



NFWF

Northern Great Plains 2019 Grant Slate

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- Avangrid Foundation
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- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management

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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Pronghorn

OVERVIEW

In partnership with Avangrid Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2019 grant awards for the Northern Great Plains Program. Sixteen grants totaling more than \$3.1 million were awarded, leveraging almost \$5.2 million in grantee matching contributions and generating a total on-the-ground impact of more than \$8.3 million.

The following 16 projects address all eight strategies for the Northern Great Plains program: 1) permanently protect important grasslands with conservation easements and other tools to maintain large blocks of habitat; 2) restore grasslands for the benefit of grassland wildlife and agricultural operations/ranching; 3) facilitate management of grasslands for the benefit of grasslands wildlife and agricultural operations/ranching; 4) implement grassland bird monitoring; 5) implement sylvatic plague treatment; 6) conserve pronghorn; 7) conserve sage grouse; and 8) build capacity of partners to address the other strategies.

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Greater sage grouse

Mesic and Wet Meadow Restoration in Greater Sage Grouse Habitat in Missouri-Milk River Grasslands (MT)

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation

 Grant Award:..... \$179,635
 Matching Funds: \$180,619
Total Amount:..... \$360,254

Restore mesic areas and wet meadows using beaver dam analogs and Zeedyk structures to enhance greater sage grouse core habitat on public and private lands in north-central Montana in order to provide practical models and evidence-based guidance for replicating proven techniques in a new landscape. Project will result in 30 acres restored and 90 acres under improved management.

Providing Technical Capacity and Improved Management on Private Lands in North Dakota

Grantee: North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

 Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$537,500
Total Amount:..... \$787,500

Expand capacity, education and outreach programs focused on the conservation of North Dakota grasslands and the plant and wildlife species that are dependent on them, including grassland nesting passerines, pronghorn and

greater sage grouse. Project will result in 50,000 acres under improved management.

Sustaining Capacity for Private Lands Grassland Conservation and Stewardship (MT, ND)

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

 Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$396,997
Total Amount:..... \$646,997

Build local capacity to implement on-the-ground habitat conservation projects by supporting two Private Lands Wildlife Biologists in two focal areas of the Northern Great Plains. Project will bolster partnerships, provide community outreach and education opportunities and implement grassland habitat projects to restore 500 acres, conserve 1,000 acres and better manage 25,000 acres of private lands.

Grassland Restoration and Grassland Bird Population Study in the Musselshell Plains, Montana

Grantee: Petroleum County Conservation District

 Grant Award:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$294,330
Total Amount:..... \$494,330

Restore cropland systems to managed grazing systems by

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reseeded cropland to grassland, improving water, fencing and other grazing infrastructure as well as providing education and outreach on the significance of prairie ecosystems. Project will improve 31 miles of fencing, restore 1,500 acres of grassland and bring 5,000 acres under improved management.

Enhancing South Dakota's Working Grasslands for Producers, Prairie Grouse and other Grassland Birds

Grantee: South Dakota Grassland Coalition

Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$371,000
Total Amount:..... \$621,000

Enhance prairie grouse and grassland bird habitat on working grasslands in South Dakota by educating producers about priority grassland bird species and their preferred habitat including instructing about how Holistic Management impacts this habitat and by installing improved grazing systems. Project will result in 300,000 acres under improved management.

Protecting and Restoring Sage Grouse Habitat in Alberta and Saskatchewan

Grantee: Nature Conservancy of Canada

Grant Award:..... \$60,000
 Matching Funds: \$60,000
Total Amount:..... \$120,000

Improve the quality, quantity and connectivity of greater sage grouse habitat throughout the species' Canadian range by increasing the amount of grassland habitat protected and increasing grassland connectivity by restoring and maintaining large areas of contiguous habitat. Project will restore 130 acres of cultivated land in southeast Alberta and protect 475 acres of grassland through a conservation easement in southwest Saskatchewan.

Black-footed Ferret Conservation through Sylvatic Plague Management on Tribal Land in South Dakota

Grantee: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Grant Award:..... \$163,786
 Matching Funds: \$468,199
Total Amount:..... \$631,985

Improve grassland connectivity with an easement and explore sylvatic plague management techniques for black-tailed prairie dogs in order to increase black-footed ferret populations on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in north central South Dakota. Project will protect 1,200 acres from disease through a conservation easement on the project area.

Updating Plowprint to Identify Grassland Restoration Opportunities (IA, CO, KS, NE, NM, OK)

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund

Grant Award:..... \$61,628
 Matching Funds: \$61,654
Total Amount:..... \$123,282

Update 'Plowprint' a geospatial data analysis tool used to evaluate landscape change metrics for the Great Plains ecoregion by using the best-available data to track rates of cropland conversion, monitor the status of previously converted lands and identify remaining intact habitat. Project will use the updated analysis to identify and prioritize blocks of plowed land with restoration potential which will add efficiency to future conservation and restoration work in the region.

Refinement and Implementation of the Conservation Guidance Directory for Grassland Birds (SD)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Award:..... \$82,502
 Matching Funds: \$283,531
Total Amount:..... \$366,033

Provide technical assistance for ranchers and landowners in western South Dakota who want to permanently protect their working lands through conservation easements, with a focus on intact, native grasslands that are contiguous with other grasslands of significance. Project will put 1,000 acres under conservation easements.

Providing Technical Assistance for Conservation Easements in Priority Grassland Habitat (SD, ND)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Award:..... \$274,908
 Matching Funds: \$283,531
Total Amount:..... \$558,439

Enhance, promote and apply their Conservation Guidance Directory database to inform efforts to stem declines in the quality and quantity of grassland habitat in the core of grassland bird diversity in the Northern Great Plains. Project will refine and promote the use of this database tool for private lands biologists, producers, stakeholders and funders through a web-based platform that sets priorities and develops habitat projects and will implement demonstration projects on a minimum of 8,500 acres.

Providing Financial Incentives for Landowners to Reach Habitat Targets in Southwest Saskatchewan

Grantee: Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$330,000
Total Amount:..... \$580,000

Provide financial incentives to producers who meet or exceed measurable and quantifiable habitat targets for six species at

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risk in southwest Saskatchewan. Project will result in 85,000 acres of native grasslands under improved management.

Woven Wire Fence Conversion to Wildlife-Friendly Standards on Public Lands in eastern Montana

Grantee: Bureau of Land Management - Miles City Field Office
 Grant Award:..... \$50,000
 Matching Funds: \$50,000
Total Amount:..... \$100,000

Modify existing fences within the Miles City Bureau of Land Management Field Office to wildlife friendly specifications in order to help a large number of big game mammals, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn, elk, big horn sheep and other ungulates move across the landscape. Project will convert 14 miles of fencing impeding ungulate movement through the landscape.

Restoration and Management of Milk River Grasslands through Sustainable Ranching (MT), Phase III

Grantee: Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
 Grant Award:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$300,000
Total Amount:..... \$500,000

Use a diverse, community-led partnership to implement restoration and enhanced management in Montana’s Milk River Grasslands to improve populations of grassland passerines, pronghorn and greater sage grouse. Project will result in 4,000 acres under improved management and 2,800 acres restored.

Providing Technical Assistance for Prairie Landowners to Benefit Declining Bird Species (ND)

Grantee: North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
 Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$600,000
Total Amount:..... \$850,000

Provide administrative support for two existing programs that assist producers with the infrastructure needed to transition idle grass to healthy grasslands utilized in their operations by planting native grasses and forbs in previously cropped acres, removing invasive trees from prairie, and reclaiming previously disturbed sites. Project will result in 15,000 acres under improved management and 2,000 acres restored.

Community-led Conservation Initiative in the Powder River-Thunder Basin Grasslands (WY)

Grantee: Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association
 Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$500,000
Total Amount:..... \$750,000

Develop and implement 20 habitat management plans that



Elk

will guide on-the-ground conservation for landowners participating in the Thunder Basin Grassland Prairie Ecosystem Association’s Conservation Strategy and the Audubon Rockies’ Conservation Ranching program. Project will result in improved management practices on 275,000 acres, implementation of restoration practices on 45,000 acres, and modification of 11.5 miles of existing fence to wildlife-friendly standards.

Conservation Easements on Private Lands in Central and Eastern Montana’s Northern Great Plains

Grantee: Montana Land Reliance
 Grant Award:..... \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$200,000
Total Amount:..... \$350,000

Permanently conserve 75,000 acres of private land in central and eastern Montana to benefit pronghorn, at-risk bird species and other grassland- and sagebrush-obligate wildlife. Project will complete five conservation easements and conserve 10 sage grouse leks.