To work with several landowners adjacent to the Rock River to protect and maintain the river bank, off channel areas, and adjacent upland fields, to reduce erosion and sedimentation into the river and off-channel habitats that are important to the Topeka shiner. Much of the work involves back sloping incised river banks, placing large boulders at the toe of the slope, bank, or mid-channel areas to deflect flow. This funding would allow approximately 200 to300 feet of bank protection on portions of 2 properties.

Mississippi

See Multi-State Proposals

Missouri

Missouri Prairie Habitat Revitalization - (application by Missouri Prairie Foundation) – Barton, Vernon, St. Clair, Dade and Callaway Counties, Missouri - ($69,500) – To enhance and restore habitat on Golden Prairie, a National Natural Landmark. The Missouri Prairie Foundation will remove invasive species on newly acquired property and will implement a patch-burn grazing regime to restore ecological function of the rolling prairie. There has been over 300 native plant species identified on Golden Prairie, as well as the greater prairie chicken, northern harrier, and loggerhead shrike.

Meramec River Watershed Restoration for Rare Mussels - (application by Brush Creek Advisory Committee) – Franklin, Gasconade, and Crawford Counties, Missouri - ($60,000) – Water quality and aquatic habitat will be improved for at-risk freshwater mussel species through implementing Best Management Practices in the Meramec River Watershed. At least 14 at-risk species have been identified including the sheepnose, elephant ear snuffbox, and ebonyshell. Recent genetic analysis has also confirmed presence of the winged mapleleaf, previously known to occur in a single population in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The areas identified are known mussel habitat consistent with the Recovery Action Outline from the draft scaleshell mussel recovery plan. The Best Management Practices will also help restore vanishing native communities including prairie and riparian habitat.

Habitat enhancement and restoration for select listed species at five Missouri sites - (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Reynolds, Dade, Barton, Benton, and Greene Counties, Missouri - ($50,000) – The management work will allow rehabilitation and restoration of priority areas that have been degraded and continue to be threatened by invasive woody growth and infestation by exotic herbaceous species. The work is for prairie, glade, and fen restoration within or bordering the Ozarks Ecoregion in southern Missouri. Twenty species are identified to benefit from the stewardship activities including Federally-listed Hine's emerald dragonfly, Mead's milkweed, and the Missouri bladderpod.

Montana

Bull Trout Habitat Restoration Project, East Fork Bull River, Montana – (application by a private individual) – Sanders County, Montana – ($40,828) - This Private Stewardship Grant will contribute significantly to the implementation of a comprehensive re-vegetation effort on a Montana river to establish healthy riparian habitat and in-stream conditions that will aid in the conservation of bull trout.

Conservation of an Eastern Slope Native Fish in Montana: Establishment of Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Cherry Creek, an Upper Missouri Basin Tributary – (application by Turner Enterprises, Inc.) – Madison County, Montana – ($31,300) - To initiate a multi-year effort to establish and monitor a genetically pure, self-sustaining population of a native trout in a Montana watershed. Once established, the population will serve as a donor population to re-establish the trout in other watersheds.

Therriault Creek Meadows Stream and Wetland Restoration Project - (application by Kootenai River Network, Inc.) – Lincoln County, Montana – ($50,000) – To conserve two native trout species through habitat improvements that will decrease sedimentation, re-water a drained wetland to serve as a nursery area for juvenile fish, and re-establish proper floodplain function. These improvements will result in increased spawning and juvenile survivorship of both species and serve to further re-enforce a strong, locally-led watershed restoration partnership.

Nebraska

Platte Valley Native Grassland Restoration and Enhancement Project – (application by Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.) – Buffalo and Hall Counties, Nebraska – ($97,906) - To improve habitat for species at risk along a 60-mile reach of the Platte River, including adjacent native grasslands and associated wetlands in central Nebraska. Management actions include removing woodlots, shrub thickets, and scattered trees from grasslands, and creating backwater sloughs and wetlands to benefit many species including whooping cranes, least terns, piping plovers, and bald eagles. The sites will be monitored using satellite imagery and maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

North Platte River Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project – (application by Platte River Basin Environments, Inc.) - Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Keith, and Lincoln Counties, Nebraska – ($108,500) - To restore and enhance habitat for species at risk along the North Platte River in western Nebraska by removing invasive tree species from the river channel, islands and wet meadows; enhancing backwater sloughs; and creating wet meadows.

Comprehensive Plan for Enhancement of the Hutton Niobrara Ranch as a Wildlife Sanctuary for At-Risk Species – (application by Audubon of Kansas, Inc.) – Rock County, Nebraska – ($88,470) – To initiate a conservation effort to restore prairie and wet meadow habitats vital to species at risk on a nature preserve in Nebraska. Habitat management undertakings include planting a former cropland back to native prairie, controlling woody vegetation encroachment on existing prairie through cutting and prescribed burns, reintroduction of black-tailed prairie dogs to create habitat for numerous at-risk grassland birds, and altering haying and grazing in wet meadows.

Kugler Platte River Wet Meadow and Grassland Restoration – (application by Kugler Farms, Inc.) – Dawson County, Nebraska – ($37,800) – To restore and enhance riverine habitat along the Platte River for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, other migratory waterbirds, and fish and wildlife species by removing woody vegetation and maintaining the open habitats by tree removal.

Sandhills Ecosystem Conservation Project – (application by Sandhills Task Force) - Wheeler, Garfield, Keith, and Brown Counties – ($39,010) – To work with individual landowners in the Nebraska Sandhills to implement conservation projects on their lands that benefit at-risk wildlife, including savannah sparrows, chestnut-collared longspurs, and short-eared owls. Conservation projects to be implemented include using altered grazing management as a tool to improve the quality and diversity of the native grasslands and removing livestock access to streams and natural wetlands. Habitat improvements will be monitored over a 10-year period, thereby strengthening communication and partnerships with the participating landowners.

Nevada

Desert Dace, Basalt Cinquefoil, Springsnail Habitat Improvement - (application by a private individual) – Humboldt County, Nevada – ($15,579) - This project is a partnership between the private landowner, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service and will exclude livestock from the entire federally designated Critical Habitat for desert dace. The landowner will develop an alternate solar powered water source and allow for the construction of approximately 10 miles of fence, which will encompass and exclude livestock and wild horse and burro grazing from the sensitive species' habitats.

New Mexico

Alamosa Creek Riparian Restoration - (application by Monticello Community Ditch Association) - Socorro County, New Mexico - ($18,110) To restore 40 acres of riparian habitat of Alamosa Creek by removal of non-native invasive plants (saltcedar) to protect habitat for the endangered Alamosa springsnail, ovate vertigo (snail), and threatened Chiricahua leopard frog. Alamosa Creek warm springs support the only known population of Alamosa springnail in the world. It is the only known location that the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog does not suffer mortality due to aquatic conditions.

Wild Pre-conditioning of Black-footed Ferrets on Vermejo Park Ranch - (application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) – Colfax County, New Mexico - ($40,600) – For wild pre-conditioning black-footed ferrets on Vermejo Park Ranch, New Mexico. The project will entail releasing, and controlling the release, of captive black-footed ferrets under controlled conditions in established black-tailed prairie dog towns on the Vermejo Park Ranch to establish a foundation for a reintroduction project that aims to restore a self-sustaining population of ferrets that contributes to federal recovery criteria. During this project, staff of Turner Endangered Species Fund will quantify ferret dispersal and mortality, evaluate usefulness of small acreage of prairie dogs for preparing captive-born ferrets for life in the wild, and estimate effect of ferret predation on prairie dogs.

Grassland Habitat Management and Playa Lake Conservation on the High Plains of Eastern New Mexico - (application by Grasslans Charitable Foundation) - Roosevelt County, New Mexico - ($153,300) – To restore and enhance approximately 16,000 acres of short- and midgrass prairie and playa lake habitat in eastern New Mexico. This project will involve working with 7 landowners to carry out habitat improvement that targets High Plains species at risk, including lesser prairie chickens, sand dune lizard, mountain plover, black-tailed prairie dogs, and other "at-risk" grassland species.

New York

Nesting colonial seabird habitat restoration – (application by Yale University on behalf of the School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences) – Suffolk County, New York – ($13,281) – To effectively control vegetation over a significant portion of nesting habitat for the roseate and common terns. Additionally, to trial different vegetation control methods, allowing for the determination of which methodology is the most effective at achieving lasting vegetation control.

Glacial Lake Albany Karner blue butterfly habitat restoration proposal – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Saratoga and Albany Counties, New York – ($69,047.40) - The objective of this project is to employ forestry and land clearing practices to facilitate Karner blue butterfly habitat restoration of currently forested acres within the Glacial Lake Albany Federal Karner blue butterfly recovery unit.

See Also Multi-State Proposals

North Carolina

See Multi-State Proposals

Oklahoma

Canadian River Floodplain Restoration, Four Canyon Preserve - (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Ellis County, Oklahoma - ($65,500) - To control saltcedar and Eastern redcedar infestation on 300 acres of the Canadian River floodplain at The Nature Conservancy's Four Canyon Preserve using prescribed fire, mechanical removal, and herbicide treatments. This action is expected to enhance existing and create new habitat for least terns, snowy plover, Arkansas River shiners, bell's vireos, Swainson's hawks, and a variety of other birds, reptiles and amphibians that are imperiled. The Nature Conservancy proposes to quantify relative success of control methods and monitor results of management efforts.

Fire Restoration at Large-Scale Priority Conservation Sites in Oklahoma - (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Multiple Counties, Oklahoma - ($160,648) - To establish prescribed fire as a primary conservation tool to restore native vegetation on private lands surrounding preserves within three of The Nature Conservancy's priority Conservation Areas in Oklahoma, and to implement habitat restoration on 56,000 acres for the benefit of a variety of grassland species, including the American burying beetle, lesser prairie-chicken, Bell's vireo, and other at-risk species.

See Also Multi-State Proposals

Oregon

Powder River Off-Stream Watering and River Restoration - (application by Baker Valley Soil & Water Conservation District) - Baker County, Oregon - ($164,370) - To increase water quality and quantity for fish habitat by constructing 12 grade control structures and eliminating 4 water control diversion structures to improve fish passage, decrease nutrient and bacteria loading, and enhance the riparian area, and to potentially increase stream flow during low-flow periods, to benefit bull trout and redband trout.

Crane Creek Restoration, Phase 1 - (application by Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust) - Klamath County, Oregon - ($81,330) - To restore the natural Crane Creek channel to maximize fish and wildlife benefits and to return natural hydrologic function. Crane Creek is part of proposed critical habitat area for bull trout. This improved habitat will also support shortnose sucker and Lost River sucker as well as yellow rail and Oregon spotted frog.

East Fork Williams Creek Salmonid Habitat Restoration - (application by Williams Watershed Council) - Williams and Josephine Counties, Oregon -($19,073) - To enhance and improve aquatic and riparian habitat in key Coho, Chinook, and steelhead spawning and rearing reaches. Large wood placement and random boulder clusters will be designed and placed to improve gravel retention for spawning, enhance channel complexity and pool structure for juvenile survival, and provide high water refuge and organic material to the aquatic system.

Douglas County Oak Restoration – (application by McKenzie River Trust) – Douglas County, Oregon – ($53,000) - To restore 200 acres of oak woodlands, mixed conifer, and riparian forest habitats for the benefit of numerous and diverse wildlife and plant species including Columbia white-tailed deer.

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery through Private Stewardship of Shrub-steppe and Grassland Habitats in the Columbia Basin, Oregon - (application by The Nature Conservancy) - Gilliam and Morrow Counties, Oregon - ($22,287) - To restore native grasses, forbs, and shrubs in the grassland and shrub-steppe habitats in this portion of the Columbia Basin. The area to be treated is 20 acres of the 22,642-acre Boardman Conservation Area. Species that will benefit from this restoration effort include Washington ground squirrel, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, western burrowing owl, and long-billed curlew.

Sycan River Restoration - (application by a private individual) - Klamath County, Oregon - ($125,000) - To improve instream habitat for the federally endangered Lost River sucker and shortnose sucker and State sensitive redband trout by reconnection of springs to the Sycan River, improving spawning substrate, increasing woody structure in the river, increasing stream length, and improving riparian cover. Improve habitat for the federally threatened bald eagle by restoring habitat for their prey base. An active nest is located within a mile of this site.

Pennsylvania

Habitat restoration for listed species in Eastern Pennsylvania – (application by The Nature Conservancy of Pennslyvania) – Monroe and Northampton Counties, Pennsylvania – ($53,076) - To restore and manage suitable habitat for two regionally important bog turtle populations in eastern Pennsylvania, and to restore and manage habitat conditions at these locations to improve the health and viability of existing populations of state-listed plants.

Bog turtle habitat restoration project – (application by The Berks County Conservancy) – Lebanon and Berks Counties, Pennsylvania – ($36,309.60) – To restore and maintain the habitat of the bog turtle at two sites, Strack's Dam wetland and Muhlenberg wetland. Both sites will use cattle as a management technique for invasive vegetation control and to improve the habitat.

See Also Multi-State Proposals

South Carolina

Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) Restoration and Management for Listed Species on Groton Plantation, Allendale and Hampton Counties, South Carolina - (application by Groton Land Company, Inc) – Hampton and Allendale Counties, South Carolina - ($16,725) - Groton Plantation is a 23,000 acre hunting plantation along the Savannah River in South Carolina that is home to one of the largest red-cockaded woodpecker populations (55 active clusters) found on non-industrial private forest land. This project involves providing 35 artificial cavities (drilled and inserts), 10 artificial cavity starts, and the placement of restrictor plates on cavities to benefit the federally endangered red cockaded woodpeckers on this site.

Forest Ecosystem Conservation for Rare and Declining Species on Family Forestlands in South Carolina - (application by American Forest Foundation) – Multiple Counties, South Carolina - ($176,000) - The American Bird Conservancy, American Forest Foundation, Clemson University and South Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will work in partnership to improve ecosystem conservation for declining species dependent upon fire-maintained southern pine communities and forested wetlands in South Carolina. The overall goal of the project is to build on the Service's Safe Harbor model for the red-cockaded woodpecker and apply it to forest conservation in South Carolina. This project will focus on engaging non-industrial private forest owners in active management to benefit many rare and declining species. The project also complements a multi-year, landscape level conservation effort currently being undertaken by the Lowcountry Forest Conservation Project (LFCP) which includes Clemson University, Ducks Unlimited, the Joseph Jones Ecological Research Center, the Lowcountry Open Land Trust, the S. C. Coastal Conservation League, the Conservation Fund, and The Nature Conservancy. This Private Stewardship Grant will provide cost-share funds to encourage pine ecosystem restoration and management on family forestlands for those landowners who desire to enter into Forest Ecosystem Management Agreements under which they will implement practices that benefit target species. Examples of these practices include: control of invasive species, prescribed burning, thinning to reduce canopy cover and encourage growth of herbaceous vegetation, control of hardwoods, restoration of longleaf pine.

South Dakota

Conata Basin Private Lands Partnership for Grasslands Species at Risk - (application by Prairie Wildlife Research, Inc.) – Pennington County, South Dakota – ($80,000) – To restore and enhance native habitat for grassland species at risk on private lands using a variety of conservation strategies, including modifying grazing systems to encourage prairie dog expansion, controlling noxious weeds, and monitoring species populations to measure trends.

Restoration of the Swift Fox to the Bad River Ranches and Environs in South Dakota – (application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) – Stanley and Jones Counties, South Dakota – ($45,000) – To contribute significantly to the re-establishment of 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.

See Also Multi-State Proposals

Texas

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Improvement Through the Systematic Control of Woody Understory and Midstory Species- (application by Cook's Branch Limited) – Montgomery County, Texas - ($110,000) – To carry out mechanical midstory control at 13 active red-cockaded woodpecker cluster sights. It is estimated that Cook's Branch Limited property has one of the highest red-cockaded woodpecker densities for any contiguous block of privately owned land in Texas. Continuation of this work will further strengthen the red-cockaded woodpecker foothold in East Texas and, hopefully, contribute to its ultimate recovery.

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Management Area Adjacent to the Davey Crocket National Forest- (application by Temple-Inland Forest Products Corporation) – Trinity and Houston Counties, Texas - ($97,224) – To increase the existing red-cockaded woodpecker population at North Boggy Slough Wildlife Management Area by creating a permanent 1,200-acre red-cockaded woodpecker Habitat Management Area. North Boggy Slough is owned by Temple-Inland Forest and is located immediately adjacent to, and east of the Davy Crockett National Forest in Houston and Trinity Counties, Texas. There are currently 2 red-cockaded woodpecker family groups (both breeding pairs) at North Boggy Slough. Temple-Inland Forest will restore 248 acres of longleaf pine, create 10 additional red-cockaded woodpecker recruitment stands, conduct chemical understory and midstory broadleaf species control on 660 acres, control burn to further improve the efficiency of the chemical treatment, and replace 40 inserts a minimum of 1 time each before August, 2008.

Cowbird Trapping to Facilitate Recovery of the Endangered Black-capped Vireo - (application by Audubon Texas) – Multiple Counties, Texas - ($62,000) - To facilitate recovery of the black-capped vireo in central Texas through construction and dispersal of cowbird traps. Cowbirds routinely parasitize black-capped vireo (a federally listed endangered species) nests. Cowbird trapping is a proven strategy for reducing nest parasitism and enhancing nesting success of black-capped vireos.

Restoration and Enhancement of Habitats on Private Lands for the Endangered Ocelot and Other Rare Tamaulipan Thornscrub Species - (application by Environmental Defense Fund) - Multiple Coastal Counties, Texas - ($87,300) – To restore and enhance a variety of thornscrub habitats on private lands in South Texas to maximize recovery potential for the endangered ocelot and increase the quantity and quality of available habitat for a variety of rare or at-risk songbirds, raptors, bats, reptiles, amphibians and plants.

Black-capped Vireo Habitat Restoration Project- (application by Texas Wildlife Association Foundation) – Multiple Counties, Texas - ($120,000) - This project involves expansion of work begun several years ago and funded by various State and Federal grants to carry out Black-capped vireo Habitat Restoration projects in the Guadalupe and Leon River Basins in central Texas. The objectives, along with restoring key blocks of black-capped vireo habitat, include improving and increasing water quality and incorporating long-term management practices to maintain water and wildlife improvements in the project area and to provide measurable results of both increased water yields and wildlife populations.

Northern Aplomado Falcon Restoration – (application by the Peregrine Fund) - Presidio, Aransas, and Willacy Counties, Texas – ($165,700) - The Northern Aplomado falcon is the only falcon species on the Endangered Species List. This conservation effort will expand The Peregrine Fund and Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to re-establish viable wild populations of the species in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico through the release of young captive-bred Aplomado falcons. Release efforts covered under this grant will limit the expanded releases to appropriate sites in South Texas to West Texas. The number of young Aplomado falcons released in West Texas will increase to 45-50, the number of release sites will increase to four, and the number of acres in the safe harbor program will increase to approximately 250,000 acres in West Texas.

See Also Multi-State Proposals

Utah

Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Restoration and Reintroduction in Southwestern Utah - (application by Environmental Defense) – Iron County, Utah – ($56,590) – To improve forage quality and quantity on private lands through brush management and reseeding of native grasses and forbs. Following these habitat improvements, the threatened Utah prairie dog will be introduced and maintained on the site. This is a new conservation approach for this species, which until now has been largely protected solely on public lands. Although the prairie dog is the conservation target for this project, several declining bird species are also expected to benefit.

Virginia

Upper Clinch River restoration project – (application by Tazwell Soil and Water Conservation District) – Tazewell County, Virginia – ($50,000) - To improve habitat for 48 imperiled and vulnerable fish and mussel species, including the last reproducing population of the tan riffleshell mussel in the world, by addressing agricultural operations without best management practices. Techniques used may include: livestock exclusion from water bodies; grazing land management; and establishing riparian buffer zones.

Longleaf Pine Recovery Project – (application by a private individual) – Sussex County, Virginia – ($20,300) – To establish longleaf pine on 150 acres in Sussex County, Virginia. This property is located near The Nature Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve, which supports the only red-cockaded woodpecker population in Virginia. This project will help future expansion of this population. In addition this property supports 5 state at-risk plant species. One in particular, spurge (*Euphorbia exserta*), only occurs in Virginia on this property, and will be protected by this project.

Washington

Tarboo Watershed Riparian and Wetland Restoration - (application by Northwest Watershed Institute) - East Jefferson County, Washington - ($108,000) - To restore a total of 31 acres of riparian and associated wetlands at 3 high priority sites in the Tarboo Watershed, located in the North Hood Canal region of Washington. Three sites are located on properties owned by 5 landowners. The restored areas will improve rearing and spawning habitats for Coho, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and other wildlife species.

Taneum Creek Restoration, Phase III - (application by Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) - Kittitas County, Washington - ($25,750) – To establish woody riparian plants along the shoreline and improve floodplain connectivity, enabling fish including Chinook, Coho, and bull trout better access to the upper Taneum Creek watershed. Project proponents will install rootwads in select locations where it can provide bank protection, channel stability, and habitat complexity for fish; and construct rock bars (deflectors) with embedded native vegetation at other locations.

Ahtanum Creek Stream Restoration - (application by City of Yakima) – Yakima County, Washington - ($71,000) - To enhance floodplain connectivity; restore 3,421 feet of streambank riparian habitat to properly functioning condition; and improve spawning/rearing habitat for Coho, migratory/rearing habitat for steelhead and bull trout, and general habitat for bald eagles on Ahtanum Creek.

West Virginia

Bat colony preservation – (application by Earth Institute) – Monroe County, West Virginia – ($10,880) - Installation of a cave gate to stop vandalism in the Greenville Saltpeter Cave and offer protection to the Indiana bat, small footed bat, and other species that reside in the cave.

Wisconsin

Karner Blue Butterfly and Associated Declining Species of Savanna Barrens - (application by Sand County Foundation) – Multiple Counties, Wisconsin - ($152,727) – Working in partnership with nearly 30 landowners, 1,400 acres of habitat will be enhanced and restored through invasive species control, prescribed fire, tree canopy reductions, and native prairie seeding. The private lands identified 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 Habitat Conservation Plan.

Protecting State Threatened and Endangered Species in Wisconsin's Driftless Area Barrens - (application by The Blue Mounds Area Project) – Iowa County, Wisconsin - ($30,000) – To preserve, restore, and enhance habitat for 15 at-risk species on 900 acres of privately owned properties in southwestern Wisconsin. The Blue Mounds Area project will provide expertise in setting up and contracting management practices that will enhance the habitat for these species. Wisconsin state-listed species targeted include American beak grain, nodding rattlesnake root, fire pink, prairie Indian plantain, and cream gentian.

Kinnickinnic River Canyon Project - (application by Kinnickinnic River Land Trust) – St. Croix County, Wisconsin - ($60,000) – Invasive tree and shrub cover will be removed to retain or establish a native prairie habitat or oak savanna. Prairie will be planted at selected sites using local genotype seed. Prescribed burns will be conducted at various times throughout the growing season to facilitate native vegetative growth. Species identified to benefit from stewardship include prairie bushclover, Hill's thistle, prairie fame-flower, and timber rattlesnake.

Wyoming

Trout Creek Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project – (application by East Yellowstone Chapter, Trout Unlimited) – Park County, Wyoming – ($17,632) – To contribute to growing and maintaining a viable population of native trout by removing the only fish barrier on this creek system, thereby allowing upstream migration of the fish. Additionally, a fish screen will be installed on an irrigation diversion eliminating direct adult and juvenile losses while improving spawning in the creek.

Multi-State Proposals

Alabama and Mississippi

Restoring the Native Prairie Ecosystem and Reducing Non-point Source Pollution on Private Lands in the Blackland Prairie - (application by Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation) – Mississippi and Alabama - ($232,000) – To restore native prairie in the Black Belt Prairie and the Jackson Prairie in Mississippi and Alabama to benefit listed and at-risk prairie plant taxa and to help reduce non-point source pollution runoff to aquatic habitats in this region. The Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation will work with private landowners to restore prairie habitat and show how such restoration can benefit aquatic species within the Tombigbee River System of the Mobile River Basin. At least 3 landowners have indicated interest in native prairie restoration and the project will result in 750 to 1000 acres of prairie restored. Target species include the federally endangered southern combshell, black combshell, southern clubshell, ovate clubshell, inflated heelsplitter, Bewick's wren (listed in Mississippi), and the federally threatened Price's potato bean, among many other prairie plant taxa of concern to the States.

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi

Stitching Together the Fragments: Restoring the Imperiled Longleaf Ecosystem - (application by Auburn University) – Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida - ($200,000) - The Longleaf Alliance proposes to undertake planting of longleaf pine as well as rehabilitation (e.g., fire and herbicides) of degraded longleaf pine sites across a portion of its former range, emphasizing the potential to create linkages and augment existing fragments to enhance this critically imperiled ecosystem. The project will benefit over 21 species ranked G1, G2 or G3 by Nature Serve, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, eastern Indigo snake, Flatwoods salamander, Red Hills salamander, and Chaffseed. Twenty-five landowners in Georgia and Alabama are currently on the waiting list for longleaf restoration assistance. It is estimated that 800 acres would be planted to longleaf pine and 4000 acres of degraded longleaf pine would be improved.

Florida and Georgia

Red Hills Ecological Stewardship Consortium: Management of an Endangered Species and an Endangered Ecosystem on Private Lands - (application by Tall Timbers Research Station) – Leon County, Florida and Thomas and Grady Counties, Georgia - ($72,018) – To support the largest population of red cockaded woodpeckers on private lands in north Florida and southwest Georgia. This second phase of the project focuses on meeting with all of the remaining landowners whose lands support RCWs, developing Safe Harbor Agreements for 8 new properties, excavating 50 new cavity trees, providing incentives for managing woodpecker habitat and cavity trees, marking 100 cavity trees, and increasing awareness of the role private landowners play in conserving biodiversity of this region. The benefits from this project will help to showcase the role that private lands can play in rare species conservation and management. The target species for this project is the federally-endangered red cockaded woodpecker, but numerous other species dependent upon the longleaf pine ecosystem are also expected to benefit such as the gopher tortoise, Florida pine snake, Bachman's sparrow, Sherman's fox squirrel.

Colorado and South Dakota

Private Lands Habitat Enhancement for Grassland Species at Risk - (application by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory) – Bent, Lincoln, Weld, Las Animas and Pueblo Counties, Colorado and Custer County, South Dakota - ($114,675) – To restore shortgrass prairie rangelands to benefit grassland and riparian species at risk, principally declining grassland birds. The six individual projects vary in the type of management proposed and include reseeding cropland to native prairie, invasive species removal, and altering livestock grazing management.

Georgia and North Carolina

Riparian, Floodplain and Wetland Habitat Restoration in Three Areas of the Upper Little Tennessee River Basin of Western North Carolina and North Georgia - (application by Land Trust for the Little Tennessee) – Macon and Graham Counties, North Carolina and Rabun County, Georgia - ($100,000) - The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) will implement habitat restoration plans on three areas with the highest aquatic biological diversity in the river basin. The project involves streambank stabilization, riparian reforestation, wetland hydrologic restoration, invasive species removal, rivercane restoration, and trash cleanup. It will result in benefits to habitats in the upper Needmore, including riparian wetlands and a 9-acre wetland adjacent to Betty's Creek; and restoration efforts on the lower reaches of Yellow Creek. The 25 miles of river downstream of Franklin, North Carolina 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, is found in the river. Additionally, the olive darter, hellbender, bog turtle, and Junaluska salamander may benefit. This river reach in North Carolina is home to fully one quarter of all fish species found in the entire Tennessee Valley. Betty's Creek supports 27 species of native fish, including several that are found nowhere else in Georgia.

Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania

Bog turtle restoration on private lands in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York -(application by Environmental Defense, Inc.) – Lancaster County (PA), Carroll and Cecil Counties (MD), Sullivan, Orange, and Dutchess Counties (NY) - ($55,522) – This project is designed to create a network of local implementers to work with a diverse partnership of organizations in three states to recover habitat for the bog turtle and other species that inhabit early successional shallow freshwater wetlands. The grant will fund habitat enhancement and restoration work on lands known or suspected to be occupied by the turtle, that are important for its conservation, and that are rapidly filling in with woody and invasive plants.

Oklahoma and Texas

Voluntary Removal and Marking of Selected Fences to Reduce Collisions by Lesser Prairie-Chickens – (application by George Miksch Sutton Avian Research) - Beaver and Ellis Counties, Oklahoma, and Lipscomb County, Texas – ($53,800) – To remove and mark selected fences in Beaver and Ellis Counties, Oklahoma and Lipscomb County, Texas to reduce collisions and mortality of lesser prairie-chickens, an "at-risk" species in the High Plains portion of the Southwest Region.