

Competitive State Wildlife Grant Program FY 2025 Project Selection Summaries

Region 1

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Title: Direct management of invasive predators to protect insurance populations of endangered and endemic tree snails on Rota Island

Project Summary: Populations of endemic partulid tree snails have experienced dramatic declines in recent decades due in large part to invasive predators. While recovery planning is underway, immediate threat reduction using novel management techniques will be implemented and evaluated for effectiveness. These actions are intended to protect snail colonies on Rota Island to reduce the risk of extirpation and inform future joint recovery actions of the Commonwealth and the Service.

Federal Funds: \$249,544.32; **Non-Federal Match:** \$0 (*exempt*)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Title: Direct management actions and restoration of staghorn coral populations in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Project Summary: Healthy populations of federally threatened staghorn coral are essential to functional reef communities providing food and economic benefits to the Commonwealth. Project partners will transplant coral to improve reef habitat in a popular marine conservation area used by locals and visitors for recreation and wildlife viewing. Other activities, such as installation of zone markers, will help mitigate recreation-related impacts.

Federal Funds: \$500,000.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$0 (*exempt*)

Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

Title: Habitat restoration, monitoring, and surveying of endangered yellow-faced bee populations on O'ahu

Project Summary: Seven yellow-faced bee species are federally endangered across Hawai'i and many others are declining due in part to limited availability of native flowering host plants. Project partners will restore native vegetation on the Island of O'ahu to improve bee habitat in key sites where the best results for bee populations are anticipated. Additional monitoring will contribute essential data to a Service recovery plan.

Federal Funds: \$249,494.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$86,300.00

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Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

Title: Expanding puaiohi predator control and analyzing risks to remaining endangered bird habitat

Project Summary: The federally endangered puaiohi or small Kaua'i thrush requires timely conservation action to protect and enhance its limited remaining population from introduced predators. Project partners will expand rat control activities to 260 additional acres on the Island of Kaua'i and implement innovative control techniques for feral cats. Desired impacts of rat control on native plant regeneration will be evaluated to inform predictive modeling and improve management effectiveness.

Federal Funds: \$742,570.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$255,860.00

Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

Title: Restoring an endangered Hawai'ian damselfly to the Island of Lāna'i

Project Summary: The federally endangered orangeblack Hawai'ian damselfly has been heavily impacted by land-use changes and introduced predators. Project activities include creating new habitat within a conservation area, standing up a captive rearing facility, damselfly translocation, and post-release monitoring. These objectives align closely with a Service recovery plan.

Federal Funds: \$249,839.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$86,081.00

Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

Title: Enhancing breeding capacity for endangered 'a'o and 'ua'u in West Maui within established predator proof fences

Project Summary: There is a critical need to establish and manage populations of the endangered 'ua'u or Hawaiian petrel and the threatened 'a'o or Newell's shearwater in Hawai'i. Project partners will design and construct innovative artificial burrows to facilitate breeding and recovery of these seabirds in West Maui. New insights on reproductive biology will be gained from use of remote cameras and other monitoring technologies to inform effective management strategies.

Federal Funds: \$197,215.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$75,000.00

Region 3

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Title: Priority monitoring, research, and habitat management activities to conserve the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, timber rattlesnake, and plain-bellied watersnake

Project Summary: An emerging fungal disease is impacting state-listed snake species in the Midwest as well as the federally threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake. This landscape-scale project implements nine of 16 recommended actions in a Service recovery plan for massasauga, including habitat management and genetic analysis. The genetic status of the two state-listed snake

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species will also be assessed. Without timely conservation action, these two species could require Federal protection in the future.

Federal Funds: \$750,000.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$251,667.00

Recipients	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Match	Grant or Subaward
Iowa (Lead)	\$250,000.00	\$83,334.00	Grant
Illinois	\$250,000.00	\$85,000.00	Grant
Wisconsin	\$250,000.00	\$83,333.00	Grant

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Title: Habitat management and monitoring for woodland species of greatest conservation need in Iowa's Driftless Area

Project Summary: The Driftless Area is a unique topographic region in portions of Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. The portion in northeastern Iowa contains the greatest proportion of the state's native woodlands, where habitat degradation has impacted species such as ruffed grouse and golden-winged warbler. This project includes restoration of 600 acres of public and private lands for these and other priority species and employs innovative acoustic monitoring techniques.

Federal Funds: \$250,000.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$90,312.00

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Title: Assessment and conservation of eastern massasaugas in Michigan

Project Summary: Michigan hosts more populations of the federally threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake than any other state within its range across the Great Lakes region and its conservation in the state is essential to its recovery. This innovative project will test the use of detection dogs in locating and identifying the massasauga and provide key information to land managers to prioritize key habitats for conservation.

Federal Funds: \$249,999.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$131,741.00

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Title: Regional status assessments and conservation action areas for regional mussel species of greatest conservation need in the Upper Mississippi River basin

Project Summary: Partnering fish and wildlife agencies will conduct a regional status assessment of freshwater mussels in the Upper Mississippi River basin to help advance their conservation at a large scale. The project targets numerous federally and state-listed mussel species, including several identified by the agencies as common regional priorities. The agencies will assess the distribution and status of mussel populations and evaluate the response to dam removal, deploying eDNA as a survey tool.

Federal Funds: \$745,023.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$249,567.00

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Recipients	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Match	Grant or Subaward
Minnesota (Lead)	\$397,059.00	\$133,578.00	Grant
Illinois	\$248,100.00	\$82,700.00	Grant
Wisconsin	\$99,864.00	\$33,289.00	Grant

Missouri Department of Conservation

Title: Midwest Bumble Bee Atlas: Community engagement to build a data-driven conservation framework for species of greatest conservation need bumble bees

Project Summary: Bumble bee species in the partnering states have undergone dramatic declines, including ten state-identified species of greatest conservation need targeted in this project. The agencies and their partners will advance bee conservation to help recover the federally endangered rusty-patched bumble bee and proactively benefit several species that are proposed or petitioned for listing.

Federal Funds: \$988,675.34; **Non-Federal Match:** \$335,695.37

Recipients	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Match	Grant or Subaward
Missouri (Lead)	\$312,946.34	\$109,539.66	Grant
Iowa	\$122,000.00	\$40,822.71	Grant
Minnesota	\$276,009.00	\$92,759.00	Grant
Nebraska	\$277,720.00	\$92,574.00	Grant

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Title: Habitat restoration and monitoring for oak barrens species of greatest conservation need in Michigan and Wisconsin

Project Summary: Oak barrens occur on dry sandy soils in the Great Lakes Region, and many of the state's highest priority species in these fire-adapted areas have experienced steep declines. This project will benefit conservation of state- and federally listed butterfly and turtle species and other rare animals on public and private lands. Data on species distribution and habitat needs will enable the agencies to focus resources on key locations where conservation actions can have the greatest benefit.

Federal Funds: \$500,000.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$167,469.00

Recipients	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Match	Grant or Subaward
Wisconsin (Lead)	\$250,000.00	\$83,908.00	Grant
Michigan	\$250,000.00	\$83,561.00	Grant

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Region 4

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Title: Competitive State Wildlife Grant multistate frosted elfin project

Project Summary: Frosted elfin is a small butterfly that has declined precipitously in recent years. The five recipient agencies and their contributing partners will collect necessary data to inform habitat restoration at priority sites where conservation action can be most cost effective. To augment existing sites and establish new populations, the range-wide team will launch a captive breeding and reintroduction program. These actions are intended to help avoid the need for Federal listing.

Federal Funds: \$999,313.52; **Non-Federal Match:** \$333,104.51

Recipients	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Match	Grant or Subaward
Florida (Lead)	\$268,347.00	\$89,449.00	Grant
Georgia	\$267,428.94	\$89,142.98	Grant
Louisiana	\$84,495.68	\$28,165.23	Grant
North Carolina	\$164,625.00	\$54,875.00	Grant
Virginia	\$214,416.90	\$71,472.30	Subaward

Region 5

New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game

Title: Implementation of regional conservation plans for at-risk turtles and co-occurring species of greatest conservation need in New Hampshire

Project Summary: Fish and wildlife agencies in the Northeast have a long history of coordinated conservation planning, resulting in a list of the highest-priority species for conservation action. This project targets Blanding's, spotted, wood, and eastern box turtle in New Hampshire – three of which are petitioned for Federal listing. The agency will protect regionally significant turtle populations and habitats, helping contribute to region-wide efforts to maintain state management authority for these turtle species.

Federal Funds: \$250,000.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$83,334.00

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Wildlife Action Plan Enhancement Subprogram

Region 5

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Title: Website enhancements to increase engagement and wildlife connectivity

Project Summary: New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan is a dynamic, web-enabled resource that improves the ability of its citizens and partners to implement coordinated conservation action. This project will add new interactive features that local governments and other partners can use in designing wildlife corridors and public open space, increasing engagement with Plan information.

Federal Funds: \$97,861.18 (*partial award*); **Non-Federal Match:** \$54,109.00

Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA)

Title: Northeast regional fish and wildlife conservation hub

Project Summary: Building on decades of collaboration across the Northeast's 14 fish and wildlife agencies, NEAFWA will modernize how its member agencies track, share, and implement their conservation priorities. This project will develop interactive online dashboards to improve access to critical conservation information, engaging the public and enabling effective conservation at a regional scale.

Federal Funds: \$243,891.64; **Non-Federal Match:** \$94,068.00

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Title: Merging wildlife and landscape data for prioritized, efficient wildlife conservation

Project Summary: This project will integrate Vermont's landscape conservation planning framework with species observation data to prioritize on-the-ground action for the greatest impact. By publishing its Wildlife Action Plan online and developing audience-specific technical materials, the agency will increase its use and implementation by municipalities, private landowners, and the public.

Federal Funds: \$149,317.00; **Non-Federal Match:** \$49,772.00