



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants

*(Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act)*

As many species currently listed as federally endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life cycle on non-Federal lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recognizes that recovery success will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with States to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on privately owned lands.

A variety of tools are available under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to help States and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. One of the tools, the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (section 6 of the ESA), provides grants to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for listed, candidate, and at-risk species.

The program provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands. States and Territories must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25 percent of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must currently have, or enter into, a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to receive grants. Most States and Territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species.

The FWS awarded approximately \$109 million in Federal funding in fiscal years 2018–2019 under four grant programs that are available through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

**Traditional Conservation Grants (\$26 M)** provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement



*An FY 2019 grant to the State of Hawaii will enable the permanent protection of 1,819 acres in Kalawao County to support the recovery of the Hawaiian hoary bat as well as numerous endangered Hawaiian bird species. Photo credit: USFWS*

conservation projects for listed, candidate, and at-risk species. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Planning Assistance Grants (\$10.16 M)** provide funds to States and Territories to support the development of HCPs through support of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach, and similar planning activities.

**HCP Land Acquisition Grants (\$49.7 M)** provide funding to States and Territories

to acquire land associated with approved HCPs. Grants do not fund the mitigation required of an HCP permittee; instead, they support land acquisition by the State or local governments that complement mitigation.

**Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (\$23.2 M)** provide funds to States and Territories for the acquisition of habitat for endangered and threatened species in support of draft and approved recovery plans. Acquisition of habitat to secure long-term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species.



An FY 2019 grant will allow the State of Wisconsin to acquire 112 acres of habitat for the federally listed endangered Karner blue butterfly in Burnett County. Photo Credit: Joel Trick/USFWS

### Contact Us

For more information on how to apply for Federal grants to assist States, Territories, and landowners in conserving species on non-Federal lands, please contact the FWS Legacy Regional office from the list below with responsibility for the State or Territory in which the proposed project would occur.

Additional information is also available at <https://www.fws.gov/angered/grants/index.html>. You may also access <https://www.grants.gov> and search the site using the program title Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund or by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 15.615. This information is posted in accordance with OMB Control Number 1018-0109.

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