

FY2005 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants by State:

California

City of Rancho Palos Verdes, Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan (Los Angeles County, CA) (now known as Trump National Golf Club Habitat Conservation Plan): \$2,000,000. This project will contribute to the acquisition of 681 acres, currently in private ownership, of coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland habitat within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. These lands have important benefits for federally listed Palos Verdes blue butterfly and coastal California gnatcatcher and the ecosystem processes that support their habitats. The few remaining private parcels within Rancho Palos Verdes provide about half the remaining natural habitat worldwide for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly. Similarly, these properties are critical in maintaining the largest remaining gnatcatcher populations on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and connectivity between populations.

Orange County Central/Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan/ Habitat Conservation Plan (Orange County, CA): \$3,120,741. This grant will contribute to the acquisition and conservation of habitat to benefit the federally listed coastal California gnatcatcher and least Bell's vireo. These acquisitions will also complement the conservation already underway through implementation of the Orange County Central/Coastal Natural Communities Conservation/Habitat Conservation Plan. Acquisitions and easements are being considered in Middle Chiquita Canyon and the San Mateo Creek watershed. Middle Chiquita contains large amounts of coastal sage scrub and grasslands and is part of the largest remaining gnatcatcher population in the United States. Easements in the San Mateo Creek watershed would conserve the north-south linkage between Camp Pendleton and the Orange County Central Coastal Natural Communities Conservation/Habitat Conservation Plan through the Rancho Mission Viejo property for both the California gnatcatcher and the least Bell's vireo.

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Riverside County, CA): \$5,000,000. This grant will contribute to the acquisition and conservation of habitat that complements the on-going conservation efforts in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Parcels in four areas are being considered for acquisition, including Wilson and Cactus Valleys, Interstate 15 Corridor (Corona to Murrieta), Colton Sand Dunes, and Badlands and Pass Area. These areas are important habitat linkages and support key populations of several federally listed animals and plants including Stephens' kangaroo rat, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, Quino checkerspot butterfly, Delhi Sands flower-loving fly, Munz's onion, Nevin's barberry and thread-leaved brodiaea.

San Diego County Subarea Multiple Species Conservation Program (San Diego County, CA): \$5,000,000. This grant will contribute to the acquisition and conservation of land that complements the on-going conservation efforts in the San Diego County Subarea Multiple Species Conservation Program. Lands being considered for acquisition or easements are located at Monte Vista Ranch and

Ramona Grasslands. Land protection in both areas would significantly complement the County of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Program reserve design and improve opportunities for wildlife movement along San Vicente Creek and Santa Maria Creek. Conservation of land at Monte Vista Ranch and Ramona Grasslands would benefit numerous federally listed animals and plants, including least Bell's vireo, San Diego thornmint, arroyo toad, coastal California gnatcatcher, southwestern willow flycatcher, Quino checkerspot butterfly, San Diego fairy shrimp, Stephens' kangaroo rat, and spreading navarretia plant. These lands also contain the largest population of wintering ferruginous hawks, a sensitive species, in San Diego County.

San Diego County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Program (San Diego County, CA): \$5,000,000. Acquisition and conservation of lands purchased in part by this grant will complement the on-going conservation efforts of the San Diego County Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan in seven northwestern San Diego County cities. Conservation of these lands will aid in the establishment of a contiguous preserve system that will sustain populations of federally listed and sensitive animals and plants, including the coastal California gnatcatcher, and least Bell's vireo, San Diego horned lizard, western spadefoot toad, and *Encinitas baccharis* plant.

Texas

Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Lucas Tract (Travis County, TX): \$6,890,000. This project will protect 140 acres of habitat for two endangered songbirds, the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. Additionally it will protect the New Comanche Trail Cave which provides habitat for 2 endangered karst invertebrates, the Tooth Cave spider and Bone Cave harvestman. The cave is one of only two confirmed localities where the Tooth Cave spider exists and is integral to the recovery of this species. Protection of this tract also provides critical connectivity between previously protected adjacent lands.

Utah

Washington County HCP Land Acquisition (Washington County, UT): \$10,000,000 Washington County, located in southwestern Utah, is one of the nation's fastest growing counties. A large portion of the county lies within the Mojave Desert ecosystem in the Virgin River drainage and provides habitat for nine federally-listed threatened or endangered species. The resulting conflicts between economic development and protection of threatened and endangered species have motivated local citizens and county government to join federal and state agencies and environmental groups in preparing the Washington County HCP. Land acquisition strategies include land exchanges and purchase of private lands from willing sellers.

Iron County HCPLA for Utah Prairie Dogs (Iron County, UT): \$600,000. Most of the remaining viable Utah prairie dog colonies occur on private lands; therefore, recovery of the threatened Utah prairie dog is directly reliant on successful implementation of conservation measures on private and municipal lands. Iron County, Utah supports the largest remaining populations and 75 percent of the

entire population of Utah prairie dogs. Funding from this grant will provide for land acquisitions and conservation easements with willing sellers to help develop a Utah prairie dog preserve system on private lands. In this scenario, prairie dog habitat lost to development on private lands and within municipal boundaries would be offset by the protection, enhancement, and maintenance in perpetuity of identified Utah prairie dog colonies and linkage habitat on private and municipal lands. The parcel identified for this acquisition is a priority colony sustaining a high density of Utah prairie dogs in a rapidly developing area under immediate threat of development.

Washington

Plum Creek Central Cascades HCP (Kittitas, Okanogan, and Yakima Counties, WA): \$7,417,805.

This grant will provide funding to purchase habitat to support the Plum Creek Central Cascades Habitat Conservation Plan. In Yakima County, permanent habitat protection will be provided for bird, mammal, amphibian, and fish species on approximately 7,000 acres of contiguous mature ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and riparian habitats in the Tieton River Canyon. In Kittitas County, this funding will purchase and permanently protect 297 acres of forested hillside on Amabilis Mountain and adjacent areas that flow into Swamp Lake within the Yakima River Watershed. Protection of these lands would protect the north/south wildlife corridor that runs between Keechelus and Kachess Lakes and provide habitat for marbled murrelet, spotted owl, and numerous terrestrial species. And in Okanogan County, this grant will acquire 600 acres securing more than 6,000 acres and 10 miles of stream frontage to protect mature conifer and riparian habitat corridors for 40 priority species including spotted owls, grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx, bull trout, and salmon in the Methow River Watershed.

Cedar River HCP, Phase 3 (King County, WA) \$1,617,138. This land acquisition will protect and restore up to 100 acres of habitat in the lower Cedar River ecosystem and improve habitat connectivity to areas beyond the Cedar River watershed to benefit species covered under the Cedar River HCP. It will create a more contiguous protected area that greatly improves the physical connection between habitats of the lower river valley and upper watershed. Bald eagles, bull trout, listed salmon, and unlisted species will benefit.

Washington DNR HCP (Jefferson, WA) \$2,052,250. These funds will be used to protect 1,176 acres of riparian and upland forest habitat which will contribute to the larger Hoh River Conservation Corridor. The project will conserve habitat for marbled murrelets, bull trout, northern spotted owls, and bald eagles in the lower Hoh River valley.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants by State:

Arizona

City of Tucson HCP (Pima County, AZ): \$257,740. In 2003 the City of Tucson, in collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, initiated the development of Segment I of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. This grant will enable the City to continue conservation planning efforts.

The overall benefit of the proposed conservation plan will be improved through coordination with conservation efforts of other jurisdictions, including Pima County, the Town of Marana, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Planning processes are underway that have the potential to impact the City of Tucson habitat conservation planning process, yet offer tremendous potential for protection of species at a landscape scale and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Species to be covered include cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, ground snake, lesser long-nosed bat, needle-spined pineapple cactus, pale Townsend's big-eared bat, Pima pineapple cactus, Tucson shovel-nosed snake, western burrowing owl, and western yellow-billed cuckoo.

Arkansas

The Big Woods of Arkansas (Arkansas, Phillips, Prairie, Monroe, St. Francis, White and Cross Counties, AR): \$250,250. This grant to the State of Arkansas will help start the planning phase of a multi-species landscape-level HCP in the Big Woods Area of Arkansas where a sighting of the ivory-billed woodpecker was recently confirmed. The plan will focus on the following six federally-listed endangered species: the ivory-billed woodpecker, the interior least tern, the red-cockaded woodpecker, and three federally-listed endangered mussels including the fat pocketbook, the pink mucket and the scaleshell. These funds will help the State of Arkansas and many partners work with private landowners and other stakeholders on timber and farm management, guiding and hunting to help provide habitat needed for the above species.

California

City of Encinitas Subarea Plan, Multiple Habitat Conservation Program, (San Diego County, CA): \$27,500. This grant will help the City of Encinitas continue preparation of a comprehensive multiple species subarea plan under the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program in northwestern San Diego County. This plan is being designed to address the conservation needs of listed and non-listed species including, the coastal California gnatcatcher, San Diego horned lizard, western spadefoot toad, *Encinitas baccharis*, and least Bell's vireo. The City of Encinitas is working in partnership with Federal, state and other local agencies to develop their subarea plan.

East San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program Plan (San Diego County, CA): \$184,000. This grant will help the County of San Diego continue preparation of a regional Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan in the eastern portion of the County. The East San Diego County Plan will cover about 1,551,600 acres and presents a significant opportunity to provide for conservation of numerous listed and non-listed species, including the bald eagle, least Bell's vireo, Laguna Mountain skipper, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and Stephens' kangaroo rat. Through development of this multiple species plan, urban development may be planned in such a manner that will provide habitat for species and open space for residents. The County of San Diego is partnering with other local agencies, as well as various federal and state agencies, to develop this plan.

City of San Marcos Subarea Plan, Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (San Diego County, CA): \$154,000. This grant will assist the City of San Marcos in completing its subarea plan under the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program in northwestern San Diego County. San Marcos is strategically located within the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program plan area, and development of this subarea plan will aid in the conservation of seven federally listed species and 14 additional sensitive species, through the preservation of more than 1,000 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat. Development of the subarea plan involves a partnership of Federal, state and local agencies, environmental organizations, and the building industry.

Placer County, Phase I, Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (Placer County, CA): \$193,000. Placer County currently is developing the first of three comprehensive, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plans and state Natural Community Conservation Plans to help resolve potential conflicts between development and the conservation of state and federally-listed and sensitive species. This grant will allow the County to complete the Phase 1 of the multi-species plan which covers over 221,000 acres in western Placer County and will address five plant and 28 animal species, including vernal pool species, salmon, and the California red-legged frog.

Mendocino Redwood Company Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, CA): \$137,000. The grant will help Mendocino Redwood Company in the preparation of its Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan and will be used to incorporate input from independent science advisors into the plan. The grant will also be used to expand the preliminary environmental documents to include a programmatic timber harvest analysis pursuant to the California Forest Practice Act. The resulting multi-species plan, which includes terrestrial vertebrates, amphibians, salmon, and plants will provide for long-term management of 232,000 acres of commercial timberland.

Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (Yolo County, CA): \$605,000. The grant will allow Yolo County and several of its cities (Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland and Winters) to continue preparation of a regional Habitat Conservation Plan and state Natural Communities Conservation Plan. The development of the plan is in response to the escalating urban growth in Yolo County and an attempt to reconcile growth with agriculture and habitat conservation. The native perennial grasslands, natural wetlands, and riparian forests that once existed in Yolo County have been reduced by agricultural and urban development, invasions of non-native annual grasses, and water diversion programs. The plan will address the need for broad-based planning to provide for the protection and conservation of the region's biodiversity while preserving agriculture and allowing appropriate development and growth to occur.

Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (Santa Clara County, CA): \$487,000. Santa Clara County has initiated a Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan program which proposes to cover approximately 440,000 acres within the county. Funding provided by the grant will allow the county and its partners to evaluate and draft conservation strategies for the county's natural areas that will result in a more efficient and less costly comprehensive local project permitting process and also provide a more thorough approach to

conserving and contributing to the recovery of many special status species, including the San Joaquin kit fox, the bay checkerspot butterfly, the California red-legged frog, steelhead and salmon, and several plants.

Solano County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (Solano County, CA): \$487,000. This grant will allow the Solano County Water Agency and several local agencies and cities to help finalize the Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan. The federally endangered Contra Costa goldfields are found in this area and are under intense development pressure. The conservation strategy that is developed through this comprehensive regional-scale plan will benefit the Contra Costa goldfields and other special status plants and animals.

Colorado

San Luis Valley Regional HCP (Alamosa, Conejos, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties, CO): \$120,000. This grant is essential to the completion of a regional approach to conservation in the San Luis Valley for the southwestern willow flycatcher and other listed and candidate species. The HCP will cover approximately 2 million acres and 150 stream miles and would be the largest single HCP in Colorado. Due to the wildlife value of the habitat proposed to be covered by the HCP for the southwestern willow flycatcher, it has the potential to provide high recovery benefits for the species. The HCP has broad support from a diverse array of Federal, state, and local governments and non-governmental organizations.

Georgia

Etowah River Basin HCP (Bartow, Cherokee, Cobb, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Lumpkin, Paulding and Pickens Counties, GA): \$98,398. This grant will help the Georgia Department of Natural Resources work with 20 local governments and 102 involved stakeholders in the implementation and completion of the Etowah River Habitat Conservation Plan. This regional plan will improve the conservation and protection of three federally listed aquatic species and four state-protected aquatic species. The Etowah River is known for its aquatic species diversity, and the area covered by the HCP also includes potential habitat for the reintroduction of five federally-listed mussel species. Local governmental officials will be implementing ordinances and policies to ensure the conservation and protection of imperiled aquatic species while allowing development to proceed in an environmentally-sound manner.

Illinois

Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Habitat Conservation Plan (Cook and Will Counties, IL): \$370,163. Recovery of the Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana* Williamson) in Illinois is highly dependent upon conservation efforts of private landowners. This Habitat Conservation Plan brings together a wealth of diverse views and expertise and will address impacts, such as filling and water quality issues, throughout the dragonfly's range in northern Illinois. The strong, broad partnership base has committed to contribute over \$800,000 to fill data gaps necessary in the planning process. The plan

covers two areas of concern: 1) the primary area encompasses 3,100 acres owned by the partners or managed by the partners; 2) the secondary area covers 22,000 acres and includes the area within the watershed that affects the primary area.

Oregon

Elliott State Forest HCP (Coos and Douglas County, OR): \$446,261. The Habitat Conservation Plan being developed by Oregon Department of Forestry for the 93,000-acre Elliott State Forest will contribute to the conservation of the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, bald eagle, and coastal coho salmon and numerous unlisted species. The conservation strategies developed for this Habitat Conservation Plan are intended to improve habitat for these species through time by combining two approaches to protecting species through sustainable forest ecosystem management and a set of specific strategies for covered species.

Texas

Hays County Regional HCP (Hays County, TX): \$753,750. This grant will help local officials in Hays County develop a regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP) to permanently protect endangered species. The HCP will be designed to permanently protect fully functional mature juniper-oak woodlands and oak savannas for endangered golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo and potentially other rare species. The RHCP would provide for conservation of the Covered Species in Hays County, and allow “one-stop shopping” for landowners and public entities to deal with complex endangered species issues, thereby providing more options and more certainty about future land uses.

Utah

Development of a New Iron County HCP (Iron County, UT): \$150,000. Development activities which result in take of Utah prairie dogs in Iron County have been covered by a county-wide HCP since July of 1998. The primary conservation measure in this HCP was the translocation of prairie dogs to restored habitat on Federal lands elsewhere in the county. Unfortunately, translocation efforts have not been successful enough to meet the county’s growing development pressure. This grant will fund development of a new Iron County HCP to establish a network of preserves on private lands that already support Utah prairie dogs. This will involve the identification of priority colonies on both private and Federal lands. In identifying and preserving these lands, a cooperative approach to species conservation and open space preservation will be achieved.

Washington

Washington State Hydraulic Project Approval HCP (Statewide, WA): \$660,000. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will prepare a multi-species programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan for the Washington State Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) program. The HPA is Washington's primary regulatory program to protect fish resources by addressing design and construction of development projects in or near state waters to lessen or mitigate impacts on fish and fish habitat.

Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Resources HCP (Statewide, WA): \$813,500. Washington Department of Natural Resources manages more than 2.4 million acres of submerged land in marine, estuarine and freshwater habitats. This grant will support the planning process to develop a multi-species programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan to ensure authorized activities on state-owned aquatic lands promote sustainable ecosystems, minimize cumulative impacts and increase protection, conservation, and recovery efforts for approximately 86 species proposed to be covered under the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Wildlife Area HCP (Statewide, WA): \$544,555. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will develop a multi-species, programmatic plan for the conservation of endangered and threatened species on approximately 830,000 acres of WDFW owned and managed Wildlife Areas. The purpose is to review land management activities that may be adversely impacting state and federally listed species and other species of concern. WDFW will develop revised management recommendations that will allow the agency to meet its legal and strategic mandates while affording maximum protection for listed species.

Family Forest HCP for Lewis County (Lewis County, WA): \$525,000. This Habitat Conservation Plan is a first of its kind effort to address the needs of endangered species, family forest landowners, and regulatory agencies. This final phase of funding will complete the planning process which will provide landowners and agencies with a programmatic approach to HCP implementation while providing critical aquatic and upland habitat needs for threatened, endangered, and species of concern on family forest land in Lewis County.

Multi-State Grants

Multi-State (Michigan and Indiana) Mitchell's Satyr Habitat Conservation Plan (LaGrange and LaPorte Counties, IN; Barry, Berrien, Branch, Cass, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Washtenaw Counties, MI): \$880,000. This Habitat Conservation Plan will be developed jointly by the Indiana and Michigan departments of natural resources through a 3-year planning process. The plan is needed to efficiently secure incidental take permits to conduct management activities for Mitchell's satyr in occupied habitat. The plan will be developed following an ecosystem management approach – prairie fens and surrounding lands necessary to support proper hydrology will be managed by restoring ecological processes. A broad stakeholder group is currently working towards recovery of the species as part of the Mitchell's satyr working group. Most of these stakeholders will play a significant role in the development of the HCP and some likely will participate in the steering committee.

Tennessee and Kentucky HCP (Wayne, McCreary, Pulaski, and Whitley Counties in KY; Anderson, Roane, Rhea, Scott, Campbell, Morgan, Cumberland, Bledsoe, Fentress, Pickett, Putnam and Overton Counties in TN): \$378,810. This second year grant will further support the States of Tennessee and Kentucky in the development of a multi-species, multi-county, landscape-level plan in the Northern Cumberlands area, including portions of the upper Tennessee and Cumberland River

watersheds. This area supports an extremely high diversity of freshwater fish, mussels, wildlife and plants. A Habitat Conservation Plan will help involve private landowners and other stakeholders work together to develop conservation strategies that will minimize and mitigate impacts from coal mining, forestry, and water supply at the landscape level. Nineteen federally-listed species are currently being considered in the planning process, including many imperiled freshwater mussels. Activities will include formation of working groups, a science advisory team, a legal advisory team, research to evaluate impacts to important species, species monitoring, and community outreach to increase public awareness of the Habitat Conservation Planning process.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:

Alaska

Steller's Eider Molting and Wintering Habitat (Kachemak Bay; Anchor River; Chignik Lagoon, AK): \$188,640. This project will protect key winter habitats used by the threatened Alaska Breeding Population of Steller's eiders on the Alaska Peninsula, Lower Cook Inlet, and the Kodiak Archipelago. It is being undertaken in partnership with the Alaska Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and will also benefit a diversity of migratory birds, including several listed as Species of Special Concern by the State of Alaska.

Arkansas

An Ecoregion Approach to Recovery of the Ozark Big-eared Bat and Three Other Federally Listed Karst Dependent Species: Phase II (Benton and Marion Counties, AR): \$405,190. This grant will support a plan to purchase tracts in both Oklahoma and Arkansas that provide foraging habitat, movement corridors, and roost sites for populations for Ozark big-eared bat, gray bat, and Indiana bat. The acquisition will also reduce the likelihood of extinction for the Ozark big-eared bat by providing increased dispersal opportunities and increased gene flow among isolated populations. Additionally, the project will result in increased protection of the Ozark cavefish.

California

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Santa Rosa Mountains (Riverside County, CA): \$100,000. Acquisition of land parcels totaling approximately 250 acres will ensure that this area remains intact, preventing further habitat fragmentation. These acquisitions will eliminate pending development threats and will protect Peninsular bighorn sheep and several other listed and sensitive plants and animals that are proposed for coverage under the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Contra Costa Goldfields (Solano County, CA): \$796,101. Acquisition of these parcels will protect vernal pool habitat that supports a geographically restricted endangered plant, the Contra Costa goldfields, along with other vernal pool species. The acquisition will contribute to the conservation goals

outlined in the draft recovery plan for vernal pool ecosystems, and provide a viable option for landowners wishing to sell their land for preservation rather than development.

Arroyo Toad (Riverside County, CA): \$200,000. This acquisition will support the purchase of habitat within Whitewater Canyon to protect arroyo toad and several other listed and sensitive species including the triple-ribbed milkvetch, desert tortoise, and endemic plant species that are proposed for coverage under the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Acquisition of privately owned parcels will eliminate pending development threats and contribute to the conservation of breeding and non-breeding habitat for the arroyo toad.

Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve (Sacramento County, CA): \$500,000. This project will protect vernal pool habitat that supports vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp and possibly other vernal pool species. The acquisition will contribute to the conservation goals outlined in the draft recovery plan for vernal pool ecosystems by providing permanent protection in the vicinity of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy's Preserve, a rapidly urbanizing area with significant vernal pool habitat.

Georgia

Dawson Forest/Glass Mountain Acquisition (Dawson County, GA): \$1,000,000. This acquisition will provide stream buffers along two miles of the Amicalola River, a very important tributary to the Etowah River. Populations of several imperiled fish species are located just downstream of the property.

Hawaii

Moanalua Valley Watershed Protection Project (Honolulu County, HI): \$1,634,364. Funding will help acquire 3,714 acres of the best remaining native forest on Oahu. It is home to 14 federally listed or candidate endangered plant species, three listed birds and three listed or candidate invertebrates. These lands will be added to existing State owned conservation lands in the Ko'olau Mountains and be administered by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Manuka Natural Area Reserve (Hawaii County, HI): \$78,750. This grant will fund acquisition of a 1-acre parcel located near the center of the Manuka Natural Area Reserve (NAR), established to protect in perpetuity a diverse range of natural communities including dry and mesic forests, subalpine shrublands and forests, lowland and coastal shrublands and grasslands, anchialine pools, pioneer vegetation on lava flows and lava tubes. These communities provide habitat for native plants and animals including the endangered Hawaiian hawk, Hawaiian hoary bat, and an endangered fern *Diellia erecta*. The parcel will be added to the NAR and managed in conjunction with the surrounding area for native species conservation.

Carlsmith Trust Property (Hawaii County, HI): \$875,000. Funding will acquire a 1,336-acre parcel located between 2,400 and 3,800 feet elevation on the wet windward side of Mauna Loa. The property is directly adjacent to the Waiakea Forest reserve and the parcel contains native lowland wet forest. To date, no formal biological surveys have been conducted on this property but the surrounding area provides habitat for the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat and Hawaiian hawk along with other globally rare species. Due to its remote nature and pristine condition these species are likely present on the property as well.

Iowa

See Multi-State Grants

Kentucky

Green River Acquisition (Hart County, KY): \$581,274. Purchase of these parcels will protect riverine and riparian habitat to benefit seven listed and one candidate mussel species by focusing on protection of tracts that lie along reaches where the species are known to occur. Additionally, it could provide opportunities for future reintroductions of declining mussel species.

Maine

Atlantic salmon – Narraguagus/Spring River Project (Hancock County, ME): \$500,000. This grant will contribute to the landscape level protection of 9,934 acres along the Narraguagus and Spring Rivers in Maine. Specific benefits to the endangered Atlantic salmon will include protection of 25,000 square meters of juvenile rearing habitat and 1,287 square meters of spawning habitat. With permanent riparian protections in place, The Nature Conservancy will manage the Narraguagus/Spring River property with the long term objective of transferring the land to the State of Maine. The project area is located adjacent to and north of the State of Maine's Donnell Pond Public Lands Unit and abuts the Spring River Ecological Reserve. Acquisition of this property would create up to 24,000 acres of contiguous conservation land in Hancock County.

Maryland

Dwarf wedge mussel (St. Mary's County, MD): \$225,000. This grant will be used to purchase a perpetual conservation easement on 85 acres within the McIntosh Run Watershed. The main stem of the McIntosh Run contains one of only three populations of the endangered dwarf wedge mussel in Maryland, and is considered the most viable population of the three. The property is adjacent to a ½ mile section of the 3.5 mile reach of McIntosh Run containing the dwarf wedge mussel populations. In addition, this property also supports an active bald eagle nest. Protection of this property is considered the first step in preserving at least 1680 acres in the watershed to insure the future viability of the McIntosh Run dwarf wedge mussel population.

Nebraska

Habitat Protection for Whooping Cranes, least Terns and Piping Plovers (Buffalo County, NE): \$175,000. This grant will fund the acquisition of habitat for the endangered whooping crane, endangered least tern, and threatened piping plover along the central Platte River. The river and its associated habitats are considered by conservationists to be the most important stopover for migratory birds in the nation's heartland and are of great importance to many waterfowl and water bird species. Much of the habitat in the central Platte valley is in private ownership and the threat of increasing human activity and development makes it highly desirable to protect these areas.

Nevada

Lahontan Cutthroat, Little Humboldt/Snowstorm Mountain (Elko County, NV): \$600,000. This grant will support the purchase of 6,883 acres of land and 39.5 stream miles of threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat located in the Snowstorm Mountain Range, Elko County, Nevada. Habitat will be purchased to meet conservation and recovery goals for this listed species within the Humboldt Distinct Population Segment of the Humboldt River Basin. This acquisition is considered a unique and limited opportunity to establish a self sustaining metapopulation of Lahontan cutthroat trout within the South Fork Little Humboldt River. Partners contributing to this \$1.3 million dollar acquisition include the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, and Trout Unlimited.

New York

Glacial Lake Albany Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Acquisition (Albany County, NY): \$210,000. This grant will support the purchase of approximately 14 acres of property to be restored for the benefit of the Karner blue butterfly. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will work in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy of Eastern NY and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission to acquire the property to be protected in perpetuity.

Ohio

Small Whorled Pogonia Conservation Easement Acquisition (Hocking County, OH): \$208,654. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources will acquire a conservation easement for small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) at Camp Oty'Okwa, one of three residential camps in the country owned and operated by a Big Brothers Big Sisters agency. The 160-acre easement would protect the small whorled pogonia population as well as provide a considerable buffer of similar habitat where more plants could potentially be found. Protection of this population is significant both ecologically and genetically because of its distance from the core populations. Upon protection of the site, a research plan will be initiated to address additional priorities of the recovery plan including monitoring existing and surveying for new populations.

Pymatuning Creek Conservation Easement Acquisition Initiative (Ashtabula County, OH): \$244,890. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources will acquire conservation easements in

Ashtabula County to aid in recovery efforts for the clubshell mussel (*Pleurobema clava*). The objective of this initiative is to continue to secure permanent conservation easements from willing landowners along the main stem of Pymatuning Creek. In Phase I, three landowners were identified to protect approximately 120 acres to benefit 5,000 feet of riparian habitat. Phase II will add an additional seven easements totaling 473 acres. The easements will complement the land acquisition efforts by the state and local agencies as well as nongovernmental organizations that presently exist along the main stem of the creek.

Oklahoma

An Ecoregion Approach to Recovery of the Ozark big-eared bat (Adair County, OK): \$425,850.

Acquisition of two tracts of land by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will protect 820 acres of high quality foraging habitat and at least three caves used by the endangered Ozark big-eared bat. These tracts are adjacent to the Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge and will facilitate dispersal between the Refuge and important protected habitats in Arkansas. Conservation of these essential karst features and surrounding forested habitat will greatly contribute toward recovery of this bat.

South Carolina

Forty-Acre Rock Heritage Preserve Acquisition (Lancaster County, SC): \$1,000,000. This grant will facilitate the purchase of 2,459 acres to supplement the Forty-Acre Rock Heritage Preserve providing a buffer and protection for numerous rare species on the preserve and a diverse mussel population in Flat Creek, adjacent to the preserve. The population of Carolina Heelsplitter at this location is thought to be the largest surviving population of this endangered species. Additional species located on the preserve include two federally listed, endangered plants (black-spored quillwort, smooth coneflower).

Tennessee

Flat Rock State Natural Area Acquisition (Rutherford County, TN): \$552,087. Two federally listed species (leafy prairie clover and Pyne's ground plum) and at least sixteen state-listed species will benefit from the purchase. Further, a significant limestone cedar-glade and barrens will be protected. Upon acquisition, a management plan to target conservation of federal and state listed species and their habitats will be produced.

Blaker Towhead Acquisition (Lake and Dyer Counties, TN): \$211,213. This acquisition will allow for hydrologic restoration of an area to benefit least tern and pallid sturgeon. The area is expected to benefit least tern by providing nesting habitat for the species, which currently uses this location as a resting site. The restoration of the area is expected to provide benefits to the recovery of pallid sturgeon by restoring hydrology and reconnecting cut-off features in the river.

Texas

La Sal Vieja, Corbett Ranch (Willacy County, TX): \$438,969. The Nature Conservancy will protect 500 acres of dense thornscrub on the 4,000-acre Corbett Ranch via conservation easement. The ranch contains optimum endangered ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) habitat, providing the largest continuous patch of ocelot habitat remaining on private land in the Rio Grande Valley. This ranch also contains thousands of individuals of endangered Texas ayenia shrub (*Ayenia limitaris*), which may constitute the largest known population in the United States. The easement will provide significant conservation benefit to the recovery of both species. Additionally, a portion of the northern shore of La Sal Vieja, one of only three hypersaline inland lakes in South Texas, will be preserved. This lake supports Western snowy plovers, long-billed curlews, and least terns.

Cobb Preserve, Clark Lyda Tract (Williamson County, TX): \$725,000. The Williamson County Conservation Foundation will protect approximately 65 acres (Cobb Preserve) of the northern portion of the 1,670-acre Cobb Ranch via a conservation easement. A portion of Cobb Cavern, one of the largest habitats known for endangered terrestrial karst invertebrates in Texas, will be permanently preserved by this easement. The Cavern is home to at least six species of rare and endangered terrestrial karst invertebrates, two of which are on the Federal endangered species list (the Bone Cave harvestman and Coffin Cave mold beetle) and one, *Neoleptoneta anopica* (no common name), is known only from Cobb Cavern. Additionally, Cobb Ranch supports endangered black-capped vireos and golden-cheeked warblers and a candidate species, the Georgetown salamander.

Utah

Lower Hubble Creek Restoration (Utah County, UT): \$448,800. This grant will provide funds to acquire important habitat for the endangered June sucker. The purchase will allow partners to restore and protect spawning, young-of-year, and juvenile habitat for June sucker while restoring wetland, tributary, and lake function on Utah Lake. These actions will benefit multiple native wetland and riparian species and provide non-native control, water quality improvements, and water management. Land would be managed as a natural area over the long term and would be accessible to the public.

White Dome Rare Plant Preserve (Washington County, UT): \$141,189. This grant will provide funds to acquire habitat to protect in perpetuity an ecosystem complex for the endangered dwarf bear poppy as well as the threatened Siler pincushion cactus and other sensitive species. White Dome is the last large, privately owned yet unprotected habitat for both of these plants in Utah. It is within the city boundaries of St. George and is part of a block of land covered by a master development plan for residential and commercial development. This area contains approximately 20 percent of all known poppy populations and is essential to the recovery of the species. The land will be managed as a rare plant preserve.

Washington

Nelson Creek Property Acquisition (Wahkiakum County, WA): \$651,533. The acquisition of this 180-acre parcel will enhance the recovery of the endangered Columbia white-tailed deer by providing secure foraging, resting, and breeding habitat adjacent to the Julia Butler Hansen Columbian White-

Tailed Deer National Wildlife Refuge. Many other species will benefit from preservation of the habitat including bald eagles, songbirds, Canada geese, ducks, mink, river otter, and amphibians.

Wisconsin

See Multi-State Grants

Multi-State

Prairie Bush Clover Multi-State Recovery Land Acquisition (Butler County, Iowa and Dane County, WI): \$279,493. The Iowa and Wisconsin departments of natural resources will acquire 265 acres for the conservation and protection of prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*). The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will acquire a 165-acre parcel known as Washington Prairie located in Butler County, Iowa. Acquisition will facilitate management for the benefit of prairie bush clover on this site by the Department. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will acquire a 100-acre site in Dane County that contains 10 acres of prairie remnant adjacent to the largest population of prairie bush clover in the state. Protection of this site (Westport Drumlin Prairie) is a Priority 2 Task in the prairie brush clover recovery plan. The Westport Drumlin Prairie project will advance the objectives of the recovery plan by allowing for the expansion of the prairie bush clover population.