



# America the Beautiful Challenge

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## PARTNERS

- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Defense
- Native Americans in Philanthropy
- E. Richard King Mellon Foundation

## 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.



Bald eagle

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)—joined by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Department of Defense through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program, Native Americans in Philanthropy, and the Richard King Mellon Foundation—announced the 2024-year round of funding with 61 new grants totaling \$122.4 million, leveraging nearly \$8.7 million in matching contribution from grantees and generating a total conservation impact of more than \$131.1 million.

The American the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) encourages applicants to develop diverse, landscape-level projects that address priority conservation and restoration needs, showcase cumulative benefits to fish and wildlife, enhance carbon sequestration and storage, engage with and benefit underserved communities, connect people with nature, and help safeguard ecosystems and communities through resilience-focused and nature-based solutions. Specifically, the ATBC funds projects within one or more of the following overarching themes:

- Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands and watersheds
- Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands and other important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks
- Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds and seascapes
- Improving ecosystem and community resilience to flooding, drought and other climate-related threats

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**CATEGORY 1: IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS**

Awarded to states, U.S. territories and federally recognized Tribes to implement voluntary on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects that address program priorities on public, Tribal and/or private lands.

**Addressing Habitat Impacts from Historic Hydraulic Mining in Leggett Creek (ID)**

Grantee: Nez Perce Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$1,917,900

Matching Funds:..... N/A\*

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,917,900

Reduce excess sediment delivery into critical habitat for steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout through restoration of a 22-acre abandoned hydraulic mine site in Leggett Creek, Idaho. Project will stabilize eroding slopes, plant native evergreens and deciduous shrubs, and improve aquatic passage of over 23 miles of upstream spawning and rearing fish habitat.

**Aquatic Barrier Removal and Assessments to Benefit At-Risk Species in Western North Carolina**

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Grant Amount:..... \$2,030,000

Matching Funds:..... \$225,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,255,700

Improve aquatic organism passage in the Little Tennessee River Basin and Catawba River Basin to enhance stream habitat in western North Carolina. Project will assess more than 600 culverts in the Little Tennessee River Basin to prioritize barriers to habitat connectivity for restoration and provide educational and recreational programs for local communities.

**Building Capacity for Inter-Island Resilience in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

Grantee: Office of the Governor

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Enhance inter-island collaboration and build capacity among a working group of researchers, biologists, medicinal practitioners and the community for increased resilience. Project will establish methods needed to improve greenspace and expand and preserve use of Indigenous traditional knowledge in restoration and community engagement.

**Collaboration across Cultures and Generations to Reconnect Relations in the Penobscot River Watershed (ME)**

Grantee: Penobscot Indian Nation

Grant Amount:..... \$4,999,900

Matching Funds:..... N/A\*

Total Project Amount:..... \$4,999,900

Improve aquatic organism passage, provide public access to conservation areas and collect data needed to adaptively manage habitat for at-risk species in the Penobscot River Watershed. Project will restore connectivity to 280 miles of



Gilded flicker

the Piscataquis River for at-risk Atlantic salmon and other native migratory species while increasing economic vitality and strengthening cultural connection through cross-generation collaboration and community engagement.

**Collaboration to Restore Forests and Expand Habitat Connectivity in Puerto Rico**

Grantee: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$4,997,200

Matching Funds:..... \$555,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$5,552,900

Plant 200,000 trees on 600 acres in collaboration with agency, organizational, school and community stakeholders to increase forest cover across Puerto Rico with a priority for urban areas. Project will yield ecosystem services and community benefits, including providing shade, improving recreational areas, promoting food security and strengthening climate resilience while enhancing habitat connectivity.

**Collaborative Landscape-Scale Ecosystem Restoration in the Altar Valley (AZ)**

Grantee: University of Arizona Board of Regents

Grant Amount:..... \$3,203,900

Matching Funds:..... \$356,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$3,560,200

Improve watershed health and ecosystem services in Altar Valley, Arizona, by restoring 25 miles of streams and uplands, planting 17 acres of native grasses and forbs and 400 cacti, installing 200 nest boxes, rehabilitating eight ponds and cattle tanks, and providing restoration workforce development. Project will build on community conservation efforts to reduce soil erosion, create and connect habitats, promote ecological resilience and benefit local communities.

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Lahontan cutthroat trout

**Designing Habitat Connectivity and Ensuring Resilience for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (NV)**

Grantee: Summit Lake Paiute Tribe  
 Grant Amount:..... \$2,491,300  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,491,300  
 Complete feasibility, design and implementation phases for fish passage and riparian restoration projects to improve the connectivity of the lake and its sole perennial creek within the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation. Project will build on the existing Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery plan to increase the resilience of fish and wildlife populations and Tribal capacity to address current and future drought conditions.

**Developing Giant Rivercane Restoration for the Southeastern United States (AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, VA, WV)**

Grantee: The University of Alabama  
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,425,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$381,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,806,900  
 Develop giant rivercane seed stock with accompanying genetic information and public database to assist Tribal Nations and other stakeholders in implementing rivercane habitat restoration projects across the Southeast. Project will increase Tribal Nation capacity to manage and access a resource that is a cultural keystone species and part of many Southeastern Indigenous communities' culture, heritage and lifeways.

**Enhancing Coldwater Conservation for Brook Trout across Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York**

Grantee: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$389,200  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,889,200  
 Implement coldwater conservation projects in priority watersheds across Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey over four years by addressing barriers, enhancing habitat and mitigating stressors. Project will significantly enhance habitat conditions for at-risk brook trout and other species, creating healthier coldwater ecosystems capable of supporting thriving populations, and safeguarding the biodiversity of the Appalachian Corridor Highlands and streams.

**Enhancing Resilience across Private and Public Lands in Oregon's Core Sagebrush Ecosystem**

Grantee: Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$389,200  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,889,200  
 Restore core sagebrush ecosystems in Oregon to benefit sage-grouse, pronghorn and other desert species. Project will cut 13,000 acres of juniper trees, conduct an invasive species inventory on more than 100,000 acres, apply herbicide to 7,000 acres of invasive grasses, develop a local native seed supply and enhance grazing management to support more resilient rangelands.

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### **Eradicating Little Fire Ant through Community Partnerships in American Samoa**

Grantee: Office of the Governor, American Samoa Government  
 Grant Amount:..... \$2,248,900  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,248,900  
 Expand ongoing efforts to detect, map and eradicate incursions of the invasive little fire ant on Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Project will prevent permanent establishment and spread throughout the archipelago by treating 124 infested acres, establishing cooperative partnerships with villages and ensuring long-term rapid response capability through a dedicated control team within the Governor's Biodiversity Conservation Office.

### **Improving Fish Passage and Habitat Connectivity in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed (MN)**

Grantee: Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,300,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,300,000  
 Restore longitudinal connectivity and vital fish passage between the Whetstone, Minnesota and Little Minnesota rivers and their tributaries with Big Stone Lake. The project will significantly enhance the aquatic and riparian habitat for more than 30 native fish and freshwater mussel species in the Upper Minnesota River watershed by reconnecting 780 miles of streams and restoring 31 acres of floodplain and 121 acres of forest habitat.



Northern flying squirrel

### **Increasing Aquatic Habitat Connectivity in the Little Miami River Watershed (OH)**

Grantee: Ohio Division of Wildlife  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,078,500  
 Matching Funds:..... \$119,900  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,198,400  
 Improve 86 miles of streams in the Cloverlick Creek-East Fork Little Miami River watershed by eliminating a barrier to aquatic organism passage. Project will restore stream gradient and floodplain connectivity, improve habitat for fish and mussels, and expand safe public recreational opportunities in an underserved community in southern Ohio.

### **Increasing the Scale of Red Spruce Ecosystem Restoration in Central Appalachian Highlands (MD, WV, VA)**

Grantee: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
 Grant Amount:..... \$2,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$166,800  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,166,800  
 Restore more than 5,000 acres of red spruce forest and 45 miles of headwater streams in the Central Appalachian Highlands through release treatments, planting and stream restoration. Project will build restoration workforce capacity, develop best practices, monitor outcomes and conduct outreach to expand red spruce ecosystem restoration across the region.

### **Interior Alaska Native Plant Nursery for Ecosystem Restoration**

Grantee: Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,021,400  
 Matching Funds:..... \$113,600  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,135,000  
 Establish a native plant nursery to produce restoration materials for partnering agencies, facilitate use of local native plant stock in public projects, and support native plant propagation in agriculture, increasing the feasibility and success of restoration projects across the Alaskan interior. Project will provide demonstration, education and outreach opportunities to build capacity to support production of native plants for projects within the Gravel-to-Gravel Keystone Initiative landscape.

### **Interjurisdictional Collaboration to Enhance and Connect Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna (IA, NE)**

Grantee: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
 Grant Amount:..... \$5,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$556,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$5,556,000  
 Restore and enhance nearly 56,000 acres of prairie and savanna within the tallgrass prairie ecosystem in Iowa and Nebraska through invasive-species control, prescribed fire, planned grazing and prairie restoration. Project will engage landowners, Tribes and partners to implement conservation practices that benefit more than 100 at-risk species, improve ecosystem services and increase landscape connectivity.

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### **Jemez River and Vallecito Creek Stream, Riparian and Wetland Restoration on Pueblo of Jemez Land (NM)**

Grantee: Pueblo of Jemez

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$2,172,100

Matching Funds: . . . . . N/A\*

Total Project Amount: . . . . . \$2,172,100

Establish 3 miles of native riparian vegetation, stabilize 4,500 feet of stream, restore 4 acres of fens wetland and protect a 10-acre unique oxbow-wetland complex along the Jemez River and Vallecito Creek on Pueblo of Jemez lands. Project will create a bosque protection zone; a native seed bank; conservation-based workforce training; community engagement with Pueblo youth, other Tribes and local cities; and watershed planning to improve and protect the Jemez River watershed.

### **Migratory Bird Outreach and Education for Subsistence Users in Alaska**

Grantee: Native Village of Tazlina

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$2,000,000

Matching Funds: . . . . . N/A\*

Total Project Amount: . . . . . \$2,000,000

Enhance the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council through increased support for Indigenous participants to share their regional knowledge about migratory birds, subsistence needs and other critical information. Project will support two statewide and 20 regional meetings per year to promote greater Indigenous engagement in bird and habitat conservation, incorporate Indigenous migratory bird knowledge into co-management plans and develop the next generation of Tribal conservationists.

### **Preventing the Extinction of Northern Spotted Owls through Barred Owl Management (CA)**

Grantee: Hoopa Valley Tribe

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$4,500,000

Matching Funds: . . . . . N/A\*

Total Project Amount: . . . . . \$4,500,000

Conduct removals of invasive barred owls across National Forests and state parks in northwestern California to benefit northern spotted owls. Project will eradicate approximately 1,500 barred owls over four years to create large areas with reduced barred owl densities, providing time and habitat for northern spotted owl populations to recover.

### **Protecting Treaty Rights: Restoring Chinook Salmon to the South Fork Nooksack River (WA)**

Grantee: Lummi Indian Business Council

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$4,999,300

Matching Funds: . . . . . N/A\*

Total Project Amount: . . . . . \$4,999,300

Implement four high-priority projects in the South Fork Nooksack Watershed to benefit the native early Chinook

population essential to the recovery of at-risk Puget Sound Chinook and the livelihood and culture of Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe. Project will restore watershed processes along 4 miles of the South Fork Nooksack River and Skookum Creek and increase the availability of cool water to Skookum Creek Hatchery to increase production of juvenile salmon.

### **San Carlos Apache Traditional Ecological Restoration Collaborative (AZ)**

Grantee: San Carlos Apache Tribe

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$2,684,800

Matching Funds: . . . . . N/A\*

Total Project Amount: . . . . . \$2,684,800

Improve watershed health on the San Carlos Apache Reservation by installing erosion-control structures, constructing trails, implementing fuel-reduction treatments and removing invasive species. Project will establish a San Carlos Apache Conservation Corps program to engage up to 34 local, Native young adults to learn natural resource management skills and complete restoration work that will enhance resilience and habitat conditions.

### **Santa Clara River and Endemic Species Restoration in Southwestern Utah**

Grantee: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$597,500

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$66,400

Total Project Amount: . . . . . \$663,900

Improve aquatic and riparian ecosystem function and resilience in the Santa Clara River in southwestern Utah in partnership with the Shivwits Band of Paiute Indians to benefit native fish species such as the Virgin spinedace and desert sucker. Project will restore 200 acres of riparian habitat, secure instream flows for nearly 20 miles of stream, implement nonnative species control, conduct native fish reintroductions and engage local communities and Tribal youth in conservation efforts.

### **Seminole Native Lands Restoration, Resilience and Everglades Reconnection (FL)**

Grantee: Seminole Tribe of Florida

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$2,500,000

Matching Funds: . . . . . N/A\*

Total Project Amount: . . . . . \$2,500,000

Restore 2,200 acres of wetlands and uplands within the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation formerly part of an ecotourism facility that changed the hydrology and isolated the land from the Everglades ecosystem. Project will engage the community to remove invasive plant species, reestablish native plant communities, and restore hydrology to reconnect the land to the greater Everglades restoration effort and restore the surface water from the watershed to Seminole Native lands.

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**Skokomish South Fork River Restoration in Olympic National Forest (WA)**

Grantee: Skokomish Indian Tribe  
 Grant Amount:..... \$2,005,300  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,005,300  
 Enhance 1.3 miles of instream and floodplain habitat by installing 14 engineered log jams and supplemental wood loading via helicopter-placed mobile wood on the South Fork Skokomish River. Project will improve in-channel structure and complexity, increase floodplain connectivity, store sediment and reduce stream temperatures during summer base flows to benefit at-risk salmonid species.

**Southern Great Plains Wetlands and Prairie Collaborative (KS, OK)**

Grantee: Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
 Grant Amount:..... \$4,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$444,800  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$4,444,800  
 Create ecologically functional grassland, wetland and riparian ecosystems in the Southern Great Plains of Oklahoma and Kansas through 10,000 acres of invasive-species removal, 30,000 acres of prescribed burning and restoring 1,000 acres of wetlands to benefit whooping cranes. Project will work collaboratively to restore wildlife habitat, decrease wildfire risks, increase water availability and improve livestock production.

**Suppression of Invasive Mosquitoes to Prevent Extinction of Four Hawaiian Honeycreepers on Kaua'i and Maui (HI)**

Grantee: Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
 Grant Amount:..... \$6,300,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$645,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$6,945,000  
 Protect multiple species of honeycreeper including the 'akeke'e, 'akikiki, kiwikiu and 'ākohekohe, by employing the incompatible insect technique to suppress invasive southern house mosquitoes in native forests on Kaua'i and help spread these practices on Maui. The project will reduce or eliminate the occurrence of the vector for avian malaria on 3,380 acres of native Kaua'i forest and will fence 2,865 acres of native forest from ungulates to prevent creation of mosquito habitat.

**Teanaway Forks Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Restoration (WA)**

Grantee: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,805,400  
 Matching Funds:..... \$423,200  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$4,228,600  
 Revitalize 5 miles of steelhead, Chinook and coho spawning and rearing habitat in the West and Middle Fork Teanaway River through berm removal and installation of up to 2,500 pieces of large wood structures. Project will transform incised, bedrock-dominated channels into river corridors



Whooping crane

with diverse instream habitat, plentiful spawning gravels and dramatically enhanced groundwater storage and exchange.

**Tribally-led Land Healing, Community Engagement and Habitat Connectivity (MI)**

Grantee: Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians  
 Grant Amount:..... \$4,300,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$4,300,000  
 Implement watershed restoration projects at 14 culturally significant sites within Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' Treaty of 1836 Ceded Territory. Project will draw upon Indigenous knowledge to improve 12 road-stream crossings, complete 96 acres of wetland protection and open 46 miles of stream to improve hydrology, recover ecological function and strengthen climate resilience.

**Upper Columbia and Sanpoil River Redband Trout Habitat Restoration (WA)**

Grantee: Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department  
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,486,400  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,486,400  
 Restore redband trout and other native fish habitat using large woody debris, engineered log jams, livestock fencing and riparian restoration with culturally important plants at high-priority reaches identified along the Sanpoil River. Project will address adverse impacts and restore ecological processes and functions of the Sanpoil River subbasin streams and increase and sustain the redband trout population to meet the cultural, subsistence and recreational needs of Colville Tribes' members.

**Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes: Restoring Oak and Prairie Habitat on Tribal, Private and Public Lands (OR)**

Grantee: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Grant Amount:..... \$4,500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$500,400  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$5,000,400  
 Create a network of 2,171 acres of oak and prairie habitat by restoring 22 protected sites in the Willamette River Basin across Tribal, private and public land. Project will develop a stronger local conservation workforce, incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge, increase access for Tribal members to prioritize culturally significant areas and increase restoration of Tribal subsistence resources.

**Yellowstone Bison Conservation Transfer Program (WY)**

Grantee: Eastern Shoshone Tribe  
 Grant Amount:..... \$3,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,000,000  
 Expand the Yellowstone Bison Conservation Transfer Program by increasing the number of animals and the program’s capacity for providing bison to Native American Tribes. Project will supplement bison cultural herds along with the aim to create 20 new herds, which will stabilize and strengthen the efforts of each Tribal Nation and support cultural renewal while fostering ecological rejuvenation in northern short mixed-grass prairies.

*\* Match requirements for Tribally-led ATBC projects are covered by a contribution from Native Americans in Philanthropy*

*\*\* U.S. Territories are not required to provide match under this ATBC category*

**CATEGORY 2: PLANNING GRANTS**

Awarded to states, U.S. territories and federally recognized Tribes for projects that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions through community-based assessments, partnership building, planning, project design and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

**Achviivsa, Pirishsa karu Axichas Imfipish: Birds, Plants and Children Come Together In Karuk Ancestral Territory (CA)**

Grantee: Karuk Tribe  
 Grant Amount:..... \$2,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,000,000  
 Integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge with contemporary scientific approaches to restore forest ecosystems, revitalize forest-management practices and develop strategies for at-risk and culturally significant species on 19,300 acres of Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Project will collect data through three monitoring programs, create four restoration plans and support community education and outreach to build Tribal capacity.

**Building Better Conservation Infrastructure in the Appalachian Coalfields (OH, KY, VA, WV)**

Grantee: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,291,500  
 Matching Funds:..... \$82,400  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,373,900  
 Engage 60 partners in cross-boundary collaborations and strategic planning to create a Coordinated Interagency Conservation Partnership (CICP) to address challenges preventing the implementation of conservation actions benefiting at-risk species, habitats and communities. Project will engage stakeholders to form the framework of the CICP followed by implementing small pilot strategies to refine the framework, restore and connect habitats, and sustain communities through future projects.

**Building Capacity for Restoration and Resilience in New Mexico’s Enchanted Circle Landscape**

Grantee: Pueblo of Sandia  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,441,600  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,441,600  
 Build internal capacity for the Pueblo of Sandia’s ranch properties department to undertake ecological restoration and resilience planning along with necessary federal environmental compliance for Pueblo properties within northern New Mexico’s Enchanted Circle landscape. Project will expand opportunities to readily implement cross-boundary habitat conservation activities that add ecological and resilience value to the landscape.



Bison



Chiricahua leopard frog

**Cherokee Nation Illinois River Watershed Conservation and Restoration Partnership (OK, AR)**

Grantee: Cherokee Nation

Grant Amount:..... \$772,900

Matching Funds:..... N/A\*

Total Project Amount:..... \$772,900

Lead the development of a diverse, collaborative partnership network that combines skills and resources to achieve conservation, restoration and improved recreational access within the Illinois River watershed. Project will protect culturally significant species and habitats, creating four strategic plans and 17 engineering and design plans for riparian restoration, unpaved roads, habitat and wetlands restoration, public access improvement, and community education and outreach programming.

**Kittacuck Restored: Planning for an Accessible, Connected, Resilient River (RI)**

Grantee: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Grant Amount:..... \$1,098,700

Matching Funds:..... \$122,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,220,900

Create a comprehensive vision plan for restoring the Blackstone River, known as Kittacuck, by conducting hydrologic analysis, prioritizing habitat connectivity restoration projects and identifying opportunities to improve public access and portaging. Project will engage more than 50 partners, including local governments, organizations, Tribal Nations and the public to develop a collective roadmap for watershed improvements.

**Leveraging Tribal Priorities to Enhance Wildlife Habitat Connectivity in the Pacific Northwest (WA)**

Grantee: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$798,000

Matching Funds:..... N/A\*

Total Project Amount:..... \$798,000

Conduct a Tribally-led, multi-Tribe study to increase wildlife connectivity and ecological resilience on the Olympic Peninsula. Project will create a comprehensive, landscape-scale study that determines connectivity and genetic diversity among elk herds, maps connectivity for black bears, elk, and cougars, and contributes to the Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan, the I-5 Connectivity Working Group’s feasibility study and six Tribal Wildlife Management Plans.

**Planning for a Tucson Urban Wildlife Refuge in the Santa Cruz River Corridor (AZ)**

Grantee: University of Arizona Board of Regents

Grant Amount:..... \$636,100

Matching Funds:..... \$70,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$706,800

Develop an urban wildlife-corridor masterplan to revitalize the river, create refuge sites to support numerous at-risk species, such as lesser long-nosed bat, western yellow-billed cuckoo, gila topminnow and chiricahua leopard frog, and benefit to more than 1 million residents. The project will form a collaborative coalition of 24 organizations and host 14 workshops, engaging hundreds of people to build this plan and identify greenspaces to support migration and function as community assets.

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‘Ākohekohe | Credit: Jack Jeffrey

**Redwood Creek Restoration and Stewardship Training Program (CA)**

Grantee: Yurok Tribe  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,475,300  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,475,300  
 Establish a restoration and stewardship training program to promote Indigenous Knowledge, environmental stewardship and hands-on experience while advancing the Yurok Tribe’s regional restoration priorities in and beyond the Redwood Creek watershed. Project will conduct two pilot trainings at the rehabilitated Prairie Creek Fish Hatchery complex and create five priority restoration designs to be implemented in the future.

**Technology and Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Ecosystem Resilience on the Nett Lake Reservation (MN)**

Grantee: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,880,400  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,880,400  
 Spearhead an innovative approach to preserve manoomin (wild rice) and protect and restore the Nett Lake ecosystem by integrating Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and advanced technology into a comprehensive ecological restoration plan. Project will prepare two stream restoration plans, initiate a long-term water-monitoring program using advanced technology, and provide meaningful youth and Tribal engagement.

\* Match requirements for Tribally-led ATBC projects are covered by a contribution from Native Americans in Philanthropy  
 \*\* U.S. Territories are not required to provide match under this ATBC category

**CATEGORY 3: SENTINEL LANDSCAPE GRANTS**

Awarded for projects with multiple partners that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions or by directly contributing to on-the-ground outcomes, prioritized to Sentinel Landscapes or areas that preserve or enhance military readiness.

**Conservation of At-Risk Plant Species and Ecosystem Resilience in the Hawai’i Sentinel Landscape (HI)**

Grantee: University of Hawai’i  
 Grant Amount:..... \$413,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$413,000  
 Construct a nearly 2.5 acre feral ungulate exclosure fence within Lyon Arboretum in the Hawai’i Sentinel Landscape to establish permanent on-site populations of 10 at-risk plant species to be collected and outplanted. Project will safeguard plant material for use by partners for other recovery initiatives, improve conservation management strategies, and engage the community through education initiatives.

**Integrating Joint Base Lewis-McChord Sentinel Landscape and Tribal Priorities for Prairie-Oak Habitat (WA)**

Grantee: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,499,300  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,499,300  
 Increase capacity for prescribed burning, expand partnerships with Tribal Nations and land trusts, conduct landowner outreach, and support plant production to benefit at-risk species and working lands within the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Sentinel Landscape. Project will strengthen ecosystem and community resilience by restoring 829 acres of prairie and oak habitat across 13 sites managed by multiple partners in the south Puget Sound region of Washington state.



Mojave desert tortoise

**Makaha Ahupua’a: Restoring Abundance through Community, Culture and Youth in the Hawai’i Sentinel Landscape**

Grantee: Wai’anae Community Re-Development Corporation  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,499,400  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,499,400  
 Develop a comprehensive restoration plan for 251 acres of lowland and riparian areas of Makaha Valley and Stream that connect to upland areas of Makaha Ahupua’a and watershed in the Hawai’i Sentinel Landscape. Project will involve archeology, civil engineering, fluvial geomorphology, native plants and GIS/survey expertise while engaging hundreds of youth workforce development project participants, and centering Indigenous Native Hawaiian culture and community input.

**The Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape Partnership: Capacity for Climate Resilience (DE, MD, VA)**

Grantee: Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board  
 Grant Amount:..... \$749,300  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$749,300  
 Develop collaborative infrastructure and build capacity by providing resilience-focused technical assistance to partners and landowners, seed funding for land protection and comprehensive community engagement training across the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape. Project will scale up resilience to significant climate threats impacting ecosystems, communities and military readiness in the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape.

**Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape and Desert Tortoise Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Capacity (CA)**

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Board  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,500,000  
 Prepare an interagency Environmental Assessment necessary for implementing on-the-ground ecosystem restoration and increasing species recovery and community resilience within the Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape and Desert Tortoise Recovery and Sustainment Partnership. Project will streamline interagency and intergovernmental coordination, including execution of memorandums of understanding and/or agreements between agencies and governments identified during the Environmental Assessment process.

**Monitoring to Enhance Traditional Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Habitat and Sustain Tribal Resources (WA)**

Grantee: Lummi Indian Business Council  
 Grant Amount:..... \$382,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A\*  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$382,000  
 Conduct bird and ungulate monitoring on 2,754 acres of forest pre and post-vegetation treatment in the North Fork Nooksack River watershed to evaluate the effectiveness of treatments in creating diverse and resilient habitats. Project will collect data from autonomous recording units and point count surveys for birds, and monitor trail cameras and scat to identify use by ungulates, to inform future Tribal, federal and state management plans, including the North Fork Nooksack Watershed Plan.

(continued)

### Revegetating Coastal Wet Prairies of the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape (FL)

Grantee: The Atlanta Botanical Garden

Grant Amount:.....\$667,700

Matching Funds:..... N/A\*\*\*

Total Project Amount:.....\$667,700

Cultivate a native-seed supply chain and outplant 4,500 herbaceous plants, including five at-risk species, to restore herb-dominated coastal wet prairies in the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape. Project will alleviate constraints on the military mission and increase resilience by reintroducing historic hydrology and natural fire regimes that sustain adjacent, globally-rare coastal dune lake ecosystems and prevent catastrophic wildfires and flooding at Eglin Air Force Base.

\*\*\* Match is not required for projects receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Defense.

#### CATEGORY 4: NATIONAL FOREST GRANTS

Awarded for projects on National Forest System lands that achieve the restoration of a forest ecosystem through the removal of vegetation, the use of prescribed fire or the decommissioning of an unauthorized, temporary or system road.

#### Deschutes River Basin Youth Conservation Corps (OR)

Grantee: Heart of Oregon Corps

Grant Amount:.....\$605,300

Matching Funds:.....\$151,300

Total Project Amount:.....\$756,600

Enhance watershed health and reduce wildfire risk in the Deschutes River Basin through conservation projects completed by local youth crews. Project will engage opportunity youth in hands-on restoration work to improve 443 acres of habitat, treat 211 acres for fuels reduction, and restore 12 miles of riparian and instream habitat in the Deschutes National Forest, Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland while providing skills training and career development.

#### Low-Tech Process-Based Watershed Restoration in Dixie National Forest (UT)

Grantee: Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

Grant Amount:.....\$381,600

Matching Funds:.....\$95,400

Total Project Amount:.....\$477,000

Install and maintain 24-40 low-tech process-based restoration structures to promote natural hydrology, sedimentation and nutrient cycles within the North Creek watershed in Dixie National Forest. Project will engage

60-84 participants from Hopi, Zuni and Paiute Tribes in conservation implementation to improve ecosystem function and watershed health and host educational seminars on careers in land management.

#### Partnership for Habitat Connectivity for American Marten (Waabizheshiwag) Recovery (WI)

Grantee: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Grant Amount:.....\$689,200

Matching Funds:.....\$172,300

Total Project Amount:.....\$861,500

Increase landscape connectivity in ecologically mature forests by working collaboratively across multiple agencies to conduct monitoring, compile data and develop proposed forest management actions. Project will improve habitat and provide dispersal corridors for American martens, as well as other forest obligates, across more than 60,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service Land within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and in the region.

#### Reconnecting the South Fork McKenzie River Valley in the Willamette National Forest (OR)

Grantee: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Grant Amount:.....\$1,500,000

Matching Funds:.....\$375,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,875,000

Restore 335 acres of floodplain and wetland habitat on the South Fork McKenzie River by redistributing sediments and placing more than 7,000 pieces of large woody material. Project will reconnect 240 acres of historic channel-wetland complex, increasing ecosystem resilience to flooding and wildfire, and creating high-quality habitat for at-risk native species, including spring Chinook salmon, bull trout, Pacific lamprey and northwestern pond turtle.

#### Restoring Forest Health, Resilience and Connectivity in the Upper Wenatchee Landscape (WA)

Grantee: Chelan County Natural Resource Department

Grant Amount:.....\$1,500,000

Matching Funds:.....\$870,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$2,370,000

Implement approximately 5,000 acres of forest health treatments, up to 30 miles of aquatic restoration, and nine aquatic-organism passage projects across 15,000 acres in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Project will improve at-risk species habitat, enhance partnerships between organizations, Tribes, and the community, contribute to the local economy and workforce, reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire, improve resilience and provide a range of ecosystem services.

**Restoring Lands, Restoring Trust: Tribally-Led Conservation in Santa Fe National Forest (NM)**

Grantee: Trees, Water & People  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,110,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$277,700  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,388,400  
 Improve upland forest systems, canyon bottom and streams of the Jemez mountains in north central New Mexico after decades of drought and megafires. Project will restore 40 acres of watershed landscape and will facilitate 20 meetings of Indigenous leaders, natural resource departments, and area communities to build trust and collaboration among stakeholders and forge long-term adaptation management approaches.

**Supporting Adaptive Restoration of Aquatic Resources in Southeast National Forests (GA ,NC, TN)**

Grantee: Colorado State University  
 Grant Amount:..... \$604,600  
 Matching Funds:..... \$151,200  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$755,800  
 Monitor more than 25 aquatic habitat projects across three southeast National Forests and disseminate findings to increase future effectiveness of adaptive restoration. Project will collect data on physical and biological responses to ongoing restoration projects, inform best practices, and produce outreach and engagement materials to expand public knowledge and awareness of aquatic conservation.

**Vermilion River Restoration and Effectiveness Monitoring in Kootenai National Forest (MT)**

Grantee: Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group  
 Grant Amount:..... \$662,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$165,700  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$828,500  
 Reconnect, recontour and stabilize 2,500 linear feet of stream habitat, replant 20 acres of floodplain and monitor project effectiveness in the Vermilion River on the Kootenai National Forest in Northwest Montana to improve habitat complexity for bull trout and other native fish species. Project will also develop shovel-ready designs for an additional 2,500 linear feet of stream and 20 acres of floodplain restoration, and generate data to inform future habitat restoration.

**Wapiti Ranger Station Stream and Habitat Restoration in the Shoshone National Forest (WY)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited  
 Grant Amount:..... \$300,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$375,000  
 Restore nearly 1.8 miles of the North Fork Shoshone River and tributaries adjacent to Wapiti Ranger Station on the Shoshone National Forest to improve habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and other wildlife. Project will use large wood structures and riparian plantings at seven sites to stabilize streambanks, enhance aquatic and

riparian habitat, improve water quality and increase flood resilience.

*\* Match requirements for Tribally-led ATBC projects are covered by a contribution from Native Americans in Philanthropy*

**CATEGORY 5: PRIVATE FORESTS, RANGELAND AND FARMLAND GRANTS**

Awarded to projects that support outreach and engagement with private landowners for voluntary conservation efforts on working lands to advance NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife Framework and Initiatives.

**Assisting Private Landowners with Aquatic Habitat Enhancement in Southwest Virginia**

Grantee: Canaan Valley Institute  
 Grant Amount:..... \$499,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$165,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$664,900  
 Work with several partners to conduct outreach and facilitate aquatic habitat connectivity projects with private landowners in the Eastern Hellbender Working Lands for Wildlife Landscape of southwest Virginia. Project will aid private landowners in implementing voluntary Best Management Practices for improved water quality, bank stabilization and establishment of riparian corridors.



Bull trout



Monarch butterfly

**Expanding Conservation Engagement with New Jersey Producers in Overburdened Communities**

Grantee: New Jersey Audubon Society  
 Grant Amount:.....\$471,400  
 Matching Funds:.....\$155,600  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$627,000  
 Increase landowner and land steward enrollment in voluntary conservation programs through targeted and strategic outreach, especially in underserved communities within Working Lands for Wildlife ranges for golden-winged warbler, black duck, and northern bobwhite. Project will enable participation in farm bill conservation and restoration programs for 20 landowners to improve habitat, benefit at-risk species and increase resilience and connectivity.

**Expanding Technical Assistance on Texas Working Lands for Monarch Conservation**

Grantee: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation  
 Grant Amount:.....\$499,200  
 Matching Funds:.....\$164,700  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$663,900  
 Develop monarch butterfly conservation capacity across Texas, specifically within south Texas and Texas Hill Country, by supporting a monarch butterfly habitat conservation specialist to facilitate and aid private landowner conservation actions. Project will develop conservation planning tools, train NRCS staff, lead habitat demonstration projects, increase landowner knowledge through 12 outreach events and contribute to the development of at least 24 projects.

**Native-Led Restoration and Stewardship of Bison-grazed Land (KS, MN, ND, OK, SD, TX)**

Grantee: Tanka Fund  
 Grant Amount:.....\$498,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$164,300  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$662,300  
 Conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to Native buffalo producers on bison-grazed lands across Indian Country. Project will utilize Working Lands for Wildlife frameworks and Traditional Ecological Knowledge to develop preparedness and conservation plans for 34 native buffalo producers, increasing access to farm bill programs and climate-smart practices, strengthening resilience and enhancing biodiversity on Native-managed grasslands, prairies and savannas.

**Private Landowner Outreach Partnership for Northeastern Turtle Conservation (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, VT)**

Grantee: The Orianne Society  
 Grant Amount:.....\$448,500  
 Matching Funds:.....\$148,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$596,500  
 Support landowner outreach to increase voluntary participation in farm bill conservation programs that benefit habitat for at-risk wood, spotted, and Blanding’s turtles within the Working Lands for Wildlife Northeast Turtles region. Project will bolster collaboration among the NRCS, conservation organizations and producer communities through outreach to over 600 individuals and 12 habitat management trainings.