

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FY 2013 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Project Descriptions Arranged by State**

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants by State:

California

**Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Riverside County)
\$3,000,000.**

This grant will result in the acquisition of up to 3,114 acres 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 federally listed species such as the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise, and peninsular bighorn sheep. The 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.

**San Diego County Water Authority Subregional NCCP/HCP (San Diego County)
\$3,000,000.**

These funds will purchase up to 300 acres that provide important habitat for the federally listed species covered by the HCP, including southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and coastal California gnatcatcher. The SDCWA NCCP/HCP is the most recently approved regional plan in southern California. The HCP area encompasses approximately 922,000 acres of land within western San Diego County and southwestern Riverside County. The acquisition of these lands will complement the areas already protected by the HCP and are critically important to many listed species.

**Western Riverside County Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan* (Riverside County)
\$2,773,398.** This grant will support the acquisition of approximately 483 acres of land in Riverside County. This acquisition will benefit numerous sensitive species including federally listed species like the California gnatcatcher, Arroyo southwestern toad, and Quino checkerspot butterfly. The acquisition will support the assembly of the 500,000-acre preserve that is part of the Western Riverside MSHCP by protecting large blocks of coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland habitats.

Utah

Washington County HCP Desert Tortoise Acquisition* (Washington County) \$1,419,266.

This grant will support the acquisition of up to 1,245 acres of habitat for the desert tortoise in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in southwestern Utah. Acquisition of these lands is essential in preserving the integrity of the reserve as these unburned parcels provide critical refugia for desert tortoises and seed sources for restoration of other areas of the reserve impacted by wildfires due to cheat grass invasions. Protecting this habitat will greatly complement the Washington County HCP and the work of many partners in establishing and managing the reserve for endangered species conservation.

Washington

I-90 Wildlife Corridor Phase V (King and Kittitas Counties) \$2,000,000.

This project will protect an additional 1,000 acres of habitat for the federally listed bull trout, northern spotted owl, gray wolf, and grizzly bear. In addition, it will protect habitat and improve habitat connectivity for 60 terrestrial vertebrates including wolverine, American marten, and Pacific giant salamander. This improved connectivity will increase the effectiveness of wildlife crossing infrastructure associated with the adjacent I-90 freeway. Acquisitions in this location are essential, as the opportunities to protect lands connecting the northern and southern Cascades are limited due to natural features and increasing human development. This latest acquisition, along with lands already protected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, will contribute to the ecological integrity of the Central Cascades Ecosystem, including the lands covered by the Cedar River Watershed HCP.

Mountain View 4-O Ranch 2013 (Asotin County) \$2,000,000.

This project will protect 2,400 acres in extreme southeastern Washington, including one mile of the Lower Grande Ronde River and three miles of tributaries that support federally listed bull trout, as well as steelhead, interior redband trout, Pacific lamprey, and many other sensitive aquatic species. This project is part of a larger, multi-phased, landscape-level project that will eventually protect 13,000 acres and 15 miles of streams. The project is bordered on the north by Forest Service lands and on the south and east by Bureau of Land Management lands. This is a rare opportunity to purchase a large, ecologically-intact, and diverse landscape that protects many habitat types including uplands, cliff and talus habitats, meadows, springs, curl-leaf mahogany shrubland, interior grassland, and Ponderosa pine woodlands that support the federally listed gray wolf, as well as elk, bighorn sheep, deer, and golden eagles.

* indicates partial funding

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants by State:

California

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta) \$410,818.

This grant will support the development of an HCP/NCCP for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta) Region. The Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast. The Delta supports over 750 plant and animal species, 126 of which are sensitive or listed as threatened or endangered. The Delta is also critical to California's economy, serving as the "hub" of the State's water infrastructure, supplying drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of highly-productive agricultural lands. The Bay Delta HCP/NCCP is being developed as a long-term comprehensive plan that will conserve and manage covered species and natural communities in perpetuity while providing reliable water supplies for the State's myriad of beneficial uses.

Placer County Conservation Plan (Placer County) \$911,500.

This funding will support the planning phase of the Placer County Conservation Plan in northern California. The county has partnered with other local, state, and federal agencies to develop the plan. Participating local agencies include unincorporated Placer County, the City of Lincoln, and the Placer County Water Agency. The primary objective of the plan is to balance development with the conservation of the county's natural resources and provide for the protection of sensitive species and their respective habitats. Numerous listed and sensitive species will benefit from this plan including vernal pool fairy shrimp, giant garter snake, and American peregrine falcon.

Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan (Yolo County) \$999,000.

This funding will support the planning phase of the Yolo Natural Heritage Program (Yolo County HCP/NCCP) in northern California. The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan, comprised of Yolo County and all four incorporated cities (Davis, Woodland, Winters, and West Sacramento) is collaboratively developing a plan to protect habitat and agricultural land countywide while allowing for effective coordination between development agencies and conservation agencies to ensure conservation occurs through an effective, collaborative, and cost-effective process. The plan will also direct growth within cities while preserving open space to ensure important species habitat remains undeveloped. Numerous listed and sensitive species will benefit from this plan including vernal pool tadpole shrimp, giant garter snake, California tiger salamander, and least Bell's vireo.

Owens and Mono Basins Riparian Habitat Conservation Plan (Mono and Inyo Counties) \$182,250.

This funding will support the planning phase of the Owens and Mono Basins Riparian Habitat Conservation Plan in eastern California. The draft HCP covers 310,000 acres owned by the City of Los Angeles and managed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in Inyo and Mono Counties, including all of the major waterways in the region. Other proposed plan activities include power production, livestock grazing, prescribed burning, fire suppression, weed control, agriculture, road maintenance, and habitat management. The HCP targets seven species including four federally endangered species: Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, Owens pupfish, and Owens tui chub.

Florida

Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches (35 Coastal Counties-Statewide) \$735,098.

This grant will assist stakeholders develop a 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 also be analyzed. The goal of the HCP is to allow for ongoing beach structure protection measures while limiting and mitigating the adverse effects to nesting loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, green, and hawksbill sea turtles, five beach mouse 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.

Polk County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Polk County) \$277,029.

This grant will assist in initiating planning for a county-wide HCP for scrub habitats benefitting the Florida scrub-jay, eastern indigo snake, sand skink, blue-tailed mole skink, and other dry scrub species. Implementation of an HCP in Polk County marks a significant step forward for scrub conservation in the heart of Florida's central ridge that can be linked to similar efforts in neighboring counties.

East Collier County Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Collier County) \$615,408.

This grant will assist planning for the first area-wide HCP to cover the endangered Florida panther. Expected results include production of a draft HCP and environmental impact statement. Implementation of this HCP will provide the first such conservation plan in the panther's primary recovery zone. The plan represents a collaborative effort among many private stakeholders with ranching, development, and conservation interests.

Georgia

Lower Flint River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (15 Southwest Georgia Counties) \$263,458.

This grant will assist in the second year of planning for a basin-wide HCP for aquatic habitats used by federally-listed mussels such as the shinyrayed pocketbook, oval pigtoe, Gulf moccasinshell, purple bankclimber, and fat threeridge. Other aquatic species to benefit include fifteen fish, mussel, reptile, and amphibian species of state management concern. Increasing demands for water resources in this vital agricultural area combined with recent droughts have made clear the need for proactive conservation planning in this region.

Hawaii

Coordination and Planning of the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Program on Kaua'i, Hawai'i (Kaua'i County) \$445,331.

This project will continue the development of an HCP for 14 applicants, including the County of Kaua'i, Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, to address incidental take of listed species from light attraction and utility line collisions. Three federally listed species -- the Hawaiian petrel, Newell's shearwater and green sea turtle -- one candidate species, the band-rumped storm petrel, and a host of endangered plants will be covered under the HCP. The green sea turtle was recently added to the covered species based on new information indicating that coastal lights have resulted in the take of nesting turtles. Ninety percent of the world's Newell's shearwater population breeds on Kaua'i and the population has declined by 75% since the early 1990s. When completed, the HCP will provide a legal solution to the incidental take of listed seabirds, enable multiple entities to obtain federal and state authorization of this take, and initiate mitigation to offset take through management that will benefit nesting seabirds and sea turtles.

Kaua'i Nēnē Island-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (Kaua'i County) \$508,348.

This project will develop an island-wide HCP for incidental take of the federally endangered Nēnē, or Hawaiian goose, associated with agriculture, public/air safety, and residential homes. The HCP will implement effective take avoidance and minimization strategies and ensure that these strategies are in accordance with the species' long-term recovery goals. The island of Kaua'i supports the only self-sustaining population of Nēnē and individuals are increasingly found foraging and nesting in agricultural areas, residential areas, and golf courses where fresh

water and food plants are abundant. These areas expose Nēnē to threats from agricultural operations, construction, vehicles, and predation from domestic animals. Occasionally, the presence of Nēnē at airports constitutes a risk to the safe operation of aircraft. The mitigation developed in the HCP will provide a net recovery gain for the species, and core areas where birds can safely forage and breed will be identified and managed. Public outreach and education funded as part of this grant will help offset growing tension among farmers whose crops are being damaged by Nēnē.

Multi-State

Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Wind Energy Development in the Midwest (Indiana, Michigan, Missouri- Statewide) \$950,000.

This grant will allow the natural resource agencies within the Service's Midwest Region to continue the development of a landscape-level, multi-species HCP throughout eight states to provide conservation benefits to listed species, while accommodating wind development. The plan will provide a means for wind energy developers to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and compensate for adverse effects to covered species such as the endangered Indiana bat, gray bat, interior least tern, Kirtland's warbler, piping plover, and several unlisted bat species. As a part of the HCP, all eight states in the Midwest Region will work in collaboration with the wind industry and The Conservation Fund to lead a strategic conservation planning process that focuses on integrating species needs with potential habitat mitigation across the landscape.

Oregon

Deschutes Basin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, Sherman, and Wasco Counties) \$410,000.

This project will continue the development of an HCP for the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, member irrigation districts, and the City of Prineville that will benefit aquatic-dependent species in the upper Deschutes Basin, while meeting current and future irrigation and municipal water needs in a balanced, economically viable, and sustainable manner. Eleven species will be covered under the HCP, including the federally listed bull trout as well as the middle Columbia River steelhead and the Oregon spotted frog, a candidate for federal protection. When completed, the HCP will provide ecosystem benefits to large areas of the upper Deschutes River basin, which includes the Metolius, Crooked, and Deschutes river basins.

Tennessee

Development of a Habitat Conservation Plan by City of Crossville and Cumberland County, Tennessee (Cumberland County) \$645,366.

This grant will assist in the ongoing development of the Cumberland region-wide HCP to protect aquatic resources. Several mammals, mussels, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and aquatic invertebrates will benefit from this effort to develop protective measures in an ecologically-diverse region that is beginning to experience increased development and resource extraction issues. The HCP will provide management prescriptions and regulatory guidelines to minimize and mitigate development effects on the target species and habitats. With the plan in operation, regulatory processes for the covered municipalities will be streamlined. Listed species include the Indiana bat, gray bat, spotfin chub (a fish species), purple bean (a freshwater mussel), and Cumberland rosemary and Virginia spiraea (plant species).

Washington

South Puget Sound Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan (Thurston County) \$626,687.

This project will continue the development of an HCP for the best remaining prairie habitats and restoration sites in South Puget Sound. It will identify the set of tools necessary to supplement more traditional conservation strategies to achieve the long-term preservation of a network of habitats needed for the survival of up to 18 species such as the threatened golden paintbrush and water howellia, as well as the mardon skipper, Mazama pocket gopher, and other species of concern.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:

Arkansas

Building a Conservation Corridor for the Recovery of Federally-Listed Species, Saline River (Ashley County) \$1,342,687.

This grant will enable the acquisition of 1,611 acres of important riparian and upland habitat adjacent to the Saline River to directly benefit two federally-listed endangered freshwater mussels, the winged mapleleaf and pink mucket. This acquisition will also benefit the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and serve to protect the rabbitsfoot, a mussel recently proposed for listing as threatened. This acquisition will help further achievement of the recovery criteria for these species by protecting known population locations and will increase protection of the most important section of the Saline River for mussels west of the Mississippi River.

California

Metcalf Meadow* (San Bernardino County) \$1,170,000.

This project will acquire and permanently conserve land within Metcalf Meadow, one of the few remaining intact meadows on the southern shore of Big Bear Lake. The parcels provide important habitat for the recovery of meadow and pebble plain plant species including the federally listed pedate checker-mallow, California taraxacum, San Bernardino bluegrass, and Bear Valley sandwort. The large, contiguous parcels are connected hydrologically with parts of Metcalf Meadow on nearby San Bernardino National Forest and are important to maintain given the sensitivity of meadow habitat to changes in hydrology that could occur if these lands were otherwise developed. The federally and state endangered southwestern willow flycatcher has also been documented along Metcalf Creek.

San Diego Mountain Ranch* (San Diego County) \$317,200.

This project will protect, through fee title acquisition, the San Diego Mountain Ranch which occupies a large part of the Miller Creek watershed and provides local connectivity between Miller Valley and Clover Flat. The areas along the creek offer high groundwater elevations and relatively wide floodplains, supporting wet grasslands. These stream habitats and the adjacent floodplain provide for breeding, rearing, foraging, and overwintering of the federally endangered arroyo toad. Acquisition will also benefit the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly given that the southern three-quarters of the San Diego Mountain Ranch constitute the largest single block of designated critical habitat for the species in the La Posta/Campo core occurrence

complex. Protecting the La Posta/Campo complex is vital to maintaining Quino checkerspot butterfly metapopulation dynamics by enabling exchange of individuals among subpopulations.

Colorado

Segelke-Carey Ranch for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (Larimer County) \$400,000.

This grant will fund the acquisition of the Segelke-Carey property, a rare opportunity to protect more than one mile of excellent riparian habitat for the threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse along the Colorado Front Range, where land values have kept protection out of reach. This acquisition will prevent development from encroaching on this important riparian and upland habitat and ensure connectivity with protected areas up and down stream.

Florida

Listed Species Recovery on the Lake Wales Ridge Conservation Easement for the Robinson Property (Highlands County) \$854,364.

This grant will enable the acquisition of a conservation easement on 565 acres on the Lake Wales Ridge to protect scrub habitat important for the federally threatened Florida scrub jay and sand skink as well as the gopher tortoise, a Federal candidate species. The conservation easement will help achieve recovery criteria for the Florida scrub jay and sand skink, expand an existing conservation area, and provide connectivity among existing managed lands.

Georgia

Acquisition of the Ironstob-Braswell Mountain Tract within the Raccoon Creek Basin, a Tributary to the Etowah River (Paulding County) \$1,000,000.

This grant will enable the acquisition of 1,000 acres along Raccoon Creek in the Etowah basin to benefit two federally-listed fish, the endangered Etowah darter and the threatened Cherokee darter. Raccoon Creek has been identified as essential habitat for the long-term survival of these fish and the acquisition of this tract will help meet recovery objectives for these species. Permanent protection of this tract will also provide important connectivity to other protected areas and benefit a number of other rare aquatic and terrestrial species in the watershed.

Hawai'i

Kalauao Acquisition and Endangered Species Recovery (Honolulu County) \$578,250.

This project will acquire 635 acres of forested lands on the island of O'ahu. This narrow tract lies between two existing conservation areas and extends to top of the Ko'olau Mountains at 2,750 feet in elevation and is part of USFWS-designated critical habitat for the endangered O'ahu 'Elepaio, an endemic Hawaiian songbird, and eleven plant species. The upper reaches of this parcel support some of the best examples of native forest remaining on O'ahu. The popular 'Aiea Ridge Trail falls entirely on the subject parcel, and thus offers hikers the opportunity to access high quality native forest and to observe native birds. This purchase will ensure continued public use, which in turn will result in a greater public appreciation for native forest. Project partners include the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership, and Kamehameha Schools.

Nebraska

Recovery Land Acquisition for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle (Lancaster County) \$190,301.

Acquisition and restoration of the habitat on this parcel will allow for reintroduction of the endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle. Providing additional reintroduction locations is critical for avoiding extinction of this highly-imperiled species with only a few hundred individuals left. This effort will also protect and restore Eastern Saline Wetlands, which are the most limited and endangered wetland type and vegetation community in Nebraska.

New Jersey

Bog Turtle Recovery in Sussex County I (Sussex County) \$40,000.

This acquisition project will purchase 20 acres of bog turtle habitat connecting two high-quality bog turtle population sites, thus providing landscape-level protection for this vulnerable federally threatened species. This property is part of a unique spring-fed wetland complex with calcareous fens and is host to a globally rare plant, the spreading globeflower. The State of New Jersey Green Acres Program is working with the New Jersey Lands Trust to protect and manage this and adjacent properties in perpetuity.

Bog Turtle Recovery in Sussex County II (Sussex County) \$400,000.

This acquisition project will protect the bog turtle through a purchase of four tracts from a single landowner for a total of 143.6 acres. This property connects two known bog turtle habitat areas within a large wetland complex and stream corridor. The property also provides landscape-level protection with upland forest and grassland habitats, thus conserving the hydrology and water quality of the wetlands. It is a rare opportunity in New Jersey to find such a large, undeveloped property adjacent to a growing network of protected properties that can help meet the recovery goals for this imperiled species.

North Carolina

Conservation of Habitat for the Spotfin Chub, Littlewing Pearlymussel, and Appalachian Elktoe (Macon County) \$142,500.

This project will acquire 39 acres with approximately 2,600 feet of frontage on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina to benefit three federally-listed aquatic species: the threatened spotfin chub, the endangered littlewing pearlymussel, and the endangered Appalachian elktoe. Acquisition of this land will help achieve the highest priority recovery goals for these species by protecting important habitat and reducing the threat of increased sedimentation.

Oregon

Upper Sevenmile Creek Flow Restoration Easement (Klamath County) \$355,719.

This project, which was provided partial funding in 2012, will acquire a conservation easement on the JaCox Ranch that will permanently transfer water rights to instream flow in order to restore year-round hydrologic connectivity to Sevenmile Creek. The existing water rights allow for the diversion of the entire summer flow of Sevenmile Creek, dewatering two miles of important habitat and disconnecting upstream and downstream pristine habitat. The acquisition will restore hydrologic connectivity and fish passage in an important area for endangered bull

trout. This project will also increase lake levels and improve access to cold-water springs and wetland refugial habitats during the late summer period for the protection of endangered Lost River and shortnose sucker. This acquisition will provide benefits to multiple other species in the middle and lower reaches of the Klamath River basin including lamprey, Chinook and the federally listed coho salmon.

Pennsylvania

Acquisition of a Bog Turtle Site of Global Significance in Pennsylvania (Monroe County) \$262,500.

This acquisition project lies in eastern Pennsylvania's Cherry Valley, at the core of the range of the federally listed threatened bog turtle. The Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC) will work with multiple partners to purchase approximately 95 acres that provide core, secondary, and buffer habitat for the largest known population of bog turtle in the northern range of this species, and possibly the largest wild population in the world. The protection of this property provides an extension of a growing network of protected habitat and important landscape features including The Nature Conservancy and National Wildlife Refuge lands secured for the long-term conservation of this globally-significant bog turtle population. The protection of this property will also directly benefit many state species of greatest conservation need, as well as improve watershed features for federal species of concern found within this valley, including the American eel, dwarf wedgemussel, northeastern bulrush, and the Indiana bat.

Texas

Solana Ranch Preserve (Bell County) \$881,250.

This funding will allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to acquire a 256-acre tract located in Bell County to benefit the Salado salamander. The acquisition will provide protection for the species in three of the seven springs in which it is known to occur. Acquisition of the Solana Ranch Preserve will protect an area of 75 percent of the proposed critical habitat units for this species in the Service's Southwest Region. The acquisition will also protect the quality of cave and spring water, minimize ground water pollution, protect groundwater and spring flow, and exclude cattle and feral hogs.

Washington

Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve (NAP) In-holdings (Chelan County) \$749,400.

This project will acquire 60 acres of private land in the Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve (NAP), which supports an estimated 95% of the worldwide population of the federally endangered Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow, a locally endemic species only known from five sites within a five-by-ten mile range. The land acquired will be protected in perpetuity for the benefit of this and other federally and state-listed species, including the northern spotted owl, Wenatchee larkspur, tall agoseris, and white-headed woodpecker. This acquisition will contribute to the recovery of the Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow by protecting individual plants as well as habitat on private lands. Adding these lands to the NAP will enhance the viability of the population throughout the entire site by protecting additional contiguous, occupied habitat and the last unprotected reach of a stream important to the site's hydrology. Purchasing these in-holdings improves the conservation value of the entire NAP by eliminating potential land-use conflicts.

Wisconsin

Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Land Acquisition (Adams County) \$759,000.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is awarded \$759,000 to acquire up to 1,500 acres of land to benefit the endangered Kirtland's warbler, Karner blue butterfly, and associated barrens species. Land will be acquired in fee title or conservation easement and will be managed in perpetuity to provide nesting habitat for this endangered migratory song bird and other species. Completion of this acquisition contributes to a larger project to protect 9,150 contiguous acres of habitat in central Wisconsin.

* indicates partial funding