

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FY 2011 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Project Descriptions Arranged by State**

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants by State:

Florida

Acquisition of Perdido Key Coastal Tract (Escambia County, FL) \$2,967,022

This grant will enable the acquisition of up to 20 acres of Gulf-front habitat used by the Perdido Key beach mouse. Acquisition and protection of this property will maintain connectivity among beach mouse populations. The Perdido Key beach mouse exists only on Perdido Key and faces increasing impacts from coastal development.

Acquisition of Summer Haven and Porpoise Point Beach Lots (St. Johns County, FL) \$210,017

This grant will enable the acquisition of several vacant lots totaling up to almost eight acres along the Atlantic Ocean in St. Johns County. This land purchase protects Anastasia Island beach mouse habitat and beaches used by nesting loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, green, and hawksbill sea turtles.

Other States

California

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) (Riverside County, CA) \$6,000,000

This grant will result in the acquisition of land that will greatly enhance the existing Coachella Valley MSHCP by securing key regional wildlife linkages and sand transport areas as well as preserving core habitat areas. The land acquisition will benefit 20 species, including seven federally listed species such as Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise, and peninsular bighorn sheep. The proposed acquisition will complement and greatly enhance the ecological value of the many other acquisitions that have previously occurred in these areas in the last few years.

San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) (San Diego County, CA) \$6,000,000

This project will result in the acquisition of 250-600 acres of land that will greatly enhance the existing San Diego MSCP by securing key regional wildlife linkages and preserving core habitat in four targeted areas. The acquisitions will benefit 31 listed and unlisted species, including the San Diego fairy shrimp, arroyo toad, least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, southwestern willow flycatcher, and bald eagle. The proposed acquisition areas support a mosaic of high quality riparian, vernal pool, and upland habitats that support numerous listed and unlisted species covered by the San Diego MSCP. The proposed acquisition supports a larger landscape conservation initiative and will greatly enhance the conservation goals of the San Diego MSCP through the connection of the largest intact blocks of publicly-owned and managed land within San Diego County.

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) * (Contra Costa County, CA) \$4,463,936

These funds will purchase lands that will provide important habitat and wildlife corridors for many of the 28 covered species covered in the HCP/NCCP, including 8 federally listed species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The acquisition of these properties adds to the approximately 1,800 acres that have been, or are in the process of, being acquired and provides protection for lands that have rich on-site resources and support a diverse mosaic of habitat types.

Montana

Stimson Forestlands Conservation Project (Missoula County, MT) \$4,000,000

This grant will fund a conservation easement on over 9,300 acres of forestland. The property is concurrent with another conservation easement on 18,700 acres of adjacent lands. This project is a continuation of several years of landscape-scale conservation efforts on working lands in northwestern Montana to complement the Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan, benefitting bull trout, Columbia redband trout, mountain whitefish, pygmy whitefish, and westslope cutthroat trout. This effort will ensure the availability of high quality riparian and instream habitat by protecting against imminent development threats. It will also maintain connectivity between lake, river, and stream systems in the Lake Creek drainage and help native fish species' adaptation to the effects of climate change so that fish can move to more suitable habitats as water temperatures increase and flow regimes change.

Texas

Cobb Cavern Land Acquisition (Williamson County, TX) \$1,130,625

The Cobb Cavern Land Acquisition proposal will fund a conservation easement in Williamson County. The approximately 67-acre tract proposed for acquisition will add to an existing 64.4-acre tract acquired in 2007 through a Recovery Land Acquisition Grant. The approximately 131-acre combined preserve will provide high benefits to the Coffin Cave mold beetle and Bone Cave harvestman by protecting the entirety of Cobbs Cavern. The Coffin Cave mold beetle has an extremely limited range and most other locations have been impacted by development. This acquisition provides a high-quality preserve for the Bone Cave harvestman needed for recovery. The easement will also provide benefits to the golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo, which are known to be seasonal inhabitants of the parcel during their breeding seasons.

Washington

Methow Watershed, Phase 8 (Okanogan County, WA) \$3,500,000

The Methow, Phase 8 project will secure 2,700 acres and additional stream frontage protecting spawning and rearing habitat for listed salmonids, landscape corridors for listed carnivores and their mule deer prey, and habitat for at least 23 at-risk species covered by the Plum Creek HCP. The Methow River Watershed is perhaps the most intact and ecologically functional major drainage in eastern Washington, supporting a unique and diverse assemblage of fish and wildlife species. Nationally, it is one of the few places where endangered and threatened grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx, bull trout, and salmon occur together, and it is the home of Washington's first documented wolf pack.

Wisconsin

Karner Blue Butterfly Land Acquisition (Jackson County, WI) \$360,000

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will protect 240 acres of land within the Bauer-Brockway Barrens State Natural Area and the Jackson County Forest with this grant award. This acquisition will advance the recovery of the Karner blue butterfly in Wisconsin by permanently protecting this land within the species' West Central Driftless Recovery Unit. The property to be acquired has an extremely diverse butterfly community. The addition of these lands will connect existing protected habitats to benefit this disturbance-dependent endangered butterfly and a large number of additional rare species that depend on the barrens ecosystem.

* indicates partial funding

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants by State:

Florida

Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches (35 Coastal Counties Statewide, FL) \$900,484

This grant will assist in the fifth year of this HCP planning effort. Stakeholders plan to assimilate acquired data into a detailed draft of the HCP. Activities in the coastal area and their threats to listed species will be analyzed. The goal of the HCP is to allow for ongoing beach structure protection measures while limiting and mitigating the adverse effects to nesting loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, green, and hawksbill sea turtles, five beach mouse subspecies, and shorebirds, including wintering piping plover. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is leading this effort in conjunction with builders groups, municipalities, and others.

Charlotte County Scrub Habitat Conservation Plan (Charlotte County, FL) \$89,084

This grant will assist in initiating a planning effort for a county-wide HCP for scrub habitats. The expected product is an economic analysis to assess funding alternatives to provide mitigation for development impacts on the Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake. Implementation of an HCP in Charlotte County will help secure one of the 21 metapopulations of Florida scrub-jay and thereby improve species recovery.

Gulf County Beaches (Gulf County, FL) \$312,497

This grant will assist in initiating the planning efforts for a county-wide HCP for coastal habitats used by St. Andrews beach mouse; loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, and hawksbill sea turtles; and wintering piping plovers. The St. Andrews beach mouse occurs only in Gulf County and an adjacent county along the northern Gulf of Mexico coast.

Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Polk County, FL) \$244,653

This grant will assist in initiating a planning effort for a county-wide HCP for scrub habitats and dry scrub species such as the Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake. Implementation of an HCP in Polk County marks a significant step forward for scrub conservation in the heart of Florida's central ridge.

Tennessee

Development of Habitat Conservation Plans for the Cumberland Region, Tennessee (Scott, Morgan, and Cumberland Counties, TN) \$978,439

This grant will assist in concluding the development of region-wide HCPs to protect aquatic and forest resources in the Cumberland region. Several mammals, mussels, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and aquatic invertebrates will benefit from these planning efforts in this ecologically diverse region that is beginning to experience increased development and resource extraction issues. The HCPs, one for forest resources, and one for aquatic resources, will provide management prescriptions and regulatory guidelines to minimize and mitigate development effects on target species and habitats. Listed species include the Indiana bat, spotfin chub and blackside dace (fish species), Cumberland elktoe and purple bean (freshwater mussels), and Cumberland rosemary and Virginia spiraea (plant species).

Other States

California

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta, CA) \$366,000

This project will support the development of an HCP/NCCP for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta) Region. The Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast. The Delta supports over 750 plant and animal species, 126 of which are sensitive or listed as threatened or endangered. The Delta is also critical to California's economy, as it serves as the "hub" of the state's water infrastructure, supplying drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of highly-productive agricultural lands. The Bay Delta HCP/NCCP is being developed as a long-term comprehensive plan that will conserve and manage covered species and natural communities in perpetuity while providing reliable water supplies for the State's myriad of beneficial uses. A few species that will benefit from this HCP include the Delta smelt, Chinook salmon, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and the giant garter snake.

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)/Measure M2 NCCP/HCP (Orange County, CA) \$732,000

This grant supports the development of a comprehensive holistic, rather than piecemeal, conservation program in order to provide higher-value environmental benefits, while allowing freeway projects to be implemented. The plan will conserve and enhance key connections between existing conservation areas and provide additional live-in habitat, buffering proposed covered species from natural and stochastic variation. The plan also includes maintaining opportunities for dispersal and genetic exchange and provides wildlife and plants the opportunity to shift their distribution in response to climate change and other disturbances such as fire. The Measure M2 NCCP/HCP will cover an estimated 22 plant and animal species, including coastal California gnatcatcher, Santa Ana sucker, pallid bat, and Coulter's matilija poppy.

Placer County Conservation Plan HCP/NCCP (Placer County, CA) \$537,195

The project will support the completion of the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP). The primary objective of the PCCP is to balance development with conservation of the county's natural resources and provide for protection of sensitive species and their respective habitats. The PCCP will permanently protect habitat, establish preserve designs, and establish management

guidelines for the conservation and recovery of 31 sensitive species, including 7 listed species such as California red-legged frog, conservancy fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The land cover types upon which they depend include agricultural cropland, annual grassland savannah, aquatic environments, chaparral, emergent wetlands, oak woodlands, riparian, and vernal pools. These eight major land cover types are unlikely to withstand the external pressures of urbanization and climate change.

Yuba & Sutter Counties Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) (Yuba & Sutter Counties, CA) \$807,390

This project will support the continued development of a multispecies HCP and NCCP in both Yuba and Sutter Counties by protecting and enhancing the ecological diversity and function within the rapidly urbanizing region of Sutter County and the more slowly urbanizing region of Yuba County. This Plan addresses 23 listed and non-listed species, including six federally listed species and ten state listed species. The plan will serve to ensure comprehensive species and ecosystem conservation and contribute to the recovery of threatened, endangered, and special status species in northern California and their habitats. A few species that will benefit from this HCP include Hartweg's golden sunburst, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, giant garter snake, and the western yellow-billed cuckoo.

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan HCP/NCCP (Imperial, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, and Inyo Counties, CA) \$1,000,000

The project will support the initiation of a conservation strategy for covered natural communities and species in desert ecosystems, while allowing for the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects. It will exclusively address the environmental impacts of large-scale development of solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass technologies, as well as associated transmission facilities proposed throughout the deserts in southern California. The planning area for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) covers 23.4 million acres in the Mojave Desert and the Colorado Desert, the extent of the Sonoran Desert in California. Currently, the DRECP identifies 87 species to be covered under the plan. Nineteen are listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to ESA, one is a candidate species for listing, and one has been delisted. Twenty-two are listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and two are considered rare. A few species that will benefit from this HCP include the Quino checkerspot butterfly, arroyo toad, California condor, and the desert tortoise.

Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) (Kern County, CA) \$427,000

In response to escalating growth pressure, the City of Bakersfield and Kern Counties working to balance the need for prime agricultural land preservation and habitat conservation. Therefore, a multi-species HCP and NCCP is being developed in order to conserve sensitive species and their habitats within the Metropolitan Bakersfield study area while allowing for the orderly and necessary progression of urban growth and development. This Plan addresses 38 species of concern, including 15 state and federally-listed threatened, endangered, or fully protected species and the vegetation communities upon which they depend. These species include the Bakersfield cactus, kangaroo rat, San Joaquin woolly threads, and the blunt-nosed leopard lizard.

Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) Service HCP (Sacramento County, CA) \$974,250

This grant supports the development of an HCP for Sacramento Municipal Utilities (SMUD) by funding operations, maintenance, and construction actions on transmission and gas line corridors inside SMUD's 571,909-acre service area in Sacramento County and small portions of Placer, El Dorado, and Yolo Counties. SMUD's HCP will benefit 11 federally listed species and 12 California special status species, along with numerous non-listed species also found in SMUD's service area such as the California tiger salamander, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and slender orcutt grass. The HCP will include a comprehensive approach to avoid or reduce SMUD impacts to species and habitats and will include the preservation and management of a 1,800-acre preserve.

South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (Sacramento County, CA) \$994,500

This grant funds the completion of the HCP document and will result in the permanent protection of over 48,000 additional acres of high-quality species habitat. The plan will establish large, intact, and interconnected vernal-pool and riparian preserves managed for the conservation of at least 40 listed and at-risk sensitive species. The SSHCP will provide conservation benefits to seven federally endangered and threatened species, including the giant garter snake, California tiger salamander, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, Sacramento orcutt grass, and slender orcutt grass. By establishing large, interconnected preserves, the plan will maintain intact watersheds and sub watersheds to maintain the hydrological regimes that many covered species, especially vernal pool and riparian species, depend upon.

Hawai'i

Coordination and Planning of the Kaua'i Seabird HCP (Kauai County, HI) \$259,281

This funding will be used to expand the scope of the Kauai Seabird HCP to include incidental take of Hawaiian hoary bat and complete an Environmental Impact Statement instead of an Environmental Assessment, as originally planned. The HCP will benefit the federally listed Hawaiian hoary bat, Hawaiian petrel, and Newell's shearwater, as well as the band-rumped storm petrel, a candidate for listing. In addition, approximately 18 listed plants will benefit.

Baseline Surveys for Two Wind Power HCPs in the State of Hawaii (Maui & Honolulu Counties, HI) \$900,000

This grant will fund baseline surveys to evaluate abundance and distribution of Hawaiian hoary bat and abundance and distribution of active burrows of Hawaiian petrel in Kahikinui, the proposed off-site mitigation area. In addition, an assessment will be made of habitat conditions for both Hawaiian hoary bat and Hawaiian petrel at Kahikinui. This information will assist with ensure appropriate mitigation and minimization measures of the Kawailoa Wind Power HCP and the Auwahi Wind Energy LLC HCP.

Oregon

Upper Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (Jefferson, Crook, and Deschutes Counties, OR) \$410,000

This funding will continue work for the seven primary irrigation districts in the Deschutes Basin that comprise the Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the City of Prineville. The development of this HCP will benefit aquatic and riparian-dependant species in the upper Deschutes Basin, including bull trout and steelhead, while meeting current and future irrigation and municipal water needs in a balanced, economically viable, and sustainable manner. When completed, the

HCP will provide ecosystem benefits to large areas of the upper Deschutes River basin, which includes the Metolius, Crooked, and Deschutes River Basins.

Texas

Texas A&M (General Conservation Plan for Central Texas) (30 Counties in Central Texas) \$388,887

The planning proposal requested funding to develop a comprehensive, range-wide conservation plan for the area where golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo breeding ranges overlap. The scope of work will include the completion of the conservation program to be incorporated into an umbrella Habitat Conservation Plan (General Conservation Plan), which is expected to provide range-wide conservation strategies for both species within the approximately 30 counties in central Texas to be included in the plan. This proposal will also reduce the need for individual and county-wide HCP planning efforts in the future by significantly streamlining the process for non-federal entities such as, private landowners, non-profits, non-governmental entities, and state and local governments to comply with the Endangered Species Act, while contributing measureable benefits toward species recovery.

Washington

South Puget Sound Prairie HCP (Thurston County, WA) \$450,000

This project will initiate the development of an HCP to support some of the best remaining habitats and restoration sites in Thurston County. It will identify a set of tools needed to supplement more traditional conservation strategies and achieve the long-term preservation of a network of habitats needed by over 16 species of concern for survival such as the golden paintbrush, water howellia, Mardon skipper, mazama pocket gopher, and Taylor's checkerspot.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:

Arkansas

Land Acquisition for the Recovery of winged mapleleaf, pink mucket, and red-cockaded woodpecker (Ashley County, AR) \$1,509,012

This grant will enable the acquisition of 1,695 acres of important riparian and upland habitat adjacent to the Saline River to directly benefit two federally-listed endangered freshwater mussels and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. This grant will also serve to protect a federal candidate mussel species, the rabbitsfoot. This acquisition will help further the achievement of the recovery criteria for these species by protecting known population locations in the West Gulf Coastal Plain EcoRegion. In addition, it will be a springboard to open up opportunities to work with local landowners along the Saline River and assist in putting further areas into conservation.

Florida

Acquisition for the Recovery of Chapman's rhododendron, telephus spurge, and Godfrey's butterwort (Gulf County, FL) \$1,218,750

This grant will enable the acquisition of 785 acres of important timberland habitat adjacent to the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve to directly benefit one federally-listed endangered plant, the Chapman's rhododendron, and two threatened plant species, the telephus spurge and Godfrey's butterwort. The habitat on this site includes high-quality scrubby flatwoods and wet prairies that

are important to these listed plant species and possibly several more to be discovered, including the Florida skullcap. Once acquired, this site will further extend the botanical refuge that already exists at the state preserve.

Acquisition for the Recovery of Florida Scrub-Jay: Lake Wales Ridge (Highlands County, FL) \$150,260

This grant will enable the acquisition of 35 acres of scrubby flatwoods habitat adjacent to the Archibold Biological Station in Highlands County. The project will directly benefit the federally-listed threatened Florida scrub-jay. Three families of scrub-jay used this site during the 2010 breeding season. The habitat on this site includes high-quality scrubby flatwoods and depression marshes that are important habitat for this bird species and possibly federally listed threatened sand skinks as well.

Georgia

Acquisition for the Recovery of Cherokee and Etowah darters (Paulding County, GA) \$656,287

This grant will enable the acquisition of 265 acres within the Etowah River Basin. The acquisition of the tract by the State of Georgia is critical to maintaining contiguous buffers along Raccoon Creek and its tributaries. Protection of lands with mature forest stands in upland areas helps maintain a natural hydrologic regime in streams. This property will protect one mile of an important tributary to Raccoon Creek, habitat that is needed by the federally-listed endangered Etowah darter and the federally-listed threatened Cherokee darter. State ownership will allow the property to be managed long-term as a State Wildlife Management Area.

North Carolina

Acquisition for the Recovery of Rough-leaved loosestrife (Brunswick County, NC) \$142,900

This grant will enable the acquisition of 140 acres to permanently protect a high-quality population of the federally-listed endangered rough-leaved loosestrife. Protecting this habitat will increase the size of the currently-protected North Carolina Plant Conservation Preserve that lies adjacent to this parcel. The habitat on this site includes upland forests and wetlands that are important habitat for this plant species as well as other state listed species.

Other States

Arizona

Triangle Bar – Phase II (Pinal County, AZ) \$1,000,000

The Arizona Game and Fish Department will acquire a 703-acre tract that will primarily benefit the southwestern willow flycatcher and western yellow-billed cuckoo. The acquisition will also provide benefits to the loach minnow. The subject tract is located in Pinal County at the confluence of the San Pedro River and Aravaipa Creeks. This is the second and final phase of an acquisition effort to acquire a total of 1,002 acres with 1,737 acre feet of water rights. This acquisition will provide protection for the nesting habitat of the southwestern willow flycatcher and western yellow-billed cuckoo, both of which are spotlight species in the Service's Southwest Region.

California

Endangered Insects and Plants of the Zayante Sandhills* (Santa Cruz County, CA)

\$750,000

This project will permanently protect and improve the management of up to 76 acres of Sandhills habitat that is naturally rare both due to its limited geographic range in the central Santa Cruz County and its Zayante coarse sand soil-type. This habitat is essential to the long-term recovery of four federally endangered species: the Mount Hermon June beetle, Zayante band-winged grasshopper, Ben Lomond wallflower, and Ben Lomond spineflower. The project will also benefit three other relatively more wide-ranging federally listed species that occur in the riparian habitats of the properties, including the federally threatened California red-legged frog and two listed salmonid species. This project is part of second phase of the land trust's work in collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies to develop an effective network of conservation lands in the Sandhills to conserve communities and endemic species that have been critically imperiled by habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation.

Five Species Ocean Meadows/Devereux Slough* (Santa Barbara County, CA) \$500,000

This project will acquire the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property to ensure the permanent protection of the federally endangered tidewater goby, California least tern, and Ventura marsh milk-vetch, as well as the federally threatened western snowy plover and California red-legged frog. Once a larger wetland system with both fresh and tidal elements, most of the wetlands on the property were filled in 1965 to create a nine-hole golf course. Acquisition and restoration of this property will result in the immediate protection of habitat for endangered and threatened species currently using the site and will also provide a critical connection between the upper and lower reaches of Devereux Slough, representing the only potential for reconnecting a critical wildlife corridor linking the Goleta Slough to the east with 650 acres of existing protected lands.

Land Acquisition Grant for the Federally Endangered Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander, King & Katz Properties* (Santa Cruz County, CA) \$925,000

Acquisition of up to 100 acres will provide high-quality upland sheltering habitat that is within dispersal distance of several known and potential breeding ponds for the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, a subspecies that exists in only a small, 25-square mile range located entirely within California's Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The properties to be acquired are in the Larkin Valley Area and within one mile of lands associated with the Seascape Uplands and Tucker Pond Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP). The HCP lands each contain breeding ponds for the rarely seen subspecies. By acquiring lands that are slated for residential development, negative impacts on the salamander will be prevented. Those impacts include permanent loss and fragmentation of habitat, construction, introduction of non-native plant species, clearing of vegetation, higher levels of on-site human activity, and road-kill losses resulting from increased traffic. The California Department of Fish and Game will possess unrestricted fee title ownership of the properties with management overseen by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Complex.

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep* (Riverside County, CA) \$500,000

This acquisition will acquire and permanently protect highly-developable habitat designated as critical habitat for the endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep, habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, endangered triple-ribbed milk-vetch, and potential habitat for the endangered desert slender salamander, a species known to occur in close proximity to the proposed acquisition parcels. Land will be acquired in private in-holdings that are vulnerable to development in two separate areas, both within the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains National Monument

boundary administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and along State Highway 74, adjacent to the California Department of Fish and Game's Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserve. Acquisition of the parcels will help eliminate pending development threats and will ensure that this important area for bighorn sheep and the other three species remains intact.

Colorado

Turtle Ranch Conservation Easement (Moffat County, CO) \$469,540

This conservation easement will protect 15,156 acres of the Tuttle Ranch in northwestern Colorado, including a large white-tailed prairie dog complex, which is an essential habitat component for the federally endangered black-footed ferret. Securing this easement will serve as the catalyst to initiate black-footed ferret reintroduction on this parcel. This project will be a model of incentive-based conservation, highlighting how both endangered species management and an active and profitable agricultural operation can coexist. This easement will also protect habitat, including one known active lek for greater sage-grouse, a federal candidate species, as well as numerous species of greatest conservation need in the Colorado Wildlife Action Plan. Permanent protection of the property will significantly contribute to the conservation of a landscape-scale ecosystem with wildlife populations rivaled by few places in the United States.

Hawai'i

East Maui Watershed Conservation Easement (Maui County, HI) \$391,000

This grant will fund the acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on over 3,550 acres upslope of the towns of Makawao and Haiku on the Island of Maui. The property is at the center of the 100,000-acre East Maui Watershed Partnership managed by six major landowners. The property provides habitat for 13 rare or endangered birds, including the akohekohe and Maui parrotbill, which are among the rarest birds in the U.S. It is also critical habitat for Geranium multiflorum and eight other federally listed plants as well as a number of other rare plants and animals.

Maryland

Chesapeake Bay Puritan Tiger Beetle Habitat Conservation (Cecil & Calvert Counties, MD) \$2,426,055

The State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Eastern Shore Conservancy, USFWS CBFO, Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council, and five private landowners requested funding to purchase permanent conservation easements on six properties. The properties total 456 acres of forestland and eroding cliffs and support three sub-populations of the federally threatened Puritan tiger beetle. One location also supports a large population of the federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. Once acquired, the property will be protected as habitat for the recovery of these species in Maryland.

Missouri

Recovery and Protection for Karst Dependent Federally-Listed Species in Missouri (Lawrence County, MO) \$534,750

The Missouri Department of Conservation is awarded \$534,750 to acquire an 895-acre conservation easement on land that will protect important karst and cave recharge areas in southwest Missouri. Protections will provide significant benefits for the gray bat, Ozark cavefish, and Missouri bladderpod. Easement lands will be managed by the Ozark Regional Land Trust and will protect ground water aquifers and cave recharge areas, foraging areas and movement corridors for bats, as well as limestone glades and important caves. Protections will reduce the threats to these species from habitat degradation and development.

Nebraska

Anderson Property Land Acquisition (Lancaster County, NE) \$135,000

Acquisition of the Anderson property will protect unique saline and sensitive wetland habitat for the subsequent reintroduction of the highly-endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle. The habitat on this property also supports the federally listed interior least tern and piping plover. By acquiring this parcel, the state and its public and private partners, through the Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership, will be able to provide the protection, restoration, and enhancement of a habitat that is vital to the survival and recovery of rare and endangered wildlife like the Salt Creek tiger beetle

Oregon

Yamhill Oaks – Pugh Acquisition (Yamhill County, OR) \$267,000

The Nature Conservancy, as a subgrantee to the Oregon Department of State Lands, will secure the permanent protection of the 48-acre Pugh property and manage the tract as an addition to the 272-acre Yamhill Oaks Preserve. The property supports habitat for six federally listed species, including Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, golden paintbrush, Willamette daisy, Bradshaw's lomatium, Nelson's checkermallow, and an additional 19 at risk or species of concern.

Willamette Valley Species Conservation Easement (Yamhill County, OR) \$500,000

This grant funds the acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on 284.6 acres of upland and riparian habitat in the Mount Richmond Conservation Opportunity Area of Yamhill County. The easement will benefit critically-important populations of Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, and Nelson's checkermallow.

Texas

Yoakum Dunes - Lesser Prairie-chicken* (Yoakum & Cochran Counties, TX) \$730,644

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, will acquire approximately 3,000 acres of intact native prairie. This acquisition will leverage approximately 1,000 acres in two additional parcels from Conoco Phillips in Yoakum and Cochran Counties. These three parcels are adjacent to the existing 7,270-acre Yoakum Dunes Preserve. This acquisition will result in a lesser prairie-chicken conservation area approximately 11,270 acres in size.

Washington

Northern Blue Mountains Bull Trout Recovery (Asotin & Columbia Counties, WA) \$712,650

This project will conserve bull trout habitat through a combination of fee acquisition and conservation easements on at least five key properties totaling 2,872 acres along the northern rim of the Umatilla National Forest in both the Touchet River and Asotin Creek watersheds. These efforts will also protect important winter range for populations of elk and deer in the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington, thereby providing the primary food source for natural recolonization by gray wolves.

Wisconsin**Prairie Bush Clover Recovery Land Acquisition - Smith Drumlin Prairie (Dane County, WI) \$138,000**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will acquire 40 acres of land in fee title to benefit the threatened prairie bush clover. The lands will be managed as a State Natural Area by The Prairie Enthusiasts, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of native prairie habitats. This acquisition protects a viable prairie bush clover population by advancing the recovery goal of protecting 15 such populations in the peripheral area.

Prairie Bush Clover Recovery Land Acquisition - Borah Creek Prairie State Natural Area (Grant County, WI) \$378,000

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is awarded \$378,000 to acquire 252 acres of land in fee title to benefit the threatened prairie bush clover. The lands to be acquired will be managed as part of the Borah Creek State Natural Area. The acquisition and restoration of the area, which is currently cropped, will enhance the third largest population of prairie bush clover in Wisconsin.

* indicates partial funding