

2021 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Project Summaries

Alabama

Alabama Styx River Wetlands Land Acquisition

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' State Lands Division will acquire approximately 158 acres of forested wetlands at the confluence of the Styx River and the Perdido River for the purpose of conservation and continued management for ecological and community benefit. The Perdido River watershed is a priority conservation area for numerous federal, state and non-governmental entities. It is a designated Gulf Ecological Management Site. This acquisition will advance the goal of connecting a conservation corridor and benefit critical species and unique habitats along the Florida border. The Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust Program will help acquire the Styx River Wetlands, which will complement numerous other projects in the Perdido River watershed.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$497,406	\$226,094	\$723,500

Alaska

Kasilof River "Dinosaur Parcel" Acquisition

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Conservation Fund, will acquire 309 acres of pristine habitat along the Kasilof River on the western Kenai Peninsula in southcentral Alaska. The project will protect a total of 283 acres of coastal wetland habitat in the Kasilof River Flats, including 2.25 miles of river shoreline. The property provides undisturbed and intact coastal wetlands, with over 85 percent of the project area composed of nationally declining coastal wetland types. Once acquired, the property will be added to an existing state park unit for wildlife habitat and compatible public recreation. The property also provides migratory, nesting and overwintering habitat for 165 bird species, 37 of which are Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in the Alaska Wildlife Action Plan. Among the species that will directly benefit from this habitat are rock sandpipers, Chinook, sockeye, coho and pink salmon and the federally endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$338,600	\$153,911	\$492,511

California

Black Lake Ecological Area Restoration

The California State Coastal Conservancy will restore 45 acres of coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands in San Luis Obispo, California. The project site sits within the 160-acre Black Lake Canyon Ecological Area, which is managed by the Dunes Collaborative partnership. The project site is being impacted by groundwater pumping, decreased subsurface recharge, increased sedimentation and proliferation of non-native and invasive species. This project will restore and enhance a freshwater pond, freshwater emergent wetlands (marsh), freshwater forested/shrub wetland and coastal dune scrub. The project will directly benefit several federally listed and sensitive species including: California red-legged frog, marsh sandwort, western pond turtle, Nipomo lupine, legless lizard, coast horned lizard, La Graciosa thistle and monarch butterfly.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$584,909	\$342,981	\$927,890

Elk River Estuary Restoration - Area 2 North

The California Coastal Conservancy will restore a tidal wetlands complex in Elk River Estuary in Humboldt County, California. The goal of this project is to restore Area 2 North, a 35-acre subset of the full 112-acre project area located on the south bank of the Elk River. Area 2 North is contiguous with and functionally interconnected with the Area 2 South and Area 1 project components, which were previously funded by a 2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program award. This project will increase hydrologic connectivity through dike removal, eradicate non-native *Spartina* and enable sediment accretion through increased tidal inundation to increase tidal wetland resiliency to sea level rise. The Coastal Conservancy will also create suitable eelgrass habitat and enhance intertidal wetlands, riparian habitat and salmonid estuary habitat for listed and other species. Some specific species that will benefit from this restoration project are coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and tidewater goby.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$595,461	\$1,595,461

Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Phase 3

The California State Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and others, will restore approximately 30 acres of tidal wetlands in Elkhorn Slough, and to establish perennial grassland on a nearby five acres of land. This project is Phase III of a larger initiative to restore a total of 130 acres of tidal marshes and the adjoining 35 acres of existing buffer areas to perennial grassland in Elkhorn Slough. A total of 90 acres of tidal marsh and upland buffer were restored in Phases I and II, which were funded by previous National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program awards. By increasing the marsh elevation and reducing tidal scour, the project will restore critical grassland buffers to enhance water quality. These habitat improvements will benefit southern sea otter, California least tern, tricolored blackbird, burrowing owl, American white pelican and other birds and wildlife.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$520,000	\$1,520,000

R10-21-6 Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement

The California State Coastal Conservancy will restore and enhance 5.8 acres of coastal wetlands and associated uplands at the Loma Alta Slough in the City of Oceanside in southern California. The project will expand existing habitat and restore a self-sustaining coastal wetland complex with increased acreage for critical biological and hydrological functions. The project will also include constructing about 1,200 feet of new trail to enhance coastal access for the public. The project's design is community-driven, with residents, conservation groups and government agencies heavily involved in planning and design. Ultimately, the project will enhance coastal wetland resiliency to help reduce threats such as flooding, support wildlife foraging and nesting, and benefit a number of federally listed species, including the southern Tidewater goby.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$505,975	\$1,505,975

Mad River Floodplain Estuary Restoration

The California Coastal Conservancy will restore 5.5 acres of floodplain habitat and implement a 0.5-acre Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant public access improvement to include parking, interpretive trails and viewing areas. The project will permanently remove wastewater infiltration

ponds, piping and infrastructure, and the surrounding perimeter levee from the floodplain, thereby re-establishing over four acres as riparian floodplain habitat. This will increase habitat to support migratory waterfowl, songbirds and rearing winter juvenile fish. The project will add habitat complexity in the Mad River estuary by reconnecting the floodplain, and improving the existing habitat. Informational signage developed in partnership with the local Wiyot Tribe will tell the history of the ecosystem and educate visitors about appropriate recreational activities, increasing the public's understanding of the value of coastal wetlands.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$376,754	\$287,754	\$664,508

Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Phase 2

The California Coastal Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and other partners in conservation will restore, enhance and manage the 650-acre Ormond Beach wetlands located in Ventura County, California. The purpose of the project is to reverse the severe degradation of 334 acres of nationally decreasing wetlands, improve water quality and improve habitat resiliency to sea level rise. This project represents Phase 2 of the 5-Phase Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Project and will create and enhance the littoral strand (sandy beach and dunes), uplands and other wetland habitats to accommodate the future inland and upland migration of threatened wetland habitats. This area hosts numerous state and federally listed species, such as California least tern and light-footed Ridgway rail, and serves as an important stopover along the Pacific Flyway migratory corridor for over 200 bird species.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$416,670	\$1,416,670

San Diego Bay Oyster Living Shoreline Project

The California Coastal Conservancy, Port of San Diego and other conservation partners will restore 10 acres of estuarine intertidal habitat in San Diego Bay, California. The project goal is to create a biologically rich native Olympia oyster reef in the form of a living shoreline, to provide substrate for the native oyster stock that still exists in the Bay. Benefits of this project include an increased ecological function and resilience to changing environmental conditions, as well as protecting the bay tidelands and adjacent shoreline. Intertidal mudflat habitat will form to support aquatic plants and other ecologically and commercially important wildlife, as well as improve water quality. The living shoreline will restore tidelands within the project area, including salt marsh, intertidal mudflats and eelgrass beds while improving suitable habitat for the state and federally listed California least tern and green turtles, which are found in adjacent habitats.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$960,533	\$424,092	\$1,384,625

San Francisco Bay Wetlands Revegetation Project Phase 2

The California Coastal Conservancy will carry out the San Francisco Bay Coastal Wetlands Revegetation Project Phase II. The goal of this project is to enhance 2,270 acres of degraded tidal marsh in the San Francisco Estuary. This project includes installing 40,000 native plant seedlings on 500 acres in Central Bay, and treating non-native Spartina on 1,770 acres of tidal marsh habitat in the North Bay by 2024. Treatment of the Spartina will serve to protect prior tidal marsh restoration that was carried out in the converted salt ponds. Establishing native plants in the tidal marsh and adjacent habitat will provide foraging, nesting, breeding and high tide refuge habitat for the state and federally

endangered California Ridgway's rail. The native plants will also enhance ecosystem functions and overall health for the benefit of other tidal marsh-dependent species.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$1,000,500	\$2,000,500

Florida

Big Pine Key Hydrologic Restoration

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its partners will implement the Big Pine Key Aquatic Habitat Hydrologic Restoration project, located at the center of National Key Deer Wildlife Refuge in Monroe County, Florida. The project includes utilizing excavators to remove abandoned roads, and placing water control structures at the western and northern-most roadways to remove hydrologic barriers and control salinity. The project will restore a 152-acre freshwater slough, stimulate the expansion of remnant freshwater sawgrass marsh and expand mangrove forest and saltmarsh wetlands, while providing freshwater to threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species in the Florida Keys. This project will benefit the 23 federally threatened and endangered species that rely on freshwater resources found on the island, while reducing risk of flood and fire to the local community.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$700,000	\$291,668	\$991,668

Bogey Creek Preserve Acquisition Phase 3

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will acquire and permanently protect 19.12 acres of maritime forests, hardwood wetlands and salt marsh in Jacksonville, Florida. The project will acquire 12.62 acres of habitat known as the Bogey Creek Preserve. This acquisition is Phase 3 of North Florida Land Trust's Bogey Creek Preserve, a public park containing trails, picnic areas and a kayak landing. The ecosystems on the property support several federally listed and candidate species, including the gopher tortoise, wood stork, Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon and West Indian manatee. Acquiring this property will also fill a gap within a 6,000-acre matrix of conservation lands owned by federal, state and local agencies as well as non-profits, and will provide year-round access and recreation and education opportunities for the public.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$150,000	\$154,560	\$304,560

Georgia

Butler Branch Conservation

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will acquire approximately 2,895 acres of diverse coastal habitat known as Butler Branch. The tract contains maritime forests, upland longleaf pine flatwoods, freshwater wetlands and coastal saltmarsh on Floyd's Neck in Camden County, Georgia. Acquiring this tract will help conserve the Satilla River Watershed, the Crooked River Delta and Cumberland Island National Seashore, while also expanding recreational opportunities for local communities. The entire Butler Branch site is within the footprint of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative's Conservation Blueprint Version 2.2 and falls within the Georgia Sentinel Landscape designation. Conserving the Butler Branch is part of a larger project by the Georgia DNR and partners to connect all 1.5 million acres of conservation lands in the coastal Georgia Ecoregion.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000

Todd Creek Tract

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Department of Defense and with support from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, will acquire approximately 5,897 acres of ecologically diverse habitat known as the Todd Creek Tract. This site includes tidal salt marsh wetlands and adjacent uplands in the lower Satilla River watershed. This tract is part of an initiative to conserve 16,000 acres in order to connect all 1.5 million acres of conservation lands in the Coastal Georgia Ecoregion. Protecting this tract will benefit many federally listed and state listed species including hairy rattlesnake, shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon. This project will also permanently protect two discrete federal candidate gopher tortoise populations, as well as a number of migratory bird species, anadromous fishes and other wildlife. This area will also benefit Georgia’s commercial and recreational fisheries, while also providing ecotourism and other recreational opportunities for the public.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000

Hawai‘i

He‘eia Wetlands Restoration

The Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources will restore a freshwater wetland system in the He‘eia wetlands located on the island of O‘ahu. The current project will focus on restoring the 15.6 acres of wetland to recreate the hydrological and vegetation conditions necessary for native birds and diadromous and estuarine fish to thrive. This project will leverage the successful completion of a previous invasive mangrove tree removal project. The project will re-establish historical channels and ponds by removing invasive root systems and invasive grasses and replanting native sedges, aroids and other native species. The end-result will be the opening up of waterways free from invasive species that will provide ideal habitat for fish and birds, while increasing communities’ access to resources for Hawaiian cultural practices.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$966,501	\$328,617	\$1,295,118

Honouliuli Stream Wetland Restoration

The Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources will restore 21 acres of wetland habitat along West Loch Pearl Harbor on the island of O‘ahu. The project will remove debris and invasive mangroves, replant native vegetation, remove predators, develop an adaptive management plan and educate the community to encourage local stewardship. This project is part of an initiative to restore ecological function and habitat for native aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, particularly endangered birds, within all of West Loch, Pearl Harbor and the Honouliuli watershed. It exemplifies a networked, community-engaged restoration project that connects current conservation and habitat restoration projects. The addition of the 21 acres to adjacent conservation lands will create continuous restored habitat along almost 50 percent of the West Loch shoreline of Pearl Harbor.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$622,199	\$211,682	\$833,881

Maine

Sandy Cove Wetlands Conservation

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will acquire and protect 92.6 acres of wetlands, 90.5 acres of upland buffer habitat, and 8,100 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Sandy Cove in the Harrington River Estuary. This project will permanently protect the majority of Sandy Cove, which is an important habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl, including the black duck. The project habitats also include eelgrass beds that serve as productive nursery habitat for fish and invertebrates, including shellfish and marine worm beds that are an important part of this rural region's local economy. Sandy Cove is part of a larger connected landscape that is resilient to climate change and provides future migration space for productive saltmarshes. Once acquired, the Sandy Cove parcels will be added to the state's Wildlife Management Area system.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$329,312	\$149,688	\$479,000

New Jersey

Great Egg Harbor Wetlands

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program and its conservation partners will acquire and permanently protect approximately 517 acres of property in Atlantic County and Cape May County, New Jersey. This property is a conglomerate of riverine, estuarine and coastal marsh habitat located adjacent to the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area. The Great Egg Harbor estuary complex includes a diversity of wetland communities, including barrier beaches, back-barrier estuaries, emergent tidal saltmarshes, sand and mudflats, islands, submerged aquatic vegetation, brackish and freshwater emergent wetlands, scrub-shrub and forested wetlands and open water. This project will protect critical habitat for anadromous, estuarine, marine and freshwater fish and shellfish, and hundreds of migratory bird species, including the federally listed red knot.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$492,537.31	\$1,492,537.31

North Carolina

Ocracoke Partnership

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, in partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, will acquire 8.5 acres of rare maritime forest and coastal wetlands on Ocracoke Island in Hyde County, North Carolina. The property, known as the Springer's Point/Jones Tract, flanks the 122-acre Springer's Point Preserve located along the Pamlico Sound adjacent to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The preserve is extremely popular for both residents and visitors with an estimated 2,000 visitors per year and contributes to Ocracoke Island's tourism economy. The land also hosts 274 linear feet along Old Slough, a tidal creek that flows into Pamlico Sound. The project will protect habitat for six federally listed species, 15 State listed species and 27 coastal dependent and/or migratory bird species identified as priority species by the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative and the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$425,000	\$1,009,000	\$1,434,000

South Carolina

Black River State Park – Mead Tract

The South Carolina Conservation Bank will acquire and protect in perpetuity approximately 841 acres of diverse coastal habitats along the Black River in Williamsburg County, South Carolina. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has designated the Black River corridor as a Scenic River. Acquiring this parcel will help protect high priority species and habitats along the Black River, including the state endangered swallow-tailed kite and federally threatened wood stork. The fire-maintained pine uplands are ideal for restoration to longleaf pine forest, which is important for northern bobwhite reintroduction and red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. This tract will be part of a new state park along the Black River corridor, and will aid in connecting over 24,520 acres of existing privately protected conservation easement and preserve lands. The state park will create a growing network of public access and provide recreation and economic development opportunities.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$447,000	\$1,447,000

Meyer Lake Tract Acquisition

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and its conservation partners will acquire the 974-acre Meyer Lake tract in the Lower Savannah River Watershed of Jasper County, South Carolina. The land is part of a larger, 38,000-acre hub of conservation lands, and its extensive brackish and tidal freshwater marshes, as well as the floodplains further upstream, provide critical habitat and flood control. Most of the property is declining wetland types, such as bottomland hardwoods with the balance in upland mixed pine-hardwoods. The forested tract protects 3.5 miles of river frontage, stabilizing the bank and filtering runoff. Protecting this property will contribute to the goals of nine regional conservation plans. The project site is expected to encompass habitat for Audubon’s four Responsibility Bird Species for South Carolina and abuts property that is federally designated critical habitat for the Atlantic sturgeon and forested flatwoods salamander.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000

The Oaks Plantation

South Carolina Conservation Bank will purchase The Oaks Plantation, a culturally and ecologically significant property, comprised of approximately 194 acres of diverse coastal habitats. This purchase adds considerably to the preservation and ecological integrity of the Ashley Scenic River, Ashley River Road Scenic Highway and Ashley River Historic District. The Oaks Plantation showcases the complexity of a dynamic coastal ecosystem site including maritime forest, mixed pine hardwoods, freshwater forested wetlands and tidal marsh along the Ashley Scenic River in Charleston County. The largely intact historic corridor, including the nationally significant Middleton and Drayton Hall Plantations, which are protected by conservation easements, provide habitats for resident and migratory wildlife utilizing the coastal river and the surrounding marsh. Permanently protecting The Oaks Plantation’s mature maritime forest, forested freshwater wetland, marsh edge, tidal creeks and tidal marsh will have significant positive ecological benefits for coastal South Carolina.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$659,000	\$1,659,000

Santee Island Acquisition

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and its conservation partners, including South Carolina Conservation Bank, will acquire 1,964 acres on Santee Island in the Santee Watershed of Georgetown County, South Carolina. The land is part of a larger 19,000-acre hub of conservation lands, and is the last large parcel needed to connect State and private lands to the

southeast federal lands of the Francis Marion National Forest. The tract is heavily forested with about 100 acres in historic rice fields and depressional wetlands. The forested wetlands and openings are used by no less than 117 priority species, 12 of which are federally listed. This acquisition will protect the confluence of the North and Santee Rivers, which are both designated as critical habitat for Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon. The SCDNR will enroll the land into the state’s Wildlife Management Area Program, protecting it in perpetuity for wildlife and public enjoyment.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$777,600	\$1,777,600

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve – Oaks Tract

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and its conservation partners, including the South Carolina Conservation Bank, will acquire the 980-acre River Oaks tract in the Waccamaw River Basin of Horry County, SC. The majority of the property is composed of nationally declining wetlands types with the balance in upland buffer habitat. The property is prime habitat for Neotropical migratory birds that require riverine, forest interior habitat for breeding and stopover habitat. It will also provide habitat for the federally threatened Northern long-eared bat and Wood stork. This acquisition links together the Waccamaw Heritage Preserve, the Waccamaw River National Wildlife Refuge, the Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve, and multiple private conservation easements in this region. It is expected that this property has significant cultural and archaeological resources and lies within South Carolina’s Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$438,334	\$1,438,334

Texas

Coastal Heritage Preserve 7th Addition Middle Tract (east)

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with the non-profit organization Artist Boat, will acquire and protect 18 acres of palustrine emergent marsh and 26 acres of upland coastal prairie on the west end of Galveston Island, Texas. The land acquired through this project will be added to the 810-acre Coastal Heritage Preserve managed by Artist Boat. Artist Boat’s mission is to promote awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the sciences and the arts. The remaining prairie is typically found in small fragments, and is currently susceptible to invasion by exotic plants including Chinese tallow tree and Brazilian peppertree. This acquisition will help conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species, including the mottled duck and sandhill crane.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$366,400	\$1,366,400

Coastal Heritage Preserve 8th Addition Middle Tract (west)

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with Artist Boat, will acquire approximately 44 acres of coastal habitats within the Gulf Coastal Prairie and Marshes ecoregion on Galveston Island, Texas. This project will protect 11 acres of temporarily flooded palustrine emergent persistent marsh habitat, 0.2 acres of semi-permanently flooded open water, and 33 acres of upland coastal prairie. The project will conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species, including the mottled duck and sandhill crane. The Middle Tract West tract will be managed by Artist Boat as part of the 810-acre Coastal Heritage Preserve.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$383,000	\$1,383,000

Virginia

Eastern Shore Conservation Initiative I

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Ducks Unlimited and other conservation partners will acquire and conserve approximately 4,561 acres of coastal wetlands and buffering uplands in Accomack County, Virginia. This fee-simple acquisition will expand State Wildlife Management Areas for coastal fish and wildlife, facilitate inland marsh migration in the future and enhance coastal resiliency. It will also add to a network of protected habitat that includes Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Located at the tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, this area attracts millions of birds each fall migration. This acquisition will support a larger effort to protect and restore wetlands and adjacent uplands on Virginia’s Eastern Shore while expanding wildlife recreation opportunities. It will also enable the DWR to improve estuarine habitat for a variety of commercially important fisheries, including blue crab and striped bass.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$417,583	\$1,417,583

Eastern Shore Conservation Initiative II

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Ducks Unlimited and other conservation partners are seeking funding to acquire and conserve approximately 4,323 acres of coastal wetlands and buffering uplands in Accomack and Northampton Counties in Virginia. This fee-simple acquisition will expand key Wildlife Management Areas for coastal fish and wildlife, facilitate inland marsh migration in the future and enhance coastal resiliency. It will also connect protected habitat at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Located at the tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, these wetlands serve as important migrating, foraging and breeding habitat for the millions of birds that move through this area during the fall migration. Acquisition of this land will allow DWR to improve estuarine habitat for a variety of commercially-important fisheries including blue crab and striped bass, while also expanding opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing and hiking.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000,	\$417,583	\$1, 417,583

Butterball Cove

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with Nisqually Land Trust and other partners, will protect 132 acres of coastal habitat stretching along the southern edge of Nisqually Reach in southern Puget Sound via permanent Conservation Easement. This project will protect shoreline habitat critical for 70 species of migratory and coastal-dependent birds, as well as estuarine and marine habitats that sustain five salmonid species and other forage fish. It will prevent future development at the site and restore essential nearshore processes including sediment input, transport, and accretion. Protecting this land will benefit commercial and recreational anglers, shellfish growers and the Nisqually Tribe. This project also supports the Nisqually Land Trust Marine Conservation Initiative, and is consistent with and supported by more than 25 conservation and recovery plans.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$687,750	\$291,500	\$979,250

Little Squalicum Estuary Protection

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the City of Bellingham, will restore critical coastal wetland habitat in Bellingham Bay, just east of the Nooksack River Delta. The project will restore 4.85 acres of coastal wetland habitat, including a 2.4-acre estuary, and remove a fish passage barrier at the mouth of Little Squalicum Creek. The benefits of this project include restoring tidal and sedimentary processes, and reestablishing estuary, saltmarsh and mudflat habitat where historical wetlands have been lost. The species benefits include rearing and foraging habitat for endangered juvenile Chinook, steelhead and bull trout, and coho salmon. Dredge material will be beneficially re-used to restore documented forage fish spawning habitat immediately west of the re-established estuary. This project will also protect sensitive coastal wetland and wildlife by redirecting recreational activities to more ecologically appropriate parts of Little Squalicum Park.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$434,992	\$1,434,992

Padilla and Samish Bays Coastal Protection

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in collaboration with Skagit Land Trust, will acquire and permanently protect 50.6 acres of wetlands, field and forest habitat and historic slough, along with 2,500 feet of marine coastline along two bays in northern Skagit County, Washington. The site supports freshwater wetlands, riparian slough habitat, beach habitat on Padilla Bay, and salt marsh and tidelands on Samish Bay. This habitat is beneficial to forage fish spawning and eelgrass communities and provides foraging habitat for a multitude of bird species. Other benefits include reduction of site contamination and control of invasive species. Protecting this land will prevent future development, allow for future restoration of nearshore processes and allow public access for low-impact recreation.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$875,000	\$375,000	\$1,250,000

Stillaguamish Tidal Wetland Acquisition Phase 2

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Stillaguamish Tribe, will acquire 537 acres of former coastal wetlands in Snohomish County, Washington. This project is the second step towards restoring tidal and riverine influence to a large swath of land diked in the late 1800s. The first step of this project included the acquisition of 248 acres to the southeast through a previous National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program award. The current project will benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species, including Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook salmon populations of the Stillaguamish and Skagit Rivers, while linking together conserved lands to the north and south. This project will also allow conservation of lands that will benefit waterfowl and shorebirds that use the Pacific Flyway. The tidal wetland restoration carried out in this project is specifically called for in the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$1,000,000	\$420,000	\$1,420,000

Wisconsin

Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve

The Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department, in collaboration with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, will improve the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin via the acquisition of approximately 55 acres of the total 132-acre nature preserve. Protecting the property will contribute to maintaining important pockets of biological and ecological diversity associated with this unique natural community. The parcel provides high quality habitat for migratory birds along the

Lake Michigan Flyway, including the short-eared owl. This project will also provide public access for nature-based outdoor recreation. The preserve, including the subject parcel, will be managed as part of the County Park System and this acquisition will connect to the Lion’s Den Gorge Nature Preserve, which is also operated by the County. In addition, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust will hold a conservation easement.

Award	Cost Share/Match	Total Project Cost
\$538,290 (Partially award with remaining available funds)	\$1,086,480	\$2,086,480