



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 \$54.17 million in Federal funding in fiscal year 2023 under four grant programs that are available through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

Traditional Conservation Grants (\$13.5 M) provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement



An FY 2023 grant to the State of Iowa will enable the permanent protection of 510 acres in Davis County for the benefit of several federally listed and at-risk bat species including the northern long-eared bat. Photo by Jill Utrup/USFWS

conservation projects for listed, candidate, and at-risk 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 (\$3.97 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 (\$24.1 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 (\$12.6 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.



An FY 2023 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
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703-358-2171
www.fws.gov/endangered**

September 2023

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

