***Summaries of Selected Projects***

Competitive State Wildlife Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2022

Total Amount Available: $7,676,166

## Competitive State Wildlife Grant Program

### **Region 1**

**Guam Department of Agriculture – Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources**

**Title:** Preventing extirpation of the bumphead parrotfish through reintroduction and integrated management

**State(s):** Guam

**Project Summary:** The bumphead parrotfish, known as *atuhung* in the CHamoru language of Guam in the western Pacific, is in danger of local extirpation in Guam due to overfishing and habitat degradation. Project partners will conduct research on their distribution and use of habitats to improve management actions. The partners will also translocate farm-raised individuals to five Marine Protected Areas on Guam and conduct education and outreach.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $499,967; **Non-Federal Match:** $100,000

**Hawai’i Department of Lands and Natural Resources**

**Title:** Advancing mosquito suppression techniques through targeted *Bti* larvicide application to protect Hawai’ian forest birds

**State(s):** Hawai’i

**Project Summary:** There is an urgent need to reduce the threat of avian malaria to Hawai’ian forest bird species of greatest conservation need by developing tools to control the mosquito vector, *Culex quinquefasciatus.* This project will fill important data gaps, refine strategies, and implement actions to reduce mosquito prevalence in key forest habitats on Kauaʻi and Maui.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $498,558; **Non-Federal Match:** $169,931

**Hawai’i Department of Lands and Natural Resources**

**Title:** Conserving habitat and diversifying critical forage resources for two yellow-faced bee species on Maui

**State(s):** Hawai’i

**Project Summary:** Once abundant across the Hawai’ian Islands, yellow-faced bees in the genus *Hylaeus* have experienced extensive range reductions, population declines, and extinctions over the past 100 years. Actions proposed in this project are expected to lower the risk of extinction of these important pollinators by stabilizing key habitat supporting *H. assimulans* and *H. flavipes* on West Maui.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $249,477.32 (partial award); **Non-Federal Match:** $110,510

**Hawai’i Department of Lands and Natural Resources**

**Title:** Enhancing mongoose control to benefit endangered Hawai’ian waterbirds

**State(s):** Hawai’i

**Project Summary:** There is a critical need to manage predation threats to federally endangered waterbirds and other species in the Hawai’ian Islands. This project includes development of a new tool for mongoose control over large, inaccessible habitats and a telemetry-based analysis of mongoose space use to further improve trapping and baiting designs on the Island of O’ahu.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $219,258; **Non-Federal Match:** $73,086

**Hawai’i Department of Lands and Natural Resources**

**Title:** Establishing a protected breeding colony for the endangered ʻAkēʻakē on West Maui and restoring wet lowland native vegetation in designated critical habitat within established predator proof fences

**State(s):** Hawai’i

**Project Summary:** The Hawai’i Distinct Population Segment of the ʻAkēʻakē, or band-rumped storm-petrel, is one of the least studied of the federally endangered seabirds in Hawai’i. Project partners will attract and establish the first-ever managed colony of ʻAkēʻakē on the Island of Maui to increase the recovery potential of the rarest seabird breeding in Hawai’i.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $169,068; **Non-Federal Match:** $56,500

**Hawai’i Department of Lands and Natural Resources**

**Title:** Protecting and monitoring endangered seabirds and ecosystems across Hawai'i Island **State(s):** Hawai’i

**Project Summary:** Island populations of seabirds are highly susceptible to invasive mammalian predators such as mongoose, domestic cats, and rodents. This project will help restore the suitability of hundreds of acres of nesting habitat for three federally endangered seabird species and protect all known remnant populations of these species within State lands on Hawaiʻi Island.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $587,337; **Non-Federal Match:** $201,537

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Title:** Advancing conservation and management of three freshwater mussel species of greatest conservation need in Oregon and Washington by filling key data gaps

**State(s):** Oregon, Washington

**Project Summary:** The two State fish and wildlife agencies and the nonprofit Xerces Society will implement high priority conservation actions for three freshwater mussel species in Oregon and Washington, one of which is currently under consideration for Federal listing. This project will fill critical data gaps, enable development and application of mussel population health assessments, and support management actions for the species.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $489,937; **Non-Federal Match:** $252,512

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| **States Receiving Funds** | **Federal Funds Requested** | **Non-Federal Match** | **Grant or Subaward** |
| Oregon (Lead) | $321,203 | $196,267 | Grant |
| Washington | $168,734 | $56,245 | Subaward |

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Title:** Conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in Washington and California prairie and oak habitat

**State(s):** California, Oregon, Washington

**Project Summary:** The partners seek to substantially improve the population status of SGCN associated with priority habitats in prairie, grassland, and oak-woodlands in western Washington, Oregon, and the Southern Coast Ecoregion in California by managing and restoring up to 395 acres. Targeted species include Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly (federally endangered), Mardon skipper, Oregon vesper sparrow (under review for Federal listing), western bluebird, and slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $499,877; **Non-Federal Match:** $192,737

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| **States Receiving Funds** | **Federal Funds Requested** | **Non-Federal Match** | **Grant or Subaward** |
| Washington (Lead) | $414,680 | $162,918 | Grant |
| California | $ 85,197 | $29,819 | Subaward |

### **Region 4**

**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

**Title:** Identifying SGCN habitat use across multiple scales throughout the eastern U.S. using the Motus Wildlife Tracking System

**State(s):** Alabama, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont

**Project Summary:** The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) is a research network that uses radio telemetry to inform and enhance the conservation of migratory wildlife. The four State fish and wildlife agencies and their many additional State and nonprofit partners will establish and use 35 telemetry receiver stations to study and conserve a variety of sensitive and declining species. Targeted species include the bog turtle (federally threatened), golden-winged warbler (under review for Federal listing), and the federally endangered gray bat.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $999,840; **Non-Federal Match:** $351,153

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| **States Receiving Funds** | **Federal Funds Requested** | **Non-Federal Match** | **Grant or Subaward** |
| Alabama (Lead) | $256,468 | $87,693 | Grant |
| North Carolina | $249,190 | $84,949 | Grant |
| Pennsylvania | $378,913 | $131,912 | Grant |
| Vermont | $115,269 | $46,599 | Grant |

**Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

**Title**: Adaptively managing for robust redhorse: a range-wide collaboration to address data gaps and implement conservation actions

**State(s):** Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina

**Project Summary:** The robust redhorse is a nongame fish species that is endemic to mainstem Atlantic Slope rivers within the three partnering States. The species is under review for Federal listing and is classified as a high priority in all three States’ Wildlife Action Plans. Research, monitoring, and management actions implemented by the partners will support the persistence of populations on a range-wide scale.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $638,536; **Non-Federal Match:** $220,593

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| **States Receiving Funds** | **Federal Funds Requested** | **Non-Federal Match** | **Grant or Subaward** |
| Georgia (Lead) | $277,152 | $92,850 | Grant |
| North Carolina | $126,253 | $42,086 | Grant |
| South Carolina | $235,131 | $85,657 | Grant |

### **Region 5**

**Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department**

**Title:** Conserving Vermont's spotted turtles: using novel techniques to detect a cryptic species and identify unknown populations

**State(s):** Vermont

**Project Summary:** The spotted turtle is Vermont’s rarest turtle and is both federally endangered and a high priority species in Vermont’s Wildlife Action Plan. The project partners will identify suitable spotted turtle habitats, support the development of eDNA sampling protocols, use standardized methods to evaluate turtle presence, and improve priority nesting habitat.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $250,000; **Non-Federal Match:** $83,334

**Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources**

**Title:** Creating a comprehensive conservation and management plan for the southern lineage of the bog turtle and its associated habitats

**States and Tribe:** Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

**Project Summary:** The northern lineage of the bog turtle is classified as federally threatened, while the southern lineage and focus of this project is listed as threatened due to similarity of appearance. Due to precipitous declines, there is an urgent need to identify spatial distribution of the species, determine population status and viability, and manage habitats. Among other objectives, the many project partners will address these knowledge gaps, create nesting habitat, and provide public education and outreach to landowners.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $443,479.98; **Non-Federal Match:** $285,121.98

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| **States Receiving Funds** | **Federal Funds Requested** | **Non-Federal Match** | **Grant or Subaward** |
| Virginia (Lead) | $368,600 | $143,122.98  | Grant |
| North Carolina | $74,879.98 | $141,999 | Subaward |

**Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources**

**Title:** Distribution and demography of saltmarsh sparrows in the understudied, southern extent of the species’ breeding range

**State(s):** Virginia

**Project Summary:** Biologists have observed dramatic declines in saltmarsh sparrow populations from Maine to Virginia, with an annual average population decline rate indicating the possibility of extinction in the next two decades. The partners seek to determine the breeding status and distribution of the species in Virginia, laying the groundwork for development of management actions and conservation plans. Information gained from this project will contribute to the Service’s review of the saltmarsh sparrow for potential Federal listing in 2023.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $201,870.33 (partial award); **Non-Federal Match:** $97,520

### **Region 6**

**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**

**Title:** Focusing conservation efforts for at-risk fish species

**State(s):** Nebraska

**Project Summary:** Nebraska’s small-bodied fish face increasing threats due to loss of habitat and reduced water quality and quantity. This project employs eDNA techniques for determining the location and distribution of nine stream fish species across the state of Nebraska.Among these targeted species arethe federally endangered Topeka shiner, as well as sicklefin and sturgeon chub, both of which are under review for potential Federal listing.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $249,951; **Non-Federal Match:** $83,317

**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**

**Title:** Midwest Bumble Bee Atlas: engaging community scientists to conserve SGCN bumble bees in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska

**State(s):** Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, andNebraska

**Project Summary:** Ecosystems in the Midwest are threatened by the loss of pollinating bees, with several species already federally listed or under review for potential listing. The partnering States, supported by trained citizen scientists, will develop the Midwest Bumble Bee Atlas to compile status and habitat information essential to regional bumble bee conservation and recovery.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $919,079.12; **Non-Federal Match:** $315,059.72

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| **States Receiving Funds** | **Federal Funds Requested** | **Non-Federal Match** | **Grant or Subaward** |
| Nebraska (Lead) | $156,760.02 | $52,253.34 | Grant |
| Iowa | $271,576.00 | $90,875.83 | Grant |
| Minnesota | $249,909.10 | $86,849.55 | Grant |
| Missouri | $240,834.00 | $85,081.00 | Grant |

### **Region 7**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Title:** Cook Inlet beluga research, conservation planning, and coordination

**State(s):** Alaska

**Project Summary:** The federally endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale is an Alaska species of greatest conservation need that has failed to recover despite curtailment of harvest over the past 20 years. Alaska Department of Fish and Game will partner with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct essential research, coordinate with Tribes, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to establish mitigation measures, and modify permit review procedures to minimize and mitigate future impacts on belugas and their habitat.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $309,987; **Non-Federal Match:** $103,329

## Wildlife Action Plan Enhancement Subprogram

### **Region 3**

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

**Title:** Enhancing Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan with standardized species assessments

**State(s):** Minnesota

**Project Summary:** This project will help the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources enhance their Wildlife Action Plan through use of NatureServe’s Conservation Status Assessment tool to systematically rank the status of wildlife species throughout the State. The rankings will provide the basis for a revised SGCN list and facilitate aggregation of species information across States to better address regional conservation challenges.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $149,943.25; **Non-Federal Match:** $50,558

### **Region 5**

**Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA)**

**Title:** Modernizing the Northeast Wildlife Action Plan Database

**State(s):** NEAFWA Member States (14)

**Project Summary:** This project builds on decades of regional collaboration among the 14 State fish and wildlife agencies that make up NEAFWA. The partners will implement accessibility and functionality enhancements in the Northeast State Wildlife Action Plan Database. These improvements will facilitate identification of regional priorities and inform landscape-scale approaches to species and habitat conservation throughout the region.

**Federal Funds Requested:** $300,000; **Non-Federal Match:** $100,000