

Project Descriptions Arranged by State  
FY2009 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

**Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants by State:**

**Alabama**

**Acquisition of the Molpus Tract\* (Monroe County, AL):** \$2,067,800. This grant will enable the acquisition of 4000 acres in Alabama's Red Hills region. The acquisition of the Molpus Tract by the state of Alabama will provide the first large acreage of Red Hills salamander habitat in public ownership. Protection of lands containing the forested slope habitats used by Red Hills salamander will ensure management of adjacent upland and bottomland habitats will remain compatible with the recovery needs of the Red Hills salamander. The Molpus Tract will be acquired as part of Alabama's Forever Wild Program and managed to maintain existing natural habitats, and to restore pine plantations to native longleaf and bottomland forests.

**California**

**City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP) (San Diego County, CA)** \$6,000,000. This project will purchase 100-200 acres of important biological core area for California gnatcatchers. The purchases would also benefit another 30 species, including least Bell's vireo, California least tern, and western snowy plover. The acquisitions will produce a preserve network that benefits covered species within the Carlsbad HMP through maintaining core breeding habitat and critical regional linkages.

**Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Riverside County, CA)** \$6,000,000. This will purchase lands that will greatly enhance the existing Coachella Valley MSHCP by securing key regional wildlife linkages, sand transport areas, and preserving core habitat areas. The land acquisition will benefit 20 species, including seven federally listed species such as Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise and peninsular bighorn sheep. The proposed acquisition will complement and greatly enhance the ecological value of the many other acquisitions that have previously occurred in these areas in the last few years.

**East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan: Upper Marsh Creek Watershed\*** (Contra Costa County, CA) \$2,407,200. This project would acquire up to 900 acres that provide essential habitat and connectivity for multiple species. The habitat acquisition area supports the largest concentration of ponds, seasonal wetlands, and ephemeral streams in the HCP area and is crucial habitat for wetland-dependent species such as California Red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. In addition, acquisition focus area also supports the vast majority of the chaparral habitat that remains in the area, essential habitat for Alameda whipsnake and several covered plant species.

**Montana**

**Clearwater Lands Project (Missoula County, MT)** \$6,000,000. The Clearwater lands acquisition of 7,871 acres would work toward eventual protection of the larger Clearwater land block of over 23,000 acres. This project would complement the Plum Creek HCP by protecting lands for the covered bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and mountain whitefish. Acquisition of these lands would provide linkage with adjacent protected wilderness and roadless areas, which would benefit not only the covered species, but also the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and gray wolf that use this area as a corridor. This project involves the participation of many

partners and has been recognized as one of the largest and most important conservation efforts in the country. We recommend full funding of \$6,000,000 for this proposal.

### **Washington**

**Plum Creek HCP – Okanogan-Similkameen Watershed, Phase 2** (Okanogan County, WA) \$4,000,000. This project will secure approximately 7,900 acres of two ecologically critical animal movement corridors, one for wide-ranging carnivores such as grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, and wolverine and their ungulate prey and the other linking the grassland/shrub-steppe habitat of southern British Columbia with the shrub-steppe habitat of the Columbia Basin. The acquisition will provide benefits for at least 48 species State or federally listed as threatened or endangered in Washington State, the U.S., and Canada.

**Plum Creek HCP – Methow Watershed, Phase 6** (Okanogan County, WA) \$2,000,000. This phase of the partnership will secure up to 870 upland acres and stream frontage protecting landscape corridors. Protection of these low elevation mature conifer and riparian forest habitats contributes to the State's most successful acquisition effort with almost 20,000 acres already protected. The Methow Watershed supports a unique and diverse assemblage of fish and wildlife species and this project will benefit grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx, and salmon.

**Cedar River Watershed HCP – I-90 Wildlife Corridor, Phase IV** (Kittitas and King County, WA) \$6,000,000. Funding for this project will acquire 100 acres of habitat along Interstate Highway 90, near Snoqualmie Pass, Washington. The acquisition will protect habitat for northern spotted owl, gray wolf, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout. In addition, it will also contribute to habitat protection and improved ecological connectivity for 60 species of terrestrial vertebrates, including wolverine, marten, and Pacific giant salamander, by enhancing linkages between the north and south Cascade Mountains along the I-90 corridor. Acquisition and match lands will add habitat protection and connectivity to the Cedar River Watershed.

### **Wisconsin**

**Karner blue butterfly HCP land acquisition –Quincy Bluff** (Adams County): \$1,533,000. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is awarded \$1,533,000 to fund the acquisition of a 240-acre parcel and an 870-acre parcel located within the Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area. Purchase of these properties substantially benefits the restoration and management of the ecosystem present on the complex of lands owned in central Wisconsin. Once acquired, they will be permanently protected and managed for the Karner blue butterfly to assist in the recovery of the Glacial Lake Wisconsin KBB Recovery Unit. The acquisition of these parcels will help connect State Natural Area lands owned by The Nature Conservancy with those owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which currently total over 5,000 acres.

## **Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants by State:**

### **California**

**City of San Diego Vernal Pool Species Habitat Conservation Plan** (San Diego County, CA) \$615,000. This project would support the development of and HCP for Vernal Pools in the San Diego Region. This HCP would be developed in response to legal challenges to the MSCP. The Vernal Pool HCP would encompass a significant portion of the range and existing habitat of 8 federally listed and rare species. The types of vernal pools evaluated for this HCP are geographically restricted and exhibit high rates of endemism; therefore, protecting a large portion of their extant habitat will contribute directly to their long-term preservation.

**Butte Regional Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan** (Butte County, CA) \$536,588. This project would support the development of an HCP/NCCP for Butte County to provide for the protection and conservation of the region's biodiversity while allowing for appropriate development and growth to occur. Butte County has recently been experiencing rapid growth that could degrade and fragment Butte County's sensitive habitats and species. The Butte Regional HCP/NCCP will permanently protect habitat, establish preserves, and establish management guidelines for the conservation and recovery of at least 41 sensitive species.

**Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan** (Yolo County, CA) \$634,988. This project would fund the continued work on the Yolo County HCP/NCCP. The HCP/NCCP will address the need for broad-based planning to provide for the protection and conservation of the region's biodiversity while allowing for appropriate development and growth to occur. Fifteen federally listed and fifty-four other sensitive species will benefit from implementation of the HCP/NCCP. The Plan will also provide conservation benefits to crop and vernal pool pollinators.

### **Colorado**

#### **See Multi-State Grants**

**San Luis Valley HCP** (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties, CO) \$120,000. This HCP will result in conservation efforts focusing on more than 2 million acres and 150 stream miles in 5 counties (the largest single conservation plan in Colorado). It will benefit the southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, bald eagle, and number of other riparian species. A groundswell of local support for the San Luis Valley HCP, its associated process, and riparian habitat conservation in general, has occurred within the last few years. This remarkable level of support indicates the broad-based support and cooperative spirit associated with this effort. However, the San Luis Valley is located in an economically depressed area of Colorado and lacks the significant financial resources needed to complete a large regional HCP. Therefore, additional Section 6 funding is vital to the completion of this effort. The State of Colorado is engaged in assisting in this multi-county effort and is interested in facilitating the San Luis Valley HCP as a model approach for regional habitat conservation planning efforts for other local jurisdictions.

### **Florida**

**Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches (35 Coastal Counties Statewide, Florida):** \$753,968. This grant will assist in the third year of this HCP planning effort. Stakeholders plan to assimilate acquired data into a detailed draft of the HCP. Activities in the coastal area and their threats to listed species will be analyzed. The goal of the HCP is to allow ongoing beach structure protection measures while limiting and mitigating the adverse effects to

nesting sea turtles, beach mice subspecies, and shorebirds, including wintering piping plover. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is leading this effort in conjunction with builders groups, municipalities, and others.

#### **Kansas**

**See Multi-State Grants**

#### **Montana**

**See Multi-State Grants**

#### **Multi-State Grants**

**Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Wind Energy HCP. (States: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas) \$1,080,990.** The planning proposal requests \$1,080,990 in Federal funding. The planning proposal lands encompasses the whooping cranes migration route in the U.S. and their wintering grounds, along with containing a significant portion of current and historic habitat of the lesser prairie-chicken. This bi-regional habitat conservation plan will be the first of its type in the country to involve alternative fuel sources and climate change issues while protecting imperiled species.

#### **Nebraska**

**See Multi-State Grants**

#### **New Mexico**

**See Multi-State Grants**

#### **North Dakota**

**See Multi-State Grants**

#### **Oklahoma**

**See Multi-State Grants**

#### **Oregon**

**Conservation Planning for Oregon Highway Right-of-Ways: Development of a State-wide, Multi-species HCP** (Statewide all counties, OR) \$477,963. This funding will allow Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Transportation to complete development of baseline inventory of populations of 28 listed and sensitive species in roughly 75,000 acres of State-managed highway right-of-ways and create management plans that incorporate the latest scientific knowledge and best management practices for these species, impacts will be minimized. Where traffic safety issues require actions resulting in incidental take of these species, the HCP will outline the specific conservation and habitat enhancement actions needed to mitigate any losses.

**Yamhill County Multi-Species HCP** (Yamhill County, OR) \$391,000. This planning assistance grant will allow Yamhill County to develop an HCP for county owned and managed lands, providing long-term protection of populations and habitat, and allowing for a more economical and ecological approach to species conservation and mitigation. The HCP will provide protection of the federally listed Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, Nelson's checkermallow, Bradshaw's lomatium, and Willamette daisy as well as the streaked horned lark, a candidate for listing.

## **South Dakota**

### **See Multi-State Grants**

## **Tennessee**

**Development of Habitat Conservation Plans for the Cumberland Regon, Tennessee (Scott, Morgan, Cumberland Counties, Tennessee):** \$855,584. This grant will assist in the continued planning for a region-wide HCP to protect aquatic and forest resources in the Cumberland region. Several mammals, mussels, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and aquatic invertebrates would benefit from this pre-emptive attempt to develop protective measures in an ecologically diverse region that is beginning to experience increased development and resource extraction issues. The HCPs, one for forest resources, and one for aquatic resources, will provide management prescriptions and regulatory guidelines to minimize and mitigate development effects on the target species and habitats.

## **Texas**

### **See Multi-State Grants**

**Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program HCP** (Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Medina, Uvalde) \$1,063,125. The planning proposal requests \$1,063,125 in Federal funding. The scope of the HCP will provide protection throughout the entire range of the eight federally-listed species in the springs and their encompassing aquifer (Edwards Aquifer). The primary threat to these species is the loss of habitat from reduced springflows.

## **Washington**

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Area HCP** (Statewide, all 39 counties, WA) \$741,034. This grant funds the fifth year of an HCP process for the State's wildlife areas covering a total of approximately 900,000 acres. The HCP will offer benefits to more than 50 listed and at-risk species and land users by providing certainty that land management activities meet Federal species protection requirements. Listed species that will benefit include but are not limited to: pygmy rabbit, western snowy plover, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Oregon silverspot, and golden paintbrush. Unlisted species include greater sage-grouse, burrowing owl, Oregon spotted frog, Larch Mountain salamander, coho salmon, Mardon skipper, and Taylor's checkerspot.

## Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:

### Arizona

**Sonoita Creek Ranch Acquisition\*** (Santa Cruz, AZ): \$307,542. The Arizona Game and Fish Department requests \$1,000,000 to acquire a 1,126-acre tract that would primarily benefit the Gila topminnow. The proposed acquisition would expand the range of the Gila topminnow, and provide more security to the Monkey Springs population of topminnow.

### Arkansas

**An ecoregion approach for recovery and protection of karst dependent federally listed species** (Benton County, Arkansas): \$403,096. This grant will enable the acquisition of 119 acres of forest on the Smith Tract. It is adjacent to Logan Cave which holds a maternity colony of gray bats (endangered), the largest population of *Cambarus aculabrum* (endangered), and the second largest population of threatened Ozark cavefish. Protection of the Smith Tract provides foraging habitat and unrestricted flying zone for gray bats. By further protecting bats, the guano source remains in the area for lower cave animals like the crayfish and cavefish that depend on it. This tract also adds a buffer of protection to the cave site against human disturbance and illegal access and adds a level of protection to the recharge zone and its water quality.

### California

**Mojave River Riparian Area\*** (San Bernardino County, CA) \$1,920,369. This project would acquire up to 700 acres of desert riparian habitat and 1200 acres of adjacent desert upland habitats that occur along the Mojave River. The fee-title and easement acquisitions would benefit more than 15 sensitive species including the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo, and the federally threatened desert tortoise. The habitat acquisition area falls within a unique 15.2-mile region of the Mojave River where perennial water flows support a lush riparian plant community. The acquisitions would maintain important habitat connectivity and support native species dispersal in the only major riparian habitat corridor in the western Mojave Desert region.

**Amargosa Vole - Tecopa Land Acquisition** (Inyo County, CA) \$64,163. This project would acquire fee-title or easements on private properties that support approximately 22 acres of some of the last remaining unprotected habitat for the federally endangered Amargosa vole and the Amargosa niterwort. The private properties within the habitat acquisition area are generally situated within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Amargosa River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and within designated critical habitat for the Amargosa vole. Acquiring the properties or easements would support habitat connectivity in the area by linking core habitats for Amargosa vole into a series of interconnected parcels. The acquisitions would also allow management actions necessary for the recovery and long-term protection of core habitat and populations of the endangered Amargosa vole, while also supporting the recovery of Amargosa niterwort in the region.

**San Diego River, Hanlon-Walker\*** (San Diego County, CA) \$1,000,000. The proposal is to acquire approximately 122 acres of habitat in the San Diego River over two phases. The acquisition of the property will benefit recovery of the State and federally endangered least Bell's vireo, the State and federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, and the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher by preserving important habitat for these species and protecting the site from future development. Implementation of this conservation strategy will help the recovery of threatened and endangered species by building a corridor of

contiguous conserved native habitat along the 52-mile long San Diego River. The San Diego River provides the primary east-west habitat linkage in the City of Santee. Additionally, the reach of the San Diego River within the City of Santee, including the site of the Hanlon-Walker acquisition, provides a key linkage between the core habitat areas of Mission Trails Regional Park to the west and Lakeside to the north and east.

### **Georgia**

**Acquisition of the Dawson Forest / Forestar Tract (Dawson County, GA):** \$1,000,000. This grant will enable the acquisition of 488 acres within the Amicalola River Basin. The acquisition of the Dawson Forest/Forestar tract by the state of Georgia is critical to maintain contiguous buffers along Amicalola Creek and its tributaries. Protection of lands with mature forest stands in upland areas, like the Dawson Forest/Forestar Tract, help maintain a natural hydrologic regime in streams. Populations of Etowah darter, an endangered species, occur on this tract. This tract is an in-holding within the State owned Dawson Forest WMA, and acquiring it will connect portions of the WMA that are separated by this tract. Permanent protection of this tract will maintain a forested landscape and will protect Amicalola Creek from development that would result in increased nutrients, sediment, and alteration in hydrology. State ownership also will allow the property to be managed long-term as a Wildlife Management Area.

### **Hawai'i**

**Kainalu Forest Watershed Acquisition\*** (Maui County, HI) \$1,000,000. The objective of this acquisition is to acquire a perpetual conservation easement over 614 acres of strategic watershed on the eastern end of the Island of Molokai. Stretching from the summit almost to the ocean, this connected parcel follows the traditional Hawaiian land delineation and management system or ahupua'a. The property has several identified federally listed threatened or endangered species as well as critical habitat in and around the proposed easement area. Listed species benefitting include: *Bidens wiebkei*, *Canavalia molokaiensis*, *Hibiscus arnottianus* ssp. *immaculatus*, *Brighamia rockii*, *Cyanea dunbarii*, *Gardenia brighamii*, *Pritchardia munroi*, and the proposed endangered *Phyllostegia hispida*.

### **Kentucky**

**Acquisition of Robinson Tracts, Licking River** (Harrison and Robertson Counties, Kentucky): \$1,097,000. This grant will enable the acquisition 690 acres along Licking River for the benefit of the endangered Short's goldenrod and other listed species. This proposal will help protect 2 miles of the Licking River and allow for restoration of Short's goldenrod habitat and potential reintroductions. It also has possible or potential benefits for running buffalo clover in addition to other listed species like our most imperiled freshwater mussels.

### **Louisiana**

**Acquisition of Crosby tract for the benefit of red cockaded woodpeckers** (Vernon Parish, LA): \$500,000. This grant will enable the acquisition of 653 acres for the benefit of the red cockaded woodpecker. This land acquisition project will directly contribute toward recovery of the Fort Polk/Vernon Unit core recovery population of RCW and at least 15 other species of conservation concern by restoring and permanently protecting important longleaf pine habitat. The targeted tract will protect a portion of one of the few known highly productive nesting areas of RCWs on private lands. This habitat will fill an important role in the life cycle of the RCW population by providing quality foraging habitat during this project period and serve as an important recruitment site for other RCW clusters.

## **Michigan**

### **See Multi-State Grants**

## **Missouri**

**Acquisition of Marquette Island, an important resource for pallid sturgeon and interior least tern recovery on the Middle Mississippi River\* (Cape Girardeau County, Missouri): \$242,699.** The Missouri Department of Conservation is awarded \$242,699 (or all remaining R3 2009 Recovery Land Acquisition funding) to help acquire 835 acres located in Cape Girardeau. The habitat present on Marquette Island contains 550 acres of forest, primarily cottonwood and willow, and approximately 280 acres of sandbar habitat. The acquisition lies within the Cape Hills Conservation Opportunity Area, as identified in the Missouri Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy, and has been identified by a number of conservation partners as an important area for conservation action. Addition of Marquette Island to the conservation land holdings within the Middle Mississippi River floodplain will support recovery goals for the pallid sturgeon, interior least tern, and Indiana bat; support the goals of the Middle Mississippi River Partnership, which is a collaboration of 16 federal and state agencies and not for profit organizations; and provide a recreational resource on the Middle Mississippi River.

## **Multi-State Grants**

**Copperbelly water snake habitat acquisition in Williams County, OH, and Hillsdale County, MI (Williams County, OH and Hillsdale County, MI): \$488,200.** The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will acquire fee title on three parcels totaling 140 acres of copperbelly water snake habitat within the Mud Lake Complex. The protection and restoration of sites within this complex is critical to the conservation and expansion of copperbelly water snake populations in this region. Restoration of the parcels will complement the surrounding habitat conditions and will include expanding wetlands where possible, and tree plantings. Various tracts totaling more than 1,200 acres have been identified as options for acquisition if the primary tracts are no longer available.

## **New Jersey**

**Bog Turtle Recovery/Armstrong Bog (Sussex County, NJ) \$500,000.** The State of New Jersey proposes to acquire a 324 acre property known as Armstrong Bog to protect habitat for the federally-threatened, state-endangered Bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), state-threatened Wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) and rare plant species Fraser's St. John's-wort (*Triadenum fraseri*). Armstrong Bog is one of the premier individual sites in northern New Jersey characterized as a calcareous fen wetland and is known to support a strong population of Bog turtles of multiple age classes.

## **Ohio**

### **See Multi-State Grants**

## **Oklahoma**

**An Ecoregion Approach for Recovery and Protection of Karst Dependent Federally Listed Species (Oklahoma) \$569,790.** The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation requests \$569,790 in Federal funding to acquire 382-acre J.R. Higgins tract and use any remaining RLA funds to acquire either the 352-acre Bashaw tract or the 240-acre Howard tract (both are of high ecological value with Oklahoma). The J.R. Higgins tract was selected as a priority because it contains Anticline Cave (called Roberts Cave in the Gray Bat Recovery Plan), which is used as a

maternity site by nearly 30,000 gray bats and is identified as a priority cave for acquisition in the Gray Bat Recovery Plan.

## **Oregon**

**Big Creek** (Lane County, OR) \$1,007,000. Funding will acquire the 193-acre Big Creek property; which will benefit at least 11 species of conservation concern. The property fills critical roles in the life cycle of the Oregon silverspot butterfly, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coastal coho salmon; all listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

**Upper and Lower Table Rocks** (Jackson County, OR) \$507,000. The Nature Conservancy, as a subgrantee to the Oregon Department of State Lands, will acquire and manage 1,690 acres supporting 20 at-risk species. The vernal pools on this property provide habitat for the federally listed vernal pool fairy shrimp and state listed dwarf woolly meadowfoam. The property is also suspected to provide habitat for the endangered large-flowered woolly meadowfoam and Gentner's fritillaria.

**Cardwell Hill Conservation Easement** (Benton County, OR) \$256,820. This funding will acquire conservation easements over five parcels of property totaling 65.5 acres of upland and riparian habitat in the Cardwell Hill area of Benton County, Oregon. The conservation easements will protect critically important populations of the federally listed Fender's blue butterfly and its host plant Kincaid's lupine and provide for the opportunity for introduction of Willamette daisy, Nelson's checkermallow, and golden paintbrush.

## **Texas**

**Creating the Ranchito-Laguna Atascosa Corridor for Ocelots and other Wildlife in South Texas** (Cameron, TX) \$840,593. The Nature Conservancy requests \$840,593 in Federal funding to acquire through fee title a 1,242-acre tract that would protect the ocelot, jaguarundi, northern aplomado falcon, and several State-listed species, located in Cameron County, Texas. Protection of thornscrub woodlands and wooded waterways, such as resacas, is a high priority for ocelot and jaguarundi continued existence as well as being needed for both species' recovery. The 1,242-acre tract contains a wooded riparian zone along a resaca that provides existing suitable habitat for a travel corridor, and is large enough to potentially support three adult ocelots. Acquisition would contribute to recovery plan criteria: protect existing corridors and create new dispersal corridors.

## **Utah**

**White Dome Nature Preserve** (Washington County, UT) \$910,500. This project builds on past grant awards permanently protecting an 800-acre ecosystem complex called White Dome in Washington County, Utah. Full funding of this proposal would complete acquisitions for the White Dome Preserve. The proposed reserve contains approximately 20 percent of the known populations of the critically endangered dwarf bear poppy, which is only known from seven populations in Washington County. The project also would protect habitats for Siler pincushion cactus, a rare plant endemic to the Utah/Arizona border area. The habitat for both the dwarf bear poppy and Siler pincushion cactus in Utah is threatened with rapid urbanization. Desert tortoise also is known from the site.

## **Vermont**

**Establishment of a new wildlife management area protecting the Athens Dome Wetland Complex – Northeastern bulrush** (Windham County, VT) \$300,000. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and The Nature Conservancy will protect 525 acres as a new Wildlife

Management where numerous beaver-influenced wetlands provide ideal habitat for the federally-endangered Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*). This wetland complex includes two documented occurrences of Northeastern bulrush. This project is a unique opportunity to protect the Northeastern bulrush in a relatively undisturbed setting as there are no roads or other infrastructure that would be potentially impacted by natural beaver population dynamics.

**Establishment of Raven Ridge Preserve – Indiana Bat** (Addison & Chittenden County, VT) \$500,000. The Raven Ridge Conservation Project is a collaborative effort to protect over 420 acres of vital wildlife habitat, statewide-significant natural communities including Dry Oak-Hickory-Hophornbeam Forest, vernal pools and other wetlands, stream frontage, unusual geologic features, public recreational trails and scenic viewpoints, and maternal roosting and foraging habitat of the Indiana bat. Conservation of this land will contribute to the recovery of the federally-endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) by protecting some of the most northerly maternity colony habitat located in Vermont and in the entire Indiana bat's range in the United States.

### **Washington**

**San Juan Islands *Castilleja* Conservation Project\*** (San Juan County, WA) \$747,846. This funding will enable the San Juan County Land Bank, as a subgrantee to Washington Department of Natural Resources, to protect up to 41 acres of habitat supporting the threatened golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*). This project will directly contribute to golden paintbrush recovery by protecting an existing golden paintbrush plant population that can be managed and augmented. The project is also expected to benefit two rare butterflies, the island marble and Taylor's checkerspot.

\* Indicates partial funding awarded