



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants

*(Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act)*

As many species currently listed as federally endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life cycle on non-Federal lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recognizes that recovery success will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with States to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on privately owned lands.

A variety of tools are available under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to help States and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. One of the tools, the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (section 6 of the ESA), provides grants to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for listed, candidate, and at-risk species.

The program provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands. States and Territories must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25 percent of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must currently have, or enter into, a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to receive grants. Most States and Territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species.

The Service awarded approximately \$62.34 million in Federal funding in fiscal year 2024 under four grant programs that are available through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

**Traditional Conservation Grants (\$13.97 M)** provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement



*An FY 2024 grant to the State of New Hampshire will enable the acquisition of 7 acres of habitat in Merrimack County to support the recovery of the Karner blue butterfly. Photo by Jill Utrup/USFWS*

conservation projects for resident listed, candidate, and eligible unlisted species. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

**Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (\$6.97 M)** provide funds to States and Territories to support the development, renewal or amendment of habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, and candidate conservation agreements with assurances. Eligible activities include document preparation, public outreach, baseline surveys, habitat assessments and environmental compliance.

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants (\$26.46 M)** provide funding to States and Territories to acquire land associated with approved HCPs. Grants do not fund the mitigation required of an HCP permittee; instead, they support land acquisition by the State or local governments that complement mitigation.

**Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (\$14.95 M)** provide funds to States and Territories for the acquisition of habitat for endangered and threatened species in support of draft and approved recovery plans. Acquisition of habitat to secure long-term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species.



*A fiscal year 2024 grant to the State of Georgia will enable the acquisition of up to 1,587 acres of habitat in Thomas County to support the recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, and wood stork. Photo © Mark Cook/South Florida Water Management District*

## Contact Us

For more information on how to apply for Federal grants to assist States, Territories, and landowners in conserving species on non-Federal lands, please contact the Regional Office from the list below with responsibility for the State or Territory in which the proposed project would occur.

Additional information is also available at <https://www.fws.gov/program/cooperative-endangered-species-conservation-fund>. You may also access <https://www.grants.gov> and search the site using the program title Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund or by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 15.615.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Program  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703-358-2171  
[www.fws.gov/endangered](http://www.fws.gov/endangered)**

**July 2025**

### *Region 1 – Pacific*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Eastside Federal Complex  
911 N.E. 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-4181  
Program Contact: Naomi Bentivoglio,  
(503) 231-2228

### *Region 2 – Southwest*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
500 Gold Avenue SW., Room 6078  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
Program Contact: Vanessa Burge,  
(505) 248-6420

### *Region 3 – Midwest*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458  
Program Contact: Erik Olson,  
(612) 713-5488 & Laura Ragan,  
(612) 713-5194

### *Region 4 – Southeast*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
Program Contact: Victoria Davis,  
(404) 679-4176

### *Region 5 – Northeast*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589  
Program Contact: Kyle Welsh,  
(413) 253-8709

### *Region 6 – Mountain Prairie*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
134 Union Blvd., Suite 645  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Program Contact: Angela Burgess  
(303) 236-4263

### *Region 7 – Alaska*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199  
Program Contact: Erin Knoll,  
(907) 887-9367

### *Region 8 – Pacific Southwest*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Building  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846  
Program Contact: Karen (Kitti) Jensen,  
(916) 414-6557 & Rachel Henry,  
(805) 677-3312

