

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



NFWF

ON THE COVER Soldierfish swim under a table coral in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. By Greg McFall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is dedicated to sustaining, restoring and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations.

NFWF will advance its mission through innovative public and private partnerships, and by investing financial resources and intellectual capital into science-based programs designed to address conservation priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



EDWIN R. "ROD" RODRIGUEZ, JR. CHAIRMAN, NFWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) achieved remarkable success in fiscal year 2018, investing more than \$324 million to support more than 750 conservation projects that sustain and enhance wildlife and habitats.

NFWF (affectionately referred to by those in the conservation community as "Niff-Wiff") serves a unique and powerful role in protecting the nation's ecological treasures, managing its natural resources and helping its communities become more resilient. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF leverages public dollars to raise private funds for conservation, then puts those dollars to work through science-based competitive grant programs that generate measurable results.

As a nonpartisan organization that neither lobbies nor litigates, NFWF serves as a neutral partner and leader for on-the-ground conservation. Through rigorous fiduciary management and strong financial performance, the Foundation has grown to become the largest private conservation funder in the nation, generating a total conservation impact from investments and grantee match of more than \$5.3 billion since its founding.

NFWF's particularly strong performance in 2018 ensures that its grantees and partners in the public and private sectors can count on the Foundation's support of innovative and effective conservation projects well into the future.

Examples of such work unfolded throughout the country in 2018. Along the Gulf Coast, state resource managers continued to protect and restore vast stretches of coastal and marine habitats. Along the nation's coastlines, a new partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration bolstered the resilience of habitats and communities. In the fire-prone mountains of California, volunteers and federal forest managers removed excess fuels and restored habitats impacted by wildfire. In the Northern Rockies, NFWF worked with the U.S. Department of the Interior and other partners to protect migration pathways for some of the country's most iconic species. In the South, longstanding public-private partnerships continued to support the restoration of longleaf pine forests. And throughout the nation's great watersheds, projects improved water quality for countless species of fish and amphibians.

All of us here at NFWF look forward to building on these many successes in 2019. Please read on to learn more about what we do, and how we do it.

Edwin R. Rodriguez

Snowy egret



THE NATION'S LARGEST PRIVATE CONSERVATION GRANT-MAKER

In fiscal year 2018, NFWF invested more than \$324 million to support more than 750 projects across the nation. These investments drew more than \$159 million in matching support from grantees, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$483 million.

The Foundation awarded \$116 million in federal funds and \$31 million in private contributions. NFWF also awarded \$177 million in Impact-Directed Environmental Account funds, including \$150 million from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

The year's strong performance pushed the Foundation's cumulative conservation impact to more than \$5.3 billion since its founding in 1984.

Addressing ecological challenges
to protect wildlife and people





Luna moth
on longleaf pine

Protect and restore habitats

BEACHES, BARRIER ISLANDS AND COASTAL HABITATS

The highly productive and dynamic habitats found along the nation's coastlines serve as home ranges, migration routes, nesting sites and foraging areas for countless birds, fish, crustaceans, sea turtles and marine mammals. People also flock there — some of the fastest-growing and largest communities can be found on or near barrier islands. NFWF's investments helped rebuild entire islands, restore miles of beach and enhance oyster reefs, salt marshes and dune systems. Such natural features also protect communities and industries from storms and changing sea levels.

FORESTS

NFWF worked with the U.S. Forest Service, landowners, utilities, timber companies and other partners to conserve and enhance forests across the country. Some grants put boots on the ground to thin timber and remove invasive plants from California's fire-prone forests. Others helped private landowners in the South conduct controlled burns in majestic pine forests. Projects in the Northeast enhanced the health of mixed-age forests, benefiting the American woodcock, golden-winged warbler and other wildlife. In the Appalachian Mountains and Pacific Northwest, the restoration of riparian woodlands helped filter stormwater, combat erosion and keep streams cold and clean.

PLAINS AND GRASSLANDS

Propelled by new partnerships with energy producers, federal agencies, tribes and ranchers, NFWF's conservation work intensified in 2018 across the Northern Great Plains, the immense grasslands of the

desert Southwest and the "sagebrush sea" of Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada. These public-private partnerships advanced conservation across vast landscapes important to both wildlife and energy production.

WORKING LANDS

Some of the most important conservation projects unfolding today take place on working lands. Grants awarded last year helped private property owners protect family timberlands from subdivision and take advantage of federal incentives for voluntary conservation efforts on farms and ranches. Other grants helped producers irrigate and fertilize more efficiently and keep livestock out of streams.

CITIES AND SUBURBS

Habitat restoration projects in urban areas engaged people in conservation while also generating real-world benefits to wildlife. Grantees in these areas created new migratory stopover points for wildlife and built bioswales, rain gardens and other green infrastructure to filter stormwater runoff.

OTHER HABITATS

Conservation work funded by NFWF restored and enhanced myriad habitats across the country. New easements protected lands in sandhills and coastal plains vital to northern bobwhites. Coral reefs were made healthier by efforts to control erosion in Hawaii's volcanic mountains. Better soil management supported waterfowl in the prairie potholes. Healthier and reconnected wetlands and rivers improved conditions for sturgeon and other fish in the Great Lakes.

Pronghorn

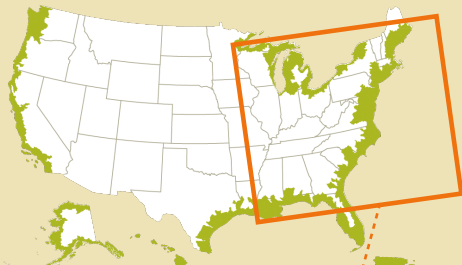


Least tern
with chicks



Effects of Hurricane Sandy
on the Jersey Shore

The new National Coastal Resilience Fund will expand resilience efforts across the nation's coasts (program footprint is shown here in green).



NFWF worked with its federal partners in 2018 to analyze and build on Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. In the years following Sandy's landfall in 2012, NFWF awarded more than \$100 million in grants to 54 projects.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: PROTECT AND RESTORE HABITATS

Natural buffers shield wildlife and communities from storms

Michael, Florence, Harvey, Maria, Irma, Sandy — these once innocuous names now evoke harsh memories for millions of people who live along the coast. Each hurricane brought destruction and suffering; each left behind a growing apprehension about the storms to come.

The lessons borne out, storm after storm, are clear: Healthy marshes, beaches, living shorelines and barrier islands can shield human communities and wildlife populations from the worst effects of intense storms.

Throughout 2018, NFWF and its conservation partners have helped to strengthen these natural defenses along the nation's coasts by strategically restoring damaged and degraded habitats. In the Northeast, NFWF and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) continued to manage a five-year effort to repair and enhance habitats damaged by 2012's Superstorm Sandy.

In 2018, the partners completed a detailed assessment of more than \$100 million in NFWF-funded projects since the storm and approximately \$200 million in resilience projects funded directly by DOI. The assessment documented the restoration or enhancement of more than 115,000 acres of salt marsh, 187 acres of beach and dune along 20 miles of shoreline, 600 acres of riparian habitat and more than 200 miles of coastal streams.

“This work will enhance the ecological integrity and functionality of coastal and inland ecosystems. Equally important, it also will benefit coastal communities by minimizing the negative impacts associated with storms, sea-level rise, flooding, drought and other extreme weather and climate events.”

— Jeffery Payne, Ph.D., NOAA

Projects funded through NFWF's Hurricane Sandy conservation program bolstered the capacity among a diverse group of partners working to protect communities through the enhancement of natural habitats and the installation of green infrastructure. NFWF funded efforts by conservation nonprofits, innovative private

companies, research universities, Native American tribes and agencies at the municipal, state and federal level.

Building on this success, NFWF worked with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2018 to launch a new competitive grant program to restore and strengthen natural infrastructure that protects coastal communities and supports wildlife populations. In late 2018, the new National Coastal Resilience Fund invested \$28.9 million in conservation projects focused on coastal habitats such as marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and barrier islands.

“This work will enhance the ecological integrity and functionality of coastal and inland ecosystems,” said Jeffery Payne, Ph.D., director of NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. “Equally important, it also will benefit coastal communities by minimizing the negative impacts associated with storms, sea-level rise, flooding, drought and other extreme weather and climate events.”

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, SHELL OIL COMPANY, TRANSRE, WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION



Laysan albatross

Focus on wildlife

MAMMALS ON THE MOVE

Throughout 2018, NFWF continued to make landscape-scale investments that sustained and enhanced wildlife populations across the nation. In California, Montana and Minnesota, NFWF grants supported the purchase of lands and easements benefiting elk, moose, Canada lynx and wolverines. In Montana and Wyoming, grantees modified fencing so that pronghorn and mule deer could complete epic migrations. Another project in the Northern Rockies continued to prevent conflicts between people and bears. In Washington state, yet another grant paved the way for a highway underpass that will reduce the number of collisions between vehicles and wildlife.

SHOREBIRDS AND SEABIRDS

NFWF invested in a variety of strategies last year to enhance populations of shorebirds and seabirds. Many grants awarded by the Foundation focused on protecting breeding colonies of birds from predators and human disturbances. On-the-ground work by NFWF grantees benefited iconic birds across the nation, including petrels in Hawaii, albatrosses on Midway Atoll, shearwaters in California, reddish egrets in Texas, and plovers and sandpipers in Florida.

FRESHWATER FISH AND AMPHIBIANS

Eastern brook trout, hellbenders, darters, shiners and freshwater mussels found from New England through southern Appalachia benefited from NFWF's 2018 grant-making. In Western states, NFWF awarded

millions of dollars to projects that conserved water and enhanced freshwater habitats for culturally and ecologically important species such as cutthroat trout and chinook salmon, as well as for lesser-known and highly at-risk species such as the Pecos pupfish.

MARINE LIFE

For more than three decades, NFWF has provided funding and focused leadership for sea turtle conservation. In 2018, grants along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida reduced hatchling disorientation caused by light pollution. NFWF grants also increased the capacity of nonprofit groups and researchers to respond to stranded sea turtles all along the nation's coastlines. Other marine focal species for NFWF investments included corals, endangered killer whales and commercially important fish such as red snapper and bluefin tuna.

SPECIES IN CRISIS

Butterflies, moths, bees and other pollinators vital to U.S. food production continue to suffer drastic population declines. NFWF and its partners worked to reverse those declines by funding the enhancement of pollinator habitats on farms and in schools and rights-of-way. NFWF also invested heavily in the preservation of grassland habitats for sage grouse and longleaf pine forests for red-cockaded woodpeckers and gopher tortoises. Another new conservation program advanced innovative efforts to help protect the nation's population of bats from the spread of white-nose syndrome.



Mule deer

Grizzly bear and cubs



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: FOCUS ON WILDLIFE

Coalition preserves corridors for iconic wildlife on the move

The Blackfoot people knew the rugged wilderness of what is now northern Montana as the “Backbone of the Earth.” Later inhabitants would dub the region the “Crown of the Continent.”

It’s easy to see why.

This area of the northern Rocky Mountains remains one of the wildest and most beautiful places on Earth. Every year, millions of visitors flock to Glacier National Park and other nearby protected lands to hike, camp, hunt, fish and simply experience nature at its most spectacular.

Elk, mule deer, pronghorn, moose and bighorn sheep graze across rocky slopes that jut from rich grasslands. Mountain lions, gray wolves, Canada lynx and wolverines slip through dense groves of aspen and hemlock. Grizzly bears roam the landscape, ranging from treeless alpine peaks to lush river valleys in their never-ending search for calories. Grouse, turkeys and songbirds fill the forests and meadows with sound. Bull trout, cutthroats and mountain whitefish flash their colors in swift-running streams.

This bountiful landscape also supports some of the country’s rarest wildlife species, creatures most people never see: western toad, flammulated owl, brown creeper and Townsend’s big-eared bat.

“There are very few places where you can find the kind of natural beauty and wildlife densities that we have here,” said Kristin Kovalik, senior project manager with The Trust for Public Land. “Many of these large, charismatic species need to move throughout the year, often on epic migrations that can lead them off protected lands and into harm’s way. Protecting natural corridors, especially those that link large national forests, parks and state land, represents one of our most important conservation challenges.”

In 2018, the Acres for America conservation program awarded \$645,000 to protect and ensure public access to 13,398 acres of critical wildlife habitat in the Lazy and Swift Creek-Stillwater linkage area within the Crown of the Continent. The \$40 million project, which also received \$250,000 in funding from NFWF’s Northern Rockies: Great Migrations program, will prevent subdivision and residential development in one of the fastest-growing areas of Montana, while allowing sustainable timber harvests and increasing public access for outdoor recreation.

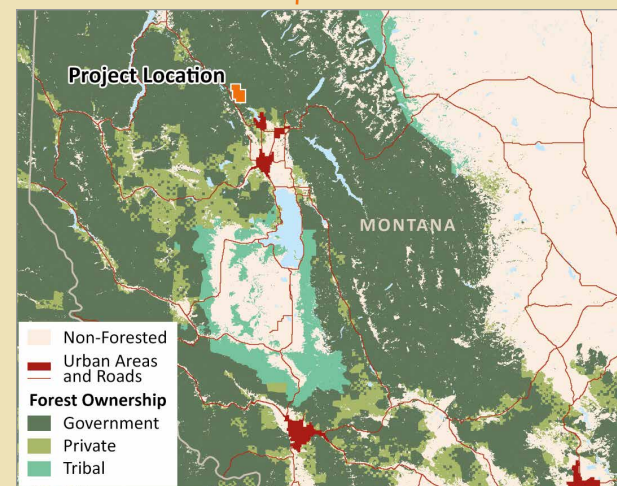
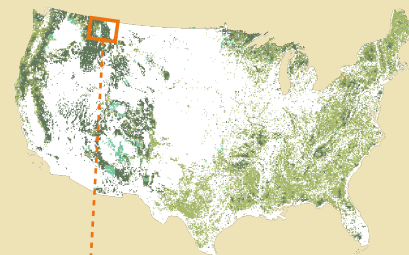
Acres for America, one of the most effective public-private partnerships in the history of U.S. conservation, was established by Walmart and NFWF in 2005 to permanently conserve one acre of wildlife habitat for every acre of land developed by Walmart stores. The program has far surpassed that original goal, having helped to protect more than 1.4 million acres, an area the size of Grand Canyon National Park.

In 2018, the program awarded \$3.8 million in grants to protect and connect wildlife habitat across more than 100,000 acres in California, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina and Texas.

Habitat protected in Montana



Forested land is privately owned in much of the country. In the West, pockets of private land often link vast, publicly owned forests.



A 2018 grant from NFWF helped protect privately owned properties under development pressure in northern Montana. The project protected critical linkages and wildlife migration routes between already protected lands.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS WALMART, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR’S U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S U.S. FOREST SERVICE



Young volunteers enhancing a wetland

Engage people in conservation

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

NFWF plays a leading role in engaging private landowners, who control approximately 60 percent of the land within the United States, and coordinating conservation work across the full spectrum of land ownership. Many 2018 grants funded conservation easements that compensated landowners for voluntarily giving up future development rights, easing financial pressures to subdivide land and convert natural landscapes.

Other investments helped owners upgrade properties in ways beneficial to wildlife, including retrofitting beachfront properties in Florida with turtle-safe lighting, installing electrified fencing to avoid bear conflicts in the Northern Rockies, and planting pollinator gardens throughout the Midwest.

VOLUNTEERS AND STEWARDS

NFWF-supported projects engaged people in conservation and created volunteer opportunities in cities, suburbs, parks and national wildlife refuges across the nation. Volunteers built artificial homes for burrowing owls in Arizona, reduced wildfire fuels in the forests of California and removed invasive vegetation in forest preserves near Chicago. Others collected milkweed seeds for butterflies in Minnesota, protected coral reefs in Hawaii and watched over critical nesting sites for birds along Florida's beaches. Just one of NFWF's conservation initiatives, the Five Star and Urban Waters program, awarded \$2.2 million in 2018 to 59 projects in urban areas throughout country.

FARMERS, RANCHERS AND TIMBERLAND OWNERS

NFWF grants enabled farmers and ranchers across the country to irrigate and fertilize more efficiently, boosting bottom lines and improving water quality. In the Northern Great Plains, NFWF helped ranchers improve habitats for sage grouse and modify fencing to ease migrations of pronghorn and mule deer. In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, NFWF grants funded projects that captured runoff from parking lots and kept dairy cows from degrading streams in Pennsylvania. Still other grants allowed timber-holding families and companies to conserve forests of longleaf and shortleaf pine for future generations.

FUTURE CONSERVATION LEADERS

Many of the projects funded by NFWF focused in large part on engaging young people in conservation. Such projects put more boots on the ground for wildlife while building support for future conservation work. NFWF grants funded youth corps opportunities, internships and jobs for college students, recent graduates and at-risk high-schoolers from urban areas.

Some grants supported the construction of habitats for birds and pollinators at elementary schools, while others created opportunities for young people to visit or volunteer in national forests and refuges. Students planted trees in New Mexico and Oregon, enhanced grasslands on reservations in South Dakota and tended an urban forest in Atlanta. Students worked to keep trash out of the Bronx River in New York City and sedimentation from reaching coral reefs in Hawaii.



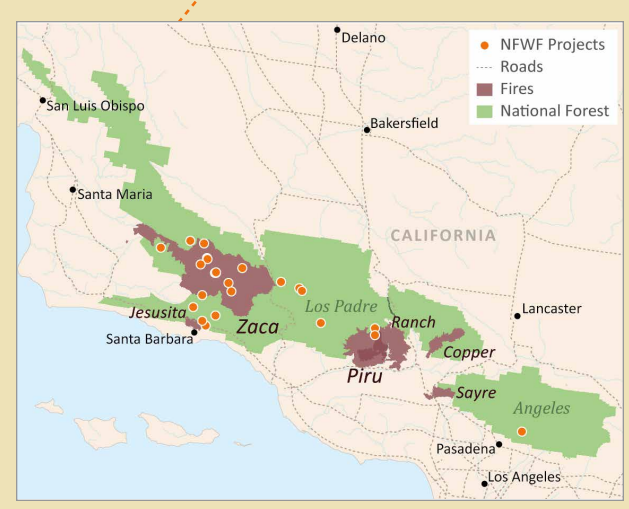
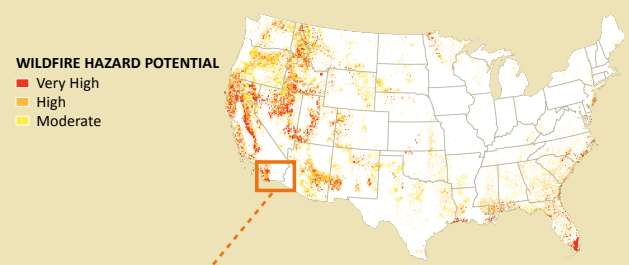
Conservation corps member thinning a longleaf forest



Youth corps teams at work in California



Youth corps member removing fire fuel



NFWF funds efforts to engage people in conservation across the country. In fire-prone forests, volunteers and youth conservation corps members remove fuels, improve fire breaks and maintain trails used by firefighters.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: ENGAGE PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION

Young conservationists unite in California's fire-prone forests

The forests, wildlife and people of California share an undeniable and fundamental interest: easing the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

Throughout 2018, NFWF deepened its already extensive involvement in forest management in California, working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service, state agencies and private-sector partners to restore and enhance national forests and watersheds affected by wildfires throughout the state.

Engaging people in conservation is particularly important in California, where enormous metropolitan areas border national forests and millions of people live in the transition zone between wild lands and human development.

NFWF grants awarded last year funded the deployment of volunteers and members of youth conservation corps throughout these forests, from wet meadows high in the Sierra Nevada to the fire-scarred canyons of the Angeles and Los Padres national forests. High school students, college students, budding conservation professionals and military veterans fanned out across these forests to remove excess fire fuels, improve trail systems and fire breaks, and help

already-burned areas regenerate native vegetation and rebound in ways that limit the risk of future fires.

"Efforts funded through NFWF's programs put more boots on the ground where we need them most, and they build community support for conservation and the best management practices."

— Randy Moore, U.S. Forest Service

"There are many factors driving the increasing risk from wildfires in California, and there are many techniques and management practices that can help mitigate that risk," said Randy Moore, southwestern regional

forester for the U.S. Forest Service. "Efforts funded through NFWF's programs put more boots on the ground where we need them most, and they build community support for conservation and the best management practices."

A prime example played out in the Angeles National Forest in Southern California in 2018. A grant of more than \$220,000 awarded by NFWF to the American Conservation Experience enabled three youth conservation groups to join forces to restore habitats damaged by recent wildfires.

Young people removed invasive species across 100 acres of rough terrain, improved fire breaks, protected more than 3 miles of trail from illegal vehicle use, collected 2,000 pounds of trash and even removed hundreds of non-native crawfish from sensitive aquatic ecosystems.

"The majority of the corps members had never previously stepped foot in the Angeles National Forest, let alone set up camp, even though they lived just 30 minutes away," said project coordinator Kayla Kelly-Slatten. "For many of them, this experience has been truly life-changing. I like to think we've made a real difference for the national forest and its wildlife, and an even bigger difference for these young people."

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S U.S. FOREST SERVICE



Candy darter

Protect the nation's water

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Innovative projects in cities across the country deployed green infrastructure such as bioswales, living shorelines, rain gardens and permeable pavement to reduce the amount of nutrients and sediments entering freshwater flows. Such improvements also protected and cleansed water enjoyed by people across the country. Enormous gains in water quality and quantity can be realized through the modernization of infrastructure such as culverts, drains and agricultural irrigation systems.

WILLING LANDOWNERS

Effective water conservation projects would not be possible without the voluntary cooperation of farmers, ranchers and private property owners. Grants awarded last year provided tools and resources for these private landowners to become better stewards of the natural habitats under their care while at the same time improving business practices. Grants in Western states, where water scarcity is a challenge, paid for the acquisition of precious water rights from willing sellers to boost in-stream flow for fish. Grants in other parts of the country, where too much water can be a problem, addressed pollution from runoff and flooding.

WATERSHED HABITATS

The overall health of aquatic and terrestrial habitats directly affects the quality of fresh water. Projects supported in 2018 removed invasive plants, stabilized stream banks and controlled erosion throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The restoration of marshes in the Great Lakes region provided a natural means to filter excess nutrients from farms. Restoration

of woodlands bordering streams in the Columbia Basin provided shade, lowered water temperatures and elevated oxygen levels for fish. In California, the addition of large woody debris and new side channels on the Klamath River slowed down the flow of water and provided refuge for trout and salmon. High in the Sierra Nevada, restored wet meadows recharged groundwater in a region prone to drought. And in Washington, one grantee even trapped nuisance beavers and relocated them to remote river basins, where their dams would improve habitats for salmon and trout.

AQUATIC CONNECTIVITY

Human activity has interrupted the natural flow of fresh water, often to the detriment of both wildlife and communities. NFWF investments throughout New England and Appalachia removed or improved culverts, dams and other barriers that have kept brook trout and river herring from historic spawning grounds. A fish elevator in the Midwest allowed lake sturgeon to safely pass hydroelectric dams. Massive efforts continued along the Gulf of Mexico to reconnect freshwater flows to coastal marshes, revitalizing those systems and stemming the large-scale loss of coastal lands.

METRICS FOR SUCCESS

NFWF worked with industry experts throughout 2018 to improve and standardize methods to measure the results of water conservation projects, both in terms of water quality and water quantity. These advancements ensure that funding flows to projects that generate lasting, real-world results.



Measuring streamflow in Idaho

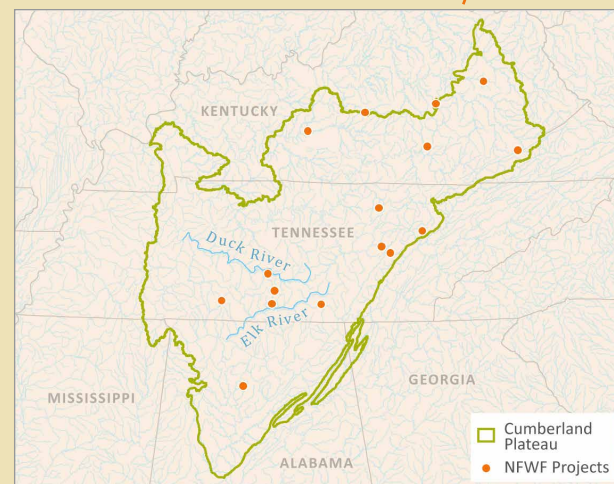
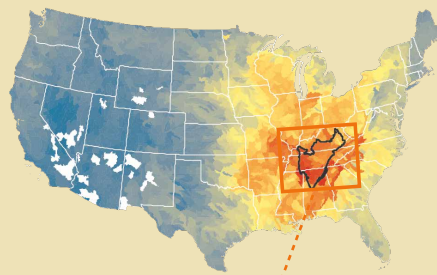


River chub and saffron shiners



Eastern hellbender

FISH SPECIES DIVERSITY
2 238



NFWF's Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund helps private landowners and local conservation agencies protect and enhance habitats that support some of the nation's highest levels of aquatic biodiversity.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

Empowering private landowners to safeguard aquatic biodiversity

Few rivers in the United States, or even the world, can match the biodiversity found in the Elk and Duck rivers of Tennessee.

Here, among the farms and foothills of the Cumberland Plateau, fishermen chase smallmouth bass while snorkeling scientists study at-risk species such as boulder darters and barrens topminnows. More than 150 species of fish swim in these watersheds – some stretches of these waterways host more fish varieties per mile than any other river in North America.

Children wading in streams might discover an orange-foot pimpleback, Cumberland monkeyface or any other of 60 species of freshwater mussels. Especially observant youngsters might even catch a glimpse of a hellbender, North America's largest salamander, perfectly camouflaged amid the stones and pebbles of the streambed.

As is the case with many of the country's ecological treasures, these fascinating but fragile waterways face growing challenges affecting both the quality and quantity of fresh water. Residential construction, farming, timbering and livestock operations all take a toll, siphoning off water and sending more and more sediment and excess nutrients into these vital freshwater flows. The loss of streamside woodlands degrades natural filtering systems and exposes streams to full sunlight, delivering the one-two punch of increased pollution and higher temperatures.

In 2018, NFWF's grant-making continued to restore habitats and improve water quality throughout the Cumberland Plateau, a biologically rich landscape stretching from northwest Alabama to northeast Kentucky. The Foundation worked with conservation nonprofits, private landowners, local governments and federal agencies to restore vital habitats, improve land management practices and boost water quality.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Tennessee partnered with NFWF through the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund to support forest conservation on private lands, including a grant to The Nature Conservancy and partners to restore and protect riparian buffers in the Elk River watershed.

One grant award of \$215,000 enabled the Lincoln County Soil Conservation District to work with private landowners to restore 450 acres of forested buffers and establish 300 acres of shortleaf pine forest along degraded streams feeding the Elk and Duck rivers. The project also developed forest management plans for 6,000 acres of family forest land and built increased awareness of sustainable practices throughout the watershed.

"The enthusiastic support of private landowners is key to producing real-world results for wildlife in this part of the country," said Sheldon Hightower, Tennessee NRCS state conservationist. "Feeder streams run through a patchwork of properties, making it important to address sources of nutrients and sedimentation wherever possible. The good news is that projects done through partnerships such as this one with NFWF help restore habitat and improve water quality, whether by developing long-term forest management plans or helping to plant native trees along streams that run through a private landowner's property."

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS ALCOA FOUNDATION, ALTRIA, INTERNATIONAL PAPER, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



Sea otters

Enhance marine habitats

COASTAL MARSHES, BAYS AND ESTUARIES

Marshes, bays and estuaries support an array of birds, fish, reptiles, crustaceans and marine mammals, including many that use these inshore environments as nurseries before heading out to sea. These same coastal marine habitats drive tourism, sustain commercial fishing and ensure a high quality of life for millions of Americans. NFWF-supported projects enhanced and restored marshes, bays and estuaries all along the country's shores in 2018. Grantees installed living shorelines in the Northeast, restored coastal habitats in the Pacific Northwest, reduced pollution throughout the Chesapeake Bay and boosted the health of submerged grass beds along the Gulf of Mexico.

OYSTER RESTORATION

NFWF continued to invest in the restoration of oyster reefs along the nation's coasts, with particular emphasis on projects that advance recovery along the Gulf of Mexico following the deadly 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill. New or expanded oyster reefs filtered impurities from coastal waters, provided rich habitats for marine and coastal species, and protected shorelines and marshes from erosion and storm damage. Grants awarded by NFWF in 2018 bolstered oyster populations in Choctawhatchee Bay in Florida, St. Louis Bay in Mississippi, Galveston Bay in Texas, Cape May in New Jersey and elsewhere.

CORAL REEFS

NFWF and its federal and private-sector partners continued to focus resources on the nation's

beleaguered coral reefs, with major projects underway in Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NFWF's coral work switched to rapid-response mode in Florida and Puerto Rico following the devastation of hurricanes Irma and Maria in late 2017. NFWF funded projects to assess damage, repair coral propagation facilities, and send divers down to rescue and reposition large corals that were broken off during the storms.

INNOVATIVE FISHERIES

Reducing bycatch and improving the information used to manage fisheries represent key strategies to safeguard fish populations and ensure the success of commercial fishing operations. New grants awarded in 2018 supported the evaluation of recreational fishing management strategies for red snapper and development of a system to identify bycatch hot spots. Other grants expanded electronic monitoring of commercial fishing in New England, Washington state, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. One innovative project began developing machine-learning software to reduce the cost of electronic monitoring.

DERELICT FISHING GEAR

Fiscal year 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of NFWF's Fishing for Energy program, which awards grants to rid coastal waters of derelict fishing gear that can continue to catch and kill marine animals of all kinds. The program supported projects to remove an estimated 170,000 pounds of derelict gear from the coastal waters of Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Puerto Rico and Washington.



Hawksbill sea turtle on a Florida reef

Butterfly fish and sea fan on a Florida reef



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Former military divers repair coral reefs damaged by storms

When hurricanes Irma and Maria roared across Florida and Puerto Rico in 2017, each left deep scars on landscapes and communities: lives lost, homes and businesses destroyed, forests leveled.

These storms took a hidden toll on marine environments, as well. The unfathomable energy of wave action and storm surge obliterated beaches, cut new inlets, moved channels and pummeled beds of oysters and seagrasses.

The coral reefs of Florida and Puerto Rico, already in peril due to pollution and a range of other stressors, took an especially hard hit. Large coral formations broke off and toppled from their perches into the sand below. Covered in sediment and denied the sunlight necessary to fuel their complex life cycles, these ancient and slow-growing formations would surely perish.

“It’s hard to express how devastating it is to lose some of these larger colonies of slow-growing corals,” said Jennifer Koss, Coral Reef Conservation Program director at the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). “These big star and brain corals might be more than 500 years old, and they are responsible for much of a reef’s

reproductive output. While we can grow small corals and place them on a reef to help it regrow, it will take centuries for them to make up for the loss of these giants. It is better to put these big healthy corals back in place, allowing them to do what they do so well.”

“While we can grow small corals and place them on a reef to help it regrow, it will take centuries for them to make up for the loss of these giants. It is better to put these big healthy corals back in place, allowing them to do what they do so well.”

— Jennifer Koss, NOAA

Thankfully, a unique and innovative partnership has formed to rapidly rescue these ancient creatures after severe storms

move through. This new approach pairs NOAA scientists and conservation experts with expert divers, many of them veterans of the Special Forces.

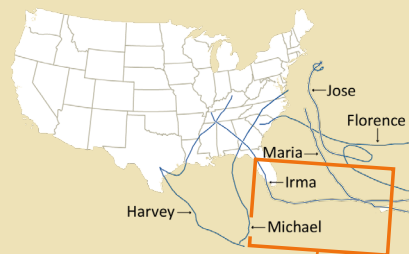
“These are military-trained divers who have worked in some of the most dangerous conditions imaginable,” said Jim Ritterhoff, cofounder and executive director of the new nonprofit organization called Force Blue. “They have unique skills and training when it comes to moving large objects underwater.”

Shortly after hurricanes Irma and Maria struck, NFWF awarded a grant to Force Blue. Moving quickly, the group repaired damage to reefs around Puerto Rico and from Palm Beach, Florida, through Key West and the Dry Tortugas.

“Many of these guys have experienced combat situations, on top of the stresses of technical diving,” Ritterhoff said. “We give them another mission, an amazing new mission to help protect and restore some of the world’s most beautiful coral reefs.”



Force Blue divers repairing hurricane damage

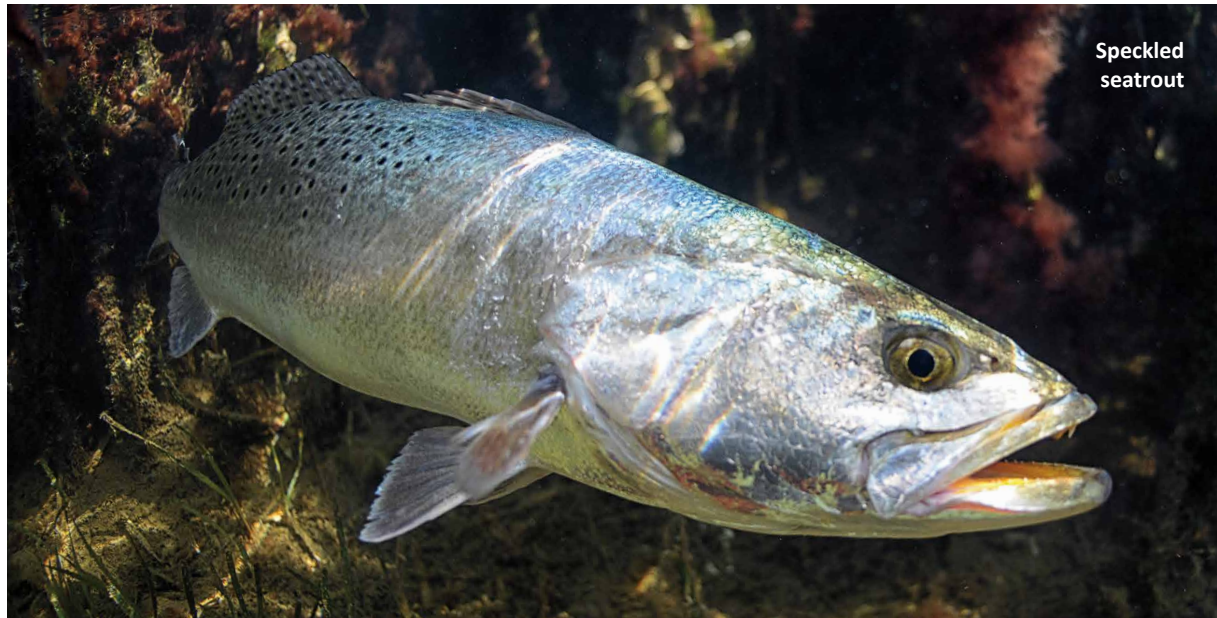


NFWF grants addressed conservation needs in coastal and marine habitats following hurricanes in 2017 and 2018.



A number of NFWF grants helped assess reef damage following hurricanes Maria and Irma, reposition large coral formations that had been knocked over during the storms and helped repair coral propagation facilities.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE’S NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR’S U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Speckled seatrout

Drive Gulf Coast recovery

GULF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT FUND

NFWF awarded nearly \$150 million through its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) in fiscal year 2018. The GEBF was created in 2013 to receive and administer funds resulting from plea agreements between the U.S. Department of Justice and BP and Transocean resolving certain criminal charges following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Provisions within the agreements directed a total of \$2.54 billion to be used to support projects benefiting natural resource in the Gulf States. Through the program's first five years, NFWF had awarded more than \$1 billion to landscape-scale projects identified as high priorities by state officials in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

ALABAMA

NFWF awarded more than \$35.2 million for projects in Alabama during the 2018 fiscal year. This funding is supporting the protection and enhancement of key nesting and foraging habitats for a wide variety of coastal birds within the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and Dauphin Island. Other projects seek to protect and restore fragile shorelines and coastal marshes along the western shore of Mobile Bay.

FLORIDA

Nearly \$24.5 million was awarded to projects in Florida that address a number of high-priority restoration and conservation needs, including data collection for better conservation of red snapper and other reef fish, restoration of coastal dune lakes, protection of significant coastal wetlands, and additional capacity to address strandings of marine mammals.

LOUISIANA

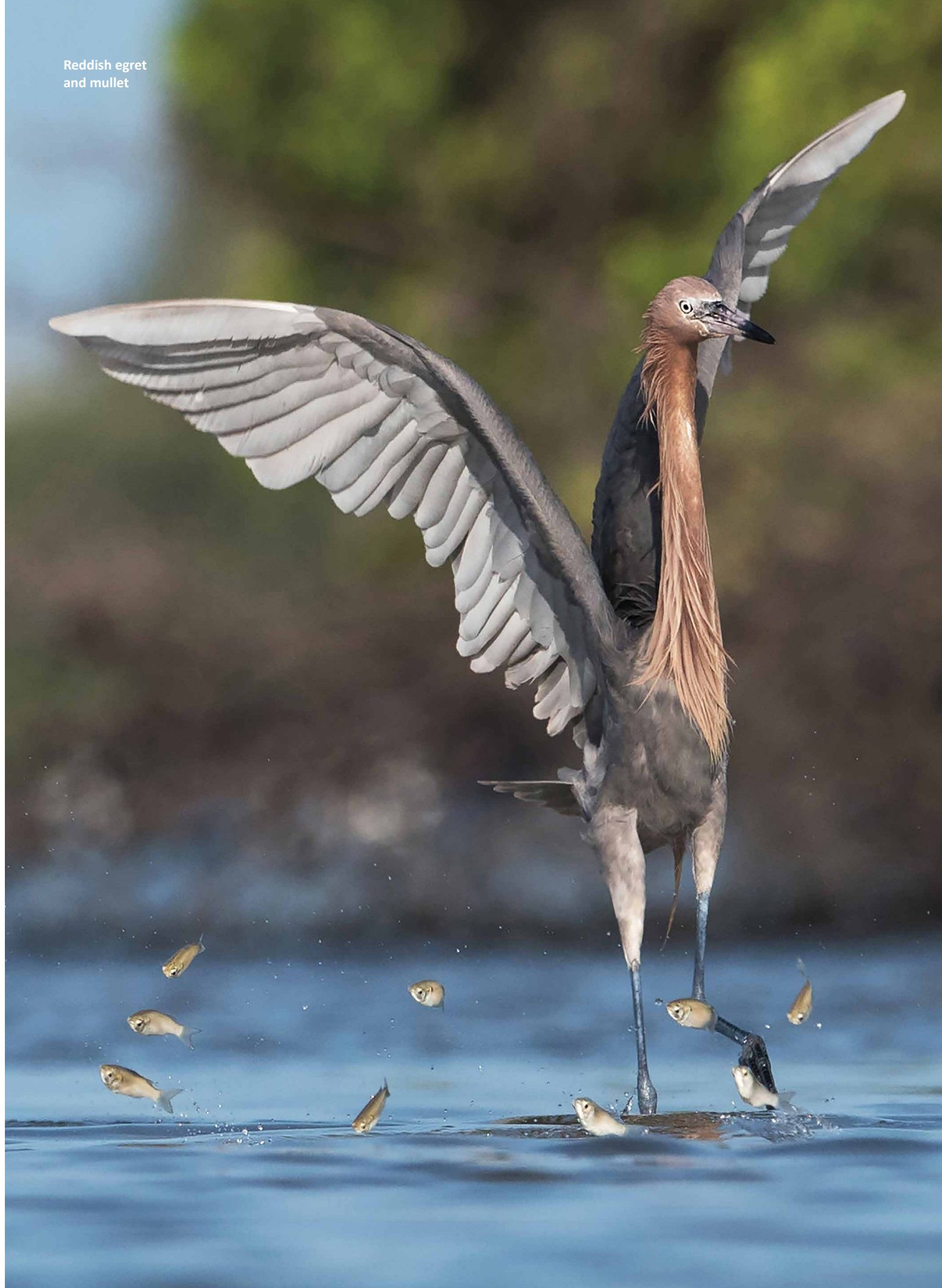
An award of \$2.2 million brought the total amount of GEBF investments in Louisiana to more than \$467 million and advanced engineering and design of the next barrier island restoration effort, which is headed for construction in late 2019. The Lower Terrebonne Basin Barrier Island and Beach Nourishment Construction project will be among the largest-scale work supported through the GEBF in the coming year. Engineering, design and environmental review for major sediment diversion projects along the Mississippi River are underway to address the historic loss of coastal lands and marshes throughout southeastern Louisiana.

MISSISSIPPI

NFWF awarded more than \$39.3 million for projects in Mississippi, including the acquisition of more than 3,400 acres of wildlife habitats along the lower Pascagoula River. Another highlight was an award to expand the state's successful program to beneficially use dredge materials to rebuild marsh and barrier island systems, providing new habitats for wildlife and increased protection from storms for human communities.

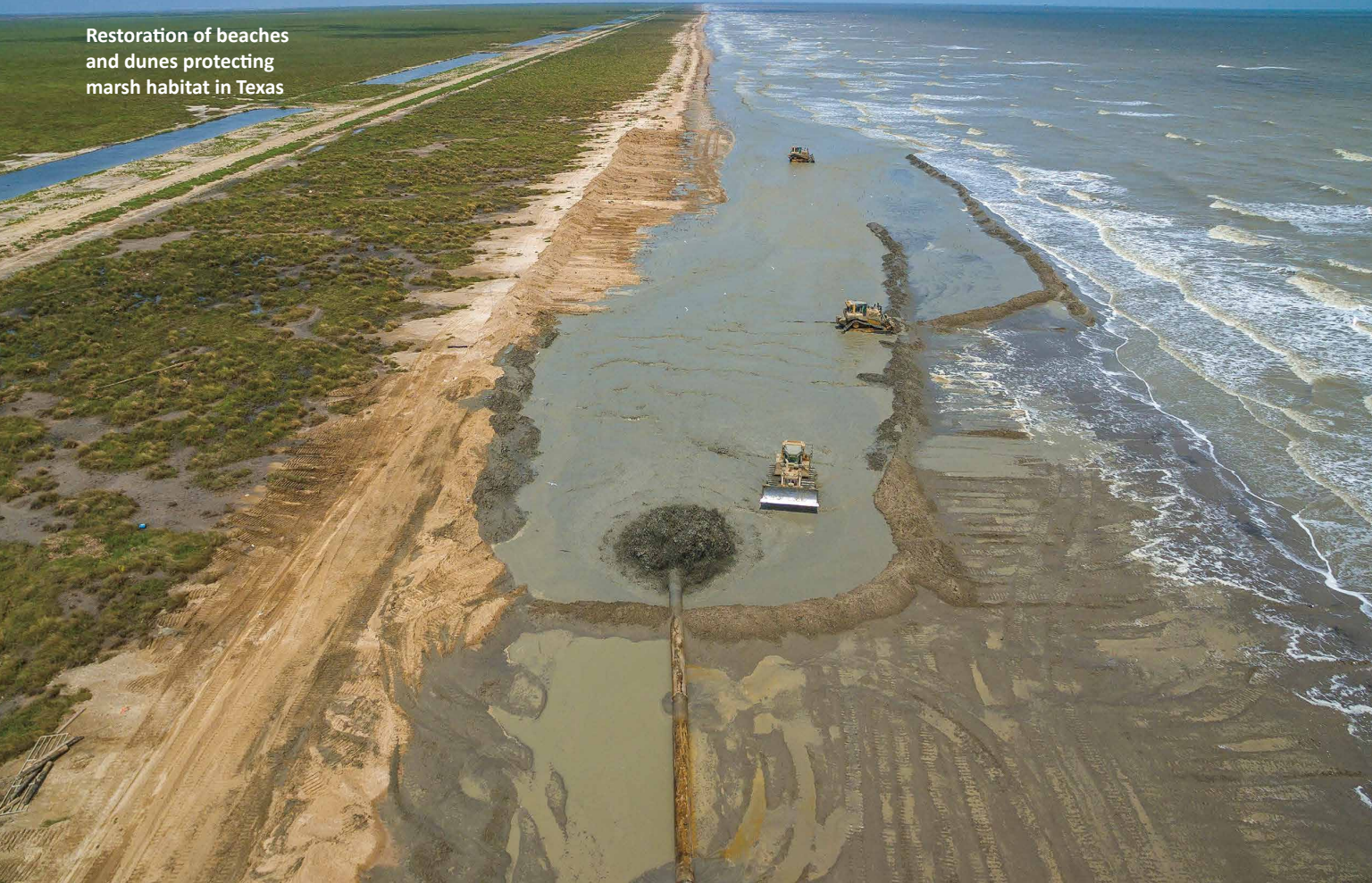
TEXAS

Nearly \$47.8 million was awarded to a suite of projects in Texas that led to the construction of breakwaters to protect delicate seagrass beds and marshes in Galveston Bay, restoration of 17 miles of beach and dunes, and the acquisition and permanent protection of a number of high-priority, undisturbed habitats along the coast.



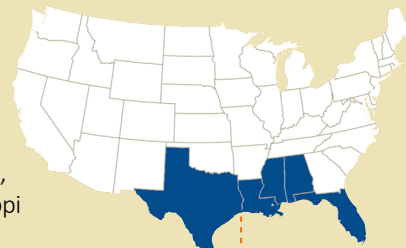
Reddish egret and mullet

Restoration of beaches and dunes protecting marsh habitat in Texas



Mottled duck chicks

NFWF's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund supports projects in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.



Work continued in 2018 to restore beaches and dunes that shield national wildlife refuges and communities in Texas from storm surge. These coastal habitats serve as primary wintering areas for Central Flyway waterfowl.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: GULF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT FUND

Landscape-scale project restores 17 miles of beaches and dunes

Beaches and dunes provide front-line protection from hurricanes to the delicate but highly productive coastal marshes along the Upper Coast of Texas. These marsh systems, in turn, provide protection from storm surge to some of the nation's most important petrochemical facilities; the Port Arthur-Beaumont area alone produces 12 percent of the United States' gasoline, 20 percent of its diesel fuel, 50 percent of its commercial aviation fuel and 70 percent of its military aviation fuel.

Unfortunately, such natural defenses are weakening along the Gulf of Mexico. Man-made changes to landscapes and hydrology have stemmed the flow of fresh water and sediment into coastal ecosystems. Erosion along beaches has allowed saltwater to surge inshore. The resulting increase in salinity has wiped out native marsh vegetation, replacing vast areas of marsh grass and tidal creeks with open expanses of water less able to absorb the fury of storms.

Local community leaders are fighting back, determined to undo the damage to their beloved natural landscapes and stop the vicious cycle of coastal land loss.

"It's something we should care about, and care about deeply," said Judge Jeff Branick, a county executive for Jefferson County and a Port Arthur native who fondly remembers a childhood spent fishing, crabbing and duck hunting with his grandfather. "Living in an area like this, it's easy to fall in love with it. It's a gorgeous place with abundant natural resources."

"Protecting our natural resources, specifically the Salt Bayou marsh system and the Chenier Plain, is part and parcel to protecting industry from storm surge."

— Jefferson County Judge Jeff Branick

In addition to his administrative and judicial duties, Branick also serves as emergency management director for his county, calling for evacuations during natural disasters and playing a leading role in protecting

petrochemical facilities from the worst effects of hurricanes. In 2017, the area saw unprecedented flooding from Hurricane Harvey.

"Protecting our natural resources, specifically the Salt Bayou marsh system and the Chenier Plain, is part and parcel to protecting industry from storm surge," he explained.

Branick and other leaders in Texas have partnered with NFWF on an ambitious project to restore and replenish 17 miles of beaches and dunes fronting the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, one of the last remaining strongholds of the Salt Bayou marsh system and home to a rich array of waterfowl, wading birds and marine fish. In 2018, NFWF awarded \$26.5 million to the effort through its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, which was created to benefit the natural resources of the Gulf Coast that were impacted by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill.

An earlier pilot program already has improved habitats for wildlife along 3 additional miles of refuge coastline. Crews there built a clay berm as a backstop to support a new dune system, then rebuilt a massive beach with sand dredged from an ancient, submerged riverbed a mile and a half offshore.

"We hadn't had any least terns nesting there since 2005, when Hurricane Rita removed all the sand from the beach," Branick said. "Within three weeks of this pilot project being completed, we had more than 600 nests on the beach. It's a fantastic project. We're reclaiming our coast from 100 years ago."

Bridge public and private sectors
to advance the science and practice
of conservation





Build partnerships

FEDERAL AGENCIES

As directed by its Congressional charter, NFWF works closely with federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with whom the Foundation launched a new \$30 million program in 2018 to boost resilience along the nation's coasts. NFWF also supports the work of the U.S. Department of Justice and federal courts as a manager and trustee for funds arising from legal and regulatory actions involving natural resources.

"NFWF occupies a unique and extraordinarily important role in national conservation efforts," said Matthew J. Lohr, chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "We know the importance of partnership, and the Foundation continues to rally its extensive network of public- and private-sector partners and helps us quickly achieve results we might not otherwise be able to achieve. NFWF's work builds on the voluntary conservation efforts of America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners as the Foundation is able to multiply federal dollars with additional funds to amplify our effectiveness."

CORPORATE PARTNERS

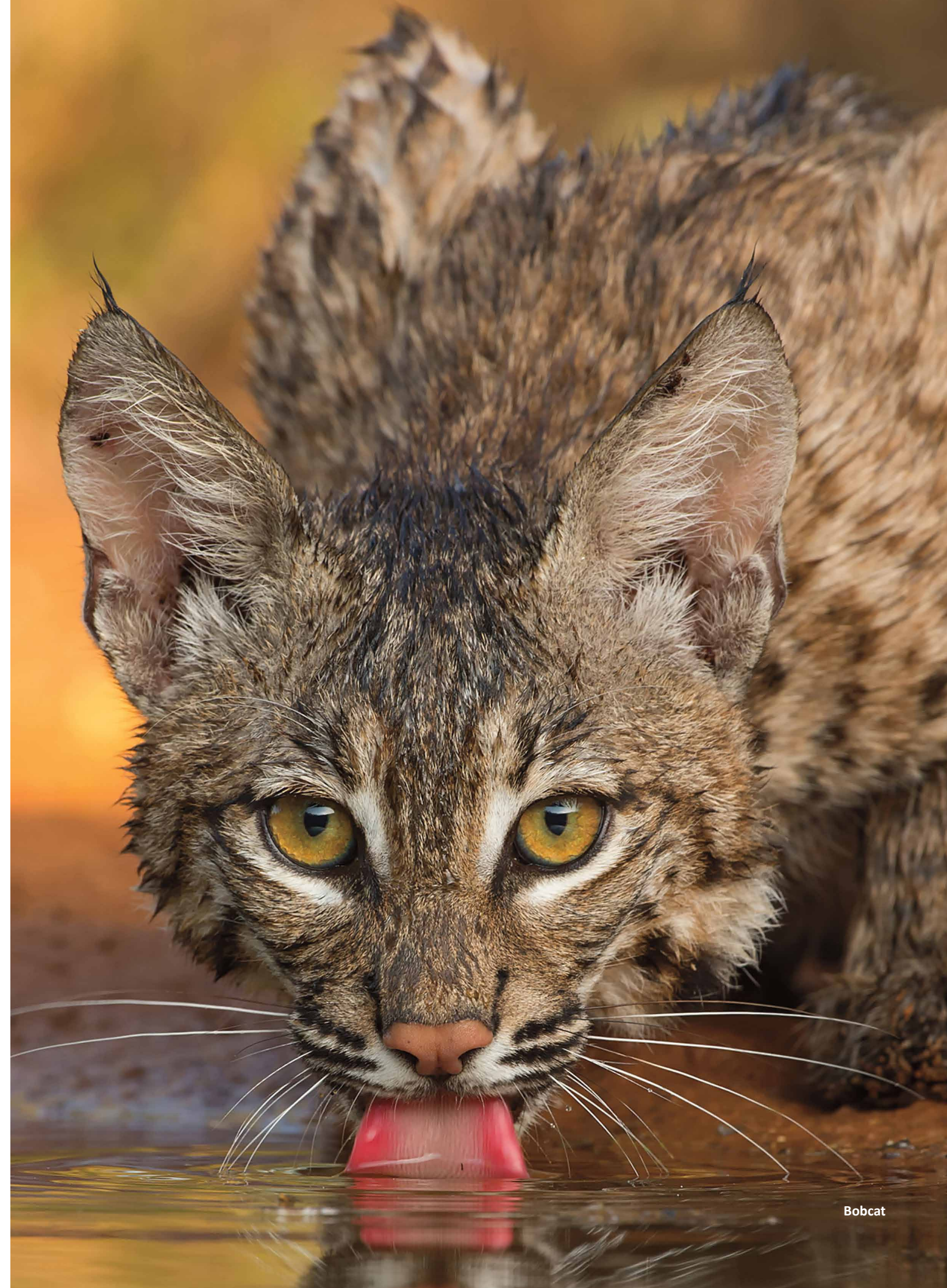
NFWF worked with 26 corporate partners throughout 2018, including a consortium of new partners in the energy sector. These companies came together to address shared environmental challenges. Myles Culhane, managing counsel at Occidental Petroleum, said that by working with NFWF to launch a public-private

partnership such as the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, the energy company remained "at the forefront of ensuring that wildlife conservation and improving the quality of life for local communities goes hand-in-hand with our responsible development of energy resources."

NFWF also strengthened and expanded existing partnerships, including a longstanding collaboration with Wells Fargo. "As part of our larger sustainability strategies, Wells Fargo is helping our customers and communities address the foreseeable impacts of our changing climate," said Stephanie Rico of Wells Fargo Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility. "With its focus on impact and ability to efficiently deliver long-term, scalable results in the many communities we serve, NFWF has been a tremendous partner for Wells Fargo as we work to achieve our sustainability and corporate responsibility goals."

FOUNDATIONS

More than two dozen foundations supported NFWF's conservation mission in 2018. Clare Billett, William Penn Foundation's Watershed Protection program officer and lead for the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, said that NFWF's Delaware River Restoration Program "has evolved into an ideal partnership, due in part to NFWF's ability to amplify our impact with resources from federal conservation and restoration programs and matching contributions from NFWF grantees. We expect that NFWF's emphasis on tracking and measuring results will also allow us to gain a clearer understanding of the outcomes and ripple effects of our investments."



Bobcat



Fund the best projects

OPERATING AT LANDSCAPE SCALE

NFWF funds conservation projects in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Many of the Foundation's largest and longest-running conservation programs are national or regional in scope, and are designed to restore habitats and support wildlife across multiple regions, throughout marine environments and along migratory pathways. By investing more than \$324 million in fiscal year 2018 to support more than 750 projects across the nation — drawing more than \$159 million in matching support from grantees — NFWF was able to tackle conservation projects at landscape scale, often protecting entire suites of habitats.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS IN FOCAL AREAS

One key to NFWF's effectiveness lies in its ability to build on past successes and leverage existing public-private partnerships in established focal landscapes. Examples include the Northern Great Plains, the forests of central and southern California, the extensive longleaf forests of the South and the watersheds of the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River. Throughout 2018, the Foundation also continued to build on success in programs focused on particular at-risk species, including sea turtles, Pacific seabirds, corals and bats.

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS

NFWF implements and manages competitive grant programs that combine public and private dollars with matching contributions from grantees to generate the greatest possible conservation impact. Grant

proposals are reviewed by experts and approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors. Following Congressional notification, grant awards are announced publicly, with details on amounts and grantees posted at nfwf.org.

NFWF does not fund political advocacy or litigation of any kind. As a neutral, trusted conservation partner, the Foundation funds on-the-ground work that supports wildlife, habitats and local communities.

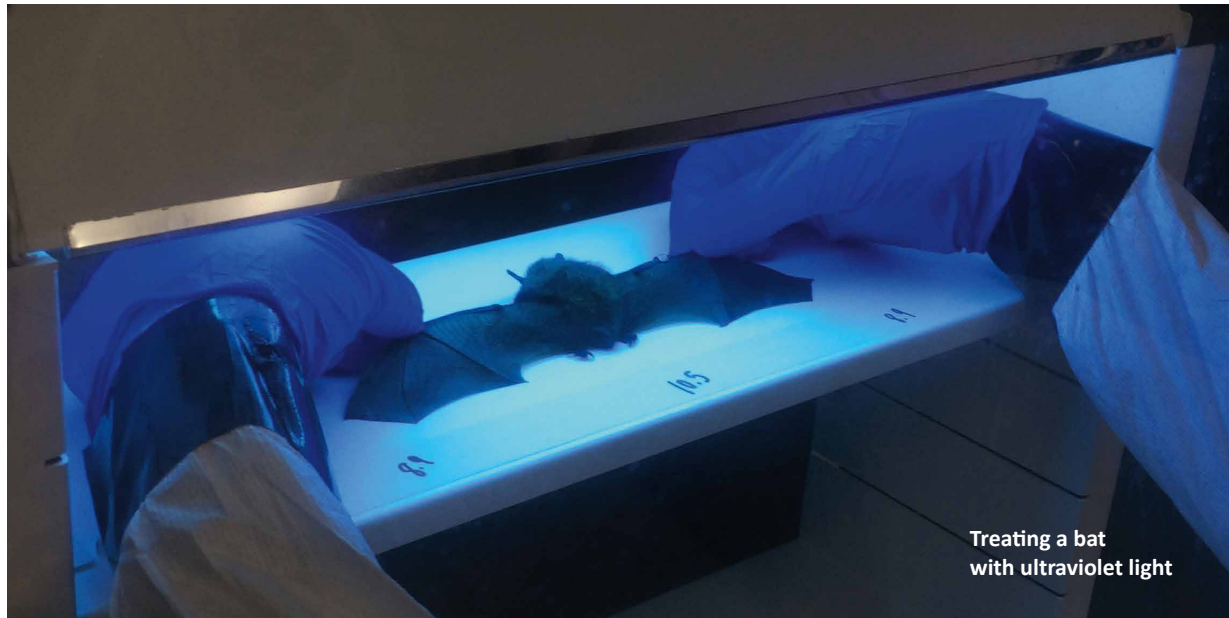
SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS

NFWF supports some of the nation's largest and most important conservation nonprofits, as well as some of its smallest. In 2018, the Foundation supported large conservation projects by major conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund and Ducks Unlimited. Such significant fiscal commitments ensured the protection of enormous tracts of natural habitats that otherwise could have been lost forever.

Smaller grants enabled local entities to address conservation needs across the country. Local nonprofits such as the Washington Water Trust worked with irrigation districts, ranchers and farmers to conserve water. Grants to small municipalities such as Berlin, Connecticut helped connect waterways for fish passage and improve management of stormwater. Volunteer groups across the country, including numerous National Wildlife Refuge Friends groups, received critical support for stewardship activities.

American avocet





Treating a bat with ultraviolet light



Dunlin eggs in Alaska's Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

Measure results

BUSINESS PLANS

NFWF invests conservation dollars into projects that generate measurable results. By formulating detailed business plans to guide its grant-making, the Foundation ensures that the work it funds remains sharply focused on specific, achievable goals. NFWF business plans address conservation needs, expected outcomes, geographic focus, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In 2018, the Foundation added two new guiding documents to its suite of about two dozen active business plans: Longleaf Forest and Rivers, and Southwest Rivers.

Conservation business plans developed by the Foundation can be found under the “Results” tab at nfwf.org.

METRICS

NFWF’s scientists and conservation professionals worked with experts throughout the nation to set and monitor metrics that accurately gauge the effectiveness of on-the-ground work. Metrics monitored through the Foundation’s business plans often build on existing data related to focal species and habitats, from increases in populations to acreage restored, pounds of sediment blocked from streams and the number of volunteers engaged. The Foundation also funded innovative work to develop standardized metrics for gauging the success of water conservation projects, including quantifiable improvements to both the amount and quality of fresh water.

APPLIED SCIENCE

Through grant-making, contracted work and collaboration, NFWF worked closely with the nation’s leading conservation researchers to make sure resources flow to the places and projects where they will do the most good. One NFWF grantee worked to develop standardized monitoring protocols for populations of monarch butterflies. Another completed a species-wide census of American oystercatchers along the Atlantic Flyway that confirmed a population increase of 23 percent over 10 years. Another project produced data from radio-collared wolverines that will be used to identify the best sites for future road-crossing structures. NFWF also supported studies by federal researchers that showed promising results from using ultraviolet light to fight white-nose syndrome in bat colonies.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REVIEW

Progress reported by grantees is evaluated by a combination of NFWF staff and independent third parties. Through such rigorous review of metrics and on-the-ground results, NFWF serves a leading role to encourage the adoption of the most effective and innovative conservation practices.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

NFWF’s conservation programs are designed and implemented to incorporate adaptive management. Detailed reporting mechanisms and close coordination with grantees ensure that work in the field progresses in the most efficient and effective manner, and that projects remain tightly focused on outcomes.



2018

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

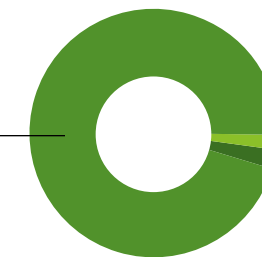
(in millions of dollars, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018)

	2018	2017
REVENUE, EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS		
Total Revenue and Support	\$303.8	\$321.7
Total Expenses	\$293.3	\$301.6
Change in Net Assets	\$10.5	\$20.1
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$217.8	\$197.7
Net Assets, end of year	\$228.3	\$217.8

USE OF FUNDS

\$293,282,709

Program/Mission **96.2%**
\$282,123,273



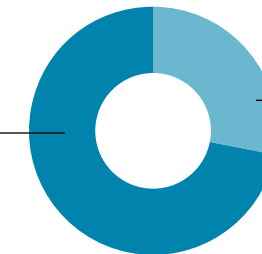
Fundraising **1.4%**
\$4,176,259

Management and General **2.4%**
\$6,983,177

TOTAL REVENUE

\$303,766,746

Non-Federal/Other **74%**
\$223,312,953



Federal **26%**
\$80,453,793

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in millions of dollars, as of September 30, 2018)

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$2,717.4	\$1,955.3
Other Assets	\$69.9	\$48.8
Total Assets	\$2,787.3	\$2,004.1
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$2,559.0	\$1,786.3
Net Assets	\$228.3	\$217.8
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,787.3	\$2,004.1



Moose

CORPORATE PARTNERS



Through its Restoring America's Resources partnership with NFWF, **Altria** is helping to protect and restore some of the most important ecosystems in the nation, including the Chesapeake Bay, forests and rivers of the Southeast, and rivers of the Western United States. The partnership works to ensure clean and abundant water for people and wildlife through the restoration of rivers, streams and forests.



American Eagle Outfitters supports the employment of youth and veterans in conservation corps. This effort leverages a highly collaborative, public-private partnership of federal agencies, corporations and nonprofit groups dedicated to providing service, training, education and employment opportunities for thousands of young Americans and veterans, including low-income and disadvantaged youth. This partnership protects, restores and enhances public and tribal lands and waters, as well as natural, cultural and historic resources. Most importantly, conservation corps help develop the next generation of skilled workers, conservation professionals and engaged citizens.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **Anadarko Petroleum** is developing a new way to address conservation challenges in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The Pecos Watershed is a unique and extraordinary resource, and the growing group of corporate sponsors along with state and federal agencies are partnering with NFWF to ensure that the development of oil and natural gas resources goes hand-in-hand with protecting wildlife and improving the quality of life for local communities in the region.



ArcelorMittal, the world's leading steel and mining company, has partnered with NFWF since 2007 to sustain, restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat in the Great Lakes region. ArcelorMittal's leadership and dedication to improving the ecological health and water quality of the Great Lakes helped create the Sustain Our Great Lakes program, a public-private partnership that has awarded more than \$73 million in grant funding to restore critical habitat and improve water quality across the bi-national Great Lakes basin. Additionally, ArcelorMittal supports

two regional programs, the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund and Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund, which award grants to reduce the impact of stormwater on communities, restore habitats for wildlife and improve public access to and use of neighborhood green space and natural areas.



Through its partnership with NFWF, **Bass Pro Shops** and the Johnny Morris Foundation invest in conservation activities that restore, protect and enhance native populations of sensitive or endangered fish species and their habitats across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands.



Bayer Crop Science is partnering with NFWF, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to support work under the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund. Established in 2015, the fund is catalyzing efforts to improve the quality, quantity and connectivity of habitat for monarch butterflies and other at-risk pollinators. In its first four years, the

fund has focused on planting milkweed and other nectar plants, developing seed supplies, and improving coordination and capacity to help reverse population declines of these important species.



From Chicago westward across the Great Plains and the Northern Rockies, to Washington state and the California coast, **BNSF Railway** supports a diverse set of NFWF programs. These programs strive to maintain the incredible wildlife of the Great Plains, secure wildlife migration corridors in the Rocky Mountains and improve the health and vitality of urban waterways in Chicago and Los Angeles. Funding directly supports community-based conservation projects that provide the ability for community leaders to protect and restore wildlife habitat, promote job creation and contribute to the achievement of local economic goals.



human energy®

As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative in 2018, **Chevron Corporation** is developing a new way to address conservation challenges in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The Pecos Watershed is a unique and extraordinary resource, and Chevron, with other area operators and state and federal agencies, is partnering with NFWF to ensure that the development of oil and natural gas resources goes hand-in-hand with protecting wildlife and improving the quality of life for local communities in the region.



Partners for more than 20 years, **ConocoPhillips** and NFWF launched the SPIRIT of Conservation program in 2005 to help protect migratory species and critical habitats important to environmental sustainability. Currently the program supports projects that restore priority habitats, provide technical assistance on working lands, remove or modify migration barriers, or protect key habitats along migratory routes. In Alaska, ConocoPhillips also has partnered with NFWF since 2003 to support polar bear research and Cook Inlet beluga whale conservation projects.



Covanta, working with NFWF, NOAA and Schnitzer Steel Industries, provides a no-cost option for fishermen to dispose of old, derelict or unusable fishing gear through the Fishing for Energy program. The program also works with state and local agencies, community and industry groups, and local ports to foster solutions to prevent gear loss and to reduce the impact of derelict gear to marine habitats and wildlife. Collected gear is either recycled or converted into renewable electricity for local communities at Covanta's Energy-from-Waste facilities.



CSX works with NFWF to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, supporting projects to restore fish and wildlife habitat, reduce water pollution and engage the public in environmental stewardship activities. In 2013, CSX joined NFWF and the state of Maryland to implement the largest natural oyster reef restoration project ever undertaken in the Chesapeake Bay.



In partnership with NFWF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **Enbridge** supports the National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program, with a focus on Michigan, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin. The National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program supports local organizations working to be effective co-stewards of important natural resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1998, the program has provided more than 470 awards totaling more than \$2 million in federal and corporate funding.



FedEx works with NFWF in 18 U.S. cities to fund community-based conservation projects. With FedEx team member engagement, the projects restore watersheds, improve air quality, encourage environmental stewardship, and foster community environmental outreach and support.



International Paper and NFWF continue to advance their award-winning Forestland Stewards Partnership to identify, restore and

protect landscapes in four priority regions in the United States: the Low Country forests of North and South Carolina; the Cumberland Plateau of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee; the Piney Woods of Texas and Louisiana; and the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley stretching from Illinois to the mouth of the Mississippi River. The goals are to protect and restore more than 300,000 acres of forests, strengthen populations of important fish and wildlife, and improve water quality, all within the context of working landscapes.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **Noble Energy** is developing a new way to address conservation challenges in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The Pecos Watershed is a unique and extraordinary resource, and the growing group of corporate sponsors along with state and federal agencies are partnering with NFWF to ensure that the development of oil and natural gas resources goes hand-in-hand with protecting wildlife and improving the quality of life for local communities in the region.



Occidental Petroleum

As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **Occidental Petroleum** is developing a new way to address conservation challenges in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The Pecos Watershed is a unique and extraordinary resource, and the growing group of corporate sponsors along with state and federal agencies are partnering with NFWF to ensure that the development of oil and natural gas resources goes hand-in-hand with protecting wildlife and improving the quality of life for local communities in the region.



Since 1999, the **Pacific Gas and Electric Company** (PG&E) has partnered with NFWF on PG&E's Natural Restoration Trust program to support riparian, coastal and wetland habitat restoration throughout California. This year, PG&E helped fund a collaborative fuels management project to help watersheds and communities. This project also will protect native habitats and species and has the support of local businesses and conservation organizations.



Phillips 66 is partnering with NFWF to fund local, community-based habitat projects. The partnership has funded coastal restoration, invasive species and native grassland restoration efforts.



SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment was the inaugural partner in establishing the Killer Whale Research and Conservation Program. Shell Oil Company, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA later joined as partners. This program funds efforts to understand and conserve wild populations of killer whales; with priority for activities that contribute to the recovery of the Southern Resident killer whale distinct population segment. Support from this program has been instrumental in advancing recovery science, increasing prey availability and minimizing vessel disturbance to this population in jeopardy.



The Shell Marine and Wildlife Habitat Program is a partnership between **Shell Oil Company** and NFWF that supports conservation of priority habitats and species in the communities where Shell lives and operates. The program supports conservation and restoration activities that benefit key species, including killer whales and monarch butterflies, and their habitats across the United States. Since 1998, the partnership has funded more than 280 projects, supporting the protection, restoration, and management of more than 160,000 acres of habitat, as well as the improved monitoring and management of key species in coastal ecosystems.



Sierra Pacific Industries is partnering with NFWF to strategically improve forest health throughout California's forests. Coordinating with state and federal agencies, Sierra Pacific Industries and NFWF are working together to protect areas that not only improve forest health, but also fish, wildlife and communities.



For over 15 years, **Southern Company** has partnered with NFWF to support strategic, long-term restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem; conservation and recovery of at-risk species; and community-based stewardship of forests, rivers, coastal areas and wetlands. In collaboration with Southern Company's electric and gas subsidiaries, grants are awarded to nonprofits, government agencies and academic institutions. This successful alliance has generated and accelerated measurable results, including restoring or enhancing over 1.7 million acres of critical habitat; working to reintroduce or recover self-sustaining populations of species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, indigo snake, whooping crane, red knot and snowy plover; and supporting research to find a cure for a deadly disease threatening North America's bat population.



The Coca-Cola Foundation supports the Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists program, a highly collaborative partnership of federal agencies and nonprofit groups dedicated to providing service, training, education and employment opportunities for thousands of young Americans and veterans, including low-income and disadvantaged youth. This partnership protects, restores and enhances public and tribal lands and waters, as well as natural, cultural and historic resources. Most importantly, conservation corps help develop the next generation of skilled workers, conservation professionals and engaged citizens.



TransRe supports the National Coastal Resilience Fund, which restores, increases and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. TransRe is the brand name for Transatlantic Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries (including Transatlantic Reinsurance Company). TransRe, wholly owned by Alleghany Corporation (NYSE-Y), a reinsurance organization headquartered in New York with operations worldwide.



Walmart and NFWF created Acres for America in 2005 to conserve lands of national significance; protect critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife; connect existing protected lands to unify wild places and protect migration routes; provide access for people to enjoy the outdoors; and help ensure the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching and recreation. Since its inception, the Acres for America program has protected more than 1.4 million acres by funding 88 projects in 38 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

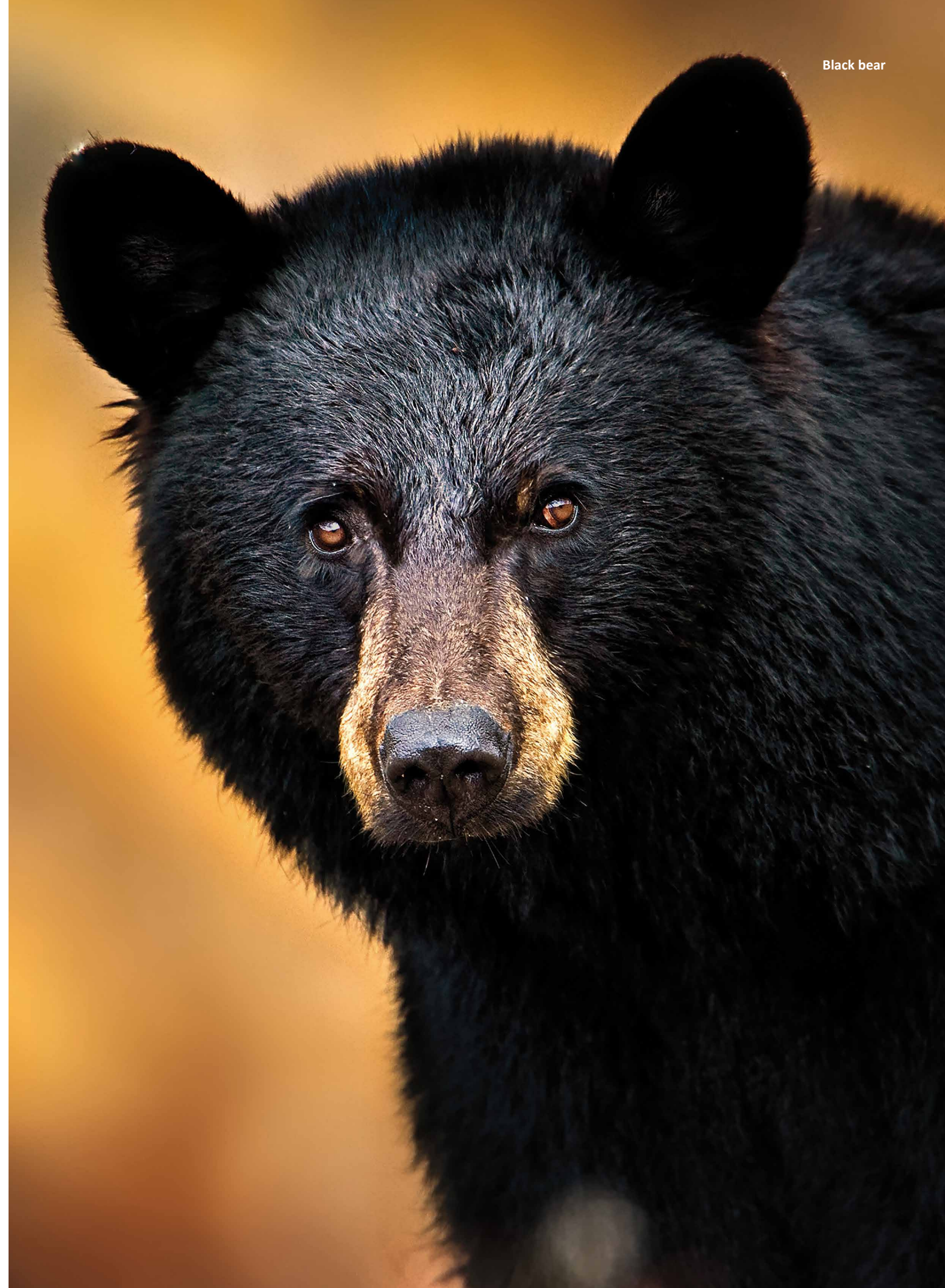


The Wells Fargo Resilient Communities grant program launched in 2017 as part of **Wells Fargo's** commitment to prepare for future environmental challenges by enhancing community capacity to plan and implement resilience projects. The grant program is designed to support projects that focus on floods and droughts, forest health concerns and sea-level rise. The program emphasizes community inclusion and assistance to traditionally underserved populations in vulnerable areas through investments in adaptation and community capacity.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **XTO Energy, Inc.** is developing a new way to address conservation challenges in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The Pecos Watershed is a unique and extraordinary resource, and the growing group of corporate sponsors along with state and federal agencies are partnering with NFWF to ensure that the development of oil and natural gas resources goes hand-in-hand with protecting wildlife and improving the quality of life for local communities in the region.

Black bear





Great gray owl

FEDERAL PARTNERS

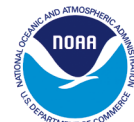
NFWF was established by Congress in 1984 to conserve fish, wildlife and plant species through innovative partnerships with federal agencies, corporations, foundations and nonprofit organizations in order to generate new resources for conservation.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's **Natural Resources Conservation Service** (NRCS) provides farmers, ranchers, foresters and other private working landowners the tools they need to restore and protect the productivity of their lands. NFWF partners with NRCS to support outreach, education and conservation technical assistance on farms and ranches in order to provide conservation benefits for wildlife, water quality and soil health while strengthening local economies. The growth in the relationship continued in 2018 through an expanded Gulf Coast partnership and new agreements across the country with NRCS State offices. Focal geographies include the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watersheds, and restoration within the longleaf pine, bottomland hardwood, Gulf Coast, Central Appalachia, Northeast forest and Northern Great Plain landscapes.



NFWF partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **U.S. Forest Service** (USFS), through both the National Forest System and the state and private forestry programs, across the country. The partnership supports restoration of priority USFS landscapes including the grasslands of the Northern Great Plains, longleaf pine forests of the Southeast, sagebrush ecosystems in the West and the forests of New England. NFWF also supports post-fire restoration on individual national forests and targeted fuels management projects to protect critical habitat and infrastructure from being damaged by catastrophic wildfire. In 2018, NFWF entered into its first partnership agreement with the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Region, helping to increase water flow within critical tributaries of the Upper Klamath.



The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** (NOAA) and NFWF work together to support marine and coastal conservation. Specific focal areas include coral reefs, marine debris removal, sustainable fisheries and coastal habitats. NFWF also assists NOAA with the implementation of marine and coastal remediation, ensuring restoration is accomplished in a meaningful and timely manner. The partnership significantly increased in 2018 through the launch of the National Coastal Resilience Fund designed to restore, increase and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities and wildlife.



NFWF, in partnership with the **U.S. Department of Defense** (DOD), is working to conserve, restore and manage the longleaf pine ecosystem throughout the Southeast. Longleaf habitat supports the conservation of sensitive species off-base, which creates

important natural buffers around military bases. Together, these outcomes support military training and readiness goals. In 2018, this partnership expanded to include a focus on the longleaf habitat on Eglin Air Force Base and on developing a multi-agency riparian restoration strategy in Southern California to promote recovery of targeted species.



NFWF supports efforts by the **U.S. Marine Corps** Installations East – Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune to manage longleaf pine habitat in coastal North Carolina. This longleaf pine habitat supports the recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker and ensures the military mission is sustained and preserved over time. NFWF is managing restoration funding for two off-base projects, helping Camp Lejeune fulfill its conservation commitments and supporting its training and readiness goals.



In 2018, NFWF entered into its first direct agreement with the **U.S. Navy** to support operations of the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii. The partnership aims to improve the ecological status of three Pacific seabird species that utilize the base through management actions off-installation. Funding will be used to reduce predator impacts, protect and enhance seabird colonies, and improve reproductive success enabling long-term recovery of the birds and improved operations at the base.



In partnership with the **Bonneville Power Administration** (BPA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, NFWF has supported an innovative, grassroots, incentive-based program to improve stream flows for at-risk fish throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. The Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP), founded in 2002, is the first regional effort of its kind in the United States to enhance flows in tributaries through cooperative partnerships between flow restoration

practitioners and farmers and ranchers. The program supports a combination of practices to restore instream flow to key Columbia Basin tributary reaches that support important anadromous and resident fish populations. In 2018, NFWF expanded the CBWTP to become the Columbia Basin Program consistent with an effort to better align flow improvement investments with other priority habitat restoration efforts supported by private and public entities.



The **Bureau of Land Management** (BLM) partnership with NFWF shifted significantly in 2018 to focus on a new Department of the Interior and Western state-led migration corridor program. This collaboration will support restoration of the most critical western migratory corridors benefiting mule deer, elk, pronghorn and a suite of species that depends on this habitat. NFWF also is assisting BLM develop partnerships with DOD in Southern California and with energy companies in the Permian Basin of New Mexico to support recovery of sensitive species.



The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (FWS) has partnered with NFWF since the Foundation's establishment in 1984 to support our nation's fish and wildlife resources. FWS funding serves as the seed money to build new partnerships and attract private sector resources. The partnership supports landscapes throughout the country, including the Great Lakes, Atlantic Coast (shorebirds), Central Appalachia, Southeast rivers, Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Hawaiian forests. New partnerships launched in 2018 include a Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund in partnership with a private foundation and a migration corridors solicitation in partnership with an energy company.



2018 marked the third year of a partnership with the **U.S. Geological Survey** (USGS) to support recovery of pollinators. The partnership supports research on monarch



butterfly and other pollinator habitat restoration through NFWF's Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund. The knowledge gained from these projects will be used to ensure future monarch restoration efforts are even more efficient and effective at supporting the ultimate goal of increasing monarch butterfly populations.

In 2018, NFWF continued to grow its partnership with the **Bureau of Reclamation** (Reclamation) with a focus in New Mexico on the Middle Rio Grande watershed. NFWF and Reclamation are working with the local irrigation district and landowners to pilot voluntary water leasing and other innovative conservation solutions that support the needs of the farming and ranching community. NFWF is also supporting Reclamation's coho salmon recovery goals in the Lower Klamath Basin through a grant program focused on improving flow and habitat in Northern California. In Western Nevada, NFWF is working with the Walker Basin Conservancy under a Reclamation grant to restore and maintain Walker Lake while at the same time protecting agricultural interests and supporting new opportunities for public recreation in the Walker River Basin.



The **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) and NFWF partner to improve water quality through natural restoration activities. The partnership supports coordinated conservation activities across large watersheds in partnership with the states and other federal agencies. Partner programs include the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, Sustain Our Great Lakes program (in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Long Island Sound Futures Fund, and Five-Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant programs. Community engagement and support of projects that address local government priorities are core features of the partnership.

In 2018, NFWF also worked with the following agencies:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Coast Guard



Northern bobwhite

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

NFWF works with many foundations to advance conservation across the country. These foundations actively supported NFWF conservation programs in 2018.



American Forest Foundation

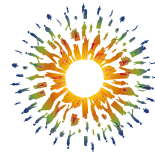
The **American Forest Foundation (AFF)** works to promote forest stewardship with more than 21 million family forest landowners in the United States who own more than 35 percent of the nation's forests. Wildlife issues are one of the leading drivers of family forest landownership, and AFF has partnered with NFWF to benefit wildlife and working forests. Grant funding and technical assistance help restore diverse, mixed-aged forests in Central Appalachia, the Delaware River Watershed and throughout New England. Across the Southeast, AFF is leveraging dollars with NFWF to help protect at-risk wildlife species through its Southern Woods for At-Risk Wildlife Initiative partnership.

The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust

The **Chicago Community Trust** partners with donors to leverage their philanthropy in ways that transform lives and communities throughout the Chicago region. Since 2013, the Trust has partnered with NFWF to support the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which invests in the health and vitality of the region's communities, waterways and natural resources through grant-making.

CROWN FAMILY

The **Crown Family** environmental grant-making supports efforts to value, preserve and restore natural ecosystems through innovative science-based approaches, emphasizing collaborative efforts that deliver measurable results. A partner since 2013, The Crown Family's leadership helped establish the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which has awarded \$8.4 million in green stormwater infrastructure, habitat enhancement and public-use improvement grants to date.



Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation

The **Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation** is committed to nurturing environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in metro Detroit and to supporting initiatives to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem. Their leadership helped establish the new Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund in 2018, a public-private partnership working to increase the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan.



GAYLORD AND DOROTHY DONNELLEY FOUNDATION

The **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** supports land conservation, artistic vitality and regional collections for the people of the Chicago region and the Lowcountry of South Carolina. A NFWF partner since 2013, their support of the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund has helped to restore and enhance the waterways, habitats and neighborhood green spaces of the Chicago/Calumet region.



صندوق محمد بن زايد
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The Joyce Foundation

The **Joyce Foundation** is a nonpartisan, private foundation that invests in the future of the Great Lakes region by supporting policies to advance racial equity and economic mobility for the next generation. Since 2013, they have partnered with NFWF to support the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund which awards grants to restore the health, vitality and accessibility of the waterways in the Chicago/Calumet region.



The **Kingfisher Foundation** works to implement sound fishery management rules and methods that align long-term economic prosperity for fishers with good stewardship and sustainable fishing. Kingfisher partners with NFWF to modernize the collection, use and management of fishery data. Their investments have contributed to improving the health and sustainability of U.S. fisheries and ocean resources and the well-being of the communities that depend on them.



The overarching goal for the **Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies'** Environment Program is to conserve and sustain terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. Since 2013, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies has partnered with NFWF through the Northern Great Plains Program to conserve and restore North America's largest temperate grasslands and the communities they support.



The **Richard King Mellon Foundation** supports work in western Pennsylvania to restore and sustain healthy forests, wetlands, rivers and streams that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations. They are a partner in the Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program, which NFWF launched in 2017 with their support.

The **Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund** supports work on the recovery and restoration of species of conservation concern. Since 2013, the Trust has been funding the recovery work of the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken by supporting the construction of a captive breeding facility and its long-term operation.



The **Orton Foundation**, a Moore Charitable affiliate, funds the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, a key program driving longleaf pine ecosystem restoration in the Southeast United States through forest management best practices, with a strong emphasis on the use of controlled burning.



The **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** is dedicated primarily to sustained investment in the quality of life of the people of Southeast Michigan and Western New York. They are a founding partner of the new Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund, a public-private partnership working to increase the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan.



Partnering with NFWF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the **Rasmuson Foundation** supports internship opportunities for Alaska Native students to work with USFWS staff to learn the intricacies of federal decision-making while providing hands-on experiences to learn about the practical impact of conservation.



The **Walton Family Foundation** focuses on healthy oceans and river systems that connect people and economies to the outdoors. Its investments help people working to address threats to water quality and soil health in the Mississippi River Basin, and water supply in the Colorado River Basin. In doing so, the Walton Foundation looks for conservation solutions that make economic sense for people and communities and invests in multiple NFWF programs.



The **William Penn Foundation** helped launch the Delaware River Restoration Fund in 2013 to help community-based nonprofits and government agencies work together to clean up and restore polluted waters and improve habitat in the Delaware River watershed. The fund awards at least \$2 million per year in competitive grants, geographically focused on three priority strategies: stewardship of working lands; restoration of wetlands, floodplains and stream corridors; and promoting adoption of green infrastructure in urban/suburban landscapes.



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In 2018, generous gifts from these donors furthered NFWF's actions to sustain and restore wildlife and their habitats. We greatly appreciate their support.

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