



America the Beautiful Challenge

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- U.S. Department of Interior
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Defense
- Native Americans in Philanthropy

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Bison

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) joined by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Department of Defense through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program and Native Americans in Philanthropy announced 74 new grants totaling \$141.3 million through the 2023 America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC). The 74 awards leveraged more than \$12.1 million in match from grantees, providing a total conservation impact greater than \$153.4 million.

The ATBC encourages applicants to develop diverse landscape-level projects that address priority conservation and restoration needs, showcase cumulative benefits to fish and wildlife, enhance carbon sequestration and storage, engage with and benefit underserved communities, connect people with nature, and help safeguard ecosystems and communities through resilience-focused and nature-based solutions. Specifically, the ATBC funds projects within one or more of the following overarching themes:

- Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands and watersheds
- Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands and other important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks
- Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds and seascapes
- Improving ecosystem and community resilience to flooding, drought and other climate-related threats
- Expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities

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Freshwater mussel

CATEGORY 1: IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Awarded to states, U.S. territories and federally recognized Tribes to implement projects that address the program priorities on public, Tribal and/or private lands.

Aquatic Connectivity and Enhancing Mussel Restoration Capacity in the Upper Tennessee River (VA)

Grantee: Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,630,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$181,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,811,100
 Improve aquatic connectivity and habitat suitability through fish barrier removal, enhance freshwater mussel restoration efforts through production facility upgrades, improve public access with targeted access improvements and update the long-term basin-wide freshwater mussel restoration plan, all supported by an outreach and community engagement campaign. Project will provide tangible ecological benefits and raise awareness of recreational opportunities in the Upper Tennessee River Basin.

Aquatic Connectivity for Imperiled Species in the Appalachian Corridor of Massachusetts

Grantee: MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$388,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,888,900
 Restore floodplains benches, riparian forests and aquatic connectivity within three river basins in the Appalachian Highlands in Massachusetts. Project will improve habitat and corridors from the southern Berkshires to the Connecticut River Valley, enhance critical connections between two key tributaries and provide critical habitat for numerous imperiled species, including the dwarf wedgemussel and shortnose sturgeon.

Bio-Cultural Restoration within the Crown of the Continent (MT)

Grantee: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,499,900
 Matching Funds:..... N/A*
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,499,900
 Develop Landscape Conservation Design collaborative strategies for 16 landscape features and invasive plant risk assessments, restore whitebark pine and engage with the community to develop and monitor collaborative actions. Project will return the Tribe’s bison range to Tribal management, reconnect resources and cultural practices, recover functioning systems that support First Foods and ceremonial species, improve ecological connectivity, and grow a trained conservation workforce.

Building a Healthier Riparian Corridor to Support Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Reintroduction (NV)

Grantee: Walker River Paiute Tribe
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,496,600
 Matching Funds:..... N/A*
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,496,600
 Protect, enhance and reconnect aquatic, wetland and riparian habitats to prepare for the reintroduction of Lahontan cutthroat trout to Walker Lake while increasing Tribal sovereignty. Project will develop and implement a beaver management plan, map and protect riparian trees and shrubs, organize the collection of traditional foods by Tribal youth, increase the diversity of riparian forests and wetlands through planting 40 acres of culturally important plants and construct 4 miles of trails.

Building Landowner Participation in the Florida Panther Recovery Efforts (FL)

Grantee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$166,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,666,700
 Pilot payment for ecosystem services program to maintain and enhance habitat for the Florida panther as a critical step in expanding their range and establishing new populations as prioritized in the Florida panther recovery plan. The success of this pilot will provide the proof of concept to garner additional partners and will grow the program into a viable, long-term solution to sustain a connected landscape for panthers.

Building Resiliency of Longleaf Pine Ecosystems in Southeastern Sentinel Landscapes (FL, GA, NC, SC)

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$2,500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$187,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,687,300
 Complete prescribed burns, mechanical and chemical treatments and hand cutting to improve habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species on 42,290 acres of longleaf pine habitat, and perform road crossings and culverts surveys. Project will improve upland and wetland habitats for at-risk species, data on aquatic barriers and connectivity to drive future remediation efforts and ecosystem resilience for Southeastern Sentinel Landscapes in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Cocopah Colorado River Limitrophe Restoration (AZ)

Grantee: Cocopah Indian Tribe
 Grant Amount:..... \$5,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... N/A*
 Total Project Amount:..... \$5,000,000
 Restore 431 acres of native cottonwood, willow, mesquite and wetland habitat in the floodplain of the Colorado River Delta on the Cocopah Indian Reservation and establish a Tribal youth conservation corps. Project will perform earthwork, install irrigation for revegetation, and engage Tribal youth in the removal of invasive species to improve habitat, connectivity, and resilience of this spiritually and culturally important ecosystem to benefit at-risk species.

Community-Driven Riparian and Wetland Restoration in the Jordan River (UT)

Grantee: Utah Division of Water Quality
 Grant Amount:..... \$4,991,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$554,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$5,546,000
 Revitalize the Jordan River and adjacent habitats along the south shorelands of the Great Salt Lake through floodplain and wetland restoration, native and invasive species management, and community engagement. Project will facilitate engagement of over 2,000 volunteers to restore

12 miles of riparian corridor which will improve the health and functionality of the Jordan River, while also providing key ecosystem services to communities in the Salt Lake Metro area.

Conserving, Enhancing and Connecting Core Areas of Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem (IA, MO)

Grantee: Missouri Department of Conservation
 Grant Amount:..... \$4,730,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$525,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$5,255,600
 Reconstruct and manage an estimated 28,000 acres of state wildlife action plan-prioritized tallgrass prairie in Missouri and Iowa through multi-jurisdictional partnerships. Project will collaborate with Tribes, landowners and other organizations to conserve, restore and connect remnant prairies and savannas through prescribed fire, invasive control, grazing and outreach. These efforts will rebuild an ecosystem that historically covered one-third of the Mississippi River Basin.

Conserving the Hydrology and Climate Resilience of Five Priority Salt Marshes in Rhode Island

Grantee: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, NBNERR
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,002,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$111,400
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,114,200
 Recover natural salt marsh hydrology degraded by legacy impacts and address non-native invasive species inhibiting natural processes that at-risk species like the saltmarsh sparrow rely on. Project will improve the resilience and landward migration of 738 acres of salt marsh and coastal upland habitat at five salt marsh ecosystems by creating runnels and maintaining ditches, removing structural barriers and managing invasive species.

Establishing Peatland Atlantic White Cedar Forest on Game Lands in North Carolina

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,691,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$188,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,879,900
 Establish Atlantic white cedar forest and adapted peatland plant species, including bald cypress and button bush, and accomplish hydrologic restoration in a pocosin-peatland environment at Angola Bay Game Land. Project will impact 1,383 acres of recently harvested pine plantation stands and include the installation of 13 water control structures and raising of 8 miles of vulnerable road, in turn optimized hydrologic conditions will allow Atlantic white cedar forest communities to thrive.

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Expanding Coho Habitat and Increasing Resiliency on Tribal Lands in Lower Klamath River Basin (CA)

Grantee: Resighini Rancheria

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... N/A*
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Improve wetland habitat and reduce flooding impacts in the Lower Klamath River Basin by rectifying aquatic barrier infrastructure and planting native plants and shrubs for at-risk and Tribal trust species, including coho salmon. Project will replace two existing large culverts, elevate the roadway and restore native vegetation on Resighini Rancheria Tribal lands.

Expanding Salmon Habitat Connectivity on the Feather River (CA)

Grantee: California Department of Water Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$2,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$222,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,222,200

Remove the existing Sunset Weir, a 10-foot tall boulder weir in the Feather River, and modify the appurtenant pumps to allow for unimpeded passage for threatened salmon, steelhead and sturgeon. Project will contribute to conservation and climate resilience efforts throughout California by expanding habitat connectivity, removing barriers to fish passage and restoring natural riverine physical processes and ecosystem function.

Implementing Priority Recovery Actions for the Federally Threatened Trispot Darter in Georgia

Grantee: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$2,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$222,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,222,200

Assess and prioritize 300 road crossings in high-priority watersheds, replace 10 crossings that cause significant barriers to small fish passage, and use environmental DNA methods to sample, fill life-history knowledge gaps and inform barrier prioritization for the trispot darter. Project will contribute to priority recovery actions for the species by restoring connection between breeding and non-breeding habitats and refining environmental DNA techniques.

Improving Ecosystem and Community Health and Food Security through Invasive Species Removal in Guam

Grantee: Guam Department of Agriculture

Grant Amount:..... \$750,000
 Matching Funds:..... N/A**
 Total Project Amount:..... \$750,000

Collaborate with partners to utilize existing trapping technology, veterinary management techniques, and other eradication methods to remove invasive and feral species from forested ecosystems and nearby communities. Project will improve the success of ongoing reforestation efforts by building local capacity, engaging the community in voluntary stewardship, reducing the risks to public health and safety

and advancing the success of habitat restoration for at-risk species.

Improving Migration Corridor Connectivity Across Western States (WY)

Grantee: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Grant Amount:..... \$5,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$555,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$5,555,600

Enhance, prioritize, restore and conserve habitats that improve landscape permeability and connectivity; directly contribute to overall ecosystem resiliency and biodiversity; and provide economic benefits to rural communities. Project will advance existing strategic state corridor action plans for 11 states, engage an additional seven states and five Canadian provinces and territories in strategic planning and supply an opportunity for information sharing from Indigenous communities.

Integrated Grassland and Stream Restoration in the Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem (NM, TX)

Grantee: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Grant Amount:..... \$3,500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$388,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,888,900

Collaborate with partners to restore riparian and grassland ecosystems in priority conservation areas of the Chihuahuan Desert in Texas and New Mexico. Project will benefit several species including the yellow-billed cuckoo, zone-tailed hawk and other grassland birds by installing 2 miles of stream restoration treatments informed through Indigenous knowledge and applying treatments to control brush encroachment on at least 30,000 acres.



Yellow-billed cuckoo

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Landowner-led Carnivore Conflict Reduction in Western Montana

Grantee: Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Grant Amount:..... \$4,972,300

Matching Funds:..... \$552,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$5,524,800

Coordinate with independent livestock producers and local landowner-led groups to expand the use of proven and locally-designed non-lethal carnivore conflict prevention techniques. Project will contribute a critical component of a larger strategy, securing producer and rural community access to methods that reduce conflict and restore habitat connectivity for grizzly bears across 18 million acres connecting the Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone ecosystems.

Landscape-Scale Restoration for Large Mammal Species in a Regional Wildlife Corridor (NM)

Grantee: Pueblo of Santa Ana

Grant Amount:..... \$4,000,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$4,000,000

Implement and design wildlife-highway mitigation structures along a 5-mile stretch of high-volume roadway, including upgrading 69 miles of fencing and removing 3,000 acres of woody encroachment. Project will facilitate movements and restore important habitats to improve the wildlife corridor between Mount Taylor and the Jemez Mountains for the benefit of traditionally important species that traverse the Pueblo of Santa Ana's lands.

Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships to Connect Conserved Lands of the U.S. Virgin Islands

Grantee: Government of the Virgin Islands

Grant Amount:..... \$2,109,600

Matching Funds:..... N/A**

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,109,600

Create the first conservation corridor that spans the length of St. Croix by partnering with local organizations and employing a youth green skills corps. Project will expand public access while stemming erosion along 2.11 miles of beach and will use environmental engineering interventions and reforestation to restore a total of 260 acres or 27 percent of wetlands on St. Croix.

Manu Tatene Utkéware: Improving Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems on Ancestral Lands (SC)

Grantee: Catawba Indian Nation

Grant Amount:..... \$4,807,400

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$4,807,400

Use a cultural approach to ecological restoration by engaging Catawba citizens in replacing two culverts, stabilizing streambanks, converting land to native prairie and doubling the size of canebrake on Tribal lands. Project will renew the relationship of reciprocity between Catawba people and their lands by stewarding prairie, rivercane ecosystems and aquatic habitats along the Catawba River.

The Meadowlark Initiative: Advancing Grassland Conservation on Private Lands in North Dakota

Grantee: North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Grant Amount:..... \$2,500,000

Matching Funds:..... \$277,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,777,800

Assemble collective insights, resources and efforts of conservation, agriculture and industry partners to enhance, restore and sustain native grasslands in North Dakota. Project will protect approximately 18,000 acres of native grasslands by providing willing ranchers and producers with financial compensation to protect their native grasslands from conversion and development.

Northern Plains Bison Range Conservation Improvements with the Fort Peck Buffalo Program (MT)

Grantee: Fort Peck Tribes

Grant Amount:..... \$4,999,600

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$4,999,600

Enhance grassland habitat conservation value within the 17,000-acre Fort Peck Cultural Buffalo Ranch in northeast Montana. Project will utilize herd health and range ecological assessments to identify and implement appropriate habitat improvement, workforce development, and community engagement strategies.

Prioritizing Habitat Restoration and Aquatic Connectivity in the Penobscot River Watershed (ME)

Grantee: Penobscot Indian Nation

Grant Amount:..... \$4,999,400

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$4,999,400

Conduct habitat assessments of moose, wood turtles, vernal pools, fish passage for eastern brook trout and Atlantic salmon, plus restore riparian habitat and aquatic connectivity through the replacement of five stream crossings. Project will address goals in the nation's forest management plan and strengthen traditional Tribal lifeways through the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat throughout Tribal lands and former timberland in the Penobscot River watershed.

Reconnecting Wildlife Corridors along Two Northern Arizona Interstates

Grantee: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$111,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,111,100

Establish wildlife corridors for pronghorn, elk, deer and other wildlife by upgrading fencing and developing overpasses on two interstates with a high number of wildlife-vehicle collisions in Arizona. This project will build off findings from past studies to improve 11 miles of fencing and complete designs for three wildlife overpasses to ultimately help strengthen ecosystem resilience by conserving and restoring daily and seasonal migrations.

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Re-Establishing Aquatic Connectivity on State Game Lands (PA)

Grantee: Pennsylvania Game Commission

Grant Amount:..... \$1,406,100

Matching Funds:..... \$156,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,562,300

Use an existing project pipeline to advance replacement of 36 crossings in a cost-effective manner with timber deck bridges, which have no footprint in the stream channel and allow for organism passage. Project will replace culverts to restore connectivity to more than 25 miles of high-priority aquatic habitat on publicly accessible state game lands, in order to improve climate resiliency and increase passage for native migratory species in the Delaware and Susquehanna River watersheds.

Regenerative Urban Watershed and Wetland Restoration on Fort Dupont Creek (DC)

Grantee: Department of Energy and Environment

Grant Amount:..... \$2,500,000

Matching Funds:..... \$277,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,777,800

Enhance the Fort Dupont Riparian Corridor through stream and wetland reconstruction projects including the removal of fish barriers and regenerative stream design that will benefit species of greatest conservation including the eastern worm snake, northern ringneck snake, redback salamander, five lined skink and the American eel. Project will restore 18,600 feet of stream, 7 acres of wetlands, and will plant over 100,000 native plants in this urban watershed.

Repurposing Osborn, Idaho Overpass for Wildlife Connectivity (ID)

Grantee: Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Grant Amount:..... \$250,000

Matching Funds:..... \$27,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$277,800

Convert an unused, functional bridge along Interstate 90 between the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe National Forests in Idaho, into a wildlife crossing structure by installing 2 miles of fencing and 10 one-way gates. Project is a cost-effective, community-led effort that will complement an underpass structure along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River in improving critical habitat connectivity for at-risk species such as grizzly bear, wolverine and fisher while also increasing safety for the community.

Restoring Connectivity for Lake Sturgeon on the Upper Otter Tail River (MN)

Grantee: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$2,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$222,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,222,200

Replace two undersized culverts with properly sized channel flow span bridges in the upper Otter Tail River. Project will reconnect 20 miles of critical spawning habitat for Red River lake



Redback salamander

sturgeon, walleye and other native fish species to an additional 69 miles of previously reconnected aquatic migratory pathways.

Restoring Degraded Forests and Badlands on Guam

Grantee: Guam Department of Agriculture

Grant Amount:..... \$1,096,700

Matching Funds:..... N/A**

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,096,700

Re-establish connectivity of intact native habitats previously degraded by anthropogenic disturbance including fires, clearing and off-roading allowing establishment of non-native plants. Project will rely on thorough delineation, mapping and plant identification to outplant native species, especially those that support and take advantage of the Mariana fruit bat and other native fauna's natural ability to disperse seeds and perpetuate native forest.

Restoring New Hampshire Salt Marshes

Grantee: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Grant Amount:..... \$2,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$222,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,222,200

Support implementation of three high-priority salt marsh projects to restore single channel hydrology of tidal wetlands, primarily through salt marsh ditch remediation and runnels, as well as other interventions to enhance plant communities and habitat for saltmarsh sparrow and other at-risk species. Project will increase tidal wetland resilience to sea level rise while fostering a community of practice focused on adaptive management of salt marsh health among partners and stakeholders.

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Salmon Habitat Restoration in the Nason Creek Floodplain of the Upper Columbia Basin (WA)

Grantee: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Grant Amount:..... \$2,997,300

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,997,300

Remove a 0.55 mile-long segment of State Route 207 from the Nason Creek floodway, reconnect 13 acres of side channel and floodplain habitat, protect 0.6 miles of oxbow rearing habitat and restore more natural stream hydraulics and habitat complexity within a 1.4 mile long segment of the creek. Project will boost productivity of Nason Creek as a critical spawning and rearing stream for culturally and ecologically important spring Chinook salmon and steelhead in the upper Columbia Basin.

Shoreline Stabilization and Ecosystem Recovery of Lake Sharpe (SD)

Grantee: Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$2,343,300

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,343,300

Stabilize shoreline of Lake Sharpe; establish trees, shrubs, vines and other culturally important riparian plants; build an island and a peninsula; restore wetland habitats; establish a walking trail and cultural interpretive natural area; and protect two cultural sites. Project will benefit riparian and wetland-dependent wildlife, and key habitats created are 60 acres of cottonwood-dominated forest and 17 acres of back channel and side channel wetlands in a 3-mile riparian zone.

Suppression of Invasive Mosquitoes to Prevent Extinction of Four Hawaiian Honeycreepers on Kaua'i and Maui (HI)

Grantee: Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Grant Amount:..... \$6,280,000

Matching Funds:..... \$697,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$6,977,800

Protect multiple species of honeycreeper, including the 'akeke'e, 'akikiki, kiwikiu and 'akohekohe, by employing the incompatible insect technique to suppress invasive southern house mosquitoes in native forests on Kaua'i and help spread these practices on Maui. The project will reduce or eliminate the occurrence of the vector for avian malaria on 3,000 acres of native Kaua'i forest and will fence 365 acres of native forest from ungulates to prevent creation of mosquito habitat.

Túuši Wána Floodplain, River, and Salmon Habitat Restoration (WA)

Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Grant Amount:..... \$2,500,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,500,000

Create instream diversity through installation of over

160 engineered large wood structures and conserve a 400-acre floodplain on the Touchet River using the Tribe's River Vision restoration philosophy as a guide. Project will create instream fish habitat, restore salmonid migration routes and rebuild overwintering habitat for salmonid species.

War Eagle Creek Collaborative Restoration Initiative (AR)

Grantee: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Grant Amount:..... \$3,934,100

Matching Funds:..... \$437,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$4,371,200

Collaborate with partners and landowners to remove four aquatic organism passage barriers to reconnect 434 miles of War Eagle Creek, restore 5,500 linear feet of streambanks, create 4 acres of wetlands, install instream habitat structures, establish public access points and reduce flood and safety hazards. Project will restore watershed function through improved corridor connectivity and water quality, and provide community services such as conservation education training and informative data.

Water Resource Management for Fish Habitat Improvement in the San Juan River (NM)

Grantee: State of New Mexico

Grant Amount:..... \$4,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$444,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$4,444,400

Conserve 80,000 acre feet of water; increase ecosystem resilience through implementation of monitoring and adaptive management plans and expand outreach within the Jicarilla Apache Nation and local community partners around water conservation and management of the San Juan River. Project will augment stream flow for aquatic resources and improve watershed health in the river basin, while increasing water security for native aquatic species including the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker.

Wildfire Resilience and Reforestation in Parker Peak Giant Sequoia Grove (CA)

Grantee: Tule River Indian Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$2,783,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,783,000

Conduct wildfire resilience and post-fire restoration activities including hazard tree removal, ladder fuel reductions, thinning, cultural and prescribed burning, slash disposal, reforestation, and site stabilization on 2,600 acres of land. Project will reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire at the landscape level while enhancing ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, watershed health and flood risk mitigation in Parker Peak Giant Sequoia Grove on the Tule River Indian Reservation.

* Match requirements for Tribally-led ATBC projects are covered by a contribution from Native Americans in Philanthropy

** U.S. Territories are not required to provide match under this ATBC category.

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CATEGORY 2: PLANNING GRANTS

Awarded to states, U.S. territories and federally recognized Tribes for projects that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions through community-based assessments, partnership building, planning, project design and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

Camas to Condors: Biocultural Restoration Planning for Ananasocum (ID, MT, OR, WA)

Grantee: Nez Perce Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$1,999,400

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,999,400

Strengthen the Tribally-led Camas to Condors collaborative by completing a range study, nesting territory surveys, release and feeding site selection and hosting stakeholder workshops. Project will explore ecological employment, education, workforce training for Tribal members and expand partnerships to ultimately create an adaptive management plan and ecosystem resiliency strategy for California condors within the Ananasocum watershed (Joseph Canyon) and the Greater Hells Canyon ecoregion.

Developing an Ancestral Homelands Tribal Conservation District in the Bering Sea-Interior (AK)

Grantee: Holy Cross Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$1,207,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,207,000

Create the first indigenous sovereign habitat Tribal conservation district — mountains to sea — Alaska that will achieve co-management between the 38-Tribe Bering Sea-Interior Tribal Commission and federal agencies to improve management of ancestral homelands. Project will set conservation priorities; secure co-management agreements; ensure sustainable productivity of land to support food sovereignty; consider sustainable economic development options; and provide for cultural preservation.

Developing Conservation Professionals Grounded in Indigenous Knowledge (GU, MP)

Grantee: Guam Community College

Grant Amount:..... \$587,600

Matching Funds:..... N/A**

Total Project Amount:..... \$587,600

Develop Indigenous methodologies and capacity to effectively navigate the threats to biodiversity and advance restoration efforts in the Mariana Islands. Project will inform the development of a field school, internship program and graduate fellowship rooted in Indigenous knowledge, to produce the next generation of capable, creative collaborative conservation practitioners and leaders.



California condor

Ecocultural Regeneration Planning for Fort Apache and Theodore Roosevelt School National Historic Landmark (AZ)

Grantee: White Mountain Apache Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$333,800

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:..... \$333,800

Address environmental and cultural harms at Fort Apache to create a master plan for re-Indigenizing the 300 acres of rivers, farmlands, grasslands and woodlands at Fort Apache. Project will produce a shovel-ready plan, conduct six site visits, six focus groups and eight core team meetings for managing Tribal Nation land.

Intergovernmental Collaboration for Manoomin (Wild Rice) Stewardship in Wisconsin

Grantee: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$1,904,400

Matching Funds:..... \$211,600

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,116,000

Conduct implementation-focused research to fill gaps in understanding of climate and non-climate stressors on manoomin (wild rice) to support Tribal, state and local government manoomin management strategies. Project will strengthen relationships between Tribal Nations and the state of Wisconsin, fill strategic research gaps, develop and pilot education and outreach materials, and develop detailed implementation strategies.

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Eastern hellbender

Partnering with Tribes to Sustainably Manage Recreation on Washington State Public Lands (WA)

Grantee: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$111,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,111,100
 Collaborate with Washington's 29 federally recognized Tribes and two Tribes with off-reservation treaty rights to develop an adaptive framework to mitigate outdoor recreation impacts on ecosystems, Tribal treaty rights and other interests across state public lands. Project will support convening of a Tribal-State recreation forum and inform future management of recreation to be more ecologically sustainable and protect the long-term health and conservation of these lands.

Prioritizing River Restoration in the Wolastoq-St. John Watershed (ME)

Grantee: Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,663,100
 Matching Funds:..... N/A*
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,663,100
 Create a portfolio of high-priority river restoration projects that address top habitat needs, while producing safer and cost-effective infrastructure using a robust public-private consortium to support the success of developing this program in a region with extremely high biodiversity value and simultaneously high climate risk. Project will result in a strategic investment plan of shovel-ready projects packaged for rapid application.

Reconnecting the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes to Cultural and Ecological Values (WY)

Grantee: Wind River Indian Reservation
 Grant Amount:..... \$619,500
 Matching Funds:..... N/A*
 Total Project Amount:..... \$619,500
 Provide Tribal leaders with the community support they need to develop a strategic plan and take action to advance shared goals. Project will plan a series of community meetings and field trips, designed to build community engagement to develop a plan that promotes sovereignty, buffalo conservation, river restoration, ecosystem health and opportunities for climate resilience.

Reforestation Aquatic Corridors of Southern Appalachia through Agroforestry (AL, GA, OH, NC, TN, WV, VA)

Grantee: Conservation Management Institute of Virginia Tech
 Grant Amount:..... \$757,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$668,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,426,300
 Catalyze riparian reforestation efforts on agricultural land in the southern Appalachian range of eastern hellbenders by promoting multifunctional riparian areas that increase the financial resilience of agriculture and boost ecosystem health. Project will engage with farmers and producers to plant native, crop-producing trees and shrubs and will host 32 field days or workshops demonstrating this agroforestry model.

Restoring Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystems in Oklahoma's Neosho River Watershed

Grantee: Oklahoma Conservation Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$638,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$70,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$709,300
 Train and support leaders from low-income communities, and nine federally recognized Tribal Nations, to develop landscape-level proposals for restoring woodland and tallgrass prairie ecosystems in northeast Oklahoma's Neosho River Watershed. Project will prioritize restoration that addresses the challenges of decimated tallgrass prairies, contamination risks from lead and zinc mining and extreme flooding that impacts more than 300 homes.

Return to the River: Developing a Master Plan for Conservation and Environmental Education (VA)

Grantee: Rappahannock Tribe
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,697,300
 Matching Funds:..... N/A*
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,697,300
 Engage with experts to complete six plans covering conservation and land management; traditional knowledge sharing; public education curriculum; business, risk management and safety training; marketing and communication; as well as architectural design and interpretation. Project will finalize a master plan including programmatic and operational aspects of educational programs and design of a new welcome center on 1,168 acres of repatriated ancestral lands.

(continued)

Salmon Restoration Planning in the Hangman Watershed (ID, WA)

Grantee: Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Grant Amount:.....\$614,300

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:.....\$614,300

Develop an analysis to support long-term efforts of restoring habitat for the return of Chinook salmon to its historical home. Project will establish four monitoring programs enabling the Tribe and its partners to identify lands on the Reservation and in the Spokane River watershed that should be targeted for changes in land use practices in order to support the overall health of the watershed.

Shapa'sh Landscape Restoration Project (CA)

Grantee: Modoc Nation

Grant Amount:.....\$608,300

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:.....\$608,300

Complete initial planning for a restoration effort that will reduce encroaching juniper, remove invasive vegetation, and reseed native plants in the Lower Klamath River Basin in partnership with the Modoc National Forest. Project will result in a plan that, once executed, will enhance sage-steppe habitat, increase water availability to Lower Klamath Lake, improve wildfire resilience and reduce invasive plants.

Tribal-led Restoration Alliance to Restore Red Abalone in Northern California's Kelp Forest

Grantee: Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria

Grant Amount:.....\$1,000,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A*

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,000,000

Engage scientists, engineers and consultants to assess the current state of red abalone populations in Northern California, plan for the restoration of abalone in wild habitat, and co-design abalone production infrastructure on Tribal and partner properties necessary for sustained abalone restoration in the long term. Project will inform a future multi-year coordinated restoration implementation project for the species.

Vermont Conservation Strategy Initiative (VT)

Grantee: Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Grant Amount:.....\$1,000,000

Matching Funds:.....\$111,100

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,111,100

Produce a long-term conservation plan that supports, maintains and enhances an ecologically functional and connected landscape with sustainable production of natural resources and recreational opportunities. Project will launch a strategic planning process to implement first in-the-nation legislation to establish statutory conservation goals using the Vermont Agency of Natural Resource's Vermont Conservation Design as a framework for investments and conservation actions.

* Match requirements for Tribally-led ATBC projects are covered by a contribution from Native Americans in Philanthropy

** U.S. Territories are not required to provide match under this ATBC category.

CATEGORY 3: SENTINEL LANDSCAPE GRANTS

Awarded for projects with multiple partners that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions or by directly contributing to on-the-ground outcomes, prioritized to Sentinel Landscapes or areas that preserve or enhance military readiness.

Adaptive Management of Water Resources in the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape (AZ)

Grantee: City of Sierra Vista

Grant Amount:.....\$1,050,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A***

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,050,000

Protect and restore groundwater essential for sustaining 43 miles of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape. Project will coordinate hydrologic and ecological modeling to support essential groundwater recharge projects needed to sustain hydrologic function for the riparian ecosystem.

Enhancing Capacity of the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Partnership

Grantee: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Grant Amount:.....\$722,800

Matching Funds:..... N/A***

Total Project Amount:.....\$722,800

Enhance partnership capacity for implementing impactful conservation in the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape through efforts to develop resources to improve understanding of the Edwards and Trinity aquifers that support the Sentinel Landscape, surrounding communities, and several ecological regions home to endemic and at-risk species. Project will develop a conservation model, a geospatial web tool and a groundwater study that will inform decisions on the location of on-the-ground efforts and conservation funding.

Eradicating Little Fire Ants within the Proposed Guahan Sentinel Landscape in Guam

Grantee: Department of Agriculture, Biosecurity Division

Grant Amount:.....\$1,006,300

Matching Funds:..... N/A***

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,006,300

Eradicate little fire ants within priority sites on Guam where treatment will support military mission, protect at-risk species, address community concerns and protect local industry, including subsistence and small-scale agriculture. Project will apply pesticides across 150 acres through credentialed pest managers, drones or other mechanisms, and will conduct comprehensive outreach and training programs to empower willing private landowners to contribute to little fire ant eradication.

Leveraging Active Conservation Partnerships for Hawaiian Sentinel Landscape Planning (HI)

Grantee: Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation
 Grant Amount:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds:..... N/A***
 Total Project Amount:..... \$250,000
 Coordinate and plan conservation priorities to support capacity building and future action within the anticipated Sentinel Landscape designation in Hawai'i. Project will strategically communicate with partners to establish appropriate advisory and implementation bodies, conduct GIS assessments and develop a site implementation plan that will bolster partnership networks and operational infrastructure.

Working Lands Invasive Species Management in the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape (IN)

Grantee: Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management
 Grant Amount:..... \$500,600
 Matching Funds:..... N/A***
 Total Project Amount:..... \$500,600
 Enhance local volunteer collaboration and partnership for improved land management and invasive plant control to benefit the ecosystem and two federally listed bat species by working with private landowners adjacent to Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape military installations. Project will work with partners to engage 80-100 landowners on over 1,200 acres by hosting 6 training events and 40 action-oriented volunteer events to remove non-native invasive species.

Working Rangelands Resiliency in the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape (FL)

Grantee: University of Florida
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,405,900
 Matching Funds:..... N/A***
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,405,900
 Collaborate with partners to improve the conservation value, viability and long-term resilience of working lands in the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape by providing technical, financial and organizational support to private landowners to implement climate-smart comprehensive land management plans. Project will develop 40 plans and 15 monitoring programs to maximize ecosystem value and reduce the burden of managing working lands for conservation in the short and long-term.

*** Match is not required for projects receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Defense.

CATEGORY 4: NATIONAL FOREST GRANTS

Awarded for projects on National Forest System lands that achieve the restoration of a forest ecosystem through the removal of vegetation, the use of prescribed fire or the decommissioning of an unauthorized, temporary or system roads.

Assessing and Prioritizing Aquatic Connectivity on U.S. Forest Service Lands

Grantee: American Rivers
 Grant Amount:..... \$802,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$200,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,003,600
 Inventory and prioritize opportunities for aquatic connectivity on U.S. Forest Service lands in Regions 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9, to maximize reconnection, restoration and enhancement of aquatic habitat. Project will expand knowledge of aquatic fragmentation on USFS lands, prioritize projects to increase connectivity, assess feasibility of rectifying select high priority dams and bolster USFS and other land steward capacity to address barrier impacts on fish passage, biodiversity and safety.

Bears Ears National Monument and Manti-La Sal National Forest Watershed Restoration (UT)

Grantee: Friends of Cedar Mesa (DBA Bears Ears Partnership)
 Grant Amount:..... \$300,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$375,000
 Collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and utilize the Manti-La Sal National Forests' Land & Resource Management Plan to implement watershed restoration techniques such as fencing, channel and slope manipulation, range improvements, trail stabilization and vegetation management, across 11 priority sites in Bears Ears National Monument. Project will support watershed health, climate resiliency, recreation access and ecosystem health at these sites.

Deployment of Invasive Species and Watershed Improvement Crews in Coconino National Forest (AZ)

Grantee: American Conservation Experience
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,404,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$351,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,755,900
 Recruit and field two specialized six-person crews to perform invasive species management and watershed improvement projects on the Coconino National Forest in Arizona. Project will remove and treat invasive species on 1,000 acres and will deliver 15 miles of instream and riparian restoration through the removal of failed culverts, channel stabilization, installation of rack or log structures and the reduction of non-functioning flow diversion features.

Engage the Next Generation of Ecosystem Stewards through Restoration of Michigan's National Forests

Grantee: Child and Family Services

Grant Amount:.....\$784,500
 Matching Funds:.....\$196,100
 Total Project Amount:.....\$980,600

Conduct on-the-ground conservation activities, such as invasive species removal and preparation for prescribed burns in each of Michigan's three National Forests with YouthWork AmeriCorps members and volunteers. Project will lead to wide-ranging restoration across the three National Forests including the management of stormwater runoff on 120 acres, improvement of 120 passage barriers, engagement of over 48 young AmeriCorps members and over 30 volunteers.

Enhancing First Foods and Habitat Connectivity and Resilience in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (WA)

Grantee: Conservation Northwest

Grant Amount:.....\$810,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$202,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,012,500

Lead collaborative efforts to improve native vegetation for Tribal harvest, ungulate forage, pollinator habitat, and improve terrestrial and hydrologic connectivity that restores hillslope hydrology and prevents sediment input to at-risk salmon headwater streams in the Greenwater River. Project will improve habitat on over 270 acres critical to the maintenance of Tribal Nation first foods while restoring watershed connectivity and resilience through tree thinning, prescribed burning and road removal.



Ozark National Forest

Glade and Woodland Restoration in Ozark and Mark Twain National Forests (AR, MO)

Grantee: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Grant Amount:.....\$1,500,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$361,100
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,861,100

Restore and maintain 4,023 acres of glades and open woodlands through invasive species removal, vegetation management and prescribed fire across the Ozark and Mark Twain National Forests in Arkansas and Missouri. Project will enhance habitat for over 100 at-risk fish, wildlife and plant species; reduce wildfire risk; promote recreation; and generate economic benefits for rural communities.

Grassland Habitat Expansion and Restoration across Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois

Grantee: Openlands

Grant Amount:.....\$1,500,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$375,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,875,000

Build on landscape-scale habitat restoration at the U.S. Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois by removing invasive trees and shrubs on a 1,321-acre tract in the Grant Creek Priority Watershed Area which shares a mile-long border with Midewin's existing 1,200-acre bison pasture grassland complex. Project will greatly improve habitat connectivity and structure, reduce invasive pressure on existing bison pasture and will facilitate a future prairie and wetland project.

Lake George Aquatic Connectivity and River Restoration (CO)

Grantee: Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Grant Amount:.....\$500,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$125,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$625,000

Restore the natural river channel and re-establish approximately 45 miles of aquatic species passage and spawning habitat on the South Platte River, part of the Pike-San Isabel National Forests by removing an obsolete diversion dam and accumulated sediment. Project will benefit naturally reproducing populations of rainbow trout and provide more habitat availability for native species, such as Iowa darter, long-nose dace, long-nose sucker and other smaller species.

Osceola National Forest Watershed Restoration (FL)

Grantee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Grant Amount:.....\$250,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$62,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$312,500

Complete 500 acres of mechanical forest understory fuels reduction and soil stabilization along 4 miles of road as part of the U.S. Forest Service's Osceola National Forest Watershed Restoration Action Plan. Project will restore forest health and hydrologic function, and reduce wildfire risk within a prioritized 39,254-acre watershed for the benefit of wildlife species of greatest conservation need and local community resiliency.

(continued)



Monarch butterfly

Promoting Tribal Co-Stewardship for Grasslands Health (CO, KS, ND, NE, SD)

Grantee: First Nations Development Institute
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,377,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$344,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,721,500
 Provide technical assistance, training and networking to Tribal Nations for the purpose of developing Tribal co-stewardship agreements with the U.S. Forest Service that restore the health of federal grasslands through Indigenous natural resource management practices. Project will lead to the development of six plans and monitoring programs focused on Indigenous cultural fire management practices, restoration of keystone fauna species and reseedling of native grasses and prairie plants.

Reducing Flood Risk in Olympic National Forest (WA)

Grantee: Wild Salmon Center
 Grant Amount:..... \$870,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$217,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,088,400
 Work with Olympic National Forest, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Quileute Tribe to develop 14 miles of road storage and decommissioning project plans along with decommissioning implementation off 4.2 miles of National Forest road in the Calawah watershed.

Project will reduce risks of hill slope failures during winter flood events, protect salmon habitat from hill slope failures and provide recreational access for local communities.

CATEGORY 5: PRIVATE FORESTS, RANGELAND AND FARMLAND GRANTS

Awarded for projects that support outreach and engagement with private landowners for voluntary conservation efforts on working lands to advance NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife Framework and Initiatives.

Elevating Working Land for Wildlife Grassland Conservation among Landowners in the Texas Mid-Coast

Grantee: Wildlife Habitat Federation
 Grant Amount:..... \$297,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$297,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$595,000
 Initiate locally-led efforts to support voluntary working lands conservation to increase and improve habitat within the Monarch Butterfly and Northern Bobwhite Quail Working Lands for Wildlife geographies across a 17-county area of the Texas mid-coast. Project will work with landowners to provide resource inventories and habitat management plans which will result in 60,000 acres of working lands under improved management and lead to increased eligibility for Farm Bill programs.

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Expanding Forest Landowner Technical Assistance in Georgia

Grantee: Georgia Forestry Foundation
 Grant Amount:.....\$293,400
 Matching Funds:.....\$293,400
 Total Project Amount:.....\$586,800
 Enhance and expand the conservation resources available to small and minority landowners across forestlands in Georgia that correspond to Gopher Tortoise and Northern Bobwhite Working Land for Wildlife initiative ranges. Project will increase forest management activities including understory management, invasive removal and prescribed fire through increased outreach efforts including reaching out to 5,000 people, hosting 50 workshops, and developing a database of private forest landowners.

Project Wingspan: Monarch Butterfly Pollinator Steward Certification Program (IL, IN, OH)

Grantee: Pollinator Partnership
 Grant Amount:.....\$293,300
 Matching Funds:.....\$293,300
 Total Project Amount:.....\$586,600
 Implement a multistate Pollinator Steward Certification

program to foster community engagement in conservation and provide technical assistance to private landowners in priority Monarch Butterfly Working Land for Wildlife locations. Project will target 600 private landowners and hold nine workshops to provide technical training and one-on-one support for the adoption of conservation practices that support habitat needs of at-risk grassland birds and pollinators.

Providing Equitable Technical Assistance to Increase Texas Landowners' Engagement in Conservation

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation
 Grant Amount:.....\$458,200
 Matching Funds:.....\$458,200
 Total Project Amount:.....\$916,400
 Build an understanding of underserved landowners' barriers to conservation opportunities, and based on findings, develop a collaborative working relationship with landowners and partners within the Monarch Butterfly and Louisiana Pine Snake Working Lands for Wildlife areas. Project will increase landowner engagement by 80 percent and restore and/or enhance 1,000 acres of land by providing landowners with guidance and utilizing a mentorship program.



Northern bobwhite quail