



# Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund

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## PARTNERS



## 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 \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Kenai Peninsula

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced 2022 funding for Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund (AFWF) projects. Eight new and continuing fish and wildlife conservation grants were awarded. These grants received a total of over \$600,000 in grant funding and leveraged almost \$1.2 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$1.8 million.

The AFWF aims to fill information gaps for important Alaskan fish and wildlife species, restore and maintain habitats they rely on, while engaging Alaska Native communities to increase shared stewardship and foster traditional ecological practices that may be incorporated into management strategies.

The eight projects awarded will support the goals and priority geographies of the AFWF by protecting and restoring essential habitat to ensure long-term viability of Pacific salmon populations and filling data gaps that will directly inform subsistence managers, monitor migratory and breeding bird movements to determine areas where they may be vulnerable, and incorporate outreach and engagement of Alaska Native communities in pursuit of collaborative management to produce measurable conservation benefits.

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Creek on Prince of Whales Island

**Restoring Salmon Habitat in Halfmile Creek on Tàan (AK)**

Grantee: Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition  
 Grant Amount:.....\$58,046  
 Matching Funds:.....\$62,392  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$120,438  
 Restore salmon habitat in Halfmile Creek on Tàan (Prince of Wales Island) in Alaska through the addition of large woody debris to create habitat complexity and rehabilitate stream function. Project will also provide a workforce development opportunity for an Alaska Native work crew focused on Klawock watershed stewardship.

**Restoring Pacific Salmon Coastline Habitat through Community Kelp Farms (AK)**

Grantee: Native Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:.....\$159,764  
 Matching Funds:.....\$159,764  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$319,528  
 Restore kelp beds along the coastline to protect Pacific salmon habitat in partnership with Alaska Native communities and local organizations in Alaska. Project will develop 20 kelp farms along 6,400 miles of coastline, train a local workforce to steward the kelp beds, conduct educational outreach on coastal restoration informed by traditional ecological knowledge, and provide internships for Native youth.

**Fish Passage and Infrastructure Improvement in Lower Kenai River Tributary (AK)**

Grantee: Kenai Watershed Forum  
 Grant Amount:.....\$107,063  
 Matching Funds:.....\$360,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$467,063  
 Replace a perched culvert with a bridge to reconnect 0.85 miles of Pacific salmon stream habitat and open 1.24 miles of upstream and wetland habitat in Kenai, Alaska. Project will keep floodplain connectivity to accommodate anadromous fish passage to crucial rearing habitat for coho and sockeye salmon in the Lower Kenai River tributary.

**Establishing a Temperature Monitoring Network for Salmon Conservation in the Copper River Watershed (AK)**

Grantee: Copper River Watershed Project  
 Grant Amount:.....\$53,606  
 Matching Funds:.....\$235,093  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$288,699  
 Establish baseline watershed temperature conditions through the development of a region-wide monitoring network for the Copper River watershed to better understand Pacific salmon population responses to temperature changes in Alaska. Project will convene a Copper River Temperature Working Group to standardize temperature monitoring methodologies, identify current and future monitoring sites, and deploy and collect temperature data from 30 additional temperature monitoring devices in the watershed.

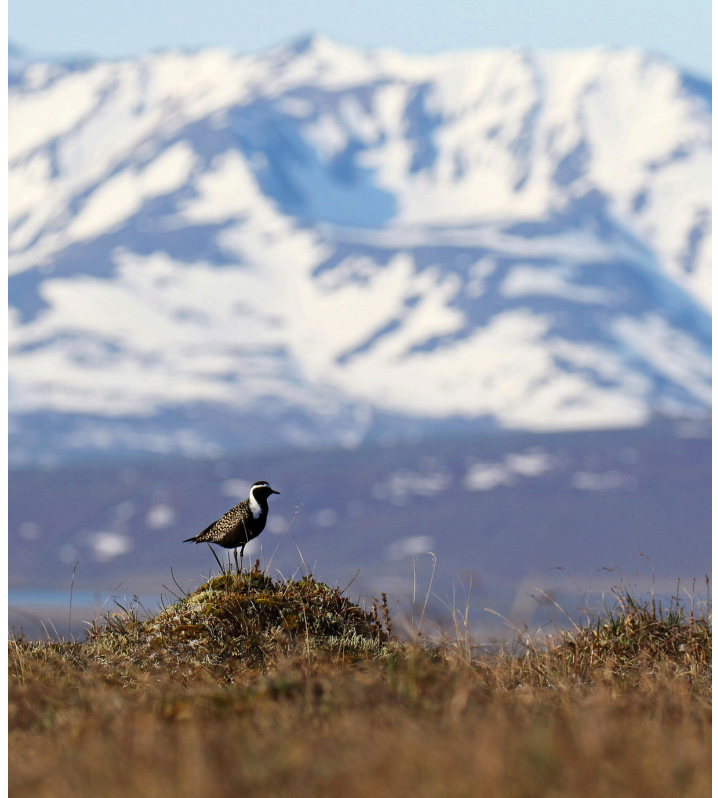
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**Education and Outreach to Reduce the Spread of Elodea to Protect Pacific Salmon Habitat (AK)**

Grantee: Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Grant Amount:.....\$74,602  
 Matching Funds:..... \$150,590  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$225,192  
 Detect new invasive aquatic plant elodea infestations, in partnership with tribal and non-profit organizations, to prioritize treatment in seven communities within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Watershed, Alaska. Project will increase public engagement and awareness of elodea, share best practices to prevent spread, train tribal community members on identification and survey techniques, and provide natural resource employment opportunities to Alaska Native students through the Public Land Corps program.

**Monitoring Habitat Use and Migration Pathways for Two Arctic Nesting Shorebird Species (AK)**

Grantee: Manomet  
 Grant Amount:.....\$61,164  
 Matching Funds:..... \$65,791  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$126,955  
 Deploy GPS tags on whimbrel and American golden-plovers nesting in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, two species identified as high conservation concern in Alaska, to identify post-breeding habitat use on the Arctic Coastal plain, document migration routes, stopover sites, and wintering locations. Project will use tracking data to establish general connectivity among wintering, migration, and breeding locations, assess threats to survival along migratory routes, and inform conservation decisions for each shorebird species.



American golden plover in Alaska

**Supporting Alaska Regional High School Youth Crew on the Chugach National Forest (AK)**

Grantee: The Student Conservation Association  
 Grant Amount:.....\$54,423  
 Matching Funds:..... \$55,650  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$110,073  
 Support an Alaska Regional High School Youth Crew to conduct conservation work and educational programming on the Chugach National Forest, Alaska. Project will provide opportunities for Alaska Native and Alaska youth to work side by side with U.S. Forest Service personnel through Public Land Corps projects which focus on natural resource management, subsistence use, and recreational infrastructure.

**Supporting Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program Students in Advancing Conservation (AK) - II**

Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage  
 Grant Amount:..... \$103,484  
 Matching Funds:..... \$103,484  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$206,968  
 Support seven Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) student internships with agencies and local organizations relating to fish and bird conservation projects across Alaska. Project will strengthen the existing pathway for Alaska Native youth to engage in on-the-ground conservation activities and gain exposure to careers in conservation through field work experience and acting as liaisons between resource managers and local communities.



ANSEP student participating in salmon research | Credit: ANSEP