



# Conservation Partners Program

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## FUNDING PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Cargill
- General Mills
- The J.M. Smucker Co.
- Nestlé

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

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



Bobwhite quail

## BACKGROUND

Every year, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners voluntarily participate in federal Farm Bill conservation programs designed to address some of the nation's most pressing conservation issues. Since 2011, the Conservation Partners Program has been dedicated to supporting voluntary conservation partnerships on private, working lands. Grant recipients provide technical assistance to landowners and operators to help them participate in Farm Bill programs and design and implement Best Management Practices.

The Conservation Partners Program advances key strategies on working lands, including grazing management, soil health practices on cropland, irrigation efficiency and wildlife habitat enhancement. Over its 14-year history, the Conservation Partners Program has awarded 301 grants worth more than \$71 million and leveraged an additional \$101 million in matching contributions, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$172 million.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) manages the Conservation Partners Program with generous support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Cargill, The J.M. Smucker Co., Nestlé, and additional support from a collaboration among General Mills, Walmart and Sam's Club. This program not only enhances water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration, it also provides important benefits to rural communities.

*(continued)*



Eastern meadowlark

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Partners Program awards competitive grants that accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture principles and conservation practices on private lands. Grant recipients provide technical assistance to landowners and operators to help them:

- Develop management plans
- Design and implement best practices
- Participate in Farm Bill programs
- Share their experiences and lessons learned

Grants are geographically targeted to place expert staff where they can both fulfill unmet technical assistance needs and maximize the soil, water and wildlife benefits of Farm Bill conservation programs.

The Conservation Partners Program address working lands conservation needs in priority geographies, including the Prairie Pothole Region, Upper Mississippi River Basin, Great Lakes Basin and Southern Great Plains. Implementing conservation at scale in those working landscapes is possible only through partnering with the farmers, ranchers and other landowners who serve as the primary stewards of the land and its resources.