

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



NFWF

35 YEARS
OF CONSERVATION SUCCESS



Roseate spoonbills



Moose





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.



Bighorn sheep

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35 YEARS OF CONSERVATION SUCCESS

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Loggerhead sea turtles hatching

35 years ago, Congress created the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors,

We are proud to recognize and congratulate you on the 35th anniversary of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act. This landmark law created a new model to better support wildlife and habitat conservation projects across the United States and its Territories. By codifying public-private partnerships, this legislation has brought greatly needed resources to critical conservation efforts for more than three decades and through six presidential administrations.

As the two remaining cosponsors of the Act serving in the United States Congress today, we are proud to see the remarkable impact of this organization on natural resource conservation in habitats across the United States. And true to the intent of Congress and its core mission, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has succeeded through a collaborative, bipartisan approach, bringing diverse stakeholders to the table to help solve conservation challenges.

Over the last three and a half decades, NFWF has received \$1.86 billion in federal funding and leveraged that public investment with private funding that has resulted in a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion. Facilitating partnerships between federal, state, and local government agencies, along with corporations, individuals, and private foundations, NFWF’s work has supported more than 5,000 grantee organizations performing vital on-the-ground conservation projects. Over this time, NFWF has worked with some of the largest conservation organizations in the country, as well as some of the smallest.

From Vermont to Alaska and in every corner of the country, NFWF investments have restored critical habitats, reversed the decline of imperiled species, enhanced water quality and quantity, responded to natural disasters, kept working landscapes in production, and brought a positive conservation message to millions of Americans.

While it is satisfying to see all that these first 35 years have accomplished, the work of NFWF isn’t done. We know that the American people will continue to see the great contributions of the Foundation for many generations to come.



Patrick Leahy, Vermont
United States Senator



Don Young, Alaska
United States Representative



Canada lynx



1984-2019

GRANTS

18,600

PROJECTS funded throughout all states and U.S. territories

5,000

GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

TOTAL IMPACT

\$6.1 BILLION

TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT of NFWF's investments and grantee match since the Foundation's founding by Congress in 1984

EXAMPLES OF CONSERVATION SUCCESSES

GULF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT FUND

\$1.4 billion awarded in Gulf States to benefit wildlife and habitats impacted by 2010 oil spill

ACRES FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

1.5 million acres of wildlife habitat protected

CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND

2,000 miles of riparian habitat restored

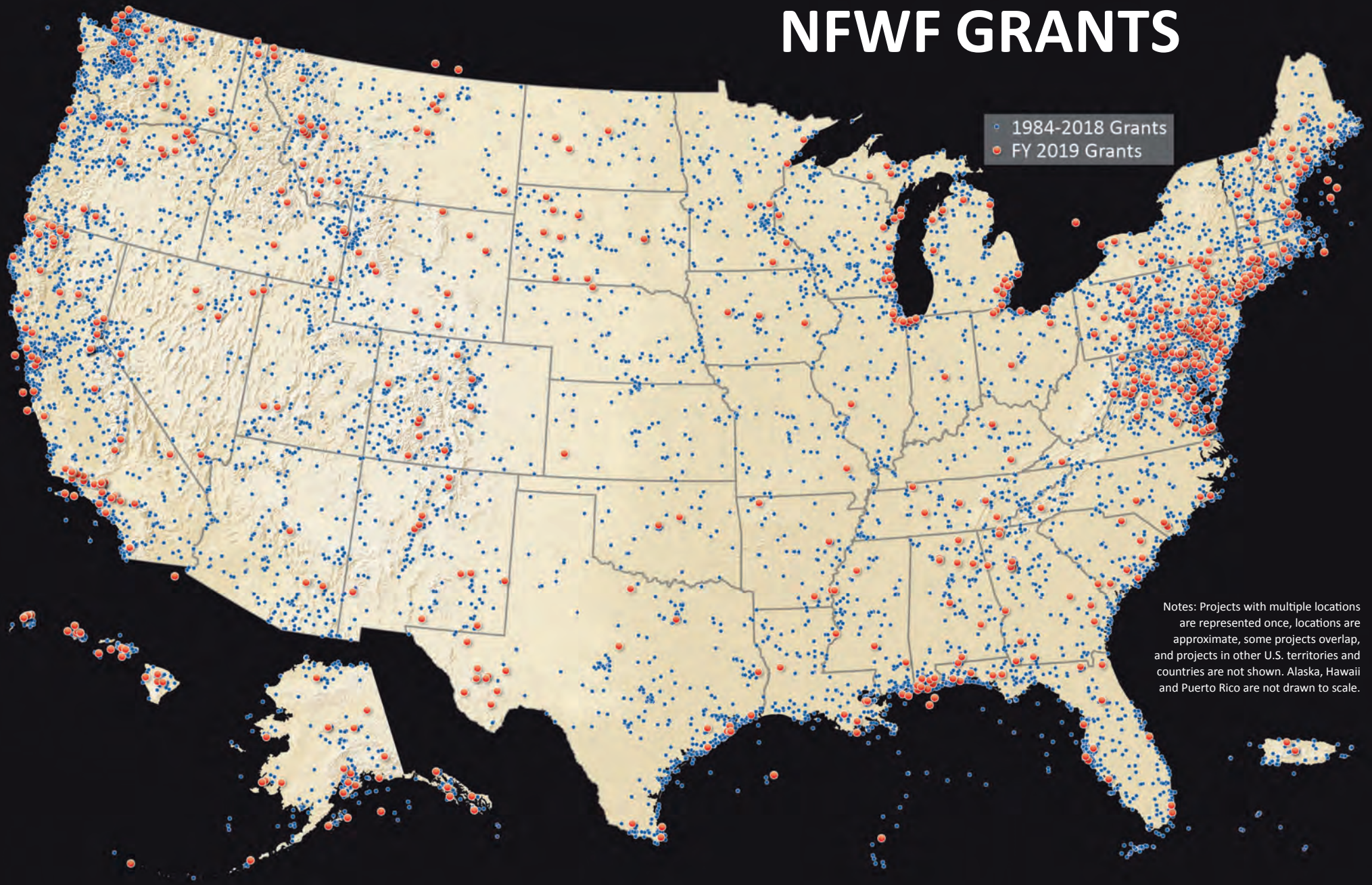
LONGLEAF STEWARDSHIP FUND

1.7 million acres of forest restored or enhanced

COLUMBIA BASIN WATER TRANSACTIONS

1.9 million acre-feet of freshwater conserved

NFWF GRANTS



Notes: Projects with multiple locations are represented once, locations are approximate, some projects overlap, and projects in other U.S. territories and countries are not shown. Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico are not drawn to scale.

Edwin R. 'Rod' Rodriguez, Jr.

Chairman, Board of Directors, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

In 2019, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation marked its 35th anniversary.

Reflecting on the Foundation's relatively short but incredibly rich history, two things seem clear: The world has certainly changed a lot since 1984 — and so has NFWF.

Over the three and a half decades since its founding by Congress, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest private conservation grant maker.

How big? In fiscal year 2019, the Foundation invested more than \$507 million — *over half a billion dollars* — to support more than 930 conservation projects across the nation. This investment leveraged more than \$245 million in matching support from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$752 million.

This strong performance in fiscal year 2019 pushed the Foundation's cumulative conservation impact since its founding to an astonishing \$6.1 billion. In 35 years, NFWF has awarded more than 18,600 projects to more than 5,000 organizations in the United States and abroad.

Indeed, the Foundation has become a powerhouse for national conservation efforts, a neutral and trusted leader in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Today, the Foundation supports some of the largest and most important projects across the country.

Through innovative partnerships with federal agencies

and leading corporations, NFWF leverages public funds to raise private dollars for conservation. The Foundation then uses science-based, competitive grant programs to invest those funds into projects and organizations that will do the most good for wildlife and people.

We encourage our partners and grantees to think big. We support landscape-scale projects that advance conservation efforts in a meaningful and measurable way.

As we look ahead to the next 35 years, the next 100 years, we expect to build on our many shared successes. We expect to tackle, head-on, some of the most difficult and complex conservation challenges facing the United States. Sea levels will rise. Wildfires, storms, droughts and floods will intensify. Development will degrade natural habitats.

We must be clear-eyed about what lies ahead — it is the only way to ensure that the conservation investments we make today will achieve lasting, sustainable outcomes into the future.

At NFWF, we fully acknowledge the urgency with which we all must act to protect natural habitats and sustain wildlife populations. Throughout 2019, our Board of Directors, leadership team and dedicated staff strove to meet these challenges with speed, agility and effectiveness.

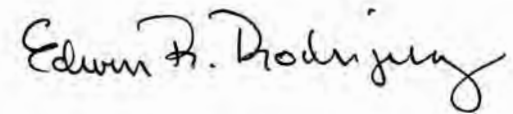
Some of the largest investments we made in 2019 will boost resilience across the country, helping wildlife

populations and human communities survive and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

At the direction of Congress, we worked with government and corporate leaders to launch a \$30 million coastal resilience initiative to enhance and restore marshes, barrier islands and other pieces of natural infrastructure that will provide habitats for wildlife while also shielding local communities from storms.

We also worked with partners and grantees to remove excess wildfire fuel from Western forests, better manage stormwater runoff in the Midwest and Northeast, restore forests in the South, protect wildlife migration routes in the West and conserve freshwater in the desert Southwest and Pacific Northwest.

All of us here at NFWF remain optimistic and determined to make a difference for the next generation. We hope that you will read on through this annual report to learn a bit more about how we intend to do that.





“In fiscal year 2019, NFWF invested more than \$507 million to support more than 930 projects across the nation.

These investments drew more than \$245 million in matching support from grantees, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$752 million.”

Edwin R. “Rod” Rodriguez, Jr.

Chairman, Board of Directors

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Black skimmer chick



Bolstering resilience, rebuilding a rookery

Spend any time in the charming coastal communities of the Southeast, and you will quickly learn why so many people there feel such a close connection to wildlife. Bottlenose dolphins cruise harbors and creeks, chasing mullet and redfish. Great egrets and blue herons high-step through oyster beds, picking off mud minnows and fiddler crabs at the edge of the salt marsh. Squadrons of brown pelicans glide along the beaches and dive-bomb schools of menhaden just offshore.

Nature is everywhere you look.

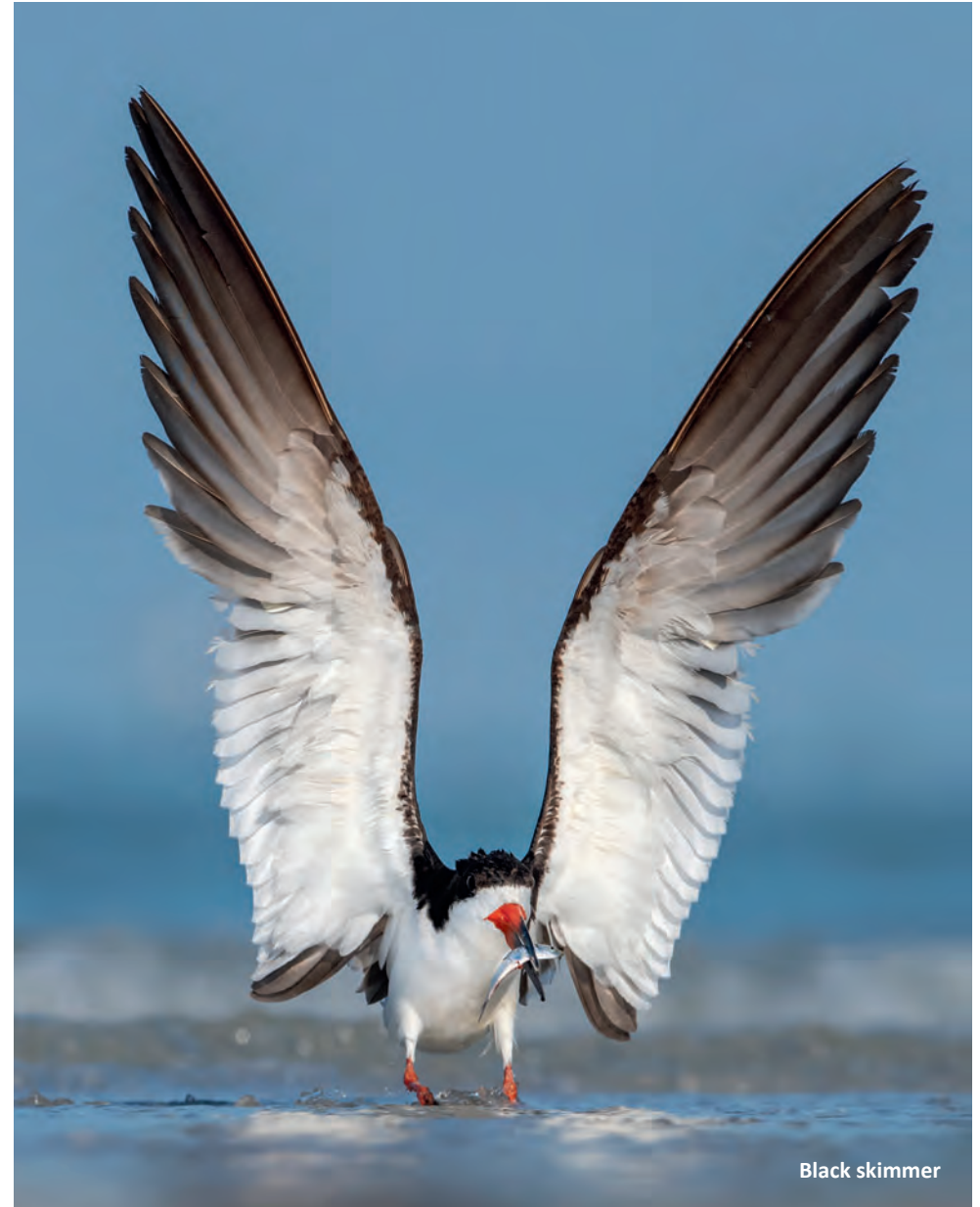
Coastal communities in this region rank as some of the fastest growing in the nation. Their proximity to beaches and abundant natural resources offer a high quality of life for millions who live there, and serve as a powerful lure for would-be residents.

Balancing growth and development with the need to protect natural habitats and wildlife populations remains a top priority for community leaders throughout the coastal Southeast. The challenge of doing so becomes more complicated each year, as human populations grow along with risks associated with hurricanes and a rise in sea levels.

At the direction of Congress, NFWF and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration launched a \$30 million program in late 2018 to help local governments, conservation nonprofits and natural resource managers strengthen coastal resilience and focus conservation dollars where they will do the most good for both people and wildlife.

With additional private-sector funding from energy giant Shell and the re-insurance company TransRe, the new National Coastal Resilience Fund awarded 46 grants to support coastal resilience projects in 23 states and U.S. territories. These grants will leverage an additional \$60 million to generate a total conservation impact of \$90 million.

Across the country, projects already have begun to restore or expand natural features that lessen the impacts of storms on human communities and vital wildlife habitats. Workers have



Black skimmer

NATIONAL COASTAL RESILIENCE FUND PROJECTS



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Between 2018 and 2019, the National Coastal Resilience Fund provided funding to enhance, build and restore more than 11,900 acres of coastal habitat. The projects supported by this public-private conservation partnership will provide enhanced protection to more than 98,000 properties and 2,400 critical facilities or infrastructure in 27 states and U.S. territories.



“The Crab Bank restoration effort is so much bigger than just Crab Bank alone. It provided an opportunity to bolster partnerships and exhibit what can happen when those with similar conservation interests and goals unite.”

— Lorianne Riggan, environmental programs director for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources

begun enhancing and restoring coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, mangroves, maritime forests, coastal rivers and barrier islands.

In one remarkable project unfolding in Charleston, S.C., a consortium of agencies, nonprofit groups and individuals focused on conservation and resilience rallied to save Crab Bank Seabird Sanctuary in Charleston Harbor. This small, man-made island once helped protect nearby communities and businesses from waves generated by ships and storms, while also serving as a vital rookery for thousands of brown pelicans, royal terns, laughing gulls, black skimmers and American oystercatchers.

In recent years, wave action has eroded Crab Bank into a sliver of its former self.

Through the National Coastal Resilience Fund, NFWF awarded a grant of \$700,000 to Audubon South Carolina, one of the project’s many partners, to help pay for the \$2.4 million rebuilding of Crab Bank. Under the direction of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, workers will use 660,000 cubic yards of dredged sediment to rebuild the historic footprint of Crab Bank.

Crab Bank is part of a larger restoration effort with many partners that will help to protect waterfront homes and businesses and strengthen the ability of nearby communities to weather future storms.

“The Crab Bank restoration effort is so much bigger than just Crab Bank alone. It provided an opportunity to bolster partnerships and exhibit what can happen when those with similar conservation interests and goals unite,” said Lorianne Riggan, environmental programs director for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. “This particular seabird sanctuary will once again offer a rare opportunity for people to observe nesting seabirds and shorebirds and appreciate them safely from afar.

“Crab Bank provides a safe haven for ground-nesting seabirds and shorebirds, free from predators and human disturbance.”



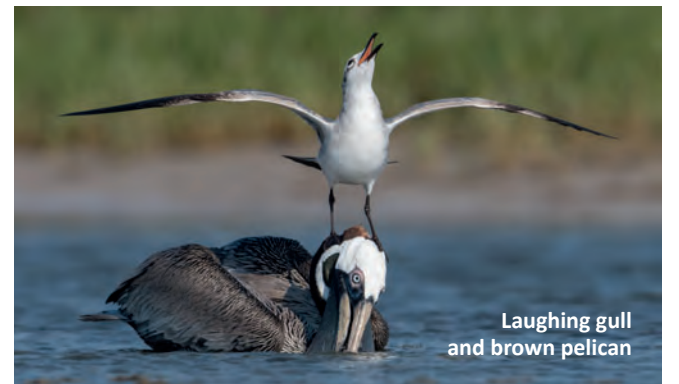
Brown pelican



American oystercatcher



Royal terns



Laughing gull and brown pelican



Mule deer fawn

Protecting big-game migration corridors

Every year, millions of elk, mule deer and pronghorn undertake some of the world's most spectacular wildlife migrations, moving en masse between winter and summer ranges throughout the American West.

These majestic animals remain a powerful symbol of America's natural resources and a key component of life in the West; their presence on the landscape remains tightly woven into local cultures, communities and economies.

To survive, they must be free to move, often hundreds of miles — no small challenge for animals ranging in size from a 100-pound pronghorn to a 700-pound elk. Long ago, these animals roamed freely across vast, undeveloped grasslands, sagebrush steppes and mountains. Today, they must run a gauntlet of heavily traveled roads, fencing, agricultural lands, and residential and commercial developments.

In 2019, NFWF joined with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and ConocoPhillips to launch a new program designed to help these big-game species safely complete their migrations and find healthy habitats at their journey's end.

The program quickly awarded \$2.1 million in grants, leveraging \$8.6 million in match from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of \$10.7 million.

Some projects supported through this public-private partnership will restore or enhance priority winter ranges, stopover areas and migration corridors. Others will work with private landowners and state highway departments to improve fencing, and to protect bottlenecks and other key migration areas threatened by habitat fragmentation and development.

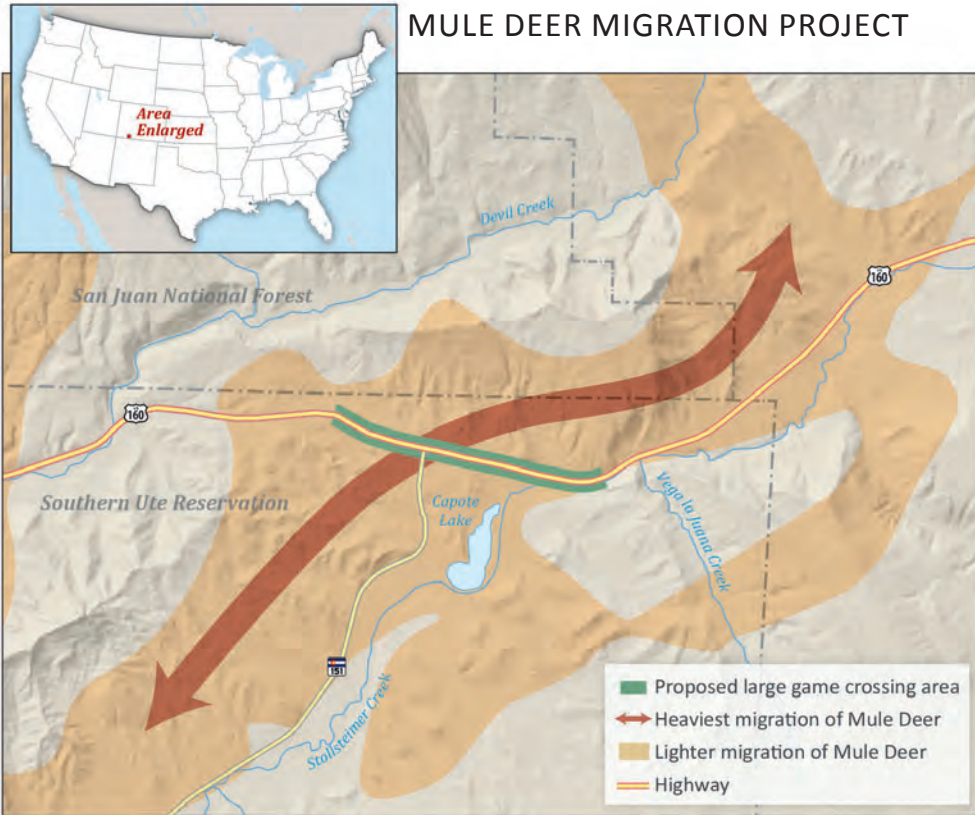
One grant awarded nearly \$318,000 to the Colorado Department of Transportation to help reduce collisions between vehicles and wildlife on U.S. Highway 160 in the San Juan Basin. Workers there will install new fencing, including important sections on the Southern Ute Reservation, to direct elk and mule deer toward two newly constructed overpass and



Pronghorn passing under a fence



Rocky Mountain elk



“This particular area represents a very real danger, to motorists as well as elk and mule deer. ... The project will provide a safe means for these animals to access these seasonal habitats, while reducing the severe number of conflicts with vehicles at this location.”

— Tony Cady, Colorado Department of Transportation

underpass structures, a project that represents a total investment of \$3.5 million.

State officials expect the combination of wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and fencing will reduce collisions between vehicles and wildlife at this location by 85 to 90 percent. Stemming the loss of animals at this stretch of highway will boost Colorado’s mule deer population, which decreased from 600,000 in 2006 to 390,000 in 2013.

“This particular area represents a very real danger, to motorists as well as elk and mule deer,” said Tony Cady of the Colorado Department of Transportation. “The San Juan Basin is home to approximately 27,000 deer and 19,000 elk, making it the second-largest deer herd and third-largest elk herd in Colorado.

“This migration corridor is critical for deer and elk to continue to access seasonal summer and winter ranges on the Southern Ute Reservation, as well as federal, state and private lands. The project will provide a safe means for these animals to access seasonal habitats, while reducing the severe number of conflicts with vehicles at this location.”

Other projects will enhance crucial winter ranges and work with local nonprofits, landowners, and state and federal agencies to reduce fragmentation, restore connectivity, and enhance habitat quality for big game species on public and private lands elsewhere in Colorado, as well as in Montana, Nevada and Wyoming.

“This partnership was founded with a very specific goal: to protect migration routes and enhance habitats for pronghorn, mule deer and elk,” said Noreen Walsh, regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “The work on the ground will generate much-needed benefits for a wide range of other species, everything from grassland birds to moose, black bears, lynx and mountain lions.”

Bugling bull elk



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Habitat loss and development pose urgent risks to terrestrial migrations of large mammals in Western North America. The partners below have joined with NFWF to support efforts to conserve up to 15 of the West's most crucial corridors by 2023.





Raccoon butterflyfish
off the island of Lanai

Seizing big opportunity on a small Pacific island

Hawaiian petrels dart and soar above the Pacific Ocean, swooping down amid the waves to snatch squid and small fish. Sleek and fast, these black-and-white aerial acrobats have long ago mastered the ocean wind.

Their chicks, however, are another story.

These flightless balls of gray fuzz spend the first few months of their lives in burrows underground. Having evolved without the threat of significant ground predators, petrels never needed to stash their offspring in trees or along steep cliffs. This evolutionary Achilles heel has left the chicks defenseless against predatory rats and cats introduced by humans. To make matters worse, invasive plants have infiltrated nesting sites, altering the habitat in ways that make it difficult for petrels to nest there.

Hawaiian petrels, now an endangered species, are not alone in their desperate fight for survival. Pacific islands such as those found in Hawaii remain hotbeds of extinction, where unique birds, plants, corals, fish and other wildlife succumb to a host of man-made threats.

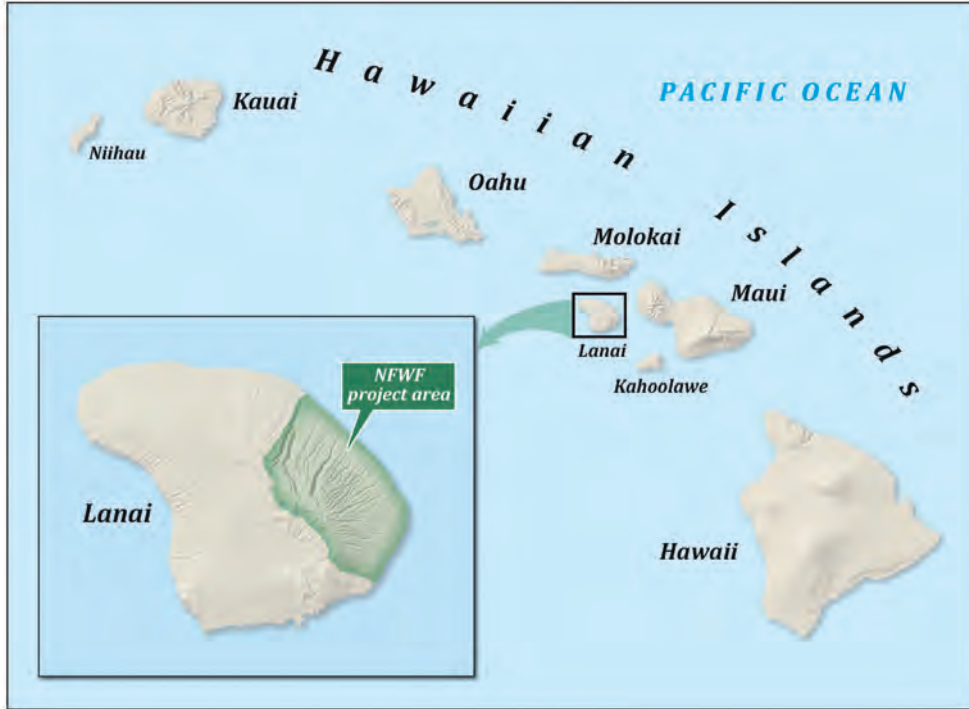
Now, a new partnership focused on one of Hawaii's smallest islands offers one of the biggest opportunities to save imperiled island species.

"We have a unique set of conditions here on Lānaʻi; one that would be difficult to find anywhere else in the world," said Kurt Matsumoto, chief operating officer for Pūlama Lānaʻi, a land and resource management company dedicated to creating sustainable practices, cultural connections and economic opportunities on the island. "We have partnered with NFWF to launch a long-term, comprehensive conservation effort that spans over 20,000 acres, from the very top of the mountains to the coral reefs off our beaches. We will be able to stitch together projects across this landscape and measure real-world results at a scale never before attempted on Lānaʻi, or on any Hawaiian island."



Hawaiian petrel
on Lanai

RIDGE-TO-REEF APPROACH TO CONSERVATION



Hawaiian petrel chick on Lanai

“As islanders, we know how closely connected we are to the land and wildlife and the sea, and how improvements made in one area can quickly generate benefits throughout the whole system.”

— Kurt Matsumoto, chief operating officer for Pūlama Lāna‘i

First colonized in the 15th century by native Hawaiians, Lāna‘i has undergone radical changes over the past 200 years. Sugar farms, cattle ranches and pineapple plantations have taken heavy tolls on the island’s native plants and wildlife. Cattle, goats, sheep and axis deer introduced by people have overgrazed native vegetation. Eroded soils have washed down mountains and out to fragile coral reefs.

Luckily, the times are changing on Lanai. Major landowners, residents, and a variety of agencies and nonprofits are banding together in what could become a leading example of island conservation, species recovery and sustainable commerce.

In 2019, NFWF announced a new conservation partnership with Pūlama Lāna‘i focused on integrating the island’s community and cultural heritage into conservation activities. In its first year, the partnership plans to award \$400,000 in grants to projects that protect and enhance coral reefs, native plants and animals, and sensitive coastal cultural sites.

The partnership will leverage NFWF’s extensive experience leading conservation efforts in Hawaii, including a record of success in deploying predator-proof fencing to protect critical ground-nesting sites for rare and endangered species such as the Hawaiian petrel.

“The techniques we develop here on Lāna‘i could help guide ridge-to-reef conservation efforts on other islands,” Matsumoto said. “We will be able to measure and document how various actions to remove invasive species and controlling sedimentation far up slope can improve coral health. Native Hawaiians practiced this form of land management, and we intend to use their example to guide us in healing the land and protecting our precious resources.

“The people of Lāna‘i understand and appreciate this holistic approach to restoring the natural landscape. As islanders, we know how closely connected we are to the land and wildlife and the sea, and how improvements made in one area can quickly generate benefits throughout the whole system.”



Arc-eye hawkfish
on branching coral
in Hawaiian waters

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the new partnership focused on Lanai, NFWF and its partners fund work on other Hawaiian islands that supports native corals, marine mammals, fish and birds.





Western long-eared bats

Deploying new tools to stem loss of bats

Tucked away in the darkness of caves, mineshafts and underpasses across America, an insidious killer continues to decimate one of North America's most fascinating, economically valuable and underappreciated wild animals: bats.

White-nose syndrome, a disease caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, ranks as one of the most urgent threats to wildlife in the United States. After its first detection in 2007 near Albany, New York, the fungus has quickly spread throughout the Appalachian region to Midwestern states, Canada, and, more recently, to Texas, South Dakota, California and Washington.

The fungus lurks and lingers in damp, dark places, attacking bats while they hibernate through the winter. The white, fuzzy fungus often covers a bat's face – hence the name – and causes them to behave erratically, burning energy they need to survive the winter.

Scientists estimate the disease has killed more than 6 million bats across the United States, with more dying every year.

“The losses are tremendous,” said Dr. Winifred Frick, chief scientist at Bat Conservation International. “This crisis isn't academic – these animals play a vital ecological role and contribute nearly \$4 billion worth of free insect control to U.S. agricultural efforts.

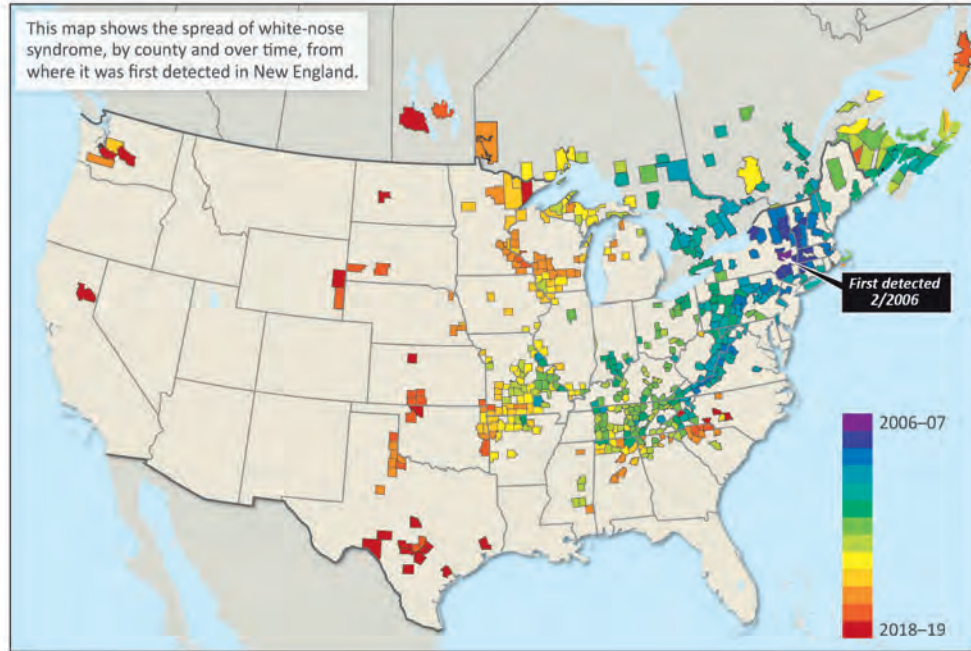
“White-nose disease represents a dire threat, not just in terms of wildlife conservation, but also for the country as a whole. We need to move quickly to halt the spread of the disease and turn things around for these amazing creatures.”

Working with a variety of public and private partners in 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NFWF created the Bats for the Future Fund to test and deploy



Big brown bat

SPREAD OF WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME OVER TIME



“With time running short for some species, we need to do all we can right now to reduce the damage from white-nose syndrome and conserve our native bats.”

— Dr. Jeremy Coleman, national white-nose syndrome coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

advanced techniques and tools to address this urgent conservation need.

During the fund’s most recent round of grant-making, completed in late 2018, the fund awarded more than \$1.1 million to combat white-nose syndrome. These awards leveraged more than \$900,000 in match from grantees, generating a total conservation impact of \$2 million.

Grant awards included nearly \$112,000 to Bat Conservation International. Researchers with the organization will test the effectiveness of two nontoxic agents, ultraviolet light and polyethylene glycol, in treating mine walls at the northern and southern edge of the disease’s advance.

Other grants supported through the fund will advance similarly cutting-edge techniques. One project will test automatic spray technology to apply liquid or gel treatment to bats as they fly into or out of roosts, then measure biomarkers to assess success rates. Another project will explore a gene silencing system, induced by a virus, to undermine the fungus causing white-nose syndrome. Yet another will assess the use of antifungal fumigants to treat bat hibernacula.

“White-nose syndrome poses a significant threat to bats in North America,” said Dr. Jeremy Coleman, national white-nose syndrome coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “If we can’t improve survival of susceptible species, we could see the extinction of some native bats.

“NFWF is playing a significant role by creating partnerships that leverage federal dollars to raise private funds to help support crucial frontline efforts. With time running short for some species, we need to do all we can right now to reduce the damage from white-nose syndrome and conserve our native bats.”

A researcher tests methods to destroy the fungal cause of white-nose syndrome.



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

NFWF's Bats for the Future Fund was launched in 2016. In early 2019, the Avangrid Foundation joined the public-private partnership.



Hawaiian monk seal



Building partnerships to fight marine debris

Good fishermen know that the fish and crustaceans we like to eat often inhabit the most complex marine environments: rocky bottoms and coral reefs, oyster beds, steep drop offs, and places where currents collide.

These same spots can be notoriously hard on gear, parting lines and tearing nets and pots from anchorages and buoys. This is when fishing gear, made especially durable in modern times, can start a second, more sinister life. Instead of catching regulated amounts of seafood to supply commercial markets, these derelict nets, traps, pots, hooks and lines begin to indiscriminately kill and maim marine life.

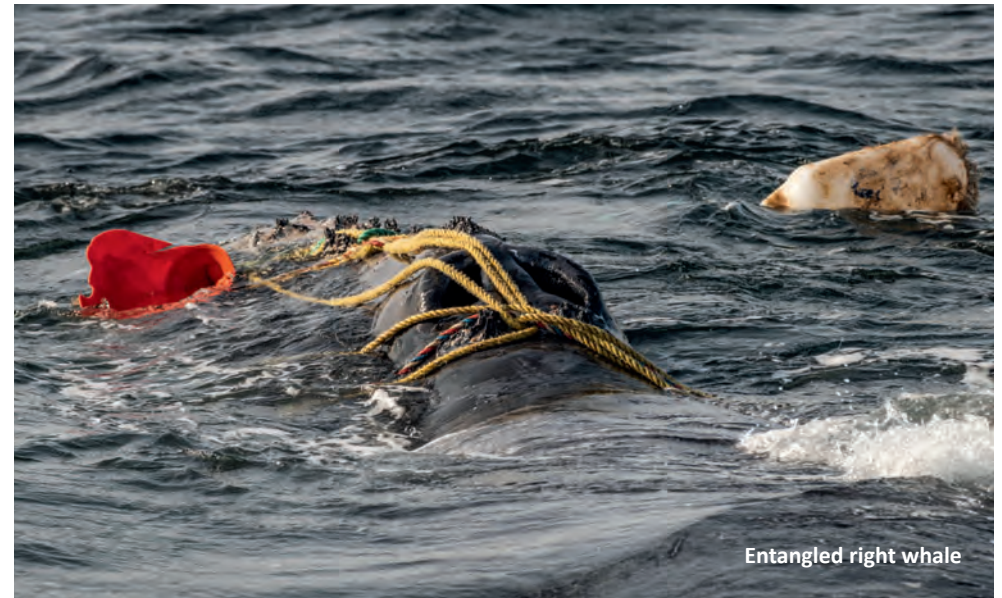
This “ghost fishing” phenomenon hurts local economies by robbing fishermen of potential catches and depleting economically important populations of fish and crabs.

Derelict gear also takes a terrible toll on wildlife, and not just the species most associated with fishing.

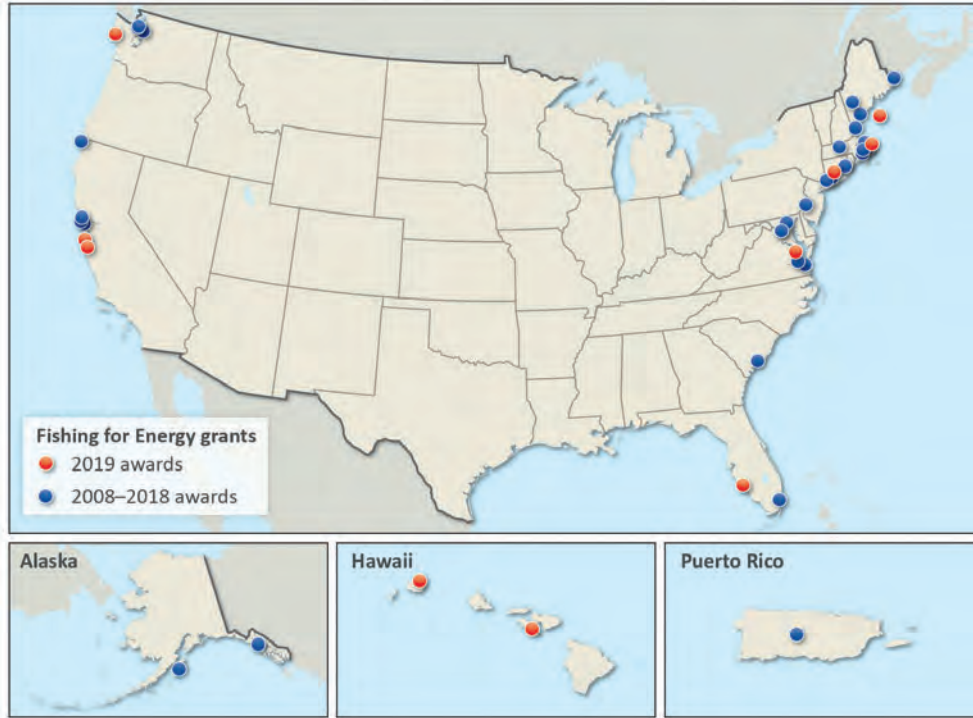
Off the coast of New England, derelict crab and lobster pots trap and kill lobsters and crabs that could otherwise support local economies. Along the northwest Hawaiian Islands, an estimated 50 metric tons of derelict nets wash up every year, damaging delicate coral reefs and endangering rare seabirds and seals.

All along the East Coast, errant ropes and buoys entangle North Atlantic right whales, an endangered species on the brink of extinction. In the straits of Puget Sound, rogue pots and nets can cost local communities an estimated \$750,000 each year in sales of dungeness crab.

“Marine species are facing enormous challenges all over the world: temperature increases, dead zones, and massive pollution from plastics and other sources,” said Nancy Wallace, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Marine Debris Program. “Derelict fishing gear is a threat that we can address,



FISHING FOR ENERGY PROJECTS



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, the Fishing for Energy program marked 10 years of conservation efforts to collect and recycle derelict fishing gear that otherwise could have become marine debris. In its first decade, the program has disposed of more than 4 million pounds of such gear, primarily by working directly with 55 U.S. fishing communities in 12 states to offer free solutions to recycle derelict and retired gear.



“Derelict fishing gear is a threat that we can address, right now, by removing what we can find and developing new technologies that can decrease the amount of lost gear entering marine environments. This is not something any one agency or group can fix alone. Success hinges on developing innovative public-private partnerships.”

— Nancy Wallace, director of the the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Marine Debris Program

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“This is not something any one agency or group can fix alone. Success hinges on developing innovative public-private partnerships.”

For more than a decade, NFWF’s Fishing for Energy program has provided a free solution to commercial anglers who want to dispose of and recycle old, derelict or unusable fishing gear. In total, this partnership between NFWF, Covanta, NOAA and Schnitzer Steel Industries has awarded \$3.9 million in grants to more than 52 projects in 20 U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

In September 2019, NFWF awarded nearly \$1.2 million grants expected to remove an estimated 330,000 pounds of derelict gear from the coastal waters of California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia and Washington, including two National Marine Sanctuaries.

These projects also will generate novel new solutions, including the development of an app for the public and commercial anglers to report sightings of derelict blue crab pots in the Chesapeake Bay. Another grant will fund efforts to test and deploy ropeless lift bags for lobster fishermen, which could serve as an alternative to vertical lines that can entangle endangered North Atlantic right whales.



Collecting derelict nets in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument



Transporting marine debris out of the national monument to a collection point in Honolulu, Hawaii (below)

One recent NFWF grant supported efforts by the University of Hawaii to target and remove derelict fishing gear within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument near Hawaii. Teams removed more than 164,000 pounds of marine debris, including 58,000 pounds pulled from coral reef environments and another 106,000 pounds from shorelines.





Black-crowned night heron

Investing in people, water and wildlife

Too much or too little can be deadly. It can build up landscapes or carry them away. It can transport life-giving resources just as easily as pollution and invasive species. Sometimes good, sometimes bad, but always essential – water rules the lives of people and wildlife.

Throughout human history, a community's prosperity has depended in large part on its ability to adapt to and manage the quantity and quality of water flowing through it. This age-old challenge continues today across the United States, made more daunting by urban development, increasing demand for fresh water and changing environmental conditions.

NFWF supports new and innovative efforts to address this urgent need by empowering businesses and residents to work together to reduce urban runoff and mitigate the risk of floods in ways that bolster wildlife populations and increase public access to natural areas and parks.

A particularly effective example of such public-private partnerships can be found in southeast Michigan, where an enthusiastic team of conservation nonprofits, businesses and community leaders is working to improve degraded natural habitats and deploy the latest innovations in "green infrastructure" to filter urban runoff and handle heavy flows during intense storms.

There, in a landscape that alternates between farm fields, suburbs and big cities, workers are building retention ponds, rain gardens and bioswales that capture stormwater runoff and allow excess nutrients to be used by native vegetation. They are removing impervious surfaces that would otherwise send polluted runoff rushing into overloaded storm drains and, eventually, the Great Lakes. They are installing green roofs that collect rainwater and advance techniques for ecologically sustainable development.



A brown-belted bumble bee (left) and lemon cuckoo bumble bee in Michigan

PROJECTS BENEFITING WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES



“Some of the most effective places to do this type of conservation work are also the same places people go to get outside, connect with nature and hopefully learn about the importance of conservation.”

— Sarah Clark, director of land and water at Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund was launched in late 2018 to increase resilience by reducing the impact of stormwater, improving water quality, enhancing habitat, and increasing public green space.



The Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund, a collaboration between NFWF and a number of corporate, foundation and federal partners, awarded approximately \$1.5 million in grants in 2019 that will leverage \$2.5 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$4 million.

“Some of the most effective places to do this type of conservation work are also the same places people go to get outside, connect with nature and hopefully learn about the importance of conservation,” said Sarah Clark, director of land and water at Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision. NFWF awarded Clark’s group a \$300,000 grant to plant 200 trees, build green roofs and rain gardens, and remove nearly 3 acres of impervious surfaces.

“Through this work, we expect to engage about 3,000 community members, a critical step in boosting community-based stewardship of natural resources.”

In all, these investments will add more than 2.4 million gallons of stormwater storage in the region, providing relief to an area suffering from increasingly intense flooding.

“What we are seeing here in southeastern Michigan could serve as a model for conservation for other areas of the country,” said Dr. Neil Hawkins, president of the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, one of the program’s funding partners. “It’s the ultimate win-win scenario. We’re giving flood waters a place to go, we’re filtering pollutants from urban runoff, and we’re enhancing critical pockets of habitat for songbirds, pollinators and other types of wildlife.”



Black-capped chickadee



Great spangled fritillary



NFWF's investments in southeast Michigan focus on engaging people in conservation, protecting wildlife habitat and managing stormwater through rain gardens and other natural infrastructure.

Loggerhead hatchling
on Florida's Gulf Coast



Dimming the lights for a brighter future

Luckily for sea turtles, property owners along Florida’s Gulf Coast aren’t afraid of the dark.

Over the past five years, and thanks to nearly \$10 million from NFWF’s Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the Sea Turtle Conservancy has retrofitted 130 homes and businesses on the coast with dimmer lighting that is safe for sea turtles. Altogether, these projects have replaced more than 13,000 bulbs and darkened nearly 18 miles of prime nesting habitat for sea turtles.

“Sea turtle hatchlings instinctively move toward the brightest part of a beach – the white surf line or the light from the stars and moon reflecting on the sea,” said David Godfrey, executive director of the Sea Turtle Conservancy. “The glare of white light from human activities farther inland can confuse hatchlings emerging from their nests, as well as adult turtles coming ashore to nest. Disoriented turtles can wander up onto roads or get lost in the dunes, eventually succumbing to vehicles, predators or the elements.

“Properly shielding lights and using wavelengths that appear amber or red in color can prevent baby sea turtles from getting confused and heading toward human development as they emerge from nests at night,” Godfrey said. “Fortunately, turtle-safe lighting can also be designed to provide people with plenty of light where it’s needed for safety and security.”

For decades, NFWF and its public and private partners have led efforts to implement lighting projects that benefit sea turtles along the East Coast. Thanks to its work through the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, established in the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, NFWF has worked with grantees such as the Sea Turtle Conservancy to expand these efforts at critical nesting beach sites along the Gulf of Mexico.

At many retrofit locations, biologists have recorded dramatic and immediate results.



This photo illustration shows the tracks of about six disoriented sea turtle hatchlings in Florida





“In conservation terms, we get a lot of bang for the buck from these lighting projects. ... we really can generate amazing results by working with property owners who understand the issue and volunteer to let us help them retrofit lighting systems.”

— *David Godfrey, executive director of the Sea Turtle Conservancy*

At one site, disorientation rates dropped from 50 percent of nests in 2016 to zero in 2018. At nine other properties retrofitted on St. George Island, the average disorientation rate decreased by 100 percent in 2016. Two years later, the disorientation rate remained at zero. Given the average nesting numbers, it is estimated that these efforts have helped thousands of sea turtle hatchlings that otherwise would have been disoriented by lights to find their way to the ocean.

“In conservation terms, we get a lot of bang for the buck from these lighting projects, especially when combined with predator control and restoration of nesting beaches, which NFWF is also supporting,” Godfrey said. “Sea turtle disorientation is a phenomenon we understand well, and though the causes aren’t always easy to address, we really can generate amazing results by working with property owners who understand the issue and volunteer to let us help them retrofit lighting systems.”

“This is especially important along the Gulf of Mexico, where sea turtles took a significant hit during and after the 2010 oil spill. Some species, especially loggerhead turtles, were beginning to show encouraging signs of recovery when that tragedy occurred.”

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund was created in 2013 to receive and administer funds resulting from plea agreements between the U.S. Department of Justice and BP and Transocean resolving certain criminal charges following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Provisions within the agreements directed a total of \$2.54 billion to be used to support projects benefiting natural resources in the Gulf States.

From 2013 to 2019, NFWF has awarded more than \$1.4 billion to landscape-scale conservation projects identified as high priorities by state officials in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.



Green sea turtle off
Florida's Gulf Coast

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(in millions of dollars, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019)

	2019	2018
REVENUE, EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS		
Total Revenue and Support	\$298.8	\$303.8
Total Expenses	\$284.4	\$293.3
Change in Net Assets	\$14.4	\$10.5
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$228.3	\$217.8
Net Assets, end of year	\$242.7	\$228.3

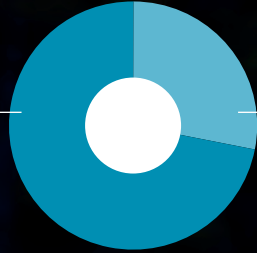
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in millions of dollars, as of September 30, 2019)

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$2,797.5	\$2,729.9
Other Assets	\$51.1	\$57.4
Total Assets	\$2,848.6	\$2,787.3
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$2,605.9	\$2,559.0
Net Assets	\$242.7	\$228.3
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,848.6	\$2,787.3

TOTAL REVENUE
\$298,818,291

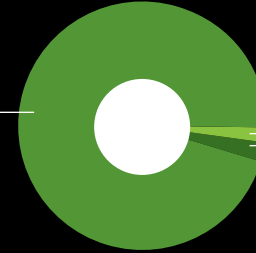
Non-Federal/Other **69%**
\$206,027,886



Federal **31%**
\$92,790,405

USE OF FUNDS
\$284,414,617

Program/Mission **96.0%**
\$273,149,386



Fundraising **1.5%**
\$4,232,722

Management and
General **2.5%**
\$7,032,509



Rocky Mountain elk

PARTNERS

NFWF works with both the public and private sectors to protect and restore the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations.

NFWF matches private dollars with public funds and uses science-based conservation and competitive grant programs to direct those resources to projects that produce the greatest measurable results for wildlife.

The Foundation neither advocates nor litigates, but instead focuses on bringing all parties to the table for conservation, from government agencies and corporations to private landowners, nonprofits, ranchers, farmers, volunteers, hunters and anglers.



Barred owl

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 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 nationally focused collaboration at the intersection of corporate responsibility and conservation need. Working now to restore the Chesapeake Bay, Columbia and Cumberland Rivers, and aquatic ecosystems across the southeastern United States, the partnership has leveraged nearly \$14 million in Altria funding into more than \$124 million in total conservation impact and water conservation outcomes measured in billions of gallons annually.



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



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 and NFWF began working together to restore the health of the Great Lakes basin in 2007. ArcelorMittal 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 45,000 acres of critical habitat and reconnected more than 2,100 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 236 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.



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



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



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 300,000 acres of critical 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.



Black bear cubs



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 has awarded \$3.9 million in grants to more than 52 projects in 20 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, and partners have collected more than 4 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.



In partnership with NFWF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **Enbridge** supports the National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program, with a focus on Michigan, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin. The National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program supports local organizations working to be effective co-stewards of important natural resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System.



FedEx and NFWF began working together to fund community-based conservation projects in 12 U.S. cities through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program in 2009. 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 nearly 600 FedEx volunteers along with 45,021 community members to restore 589,876 acres of habitat and plant 328,746 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 great accomplishments, including restoring more than 1 million acres of longleaf pine through the Longleaf Stewardship Fund. 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.



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.



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



Occidental

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.



Gopher tortoise



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 ahupuaʻa 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.



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



Wood thrush



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 five years, the program has awarded 30 grants totaling \$3.35 million, drawing an additional \$4.1 million in grantee match for a total conservation impact of more than \$7.4 million. Collaborative efforts are already making new discoveries and connections in all three priority strategies, including the coordination of more than 20 salmonid research efforts, investigations into hatchery management and killer whale nutritional health to prioritize specific salmon runs for restoration.



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, the value generated by the more than 330 projects funded by Shell and other sponsors exceeds \$134 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.



Southern Company and NFWF began working together in support of longleaf pine restoration as far back as 2003. Over 17 years, the partnership has evolved into one of the premier examples of public-private partnerships helping to support critical wildlife needs across large landscapes. That work, while originally focused on the core operating company territories in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi, now mirrors the makeup of the growing Southern Company, touching geographies outside of that original core. The partnership has been central to some of NFWF's biggest accomplishments, including restoring more than 1 million acres of longleaf under the Longleaf Stewardship Fund and building community stewardship capacity through the Five-Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts focused on longleaf pine, the Atlantic Flyway, Gulf Coast resilience, and bats.



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.



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 nearly 1.5 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 20,000 community members and restore more than 13,000 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.



Killer whale



Rainbow shiners

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. Recently, the partnership began to focus 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 primarily on the longleaf pine ecosystem throughout the Southeast. Longleaf habitat supports the conservation of sensitive species off-base and creates important natural buffers around military bases. The partnership also supports multiagency recovery efforts in Southern California to benefit a host of riparian-dependent species. Together, these outcomes support military training and readiness goals.



NFWF works with the **U.S. Navy** to support operations of the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii. The partnership aims to improve the ecological status of three Pacific seabird species that utilize the base through management actions off-installation. Funding is being used to protect and enhance seabird colonies enabling long-term recovery of the birds and improved operations at the base. The partnership builds off a successful effort with the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Installations East – USMC Base Camp Lejeune to manage two off-base longleaf pine habitat restoration projects in coastal North Carolina.



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.



The **Bureau of Land Management** partners with NFWF to encourage restoration of our nation's public lands. The partnership focuses on improving the quality of western grasslands and the sage ecosystem to benefit local ranching communities and the wildlife that depend on those habitats. Recently, the partnership has seen

an increased focus on 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 that depend on the health of these landscapes.



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 and species, from mule deer and pronghorn to turtles, shorebirds, bats and native fish. NFWF raises private-sector funds to amplify and complement the federal agency's conservation efforts across the nation, on both public and private lands. FWS provides funding support to a broad range of NFWF conservation programs, and staff at both organizations work closely together to make sure conservation dollars are invested in the projects and places where they will do the most good.



NFWF and the **U.S. Geological Survey** launched a three-year partnership in 2016 to support recovery of pollinators. NFWF continues to manage the selected projects. The partnership supports research on restoration of monarch butterfly populations and pollinator habitat through NFWF's

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



NFWF works with the **Bureau of Reclamation** (Reclamation) within three defined watersheds. The most recent partnership is in New Mexico on the Middle Rio Grande watershed. NFWF and Reclamation are working with the local irrigation district and landowners to pilot voluntary water leasing and other innovative conservation solutions that support the needs of the farming and ranching community. NFWF 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.



In fiscal year 2019, NFWF entered into its first direct partnership with the **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection** (CAL FIRE). The collaboration focused on increasing community safety, improving early successional habitat for wildlife and plants, and enhancing watershed health near Yreka in Northern California. The fuels management effort is a collaboration between NFWF, CAL FIRE, and the U.S. Forest Service.

In 2019, NFWF also worked with the following agencies:

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



Black-footed ferrets

Eastern hellbender



FOUNDATION PARTNERS

NFWF works with many foundations to advance conservation across the country. These foundations actively supported NFWF conservation programs in 2019.



American Forest Foundation

The **American Forest Foundation** 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.

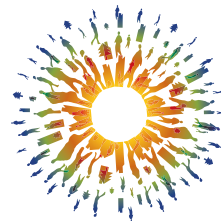
The Searle Funds

at The Chicago Community Trust

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

The **Crown Family** 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.



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.

The Joyce Foundation

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.



KINGFISHER

The **Kingfisher Foundation** supports the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program, which aims to develop and implement electronic technology 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.



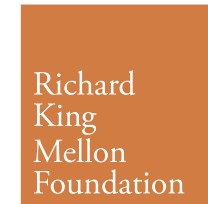
The **Orton Foundation**, an affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation, founded by Louis Bacon, supports the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, which expands, enhances and accelerates longleaf pine ecosystem restoration across longleaf pine’s historical range.



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.



Cerulean warbler

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



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.

William Penn
WILLIAM PENN
FOUNDATION

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.



Sockeye salmon

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ON THE COVERS: Eastern brook trout
in North Carolina (front) and mule deer
in Montana (back)

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