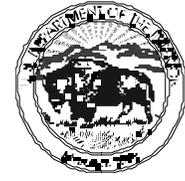


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# News Release



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## Secretary Salazar Announces \$57.8 Million in Grants to Support Land Acquisition and Conservation Planning for Endangered Species

### - \$2.64 Million to Five Grants in Oregon -

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar today announced more than \$57.8 million in grants to 27 states to support conservation planning and acquisition of vital habitat for threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants. The grants, awarded through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, will benefit numerous species ranging from the red-cockaded woodpecker to the Lake Erie watersnake.

“These grants are critically important tools to help conserve our nation’s threatened and endangered species,” said Secretary Salazar. “They provide state agencies with much needed resources to empower landowners and communities to protect habitat and foster environmental stewardship for future generations.”

Authorized by Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the competitive grants enable States to work with private landowners, conservation groups and other agencies to initiate conservation planning efforts and acquire and protect habitat to support the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

The proposals in Oregon which will be funded by these grants are the following:

- **Big Creek** (Lane County) \$1,007,000. Funding will acquire the 193-acre Big Creek property; which will benefit at least 11 species of conservation concern. The property fills critical roles in the life cycle of the Oregon silverspot butterfly, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coastal coho salmon; all listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- **Upper and Lower Table Rocks** (Jackson County) \$507,000. The Nature Conservancy, as a subgrantee to the Oregon Department of State Lands, will acquire and manage 1,690 acres supporting 20 at-risk species. The vernal pools on this property provide habitat for the federally listed vernal pool fairy shrimp and state listed dwarf woolly meadowfoam. The property is also suspected to provide habitat for the endangered large-flowered woolly meadowfoam and Gentner’s fritillaria.
- **Cardwell Hill Conservation Easement** (Benton County) \$256,820. This funding will acquire conservation easements over five parcels of property totaling 65.5 acres of upland and riparian habitat in the Cardwell Hill area of Benton County, Oregon. The conservation easements will protect critically

important populations of the federally listed Fender's blue butterfly and its host plant Kincaid's lupine and provide for the opportunity for introduction of Willamette daisy, Nelson's checkermallow, and golden paintbrush.

- **Conservation Planning for Oregon Highway Right-of-Ways: Development of a State-wide, Multi-species HCP** (Statewide all counties) \$477,963. This funding will allow Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Transportation to complete development of baseline inventory of populations of 28 listed and sensitive species in roughly 75,000 acres of State-managed highway right-of-ways and create management plans that incorporate the latest scientific knowledge and best management practices for these species, impacts will be minimized. Where traffic safety issues require actions resulting in incidental take of these species, the HCP will outline the specific conservation and habitat enhancement actions needed to mitigate any losses.
- **Yamhill County Multi-Species HCP** (Yamhill County) \$391,000. This planning assistance grant will allow Yamhill County to develop an HCP for county owned and managed lands, providing long-term protection of populations and habitat, and allowing for a more economical and ecological approach to species conservation and mitigation. The HCP will provide protection of the federally listed Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, Nelson's checkermallow, Bradshaw's lomatium, and Willamette daisy as well as the streaked horned lark, a candidate for listing.

This year, the cooperative endangered species fund provides approximately \$7.6 million through the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants Program, \$36 million through the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program, and \$14.1 million through the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program. The three programs were established to help avoid potential conflicts between the conservation of threatened and endangered species and land development and use.

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are agreements between a landowner and the Service, allowing a landowner to undertake otherwise lawful activities on their property that may result in the death, injury or harassment of a listed species, when that landowner agrees to conservation measures designed to minimize and mitigate the impact of those actions. HCPs may also be developed by a county or state to cover certain activities of all landowners within their jurisdiction and may address multiple species.

Under the HCP Land Acquisition Grants Program, the Service provides grants to states or territories for land acquisition associated with approved HCPs. The grants are targeted to help landowners who volunteer to conserve imperiled species on their lands. Among recipients of today's HCP Land Acquisition grants is the state of Wisconsin, which is receiving a \$1.5 million grant to acquire 1,110 acres in the Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area. The purchase of these properties will permanently protect habitat for the Karner blue butterfly, substantially benefitting the recovery efforts for the Glacial Lake Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Unit. This grant will also help connect State Natural Area lands owned by The Nature Conservancy with those owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which currently total over 5,000 acres.

The HCP Planning Assistance Grants Program provides grants to states and territories to support the development of HCPs through funding of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach and similar planning activities. For example, the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas will receive a total of \$1,080,990 to assist in the development of a landscape level, multi-species HCP. The HCP will be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to endangered and threatened species associated with wind energy development. The HCP will encompass the whooping crane migration route in the U.S. and their wintering grounds, along with a significant portion of current and historic

habitat of the lesser prairie-chicken. This extensive habitat conservation plan will be the first of its kind to involve alternative fuel sources and climate change issues while protecting imperiled species.

The Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program provides funds to states and territories to acquire habitat for endangered and threatened species with approved recovery plans. Habitat acquisition to secure long term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species. One of this year's grants will provide \$840,593 to acquire a 1,242-acre tract that will protect the ocelot, jaguarundi, northern aplomado falcon, and several state-protected species in Cameron County, Texas. Protection of thornscrub woodlands and wooded waterways, such as resacas, is sorely needed to prevent ocelot and jaguarundi from declining even further and is imperative to both species' long-term recovery. The tract contains a wooded riparian zone along a resaca that provides existing suitable habitat for a travel corridor, and is large enough to support three adult ocelots. The protection of this property will contribute to recovery plan criteria by protecting existing corridors and creating new dispersal corridors.

For a complete list of the 2009 grant awards for these programs (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 15.615), see the Service's Endangered Species Grants home page at <http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/section6/index.html>.

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](http://www.fws.gov).

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