



Acres for America

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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

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Canada lynx in Maine

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Walmart announced the 20th year of funding through the Acres for America program, one of the most effective public-private partnerships in the history of U.S. land conservation efforts. Seven new grants totaling \$4 million were awarded to projects in California, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island and South Carolina toward the protection of more than 100,000 acres. These seven awards will leverage an additional \$112 million in matching contributions, creating a total conservation impact of \$116 million.

Acres for America is NFWF's premier land conservation program. Since 2005, NFWF and Walmart have supported the conservation of critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife, connection of existing protected lands to unify wild places and protected migration routes, providing access for people to enjoy the outdoors, and safeguarding the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching and recreation.

Since its inception, Acres for America has funded 126 projects in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to permanently protect more than 2 million acres — far surpassing its original goal of 100,000 acres.

(continued)

Bridging Protected Landscapes through Expansive Public-Private Conservation Easement Project (SC)

Grantee: Open Space Institute Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$67,100,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$67,600,000

In the forested landscape of South Carolina, a large-scale conservation easement will protect regionally significant bottomland forests and wetlands that support numerous migratory birds and aquatic species, secure local water supplies and create additional public recreation opportunities.

Connecting Habitat in South Bog and Beaver Mountain via Conservation Easement (ME)

Grantee: Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$600,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$5,000,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$5,600,000

In the Rangeley lakes region of Maine, a 13,836-acres forestland conservation easement will provide habitat for large mammals like moose and deer, federally threatened Canada lynx, two globally rare songbirds, and will protect 31 miles of streams and ponds, providing important habitat for brook trout and landlocked salmon. The easement will also provide public access for hiking, fishing and hunting, and includes over 25 miles of snowmobile and ATV trails.

Conserving Windermere Hills to Benefit Wildlife and Promote Public Access (NV)

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$750,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,901,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,651,500

On a working ranch in Nevada, 21,449 acres of wildlife habitat will be placed under a conservation easement to protect important sagebrush steppe, wet meadow, and native grassland habitat essential for mule deer, elk and pronghorn. This easement will also ensure public access for activities including hunting, hiking, fishing and birding.

Growing Connectivity Between Conservation Areas to Protect Wildlife Corridors (RI)

Grantee: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Grant Amount:..... \$301,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,308,800
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,610,100

In the northwest corner of Rhode Island, a 930-acre acquisition will add to the Buck Hill and George Washington Management Areas, and by connecting these existing lands already under protection, will form a protected landscape of more than 7,000 acres of wildlife corridor.

Protecting America's Big River Floodplains for Wildlife and People (IL, MO)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$9,000,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$10,000,000

Along the Missouri and Mississippi river floodplains in Illinois and Missouri, 3,200 acres of floodplain habitat will be protected. The project will allow for future ecosystem restoration in order to create important wetland habitat, including critical stopover habitat for waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway migration route.

Protecting South Topsail Beach (NC)

Grantee: North Carolina Coastal Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$7,000,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$7,500,000

The south end of Topsail Island on Shoreline Drive in North Carolina will be protected and 100 acres of barrier island conserved. The project will protect sand dunes, maritime shrub forest and more than a mile and a half of shoreline which provide habitat for several federally listed species including sea turtles and piping plovers. In addition, the project will secure permanent public access for the local community.

Restoring Chinook Salmon Habitat via Bollibokka Land Acquisition (CA)

Grantee: Sawalmem

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$20,000,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$20,500,000

Adjacent to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California, 3,000 acres will be conserved via land acquisition. The project will protect some of the most important habitat for the world-famous McCloud River rainbow trout and support Indigenous-led endangered salmon restoration.



Piping plover