

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION FOR STATES' ENDANGERED SPECIES  
PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED BY U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Over \$2 million in additional Federal funds for endangered species programs in 35 States has been allocated by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, bring to \$5 million the total amount provided to the States for this purpose in fiscal year 1980.

This latest series of grants to States with cooperative endangered species agreements with the Service will boost their survey, research, and law enforcement efforts in behalf of their rarest animal and plant species.

More than \$18 million has been apportioned to the growing number of eligible States since the grant program began in 1976.

Last November, Congress appropriated an additional \$2 million for the grant-in-aid program, supplementing the \$3 million that had already been allotted. Earlier, the eligibility requirements were liberalized, permitting 13 new States to participate this year. Provisions for cooperative agreements to protect plants have broadened the program so that now endangered plants as well as animals may benefit from Federally funded State efforts.

Semi-annual allocations are based on State requests for support of specific endangered species projects, with the Federal Government picking up 67 percent of the costs and the States paying 33 percent. The Federal

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share is increased to 75 percent when two or more States cooperate in work on a single species.

Since the program began, Federal funds have led to major conservation efforts in behalf of more than 200 imperiled species, ranging from the peregrine falcon, American bald eagle, and Indiana bat to the greenback cutthroat trout and Atlantic loggerhead sea turtle.

Among the most significant accomplishments under the grant program has been the protection of vital habitats for endangered and threatened species through State land acquisition or other forms of conservation. Seventeen significant areas in five States either have been or are planned for acquisition to protect 11 different endangered species, ranging from the 480-acre Alkali Sink Ecological Reserve for the San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard in California to the 416-acre Higbee Beach Reserve at Cape May, New Jersey, for the peregrine falcon and bald eagle.

In fashioning the Endangered Species Act, Congress incorporated provisions for cooperative agreements between the Federal and State Governments, recognizing the States' traditional wildlife management roles and their expertise in efforts to restore endangered wildlife and plants on a local level.

To qualify for grants under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, States must enter into a formal cooperative agreement with the Interior Department, demonstrating that they: 1) have the legal authority to conserve and protect endangered species, 2) have established acceptable programs, 3) are authorized to conduct investigations and establish recovery plans, and 4) have provided for public participation in the designation of species as endangered or threatened.

The 12 States and one territory entering the grant-in-aid program this fiscal year are Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Utah, and the Virgin Islands. As many as 46 States may be eligible for Federal grants by 1981.

The attached table shows both allocations in the 1980 fiscal year for the 35 States currently participating in the program.

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Federal Grants-In-Aid for State Endangered Species Programs  
Fiscal Year 1980 (\$1,000s)

	<u>First (11/79)</u>	<u>Second (1/80)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alaska	\$ 30.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 30.0
Arkansas	50.0	43.7	93.7
California	815.0	169.0	984.0
Colorado	415.6	134.4	550.0
Delaware	10.0	0.6	10.6
Florida			
(Game and Fish)	127.2	186.9	314.1
(DNR)	102.8	125.6	228.4
Georgia	114.0	48.2	162.2
Idaho	0.0	30.0	30.0
Illinois	0.0	19.8	19.8
Iowa	0.0	16.4	16.4
Kansas	0.0	7.5	7.5
Maine	0.0	40.0	40.0
Maryland	65.0	65.0	130.0
Massachusetts	0.0	25.0	25.0
Michigan	165.5	152.7	318.2
Minnesota	0.0	75.0	75.0
Missouri	48.0	29.4	77.4
Montana	0.0	30.0	30.0
Nebraska	23.8	18.1	41.9
Nevada	0.0	30.0	30.0
New Hampshire	0.0	25.0	25.0
New Jersey	30.0	20.0	50.0
New Mexico	12.9	0.0	12.9
New York	165.0	238.5	403.5
North Carolina	215.0	155.1	370.1
Ohio	0.0	60.0	60.0
Pennsylvania			
(Game)	60.0	63.0	123.0
(Fish)	0.0	25.0	25.0
South Carolina	70.0	67.3	137.3
South Dakota	35.1	0.0	35.1
Tennessee	100.0	69.0	169.0
Utah	0.0	41.0	41.0
Virginia	30.0	0.0	30.0
Virgin Islands	30.0	0.0	30.0
Washington			
(Game)	77.9	14.1	92.0
(DNR)	0.0	80.0	80.0
Wisconsin	87.7	35.6	123.3
Totals:	2,880.5	2,140.9	5,021.4