

News Release

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States to Receive More Than \$45 Million to Support Wildlife, Habitats and Imperiled Species

State efforts to protect species and habitats in greatest need of conservation received a boost today as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced over \$45 million in funding provided through the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program.

“The State Wildlife Grant Program has made a significant impact by preventing the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act,” said Service Director Dan Ashe. “The program identifies the highest priorities in each state to effectively conserve and protect species on a large landscape scale.”

The SWG program awards grants for projects that implement strategies to conserve priority species contained in approved State Wildlife Action Plans. All 50 states and territorial wildlife agencies have such plans, which collectively provide a nationwide blueprint for actions to conserve rare species, such as the monarch butterfly, for future generations.

Additional examples of how SWG funding supports wildlife conservation initiatives include:

- **Prairie Dog:** Using SWG funds, Arizona Game and Fish Department developed landscape tools for prairie dog management. Four prairie dog species—the white-tailed, Gunnison’s, Utah and black-tailed—are considered keystone species because they support the conservation needs of more than 12 other western grassland species. Management for these essential species exemplifies a cooperative and adaptive approach that seeks to preclude future listings of targeted species. This multi-state landscape-level conservation project is coordinated by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which refers to it as the Grassland Initiative.
- **Delmarva Fox Squirrel:** SWG and other program funds delivered to state fish and wildlife agencies by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program have played a critical role in the recovery of the Delmarva fox squirrel. The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife used a combination of Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) and SWG funds to acquire habitat for the squirrel. The agency also received a SWG grant to develop a comprehensive management plan for the species in that state. In late 2014, the Service announced the

proposed removal from the Endangered Species List of the Delmarva fox squirrel, marking another great conservation partnership success story.

- **Kirtland’s Warbler:** State Wildlife Grants have also supported Kirtland’s warbler restoration through key habitat modification such as jack pine management. The warbler is one of the rarest songbirds in North America and is listed as endangered. Jack pine management for timber requires the use of clear cutting and prescribed fire, which provide optimized habitat conditions that enable species recovery.

Conserving these species through direct actions such as reintroduction and habitat enhancement can help prevent listing under the Endangered Species Act. Proactively conserving and restoring valued species helps local communities, agencies and taxpayers avoid potentially greater conservation costs when species become rare.

“We appreciate the strong ties formed by state agencies and their partners to protect wildlife species and their habitats,” said Hannibal Bolton, the Service’s assistant director for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration. “These partnerships are critical to the on-the-ground success of saving wildlife and job creation.”

The grants are distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act. These funds are allocated to states and territories based on population and geographic area.

Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a [State’s Wildlife Action Plan](#). These funds may also be used to update, revise or modify a state’s plan.

For more information and a list of state, commonwealth and territory funding allocations, visit <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>.

Learn more about State Wildlife Grant Program accomplishments here: <http://tracs.fws.gov/public/>.

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015**

STATE	STATE WILDLIFE - 5620	STATE WILDLIFE - 5720
ALABAMA	\$706,767	\$169
ALASKA	2,299,199	549
AMERICAN SAMOA	114,959	27
ARIZONA	1,157,527	277
ARKANSAS	533,622	128
CALIFORNIA	2,299,199	549
COLORADO	978,951	234
CONNECTICUT	459,840	110
DELAWARE	459,840	110

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	229,919	54
FLORIDA	2,096,437	500
GEORGIA	1,215,316	291
GUAM	114,959	27
HAWAII	459,840	110
IDAHO	547,191	131
ILLINOIS	1,506,940	360
INDIANA	798,001	191
IOWA	560,878	134
KANSAS	665,329	159
KENTUCKY	610,749	146
LOUISIANA	663,690	159
MAINE	459,840	110
MARYLAND	607,466	145
MASSACHUSETTS	671,965	161
MICHIGAN	1,233,175	295
MINNESOTA	912,202	218
MISSISSIPPI	512,608	123
MISSOURI	908,874	217
MONTANA	791,825	189
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	114,959	27
NEBRASKA	542,750	130
NEVADA	784,548	188
NEW HAMPSHIRE	459,840	110
NEW JERSEY	886,749	212
NEW MEXICO	774,726	185
NEW YORK	2,105,449	502
NORTH CAROLINA	1,170,978	280
NORTH DAKOTA	459,840	110
OHIO	1,310,700	313
OKLAHOMA	693,534	166
OREGON	829,784	198
PENNSYLVANIA	1,442,234	345
PUERTO RICO	229,919	54
RHODE ISLAND	459,840	110
SOUTH CAROLINA	594,372	142
SOUTH DAKOTA	459,840	110
TENNESSEE	812,916	194
TEXAS	2,299,199	549
UTAH	669,105	160
VERMONT	459,840	110
VIRGIN ISLANDS	114,959	27
VIRGINIA	965,548	231
WASHINGTON	972,360	232
WEST VIRGINIA	459,840	110
WISCONSIN	815,464	195
WYOMING	517,593	124
TOTAL	\$45,983,994	\$10,987

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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