

Private Stewardship Grants Program Regional Award Summaries FY 2005

Alabama

Building from the Core – (application by Alabama Forest Resources Center) – Bullock, Russell, and Macon Counties, Alabama – (\$143,795)

– The Alabama Forest Resources Center will work with two plantation owners in southeastern Alabama to restore suitable habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and other imperiled species using the successful "Red Hills Red-cockaded Woodpecker Model." This project will build from one of the few red-cockaded woodpecker core populations in the State and seeks to expand the red-cockaded woodpecker population through burning, planting, mid-story control, and Safe Harbor implementation.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Alaska

Habitat Restoration on the Yukon Delta – (application by Chevak Native Village) – Alaska – (\$50,000) – The Chevak Native Village, in cooperation with Chevak Traditional Council, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, will initiate a comprehensive program of financial incentives to reduce deposition of lead shot on private land habitats essential to Endangered Species Act-listed spectacled eiders and other at-risk birds including Steller's eider, long-tailed duck, northern pintail, red-throated loon, and Pacific loon.

City of Kenai Wildlife Conservation Community Program – (application by Safari Club International) – Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska – (\$90,000) – Safari Club will work with the City of Kenai, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Audubon Alaska, and S&R Sanitation to cost-share bear-proof garbage containers and other mitigation devices with approximately 500 homeowners, community groups, and small businesses. By reducing man-made food sources this project seeks to avoid associated human caused mortality of the Kenai Peninsula brown bear. This project implements the findings of a pilot study funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003.

Afognak Island Motorized Access Denial: Ouzinkie Phase I – (application by Wildlife Forever) – Kodiak Island Borough – (\$50,000) – Wildlife Forever will work with Ouzinkie Native Corporation to reclaim forest roads to reduce habitat fragmentation and improve habitat security for brown bears. The project will also benefit Pacific salmon.

Sucker River Fish Passage Restoration – (application by Native Village of Fort Yukon) – Alaska – (\$64,562) – The Native Village, with technical assistance from the Service and other state and Federal agencies, will remove a major fish passage barrier and replace it with a structure that does not block passage for whitefish, sheefish, and chum salmon. The project will restore passage to approximately 20 miles of spawning and rearing habitat.

California

Bahia Restoration Project – (application by Marin Audubon Society) – Marin County, California – (\$100,000) – The Marin Audubon Society will restore tidal marsh, associated transition and upland habitat, and plant and animal communities to a condition similar to that found in the historic tidal marshes of the Petaluma River. The restored habitat will benefit California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, steelhead trout, California black rail, San Pablo song sparrow, salt marsh common yellowthroat, and Sacramento splittail.

Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration – (application by Catalina Island Conservancy) – Los Angeles County, California – (\$161,067) – The Catalina Island Conservancy will create a weed-free buffer zone around listed plant species and eradicate ten highly invasive plant species with limited distributions on 6,000 acres of the Island's west end. The habitat restoration will benefit Island rush-rose, Catalina Island fox, bald eagles, and other species.

Clear Lake Watershed Sagebrush-grassland Restoration – (application by Lava Beds-Butte Valley Resource Conservation District) – Modoc County, California – (\$54,405) – Working with private landowners, the Conservation District will restore and enhance the sagebrush-grassland community to benefit associated wildlife species, including greater sage grouse in upper Klamath Basin. Project considerations include increased base flows to springs and seeps to enhance habitat for dependent species, juniper removal, range seeding, and fencing.

Russian River Streambank Stabilization, Riparian Revegetation, and Habitat Improvement Project – (application by Bioengineering Institute) – Sonoma County, California – (\$79,999) – Bioengineering Institute will work with a private landowner to create new habitat for juvenile rearing and migrating salmonids and other fish species on 33 different sites. Activities include improving water quality by reducing sediment entering the stream from bare and eroding stream banks, and decreasing water temperatures by creating and revegetating riparian habitat along 1,314 feet of stream bank. This project will benefit 3 federally listed anadromous fish and 6 fish species considered species of special concern.

Sonoma Creek Riverside Reach Restoration Project – (application by Sonoma Ecology Center) – Sonoma County, California – (\$58,201) – Working with nine private landowners, the Sonoma Ecology Center will enhance riparian habitat by improving the quality and quantity of native vegetation on a central reach of Sonoma Creek. This project expands on current weed removal and revegetation efforts and will benefit steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, California freshwater shrimp, California Swainson's hawk, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat.

Students and Teachers Restoring Watersheds – (application by Bay Institute of San Francisco) – Marin and Sonoma Counties, California – (\$63,600) – In partnership with private landowners, the Marin RCD, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, the Bay Institute of San Francisco will help restore functioning habitats to several creek ecosystems by planting native vegetation and stabilizing eroding banks to restore riparian habitats. A total of 3,200 linear feet of creek channel will be restored. Labor will be provided by the STRAW group; Students and Teachers Restoring Watersheds. STRAW was funded in 1998 from efforts by fourth graders working with ranchers to restore habitat for the endangered California Freshwater Shrimp. The restored habitat will benefit freshwater shrimp (*Syncaris pacifica*), Tomales roach,

central California coastal steelhead, central California coast coho, California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and northwestern pond turtle.

Colorado

Private Lands Habitat Enhancement for Grassland Species at Risk – (application by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory) – Kiowa, Cheyenne, Las Animas, Bent, El Paso, Prowers, Baca, and Lincoln Counties, Colorado – (\$128,897) – The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, working with Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Mayor of Town of Eads, and Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation, will, through six individual projects, restore shortgrass prairie rangelands to benefit grassland and riparian species at risk, principally declining grassland birds such as lesser prairie-chicken, mountain plover and long-billed curlew. The six projects vary in the type of management proposed and include reseeding cropland to native prairie, playa restoration, and altering livestock grazing management.

Fish Passage & Protection for Rio Grande & Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Populations – (application by Trout Unlimited, Inc.) – Costilla and La Plata Counties, Colorado – (\$106,320) – Trout Unlimited, working with Cielo Vista Ranch, Forbes Ranch, Colorado Trails Ranch, and Colorado Division of Wildlife, will protect five important populations of Rio Grande and Colorado River cutthroat trout from invasion by non-native trout by constructing fish barriers and replacing culverts on three ranches.

Florida

Nokuse Plantation – (application by a private landowner) – Walton County, Florida – (\$180,000) – The grant to Nokuse Plantation, a 53,000 acre site within the proposed Northwest Florida Greenway, will restore an historical longleaf pine-wiregrass community on approximately 4,392 acres by undertaking prescribed burning and planting longleaf pine seedlings. These actions will help establish a protected landscape-level wildlife corridor between Eglin Air Force Base and the Choctawhatchee River Wildlife Management Area and will benefit the project's two flagship species, the gopher tortoise and the Florida black bear.

Project GreenSweep – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Monroe County, Florida – (\$92,698) – The Nature Conservancy will work with private landowners on lands adjacent to Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge to eradicate invasive species on 44.25 acres of land. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will complement this project by undertaking exotics removal on public land in the project area. The overall effort will restore habitat for 18 federally-listed and candidate species, and 44 state-listed species, including four species of sea turtles and Key deer.

Restoration of Florida Scrub – (application by Archbold Biological Station) – Highlands County, Florida – (\$24,255) – Archbold Biological Station, with support from The Natives, will restore 161 acres of Florida scrub, a globally-imperiled plant community, along the Lake Wales Ridge in central Florida. The grantee will remove exotic grasses, cut overgrown shrub thickets, grow and transplant scrub plants, collect seeds from eight federally- and state-listed scrub herbs, and sow the seeds into restoration sites.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Georgia

Please See Multi-State Proposals

Hawaii

Habitat Restoration on Kona Hema Preserve – (application by The Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i and Zoological Society of San Diego) – Hawai‘i County, Hawai‘i – (\$100,000) – The objectives of this project are to fund the first year of restoration of The Nature Conservancy's Kona Hema Preserve totaling 6,291 acres of montane ‘ohia and koa/‘ohia forest habitat. Restoration includes alien animal removal and outplanting of native endangered and non-endangered plant species. The restoration will benefit the ‘alala or Hawaiian crow, ‘io or Hawaiian hawk, ‘akiapola‘au, ‘ope‘ape‘a or Hawaiian hoary bat, Hawai‘i ‘akepa, Hawai‘i creeper, and many native Hawaiian plants. Captive propagation of ‘alala for potential release in the Kona Hema Preserve is a part of the project.

North Kona Fencing and Habitat Restoration – (application by Hawaiian Silversword Foundation) – Hawai‘i County, Hawai‘i – (\$300,000) – Working with Federal, State, and local partners the Hawaiian Silversword Foundation will protect and restore 11,000 acres of native mamane (*Sophora chrysophylla*) forest habitat for the endangered palila (*Loxioides bailleui*) and other endangered species in the District of North Kona on the Island of Hawai‘i. These lands are of high conservation value and have the potential to support palila and three other endangered bird species as well as ten endangered plant species. Protection of this forest through fence construction and feral ungulate control are the critical first steps in the restoration of this property.

Stewardship of the West Maui Mountains Watershed – (application by Malama Kahalawai Inc.) – Maui County, Hawai‘i – (\$118,192) – The project includes building phase one of a two-phase pig fence on Maui Land & Pineapple Company land that will integrate into the existing Kahakuloa Natural Area Reserve and Anakaluahine Gulch protective fences. The approximately 1,400-meter fence will help protect the native Hawaiian plant species nanu or *Gardenia remyi*, koki‘o or *Hibiscus kokio ssp. kokio*, nuku ‘i‘iwi or *Strongylodon ruber*, ha‘iwale or *Cyrtandra munroi*, pauoa or *Ctneitis squamigera*, ‘oha wai or *Clermontia oblongifolia ssp. mauiensis*, haha or *Cyanea lobota*, *Pteris lidgatei*, and *Sanicula purpurea*.

Waihe'e Coastal Wetlands and Dune Restoration Project – (application by Maui Coastal Land Trust) – Maui County, Hawai‘i – (\$62,006) – The Maui Coastal Land Trust, working with Maui Nui Botanical Garden, the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Native Hawaiian Plant Society, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Maui Heros Project, Pacific Whale Foundation, Maui Community College, and Maui Public Schools, will conduct a portion of a long-term (10-year plus) ecological restoration project for the 213 acre Waihe'e Preserve on the Island of Maui. As part of a comprehensive strategy designed to enhance the quality of the native coastal ecosystem on the preserve, this grant will

restore habitat essential for endangered bird species including the ae'o or Hawaiian stilt, 'alae ke'oke'o or Hawaiian coot, 'alae 'ula or Hawaiian gallinule, and koloa or Hawaiian duck, and improve habitat for endangered plants.

Idaho

Badger Creek Channel Restoration – (application by Trout Unlimited) – Butte County, Idaho – (\$97,400) – Trout Unlimited, in partnership with the Pancheri family, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game, will design and construct 0.5 miles of naturally functioning stream channel through lower Badger Creek to provide a bull trout migration corridor between the Little Lost River and more than 7 miles of pristine spawning and rearing habitat in Badger Creek. Native vegetation will be planted and a fence constructed along the newly constructed stream channel to stabilize the channel, create a functioning riparian area, and protect the habitat from cattle grazing.

Iron Creek Reconnection and Habitat Restoration Project – (application by a private landowner) – Lemhi County, Idaho – (\$23,400) – This project will eliminate four irrigation diversions in the lower 2.5 miles of Iron Creek, resulting in greater instream flows that are expected to reconnect flows in Iron Creek with the Salmon River. This reconnection will restore passage for the federally threatened bull trout and federally threatened anadromous salmonids including summer steelhead, and spring/summer Chinook salmon, and will provide thermal refuge during summer months. Project partners include the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District in addition to State and Federal agencies.

Illinois

Hennepin and Hopper Lakes Restoration – (application by The Wetlands Initiative) – Putnam County – (\$40,500) – The hydrology of Hopper Lake was recently restored to historic conditions. The Wetlands Initiative will control invasive plant species to protect habitat for at-risk plant species such as fen panicled sedge, queen of the prairie and savanna blazing star. Approximately 35 acres of wetland will be treated to control cattail and reed-canary grass.

Managing Habitat for the Threatened Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid in Northeastern Illinois – (application by Fox Valley Land Foundation) – Lake, Kane, Grundy, Cook, Ogle and Kankakee Counties – (\$79,500) – Working with nine private landowners, the Fox Valley Land Foundation, in cooperation with Abbott Laboratories, Kane County Forest Preserve District, Hybernia Homeowners Association, The Nature Conservancy, and up to 60 volunteers will manage habitat to support stable or increasing populations of the eastern prairie fringed orchid on private lands in northern Illinois. Stewards will monitor the status of orchid populations, and increase the size and number of populations of other state listed native species and rare community types through management of these private sites.

Indiana

Black Oak Savanna and Prairie Pocket Marsh Restoration– (application by Big Eastern, Inc.) – Starke County – (\$18,260) – The grantee will use chemical applications to control exotic and invasive species in this wetland area. Approximately 90 acres of oak savanna will be burned to control brushy understory to benefit daisy-leaf grape fern, Blandings turtle and eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

Iowa

Habitat Restoration in the Hills - Phase II – (application by Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area) – Plymouth, Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Paottawattamie, Mills and Freemont Counties – (\$64,904) –The grantee will use awarded funds to complement the Loess Hills Stewardship Work Plan in southwest Iowa. The Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area, in coordination with The Nature Conservancy, The Loess Hills Alliance, Pheasants Forever and private landowners, will restore and improve native prairie habitats, improve grazing lands, restore oak savannas, and provide best management practice services and skills to landowners. The stewardship projects will benefit grassland species such as Great Plains skink, prairie rattlesnake, Arogos skipper, Ottoe skipper and regal fritillary butterfly.

Kansas

High Plains Partnership for Prairie Species at Risk – (application by Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation) – Barber County, Kansas – (\$32,500) – Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation, in cooperation with the local Conservation District, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation District, and four private landowners, will continue a rancher-led initiative that has a proven record of success in enhancing mixed-grass habitat for species at risk, particularly the lesser prairie-chicken. Participating ranchers will draw from a variety of resource management tools including altered grazing management, prescribed burning, and cutting of invasive woody species to improve habitat for targeted prairie species including the lesser prairie-chicken, black-tailed prairie dog, and ferruginous hawk.

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance: A landscape scale effort – (application by Tallgrass Legacy Alliance) – Multiple Counties, Kansas – (\$50,253) – This project by the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance and partners including The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, U.S. Army Fort Riley, Chase County, and numerous private landowners, is an integrated approach toward containment and control of three invasive plant species in the Flint Hills of Kansas. Management actions to be undertaken to benefit at-risk species, particularly declining grassland birds such as short-eared owl and Henslow's sparrow, include rotational prescribed burning, spot spraying of herbicides, and grazing management.

Prairie Bird & Butterfly Species Conservation – (application by Dyck Arboretum of the Plains) – Multiple Counties, Kansas – (\$69,720) – Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, in cooperation with the Kansas Biological Survey, will help conserve grassland-dependent bird and butterfly species at risk by improving habitats on privately owned prairie remnants and reconstructing new acreage using locally collected prairie seeds. The project will benefit Bell's vireo, Henslow's sparrow, regal fritillary butterfly, ottoe skipper, dotted skipper, byssus skipper, arogos skipper, and Iowa skipper.

Kentucky

Upper Cumberland River – (application by Cumberland Valley RC&D Council, Inc.) – Jackson, Rockcastle, Laurel, Knox, Whitley, Bell, and Harlan Counties, Kentucky – (\$52,000) – The Cumberland Valley RC&D Council will work with at least seven private landowners to restore aquatic habitat and implement best management practices on private lands to aid in the recovery of 28 aquatic species, including fish and mussels. These practices include providing forested riparian buffers, grassed waterways, livestock exclusion fencing, and stream bank stabilization. This project will complement work being accomplished by nine other partners on private lands in the Upper Cumberland River.

Aquatic Habitat Restoration of Three Mississippi River Tributaries – (application by Jackson Purchase Resource Conservation and Development Foundation, Inc.) – Fulton, Hickman, and Graves Counties, Kentucky – (\$53,560) – The Jackson Purchase Resource Conservation and Development Foundation will work with at least six private landowners in three watersheds to restore aquatic habitat through riparian restoration, stream bank stabilization, reforestation, and hydrological restoration. The specific recovery actions will benefit 4 federal and 18 state threatened or endangered aquatic species, including the endangered relict darter.

Louisiana

Louisiana Pine Snake – (application by International Paper) – Bienville Parish, Louisiana – (\$45,400) – International Paper will undertake prescribed burning on 1,865 acres in Bienville Parish, Louisiana. The grantee will also create 15 miles of fire lines and plant 25 acres of longleaf pine seedlings to improve habitat to benefit the largest documented population of Louisiana pine snake. The Louisiana pine snake is a candidate species for potential listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Maine

Habitat Restoration for Breeding Waterbirds on Stratton Island – (application by National Audubon Society) – York County, Maine – (\$47,300) – The Audubon Seabird Restoration Program will work with members from Prout's Neck Audubon Society and York County Audubon Society to remove invasive plants and plant native trees to restore habitat for roseate tern, arctic tern, glossy ibis, and little blue heron on Stratton Island, Maine.

Michigan

Cotton Lake Fen and Prairie Restoration – (application by a private individual) – Calhoun County, Michigan – (\$25,601) – The private landowner will restore 3.4 acres of prairie fen and 18 acres of upland prairie to historic vegetative conditions, restoring habitat for the Mitchell's satyr butterfly.

Minnesota

Imperiled Species Conservation on Private Land in Western Minnesota – (application by Friends of the Morris Wetland Management District) – Wilkin, Ottertail, Grant, Pope, Kandiyohi, Big Stone, Yellow Medicine, and Lac Qui Parle Counties – (\$58,297) – Friends of the Morris Wetland Management District will work with more than ten private landowners to remove woody cover in order to enhance and restore native prairie habitats to benefit greater prairie chicken, marbled godwit, short-eared owl, Henslow's sparrow, Dakota skipper and western prairie fringed orchid. Approximately 2,500 acres have been identified for clearing.

Sand Coulee Prairie Restoration – (application by Friends of the Mississippi River) – Dakota County – (\$59,185) – Friends of the Mississippi, cooperating with eight private landowners, will improve and maintain approximately 80 acres of native dry prairie, barrens subtype through stewardship activities including reduction and control of exotic and invasive plant species to benefit James' polansia, sea-beach needle grass, clustered broomrap, Ottoe skipper and regal fritillary butterfly.

Rare Species and Rich Fen Habitat Restoration – (application by a private individual) – Anoka County – (\$44,755) – Approximately 23 acres of high quality wetland habitat will be restored and enhanced with Private Stewardship funding. Glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass and giant reed will be removed; soil surfaces scraped to remove reed canary genotypes and invasive seed bank; collect native species seeds on-site and disperse throughout the fen; and prescribed burning. Species that will benefit from the restoration include twisted yellow-eyed grass, cross-leaved milkwort, turberced rein orchid and lance-leaved violet.

Mississippi

Please See Multi-State Proposals

Missouri

Missouri Grassland Habitat Management – (application by Missouri Prairie Foundation) – Vernon, St. Clair, and Dade Counties, Missouri – (\$100,000) – The Missouri Prairie Foundation will use a combination of prescribed fire, grazing, woody species removal, exotic species eradication, and native species establishment to enhance habitat for Mead's milkweed, geocarpon, ground plum, prairie grass pink orchid, and greater prairie chicken on approximately 1,400 acres of prairie.

Montana

Coexisting with Grizzly Bears in an Agricultural Landscape – (application by The Blackfoot Challenge) – Lincoln, Helmville, Ovando, Potomac, Lewis & Clark, Powell, and Missoula Counties, Montana – (\$99,500) – The Blackfoot Challenge, in cooperation with Browning Ferris Industries, Defenders of Wildlife, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, a local honey producer, and 45 private landowners, will provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners in the Blackfoot watershed to reduce grizzly bear conflicts with the local ranching community, by such actions as temporarily fencing calving areas.

Improving an Irrigation System to Benefit of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout – (application by a private individual) – Park County, Montana – (\$30,000) – This project will benefit Yellowstone cutthroat trout by keeping more water in a stream by replacing a leaking headgate and reduce mortality by screening fish out of an irrigation ditch in partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

*Multi-State

Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi

Pine Ecosystem Conservation – (application by the American Forest Foundation in partnership with the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Environmental Defense) – Multiple Counties in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi – (\$140,000) – The American Forest Foundation will partner with Environmental Defense, the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and volunteers to restore fire-maintained southern pine communities, especially longleaf pine, in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. They will implement "on-the-ground" habitat restoration on family forest lands and encourage enrollment in Safe Harbor agreements to benefit the gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker, black pine snake, and other at-risk species.

Georgia and Florida

Red Hills Ecological Stewardship Consortium – (application by Tall Timbers Research Station) – Thomas and Grady Counties, Georgia and Leon County, Florida – (\$50,859) – Tall Timbers Research Station will work with private landowners in the Red Hills of Georgia to construct approximately 60 artificial cavities, implement the proposed reintroduction of a population of red-cockaded woodpeckers to Tall Timbers Research Station upon Service approval of a Reintroduction Memorandum of Understanding and associated Management Plan, recruit landowners into Safe Harbor agreements, educate landowners about incentives to conserve endangered species, monitor nest productivity to assist in translocation efforts, and protect cavity trees and core cluster areas. The grantee will also develop a Century Forest Initiative to maintain the connectivity of the region's mature pine forests.

New Mexico and Texas

Canadian River Ecosystem for Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Project – (application by National Wild Turkey Federation) – Multiple Counties in eastern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle – (\$160,000) – The National Wild Turkey Federation will enhance habitat for lesser prairie chicken, Arkansas River shiner, mountain plover, and other species on private lands along the Canadian River and its tributaries in the Texas panhandle and eastern New Mexico. This will be accomplished by protecting intact mosaics of riparian ecosystems and restoring degraded riparian habitats. Activities proposed include riparian fencing, invasive species control, native plant revegetation, installation of grazing management systems to benefit the species, and prescribed fire.

Oklahoma and Texas

Fence Marking and Removal for Lesser Prairie Chickens – (application by George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center) – Beaver and Ellis Counties, Oklahoma and Lipscomb County, Texas – (\$77,000) – Lesser prairie chickens frequently collide with fences and are killed. This grant supports plans to mark fences in western Oklahoma and the eastern panhandle of Texas so they will be visible to migrating prairie chickens. Where feasible, unnecessary fences will be removed.

Nebraska

Central Platte Valley Native Grassland & River Channel Restoration – (application by Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.) – Buffalo, Merrick, Hall, and Hamilton Counties, Nebraska – (\$97,790) – In partnership with Platte River Trust, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Prairie/Plains Resource Institute, Central Platte Natural Resource District, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Nebraska Public Power District, and 100 private landowners, the grantee will restore habitat for the endangered whooping crane on the Platte River, principally through removal of trees from sandbars and seeding with native grasses.

Rainwater Basin Wetland Habitat Restoration & Enhancement – (application by Rainwater Basin Joint Venture) – Phelps, Gosper, Kearney, Clay, Fillmore, York, Seward, and Hall Counties, Nebraska – (\$80,000) – Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, in cooperation with Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Resource Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and five private landowners, will restore over 300 acres of wetland and adjacent upland native habitat on private lands for whooping cranes and several declining grassland and shorebird species. Working with numerous public and private partners, the grantee will restore habitats by removing invasive species and hydrologic modifications from wetlands and by reseeding prairie.

Nevada

Sampson Creek Ecological Restoration Project – (application by Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition) – White Pine County, Nevada – (\$55,000) – A partnership between the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of Forestry, and the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program will result in the restoration of approximately 800 acres of private land in Sampson Creek watershed. The landowner, one of three remaining sheep ranchers in Eastern Nevada, will use selective mechanical and hand-crew thinning of pinyon and juniper trees, treat weeds as necessary, and protect the treated area with 6 miles of fencing. This habitat management will benefit sage grouse and North American pygmy rabbit.

Spring fish, Spring Snail, Reserve – (application by Unity in Love) – Nye County, Nevada – (\$80,500) – Working with the Nevada Division of Wildlife, the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDOW), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, the landowner will restore spring and in-stream habitat by reconstructing a meandering channel and the spring pool, construct fencing around Moorman Spring and Hardy springs to protect fish and snail habitat, and construct an irrigation diversion pipeline for cattle use. The landowner is in the process of obtaining a Candidate Conservation Agreement with NDOW and USFWS. The habitat restoration will benefit the *Pyrgulopsis* spring snail and the Moorman White River springfish.

New Jersey

Restoration of Degraded Bog Turtle Sites in New Jersey – (application by Trident Environmental Consultants) – Salem and Sussex Counties, New Jersey – (\$29,678) – Trident Environmental Consultants, together with The Nature Conservancy, will work to enhance and restore 34 acres of bog turtle habitat throughout six different sites. Funds will be used to support projects to control the woody and invasive vegetation that are rapidly filling the wetlands.

New Mexico

Reintroduction of Chiricahua Leopard Frog – (application by private individuals) – Grant County, New Mexico – (\$12,000) – Funds will be used to establish up to 3 populations of the endangered Chiricahua leopard frog along a stream segment on Burro Cienega Ranch in southwestern New Mexico by improving habitat and developing a temporary rearing pond for the propagation and subsequent dispersal of the frogs.

Heritage Ranch Institute Habitat Improvement Project – (application by Heritage Ranch Institute) – Sierra County, New Mexico – (\$80,000) – The Heritage Ranch Institute will protect and restore riparian habitat on this private ranch in south central New Mexico to benefit water quality and provide habitat for Bell's vireo, yellow-billed cuckoo, Rio Grande chub, and Rio Grande sucker.

Gunnison's Prairie Dog Translocation Program – (application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) – Colfax County, New Mexico – (\$33,000) – Up to 9 new colonies of Gunnison's prairie dogs will be established over a 3-year period on the Vermejo Ranch in northeastern New Mexico. New colonies will be monitored to reduce predation and measure survival. Plague reconnaissance will be conducted via analysis of predator blood samples. This species is known to have occupied the mountain meadow habitat throughout the lower Rocky Mountains but has since been almost extirpated.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

New York

Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration in the Albany Pine Bush – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Albany County, New York – (\$143,289) – The Nature Conservancy will employ forestry and land clearing practices to facilitate karner blue butterfly habitat restoration on 30 acres of the Albany Pine Bush within the Glacial Lake Albany federal karner blue butterfly recovery unit.

North Carolina

Long Valley Farm – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Cumberland and Harnett Counties, North Carolina – (\$38,633) – The Nature Conservancy will plant longleaf pine seedlings and wiregrass seed, re-introduce prescribed fire, restore longleaf pine savannas through manual clearing of hardwoods, and create new fire lines, where necessary, to benefit the red-cockaded woodpecker and other rare species on Long Valley Farm, North Carolina. The project site is within the 1500-acre Long Valley Farm which, when restored, will provide important foraging and nesting habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker. It will also provide a key habitat corridor linking red-cocked woodpecker groups on two training areas in the northeastern section of Ft. Bragg.

Oklahoma

Arkansas River Shiner and Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat Enhancement Project – (application by Oklahoma Agricultural Legal Foundation) – Dewey and Ellis Counties, Oklahoma – (\$160,000) – Invasive saltcedar and eastern red cedar will be controlled along the Canadian River and its tributaries in western Oklahoma to restore and improve habitat for the Arkansas River shiner and interior least tern. This will be accomplished on at least 8 separate ranches and will involve mechanical brush treatment and prescribed fire.

Habitat Restoration with Prescribed Fire and Fence Removal – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Dewey, Ellis and Roger Mills Counties, Oklahoma – (\$130,000) – The Nature Conservancy, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Wildlife and Prairie Heritage Alliance and the Northwest Oklahoma Range Fire Management Association, will facilitate the organization, training and function of a local prescribed burning cooperative within the Packsaddle Conservation Area. The Nature Conservancy will begin fire management of the Conservancy-owned Four Canyon Preserve and other private landowners within the Cooperative. Five miles of unnecessary fencing will be removed on the Preserve to provide habitat improvement for obligate grassland birds. Candidate, listed, and at-risk species targeted will include lesser prairie chickens, loggerhead shrikes, Texas horned lizards and Texas longnosed snakes. Water quality will be improved for the Arkansas River shiner.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Oregon

Miller Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal – (application by Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District) – Columbia County, Oregon – (\$50,000) – Replacement of this culvert will eliminate the first significant fish passage barrier in the Clatskanie River and will provide access to 6.4 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Project partners include the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, Evenson Timberland Agency, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council.

Restoration of Prairies, Oak Woodlands, and Riparian Habitat in the Willamette Valley – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Benton, Lane, Linn, and Marion Counties, Oregon – (\$108,392) – Working with four private landowners, The Nature Conservancy will implement five projects advancing conservation on 270 acres to directly benefit Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette Valley daisy, and other native plants. All five projects seek to reduce or control invasive, non-native, or undesirable vegetation and replace it with native species associated with prairie, riparian forest, and creek habitats.

Pennsylvania

Bog Turtle Habitat Restoration Phase II Project – (application by The Berks County Conservancy) – Lebanon and Berks Counties, Pennsylvania – (\$39,940) – The Berks County Conservancy will work to restore and maintain habitat at two active bog turtle sites in Pennsylvania. A total of 30 acres will be enhanced, including 22 acres at one site and 8 acres at the second site, both threatened by invasion of aggressive non-native species.

Puerto Rico

Hacienda Central Pellejas – (application by a private landowner) – Puerto Rico – (\$115,627) – The grantee will restore two miles of riparian habitat along the southeast tributaries of the Pellejas River in Puerto Rico, and implement a grazing management plan to benefit 12 listed or at-risk species. The grantee will construct 200,000 linear feet of fencing, establish five livestock grazing areas within 200 acres of tropical uplands, remove exotic species, and plant 5,600 native trees along the riparian buffer zone. The project site is part of a landscape corridor connecting several Commonwealth Natural Reserves in the central mountains of Puerto Rico that will contribute to the recovery of several endangered species such as the Puerto Rican Boa and the Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk.

South Carolina

Okeetee Club, Inc. – (application by Okeetee Club, Inc.) – Jasper County, South Carolina – (\$95,070) – The Okeetee Club will undertake habitat improvement on portions of its 50,000-acre site by controlling understory and midstory hardwood encroachment on 1,058 acres and by undertaking prescribed burns on approximately 1,770 acres. The areas treated with herbicides will be maintained in the future with the use of

prescribed fire. This project will improve habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker as well as other species dependent upon the longleaf pine community.

Turkey and Cuffeytown Creek – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Edgefield, Greenwood and McCormick Counties, South Carolina – (\$66,628) – The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina will work with private landowners and other partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Conservation and Development District, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Upper Savannah Land Trust, and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, to implement best management practices that will reduce sediment and improve water quality for the endangered Carolina heelsplitter and other imperiled mussels and endemic fish species. The project addresses Carolina heelsplitter recovery objectives in Turkey and Cuffeytown Creeks, which contain three of the seven remaining populations of Carolina heelsplitter.

South Dakota

Restoration of Swift Fox to Bad River Ranches – (application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) – Stanley and Jones Counties, South Dakota – (\$90,000) – The Turner Endangered Species Fund, working with South Dakota Game Fish & Parks, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, South Dakota Animal Husbandry Industry Board, South Dakota agriculture producers groups, Badlands National Park, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, and Fort Pierre National Grasslands, will continue its work to re-establish a self-sustaining population of swift fox to a prairie ranch as part of a large prairie restoration program. The burrows to be created for the swift fox will also provide habitat for black-tailed prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets.

Development of Barriers to Prairie Dog Colony Expansion – (application by Turner Endangered Species Fund) – Stanley and Jones Counties, South Dakota – (\$60,018) – The Turner Endangered Species Fund, in partnership with South Dakota Game Fish & Parks, Badlands National Park, and neighboring ranchers, will manage the expansion of colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs on the large Bad River Ranch.

Texas

Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler Creation, Restoration and Enhancement Project – (application by Chalk Mountain Wildlife Management Association) – Bosque, Erath, Hood, and Somervell Counties, Texas – (\$175,000) – The Chalk Mountain Wildlife Management Association will restore 1,750 acres of habitat for black-capped vireo and golden cheeked warbler to increase these existing central Texas populations toward a goal of downlisting or delisting under the Endangered Species Act. The restoration will involve mechanical habitat manipulation, grazing management, and prescribed burning. Landowner Association participants will contribute 23% of the cost of restoration.

Active Recovery of the Endangered Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler – (application by Environmental Defense) – Bandera, Coke, Concho, Edwards, Kerr, Kendall, Kinney, Mason, Palo Pinto, Runnels, Taylor, and Tom Green Counties, Texas – (\$97,000) – Six ranches enrolled in Environmental Defense's Landowner Conservation Assistance Program in the central Texas Hill Country will restore and enhance breeding habitats for the endangered black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler. Environmental Defense will enroll 3-5 new landowners into their ongoing program. Restoration will be carried out on these newly enrolled properties.

Also See Multi-State Proposals

Utah

Autumn Buttercup Reintroduction in Sevier River Valley – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Garfield County, Utah – (\$18,661) – The Nature Conservancy, working with the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, The Arboretum at Flagstaff, and Utah Valley State College, will help to prevent extinction of the endangered autumn buttercup by re-introducing plants grown in captivity through a public-private partnership

Virginia

Protection of Maternity Sites of the Endangered Gray Bat – (application by the American Cave Conservation Association) – Lee and Scott Counties, Virginia – (\$14,219) – The American Cave Conservation Association will design and, in cooperation with the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, construct custom, state-of-the-art bat friendly gates to restrict access to two Southwest Virginia caves, thus reducing disturbance to gray bat maternity colonies.

Washington

Beezley Hills Restoration Project – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Grant and Douglas Counties, Washington – (\$57,815) – The goal of this project is to restore 200 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land, currently dominated by non-native grasses, to a native shrub-step habitat and prepare the area for the eventual reintroduction of the highly endangered Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit. Habitat restoration will also benefit other species, including sage grouse and Washington ground squirrel. This project is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and The Nature Conservancy.

Morgan Weir Prairie Restoration Project – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Thurston County, Washington – (\$61,952) – The Nature Conservancy will restore 130 acres of prairie habitat suitable for the colonization or introduction of seven at-risk animal species and establish new populations of two at-risk plant species; including one federally threatened and three species recently petitioned for emergency listing. The restoration effort will be guided by the South Puget Sound Prairie Landscape Site Conservation Plan - a regional plan that was produced through a cooperative effort of federal, state, and local agencies, conservation organizations, universities, and landowners. The land is adjacent to and will compliment the conservation area of the Fort Lewis Weir Prairie through the enhancement of a contiguous private property.

West Virginia

Circumneutral Conifer-hardwood Seepage Swamp Forest: Habitat Management and Restoration for 19 at Risk Species – (application by

The Nature Conservancy) – Tucker County, West Virginia – (\$95,201) – The Nature Conservancy will initiate habitat management, enhancement, and protection activities with the landowner on 1,100 acres he has retained in Canaan Valley. Their comprehensive plan to restore circumneutral conifer hardwood seepage swamp forest has four goals including: restoration of red spruce hardwood forest; protection of approximately four miles of stream, riparian habitat and wetlands from livestock; restoration of balsam fir to wetlands; and removal of broad-leaved cattail. The project will benefit at-risk species including northern goshawk, saw-whet owl, American bittern, harrier, Virginia rail, West Virginia northern flying squirrel, Cheat Mt. Salamander, and redbreast dace, a fish.

Wisconsin

Southern Wisconsin Prairie Recovery Project – (application by The Prairie Enthusiasts) – Iowa , Rock, Crawford, Sauk and Dane Counties – (\$124,311) – The Prairie Enthusiasts will work with twenty private landowners, including The Nature Conservancy and Madison Audubon Society, to accomplish prairie recovery and enhancement activities to benefit prairie bush clover, eastern prairie-fringed orchid, and 16 other imperiled species. The project entails controlling and/or eliminating invasive native and non-native tree and shrub cover.