

Department of the Interior
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Pacific Regional Office - A
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
<http://pacific.fws.gov>

News Release



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Contact: Joan Jewett, 503-231-6211

Nicholas Throckmorton, 202-208-5636

Landowners Receive \$6.9 Million for Endangered Species Conservation

More than \$1.3 million awarded in the Pacific Region

Acting Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett today announced grants totaling more than \$6.9 million to private landowners and groups in 35 states to undertake conservation projects on their land for endangered, threatened and other at-risk species. The Private Stewardship Grants Program will benefit species ranging from the Diana fritillary butterfly in Arkansas to the piping plover in Michigan.

“The Private Stewardship Grants Program builds partnerships with private landowners to do what the federal government cannot do alone,” said Scarlett. “This grant program empowers citizens to conserve imperiled species on private lands across the nation.”

In the Pacific Region, \$1.3 million will be awarded in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii to support 14 individual conservation projects. These projects will benefit species ranging from the hawksbill sea turtle in Hawaii to salmon and steelhead in Washington.

Administered by the Department’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, each of the 80 grants awarded today require at least a 10 percent match in non-federal dollars or in-kind contributions.

Now in its fourth year, the Private Stewardship Grants Program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit species protected by the Endangered Species Act, candidate species or other at-risk species. Under this program, private landowners as well as groups working with private landowners submit proposals directly to the Service for funding to support these efforts.

The Administration has requested funding of \$9.4 million for this program in 2007; last year, 72 grants totaling \$5.7 million were awarded to private individuals and groups in 38 states and one Territory. In the first three years of the program, 282 grants totaling more than \$22 million were awarded to private landowners across the country.

“We recognize that endangered species can only successfully recover if we work cooperatively with landowners and communities to promote voluntary stewardship on private lands,” said Service Director H. Dale Hall. “Private stewardship grants provide critical support to landowners who voluntarily conserve

threatened and endangered species.”

The Private Stewardship Grant program is one of a variety of tools under the ESA that help landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. Other cooperative measures under the ESA include Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Candidate Conservation Agreements. These grants and cooperative agreements provide incentives to foster citizen participation in the stewardship of our nation’s natural resources.

Among recipients of today’s grants in the Pacific Region is Wallowa Resources in Oregon, which will use a grant of \$53,600 to restore and enhance riparian and upland habitat benefiting Snake River steelhead and Spalding’s catchfly (both threatened species) as well as other species including the Ferruginous hawk and the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. In another example, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust in Washington will receive \$87,610 to restore a native prairie system that is one of only 11 remaining sites where the threatened golden paintbrush plant is found.

A complete list of 2006 Private Stewardship Grant Program recipients in the Pacific Region follows. To see the list of grants awarded nationally go to http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/index.html.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million- acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices, and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American Tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.

Private Stewardship Grants Award in the Pacific Region in FY 2006

Hawaii

Hawaii Island Coastal Restoration – (application by Yamanaka Enterprises, Inc.) – Hawai‘i County, Hawai‘i – (\$73,250*) – The project seeks to improve hawksbill sea turtle nesting habitat by minimizing threats posed by nonnative mammalian predators including mongooses, rats, feral cats, and feral dogs; controlling non-native plants such as fountain grass; and minimizing impact of human activities by restricting beach access. Green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals will also benefit as a result of this restoration project.

Kualoa Ranch Endangered Species Restoration and Management – (application by Kualoa Ranch and Activity Club, Inc.) – Honolulu County, Hawai‘i – (\$111,035) – The objective of this project is to establish

new populations of five endangered or candidate plant species (*Cyanea acuminata*, *Cyanea crispa*, *Gardenia mannii*, *Psychotria hexandra* spp. *oahuensis*, and *Cyanea truncate*). Newly established populations will be protected by constructing enclosure fences which will enclose approximately 10 acres of habitat.

Lana'ihale Summit Fence Project – (application by Lana'i Institute for the Environment) – Maui County, Hawai'i – (\$245,000) – This project will protect and restore the native forest ecosystem of the Lana'ihale Cloud Forest on the island of Lana'i, benefiting a number of endangered plant species including *Bonamia menziesii*, *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *mauiensis*, *Ctenitis squamigera*, *Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyanea macrostegia* ssp. *gibsonii*, *Cyrtandra munroi*, *Gahnia Lana'iensis*, *Hedyotis mannii*, *Hedyotis schlechtendahliana* var. *remyi*, *Labordia tinifolia* var. *lanaiensis*, *Melicope munroi*, *Spermolepis hawaiiensis*, and *Viola lanaiensis*. Lana'ihale also includes occupied habitat for *Partulina semicarinata* and *Partulina variabilis*, two tree snails that are candidates for listing as endangered. This restoration effort will include installation of an enclosure fence that will restrict feral ungulates from accessing the forest and allow restoration and natural regeneration of native plants to occur. The project is in conjunction with the implementation of 25-year biodiversity plans for the property.

Reintroduction and Conservation of Five Endangered Plants and a Bird Species on Tiana Partners Property – (application by Ohu 'Ohu Ko'Olau, Inc.), Honolulu County, Hawaii – (\$26,532) The objective of this project is to reintroduce, monitor, and maintain a single population of five plant endangered species (*Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyrtandra polyantha*, *Diellia erecta*, *Lobelia monostachya*, and *Tetraplasandra lydgatei*) and enhance the habitat of a sixth endangered species (*Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis*) in appropriate and protected habitat on Tiana Partners land.

Threat Abatement in Haiku Uka, East Maui – (application by Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. and East Maui Watershed Partnership) – Maui County, Hawai'i – (\$82,500) – The objective of this project is to control and reduce the presence of invasive plant species that compete for the habitat of 12 listed and 4 proposed species, and to control and reduce the occurrence of feral ungulates present in the project area, whose browsing and trampling reduce habitat for at-risk species.

Idaho

Restoration of the Dunn Property within the Rainier Reach of the Upper Teton River – (application by Teton Regional Land Trust) – Teton County, Idaho – (\$57,906*) The goals of the streambank restoration on the Dunn Property within the Rainier Reach of the Upper Teton River are to restore approximately 2,000 feet of the Teton River to increase and establish riparian cover and fence approximately 1 mile (both banks) of the Teton River corridor to exclude cattle. Restoration activities will benefit the Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Oregon

Elkhead Oak Woodland and Riparian Restoration – (application by Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District) – Douglas County, Oregon – (\$40,922) – This project will restore 175 acres of oak woodland, oak savannah, and riparian forest and 1.8 miles of stream habitat through the removal of invasive species such as English hawthorn, Scotch broom, and Himalayan blackberry. Species such as the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northwestern pond turtle, foothill yellow-legged frog, Oregon coast steelhead, coho salmon, and rough popcornflower will benefit as a result of the habitat restoration.

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement for At-Risk Species in Wallowa County, Oregon – (application by Wallowa Resources) – Wallowa County, Oregon – (\$53,600*) - This project will restore and enhance riparian and upland habitat. The Zumwalt Prairie Preserve Old Field Restoration and Hardwood Enhancement will benefit Snake River steelhead and Spalding's catchfly (both threatened species), as well as other species such as Ferruginous hawks and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

McDaniel II, Wallowa River Channel Reconstruction – (application by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation) – Wallowa County, Oregon – (\$59,233) – This cooperative project among the Bonneville Power Association, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Services Administration, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and the landowner will restore approximately 2,000 feet of the Wallowa River channel, replacing approximately 1,550 feet of channelized stream. Restoration efforts will benefit bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, interior redband trout, and Pacific lamprey.

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Through Restoration of Prairies and Oak Woodlands in the Willamette Valley – (application by The Nature Conservancy) – Benton, Lane, Linn, and Marion Counties, Oregon – (\$112,717*) – Working with private landowners, The Nature Conservancy will implement four projects which will directly benefit Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette Valley daisy, and other native plants. All projects seek to reduce or control invasive, non-native, or undesirable vegetation and replace it with native species associated with prairie, riparian forest, and creek habitats.

Klatskanine River Estuary Restoration – (application by Ducks Unlimited) – Clatsop County, Oregon – (\$59,250 (2003 funds)**) – This cooperative project among Natural Resources Conservation Service, Columbia Land Trust, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Ducks Unlimited will restore approximately 50 acres of tidally influenced forested wetland and 20 acres of bottomland along the Klatskanine River.

Restored tidally influenced wetlands will serve as habitat for both juvenile and adult steelhead and Chinook, coho, and chum salmon as well as coastal cutthroat trout.

Pennsylvania

Washington

Kandoll Farm Estuary Restoration – (application by Ducks Unlimited) – Wahkiakum County, Washington – (\$129,000) – This project will protect and restore 163 acres of floodplain habitat to benefit Chinook, coho, and chum salmon and steelhead trout and to enhance habitat function for a variety of wildlife, including bald eagle, peregrine falcon and other sensitive species.

Restoration of a Native Prairie at Ebey’s National Historic Reserve – (application by Whidbey Camano Land Trust) – Island County, Washington – (\$87,610) – This project will restore a native prairie system, home to the Federally-threatened golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*). Restoration of this site is vital because it is one of only 11 remaining sites and one of the three largest sites on which this plant is found.

Tarboo Creek and Wetland Restoration – (application by Northwest Watershed Institute) – Jefferson County, Washington (\$161,813) – This project is a cooperative effort among Jefferson Land Trust, Jefferson County Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hood Canal Coordinating Council and others to restore 1.5 miles of Tarboo Creek mainstem, 1.5 miles of tributaries, and 120 acres of exceptionally rare forested bottomland wetlands on the 200-acre property. The restored stream channels and riparian areas will benefit coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and threatened Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal summer chum salmon.