

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



NFWF



A bobcat kitten rests in a tree in Texas.

Contents

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

NFWF's steadfast support provided stability for partners and grantees, enabling vital conservation projects to continue in a challenging year. 4

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Who we are 6

What we do 9

Where we work 10

Why it matters 12

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Coastal resilience 17

Wildfire resilience 21

Protecting wildlife migration routes 25

Working with the private sector 29

Working with the public sector 33

Remedying harm 37

10 years after the Gulf oil spill 41

Conservation and agriculture 45

NOAA and NFWF: 20 years for coral 49

2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY 53

CORPORATE PARTNERS 55

FEDERAL AND STATE PARTNERS 63

FOUNDATION PARTNERS 67

2020 DONORS 70

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF 72



NFWF

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.



An osprey hunts along a beach in Florida.



Chairman's Message

J. MICHAEL CLINE

CHAIRMAN, NFWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There can be no doubt about it — 2020 was a tough year. Amid all the turmoil, we have all had to persevere, adapt and look out for one another as best we could.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the staff and leadership team at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), as well as to my fellow board members and to our steadfast partners in the public and private sectors, for showing incredible fortitude and compassion throughout the challenges of 2020.

NFWF remained fully operational throughout fiscal year 2020. Working together as a team, we were able to adapt to this new environment and continue to advance our vital mission to sustain and enhance our nation's wildlife and natural habitats.

In fiscal year 2020, NFWF invested \$398.5 million to support more than 950 projects across the nation. These investments leveraged \$303.1 million in matching support from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$701.6 million. Incredibly, our staff also set a new organizational record for payments in a year, providing rock-solid support for ongoing conservation projects and enabling our many grantee organizations to keep boots on the ground for conservation.

The importance of protecting conservation gains and sustaining momentum to protect wildlife and natural habitats cannot be overstated. Even when we finally move past this pandemic, as we most assuredly will, we must still come together to overcome some of the toughest and most pressing challenges in human history: the dire effects of climate change and the rapid degradation of the natural world.

There is much work to be done. Partnership, collaboration, trust, investment — these are essential ingredients for success in the years ahead. All of us at NFWF know that by working together, we can and will build a better and more resilient future for us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Michael Cline". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "C".



“ In fiscal year 2020, NFWF invested \$398.5 million to support more than 950 projects across the nation. These investments leveraged \$303.1 million in matching support from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$701.6 million. ”

*J. Michael Cline, Chairman of the Board of Directors,
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

Who we are

If you're not out there, working every day in our nation's forests, grasslands, wetlands and marine environments to conserve wildlife and natural habitats, then you might not know much about the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). But if you **are** out there, doing the tough, gritty work needed to build a more sustainable and resilient future, then you probably know "Niff-Wiff" quite well.

We are, after all, the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker, and one of its most trusted, dependable and effective conservation leaders. The investments we make with our amazing public- and private-sector partners, which in fiscal year 2020 topped \$398.5 million, provide bedrock support to some of the largest and most impactful conservation projects unfolding across the United States of America.

NFWF is not a government agency, as many assume; we are a private, independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We were created by Congress in 1984 — and reauthorized in 2020 by a unanimous vote of the Senate and the House — to build public-private partnerships that increase the funding our nation needs to advance the science and practice of conservation throughout the United States.

NFWF is governed by a 30-member Board of Directors approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and we work closely with leaders in both the federal government and our nation's business sector. We partner with leading corporations, philanthropic foundations and federal agencies to fund landscape-scale conservation efforts based on sound science, measurable results and voluntary participation by landowners, community leaders and natural resource managers across the nation.

Our staff provides unrivaled expertise in maximizing conservation returns on philanthropic investments, vetting grant proposals, analyzing results on the ground, reporting successes, and advancing our collective drive toward sustainability and resilience.

Our business model has proven effective. Over the past 36 years, we have funded more than 19,700 projects and supported more than 5,000 grantee organizations, leveraging matching contributions from our grantees and other partners to generate a total conservation impact of **\$6.8 billion**.

To learn more about the Foundation,
please visit nfwf.org



NFWF

1984-2020

\$6.8 BILLION

TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT

NFWF's investments and grantee match since the Foundation's founding by Congress in 1984

19,700+

PROJECTS funded throughout all states and U.S. territories

5,000+

GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS funded throughout all states and U.S. territories

FISCAL YEAR 2020

\$701.6 MILLION

TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT

NFWF's investments and grantee match in fiscal year 2020

\$398.5 MILLION INVESTED BY NFWF

The Foundation awarded \$212.1 million in federal funds and \$33.5 million in private contributions. NFWF also awarded \$152.9 million in Impact-Directed Environmental Account funds, including \$129.6 million from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

\$303.1 MILLION IN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Investments made by our grantees

953 PROJECTS

Across all states and U.S. territories

A northern pygmy owl rests in Montana.





This Suwannee bass inhabits the spring-fed waters of northern Florida.

What we do

NFWF works with partners at the highest levels of government, private industry and the scientific community to identify and quickly address our nation's most pressing near-term conservation challenges. At the same time, we are building new partnerships and scaling up successful strategies to help our nation mitigate the effects of climate change and build a more resilient and sustainable future.

We use science-based competitive grant programs to ensure that conservation resources generate the greatest possible benefit to wildlife populations, natural habitats and local communities across the nation. We measure results through rigorous internal and external assessments, and we use what we learn to continually advance the science and practice of conservation.

NFWF works with federal partners (p. 63), corporate partners (p. 55) and foundation partners (p. 67) to address conservation challenges that threaten not only wildlife, but communities large and small. Some programs enable forest managers to mitigate the impact of future wildfires while accelerating the recovery of wildlife and forest health in the aftermath of catastrophic wildfires (p. 21). Other programs speed recovery in coastal areas devastated by hurricanes, while achieving the dual benefits of enhancing wildlife habitats and reducing the impact of future storms and sea-level rise (p. 17).

Many of NFWF's longest-running conservation programs focus on geographies or regions where our contacts and experiences run deep. Other grant programs focus on marine environments (p. 49), migratory pathways (p. 25), species in decline and additional conservation opportunities. Such initiatives garner support from corporate partners with a strong interest in the well-being of wildlife and communities, often within their operational footprints or along their supply chains.

We also act as a manager and trustee for funds arising from legal and regulatory actions involving natural resources through our Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA) department (p. 37). Our effectiveness in this restorative role led to the creation of our Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (p. 41), which has invested nearly \$1.5 billion in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas to benefit natural resources impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010.

By maintaining such a diverse portfolio of investments, NFWF has become one of the most nimble and effective funders in the national conservation community. Working with our many partners and grantees, we will continue to build on these successes in the years ahead, responding quickly and at scale to emerging challenges and opportunities.

To learn more about our conservation programs,
please visit nfwf.org/what-we-do

Where we work

NFWF has funded conservation projects in all 50 states and U.S. territories, nearly 20,000 since our founding in 1984.

Our effectiveness depends in large part on our ability to identify and quickly take advantage of conservation opportunities wherever they arise and garner voluntary support — public or private lands, urban or rural areas, marine or terrestrial environments, specific locations or broad landscapes.

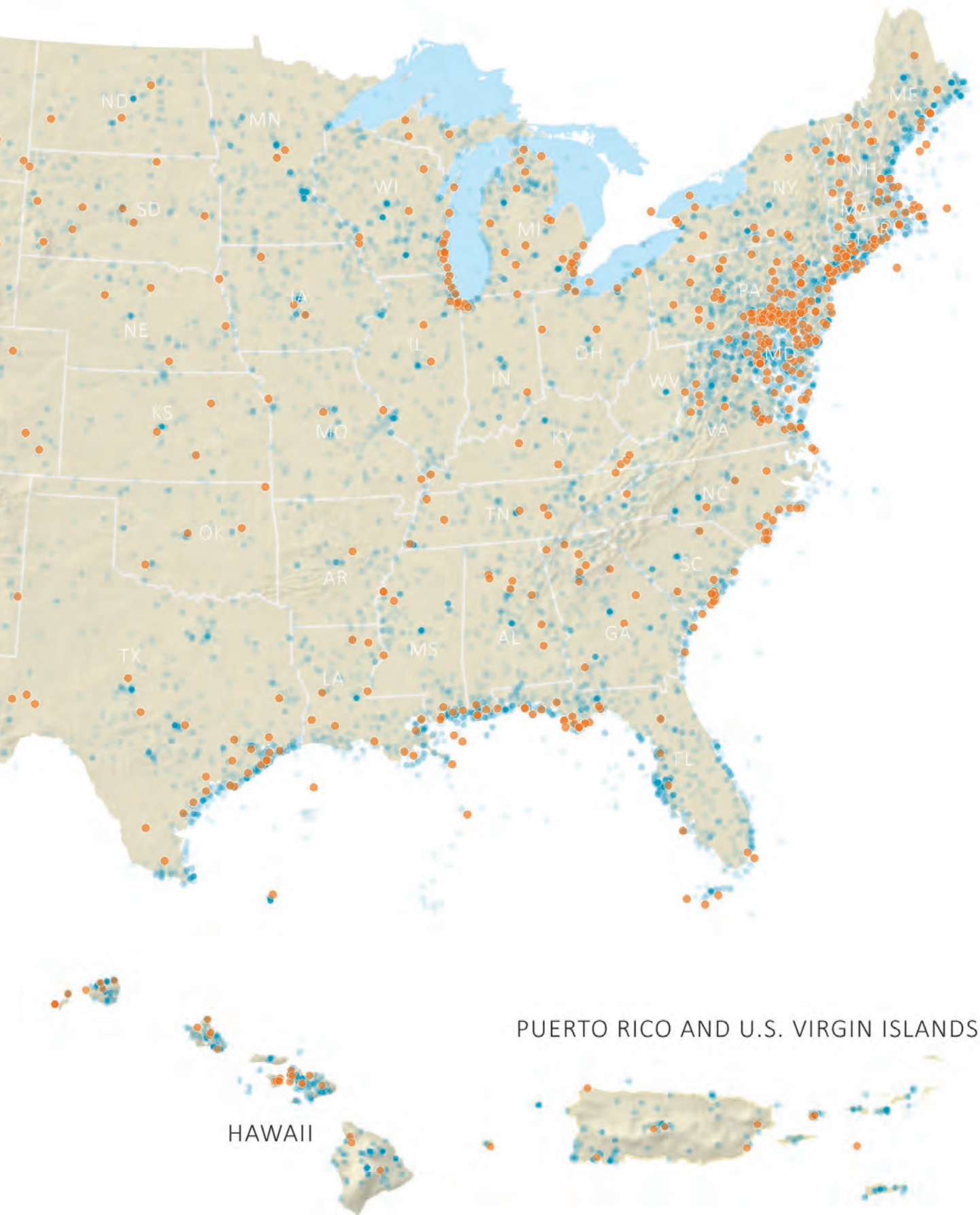
To explore an interactive map, please visit nfwf.org/where-we-work



NORTHERN
MARIANA
ISLANDS

ALASKA

GUAM



HAWAII

PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Why it matters

We believe that effective, large-scale conservation efforts are the key to a better future for our nation, both for wildlife species across the United States and for the 330 million people living here now ... and the generations to come.

We also believe that **partnerships** that bridge the public and private sectors are the key to achieving conservation success. And we know that conservation investments yield dividends that extend far beyond wildlife.

That's why we must bring everyone to the table for conservation: government agencies, private corporations, conservation nonprofits, private landowners, agricultural producers, leaders in business and technology, and citizens from all walks of life.

By restoring coastal marshes, barrier islands and coral reefs, we don't just conserve the biodiversity enriching those environments. We also strengthen local economies and make our cities, towns, ports and energy hubs more resilient to storms, erosion and sea-level rise.

When we conserve forests and make them more resilient to wildfires, we don't just protect habitats for migratory songbirds, many of which are suffering drastic population declines. We also safeguard billions of trees that capture carbon, generate oxygen, cool our streams and shade our homes.

When we restore native vegetation, we don't just provide vital habitats for bumblebees, butterflies and other native pollinators. We also protect our ability to feed ourselves by preserving the estimated \$3.1 billion dollars of pollination services these insects provide to the U.S. agricultural sector.

When we improve stormwater management and restore wetlands, we don't just ensure cleaner water for fish, amphibians and other aquatic organisms. We also create jobs and protect neighborhoods from destructive floods by giving urban runoff a place to go.

At NFWF, we focus on sustaining and enhancing wildlife populations and their habitats — that is our core mission. But we also know that by making wise public-private conservation investments, our citizens, our communities, and our local economies will all enjoy a brighter future.

To learn more about becoming a conservation partner,
please visit nfwf.org/become-partner

A bull elk browses
in a foggy meadow in
the Rocky Mountains.





As part of a project supported by NFWF, divers with the Coral Restoration Foundation install fragments of pillar coral in one of the organization's coral nurseries off the coast of Florida.

2020 Conservation Highlights

A closer look at NFWF's strategies,
areas of investments and 2020 grant awards





A school of Atlantic bumper moves past beachgoers along Florida's Gulf Coast.

Coastal resilience

Sustaining, restoring and enhancing the nation’s fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations — this is NFWF’s mission.

To advance that mission, the Foundation must serve a leading role in national efforts to ensure that wildlife populations and human communities can adapt to changing environmental conditions and withstand the stresses, disruptions and disasters of the modern world. The Foundation and its partners must invest in resilience, and they must do so at a landscape scale.

The stakes couldn’t be higher along the nation’s coasts, which are being battered by increasingly intense storms and threatened by sea-level rise. These same vulnerable areas are home to rich natural resources, enormous metropolitan areas, global trade centers, vital defense installations — and about 130 million people.

Recognizing the need to accelerate investment in coastal resilience, including projects that encourage innovative new approaches to addressing this challenge, NFWF worked with NOAA to launch the National Coastal Resilience Fund. Since 2018, the fund has awarded \$90 million to enhance, build, or restore almost 17,800 acres of coastal habitat. Projects have provided enhanced protection to 100,400 properties and 2,500 critical facilities or pieces of nature-based infrastructure. To meet the growing demand from prospective grantees, NFWF has welcomed additional funding partners and supporters to the program, including Shell Oil Company, TransRe, AT&T, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Defense.

In fiscal year 2020, the Foundation also awarded nearly \$50 million in grants through another resilience-focused program, the Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund. Leveraging emergency appropriations by Congress, NFWF created this fund to address widespread destruction from hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Yutu and a number of wildfires in 2018.

The grants awarded through these new programs build on NFWF’s deep experience in funding coastal conservation in heavily populated watersheds, including those feeding the Chesapeake Bay, Long Island Sound, Puget Sound and the Great Lakes.





A newly hatched loggerhead sea turtle swims offshore a developed barrier island in Florida.

EMPLOYING A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

A number of factors continue to drive explosive growth in the demand for projects that strengthen resilience, including coastal population growth, increasing risks from hurricanes, and widespread declines in coastal wildlife populations. In its first three years, the National Coastal Resilience Fund received 336 grant applications, of which 124 earned grant awards.

We employ scientific approaches to determine which projects would maximize benefits to wildlife and human communities. NFWF recently worked with NOAA, the University of North Carolina Asheville and other partners to develop an assessment tool to identify coastal locations where nature-based infrastructure would benefit wildlife while also protecting vital community assets such as storm evacuation routes and hospitals.

INVESTING IN NATURE-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE

Many of the resilience-related grants we awarded in 2020 supported innovative efforts to build nature-based infrastructure that provides a buffer from storms, absorbs and filters stormwater runoff, and provides high-quality habitats for wildlife. In addition to immediate benefits to wildlife and community resilience, these shovel-ready projects deliver an

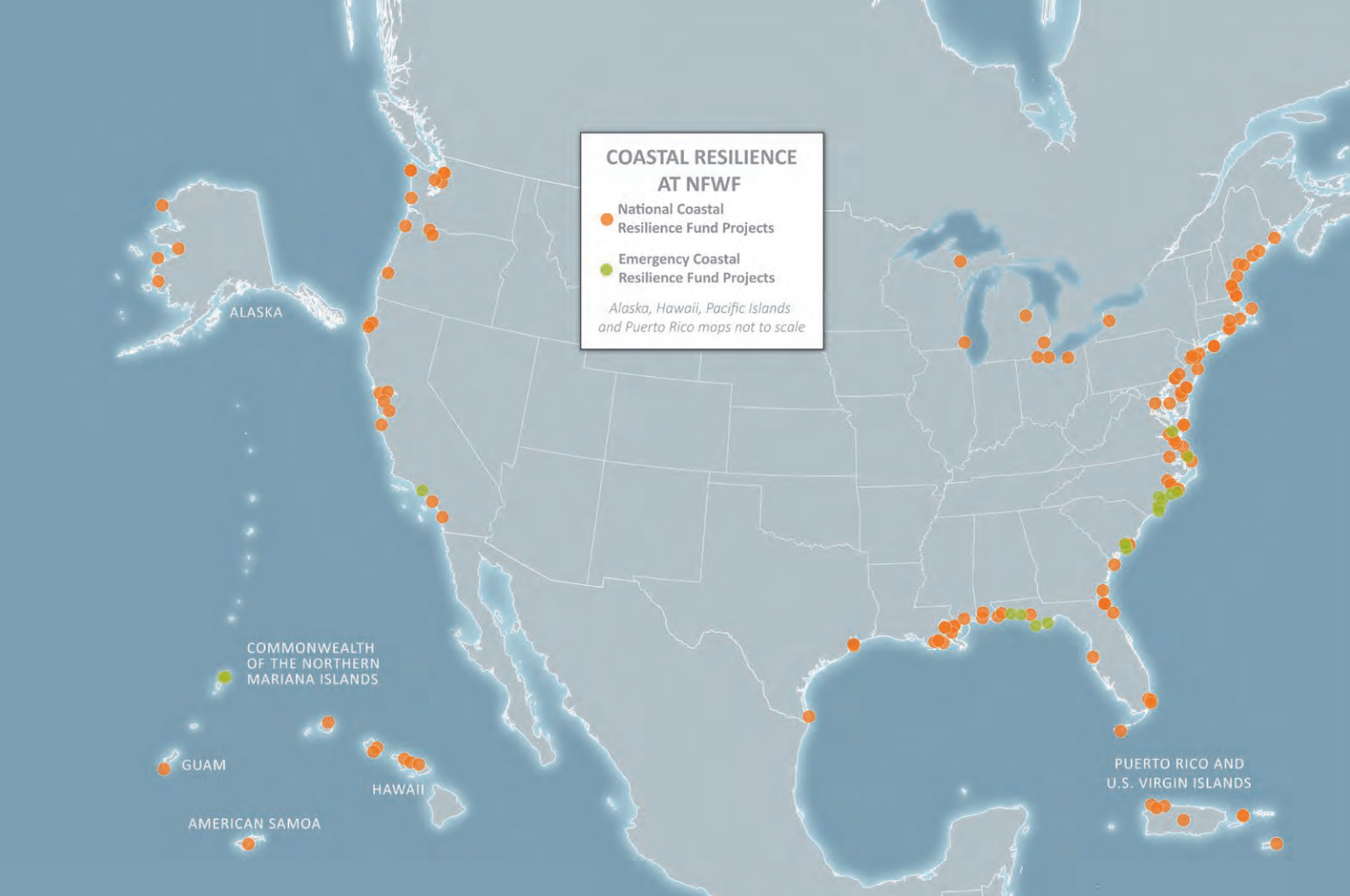
economic boost to coastal areas. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

In **Florida**, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council will use a grant of \$7.4 million to create nearshore reefs that will support expansive intertidal salt marshes, protect 12 miles of populated shoreline and shield critical hurricane evacuation routes.

Along the coast of **Alabama**, the Mobile County Commission will leverage a \$4.9 million grant to create a breakwater that will absorb storm energy and shield the only hurricane evacuation route from Dauphin Island. The project will also restore marsh habitat and enhance populations of oysters, blue crabs and shrimp.

NFWF awarded \$2.5 million to the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs to rebuild a 1-mile living shoreline and create up to 70 acres of marsh, tidal creeks and lagoons to provide nursery and refuge habitat for fish, shrimp and blue crabs in **Louisiana**. The new shoreline and marsh along Lake Pontchartrain will help defend more than 1,000 homes and critical infrastructure from storm surge.

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is using a \$2.5 million grant to remove marine debris from Typhoon Yutu in



coastal areas of Saipan and Tinian. If left in place, sunken ships and other storm debris can continually shift and damage these highly productive but fragile habitats.

In **Washington**, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is using a \$2 million grant to reconfigure a 5.5-mile levee system and reconnect 960 acres of floodplain along the lower Columbia River. This project will reduce the risk of frequent flooding at an industrial park, wastewater treatment plant and residential neighborhoods. The project also will improve rearing habitat for salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey; and re-establish unobstructed fish passage to a 7-square-mile watershed.

In **North Carolina**, the Carteret County Shore Protection Office is using a \$1.5 million grant to construct living shorelines to protect the communities of Beaufort and Down East. The project will also protect commercially and recreationally important fish and shellfish populations while sustaining the largest colony of nesting royal terns in North Carolina.

The University of **Guam** is using a \$856,000 grant to scale up the restoration of staghorn corals on the biologically diverse reefs that protect the vulnerable territory from the worst effects of typhoons.

In **Virginia**, The Nature Conservancy will apply an \$800,000 grant toward the creation of new oyster reefs that will create high-quality wildlife habitat, address the erosion within an ecologically valuable salt marsh and protect the vulnerable seaside town of Wachapreague.

BUILDING A PIPELINE FOR FUTURE INVESTMENTS

Under the direction of the U.S. Congress, NFWF is building on successes in funding shovel-ready coastal resilience projects by also building a nationwide pipeline of projects for the critical years ahead.

Congressional leaders recognize that many coastal communities lack the expertise and resources to complete the complicated, in-depth planning required to identify cost-effective projects and push them from inception to actual work in the field. Throughout 2020, NFWF invested in efforts to bridge this critical gap.

The National Coastal Resilience Fund awarded grants to support planning and project design in **Alaska, California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina** and **Washington**.



A pair of young fishers
peer out of their home
in a tree cavity.

Wildfire resilience

For healthy forests, a little bit of fire can be a great thing. Trees, animals and entire ecosystems have evolved to not only tolerate wildfire, but to thrive in the presence of seasonal burns.

Such is the case in the legendary forests of California, home of towering redwoods, massive sequoias and prolific ponderosa pines. Left on their own, these forests enjoy natural resilience to occasional wildfires, often sparked by lightning. Flames move through, burn off dead wood and remove young competitors from mature stands. Wherever fire burns hot enough to kill old-growth trees, new meadows and pockets of young forest spring up. Wildlife flourishes in the resulting patchwork of habitats.

The modern world has disrupted this system, depriving these forests of their natural ability to tolerate wildfires. Temperatures are climbing, droughts are intensifying, and wildfires are growing more destructive. Millions of people have moved into fire-prone areas, leading to the suppression of wildfires that would have normally moved through and burned off excess fuels. Invasive insects have decimated forests and left mountainsides of standing dead trees, waiting to erupt in flame. Invasive, more flammable plants have moved into fire scars, displacing native vegetation and putting forests and communities at heightened risk of future fires.

Our nation's great forests, along with the wildlife, people and headwaters within, now face threats at a scale far beyond what any one agency or entity can address. That's why NFWF focuses on launching and managing landscape-scale initiatives that bring together public agencies and private companies (our funding partners) and fast-moving, experienced implementers (our grantees) to generate immediate and sustainable results. Many of the grants we award through these programs support the tough, gritty work being done right now to make our nation's forested landscapes, and the communities within, more resilient to wildfire.

Working closely with federal and state foresters, we have launched and managed three major competitive grant programs focused on forest health in California. We also award wildfire-related grants in other parts of the nation through several programs focused on community and coastal resilience. Additional grant programs focus more broadly on fire-prone regions, including the Rocky Mountains and the vast forests of the Southeast.





Wildfires burn in a California forest.

“ Being able to utilize NFWF’s grant-making has allowed us to increase the pace and scale of these projects, which are so vital for forest health, community safety, fish and wildlife. ”

Regional Forester Randy Moore, U.S. Forest Service

MANAGING FUELS IN CALIFORNIA

One of the surest ways to prevent catastrophic wildfires is the active removal of excess fuels, including dead trees as well as live ones packed too tightly together from plantation plantings. Due to the vastness of the forests and rugged terrain in **California’s** national forests, NFWF and the U.S. Forest Service work together to identify areas that would provide the greatest protection to wildlife, water and human communities. We concentrate our conservation investments in those areas. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

A grant of nearly \$5.5 million will enable the California Fire Safe Council to develop a comprehensive assessment of wildfire risk and vulnerability in Santa Barbara County and establish long-term wildfire resilience of watersheds and human communities.

The Mid Klamath Watershed Council will leverage a \$500,000 grant to conduct manual thinning around communities within the Six Rivers National Forest of Northern California and implement fuels reduction treatment along strategic fuel breaks.

A grant of more than \$321,000 will enable the American Conservation Experience to reduce the risk of severe

wildfires within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The nonprofit will provide training to a fuels reduction crew that will implement necessary fuels treatments to promote forest health and resilience.

The Student Conservation Association will use a grant of \$212,000 to reduce wildfire risk near communities on Frazier Mountain in the Los Padres National Forest. The restoration team of mostly young adults, many from nearby urban communities, will perform thinning and other treatments on 1,500 acres.

HEALING FIRE SCARS, PROTECTING SPECIES

Areas scorched by wildfires often bounce back naturally. However, wildfires that burn extremely hot over wide areas often require intervention to hasten recovery, ensure the survival of rare species, protect rivers and streams from sedimentation, and block invasive, highly flammable vegetation from taking over. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

A grant of \$706,000 will enable Point Blue Conservation Science to restore priority meadows within the footprint of the Storrie Fire, which in 2000 burned 27,000 acres in Lassen National Forest.

U.S. Forest Service staffers work with NFWF grantees to hasten recovery inside the Copper Fire scar in California's Angeles National Forest.



American Rivers will leverage a \$243,000 grant to restore hydrological processes in a fire-scarred watershed in the Sierra Nevada. The work will improve habitat for the willow flycatcher and greater sage-grouse.

Nearly \$202,000 awarded to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden will improve plant diversity in areas of the Angeles National Forest damaged by wildfires. The grant supports seed collection and restoration of threatened and endangered plant species.

The National Forest Foundation will use a grant of \$120,000 to conduct post-fire restoration in the Powerhouse fire scar on the Angeles National Forest. Workers there will treat native conifer plantations and oak stands through brush canopy reduction, pruning, thinning, and dead tree removal.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO WILDFIRE IN OTHER STATES

While our wildfire-related investments continue to grow in California, we also support similar efforts in many other areas of the country. Decades of experience in vetting potential projects enable us to focus resources on the most cost-effective and successful techniques and on-the-ground implementers. Examples include:

In **Colorado**, Chaffee County will use a \$366,000 grant to thin forests, reduce wildfire risk and improve wildlife habitat at the headwaters of the Arkansas River.

In **Oregon** and **Washington**, Sustainable Northwest will leverage a \$349,000 grant to partner with tribes and forest collaboratives to reduce fuel loads across 430,000 acres and protect rural and indigenous communities threatened by intense wildfires.

The Nature Conservancy will use a \$275,000 grant to conduct controlled burns and other management practices across 50,000 acres of longleaf pine forest in **Georgia** and **Florida**, thereby reducing the likelihood and impact of catastrophic wildfire.

In **Wyoming**, a grant of \$250,000 will support efforts by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to restore habitat and improve connectivity in the Thunder Basin Grasslands to benefit greater sage-grouse, pronghorn and rural communities.

In **Hawaii**, a grant of \$80,000 will support efforts by the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization to decrease sedimentation at coral reefs by reducing the risk of wildfire in the South Kohala region.

A mule deer travels
along its migration route
in the Rocky Mountains.



Protecting wildlife migration routes

The yearly migrations of wildlife across our nation's vast landscapes represent a fundamental and fascinating part of American life.

Who could imagine an autumn without geese and ducks flying south in their distinctive V formations? What kind of spring would it be if songbirds and hummingbirds failed to make an appearance at our bird feeders and in our parks? How dull would it be, sitting on a beach in the summertime without lively little plovers and sandpipers to entertain us at the water's edge?

Many of the most iconic and beloved wildlife species in the United States have become so deeply rooted in our culture precisely *because* they migrate. We mark the seasons by their arrival and departure, from baby sea turtles hatching along Florida's beaches to humpback whales giving birth off Hawaii. We marvel at their journeys, from the 2,500-mile, nonstop flight of whimbrels to the mysterious, multi-generational migration of monarch butterflies. We depend on these yearly bounties for subsistence, prosperity and quality of life, from life-sustaining harvests of salmon in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska to recreational hunting of waterfowl in Arkansas and elk, moose and deer in the Rocky Mountains.

Protecting the ability of these animals to migrate, both in the immediate future and for generations to come, represents a major focus of our investments. The Foundation and its network of funding partners and on-the-ground implementers act quickly to address direct threats to wildlife on the move. We also protect migratory routes facing long-term threats from development and climate change.

NFWF leads the way in protecting migrations across our nation by putting conservation dollars to work wherever they generate the greatest benefits to migrating wildlife, from state and federal lands to private farms and ranches, suburban neighborhoods, remote islands and major metropolitan areas.





Elk, pronghorn and mule deer face varied threats along their migration routes.



BIG GAME MIGRATIONS

NFWF helps protect and improve migration corridors in Western states for pronghorn, elk and mule deer. Many of the migration-related grants awarded by NFWF in 2020 focused on fencing modifications, dangerous road crossings and wintering grounds for these large ungulates. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

The **Colorado** Department of Transportation won a \$480,400 grant to install fencing that will guide mule deer and elk to an underpass being constructed in the northwest part of the state, as well as a \$267,900 grant to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions at a crossing near Salida.

NFWF awarded nearly \$310,000 to the Mule Deer Foundation in **Idaho** to improve 24 miles of fencing, protect habitat, and improve management on 255,000 acres to benefit mule deer, elk and resident species.

The **New Mexico** Association of Conservation Districts will leverage a \$250,000 grant from NFWF to restore grassland habitat and modify 40 miles of fencing. Such projects are particularly important for pronghorn, which can't jump over fences — they must crawl underneath, risking injury and entrapment.

The **Wyoming** Game and Fish Department was awarded a grant of \$249,000 to restore native grassland and sagebrush habitat and improve 19 miles of fencing in the

wintering grounds of mule deer completing an arduous, 150-mile migration between summer and winter ranges.

BIRD MIGRATIONS

Many of the large-scale conservation projects NFWF supported in 2020 benefited migratory birds of all shapes and sizes, from tiny hummingbirds to giant cranes. These projects focused on improving habitats along North America's flyways for waterfowl, songbirds and shorebirds. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

Major grants awarded, in partnership with the Walton Family Foundation, to projects in the **Mississippi** Alluvial Valley, including a \$654,000 grant to the Mississippi River Trust and \$696,000 to The Nature Conservancy, will restore and protect forested wetlands and floodplains vital to migrating ducks, geese and songbirds.

Two grants to the American Littoral Society in **New Jersey**, one for \$500,000 and another for \$487,000, will stabilize beaches where red knots, plovers and other shorebirds fuel up on horseshoe crab eggs during migration.

In **Colorado**, Ducks Unlimited will leverage a \$273,000 grant to restore wetland habitats along the South Platte River necessary to sustain populations of mallards, pintails and many other types of waterfowl.

A \$85,000 grant to the University of **South Carolina** will help



protect an island near Charleston that contains the largest known nocturnal roost for northward migrating whimbrel.

In **Hawaii**, Pacific Rim Conservation will use a \$45,000 grant to deploy thermal imaging drones to locate breeding colonies of Newell’s shearwaters and Hawaiian petrels.

SALMON AND OTHER MIGRATING FISH

Anadromous fish such as salmon and river herring migrate at different points in their life cycles between the ocean and freshwater flows. These fish travel hundreds or even thousands of miles every year, sending a pulse of life and nutrients through the nation’s major watersheds. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

A \$294,000 grant to the **Idaho** Department of Water Resources will enable scientists and land managers to implement voluntary water transactions in the Upper Salmon River basin to ensure that Chinook salmon and steelhead can access spawning grounds.

Leveraging a \$101,000 grant from NFWF, Trout Unlimited will perform a critical analysis on water flow in **Alaska**’s Eklutna River to benefit not only migrating salmon, but also the people of the Eklutna tribe.

NFWF also awarded a number of grants to improve migration routes for alewives, American eels and Atlantic salmon in **Maine** and **Connecticut**, including \$172,000 to

the Connecticut Fund for the Environment and \$143,000 to the Aspetuck Land Trust.

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

In one of the world’s most incredible annual migrations, monarch butterflies flutter their way from the mountains of central Mexico throughout most of the United States, then back again. Completing this journey requires up to five generations of butterflies — scientists are still not sure how the final generation finds its way back to the same mountains in Mexico. NFWF and its partners are working to halt declines in monarch numbers, due in large part to the loss of native milkweed, upon which monarch caterpillars feed. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

In **Texas**, the American Bird Conservancy will use a \$75,000 grant to work with private landowners to restore 500 acres of degraded habitat within the core area of the monarch’s migratory route.

A \$75,000 grant to the Pollinator Partnership will support efforts in states across the **Midwest** to improve habitats and expand a native seed collection program to benefit monarch butterflies other declining pollinator species.

In **California**, a \$75,000 grant to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation will enhance the quality of critical overwintering habitat for the western population of monarch butterflies.

Young people learn about conservation through a project supported by NFWF's private-sector partners.



Working with the private sector

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation works with some of our nation's leading corporations to help advance their philanthropic missions and to generate lasting benefits for wildlife populations and human communities throughout our nation.

Our private-sector partnerships span multiple business sectors, including retail, technology, banking, agriculture and energy production. We also partner with other private nonprofits, including some of the largest and most influential philanthropic organizations in the world.

The corporations and foundations that become our partners recognize the value of working with one of the nation's most well-respected, transparent and cost-effective conservation organizations. They know that our grant-making process is driven by sound science, conservation business plans and measurable results.

A partnership with NFWF offers the opportunity to support national-level conservation efforts, often joining partners at the highest levels of federal and state governments. Our focus on measurable results helps partners report significant advancements toward corporate responsibility goals, and to share with their workforce a sense of pride over conservation investments and results. We manage conservation programs across the nation, offering partners the opportunity to boost the natural resources, quality of life and natural resilience of communities where their customers, employees and suppliers live and work.

Throughout 2020, we worked with partners striving to offset their current environmental impacts, whether that's the number of acres converted to retail space, gallons of water used, or the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. To quantify and report outcomes of our conservation investments, we monitored traditional metrics such as acres conserved and improvements to wildlife populations. We also helped our partners understand and document emerging, more complex metrics associated with carbon sequestration and water quality. In this way, these conservation investments not only benefit wildlife populations and human communities — they also prepare our nation's leading corporations to meet the challenges of the future.

A full listing of our private-sector partners begins on page 55.

To learn more about becoming a partner,
please visit nfwf.org/become-partner

DRIVING SUCCESS WITH LONG-TERM PARTNERS

Some of our longest-running and most successful conservation partnerships began with a regional focus, but grew over time to achieve national importance.

Our partnership with **Altria**, for example, began in 2009 as an effort to improve water quality along portions of the company's supply chain, but has since expanded to include the Chesapeake Bay and Columbia River watersheds, along with aquatic ecosystems throughout the Southeast. **ConocoPhillips** began working with us two decades ago to advance the conservation of migratory birds, and its support now includes the conservation of a variety of western wildlife species. **Shell Oil Company** began working with us in 1998 to conserve habitats and species in areas where it operates. Over the past two decades, this partnership has grown to include support for conservation programs throughout the nation. In 2005, we began working with **Walmart** to offset its retail footprint by helping to protect an equivalent acreage of natural habitats across the nation. The resulting Acres for America program has far surpassed its original goal, having conserved more than 1.6 million acres. NFWF has been working with the **William Penn Foundation** for more than 15 years. The partnership has evolved into a strategic priority for both foundations, encompassing the entire Delaware River watershed.

FOCUSING ON PRIORITY LANDSCAPES AND SPECIES

Our private-sector partners often chose to focus their investments in areas of the country particularly important to their customers, employees and other stakeholders.

The **Avangrid Foundation** works with us to conserve bats, fish and migratory forest birds in the Northeast, as well as grassland-dependent birds and mammals in the West. **Eversource** began working with us in 2015 to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers within the company's service area in New England. **ArcelorMittal** and **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** concentrated on restoring the health of the Great Lakes, and **BNSF Railway** focused on wildlife in the Rocky Mountains. In California, **Sierra Pacific Industries** and the **Pacific Gas and Electric Company** began working with us to support conservation within fire-prone forests and watersheds. **Southern Company** and **International Paper** each partnered with us to enhance Southeastern forests, including longleaf pine forests and the woods and waters of the Cumberland Plateau and Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. In the desert Southwest, a number of energy companies joined us to advance conservation within the Pecos River watershed. The effort draws support from **Apache Corporation**, **Chevron Corporation**, **ConocoPhillips**, **Marathon Oil Corporation**, **Occidental Petroleum**, **Shell**, and **XTO Energy**. The **Richard King Mellon Foundation** helped launch NFWF's Central Appalachia program in 2017 and continues to be a critical partner in restoring forest and freshwater habitat in this critical landscape.

MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

Many of our private-sector partners are committed to improving coral reefs, fish stocks and other vital marine natural resources. Though many grants support projects unfolding in these environments, much of the work also takes place on land, where sedimentation and other forms of pollution originate.

Aramco began working with us in 2020 to stop the loss of the world's coral reef ecosystems. **Covanta** works with us to clean up U.S. waterways and serve as a catalyst for innovation in U.S. commercial fisheries. Our partnership with **Pūlama Lānaʻi** supports watershed-scale strategies to protect and enhance the coral reefs of Lanai, Hawaii. We work with **SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment** to expand Chinook salmon populations and support the endangered population of Southern Resident killer whales in the Pacific Northwest. **TransRe** works with us to support efforts to boost the resilience of coastal areas across the nation.

CONSERVATION ON WORKING LANDS

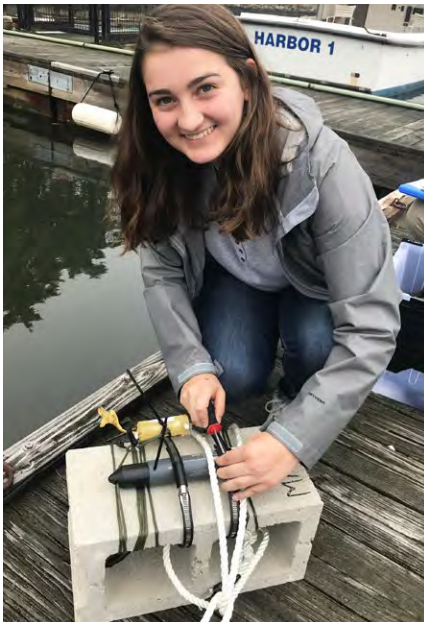
Many of our public-private partnerships focus, in large part, on advancing conservation on America's working lands — the farms, ranches and timber holdings that provide vital habitats for our nation's wildlife.

Bayer Crop Science supports our Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund, which improves the quality, quantity and connectivity of habitat for monarch butterflies and other at-risk pollinators. **Danone North America** began working with us in 2019 to advance cutting-edge conservation practices and research focused on improving farm sustainability and performance. **Truterra**, the sustainability business at **Land O'Lakes**, also recently began working with us to support conservation specialists working alongside agricultural retailers to strengthen conservation practices around the country.

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

Many of our corporate partners want to ensure that their philanthropic investments generate benefits that extend to all our nation's communities, including those underserved or disadvantaged.

AT&T and **Microsoft**, who joined us as new partners in 2020, work with us to make sure underserved communities are represented in conservation efforts and will become stronger and more resilient as a result. **FedEx** began working with us in 2009 to fund community-based conservation projects in a dozen major U.S. cities. To date, projects supported by FedEx have engaged more than 4,500 FedEx volunteers and 500,000 community members in efforts to improve water quality and habitats. **Wells Fargo** began working with us in 2012 to engage people in conservation and build community resilience in the face of a changing climate. To date, this program has supported projects that reached more than 130,000 community members and restored more than 179,000 acres of habitat.



Volunteers work on projects across the country that are supported by NFWF's private-sector partners.



A red-cockaded woodpecker searches for insects on a longleaf pine tree.

Working with the public sector

The United States encompasses 2.32 billion acres of land, about 36 percent of which is publicly owned, and nearly 200 million acres of surface water.

These lands and waters are home to more than 2,500 species of mammals, fish, reptiles, birds and amphibians, as well as approximately 100,000 species of insects.

A full accounting of our nation's natural resources would also include the rich sea life of marine environments off our shores, an unimaginably vast area holding a diversity of life not yet fully understood.

The wildlife living in or moving through these environments represent both a shared resource and a shared responsibility of the people of the United States. We depend on our government agencies and elected officials to safeguard these resources through the use of sound science and a balanced approach to energy production, timber operations, commercial fishing, livestock grazing and other uses.

These dedicated public servants have an enormous job on their hands.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was created more than 35 years ago to raise private-sector funds and provide support for federal efforts to conserve native wildlife and natural habitats. In 2020, we worked harder than ever to advance that mission. Through public-private partnerships and our science-driven competitive grant programs, we continued to raise and invest resources that closed gaps in federal conservation funding. By leveraging contributions from grantees and private partners, we generated a return on public conservation funding at an average ratio of three to one.

Throughout 2020, NFWF supported strategic projects on private lands that boosted the effectiveness of conservation efforts on federal lands. At the request of federal partners, we moved quickly to address immediate conservation needs and respond to emergencies. We helped drive innovation and the adoption of best management practices in our nation's agricultural sector. We also supported growing efforts by our public partners to make our nation more resilient to climate change and its growing effects, including more intense droughts, floods, wildfires and hurricanes.

A full listing of our public-sector partners begins on page 63.

To learn more about becoming a partner,
please visit nfwf.org/become-partner

U.S. CONGRESS

Our history as a private conservation nonprofit began when NFWF was chartered by **Congress** in 1984. More than 35 years later, we continue to work closely with congressional leaders and staff to advance conservation throughout the nation. As part of our transparent grant-making process, we notify Congress of all grants containing more than \$10,000 in federal funding.

Though our organization often receives public funding from federal agencies, we also receive and manage funds approved by Congress. In 2020, for example, we awarded \$48.5 million through our Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund, which was launched in 2019 after Congress passed an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to hasten recovery from hurricanes Michael and Florence, Typhoon Yutu, and the coastal wildfires of 2018. The grants awarded in 2020 leveraged nearly \$70 million from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$118 million. The projects we funded will use nature-based infrastructure such as living shorelines, wetlands and floodplain habitat to enhance the resilience of human communities while also improving wildlife habitats.

SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING WILDLIFE

The **Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**, after which our private foundation was named, remains one of our closest and most active federal partners. FWS supports more than 30 of our conservation programs. In 2020, we worked with USFWS and private-sector partners to support wildlife across the country, from big-game species in the Rocky Mountains to seabirds and shorebirds, sea turtles, monarch butterflies, killer whales, salmon, trout, and bat populations being decimated by white-nose syndrome.

The **Bureau of Land Management** also supported many of our conservation programs in 2020, including those benefiting American wildlife species in Alaska, Northern Great Plains and Northern Rockies.

We also worked with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Great Outdoors Colorado and other partners in **Colorado** to launch a new partnership in 2020. Called RESTORE Colorado, the grant program will improve habitat for mule deer, elk, grassland birds and other wildlife species in that state.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The **Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service** also ranks as one of our most important federal partners. In 2020, we worked closely with the Forest Service and a variety of private-sector partners to restore and enhance forested landscapes from Alaska to Hawaii, New England to California. We bring all stakeholders to the table to help the Forest Service advance its mission to improve forest health, guard against catastrophic

wildfires, and help regions scarred by fire recover quickly. Our partnership provided critical support to private, conservation-minded landowners striving to improve stewardship of their forested lands, particularly in the longleaf forests of the Southeast and bottomland hardwood forests of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

In 2020, we continued to work with the **U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** to provide farmers, ranchers, foresters and other private landowners the tools they need to become better stewards of their working lands (more on p. 43). Working closely with NRCS, we manage competitive grant programs that support conservation technical assistance, outreach and education on farms and ranches, which in turn generates benefits to wildlife, water quality and soil health.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Though many of our public-private partnerships help improve water quality through a range of conservation activities, some federal partners are particularly focused on those opportunities. The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** supports projects to improve water quality and advance community-based watershed restoration throughout the nation. The **Bureau of Reclamation** and **Bonneville Power Administration** both support our large-scale water conservation programs focused on watersheds within the Pacific Northwest, Desert Southwest, Northern Great Plains and elsewhere.

MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

Many of the grants we award support projects that benefit marine environments, including those that enhance coral reefs, restore lost oyster beds, improve fisheries management, remove marine debris and strengthen coastal resilience (more on p. 17). We also invest heavily in terrestrial projects that reduce the amount of sedimentation and other pollution flowing into marine environments. As 2020 came to a close, we marked an important milestone in marine conservation: 20 years of coral conservation work with **NOAA** (more on p. 47).

CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

The **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)** has been a long-term partner in efforts to conserve and enhance the longleaf pine forests of the Southeast. Some of the largest and healthiest stands of longleaf occur on military bases, whose readiness depends in part on the health and resilience of those forests.

In 2020, we worked with DOD to launch another conservation program, this one focused on the health of forests and watersheds in Guam, a strategically important and ecologically rich U.S. territory.



NFWF's public-sector partners work with grantees and volunteers on conservation projects across the nation.



A Santa Cruz long-toed salamander heads to a breeding pond in California.

Remedying harm

The consumer goods we buy, the dwellings we inhabit, the energy we use, the food we eat — virtually everything we do has some impact on our natural environment. Understanding and mitigating the negative effects of our modern world represents one of the greatest challenges of our time.

Here in the United States, we are fortunate that our fish, wildlife, plants and other natural resources are protected from harmful conduct by a variety of federal, state and local laws and regulations. These measures ensure that the impacts of human activities on natural resources are avoided, minimized, offset or mitigated, to the benefit of current and future generations.

For more than 20 years, NFWF's Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA) department has worked to support the work of federal, state and local governmental agencies charged with the responsibility of enforcing and implementing these laws and regulations.

When a governmental authority determines that a violation of an environmental law has occurred, an enforcement action against the responsible party often results. In some cases, the resolution of that enforcement action includes a requirement that the responsible party pay environmental benefit funds to finance projects and activities that will restore or otherwise benefit the impacted natural resources.

NFWF has developed an expertise in the administration of these funds in ways that maximize their environmental benefit, deliver meaningful value to impacted resources and communities, and provide accountability and transparency to stakeholders.

The Foundation's IDEA department also works to support the efforts of governmental agencies that issue permits authorizing activities (such as infrastructure and development projects) that impact fish, wildlife, plants and other natural resources. These permits, issued under laws such as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, require that such impacts are mitigated or offset in order to make impacted natural resources whole again.

NFWF works closely with permitting agencies to help implement mitigation strategies efficiently and effectively for the benefit of our nation's fish, wildlife and other natural resources.

To learn more about our IDEA department, please visit nfwf.org/mitigating-impacts

WETLANDS MITIGATION

The health and vibrancy of our nation's wetlands are protected by the Clean Water Act (CWA). Under the CWA, an activity that causes adverse impacts to wetlands is required to be authorized and mitigated through the issuance of a permit. One option available to permittees to satisfy their wetland mitigation requirement is the payment of a fee (in lieu of actually performing a mitigation project) to an authorized in-lieu fee (ILF) program.

Our IDEA department administers an ILF program in California to support the permitting and mitigation work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Sacramento District), along with other federal and California state agencies. The ILF program was approved by these agencies in 2014 and uses the proceeds of "in-lieu" payments to fund and implement watershed-based wetland mitigation projects as approved by the agencies.

One such project approved by the agencies and completed in 2020 was the Flying M Ranch Vernal Pool Preservation Project in Merced County, California. This project entailed the creation of a conservation easement over 845 acres of vernal pool grassland, including more than 100 acres of vernal pools and streams, for the benefit of threatened and endangered vernal pool species. Another 2020 project will restore and protect a 9-acre montane meadow in the town of Truckee, California, providing vital habitat for native plants and wildlife.

ENHANCING SHORELINE PARKS

In November 2007, the container ship Cosco Busan struck the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge in heavy fog, causing tens of thousands of gallons of heavy fuel oil to spill into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. In settling one of the governmental enforcement actions resulting from the spill, responsible parties were required to pay \$7.26 million to the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Parks and Recreational Use Account established at NFWF.

Our IDEA department serves as fiduciary administrator of the account, which is designated under the settlement to fund projects benefiting public use of natural resources such as parks, public beaches, and other public resources in areas affected by the spill. Two **California** agencies, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California State Lands Commission, select appropriate projects for funding in coordination with the National Park Service, NOAA, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Since 2012, more than \$6.7 million has been awarded to 32 projects, 25 of which have been completed. In fiscal year 2020, our awards included \$175,000 to expand public recreation opportunities along the Sausalito shoreline by constructing a recreational boating and paddling facility. We also awarded \$200,000 to complete public access improvements at Encinal Beach Park in Alameda.

REDUCING MARINE POLLUTION

In April 2017, the federal district court for the Southern District of **Florida** entered a judgment against Princess Cruise Lines for violations of the federal Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships. The judgment resulted from charges that Princess Cruise Lines illegally discharged oil-contaminated bilge waste from various cruise ships into the marine waters of the United States. As part of the judgment, Princess Cruise Lines was required to pay a community service payment totaling \$7 million to NFWF to be used for projects and initiatives benefiting the maritime environment and marine and coastal natural resources in the United States. Working in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, our IDEA department has awarded the funds to a large portfolio of projects benefiting coral reefs, sea turtles and marine mammals, as well as numerous projects aimed at remedying marine pollution. Awards made in fiscal year 2020 included the following:

- \$60,000 to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project for a project to remove debris and pollution from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in **Hawaii**. The project will benefit protected species and coral reefs by removing an estimated 240,000 pounds of derelict fishing gear and plastics in order to restore 1,300 acres of coral reef habitat and 400 acres of shoreline.
- \$400,000 to the Port of Friday Harbor, **Washington**, for a project to prevent pollution to its marine waters and habitats. The project will construct a waterfront marine spill response facility and also purchase a pumpout eco-barge, which will allow the port to quickly respond to oil spills and mitigate impacts of harmful contaminants to species such as killer whales, minke whales, harbor seals, sea lions, river otters, eagles and auklets.
- \$40,000 to the **Puerto Rico** Department of Natural and Environmental Resources for a project to benefit marine mammals. The project will train personnel in the most current techniques and protocols for effective response to different types of marine mammal stranding events, and also improve the ability to conduct scientific analysis to increase understanding of marine mammal health in Caribbean waters.
- \$115,680 to the College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, for a project to remove derelict fishing gear from the coastal waters of **Maryland** and **Virginia**. The project will remove derelict blue crab traps from areas of high commercial crabbing activity in order to reduce unintended bycatch mortality, which will both improve marine habitat and ultimately increase subsequent blue crab harvest for commercial crabbers.



An ocean sunfish swims under giant kelp off San Diego, California.



A roseate spoonbill
lands in a marsh along
the Gulf of Mexico.

10 years after the Gulf oil spill

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, claiming 11 lives and unleashing the largest oil spill in the history of the United States. For close to three months, oil gushed from a failed well on the seabed, wreaking ecological destruction and economic havoc across the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf Coast states.

In the 10 years since the tragedy, NFWF has played a key role in the restoration of natural resources harmed by the spill. Working closely with state and federal partners, the Foundation has invested nearly \$1.5 billion into once-in-a-lifetime conservation projects that have restored entire barrier islands, supported populations of sea turtles and marine mammals, promoted sustainable fisheries, and reversed declines in Gulf Coast bird populations.

The vast coastal habitats restored and protected by our grantees will sustain these conservation outcomes and enhance the quality of life for local communities throughout Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas for generations to come.

We have made these substantial investments through our Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), which was created in 2013 with funds resulting from plea agreements between the U.S. Department of Justice and BP and Transocean. Provisions within the agreements directed a total of \$2.54 billion to NFWF over a five-year period to be used to support projects in each of the five Gulf States that remedy harm and prevent future harm to species and habitats that were impacted by the spill.

In fiscal year 2020, NFWF awarded \$129.6 million from the GEBF to ensure that wildlife and human communities along the Gulf Coast continue to recover from the Deepwater Horizon tragedy. Major investments focused on restoring Louisiana's barrier islands and other critical coastal habitats, improving fisheries conservation and management through better science, improving the health of Apalachicola Bay in Florida, and completing the obligation of \$203.5 million to projects in Texas.

To learn more about our conservation programs,
please visit nfwf.org/gulf-environmental-benefit-fund

RESTORING LOUISIANA'S BARRIER ISLANDS AND OTHER CRITICAL COASTAL HABITATS

Vulnerable shoreline habitats along the Gulf of Mexico bore the brunt of oiling from the Deepwater Horizon tragedy. Ten years later, investments made through the GEBF are restoring 60 miles of beach and dune habitat and thousands of acres of enhanced coastal marsh habitat. Across the Gulf, major projects have focused on increasing the resilience of barrier islands and dune systems, and on improving nearly 3,000 acres of vital coastal habitat.

In Louisiana, significant GEBF investments have aided in completing the restoration of a historic chain of islands that stretch west from the Mississippi River to the Atchafalaya Delta. Since 2010, Louisiana and partners such as NFWF have allocated nearly \$700 million to restore these barrier islands.

Barrier islands not only serve as a first line of defense against hurricanes, but they also protect the vast coastal marshes that support the game fish, waterfowl, crabs, oysters and shrimp that contribute to the state's reputation as a "Sportman's Paradise."

The latest of these critical barrier island projects commenced construction in 2020, with support from NFWF. The Terrebonne Basin Barrier Island and Beach Nourishment Construction project is restoring more than 7 miles along three critical barrier islands within the Terrebonne Basin barrier shoreline system: West Belle Headland, Timbalier Island, and Trinity Island. An investment of more than \$160 million from the GEBF is being used to pump more than 9 million cubic yards of sand from offshore to establish more sustainable beach, dune, and marsh habitats in a highly eroded area of the Louisiana coast.

IMPROVING FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH BETTER SCIENCE

Scientists estimate that trillions of larval fishes died from exposure to oil and dispersants from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, leading to an unprecedented blow to fish populations in the Gulf of Mexico.

Following NFWF's establishment of the GEBF, several Gulf Coast states were particularly interested in utilizing these resources to restore fish populations impacted by the spill. Because fishing pressure is one of the most powerful drivers of fish populations, improving the responsiveness and accuracy of management tools could have a meaningful impact on fishes in the Gulf of Mexico. Starting in 2013 and culminating with a final award in 2020, the GEBF provided a total of \$45.5 million to the states of Florida, Alabama and Mississippi to enhance fishery-independent and fishery-dependent monitoring.

Data, methodologies and tools developed as a part of these efforts have promoted sustainable fisheries by informing stock assessments and providing a data-driven framework for rapid decision making between stock assessments.

Data collected as a part of these projects have already made substantial contributions to four completed federal stock assessments: gray snapper, red snapper, red grouper and vermilion snapper. Similar use of the data is expected to continue in stock assessments for years to come. At the state level, data and capacity provided by these efforts allowed the state of Alabama to perform their first southern flounder stock assessment, which resulted in important changes to catch limits, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the species.

Beyond stock assessment, tools developed and implemented as a part of these projects — including Florida's Gulf Reef Fish Survey, Alabama's Snapper Check and Mississippi's Tails 'n Scales — have allowed each state to more accurately estimate recreational fisheries catch and effort, improving their management of fishing season lengths.

Monitoring data collected as a part of these efforts also facilitated a timely assessment of the impact of the 2018 Florida red tide on red grouper and informed mitigation strategies that will allow the population to recover. Highlights of these efforts were the focus of a [report](#) prepared by NFWF, state and federal fisheries managers, and researchers that was released in late 2020.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF APALACHICOLA BAY

The Apalachicola Bay system is one of the most biologically diverse and important fisheries in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Historically, Apalachicola Bay produced about 90 percent of Florida's harvested oysters and 10 percent of the product for the entire nation. Oyster resources in the bay have plummeted in recent years due to a number of factors, including harvest pressure and a reduction in freshwater inputs from the Apalachicola River. To counter this trend, NFWF awarded more than \$75 million in 2020 to benefit oysters and improve water quality and water quantity in the Apalachicola Bay system. Conservation efforts included direct investments in land acquisitions, hydrologic restoration, shoreline stabilization and oyster restoration and management.

These new awards compliment recent investments under RESTORE and the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Collectively, these investments provide benefits to species and habitats affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill at a landscape scale and offer hope for a more resilient and sustainable future for this important estuarine system.



GEBF grants awarded in 2020 supported the restoration of coastal habitats and improvements to fisheries management.

Many agricultural operations
depend on native pollinators
such as this bumble bee.



Conservation and agriculture

America asks a lot of its farmers and ranchers. Not only must they feed the 330 million people who live in this country, but they also must run successful businesses and compete on a global scale.

The nation's agricultural producers have yet another challenge, one that most grocery store shoppers and restaurant diners might never consider. These private citizens serve as stewards of some of the most productive habitats for America's wildlife. The native birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and pollinators that live on or move across agricultural lands are a public resource. We all depend on our agricultural producers' good stewardship of these lands and waters to help sustain our nation's wildlife populations for current and future generations.

Those who produce America's fruits, vegetables, grains, textiles, and meat and dairy products feel a close connection to the lands they work, the waters upon which they depend, and the wildlife they see every day. They also value productivity and successful business practices. Fortunately, the pursuit of efficiency on working lands often goes hand-in-hand with conserving wildlife habitat, whether that is through the management of invasive species, more efficient irrigation and fertilization, or better stormwater management. This is where NFWF and its many conservation partners come in.

The Foundation excels at helping agricultural producers strengthen their operations and attain voluntary conservation goals that they, themselves, are eager to achieve. Our grantees specialize in offering practical, site-specific guidance and innovative financial incentives for agricultural producers to make operational improvements that benefit wildlife and improve soil health and water quality — without endangering their bottom lines.

To achieve this, NFWF builds partnerships that unite agricultural stakeholders, including major food and beverage corporations seeking advancements in sustainability, federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, nonprofit organizations such as Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, conservation districts, commodity associations and, of course, individual farmers and ranchers across the country.



The use of agricultural best management practices benefit wildlife such as these northern bobwhites in Texas.



CONSERVATION ON FARMS

Farmers, conservation groups, government agencies and food and beverage companies share many common goals, chief among them clean, abundant water supplies and healthy, productive soils. Nobody wants farmers to waste money on fertilizer that washes off their fields into freshwater streams, where excess nutrients degrade habitats and imperil wildlife populations. NFWF invests in projects that drive innovation and produce win-win scenarios for all agricultural stakeholders. Many projects supported by NFWF help willing farmers implement no-till cover cropping, invest in new manure injection technologies, restore pocket wetlands to catch runoff, and plant forested buffer zones. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

NFWF awarded a grant of \$600,000 to the American Farmland Trust to offer one-on-one technical assistance to farmers and build holistic soil health management systems on farms in three counties in **Ohio**.

A \$489,000 grant to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will enable farmers in **Maryland** to establish forested buffers between fields and streams to benefit Chesapeake logperch, a small, ray-finned fish that only exists in a relatively small area in the Susquehanna River basin.


The Illinois Corn Growers Association won a \$258,000 grant to work field-by-field in parts of **Illinois** and **Kentucky** helping farmers improve efficiency and prevent excess nutrients and sediment from fouling waterways.

The **Vermont** Land Trust will use a \$199,000 grant to produce ecological assessments and wetland restoration plans for 12 farmland conservation projects that will prevent excess fertilizer from entering the Connecticut River and flowing downstream to Long Island Sound.

In **Michigan**, the Clinton Conservation District will leverage a \$183,000 grant to increase farmer participation in federal Farm Bill programs by working with landowners to create and put into practice conservation management plans.

HEALTHIER GRASSLANDS FOR CATTLE AND WILDLIFE

Successful cattle operations depend on healthy rangelands. High-quality grasslands are not just great for cattle — pronghorn, deer, elk, grouse and a wide variety of other wildlife thrive on America's cattle ranches. NFWF, its funding partners and its grantees all recognize the value of working landscapes, for both wildlife and rural vitality. Grants awarded in 2020 helped protect ranches from being broken up and



The more efficient use of water and fertilizer strengthens agricultural operations and benefits freshwater species such as these striped shiners in Kentucky.

developed, fought the spread of invasive species that increase the risk of wildfire, and modified fencing to reduce the risk of injury to birds and big game living on or moving through ranches. Examples of our 2020 grant-making include:

In **Colorado**, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will use a \$200,000 grant to increase rancher enrollment in Farm Bill conservation programs and improve management of 10,100 acres.

In **Montana**, the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance will use a \$299,000 grant to offer technical support to ranchers across four counties, improving management on 5,700 acres of grassland habitat and maintaining a high-quality grazing landscape.

In **Nebraska**, the Sandhills Task Force will use a \$300,000 grant to improve grassland habitat on private land by controlling eastern red cedar infestations and improving grazing systems.

In **South Dakota**, the American Bird Conservancy will use a \$189,000 grant to provide conservation technical assistance, develop conservation plans, and assist private landowners in enrolling in Farm Bill programs.

HELPING DAIRY FARMERS IMPROVE PRACTICES

Over the past 35 years, NFWF has built deep partnership networks within the dairy-producing communities of the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes watersheds, awarding hundreds of grants to help boost efficiency on dairy farms and improve water quality. NFWF continues to build on these successes while putting these proven strategies to work throughout the nation. Examples include:

A grant of \$990,000 will enable the Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Association to engage 300 farms to implement nutrient management and complete a pilot project for a manure transport exchange in **Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia**.

Sustainable Environmental Consultants will use a grant of \$183,000 to accelerate implementation of innovative soil health practices and improve profitability on farms within a dairy supply chain in **Iowa** and five other states.

Pheasants Forever will use a \$252,000 grant to deploy a conservation specialist to accelerate the adoption of economically beneficial, on-farm conservation practices in **Ohio**.

A seahorse spends the night alongside coral polyps off West Palm Beach, Florida.



NOAA and NFWF: 20 years for coral

Of all our nation's many natural wonders, coral reefs might be the most alluring. Who hasn't dreamed of snorkeling around a coral reef, immersed in a kaleidoscope of color, movement and wondrous sea life? Those fortunate enough to witness the beauty and complexity of a healthy coral reef don't soon forget it.

These rich marine habitats aren't just a great place to visit; they play a vital role in the resilience of our coasts and strength of our nation. Coral reefs cover more than 4 million acres of seafloor off the coasts of the United States and its territories. Federal experts estimate that coral reefs generate more than \$3.4 billion of value each year through tourism, fishing, local jobs and the protection of coastal communities from erosion, wave energy and damage from intensifying storms.

Unfortunately, land-based sources of pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, and the negative effects of climate change continue to degrade the health of coral reefs around the world, including those found off Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam and other parts of the United States.

In 2020, we announced more than \$1.4 million in grants to improve the health and resilience of coral reefs. We also joined NOAA in marking an important milestone in our longstanding partnership to restore and enhance coral reefs: 20 years of working together through NFWF's Coral Reef Conservation Fund.

We worked with NOAA to launch the fund after the Coral Reef Conservation Act was signed into law on December 23, 2000. In the following 20 years, our coral conservation program brought together expertise from across NOAA and its partners to protect, conserve and restore the nation's coral reef ecosystems. Since 2000, the program has awarded more than \$20 million across 400 projects, leveraging over \$27 million in conservation resources to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$48 million.

NFWF manages the Coral Reef Conservation Fund in partnership with NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, with additional support from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. In 2020, we welcomed Aramco, a global leader in the production of energy, as a new partner in the conservation of coral reefs.



TARGETED WATERSHED RUNOFF ABATEMENT

Changes to the Earth's climate and the chemical composition of its seas represent fundamental threats to corals. However, some of the most urgent threats come not from air or water, but from land. Waters running off city streets and agricultural lands carry excess nutrients, harmful chemicals and sedimentation onto nearshore coral reefs. We build partner coalitions around priority reef strongholds and establish the framework for their stabilization and recovery through comprehensive threat reduction. These concentrated investments mobilize and focus resources where efforts can generate real-world results. In 2020 we prioritized three reefs in **Hawaii** that provide seed-stock to the surrounding reefs of three islands for this comprehensive approach. Grant examples include:

A grant of \$269,000 will enable the Ridge to Reefs organization to work with managers and local partners to reduce runoff to all three reefs (West and South Maui and Lanai) through vegetation buffers, sediment retention areas, and a new method in Hawaii for secondary sewage treatment that will reduce harmful nutrient runoff.

The Coral Reef Alliance will use a grant of \$84,000 to address land-based pollution from sedimentation in the West Maui, Hawaii focal area by working with agricultural land owners to reduce erosion from dirt roads on the steep slopes of their agricultural fields.

The Nature Conservancy will use a grant of \$71,000 to establish a baseline of the nearshore fish and coral communities along the northeast coast of Lanai, Hawaii and establish sedimentation flow patterns that will prioritize ungulate control efforts in the neighboring watersheds to reduce sediment run-off.

CAPACITY FOR LARGE-SCALE REEF RESTORATION

Coral reefs repopulate naturally as threats are reduced, but many severely degraded reefs have lost their ability to recover naturally. In 2020, we added a new emphasis on increasing capacity for direct replanting efforts on reefs where the threats have been reduced enough to promote growth. Our grantees are establishing nurseries and techniques to increase the survivorship of outplants so that large-scale restoration efforts are possible. Restored and enhanced reefs will serve as footholds of biodiversity and sources of brood stock that will help replenish and recover nearby reefs after episodic events. Our 2020 grant-making focused on support for the Mission Iconic Reefs effort in the **Florida Keys**, which will be the nation's largest coral reef restoration ever attempted. Grant examples include:

A grant of \$169,000 to The Florida Aquarium will increase genetic diversity of coral species and develop a nursery stock of urchins, a primary herbivore, to be used in the broader restoration effort in the Florida Keys.

Researchers at the University of Florida will use a grant

“ It’s no secret that life is tough for corals all over the world, but there are also many reasons to maintain hope for the future of these ecosystems. Our partnership with NFWF identifies and focuses resources on the most effective ways to address this challenge. ”

Jennifer Koss, director of NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program

of \$149,000 to field-test management interventions to address local threats to coral restoration success such as predation from snails in Florida.

A grant of \$100,000 will enable the Coral Restoration Foundation to support active coral restoration at four sites in the Florida Keys to benefit endangered coral species. Project will improve 28 acres of reef habitat through increased coral propagation and direct reef restoration.

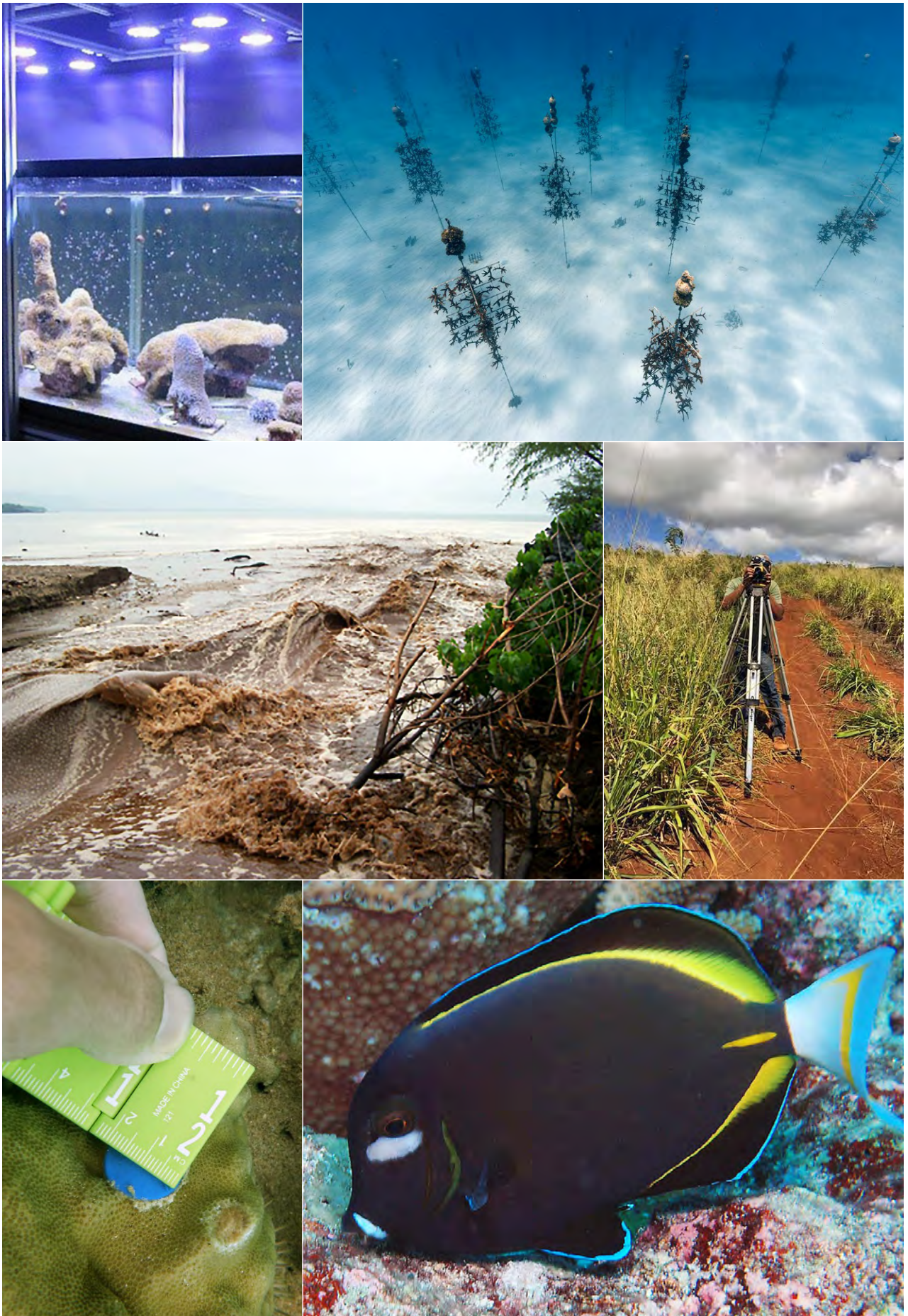
MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR CORAL REEFS AND REEF FISH CONSERVATION

Our grants also support groundbreaking research and drive innovation to build foundational capacity and knowledge throughout the coral management community. This increased capacity can then be leveraged to improve the health of reefs globally. Grant examples include:

Researchers at the University of California will use a grant of \$62,000 to study the relationship between herbivorous fish biomass and coral reef condition and how this relationship impacts the resilience of coral reefs in **American Samoa** to other stressors.

The University of Guam will use a grant of \$119,000 to develop a genetic toolkit to detect, identify and quantify stress before the onset of physical symptoms in two of the most common and important coral species on **Guam**.

Researchers at Texas A&M University will use a grant of \$25,000 to coordinate a peer exchange between coral reef scientists and officials in the **Gulf of Mexico** and Greater Caribbean region to monitor and mitigate stony coral tissue loss disease, a disease that is spreading across the Caribbean with devastating coral losses.



Scenes from NFWF-funded projects to propagate corals, manage sedimentation and study coral diseases and fish populations.

The loss or degradation of natural grasslands can have dire effects on the populations of bird species such as this western meadowlark.



2020

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

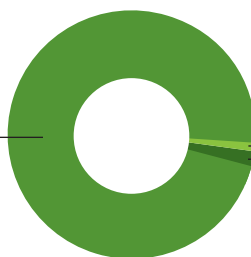
(in millions of dollars, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020)

	2020	2019
REVENUE, EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS		
Total Revenue and Support	\$355.9	\$298.8
Total Expenses	\$354.8	\$284.4
Change in Net Assets	\$1.1	\$14.4
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$242.7	\$228.3
Net Assets, end of year	\$243.8	\$242.7

USE OF FUNDS

\$354,756,593

Program/Mission **97.3%**
\$345,070,197



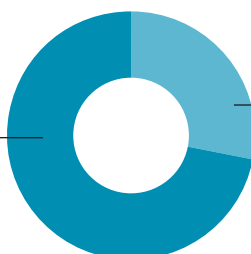
Fundraising **0.9%**
\$3,156,090

Management and General **1.8%**
\$6,530,306

TOTAL REVENUE

\$355,926,608

Non-Federal/Other **68%**
\$240,684,525



Federal **32%**
\$115,242,083

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in millions of dollars, as of September 30, 2020)

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$2,807.9	\$2,797.5
Other Assets	\$45.9	\$51.1
Total Assets	\$2,853.8	\$2,848.6
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$2,610.0	\$2,605.9
Net Assets	\$243.8	\$242.7
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,853.8	\$2,848.6



Young bighorn sheep play in the Northern Rockies.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

NFWF collaborates with many of America's leading corporations to implement philanthropic conservation strategies and invest in conservation projects based on sound science and measurable outcomes.



Altria

Altria and NFWF began working together to restore some of the nation's most iconic bodies of water in 2009. The partnership began as an effort to address the impact of Altria's supply chain on local water quality in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania and has since blossomed into a model of focused collaboration at the intersection of corporate responsibility and conservation need. Working now to restore the Chesapeake Bay, Columbia River basin and aquatic ecosystems within the Cumberland Plateau and piedmont regions of the southeastern United States, the partnership has leveraged more than \$15 million in Altria funding into more than \$145 million in total conservation impact in addition to water conservation outcomes measured in billions of gallons annually.



Aramco and NFWF began working together in 2020 to stop the decline in both the quantity and productivity of the world's coral reef ecosystems through the Coral Reef Conservation Fund. The partnership addresses multiple coral conservation initiatives that aim to improve management, increase public awareness, and reduce threats to coral reefs both domestically and internationally. Aramco seeks to support healthy ecosystems around the world through a comprehensive biodiversity program, supporting initiatives that protect and enhance wildlife and regional natural ecosystems. Aramco's support of the Coral Reef Conservation Fund is one of the many ways the company is working to leave an enduring conservation legacy for future generations.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **Apache 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 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

ArcelorMittal and NFWF began working together to restore the health of the Great Lakes basin in 2007. ArcelorMittal's leadership has been instrumental in the creation and ongoing performance of three NFWF programs – Sustain Our Great Lakes, the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund and the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund. These programs have collectively improved more than 46,000 acres of critical habitat and reconnected more than 2,200 miles of stream to allow fish passage. Since 2013, these programs have also installed natural infrastructure that adds capacity to slow and filter more than 251 million gallons of stormwater in flood-prone areas. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts in the Great Lakes basin to restore healthy fish and bird populations, enhance the many ecological, social and economic values that depend on clean water, and improve the condition and accessibility of the region's waterways and natural areas.



AT&T and NFWF began working together to build resilience for coastal communities through the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) in 2020. Through this collaboration, NFWF will invest in projects designed to restore, increase and strengthen natural infrastructure to reduce risks to communities, with a focus on underserved and minority communities, from the growing impacts of sea-level rise, flooding, and increased frequency and intensity of storms, and enhance habitats for fish and wildlife. This conservation collaboration supports NFWF's efforts through the NCRF to restore or expand natural systems such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands, features that can help to minimize the impacts of future storms and other naturally occurring events on coastal communities.



The **Avangrid Foundation** supports a diverse set of NFWF programs. This program portfolio encompasses a suite of important and imperiled wildlife populations, including hibernating bats throughout North America, fish and migratory forest birds in the Northeast, and grassland-dependent birds and mammals in the West.



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 five years, the Fund has focused on planting milkweed and other nectar plants, providing technical assistance to private landowners, and improving coordination and capacity to help reverse population declines of these important species.



BNSF Railway and NFWF began working together in 2014 to support community-based projects that conserve wildlife and enhance local cultural and economic values. Working through multiple NFWF programs, this partnership has continued efforts to minimize negative interactions with grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies, retrofitted fences to reduce pronghorn mortality across the West, and improved high-value natural areas and water quality in Chicago and Pacific Coast cities. This partnership supports NFWF's efforts to maintain the incredible wildlife assemblage of the Rocky Mountains, secure critical migration corridors for iconic western species, and improve the health and vitality of waterways in key cities across the country.



human energy®

As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **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.



ConocoPhillips and NFWF began working together to advance the conservation of birds and other wildlife two decades ago. Working through the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Program, the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund and NFWF's Western Big Game Migrations Program, this partnership has supported the conservation of more than 500,000 acres of important bird habitat, spurred advances in bird monitoring and polar bear and beluga whale research, and helped restore movement corridors for pronghorn, mule deer and other western wildlife. With a geographic focus that spans multiple priority landscapes, this partnership supports NFWF's efforts to provide for the needs of wildlife across their full life cycles, secure essential migratory pathways and drive innovations that shape the next generation of wildlife conservation.



Covanta, a leader in sustainable waste management, and NFWF began working together to clean up U.S. waterways, and serve as a catalyst for innovation in gear technology and management solutions through the Fishing for Energy program in 2008. The Fishing for Energy partnership provides commercial fishermen with no-cost solutions to dispose of derelict and retired fishing gear, and offers competitive grants to reduce the impacts of derelict fishing gear on the environment. Fishing for Energy derelict fishing gear bin collection efforts alone have collected more than 4.5 million pounds of fishing gear. In addition to being a funding partner of the Fishing for Energy program, Covanta also provides in-kind support through its solid waste processing facilities. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to restore the quality of marine and coastal habitats and supports the communities and industries that rely on these resources.



Danone North America (DNA) and NFWF began working together in 2019 to advance cutting-edge conservation practices and research focused on improving farm sustainability and performance. With a focus on dairies and other supporting farm operations, their work will help agricultural producers implement and evaluate soil health practices and other regenerative agricultural approaches. Together, DNA and NFWF aim to positively impact up to 100,000 acres by 2022, and produce multiple benefits for both farm profitability and conservation, including fewer agricultural inputs, higher yields, healthier soils, and reduced field runoff. This partnership supports NFWF's efforts to help farmers and ranchers implement voluntary conservation practices on their working lands — in ways that improve soil function, enhance water quality, and improve habitats for local fish and wildlife populations — and DNA's ongoing soil health research and work to provide financial support for its farmers and incentivize the adoption of sustainable farm management practices.



Eversource and NFWF began working together in 2015 to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers within Eversource's service area in New England. The partnership improves habitat for diverse native bird and fish populations by supporting management on public and private forestlands, restoring streamside forests, and removing barriers to fish passage. To date, the partnership has improved forest habitat on more than 1,750 acres and opened more than 270 miles of upstream habitat for eastern brook trout, river herring and other aquatic species. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to engage a variety of stakeholders within Eversource's service area — private landowners, government agencies, academic institutions and conservation groups — to cultivate science-based conservation strategies and cost-effective on-the-ground solutions.



FedEx and NFWF began working together in 2009 to fund community-based conservation projects in 12 U.S. cities through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. To date, the projects supported by FedEx have engaged more than 4,500 FedEx volunteers along with 500,000 community members to restore 4,200 acres of habitat and plant 350,000 trees. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development.



International Paper and NFWF began working together to restore and enhance the forested ecosystems of the Southeast in 2013. The partnership has achieved many significant accomplishments, including establishing or enhancing more than 600,000 acres of native forest and wildlife habitat. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to help species that call forests their home in four major regions of the Southeast: the coastal Carolinas, the Cumberland Plateau, the Piney Woods of Texas and Louisiana, and the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The fund works with both public land managers and private working forest landowners to plant, manage and protect key forest habitats.

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

JPMorgan Chase and NFWF began working together to improve coastal resilience planning and impact assessments of resiliency projects of the Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund in 2019. This program was established to invest in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features that minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring flooding events on coastal communities. This partnership provides NFWF the support to conduct assessments of restoration projects implemented through the Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund and work towards developing predictive models to determine the extent to which projects provide flooding protection to a community and contribute to our ability to build more informed coastal resilience programs in the future.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **Marathon Oil 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 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.



Microsoft and NFWF are working together to address critical conservation challenges and take action to protect natural habitats and sustain wildlife populations vital to maintaining biodiversity. Launched in April 2020, this partnership will conserve critical habitats and migration corridors for a wide variety of birds, fish, plants and wildlife in landscapes across the United States. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to implement innovative, science-based programs and advance conservation efforts that have the greatest benefit for wildlife and people.



Occidental

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 Nature Restoration Trust program, to support riparian, coastal and wetland habitat restoration throughout California. This PG&E and NFWF collaborative partnership empowers local communities to care for native habitats and species and engage youth in hands-on enhancement, restoration and stewardship projects.



Pūlama Lānaʻi supports the Kuahiwi A Kai (From the Mountain to the Ocean) Program, which focuses on watershed-scale strategies to protect and enhance Lanai's coral reefs, native plants and animals, endangered Hawaiian petrel habitat, and sensitive coastal cultural sites, while fostering co-management with, and engagement of, Lanai's community stakeholders. Lanai presents an unparalleled opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable land management and community stewardship in Hawaii by both protecting native ecosystems, and providing improved ecosystem services such as clean water, resource gathering, and recreation to the people who call Lanai home. With few land managers on the island, Lanai has one of the few true examples of a unified approach to land management similar to the ahupua'a system of Hawaiian tradition. In restoring the bio-cultural landscape of Lanai, we honor our kupuna and leave a legacy allowing future generations to thrive.



Since 2015, **SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment** has worked with NFWF on marine and coastal conservation issues and was the lead sponsor for the establishment of the Killer Whale Research and Conservation Program. The program works to increase Chinook salmon, the Southern Resident killer whale population's primary prey base, to increase the quality of killer whale habitat in the Puget Sound/Salish Sea region and to reduce critical gaps in knowledge needed for the effective management of this declining population. In the first six years, the program has awarded 38 grants totaling \$4.4 million, drawing an additional \$8.4 million in grantee match for a total conservation investment of more than \$12.8 million. These awards have fostered collaborative efforts in all three strategies partnering science with management action and restoration activities. NFWF has taken a comprehensive food-web approach to recovering this apex predator and works with state and transboundary management to implement recovery actions.



Shell Oil Company and NFWF began working together in 1998 to conserve priority habitats and species in the communities where Shell lives and operates. Over the past two decades, more than 350 projects funded by Shell and other sponsors have generated more than \$160 million in on-the-ground conservation impact, supporting the protection, restoration and management of over 220,000 acres across the United States, and improving monitoring and management of key species in ecosystems nationwide. Today, through the Shell Marine & Wildlife Habitat Program, the company supports the following programs: Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program, Killer Whale Research and Conservation Program, Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund, National Coastal Resilience Fund, and the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative. Shell also supports investments to reduce threats to North Atlantic right whales and other marine life off the coast of New England.



Sierra Pacific Industries and NFWF began working together to advance conservation of Sierra Nevada meadows, improve forest health and support the recovery of at-risk species in California through the Pacific Southwest Fuels Management Partnership in 2017. Through this partnership, the program supports planning and compliance tasks for important conservation actions, as well as funds on-the-ground restoration and management efforts that will protect and enhance habitat to benefit a variety of threatened and endangered species, including the California spotted owl. This conservation partnership contributes to NFWF's larger efforts to address important landscapes and watersheds in California, from the high mountain headwaters down to the sea.



Southern Company and NFWF began working together to support conservation of species and ecosystems across the Southeast as far back as 2003. Now, over 17 years, the partnership has evolved into one of the premier examples of public-private partnerships helping to support critical wildlife needs across landscapes throughout the United States. The partnership has been central to some of NFWF's most significant recent accomplishments, including restoring more than 1.9 million acres of longleaf under the Longleaf Stewardship Fund and building new community stewardship capacity through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. Today, this conservation partnership also supports NFWF's efforts focused on freshwater habitat restoration in priority watersheds through the Southeast Aquatics Fund, important research and management to protect bat populations through the Bats for the Future Fund and shorebird conservation along the Atlantic Flyway through the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative.



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 is wholly owned by Alleghany Corporation, a reinsurance organization headquartered in New York with operations worldwide.



Truterra, the sustainability business at Land O'Lakes, partners with NFWF to support conservation specialists deployed alongside agricultural retailers, to build knowledge and capacity in order to support conservation practices around the country. This work is advancing private-sector delivery of on-farm stewardship that generates benefits for farmers, wildlife habitat, and watershed health.



Walmart and NFWF began working together to sustain and enhance wildlife populations and natural habitats with the creation of the Acres for America conservation program in 2005. Originally designed to offset Walmart's retail footprint by protecting an equivalent acreage of natural habitats, the program has far surpassed that goal to become one of the most successful public-private land conservation partnerships in the history of the United States. To date, the program has helped to protect over 1.6 million acres across the country, an area comparable in size to Everglades National Park. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to protect wildlife migratory routes, conserve and enhance natural habitats at a landscape scale, open new lands to public access, and implement conservation on working lands such as ranches and timberlands.



Wells Fargo and NFWF began working together to build community resilience in 2012, through the Environmental Solutions for Communities program. In 2017, NFWF and Wells Fargo launched the Resilient Communities program to build on the success of this program while refocusing on resilience in the face of a changing climate. To date, this program has supported projects that will reach more than 130,000 community members and restore more than 179,000 acres of habitat.



As a corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **XTO 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.

Yellow-bellied marmots
live in the mountainous regions
of the American West.



A male Gunnison sage-grouse tries to attract a mate.



FEDERAL AND STATE 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 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 at the same time strengthening local economies. The partnership began in 1996 with a pilot through the Wetland Reserve Program and has expanded to include partnerships with national and state offices across the country.



NFWF partners with the **U.S. Forest Service** (USFS) across the country, through both the national forest system and the state and private forestry programs. The partnership supports restoration of priority USFS landscapes, including national forests, national grasslands, and state and private forests within NFWF's priority landscapes. Partnership activities focus on forest management to improve forest health and resilience, fuels management to protect critical infrastructure and habitat, post-fire restoration, and grassland enhancement to support rural economies and sensitive wildlife species.



The partnership between NFWF and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** (NOAA) was formalized by Congress in 1994. Through the partnership, NOAA and NFWF work together to support marine and coastal conservation. The partnership focuses across the marine environment, including sustainable fisheries, coral reefs, marine debris removal, sea turtles, and the restoration of living shorelines and other coastal habitats. The partnership also focuses on expanding, increasing, and strengthening natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities and wildlife.



NFWF, in partnership with the **U.S. Department of Defense**, is working to conserve, restore and manage habitat off-base to improve the status of species of concern to military training and operations. The partnership focuses on the longleaf pine ecosystem throughout the Southeast and on riparian habitat in Southern California to benefit a suite of species in both geographies. Most recently, the partnership was expanded to include a focus on improving the resilience of coastal military communities through the installation of natural infrastructure. Together, these outcomes support military training and readiness goals.



NFWF entered into a new partnership with **U.S. Marine Corps** (USMC) Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms to develop and implement a conservation plan that will guide off-base conservation activities to benefit desert tortoise in the Mojave Desert. NFWF is also partnering with USMC Air Station Camp Pendleton to support habitat conservation for federally listed species. These partnerships will improve military operations and species recovery throughout Southern California.



The **Bureau of Land Management** partners with NFWF to support migration corridors and winter range habitat for big game species such as elk, mule deer and pronghorn. The enhancement of these important migration routes provides outsized benefits to a suite of species, including sage-grouse, that depend on the health of these landscapes. Other areas of focus include the Pecos River watershed in New Mexico and desert tortoise in the Mojave Desert of Southern California.



NFWF launched a new partnership with the **U.S. Navy** to support the restoration of the limestone forest ecosystem, and associated watersheds, on Guam. This effort will support resilience for the island's unique plant and animal species. The partnership builds off an existing program at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii. NFWF is helping to protect and enhance seabird colonies enabling long-term recovery of the birds and improved operations at the base.



The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (FWS) has been a core partner since NFWF's founding by Congress in 1984. The partnership between FWS and NFWF benefits a wide range of landscapes from the Delaware River to the Great Lakes and the Klamath Basin. The partnership benefits a wide range of species from mule deer and pronghorn to turtles, shorebirds, bats and native fish. FWS funding serves as the critical base to a broad range of NFWF conservation programs. The partnership allows NFWF to raise private-sector funds to amplify and complement the federal agency's conservation efforts across the nation, on both public and private lands.



In partnership with the **Bonneville Power Administration** 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, 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 flows to key Columbia Basin tributaries that support important anadromous and resident fish populations. NFWF is working to better align flow improvement investments with other priority habitat restoration efforts supported by private and public entities in the region.



NFWF works with the **Bureau of Reclamation** (Reclamation) within three defined watersheds. In the Middle Rio Grande watershed of New Mexico, 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 also supports 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 works 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. The partnership began in 1999 with the Chesapeake Bay Program and has since expanded to include the Great Lakes and Long Island Sound. NFWF also works with EPA to support community engagement and green infrastructure through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program and to support coastal resilience in the Gulf of Mexico.



NFWF and the **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection** (CAL FIRE) are collaborating to increase community safety, improve early successional habitat for wildlife and plants, and enhance watershed health near Yreka in Northern California. The fuels management effort is a collaboration between NFWF, CAL FIRE, and the U.S. Forest Service.



COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources

In 2020, NFWF entered into a new partnership with two state of Colorado entities to establish the RESTORE Colorado program with a focus on the restoration, improvement and management of wildlife habitat. Funding came from **Great Outdoors Colorado**, which invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open spaces. Additional support was provided by the **Colorado Department of Natural Resources** through support from both Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program, Habitat Partnership Program and the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Watershed Restoration Grants.

In 2020, NFWF also worked with the following agencies:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
- U.S. Coast Guard**
- State of Arizona**
- State of New Mexico**



A North American river otter checks its surroundings.

A white ibis takes off
with a fresh catch.



FOUNDATION PARTNERS

NFWF works with many foundations to advance conservation across the country. These foundations actively supported NFWF conservation programs in 2020.



The **Arbor Day Foundation** joined NFWF as a new partner this past year, funding the establishment of new longleaf pine forests through the Longleaf Stewardship Fund.



American Forest Foundation

The **American Forest Foundation** (AFF) supports conservation programs across multiple NFWF landscapes in the eastern half of the country to improve habitat for forest-dependent, at-risk wildlife, while increasing the amount of family forests under sustainable, active management.



THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

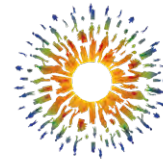
EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY

The **Chicago Community Trust** supports the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which invests in the health and vitality of the communities, waterways and natural resources of the Chicago/Calumet region.



CROWN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES

The **Crown Family Philanthropies** supports the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which invests in the health and vitality of the communities, waterways and natural resources of the Chicago/Calumet region, and a new funder collaboration under the Sustain Our Great Lakes program, which will enhance habitat and water quality in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan watershed.



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation

The **Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation** supports the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund, which increases the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan by reducing the impact of stormwater, improving water quality, enhancing habitat, and increasing the accessibility and usability of public green space and natural areas. The foundation is particularly interested in the role of green stormwater infrastructure in reducing combined sewer overflows in the City of Detroit.



GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION

The **Gates Family Foundation** supports the RESTORE Colorado Program, which was established to fund large-scale restoration and stewardship projects across several habitat priorities in Colorado.



GAYLORD AND
DOROTHY DONNELLEY
FOUNDATION

The **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** supports the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which invests in the health and vitality of the communities, waterways, and natural resources of the Chicago/Calumet region.

TheJoyceFoundation

The **Joyce Foundation** supports the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which invests in the health and vitality of the communities, waterways and natural resources of the Chicago/Calumet region.



The **Kingfisher Foundation** supports the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program, which aims to develop and implement electronic technology and information infrastructure to improve the timeliness and quality of fisheries data, expand access and availability of data, and increase knowledge of fisheries management and science.



The **Kresge Foundation** supports the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund, which increases the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan by reducing the impact of urban flooding caused by climate change and stormwater, by improving water quality, enhancing habitat, and increasing the accessibility and usability of public green space and natural areas.



Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies supports the Northern Great Plains Program, which directly maintains or improves 1 million acres of interconnected, native grasslands in focal areas within the Northern Great Plains to sustain healthy populations of grassland-obligate species while fostering sustainable livelihoods and preserving cultural identities.



The **Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund** together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NFWF, partnered with the Sutton Avian Research Center in 2013 to design, construct, and support the long-term operation of a state-of-the-art captive breeding facility to accelerate recovery and sustainability of the endangered Attwater's prairie-chicken and other imperiled gallinaceous species of North America.



The **Orton Foundation**, a Moore Charitable affiliate, founded by Louis Bacon, supports the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, which expands, enhances and accelerates longleaf pine ecosystem restoration across longleaf pine's historical range.



The **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** supports the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund, which increases the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan by reducing the impact of stormwater, improving water quality, enhancing habitat, and increasing the accessibility and usability of public green space and natural areas.



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



The **Richard King Mellon Foundation** supports conservation in western Pennsylvania through the Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program, which works to improve the quality and connectivity of forest and freshwater habitat, and increase the distribution and abundance of native fish, birds and other wildlife.



A horseshoe crab comes ashore to lay eggs, an important resource for shorebirds.



The **Trinchera Blanca Foundation**, an affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation, founded by Louis Bacon, supports the Rio Grande Program, which improves the ecological function of the river mainstem and its headwaters by working collaboratively with stakeholders to restore aquatic and riparian habitats that directly support native fish and wildlife.



The **Walder Foundation** supports the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which invests in the health and vitality of the communities, waterways and natural resources of the Chicago/Calumet region, and a new funder collaboration under the Sustain Our Great Lakes program, which will enhance habitat and water quality in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan watershed.



The **Walton Family Foundation** supports conservation programs that address threats to water quality and bottomland hardwoods in the Mississippi River Basin, support sustainable fisheries, and restore riparian habitat in the Colorado River Basin. Walton and NFWF support each other in operating at a landscape scale to maximize outcomes for marine fisheries, wildlife, water and people.



The **William Penn Foundation** supports the Delaware River Restoration Fund, which helps community-based nonprofits and government agencies work together to clean up and restore polluted waters and improve habitat for target species, including eastern brook trout and river herring.



A migrating scarlet tanager stops for a drink in Virginia.

2020 DONORS

In 2020, generous gifts from these donors furthered NFWF's actions to sustain and restore wildlife and their habitats. We greatly appreciate their support.

\$500,000+

- Altria
- American Forest Foundation
- Anonymous
- Aramco Services
- ArcelorMittal
- AT&T
- Bayer
- ConocoPhillips
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- International Paper
- Sonia and Paul Tudor Jones II
- Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
- Microsoft Corporation
- Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
- Pulama Lanai
- Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation
- Shell Oil Company
- Southern Company
- Walmart
- Walton Family Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- William Penn Foundation

\$100,000 - \$499,999

- Arbor Day Foundation
- Avangrid Foundation
- BNSF Railway
- Caerus Foundation
- Chevron Corporation
- Pamela and J. Michael Cline
- Covanta
- Danone North America
- Eversource Energy
- FedEx
- Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation
- Gates Family Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- Marathon Oil Corporation
- Arlene and Reuben Mark
- Richard King Mellon Foundation
- Kit and Charles Moncrief
- Noble Energy
- Trina and Mike Overlock
- Blake and Chad Pike
- Elizabeth and Rod Rodriguez, Jr.

- The Orton Foundation
- TransRe
- Lisa and Mark J. Vallely
- Walder Foundation
- XTO Energy

\$25,000 - \$99,999

- Anonymous
- Samantha and Milo Berger
- Donna and Max C. Chapman, Jr.
- Heath and John Faraci
- Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- Jean Aubuchon Cinader Trust
- Karen Hixon
- Sydney and Jay Johnson
- Land O'Lakes
- Patti and Don McGrath
- Mark F. Rockefeller
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Carolina and Federico Stubbe
- The Joyce Foundation
- Jeff Trandahl
- Trinchera Blanca Foundation

\$5,000 - \$24,999

CitiGroup
 Anne Elencik
 Elizabeth E. Bettelheim
 Family Foundation
 Diana and Blas Fonalledas
 Grantham, Mayo,
 Otterloo & Co.
 Dale Hall
 Doretta M. and Robert W. Marwin
 Melville Foundation
 Kit Milnes
 S. C. Herman & Associates
 Tom Strickland
 Daniel Strodel
 The Louis Family
 John Tomke
 Kenneth Tropin
 Victoria J. and
 Walter Tschinkel
 Karen and K. C. Walsh

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Holly Bamford
 Alan and Linda Berg
 Anthony Chatwin
 Beth Christ Smith
 Stephanie Tom Coupe
 Beverly Cox
 Joy Craft
 Marguerite and Bruce Culpepper
 Matt Cupal
 John Davis
 Robert Desocio
 Timothy DiCintio
 Tokunbo Falayi
 James and Margaret Fletcher
 Jacina Hayes-Waters
 Lila Harper Helms
 Martha Jorz
 Diane Kaplan
 Thomas E. Kelsch
 Gregory Knadle
 Amy Maranto
 Peter McCollum
 Nancy Olkewicz
 Penelope Oncken
 Lauren Porensky
 Joshua Samuels
 The Baltoro Trust
 The Grant Family Fund
 Wells Fargo & Company
 Steven A. Williams
 Matthew Winter

ADDITIONAL DONORS

Joy Akabude
 Heather Alexander
 American National
 Insurance Company
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Tim Artist
 Backcountry Gallery
 Amanda Bassow
 Sarah Beneke
 Beverly Berger
 Rob Blumenthal
 Margette Bourne
 Julie Brandt
 Mary Bretz
 Kristen Byler
 Patti Cainstanaley
 Marla Carter
 Christa Chaffinch
 Mandy Chesnutt
 Bridget Collins
 Addison Dana
 Beverly Cox
 Rachel Dawson
 Julia DeBuchananne
 Wendy Garcia DeLeon
 Richard and Marita Dracott
 Benjamin C. and Alexandra H. Ducas
 Matthews Edwards
 Susi Eggenberger
 Susan Finn
 Eric Forward
 Jacob Freeman
 Paul Gaffney
 David Gagner
 Seth Gallagher
 Meskerem Gebertsadik
 Scott Groeschel
 Chris Scott Hall
 William Heaton
 Todd Hogrefe
 Annie Hudson
 Emiliano Huet-Vaughn
 Nassar Jabour
 Jay Jensen
 Laura Johnson
 Scott Jones
 Brenda Kaechele
 Christina Kakoyannis
 Mary Keelin
 Michael Lagua
 Thomas and Janet Lindsay
 Annamarie Lopata
 Mark Mahaffey
 Steve Martin
 Sharon Mau

Judy McCoy
 A. McDermott
 Rob Milburn
 Lesley Mills
 Michael Moerschbaeher
 William Moore
 Maria Myrianthopoulos
 Randy E. Nees
 Kirstin Neff
 Melanie and Brian O'Connor
 Jody Olson
 John and Colette Oravec
 Page Poerschke
 Robert Polin
 David and Nancy Poorvu
 Jonathan Porthouse
 Andy Prodanovic
 Ann Robarge
 Debra Robinson
 April Ross
 Richard Royal
 David Sabo
 Bob Sage
 Anthony Santaro
 Jeanne and Henry Sawyer
 Jonathan Scott
 Robert Scott
 R. Sesek
 Suzanne Sessine
 Jean Snyder
 Kenneth Stemme
 Xan Stoddard
 Connie Strobbe
 Patricia Sullivan
 Margaret Taphorn
 The Hassett Fund
 The Vern Meyer Charitable Fund
 The Wysocki Family
 Detlev Tiszauer
 Kevin Vanlandingham
 Mark Wenner
 Christopher West
 Gene Williamson
 David H. and Gloria Wong
 Larry Young
 Yao Zheng

**National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation
Board of Directors**

J. Michael Cline
Chairman

Sydney McNiff Johnson
Vice-Chair

Reuben Mark
Vice-Chair

K.C. Walsh
Vice-Chair

Max C. Chapman, Jr.

Bruce Culpepper

John Dane III

John V. Faraci, Jr.

Blas Fonalledas

Dale Hall

Harold Hamm

Dr. Neil Jacobs

Ryan M. Lance

Don J. McGrath

R. King Milling

Kit Moncrief

Jennifer Mull Neuhaus

Trina Overlock

Chad Pike

Edwin R. "Rod" Rodriguez, Jr.

Aurelia Skipwith

Federico Stubbe

John A. Tomke

Mark J. Vallely

Executive Staff

Jeff Trandahl

*Executive Director/
Chief Executive Officer*

Lila Harper Helms

*Executive Vice President,
External Affairs*

Holly Bamford, Ph.D.

Chief Conservation Officer

Tokunbo Falayi

Chief Financial Officer

Daniel Strodel

General Counsel

Senior Leadership

Anthony Chatwin, Ph.D.

*Vice President,
Science and Evaluation*

Beth Christ Smith

*Vice President,
Human Resources*

Addison Dana

Chief Investment Officer

Timothy DiCintio

*Senior Vice President,
Impact-Directed
Environmental Accounts
(IDEA)*

Thomas Kelsch

*Senior Vice President,
Gulf Environmental
Benefit Fund*

Greg Knadle

*Vice President,
Government Relations*

Regional Office Directors

Amanda Bassow

Northeastern

Jay Jensen

Southern

Todd Hogrefe

Central

Chris West

Rocky Mountain

Jonathan Birdsong

Western

NOTE ON IMAGERY

Photographs featured in this publication that do not show social distancing and mask wearing were taken before the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.

ON THE FRONT COVER

A coral reef in French Frigate Shoals, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

ON THE BACK COVER

An eastern tiger swallowtail, a common pollinator found throughout eastern North America

PHOTOGRAPHY

Greg McFall (cover, coral reef), Peter Brannon (p. 2-3, osprey; p. 32, red-cockaded woodpecker; p. 40, roseate spoonbill; p. 43, reddish egret), Isaac Szabo (p. 8, Suwannee bass; p. 47, striped shiners), Steve Perry (p. 13, elk; p. 52, western meadowlark; p. 54, bighorn sheep; p. 61, yellow-bellied marmot; p. 66, white ibis), Jeff Waldorff (p. 16, Atlantic bumper; p. 18, loggerhead sea turtle), Tony Bynum (p. 24, mule deer; p. 26, elk) Greg Knadle (p. 26, pronghorn; p. 70, scarlet tanager), Jason Arnold (p. 43, red snapper), Hector Astorga (p. 46, northern bobwhite). All other photos by Minden Pictures, iStock/Getty Images, and NFWF grantees.

American eels live in fresh or brackish water as adults and migrate into the ocean to spawn and die.

Young American eels, known as "glass eels," migrate from marine habitats back upstream.





NFWF

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS,
NORTHEASTERN AND
SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICES**

1133 15th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
202-857-0166

CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

8011 34th Avenue South
Suite 242
Bloomington, MN 55425
612-564-7286

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
REGIONAL OFFICE**

1875 Lawrence Street
Suite 320
Denver, CO 80202
303-222-6482

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

90 New Montgomery Street
Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-778-0999

nfwf.org

