

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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STATES GET \$4 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Conservation programs for endangered and threatened species in 38 States and Territories have been helped by \$4 million in matching Federal grants for fiscal year 1981, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today. The amount is \$1 million less than was available for fiscal year 1980.

Since the cooperative State-Federal program began in 1976, some \$22,233,000 have been made available to participating States to identify, protect, and conduct research on plants and animals that face the possible threat of extinction. A second allocation will be made later this year.

The Federal grants are helping in projects to reintroduce peregrine falcons in the wild where they are now reproducing in the eastern United States for the first time in 20 years. Remnant populations of the bald eagle are being protected and conservation measures are underway in several States that show promise for restoring the national symbol to healthy population numbers. Cooperative efforts are also underway for the manatee, sea otter, Indiana bat, Florida panther, Kirtland warbler, whooping crane, American crocodile, loggerhead sea turtle, greenback cutthroat trout, lotis blue butterfly, and northern wild monkshood. In all, 151 Federal or State-listed endangered or threatened animals and plants are now benefiting from the program.

To qualify for grants under the Endangered Species Act, States must enter into a formal cooperative agreement, 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. Allocations are based on State requests for specific projects, with the Federal Government picking up 67 percent of the costs and the States paying 33 percent. The Federal share is increased to 75 percent when two or more States cooperate in work on a single species, such as the bald eagle.

The table on the reverse shows the Federal funds being made available to States in the initial 1981 allocation.

Federal Grants-In-Aid for
State Endangered Species Programs

Initial Allocation for Fiscal Year 1981 (\$1,000's)

<u>State and Territories</u>	<u>Funds</u>
Alaska	22.2
Arkansas	68.6
California	990.0
Colorado	347.8
Connecticut	10.0
Delaware	10.0
Florida	230.5
Georgia	151.7
Guam	30.0
Idaho	50.0
Illinois	16.0
Iowa	18.9
Kansas	10.7
Maine	50.0
Maryland	90.0
Massachusetts	20.0
Michigan	234.5
Minnesota	68.7
Missouri	22.7
Montana	42.0
Nebraska	41.6
Nevada	30.0
New Hampshire	15.0
New Jersey	35.0
New Mexico	11.1
New York	300.4
North Carolina	307.6
Ohio	30.0
Pennsylvania	70.0
Rhode Island	9.0
South Carolina	190.0
South Dakota	30.2
Tennessee	114.6
Utah	97.7
Virginia	27.0
Virgin Islands	43.3
Washington	135.4
Wisconsin	91.1
TOTAL	\$4,063.3