

Project Descriptions Arranged by State
FY2010 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants by State:

California

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP): Byron to Black Diamond Conservation Corridor (Contra Costa County, CA) \$6,000,000. These funds will purchase 1800 acres that will provide important habitat and wildlife corridors for many of the 28 covered species contained in the HCP/NCCP, including 8 federally listed species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The acquisition of these properties adds to the approximately 4,800 acres that have been, or are in the process of being acquired, and provide protection for lands that have rich on-site resources and support a diverse mosaic of habitat types.

City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP) (San Diego County, CA) \$6,000,000. This project will purchase 150-400 acres of important biological core habitat areas for the coastal California gnatcatcher. The purchases will also benefit numerous listed and unlisted species covered by the Carlsbad HMP, including the least Bell's vireo, California least tern, western snowy plover, and numerous plants. The acquisition supports a larger landscape conservation initiative and will greatly enhance the conservation goals of the Carlsbad HMP by securing key regional wildlife linkages and preserving core habitat in the three targeted areas. The acquisition parcels support a mosaic of high quality, native riparian and upland habitats.

San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) (San Diego County, CA) \$6,000,000. This project will result in the acquisition of 250-600 acres of land that will greatly enhance the existing San Diego MSCP by securing key regional wildlife linkages and preserving core habitat in four targeted areas. The acquisitions will benefit 31 listed and unlisted species, including the San Diego fairy shrimp, arroyo toad, least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, southwestern willow flycatcher, and bald eagle. The acquisition areas support a mosaic of high quality riparian, vernal pool, and upland habitats that support numerous listed and unlisted species covered by the San Diego MSCP. The acquisition supports a larger landscape conservation initiative and will greatly enhance the conservation goals of the San Diego MSCP by connecting one of the largest intact blocks of publicly-owned and managed land within San Diego County.

Florida

Acquisition of the Flamingo Waterway Scrub Tract (Charlotte County, FL) \$1,687,531. This grant will enable the acquisition of 40 acres in Charlotte County. This land purchase directly links 500 acres of existing conservation lands in three, now separate, tracts managed by the County for Florida scrub-jay and other dry scrub species.

Montana

Clearwater Lands Project (Missoula County, MT) \$6,000,000. The acquisition of 3,600 acres in the Northern Rocky Mountains of Montana will complement the Plum Creek Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan, protecting very high-quality riparian habitat for the bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and mountain whitefish. Acquisition of these lands will provide linkage with adjacent protected wilderness and roadless areas, which will also benefit the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and gray wolf using this area as a corridor. This acquisition involves a model

conservation partnership among several diverse parties that have created the momentum for the largest conservation effort in the country, including the Blackfoot Challenge and the even larger initiative to protect as much of the Crown of the Continent as possible.

Texas

Balcones Canyonlands – Spezia Tract* (Travis County, TX) \$1,330,243. This grant will enable the acquisition of an approximately 109-acre in-holding in the Cypress Creek macrosite. The area contains high-quality habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, and Jollyville Plateau Salamander, and are surrounded by preserved lands. The BCCP has been a successful regional HCP since 1996. The work by Service partners, primarily Travis County and the City of Austin, has resulted in 28,426 acres of protected lands mainly for the golden-cheeked warbler (spotlight species), with some lands also benefiting the black-capped vireo (spotlight species), and the Bone Cave harvestman (spotlight species). The acquisition of this priority tract will provide high benefits to the golden-cheeked warbler, some benefits to the black-capped vireo, and will move the BCCP closer to the ultimate conservation goal of protecting 30,428 acres, with 93 percent of the BCCP already protected.

Washington

Methow Watershed, Phase 7 (Okanogan County, WA) \$4,500,000. The Methow, Phase 7 project will secure 3,025 acres and additional stream frontage protecting critical wolf habitat, spawning and rearing habitat for listed salmonids, landscape corridors for listed carnivores and their mule deer prey, and habitat for at least 23 at-risk species covered by the Plum Creek HCP. The Methow River Watershed is perhaps the most intact and ecologically functional major drainage in eastern Washington, supporting a unique and diverse assemblage of fish and wildlife species. Nationally, it is one of the few places where endangered and threatened grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx, bull trout, and salmon occur together, and it is the home of Washington's first documented wolf pack.

Okanogan-Similkameen Watershed, Phase 3 (Okanogan County, WA) \$1,500,000. Phase 3 of the Okanogan-Similkameen project will acquire 1,370 acres which will contribute toward securing two ecologically critical animal movement corridors, one for wide-ranging carnivores and their ungulate prey that links the North Cascades Ecosystem with the Kettle/Selkirk Mountains Ecosystem, and the other linking the shrub-steppe habitat of the Columbia Basin with the grassland/shrub-steppe habitat of southern British Columbia. The project will conserve habitat for at least 48 species listed as threatened or endangered (5 Federal, 8 State, and 35 Canadian). The project has the added benefit of supporting local economies by encouraging ecologically sustainable land use and maintaining working ranch landscapes.

Mt. St. Helen's Forest (Skamania County, WA) \$6,000,000. Columbia Land Trust, as a subgrantee, will acquire approximately 3,000 acres in the Pine Creek watershed within the Mt. St. Helens Forest to permanently protect the highest priority lands that will most benefit three federally listed species: bull trout, northern spotted owl, and gray wolf. The acquisition of the property will contribute significantly to habitat connectivity in the southern Cascade Mountain Range. DNR will provide land match through the transfer of approximately 670 acres to the Columbia Falls Natural Area Preserve and the Columbia Land Trust will acquire approximately 800 acres within the Mt. St. Helens Project site as match.

Mt. Si Inholdings (King County, WA) \$1,200,000. This project will protect 520 acres of old growth forest in eastern King County in Washington State through acquisition of a 42-acre inholding within the State's Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area. The Department of

Natural Resources will provide 478 acres as match for the acquisition. Protection of this land will provide vital landscape connections that will enhance adjacent protected areas and increase habitat protection for marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls.

Puyallup River Levee Setback (Pierce County, WA) \$271,700. Pierce County, as a subgrantee to the Department of Natural Resources will acquire three parcels owned by a single landowner along the Puyallup River. This acquisition will allow the County to complete the acquisition phase of the Puyallup River Levee Setback Project at the South Fork project site, which will reconnect about 50 acres of aquatic and riparian habitat with the Puyallup River. The project will provide benefit to multiple endangered and threatened species including bull trout, and will provide public benefit through improved flood hazard management through the restoration of historic floodplain habitat and geomorphic processes.

Wisconsin

Karner blue butterfly HCP Land Acquisition – Quincy Bluff and Wetlands SNA and Karner Blue Meadow SNA (Adams and Waushara Counties, Wisconsin) \$452,000. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will protect 298 acres within the Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area located in Adams County, and 64 acres at Karner Blue Meadow State Natural Area in Waushara County with this \$452,000 award. The acquisition at Quincy will assist recovery of the Karner blue butterfly in Wisconsin by permanently protecting and managing habitat for the population within the Glacial Lake Wisconsin Recovery Unit. Likewise, the Karner Blue Meadow acquisition helps recover the Morainal Sands Recovery Unit. Addition of the two parcels at Quincy will connect State Natural Area lands owned by The Nature Conservancy with those owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which currently totals over 6,400 acres.

* indicates partial funding

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants by State:

Arizona

City of Tucson, Greater Southlands HCP (Pima County, AZ) \$299,795. The planning proposal will provide a comprehensive, long-range, regional plan for 14 covered species within a 130,000-acre planning area facing strong development pressures within the City of Tucson, Pima County, Arizona. Completion of this segment of the planning proposal will position the City of Tucson to finalize the Greater Southlands HCP and work with the public and stakeholders as part of the NEPA to develop an EIS and a final draft HCP.

California

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (Multiple Counties, Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta Region, CA) \$673,192. This project will support the development of an HCP/NCCP for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta) Region. The Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast. The Delta supports over 750 plant and animal species, 126 of which are sensitive or listed as threatened or endangered. The Delta is also critical to California's economy, as it serves as the "hub" of the State's water infrastructure, supplying drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of highly productive agricultural lands. The Bay Delta HCP/NCCP is being developed as a long-term comprehensive plan that will conserve and manage covered species and natural communities in perpetuity while providing reliable water supplies for the State's myriad of beneficial uses.

Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Natural Community Conservation Plan/

Habitat Conservation Plan (Alameda County, CA) \$561,991. This project will support the continued development of a multi-species HCP and NCCP. The Plan is intended to provide conservation for avian and terrestrial species affected by the wind operation and maintenance activities in the Altamont Pass region. The Plan covers 19 listed and non-listed species (including six federally listed species, and two state listed species). The conservation strategy also addresses impacts to migratory birds and bats. The Plan is expected to contribute to the recovery and delisting of listed species, while precluding the need to list currently non-listed species through the conservation and management of all 19 covered species and several non-covered species and their habitats.

South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (Sacramento County, CA) \$489,646. This grant funds the completion of the HCP document and will result in the permanent protection of over 48,000 additional acres of high-quality species habitat. It will establish large, intact, and interconnected vernal-pool and riparian preserves managed for the conservation of at least 40 listed and at-risk sensitive species. The SSHCP will provide conservation benefits to seven federally endangered and threatened species including the Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), Sacramento Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia viscida*) and the Slender Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*). By establishing large interconnected preserves, the Plan will maintain intact watersheds and sub watersheds to maintain the hydrological regimes that many covered species, especially vernal pool and riparian species, depend upon.

Florida

Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches (35 Coastal Counties - Statewide, FL) \$947,424. This grant will assist in the fourth year of this HCP planning effort. Stakeholders

plan to assimilate acquired data into a detailed draft of the HCP. Activities in the coastal area and their threats to listed species will be analyzed. The goal of the HCP is to allow ongoing beach structure protection measures while limiting and mitigating the adverse effects to nesting sea turtles, beach mice subspecies, and shorebirds, including wintering piping plover. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is leading this effort in conjunction with builders groups, municipalities, and others.

Indian River and St. Lucie Habitat Conservation Planning (Indian River and St. Lucie Counties, Florida): \$286,298. This grant will assist in initiating planning for comprehensive County-wide HCP(s). Initial activities will focus on identifying needs and potential habitats for concentrated conservation planning effort. An HCP in this region could benefit dry scrub, coastal area, or grassland species of conservation concern (Florida grasshopper sparrow, wood stork, and Florida scrub-jay).

Lake County Scrub Habitat Conservation Plan (Lake County, Florida): \$153,820. This grant will assist in initiating planning for a County-wide HCP for scrub habitats, listed species to benefit include the Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake.

Hawai'i

Finalizing the HCP for Game Mammal Management in North Kona, Hawai'i (Hawai'i County, Hawai'i) \$183,000. This funding will allow for the completion of the HCP in the Pu'uuanahulu Game Mammal Management Area and the Pu'uwa'awa'a Cooperative Game Management Area, North Kona. This is one of the largest areas designated for game mammal production in the State and currently has or had 10 endangered animals and 34 endangered plants in the area. Completion of the HCP will address the potential impacts of game mammal management on the listed plants and critical habitat of several plant and animal species that may be impacted by game management activities.

Indiana

See Multi-State Grants

Iowa

See Multi-State Grants

Maine

State of Maine Water and Forest Programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan – Phase I (Statewide, ME) \$173,250. This funding will allow the Maine Department of Marine Resources to begin Phase I of a programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Maine's forestry program, wastewater program, and state water rules that covers over 17.8 million acres of forestland and approximately 45,000 miles of streams and rivers. The project is intended to cover the Atlantic salmon, over which the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has joint jurisdiction with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and will have implications for many other anadromous fish species. This grant will provide funds for a one-year planning phase to work with multiple stakeholders to develop an outline and scope of an HCP with a timeline and plan for completion.

Michigan

See Multi-State Grants

Missouri

See Multi-State Grants

Multistate

Development of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Wind Energy Development in the Midwest* (Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio - Statewide) \$3,362,364. The natural resource agencies within Region 3 will develop a landscape-level, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan throughout the eight states to provide conservation benefits to listed species, while accommodating wind development. The plan will provide a means for wind energy developers to avoid, minimize, mitigate and compensate for adverse effects to covered species. As a part of the Habitat Conservation Plan, the five states will work in collaboration with the remaining Region 3 states (Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin), the wind industry, and The Conservation Fund to lead a strategic conservation planning process that focuses on integrating species needs with potential habitat mitigation across the landscape.

Nebraska

Habitat Conservation Plan for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands Complex (Lancaster County, NE) \$180,000. This grant award will support completion of a landscape-scale, umbrella habitat conservation plan essential to ensuring conservation of the highly imperiled Salt Creek tiger beetle and the saline wetlands habitat in rapidly expanding Lancaster County. This approach will provide a more integrated conservation strategy and better benefits to the species than multiple smaller HCPs. The alternative of developing smaller HCPs for individual residential and commercial development projects would likely result in habitat fragmentation and isolation of populations. This larger umbrella HCP would also provide the County and the City of Lincoln a streamlined process for economic development. This effort, already underway, involves multiple partners, including city, county, State, and Federal agencies, home builders association, and conservation organizations.

Ohio

See Multi-State Grants

Oregon

Upper Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (Jefferson, Crook, and Deschutes Counties, OR) \$407,400. This funding will assist the seven primary irrigation districts in the Deschutes Basin that comprise the Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the City of Prineville in the development of an HCP that will benefit aquatic and riparian-dependant species in the upper Deschutes Basin, including bull trout and steelhead, while meeting current and future irrigation and municipal water needs in a balanced, economically viable, and sustainable manner. The HCP, when completed, will provide ecosystem benefits to large areas of the upper Deschutes River basin, which includes the Metolius, Crooked, and Deschutes River Basins.

Tennessee

Development of Habitat Conservation Plans for the Cumberlands Region, Tennessee (Scott, Morgan, and Cumberland Counties, TN) \$716,630. This grant will assist in the continued planning for a region-wide HCP to protect aquatic and forest resources in the Cumberland region. Several mammals, mussels, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and aquatic invertebrates would benefit from this pre-emptive attempt to develop protective measures in an ecologically diverse region that is beginning to experience increased development and resource extraction issues. The HCPs, one for forest resources, and one for aquatic resources, will provide management prescriptions and regulatory guidelines to minimize and mitigate development effects on the target species and habitats.

Washington

Washington State Hydraulic Project Approval HCP (Statewide, all 39 counties, WA) \$753,553. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will enter its sixth and final year of habitat conservation planning for activities authorized under the state's primary fish-protection law, the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) authority. WDFW will complete an HCP to conserve fish and shellfish species, while achieving long-term certainty that HPA activities meet federal species protection requirements. The HCP planning process includes substantial public involvement. Listed species that will benefit include bull trout; steelhead; and Chinook, Coho, and sockeye salmon. Unlisted species include but are not limited to: coastal cutthroat trout; green sturgeon; Pacific, river, and western brook lamprey; California floater mussel; and giant Columbia River limpet.

Aquatic Resources HCP (Statewide, all 39 counties, WA) \$330,000. Washington State Department of Natural Resources is entering the final year of a planning process to develop a multi-species, programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan. The HCP will ensure that authorized activities on 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands in marine, estuarine, and freshwater environments promote sustainable ecosystems, minimize cumulative impacts, and increase protection, conservation, and recovery efforts for 30 species of fish and wildlife.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Areas HCP (Statewide, all 39 counties, WA) \$481,637. This grant allows the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to finalize the development of an HCP for its land management program on more than 900,000 acres across the state. The HCP will offer benefits to more than 50 listed and at-risk species and land users by providing certainty that land management activities meet Federal species protection requirements. Listed species that will benefit include but are not limited to: pygmy rabbit, woodland caribou, western snowy plover, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Oregon silverspot, golden paintbrush, and Kincaid's lupine. Unlisted species include greater sage-grouse, northern goshawk, burrowing owl, Oregon spotted frog, Larch Mountain salamander, coho salmon, Mardon skipper, Taylor's checkerspot, and giant Columbia River limpet.

* indicates partial funding

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:

Arkansas

Acquisition for the Recovery of *Geocarpon minimum* (Cleveland County, Arkansas)

\$511,650. This grant will enable the acquisition of 257 acres and 80 acres respectively of saline soil prairie to directly benefit the listed plant, *Geocarpon minimum*. This grant will protect an entire new population and better protect a population at Kingsland Prairie. This acquisition will help further achievement of the recovery criteria for this plant by protecting significant portions of all known population locations in the West Gulf Coastal Plain EcoRegion.

Arizona

Triangle Bar Ranch (Pinal County, AZ) \$1,025,000. This grant will enable the Arizona Game and Fish Department to acquire the approximately 925-acre tract located at the confluence of the San Pedro River and Aravaipa Creek, Arizona. The acquisition would primarily benefit the southwestern willow flycatcher and loach minnow.

California

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Lower Santa Clara River * (Ventura County, CA)

\$1,000,000. This project would acquire up to 145 acres as part of a larger effort to protect and restore riparian and floodplain habitat along the Santa Clara River, one of the most intact river systems remaining in southern California. The lower Santa Clara River system supports 18 State and federally listed species, and the acquisition would implement recovery tasks for the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and arroyo toad, and the federally threatened California red-legged frog. Identified parcels include lands within the riparian corridor and floodplain of the lower Santa Clara River and will support regional conservation efforts outlined in The Nature Conservancy's *Conservation Plan for the Lower Santa Clara River Watershed and Surrounding Areas* to protect native habitats, reduce fragmentation, improve habitat connectivity, and secure long term ecosystem benefits within the watershed.

Kimball Valley, Arroyo Toad * (San Diego County, CA) \$500,000. This grant will enable the acquisition of and provide for the permanent protection of approximately 474 acres of habitat that support listed and sensitive species along San Vicente Creek. The acquisition of the proposed properties will benefit the endangered arroyo toad, least Bell's vireo, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher by conserving important habitat for these species and protecting the parcels from degradation and future development. Acquisition of the proposed parcels will promote the recovery of the arroyo toad and other listed and sensitive species by conserving a corridor of contiguous riparian/wash habitat, as well as adjacent upland habitat along San Vicente Creek. The proposed acquisition supports a larger landscape conservation initiative and the San Diego County MSCP by connecting publicly-owned lands within the San Vicente Creek corridor, which collectively provide one of the largest intact blocks of habitat for the arroyo toad and other listed and sensitive species in San Diego County. These parcels are in close proximity to or abut habitat that has been conserved by the State (i.e., the Cañada de San Vicente Ecological Reserve), County of San Diego (e.g., San Vicente Highlands Preserve), or Tribal Reservation land.

Dry Creek Ranch-East Conservation Easement Acquisition Project * (Merced County, CA)

\$500,000. This grant would enable the acquisition of 2,900 acres of vernal pool habitat in the Sierra Nevada foothills of California. The habitat is located on a 5,452-acre working cattle ranch in the northeastern corner of Merced County and within the East Merced Grasslands area, one of

the largest and most intact vernal pool grasslands habitats remaining in California. The acquisition of a conservation easement on the Dry Creek Ranch will assist with the recovery and conservation objectives for one endangered species, four threatened species, and seven species of concern; all are associated with vernal pool habitat.

Georgia

Canoochee River corridor habitat conservation: Warnell Project (Bryan County, GA) \$1,437,494. This grant will enable the acquisition of a conservation easement on a large 914-acre tract for the direct benefit of eastern indigo snakes. This easement will benefit eastern indigo snakes that occur on the adjacent protected lands of Fort Stewart and then move along the lands of the Canoochee River. The terms of the easement will allow important management activities like prescribed fire to occur that will benefit the species.

Hawai'i

Kainalu Forest Watershed Acquisition, Phase II (Maui County, HI) \$1,500,000. This grant provides the additional funds necessary for the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement over 614 acres of strategic watershed on the eastern end of the Island of Moloka'i. Stretching from the summit almost to the ocean, this connected parcel follows the traditional Hawaiian land delineation and management system or ahupua'a. The property has several identified federally listed threatened or endangered species as well as critical habitat in and around the proposed easement area. Listed species benefitting include: ko'oko'olau (*Bidens wiebkei*), 'awikiwiki (*Canavalia molokaiensis*), koki'o ke'oke'o (*Hibiscus arnottianus* ssp. *immaculatus*), pua'ala (*Brighamia rockii*), haha (*Cyanea dunbariae*), nanu (*Gardenia brighamii*), loulou (*Pritchardia munroi*), *Phyllostegia hispida*, Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*), and nēnē (*Branta sandvicensis*).

Iowa

Western prairie fringed orchid – Steele Prairie State Preserve (Cherokee County, IA) \$259,500. This grant enables the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to acquire 80 acres of prairie habitat in Cherokee County downstream of a western prairie fringed orchid site. Acquisition will protect the area from pesticide impacts and against potential drainage currently threatening the site.

Montana

Saypo Cattle Company Easement, Rocky Mountain Front * (Teton County, MT) \$392,007. This grant award will support the placement of a conservation easement on 12,000 acres of a working cattle ranch along the Rocky Mountain Front (Front). This property contains a wide diversity of habitat types along a vertical gradient of 1,700 feet, including coniferous forest, limber pine savanna, aspen stands, wet meadows, prairie potholes, native grasslands, and two creeks with associated riparian habitat. The riparian areas on this property represent some of the best unprotected occupied grizzly bear habitat on the Front, with high-quality forage, security cover, little human disturbance, and connectivity to adjacent habitat. This conservation easement will link a contiguous block of 50,000 acres of protected habitat to other public lands along the Front.

Nebraska

Land Acquisition for Habitat Protection for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle (Helmuth Tract) * (Lancaster County, NE) \$275,000. Acquisition of this parcel within the Eastern Saline Wetlands complex will protect important habitat for the Salt Creek tiger beetle from the threat of development associated with the rapid expansion of both population and area of the city of

Lincoln. The Salt Creek tiger beetle is highly imperiled, and the Service has identified protection of this property to allow natural recolonization from an adjacent population, or reintroduction if necessary, as one of the highest priorities for this species.

Nevada

Black Rock Station Acquisition (Nye County, NV) \$420,000. This project will acquire 6.2 acres of land adjacent to lands already under public ownership specifically for the protection of the federally threatened Railroad Valley springfish and the Big Warm Spring springsnail, a Nevada Species of Conservation Priority. Acquisition of the Black Rock Station parcel will substantially enhance the recovery potential for Railroad Valley springfish by: 1) enabling restoration of the only remaining parcel of essential recovery habitat for this species not currently in public ownership or under conservation management, 2) enhancing connectivity to seasonally occupied springfish habitat in the lower Big Spring outflow system, and 3) completing specific recovery tasks identified in the species recovery plan.

Revert Spring Acquisition * (Nye County, NV) \$968,922. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) will purchase the Revert Spring Parcel and associated water rights in Oasis Valley, Nye County, Nevada. The property comprises approximately 330 acres of spring source and outflows, wet pasture, wetlands, upland, and riparian corridor habitat on the Amargosa River, just north of the town of Beatty. Spring outflows on this property (approximately 500 acre-feet per year) provide almost the entire perennial base flow that supports over 2 miles of critically important river, riparian and gallery forest habitat for the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, candidate yellow-billed cuckoo, and other migratory birds. The property also includes high quality habitat for the endemic Amargosa toad, a species petitioned for listing, and the endemic Oasis Valley speckled dace. The property will be managed by NDOW through a cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Acquisition of the property will resolve existing concerns over future water rights availability affecting the Amargosa River and its riparian corridor, provide for restoration of important desert wetland habitats, and enhance management and restoration potential on adjacent TNC properties.

New Jersey

Bog Turtle Recovery (Warren County, NJ) \$300,000. This grant will contribute to the acquisition of 200 acres in Warren County, New Jersey to protect habitat for the federally threatened bog turtle. Permanent protection of sites such as this significantly contribute to reaching recovery plan goals for the bog turtle as well as providing habitat for many other rare state-listed species. This property connects to approximately 800 acres of permanently protected habitat purchased in partnership by the state of New Jersey, the Ridge and Valley Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy. The bog turtle is a region 5 spotlight species.

North Dakota

Maurer/Taylor Land Acquisition (MacKenzie County, ND) \$250,000. Acquisition of the Maurer/Taylor property at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers will protect a dynamic assemblage of riverine, floodplain, and backwater habitats in near pristine condition from the threat of bank stabilization projects. No management is necessary to allow natural erosion to form habitat features supporting nutrients and forage fish essential to the pallid sturgeon. The population benefitting from this acquisition is the most significant stronghold of genetically pure pallid sturgeon remaining. This acquisition will complement 1,700 acres of adjacent protected habitat at the confluence.

Puerto Rico

Acquisition of San Miguel Natural Reserve for Leatherback sea turtles (Phase III)

(Luquillo, Puerto Rico) \$1,500,000. This grant will enable the acquisition of 128 acres outright and an additional 58 acre easement. This acreage will add to the 432 acres that the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and the Trust for Public Lands worked to acquire in Phase I and Phase II for the San Miguel Natural Reserve. The Luquillo beaches in the San Miguel property are the most important nesting beaches for leatherback sea turtles in areas under U.S. jurisdiction and their long-term protection is a high priority. Hawksbill sea turtles also nest on these beaches. In addition, acquiring this property will benefit several other listed species including the Puerto Rican boa.

Texas

Holiday Beach, Whooping Crane Habitat (Aransas County, TX) \$260,250. The grant will enable the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to acquire a 168-acre tract that will primarily benefit the whooping crane. The subject tract, located on the Texas coast, is currently used by whooping cranes and has been identified as an important tract for recovery of the species. The whooping crane, a spotlight species, is threatened by urban encroachment on the wintering grounds and potential future sea level rises associated with climate change. Because of the continued loss of wintering habitat, habitat protection in wintering grounds is a vital part in the conservation of this species.

Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo Nesting Habitat (Bandera County, TX) \$800,000. The grant will enable the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to acquire a 413-acre tract that will primarily benefit the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. The subject tract, located in Bandera County, Texas, will provide protection for nesting habitat of the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, both of which are spotlight species for Region 2. The property is also expected to benefit the endangered Tobusch fish-hook cactus. Additionally, the tract is adjacent to an existing 1,400-acre preserve and is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Love Creek Preserve.

Utah

June Sucker Spawning Acquisition in East Hobble Creek (Utah County, UT) \$150,000.

Acquisition of this parcel on East Hobble Creek will protect it from commercial development and provide habitat for the creation of a second spawning run for the June sucker, which is one of the delisting criteria in this species' final recovery plan. The additional spawning run is expected to double the number of spawning June suckers. This effort would complement a very successful restoration project resulting in spawning June suckers on nearby property acquired by a previous Recovery Land Acquisition grant. Restored habitat on this property also could benefit Utes ladies'-tresses and yellow-billed cuckoo.

Virginia

Protection of Sweet Springs Natural Area Preserve (Montgomery County, VA) \$123,900.

This grant will assist in the protection of 305 acres in Montgomery County, Virginia. This project will directly contribute to the state and federal recovery efforts for the endangered smooth coneflower and other globally rare plants in this Ridge and Valley dolomite woodland natural community. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation will purchase and protect a 73-acre property as an addition to the Sweet Springs Natural Area Preserve, and will manage the property for the benefit of the rare species and natural communities found there.

Washington

Golden Paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*) at Heritage Preserve (Island County, WA) \$1,258,500. This funding will enable the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, as a subgrantee to Washington Department of Natural Resources, to protect one of the 12 remaining Federally Threatened and State Endangered golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*) populations still existing in the world. This rare prairie plant population on Whidbey Island is part of a 59-acre protection project that includes a unique coastal old-growth forest, important eroding shoreline bluff and crucial wildlife habitat. The Land Trust will manage the golden paintbrush site to protect, augment, and restore the population as identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for Golden Paintbrush.

Wisconsin

Prairie bush clover – Empire Prairies State Natural Area * (Dane County, WI) \$405,523. This grant will enable the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to acquire fee title to 130 acres of prairie bush clover habitat adjacent to the second largest population in the peripheral range and the largest population within Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources matches federal funds with \$733,800 of Nelson-Knowles Stewardship Grant funds, and the Natural Heritage Foundation contributes an additional \$283,277 to complete the purchase. The acquisition advances the objectives of the recovery plan by eliminating possible negative impacts, such as herbicide drift, as well as provide additional habitat for prairie bush clover.

Northern wild monkshood – Chase Creek Algific Talus Slope State Natural Area * (Grant County, WI) \$180,000. This grant will enable the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to acquire fee title to 86 acres of algific talus slope habitat containing a recently discovered population of northern wild monkshood. The Department of Natural Resources will match federal funds with \$180,000 of Nelson-Knowles Stewardship Grant funds. This population is one of six discretely tracked occurrences on private property within the Chase Creek Valley. This would be the first algific talus slope protected in Wisconsin. Monkshood is only found in 20 locations in northeast Iowa/southwest Wisconsin, Ohio, and New York. Permanent protection of this habitat fulfills a Priority 1 Task within the Northern Monkshood Recovery Plan.

Fassett's locoweed – Plainfield Tunnel Channel Lakes State Natural Area * (Waushara County, WI) \$165,500. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will acquire fee title to 99 acres of shoreline habitat supporting a robust Fassett's locoweed population. Funds will be matched with \$165,500 of Nelson-Knowles Stewardship funds. The property includes 800 feet of shoreline on Weymouth Lake and 1,300 feet of shoreline on Fiddle Lake. Fassett's Locoweed grows on lake shores and is only found on eight sites in Wisconsin. Permanent protection of this habitat fulfills a Priority 1 Task within the Fassett's locoweed Recovery Plan.

West Virginia

Acquisition of Land in Cheat River Gorge, West Virginia to Benefit the Flat-spined Three-toothed Land Snail and Indiana Bat (Preston County, WV) \$816,595. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will acquire habitat for the federally listed flat-spined three-toothed land snail and Indiana bat. A partnership made up of the state, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, and other non-government organizations has identified 4,000 acres for acquisition that will expand an existing protected block of forest matrix along the Cheat River Gorge. This parcel includes talus slopes that provide approximately 33% of the global range for the snail, and caves that include hibernacula for the bat.

* indicates partial funding