



NFWF

“ConocoPhillips SPIRIT Program” 2017 Grant Slate

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FUNDING PARTNERS



ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation’s fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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King salmon

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), ConocoPhillips and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the 2017 round of funding for the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation and Innovation Program. Nine grants totaling \$994,000 were awarded to a diverse set of projects focused on biodiversity and water innovation. The awards generated \$1.9 million in match from grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$2.9 million.

The ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation and Innovation Program seeks to award grants to advance habitat restoration, water and biodiversity conservation, and innovative conservation projects. The program funds projects that improve species and habitat conservation through the restoration or enhancement of ecosystems and habitats. Other priority projects are those that improve water conservation through stimulating and leveraging the development and adoption of innovative technologies and techniques.

SPECIES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

The following eight projects seek to improve species and habitat conservation through

(continued)



Lark bunting

the restoration or enhancement of ecosystems and habitats. The projects address important aquatic habitats and species of conservation concern.

Eklutna River Fish Passage Barrier Removal (AK)

Grantee: The Conservation Fund
 NFWF Award Amount:\$86,000
 Matching Funds:\$200,000
Total Project:\$286,000

The Conservation Fund will restore the Lower Eklutna River near Anchorage, Alaska through a stream habitat restoration project. The project will benefit five species of Pacific salmon (king, sockeye, silver, pink and chum), whose numbers are currently greatly reduced, and the Eklutna Dena’ina people, for whom the river is culturally important.

Mapping Common Eider Use of Beaufort Sea Barrier Islands (AK)

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society
 NFWF Award Amount:\$48,448
 Matching Funds:\$69,448
Total Project:\$138,896

Wildlife Conservation Society will evaluate the use of northern Alaska’s barrier island ecosystem by nesting seabirds. The project will map which islands between Prudhoe Bay, Alaska and the Canadian border are the most critical to the population in the event of an oil spill and will inform oil response planning.

Accelerating Technical Capacity to Improve Private Land Grasslands for Wildlife (TX)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever
 NFWF Award Amount:\$210,000
 Matching Funds:\$210,000
Total Project:\$420,000

Pheasants Forever will provide technical assistance to private landowners in Texas to improve grassland habitat for priority species identified in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP) by engaging landowners in voluntary practices known to improve habitat for grassland birds. The project will add two range/wildlife conservationists who will develop detailed conservation plans guiding on-the-ground implementation of practices on 49,500 acres.



Bighorn sheep

The Nature Conservancy will restore habitat for grassland birds (Cassin’s sparrow, chestnut collared longspur, lark bunting, McCown’s longspur and Sprague’s pipit) and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep through pinyon juniper clearing and rotational grazing. The project will focus on restoration strategies based on an analysis of habitat and connectivity needs of the Purgatoire Canyonlands.

**Mangrove Air Seeding:
An Innovative Approach to Habitat Conservation (LA)**

Grantee: Tierra International Foundation
 NFWF Award Amount:\$168,148
 Matching Funds:\$213,237
Total Project:\$381,385

Tierra International Foundation will utilize an innovative mangrove air seeding technique to establish mangrove habitat in Louisiana. The project will establish wetland habitat for a variety of species of greatest conservation need and several species listed as conservation priority in the 2015 Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat Restoration (CO)

Grantee: U.S. Forest Service, Comanche National Grassland
 NFWF Award Amount:\$75,000
 Matching Funds:\$127,834
Total Project:\$202,834

U. S. Forest Service, Comanche National Grassland will replace 29 windmills with solar pumps to remove disturbance/ barriers to lesser prairie chicken nesting and brood rearing activities. The project will restore habitat on over 30,000 acres and enhance the success of current translocation efforts of lesser prairie chickens, with the ultimate goal of restoring a viable population to the Comanche National Grassland.

WATER INNOVATION

The following project seeks to improve water innovation through stimulating and leveraging the development and adoption of innovative conservation technologies and techniques. The objective of this strategy is to improve conservation efforts by encouraging and dispersing new technologies and tools to partner organizations.

**Developing Incidental
Groundwater Recharge Markets (ID, WY)**

Grantee: Legacy Philanthropy Works
 NFWF Award Amount:\$149,514
 Matching Funds:\$709,520
Total Project:\$859,034

Legacy Philanthropy Works will implement a pilot market for incidental groundwater recharge in the Teton Basin to improve wetland health, base flows and streamflows in the Teton River. Annually, the project will result in an additional 5,000 to 10,000 acre-feet of water in the Teton Basin aquifer.

**Galveston Bay Oyster Reefs and
Migratory Bird Habitat Restoration (TX)**

Grantee: Houston Wilderness
 NFWF Award Amount:\$52,853
 Matching Funds:\$80,000
Total Project:\$132,853

Houston Wilderness will create increases in oyster reefs and other aquatic habitat by establishing three to four living shorelines that include an initial establishment of new oyster reef areas to stabilize bottom sediments, reduce wave energy, improve hydrology in Galveston Bay and prevent erosion. The project will fortify wetlands to serve as natural levee systems that can provide storm protection to the Gulf Coast, and provide cleaner water and habitat for numerous bottom-dwelling fish and invertebrates.

**Determining Post-breeding Sites for Arctic
Coast Shorebirds of Conservation Concern (AK)**

Grantee: Manomet
 NFWF Award Amount:\$74,569
 Matching Funds:\$162,483
Total Project:\$237,052

Manomet will complete a large-scale effort using cutting-edge tracking technologies to determine the most important staging sites on the Arctic Coast for arctic breeding shorebirds. The project will fill a major gap in the understanding of habitat needs at the sites shorebirds use after breeding on the Arctic Coast of Alaska to prepare for their long southbound migrations through the interior of North America to South American wintering sites.

**Prairie Canyonlands Big Horn Sheep
and Grassland Birds Restoration (CO)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 NFWF Award Amount:\$110,643
 Matching Funds:\$146,264
Total Project:\$256,907