NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is dedicated to sustaining, restoring and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations.

NFWF will advance its mission through innovative public and private partnerships, and by investing financial resources and intellectual capital into science-based programs designed to address conservation priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

Bighorn sheep in Montana

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Chairman's Message

J. MICHAEL CLINE
CHAIRMAN, NFWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Moving fast and scaling up — this was the story of 2022 at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). It was a year of great challenges, to be sure, but also a year of unprecedented opportunities for conservation across the nation.

I am proud to report that NFWF experienced record growth in fiscal year 2022, with national conservation investments reaching unprecedented levels. The Foundation and its funding partners invested $414.4 million to support 841 conservation projects across the nation.

This represents an increase of $100 million over the previous fiscal year, or nearly 25 percent.

Moreover, when you add in matching contributions from grantees, the total conservation impact of these projects topped $734 million.

The real-world benefits of these investments cascade well beyond wildlife populations and natural habitats. The projects NFWF and its partners funded in 2022 will strengthen communities of all kinds by providing immediate improvements to quality of life and a reduction of risks associated with flooding, pollution and wildfires. The landscape-scale investments we make today will bolster the resilience of cities, towns, rural areas and Tribal communities for generations to come.

MOVING FAST

All of us at NFWF, along with our partners and grantees, remain united in the knowledge and conviction that we must act quickly to stop and reverse the ongoing and devastating loss of wildlife and natural habitats.

Here in the United States, over a third of our fish and wildlife species now face the risk of extinction. Globally, we lost nearly 70 percent of wildlife populations between 1970 and 2018, according to recent studies.

Every day, our nation loses more irreplaceable grasslands, forests and coastal habitats to development or disaster. Wildlife migrations are disrupted, nesting grounds lost, fresh water diverted, marine habitats polluted by plastic debris and derelict fishing gear. Increasingly destructive storms, floods, droughts and wildfires pose acute risks in the short term, while atmospheric CO_2 levels, climbing temperatures and rising sea levels pose existential threats over the long term.

To give wildlife populations, natural habitats and human communities the strength and resilience they need to survive and thrive in an uncertain future, we must do everything we can, today.

Throughout 2022, NFWF moved quickly to leverage and expand existing funding opportunities and conservation efforts. NFWF programs focused on coastal resilience continued to grow while awarding game-changing slates of grants. The Foundation's Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund awarded $25.2 million in fiscal year 2022, and the National Coastal Resilience Fund awarded more than $50.1 million. Long-running NFWF conservation programs focused on major watersheds such as the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes and Long Island Sound also grew in 2022, as did established conservation programs in the Great Plains, longleaf forests of the Southeast, high deserts of the Southwest, fire-prone forests of California, and everywhere in between.

The Foundation also moved quickly to build and launch major new conservation partnerships and programs. Early in the fiscal year, NFWF announced that the Bezos Earth Fund had awarded $30 million to the Foundation to support projects that advance carbon goals to mitigate climate change, conserve wildlife biodiversity and boost the resilience of communities across the nation. By the end of 2022, this new partnership had already funded 124 conservation projects in 47 states and Puerto Rico.

In December 2022, NFWF announced a second round of funding from the Bezos Earth Fund. This new award of $30 million will support projects focused on conservation of longleaf pine forests in the Southeast and native grasslands in the Northern Great Plains, both habitats that hold tremendous potential to sequester carbon at the scale necessary to have a measurable impact.

In May 2022, NFWF announced another major conservation initiative. The new America the Beautiful Challenge consolidated funding from multiple federal agencies and the private sector to invest in the restoration of watersheds, forests and grasslands while also strengthening community resilience, equitable access to the outdoors and workforce development. Just six months later, the Foundation announced the award of nearly $91 million in grants to conservation projects in 42 states and three U.S. territories.

To quickly deploy this amount of new conservation funding to highly vetted, cost-effective projects, NFWF leveraged its competitive grant-making processes, deep relationships with on-the-ground conservation implementers and leadership role as the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker.

SCALING UP

To successfully address the challenges we face, we must not only move quickly; we also must act at a much larger scale and rapidly expand our nation's capacity to conduct cost-effective, large-scale conservation projects. We need more nonprofits, agencies, businesses and individuals working hard, every day, to advance the science and practice of conservation.

Throughout 2022, NFWF continued to provide bedrock support to many of the nation's largest and most effective conservation nonprofits, including The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and other vital conservation groups.

The conservation nonprofit community remains one of our nation's most powerful forces for positive change, bridging gaps between the public and private sectors and working closely at a local level with landowners and natural resource managers. NFWF's investments in 2022 helped these nonprofits take on bigger projects, protect more lands, improve more habitats, and solve problems that might have seemed intractable just a year ago.

Throughout 2022, NFWF also focused on engaging a larger and more diverse group of stakeholders in conservation. NFWF awarded grants to an array of first-time grantees, including municipal, county and state government agencies that lacked the resources to plan and implement vital and large-scale conservation and resilience projects.

NFWF also deepened its existing working relationships with Tribes on the East and West coasts, as well as those managing vast tracts of native grasslands in the Great Plains.

NFWF's grant-making also involved more stakeholders in the agricultural sector, including grazing coalitions, food industry leaders and nonprofits working with conservation-minded landowners to improve soil health, reduce runoff and preserve working lands vital to wildlife.

The Foundation broadened its support for forestland owners of all types, from federal and state agencies to private landowners. NFWF's grantees helped these stakeholders better manage forests and keep vast timberlands healthy and intact.

MORE TO COME IN 2023!

The Foundation's strong performance in fiscal year 2022 pushed the total conservation impact of projects supported by NFWF since its founding by Congress in 1984 to nearly $8.1 billion. Over nearly 40 years, the Foundation has funded more than 21,680 projects undertaken by more than 6,000 grantee organizations.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the extraordinary efforts of our funding partners, grantees, staff and board of directors. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them for their tenacity, their professionalism, and their dedication to sustaining and enhancing our nation's wildlife populations and natural habitats.

All of us here at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation look forward to working with our conservation partners, old and new, throughout 2023. Working together, we can build a better future.

About NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker and one of its most trusted, dependable and effective conservation leaders.

NFWF is a private, independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining, restoring and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations. The Foundation was created by Congress in 1984 — and reauthorized in 2020 by a unanimous vote of the Senate and the House — to build public-private partnerships that increase the resources available for conservation in order to advance the science and practice of conservation throughout the United States.

NFWF is governed by a 30-member Board of Directors appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Foundation uses public funding as a springboard to build new partnerships with major corporations, philanthropic foundations and individual donors to fund landscape-scale conservation projects based on sound science and designed to produce measurable results. NFWF supports projects that draw voluntary participation by landowners, community leaders and natural resource managers across the nation.

NFWF's staff provides unrivaled expertise in the implementation of competitive grant programs, maximization of conservation returns on philanthropic investments, and analysis of results on the ground. The Foundation bridges the gap between corporate and federal leaders focused on resilience and sustainability and the conservation professionals working every day to develop nature-based solutions that sequester carbon and mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

The Foundation does not fund advocacy or litigation, and does not conduct membership campaigns. Instead, NFWF remains sharply focused on building public-private partnerships that support highly vetted, on-the-ground conservation projects. In fiscal year 2022, NFWF invested nearly 97 percent of its revenue into conservation programs, and approximately 3 percent on management and fundraising.

Over the past 39 years, NFWF has funded more than 21,680 projects and supported more than 6,000 grantee organizations. The Foundation's investments since its founding have leveraged matching contributions from grantees and other partners to generate a total conservation impact of **$8.1 billion**.

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

Manatee
in Florida

NFWF

FISCAL YEAR 2022

$734.2 MILLION

TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT
NFWF's investments and grantee match in fiscal year 2022

$414.4 MILLION INVESTED BY NFWF
The Foundation awarded $226.6 million in federal funds and $56.9 million in private contributions. NFWF also awarded $130.9 million in Impact-Directed Environmental Account funds, including $113 million from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

$319.8 MILLION IN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS
Investments made by our grantees

841 PROJECTS
Across most states and U.S. territories

1984–2022

$8.1 BILLION

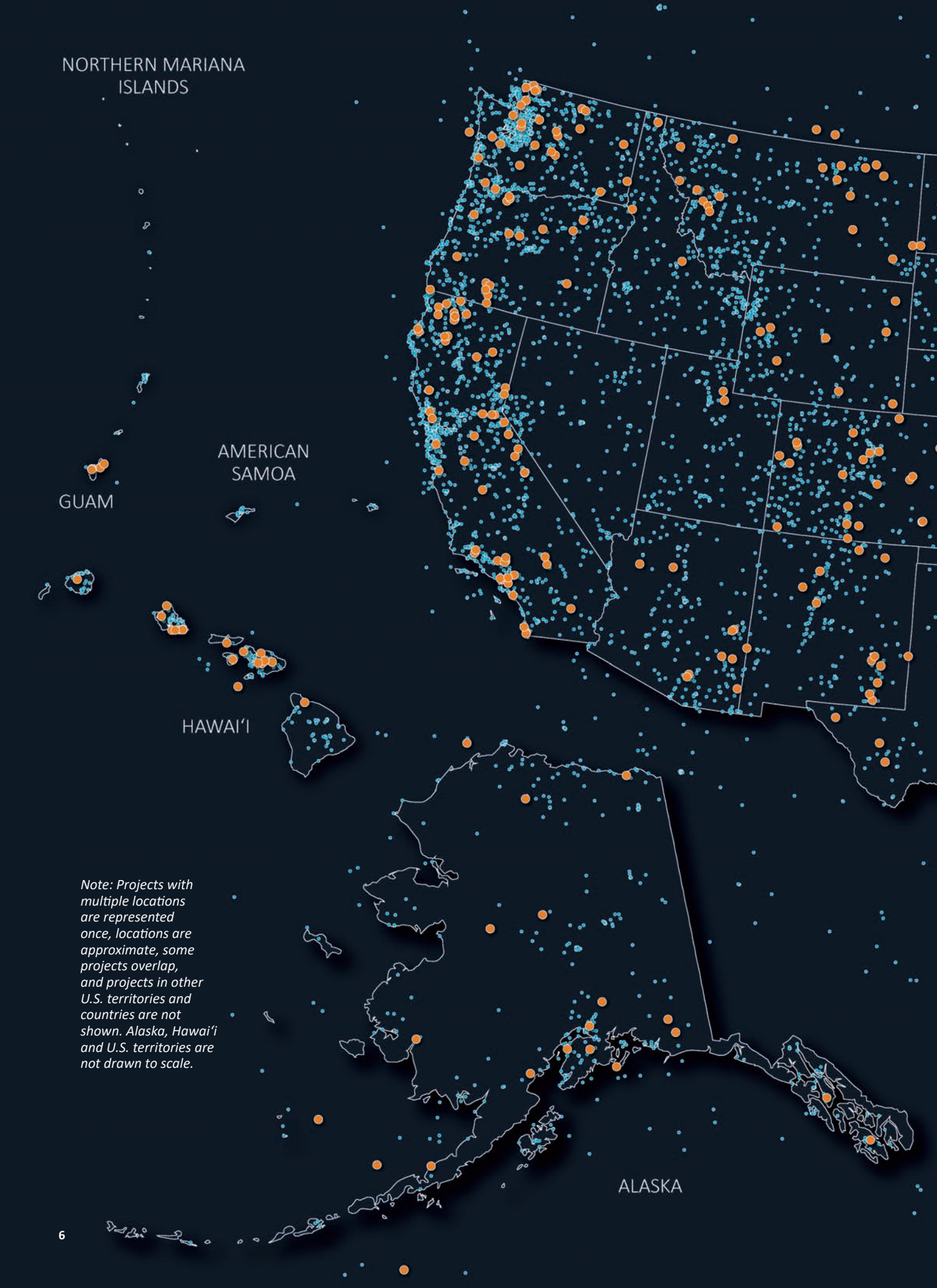
TOTAL CONSERVATION IMPACT
NFWF's investments and grantee match since its founding by Congress in 1984

21,680+

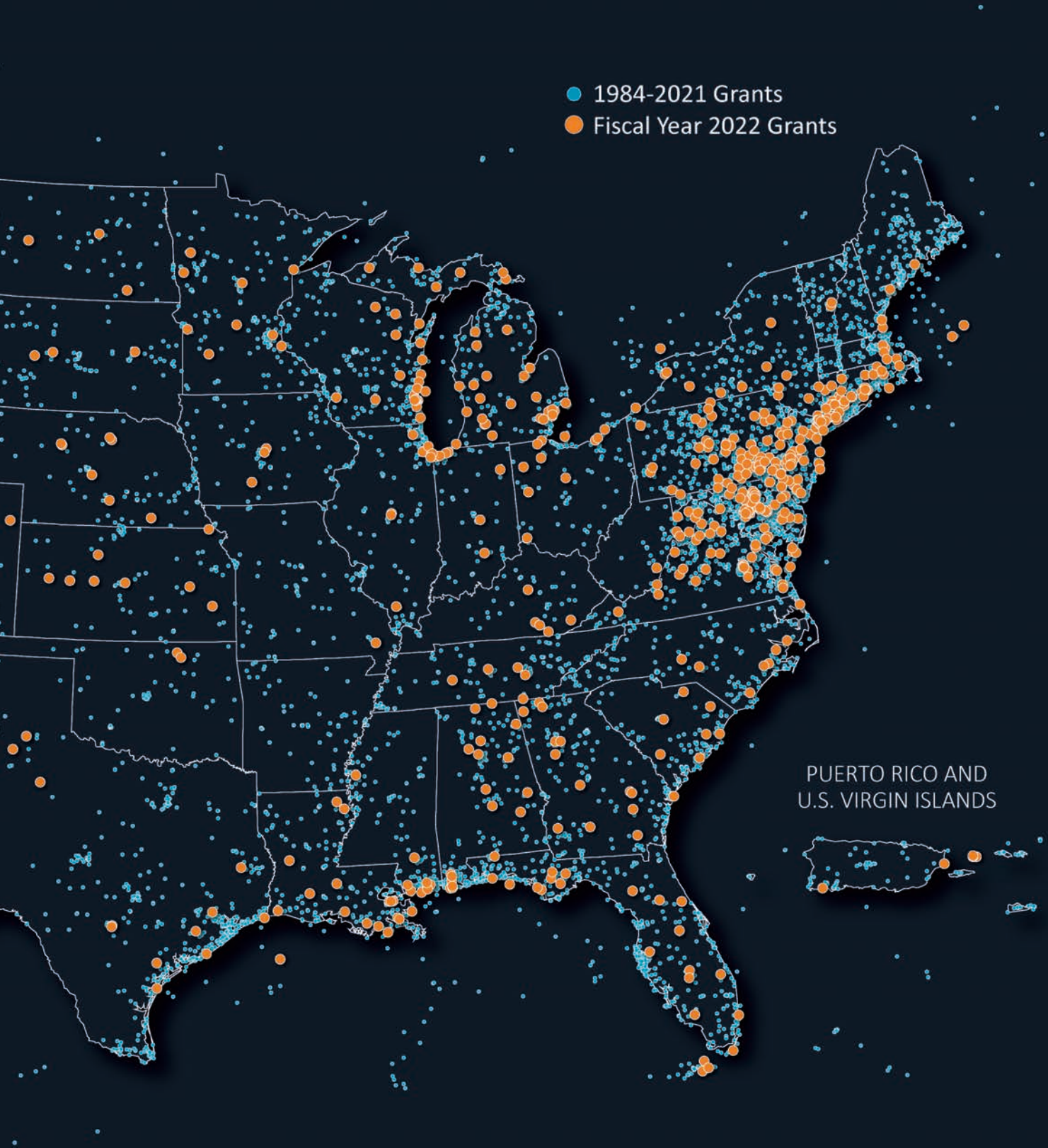
Projects funded throughout all states and U.S. territories

6,000+

Grantee organizations funded throughout all states and U.S. territories



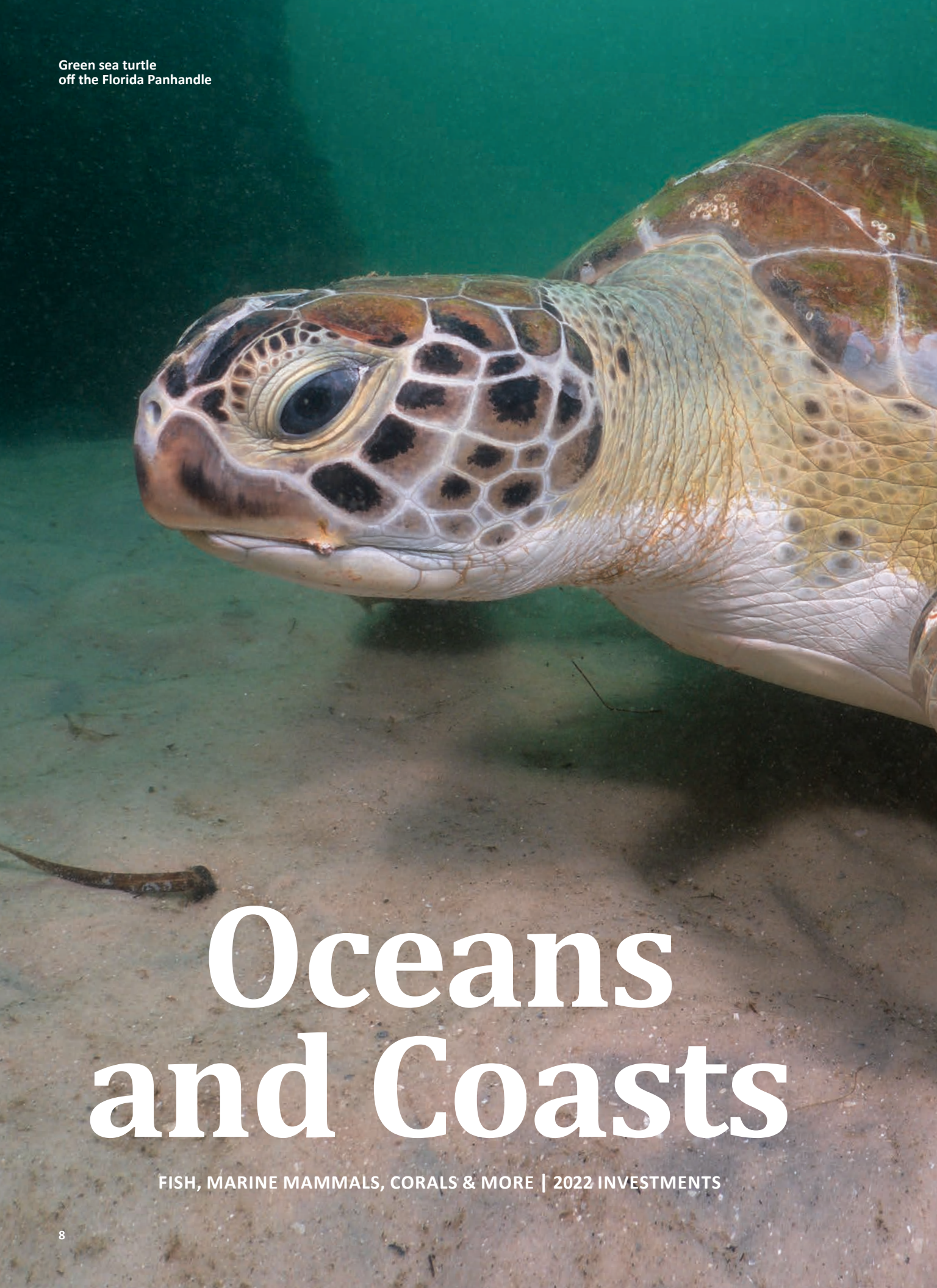
Note: Projects with multiple locations are represented once, locations are approximate, some projects overlap, and projects in other U.S. territories and countries are not shown. Alaska, Hawaiʻi and U.S. territories are not drawn to scale.



WHERE WE WORK

NFWF has funded conservation projects in all 50 states and U.S. territories, more than 21,680 since our founding in 1984. Our effectiveness depends in large part on our ability to identify and quickly take advantage of voluntary conservation opportunities whenever they arise – public or private lands, urban or rural areas, marine or terrestrial environments, specific locations or broad landscapes.

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



Green sea turtle
off the Florida Panhandle

Oceans and Coasts

FISH, MARINE MAMMALS, CORALS & MORE | 2022 INVESTMENTS

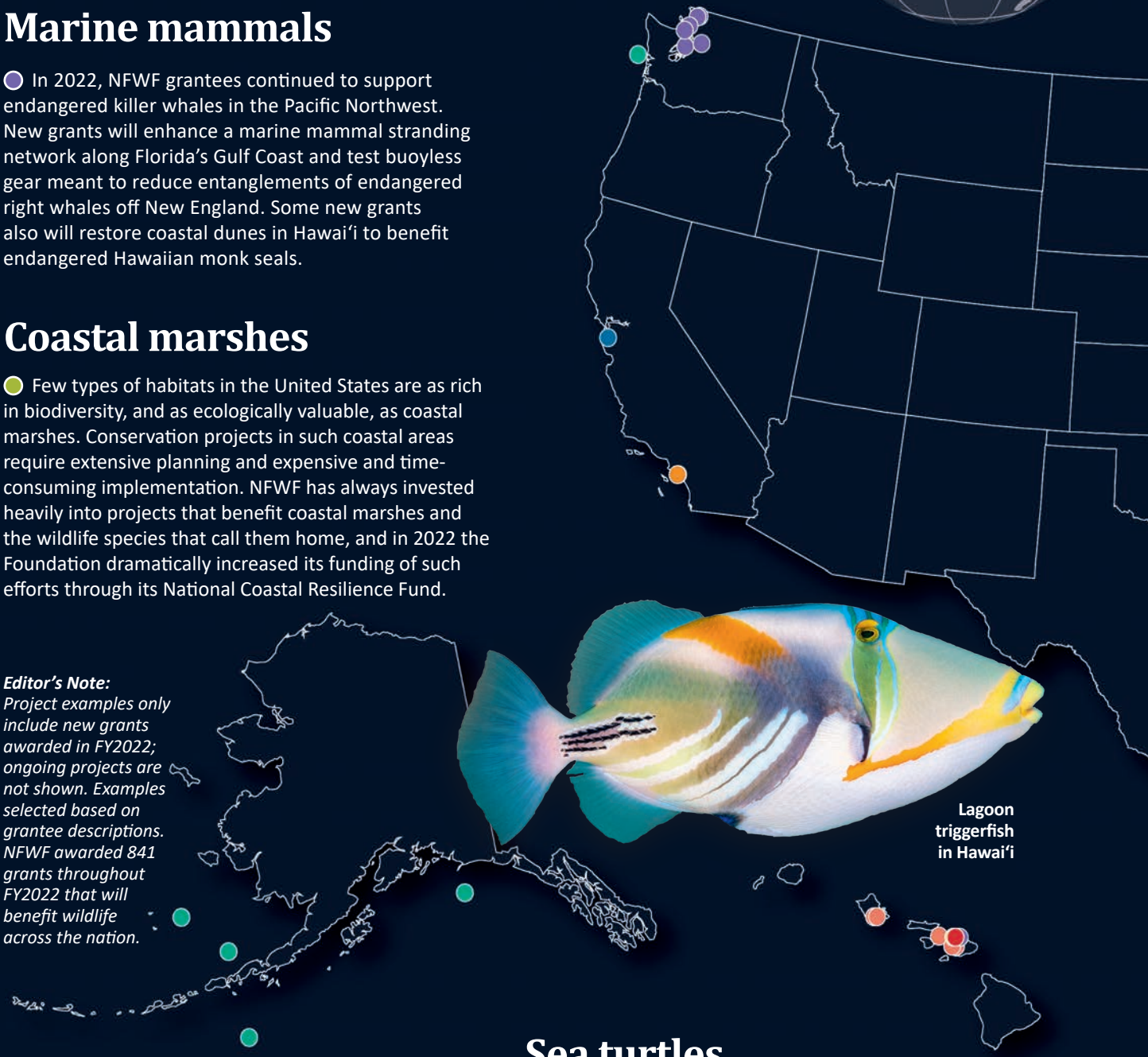
Fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and corals

Marine mammals

In 2022, NFWF grantees continued to support endangered killer whales in the Pacific Northwest. New grants will enhance a marine mammal stranding network along Florida's Gulf Coast and test buoyless gear meant to reduce entanglements of endangered right whales off New England. Some new grants also will restore coastal dunes in Hawai'i to benefit endangered Hawaiian monk seals.

Coastal marshes

Few types of habitats in the United States are as rich in biodiversity, and as ecologically valuable, as coastal marshes. Conservation projects in such coastal areas require extensive planning and expensive and time-consuming implementation. NFWF has always invested heavily into projects that benefit coastal marshes and the wildlife species that call them home, and in 2022 the Foundation dramatically increased its funding of such efforts through its National Coastal Resilience Fund.



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Lagoon triggerfish in Hawai'i

Fisheries management

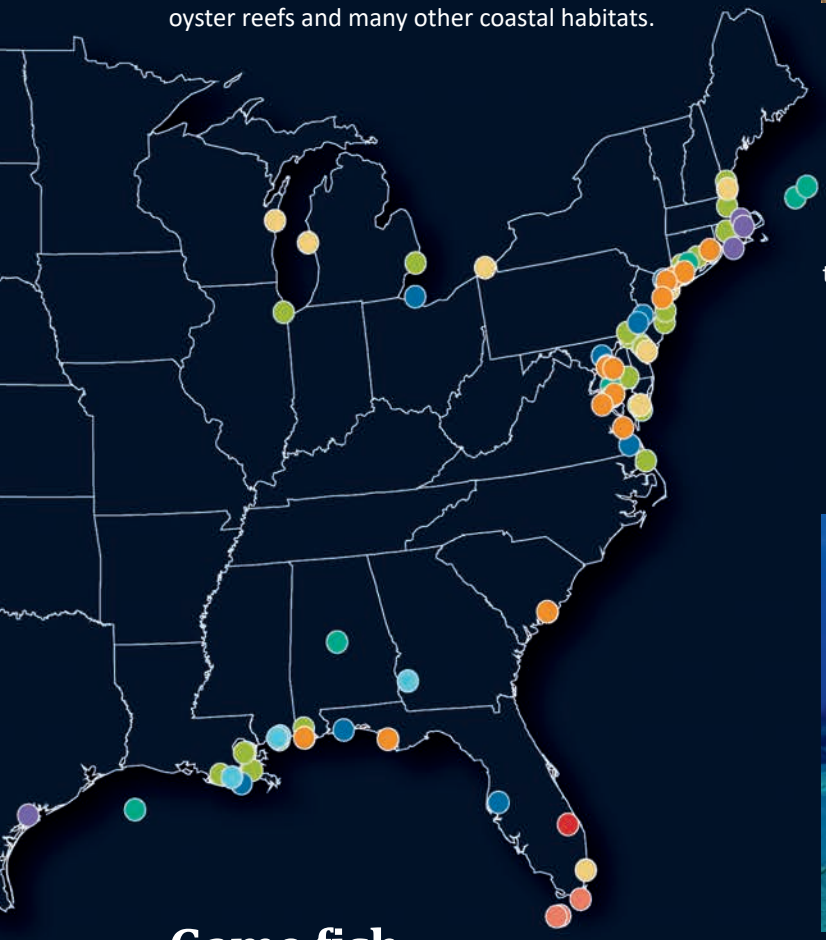
NFWF grantees will improve data quality in the Gulf of Alaska pollock trawl fishery, develop an artificial-intelligence discard chute for the New England groundfish fishery, modernize management of the dungeness crab fishery in Washington, reduce seabird bycatch in Pacific longline fisheries and remove derelict fishing gear from Long Island Sound.

Sea turtles

Throughout 2022, NFWF managed and monitored active grants supporting sea turtle conservation along the coasts of the United States and its territories. New awards made in 2022 will enable grantees to decrease light pollution at nesting sites along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida, rebuild dune habitat in Hawai'i, and address critical and immediate threats to sea turtle survival in Peru, El Salvador and Haiti.

Living shorelines

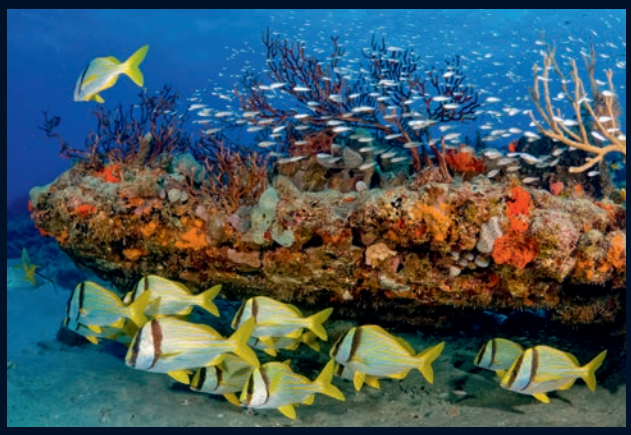
NFWF's 2022 grant-making ramped up the Foundation's investments in living shorelines, which are artificial structures created with natural materials to help fight erosion, restore coastal habitats and serve as first line of defense against storm surge and rising sea levels. These examples of "nature-based infrastructure" offer protection not just to coastal communities, but also to saltmarshes, freshwater wetlands, tidal creeks, oyster reefs and many other coastal habitats.



Frillfin goby sheltering in an oyster shell

Oysters

Conservation investments focused on oysters pay dividends not only in improved marine habitats, but also in overall water quality and protection to coastal communities during storms. Grants awarded in 2022 will support projects designed to enhance existing reefs and other oyster habitats in Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina and Virginia.



Porkfish and silversides schooling at a coral reef off Florida

Game fish

More than $10.5 million in awards from NFWF's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund will expand artificial reefs along Mississippi's coast, creating habitat for game fish such as red drum, speckled seatrout and sheepshead. Other projects focused on tidal habitats for game fish will unfold off Georgia, Louisiana and other states.

Coral reefs

New grants awarded in 2022 will fuel a wide-ranging portfolio of projects to reduce urban and agricultural runoff that can severely degrade coral reefs. Grantees also will remove large-scale debris from the reefs of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and rescue 77 at risk coral colonies from a planned dredging area in Hawai'i. Other grantees will expand capacity at coral nurseries in Florida and Puerto Rico; another grantee will strengthen coral restoration efforts in Guam.

Dunes and beaches

Some of the largest dune restoration projects that NFWF funded in 2022 will take place along the Rockaway Waterfront Dunes in New York, the Great Marsh System of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, vital beach nesting areas for birds and seals in Hawai'i, and at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

Pink salmon in Alaska

Seeding kelp farms to protect salmon, people and climate

Dune Lankard can think like a fish — he's had a lot of practice. Born into a fishing family in south-central Alaska, Lankard has spent his entire life as a subsistence and commercial fisherman.

This Alaska Native's life, family and culture are all deeply connected to marine habitats and the sustenance they provide, especially salmon. This coastal bounty includes — and, in fact, depends on — kelp.

"Kelp is an important thing to have in our oceans," Lankard said. "Not only does it sequester carbon, but it creates habitat cover for all of the juvenile species that wouldn't make it if they didn't have that kelp forest to hide in."

Watch a video about this project at **nfwf.org/videos**

Lankard serves as the executive director of a nonprofit called the Native Conservancy. He and other local leaders are rallying to help entrepreneurs launch kelp farms along the coast of Alaska to benefit Pacific salmon, people and the climate.

"For an indigenous person, it's a wonderful food source, because it has numerous nutrients and 14 different vitamins. Some kelp species have 10 times more calcium than milk."

In 2022, NFWF awarded a grant to the Native Conservancy to develop 20 kelp farms along 6,400 miles of coastline, train a local workforce to steward the kelp beds, and provide internships for young Alaska Natives.

"As a fisherman, I'm really concerned about the state of the ocean," Lankard said, "and I'm really happy that kelp can help."

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, BEZOS EARTH FUND

Squirrelfish and bluehead wrasse schooling at a coral reef off Puerto Rico

Moving fast to defend corals, in Puerto Rico and beyond

In August 2022, a sailboat ran aground on a coral reef off southwest Puerto Rico. A salvage company attempted to remove the boat, but the damaged vessel sunk to a lower section of reef dominated by mountainous star coral, a species listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

The whole sailboat — including mast, sails and ropes — hovered just over the sea floor. The wreckage rose and fell with each wave, crushing the corals.

To prevent further damage to the reef, NFWF awarded an emergency grant under a new partnership with NOAA to help fund the vessel's quick removal. The wreckage was removed just in the nick of time. On September 16, 2022, the eye of Hurricane Fiona crashed into the southwestern coast of Puerto Rico, bringing another round of destruction to an island still recovering from hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

"Had that vessel still been on the reef, wave action and storm surge from Hurricane Fiona would have drug it along, creating a path of destruction along those reefs," said Jennifer Koss, director of NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program. "This shows why speed and flexibility in funding are key to preparing for and responding to increasingly destructive natural disasters."

After the storm passed, NFWF approved additional emergency funding in October 2022 to hire divers to save and reposition large, old and ecologically valuable coral structures that were knocked off the reef by the storm.

NFWF's nimbleness in addressing urgent challenges represents a sweet spot for the Foundation's efforts, especially when such actions are part of a larger, more comprehensive approach to conservation.

Such is the case with coral conservation in Puerto Rico and elsewhere, where NFWF continues to fund landscape-scale projects to reduce land-based pollution that damages coral reefs, build new coral nurseries to increase genetic diversity, repair reefs damaged by storms, and make entire coastlines more resilient.

In 2022, NFWF awarded $5.1 million through programs focused on conserving corals in Florida, Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS ARAMCO, NOAA, PŪLAMA LĀNA'I, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Bison in Wyoming

Grasslands and Forests

MAMMALS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS AND PLANTS | 2022 INVESTMENTS

Mammals, reptiles, amphibians and plants

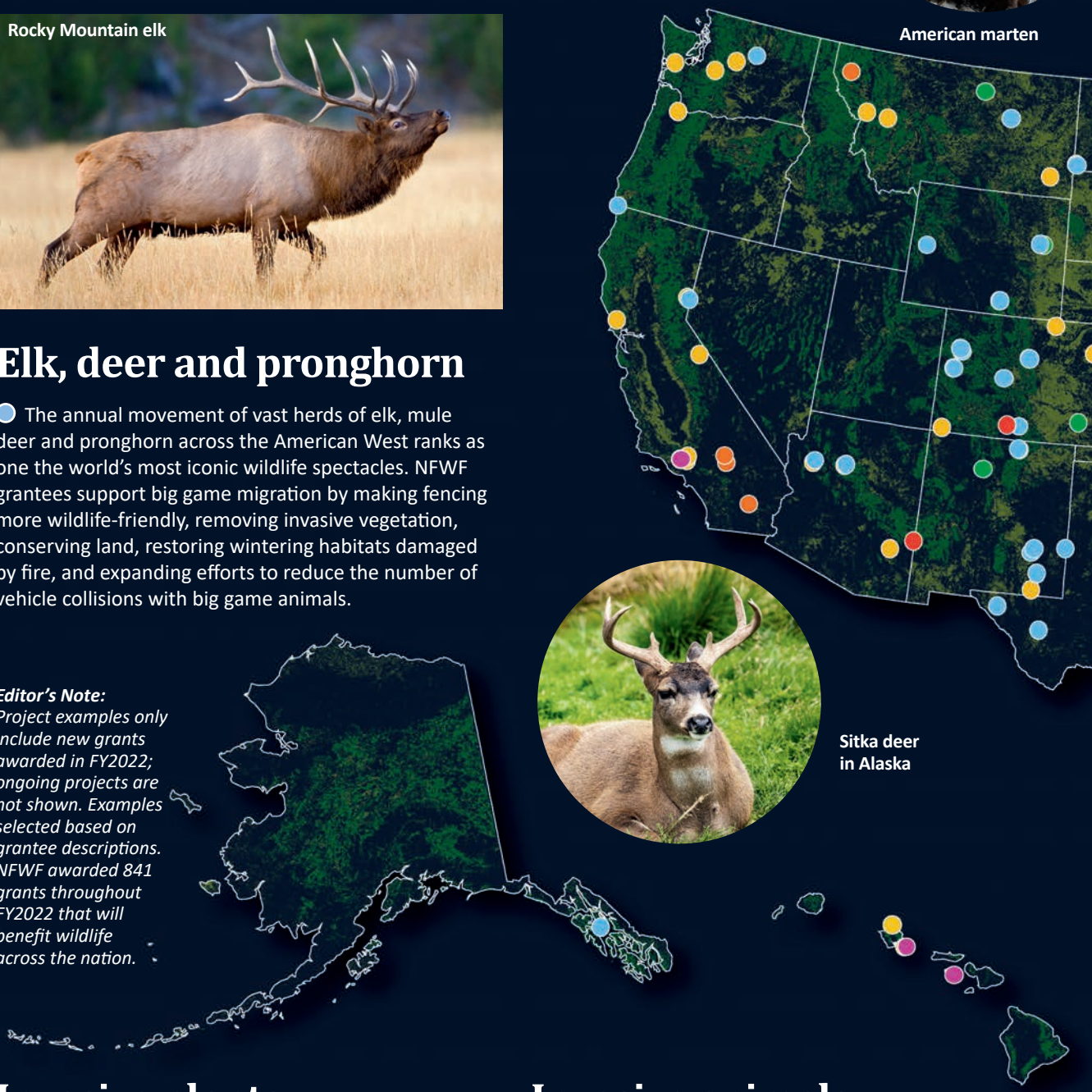
American marten

Rocky Mountain elk

Elk, deer and pronghorn

The annual movement of vast herds of elk, mule deer and pronghorn across the American West ranks as one the world's most iconic wildlife spectacles. NFWF grantees support big game migration by making fencing more wildlife-friendly, removing invasive vegetation, conserving land, restoring wintering habitats damaged by fire, and expanding efforts to reduce the number of vehicle collisions with big game animals.

Sitka deer in Alaska



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Invasive plants

Conservation nonprofits, resource managers and other NFWF grantees battle invasive plants in wildlife habitats across the nation, from phragmites infestations in the Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes regions to the advance of salt cedar and Russian olive trees into native grasslands of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains.

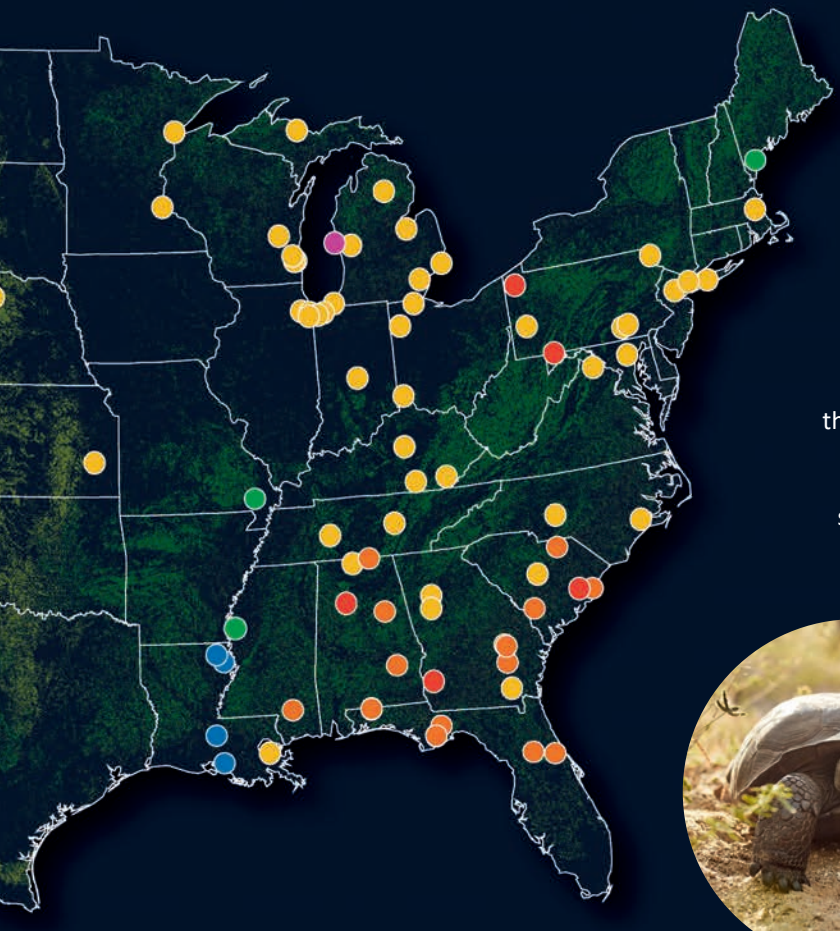
Invasive animals

Invasive animals often wreak havoc wherever they are introduced, but their effects can be particularly devastating on islands such as Hawai'i, where rats and other introduced predators decimate populations of ground-nesting birds. Invasive insects also damage ecosystems in many parts of the country.

Small mammals

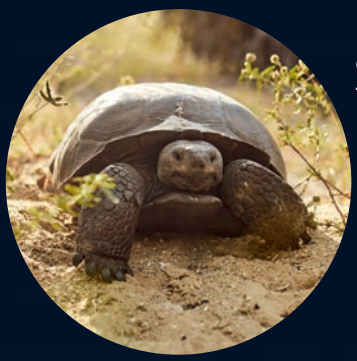
New NFWF grants will benefit small mammals of all kinds, from Pacific martens in the Northwest to swamp rabbits in the Southeast and meadow jumping mice in the Southwest. Some projects in the Great Plains focus on rangeland improvements and disease control for prairie dogs and endangered black-footed ferrets.

Black bear



Bears and wild cats

NFWF's habitat restoration projects usually benefit at least some type of bear or wild cat, be they black bears in the East, grizzlies in the Rockies, brown bears in Alaska, bobcats in the Southeast or mountain lions in the West. Some grants awarded in 2022 focus specifically on the Louisiana black bear. Grantees in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley will restore habitats for this subspecies and test a new program to address potential human-bear conflicts.



Gopher tortoise

Reptiles

Some NFWF grantees focus on endangered Mojave desert tortoises in the Southwest. Others help family forest owners in the Southeast manage longleaf pine forests to benefit gopher tortoises, eastern indigo snakes, southern hognose snakes and other reptiles. One grantee plans to release up to 100 juvenile gopher tortoises into restored habitats in South Carolina.

Amphibians

NFWF awards made in 2022 will enable grantees to reintroduce Chiricahua leopard frogs in New Mexico and improve habitats for hellbender salamanders, Georgia blind salamanders, Carolina gopher frogs, California red-legged frogs and a host of other colorful and fascinating amphibians across the nation.

Red salamander

Mule deer in Colorado

Protecting elk, mule deer and motorists in Colorado

People come to Colorado from all over the world to catch a glimpse of the majestic wildlife of the American West. Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, pronghorn, moose, black bear — Colorado has them all. But as anyone who has ever driven U.S. Highway 160 at night will tell you, there is one place you wouldn't want to see any of these big animals: in the headlights of your vehicle as you come around a curve. A mature mule deer buck can tip the scales at more than 300 pounds; big bull elk can top 700 pounds.

In 2022, NFWF awarded more than $3.5 million to state and local agencies, conservation nonprofits and other stakeholders determined to support Colorado's iconic wildlife. Some grantees are working at a landscape scale to restore and enhance tens of thousands of acres of grasslands and forests throughout the state.

Other grantees are moving fast to address immediate challenges that continue to drive declines in wildlife populations. One such threat can be found along U.S. Highway 160 east of Fort Garland. Undeveloped shrublands and woodlands along this stretch of highway offer high-quality summer and winter habitat for mule deer and elk, as well as black bears and other wildlife. But as more and more motorists use U.S. 160, the risk posed by so many large animals crossing the highway has skyrocketed. One recent study found that up to 73 percent of crashes along this stretch of highway were related to wildlife.

Building on past successes with helping migrating wildlife safely navigate highway crossings, the Colorado Department of Transportation has begun a $7.1 million project to create up to three wildlife underpasses along this deadly stretch of highway. In 2022, NFWF awarded $337,500 to the state in support of the effort.

These new underpasses, along with fencing and other infrastructure designed to ensure safe passage for wildlife, should prove to be especially beneficial to mule deer, whose populations in western Colorado have been declining since the 1970s.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS BEZOS EARTH FUND, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, CENTER FOR DISASTER PHILANTHROPY, COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE, GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION, GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, TRINCHERA BLANCA FOUNDATION, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Louisiana black bear

Restoring woodlands for Louisiana black bears

In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt went bear hunting in Mississippi. The president had difficulty locating a bear, so one of his guides captured one, tied it to a tree and presented it to Roosevelt to dispatch. Teddy, of course, refused to shoot.

After the incident made national news, an enterprising New York store owner created a stuffed toy — "Teddy's Bear" — that captured the nation's imagination.

Few who ever cherished their own Teddy Bear would know or, understandably, care that the original bear was almost certainly a member of a subspecies known as the Louisiana black bear. Fewer still would know that this subspecies, differentiated in part by a relatively long and narrow skull, suffered drastic population declines and was only recently removed from Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection.

However, the history and conservation status of Louisiana black bears are well-known to landowners, conservation practitioners and natural resource managers in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Stakeholders there have worked diligently to restore the rich but disappearing forests and wetlands of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

To them, the bear's comeback shows that solid stewardship and landscape-scale conservation efforts can pull an iconic wildlife species out of a precipitous decline and, in the process, spare local landowners some of the regulatory burdens that often accompany ESA listings.

In 2022, NFWF awarded $1.1 million to The Carbon Fund to improve habitats for bears and other wildlife by helping landowners reforest marginal, increasingly flooded cropland.

These new forested wetlands will provide habitat for wood ducks, mallards and other waterfowl, along with fish such as smallmouth buffalo and blacktail shiner that require structurally complex habitat to spawn successfully.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION, BEZOS EARTH FUND, INTERNATIONAL PAPER'S FORESTLAND STEWARDS PARTNERSHIP, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

Rough shiners
in Mississippi

Rivers and Lakes

TROUT, SALMON, DARTERS, MUSSELS AND MORE | 2022 INVESTMENTS

Trout, salmon, darters, mussels and more

Freshwater mussel

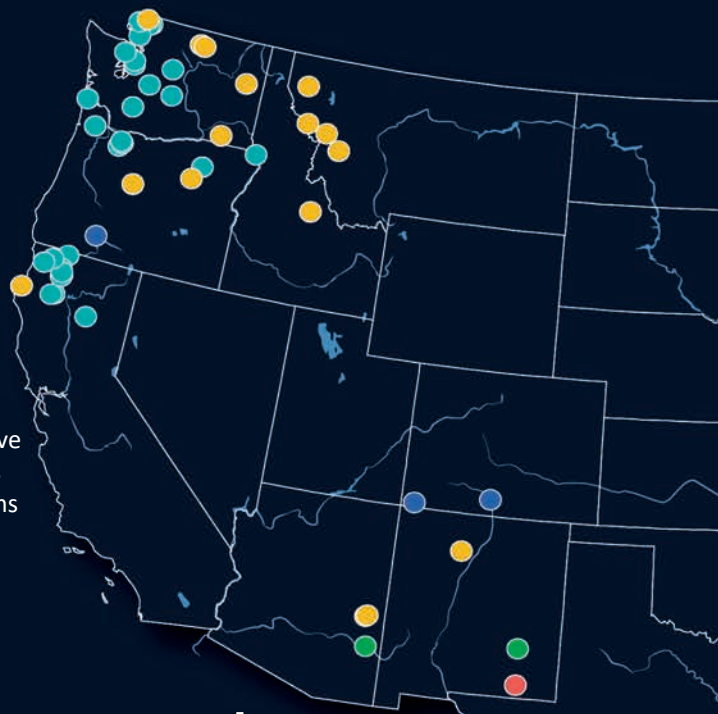
Pacific salmon

Many of the salmon projects NFWF supports focus on water conservation and habitat improvements within the Columbia River Basin in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Other grants awarded in 2022 aimed to protect and enhance economically and culturally important salmon runs in Northern California.

Cutthroat trout

Western trout

NFWF's grantees work with ranchers and farmers to conserve water, improve their operations and return freshwater to streams that support the spectacularly beautiful trout species of the American West.



Desert aquatics

NFWF's grantees in the Southwest will improve river channels, restore riparian habitats and conduct research to protect and enhance populations of unique, desert-dwelling aquatic organisms such as Pecos pupfish, Apache trout, speckled dace, Gila chub and the Rio Grande cooter, a type of freshwater turtle.

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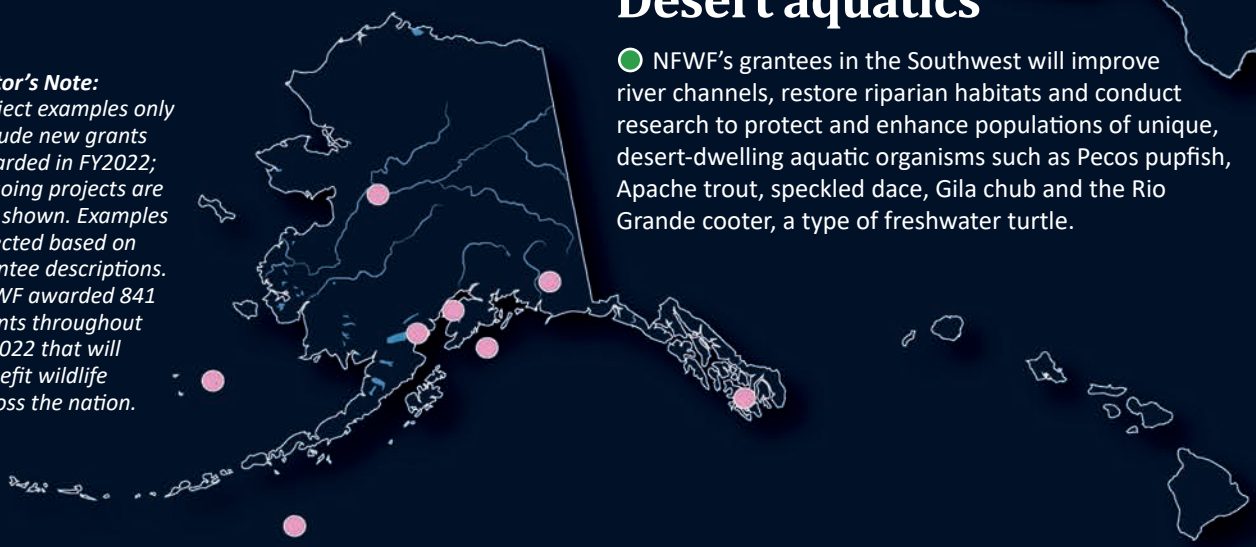


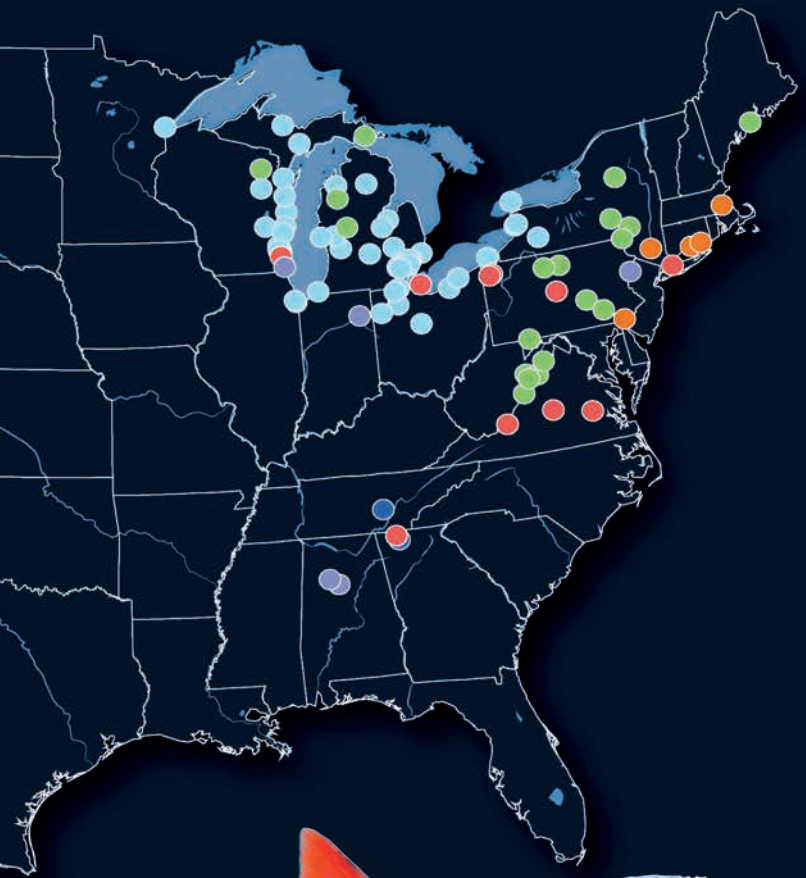
Sockeye salmon

Salmon in Alaska

Grants awarded by NFWF in 2022 will protect salmon spawning habitat from development, improve streams by replacing old culverts and creating habitat complexity, and restore kelp beds along the coastline to enhance salmon habitat. Other grants will improve technology used to reduce salmon bycatch in the pollock trawl commercial fishery.

Fish of the Great Lakes

Northern pike, lake sturgeon and other native fish of the Great Lakes depend not only on healthy water quality and ample prey populations, but also access to streams, wetlands and other aquatic habitats to complete their life cycles. NFWF grantees work with farmers, public-sector partners and others to improve water quality and enhance habitats throughout the enormous Great Lakes watershed.



Duskystripe shiner

Darters and shiners

Many of the smaller streams and rivers across the nation support multiple populations of small but brilliantly colored fish: darters, minnows, daces and suckers, to name but a few. NFWF grantees protect these pockets of high aquatic biodiversity by working with private landowners to reduce pollution and sedimentation entering these streams, and by removing barriers to fish passage.

Shad and herring

River herring and American shad spend much of their lives in marine environments, but every year they migrate far up coastal rivers to spawn. Much of the conservation work that focused on herring and shad addressed derelict dams and culverts that block their journey and cut off vital spawning grounds.

Eastern brook trout

Though smaller than many types of trout in the West, “brookies” are no less beautiful, and no less sought-after by fly-fishing anglers. NFWF grantees work to protect known strongholds of brook trout while at the same time removing barriers to fish passage so that brookies can return to streams where they once thrived.

Stripe-necked musk turtle

Freshwater turtles

Many species of aquatic or semi-aquatic turtles are common across the nation, but others have become endangered. NFWF grantees are trying to save species such as the flattened musk turtle, Blanding’s turtle and the tiny bog turtle from extinction.

Freshwater mussels

As filter feeders, freshwater mussels help keep freshwater streams clean, clear and hospitable for a host of fish, amphibian and invertebrate species. NFWF grantees support these important but often overlooked animals by restoring streamside vegetation that filters stormwater runoff and keeps streams shaded and cool.

Eastern brook trout

Expanding brook trout strongholds in West Virginia

A good trout stream can bring tears to your eyes. If you don't believe that, take a hike along one of the brook trout strongholds hidden deep in the ancient mountains of West Virginia. Work your way upstream, past whitewater cascading between steep, forested slopes. Scramble up a rock outcrop overhanging the stream and peer into the deep pool below. Be quiet and still and wait. Soon, perfectly streamlined shapes will emerge from cover and slip effortlessly through the eddies, flashing silvery orange, yellow and red wherever shafts of sunlight pierce the pool.

Dustin Wichterman, associate director of Trout Unlimited's Mid Atlantic Coldwater Habitat Program, loves introducing people to these places. The eastern brook trout, themselves, inspire awe. "But it's the environments that surround these brook trout," he said. "It gives me cold chills up my spine and puts tears in my eyes. There's just something I can't explain."

The people of West Virginia feel a deep connection to these streams and these fish — even those who aren't fly-fishing fanatics like Wichterman. Support for conservation, along with the jobs and recreational opportunities such efforts produce, continues to grow.

"The brook trout is West Virginia's state fish," Wichterman said. "It is a valued heritage species to the people of West Virginia. We use the brook trout to inspire conservation on these lands, as well as the understanding of the health and the ecology of these systems. Because if brook trout live here, it's relatively healthy."

NFWF has been supporting the work of Trout Unlimited and other grantees in these watersheds for decades. In 2022, NFWF invested nearly $1 million into the organization's efforts in West Virginia to restore eroding stream banks and forest buffers, enhance in-stream habitats, remove barriers to fish passage and address sources of sedimentation.

This gritty work will improve conditions not only for brookies, but also hellbenders, candy darters and other rare and wild residents of these hidden streams.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS ALTRIA GROUP, BEZOS EARTH FUND, CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM, RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Black Warrior waterdog

Restoring water quality for Black Warrior waterdogs

Black Warrior waterdogs don't ask for much from this world. Clean, cool streams, rocky crevices for shelter, small aquatic invertebrates to eat — that's enough to keep these dragonesque aquatic salamanders alive. But for this endangered species to survive long-term, individual waterdogs also need to occasionally rendezvous with others of their kind, ones who aren't too closely related.

These unique amphibians, easily recognizable by flattened heads and frilly external gills, evolved in a relatively small geography of what is now northern Alabama. Only a few hundred individuals are thought to exist. With populations this small and isolated, habitat fragmentation and the resulting lack of genetic diversity can spell doom for the entire species.

Waterdogs evolved in rocky, swift-flowing streams. Their angular, flattened bodies allow them to negotiate currents and work into crevices and under rock slabs. They depend on this three-dimensional habitat throughout their life cycles, from egg stage through early development and reproductive adulthood.

Human activities in these sensitive areas can send plumes of sediment and chemical pollution into streams and rivers. Residential development, coal mining, timber operations and poultry farming can all degrade water quality and destroy in-stream habitat.

"Road culverts and derelict dams can be improved or removed, enabling waterdogs to roam from home to find appropriate mates," said Joseph Apodaca, executive director of the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy. "But a big stretch of inhospitable stream habitat might as well be a brick wall — they can't move through."

In 2022, NFWF awarded more than $371,000 to the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy to restore water quality and reconnect habitats for salamanders, turtles and fish in the Black Warrior-Tombigbee watershed of Alabama. The group will address barriers such as low-head dams and culverts to reconnect 150 miles of stream. The project also will re-vegetate and stabilize about a mile's worth of stream banks and riparian forest buffers.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS ALTRIA GROUP, INTERNATIONAL PAPER, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Spectacled eider
in Alaska

The Sky

BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BATS AND BEES | 2022 INVESTMENTS

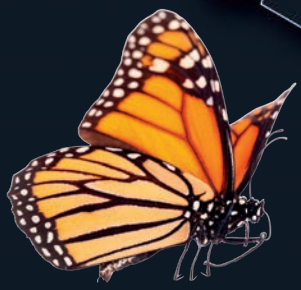
Birds, butterflies, bats and bees

Bats

NFWF grantees will protect bat habitats in Kentucky, Montana, Ohio and Tennessee. Some researchers are developing chemical treatments and genetic modifications to control the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome, while others are also using ultra-violet light to treat hibernacula of little brown bats in Michigan, New Jersey and New York.

Bees and butterflies

Many 2022 grants will help private landowners and agricultural producers improve habitat for monarch butterflies, rusty patched bumble bees, Dakota skippers and other insect pollinators. Other projects support the propagation, harvesting and planting of native milkweed seeds to support the annual migration of monarch butterflies between Mexico, the United States and parts of Canada.



Monarch butterfly

Editor's Note: *Project examples only include new grants awarded in FY2022; ongoing projects are not shown. Examples selected based on grantee descriptions. NFWF awarded 841 grants throughout FY2022 that will benefit wildlife across the nation.*

Arctic nesting birds

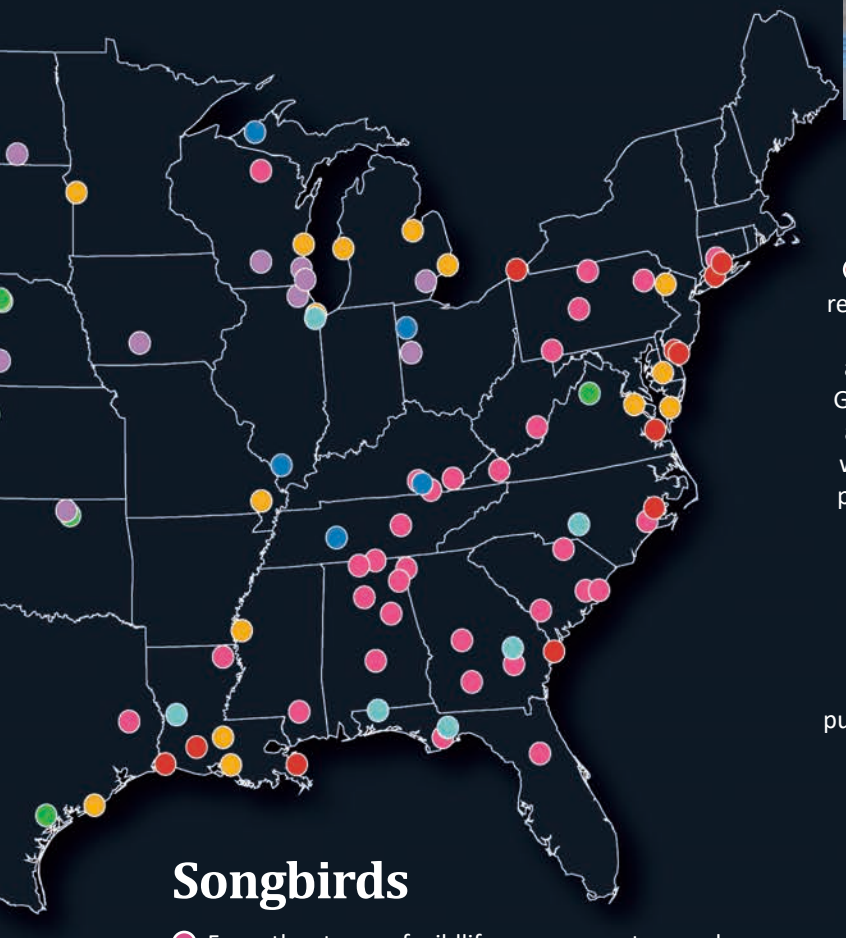
NFWF grants will provide new opportunities for Alaska Natives, including high school and college students, to conduct conservation work and learn about natural resource management. Some grantees will deploy GPS tags on whimbrel and golden-plovers nesting in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; others will study Aleutian tern nesting habitats elsewhere in Alaska.

Pacific seabirds

NFWF continues to fund a range of conservation initiatives to protect petrels, shearwaters, albatross and other Pacific seabirds from a variety of threats. Some grants awarded in 2022 will reduce the number of seabirds that perish as bycatch in longline fisheries, while others will protect ground-nesting seabirds and their eggs from being preyed upon by invasive rodents and feral cats.

Grassland birds

Throughout 2022 NFWF continued to expand efforts to improve grazing techniques and agricultural practices to enhance working lands and natural prairies that support grassland birds. These projects will benefit chestnut-collared longspurs, Sprague's pipits, greater sage-grouse, sage sparrows, burrowing owls and a host of migratory birds that pass through the Great Plains.



Greater yellowlegs

Shorebirds

NFWF continues to support a network of nonprofits, researchers and resource managers devoted to reversing the decline of red knots, oystercatchers, piping plovers and other shorebirds along the East Coast, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast and West Coast. One new project will protect a critical whimbrel roost site in South Carolina; another will enhance 20,000 acres of rice lands in Louisiana that provide crucial habitat for shorebirds and other wildlife.

Woodpeckers

Many grants awarded to projects in the longleaf forests of the South support efforts by private and public-sector landowners to manage their forests in ways that benefit endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, along with other plant and animal species unique to longleaf forests.

Songbirds

Few other types of wildlife mean more to people than songbirds. Whether full-time residents or migrants passing through, these delightful creatures bring beauty, song and a touch of nature to communities throughout the nation. Sadly, many songbird populations continue to suffer rapid declines, fueled by widespread habitat loss and a host of other factors. NFWF invests in a range of projects that support songbirds in nearly every type of habitat, from remote forests to farms and urban parks.

Waterfowl and waders

Throughout 2022, NFWF awarded hundreds of grants that benefit the nation's most iconic and beloved waterbirds, from wading birds such as the great blue heron to waterfowl such as northern pintail and green-winged teal. Major new projects include marsh restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, habitat protection in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas and Louisiana, and improvement of grazing practices in the Prairie Pothole region of Montana, a vital nesting location for waterfowl.

Prothonotary warbler

Monarch butterflies in California

Enriching pollinator habitats for western monarchs

We still have much to learn about monarch butterflies, and so little time if we are to save the unique and fascinating monarch migration from being lost.

We know, for instance, that the North American population of monarch butterflies is divided into an eastern population that overwinters in Mexico and a smaller western population that overwinters along the California coast.

We know that western monarchs seemed to rebound a bit from a dismal 2020–2021, when just 2,000 or so were counted in known California overwintering sites. Nobody knows for certain why that number seemed to jump up to about 250,000 in California during the winter of 2021–2022, or whether it will fall dramatically once again.

And unfortunately, we know that both eastern and western monarch populations have suffered significant declines over the past few decades. Habitat loss is a driving factor in addition to many other stressors. We also know, without a doubt, that any recovery for the species will depend in large part on our ability to protect and enhance pollinator habitats throughout their migratory range, especially through the propagation and planting of milkweed and nectar resources. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed leaves, and that's the only plant monarch caterpillars will eat.

Without milkweed, monarchs will disappear.

"The recipe for monarch and pollinator conservation may seem simple, but it requires a robust, coordinated effort with strategies unique to each place and audience to effectively engage everyone in protecting our pollinators," said Wendy Caldwell, executive director of the Monarch Joint Venture.

In 2022, NFWF awarded $1.9 million to grantees focused on monarch butterflies and other pollinators, including more than $720,000 for pollinator projects in California. Grantees there will collect hundreds of pounds of milkweed seed, propagate thousands of milkweed seedlings and restore and improve habitats for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators on public lands and private working lands.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS SHELL USA, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Golden-winged warbler

Deploying acoustic recorders to study songbirds in decline

NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker in part due to its sharp focus on measurable outcomes for wildlife. The Foundation closely monitors project results, through both internal and third-party analyses, to ensure that precious conservation funds are invested in the most effective conservation efforts.

So how does one measure real-world effects of conservation projects, especially when the critters being studied come and go as they please? Take, for example, golden-winged and cerulean warblers. These songbirds spend their summers in the Appalachian region and their winters in Central and South America. How can you tell which conservation practices generate the greatest benefits? Do you enlist an army of birders to stake out the woods, listening and watching every day?

Ornithologists have deployed a variety of techniques to monitor bird populations. Point counts, nest counts, netting, banding, tracking, observation — all are valid and time-honored tools of the trade. But now, thanks to the work of a cadre of innovative ornithologists, we can, in essence, deploy that theoretical army of birders to keep track of the birds — all day, every day, for months or even years.

In 2022, NFWF invested more than $356,000 into efforts by a research team at the University of Pittsburgh to deploy and train people to use hundreds of automated acoustic recorders in blocks of forest being restored in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. These low-cost acoustic loggers, about the size of a deck of cards, can record bird calls and songs continuously.

Artificial intelligence, along with human listeners, will analyze thousands upon thousands of hours of recordings. Sophisticated software systems called "automated machine learning species classifiers" can analyze the recordings and determine the presence or absence of golden-winged warblers, wood thrushes, cerulean warblers and at least four additional bird species in each audio file.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION

The Stitt family in Montana — Anna, Hudson, Wade, and Diana (from left) — works with NFWF grantees to conserve water on their ranch.

Empower Stakeholders

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF NONPROFITS, TRIBES, FARMERS, RANCHERS AND MORE

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland with members of the Rappahannock Tribe

Tribe leads conservation of ancestral lands in Virginia

On a cool, blustery day in April 2022, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland joined a chilly but spirited group of Rappahannock Tribal leaders, local residents, federal officials and conservation teams along the Rappahannock River in eastern Virginia to celebrate the return of 465 acres of ancestral lands to the Tribe.

Haaland, who made history as the nation's first Native American Cabinet member, said she looked forward to "drawing upon Tribal expertise, experience and indigenous knowledge in helping to manage the wildlife and habitat on this property."

Watch a video about this project at **nfwf.org/videos**

Perched atop white, diatomaceous cliffs overlooking the river, the 465-acre wooded property had been saved from development through the collaborative efforts of Tribal leaders, Chesapeake Bay conservation groups and federal natural resource managers. NFWF supported the purchase through a grant made by Walmart's historic Acres for America program.

Bald eagles attended the ceremony, as well — sort of. One sat incubating her eggs in a giant nest built in an old pine tree about a hundred yards away. Others soared along the nearby cliffs, no doubt awaiting an opportunity to pluck striped bass, herring or shad from the river below.

The eagles' presence did not escape the keen attention of Anne Richardson, long-time chief of the Rappahannock Tribe and a driving force behind the land acquisition. "On top of the cliffs, there are a number of bald eagle nests," Richardson said. "They return there and nest there — such magnificent birds, with such power."

Bald eagles, she explained, have always held a place of deep cultural significance with the Rappahannock Tribe, long before the arrival of Europeans to North America. So has the land itself.

"We see the land as a living, breathing entity," Richardson explained. "We see it as a part of who we are. Not only is this healing for us, but it's healing for the land, and the things that are on the land. Because when the land is sick, so are the people. The agenda was to protect this place for future generations, but you don't have any of that without love of the land."

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER WALMART

Ryan Davis of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay removes protective netting from young trees on a Plain Sect farm in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania dairy farmers adopt conservation practices

To understand water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay, take an imaginary trip upstream, from the mouth of the Bay near Virginia Beach.

Your first hundred miles will be through the big waters of the Bay, where populations of striped bass and blue crabs once thrived but are now causes of perpetual concern. Eventually you will pass the heavily developed waterfronts of Baltimore, then up into the Susquehanna Flats. Keep going, up out of the Bay and into the Susquehanna River. At about the 200-mile mark, you will pass into Pennsylvania, home to some of the richest dairy lands in the nation.

Watch a video about this project at **nfwf.org/videos**

Although the river continues for hundreds of miles, your water-quality journey can end anywhere along here, in one of the countless feeder streams running between vast corn fields and bucolic pastures dotted with black-and-white dairy cows.

Sources of excess nutrients and chemical pollution can be found all along this journey. Some of those sources represent enormous challenges for communities, governments and business leaders throughout the watershed. But here, in the fields of Pennsylvania, NFWF is working with conservation nonprofits and dairy industry leaders on voluntary efforts to empower dairy farmers to make immediate and long-lasting contributions to water quality.

In 2022, NFWF awarded more than $37.5 million in grants through its Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, bringing the program's total investment since 1999 to nearly $250 million. Many of these grants will help dairy farmers overcome financial disincentives to create buffer zones that keep livestock and manure out of streams.

When rainfall washes manure down a hill, grasses don't filter out much of those excess nutrients, explained Ryan Davis, senior forests projects manager for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, one of NFWF's many grantee organizations working with farmers throughout the watershed. "If it's cropland or just bare soil, then even less. But if we put just a little bit of a buffer around the stream, then it can take care of itself."

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS ALTRIA GROUP, ASTRAZENCA, BEZOS EARTH FUND, CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, ZOETIS FOUNDATION

Planting trees in Detroit

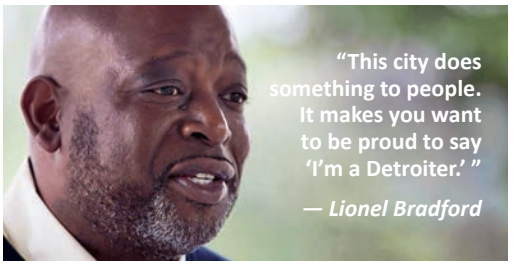
Volunteers come together to "re-green" Detroit

Lionel Bradford, president of The Greening of Detroit nonprofit organization, reminds people that Detroit was once known as "the Paris of the Midwest."

"That was because of its tree canopy cover," Bradford said. "But between 1950 and 1980, we lost well over a half a million trees because of Dutch elm disease, urbanization and neglect."

In 2022, NFWF awarded a grant of more than $245,700 to The Greening of Detroit to plant hundreds of trees in the southwest part of the city, where tree canopy coverage has fallen to just 5 percent in some places.

As a long-term conservation partner and grantee, The Greening of Detroit shares NFWF's vision that conservation projects such as these exceed what has been traditionally viewed as main objectives: protecting natural habitats and sustaining wildlife populations. Conservation projects also can bolster nature's ability to sequester and store carbon, decrease flooding in developed areas and generate far-reaching benefits to urban communities.



Watch a video about this project at **nfwf.org/videos**

The straightforward but often expensive practice of planting native trees in urban areas can achieve all these benefits at once. By planting young trees, not tiny saplings, the project will immediately offer shelter and food sources to migrating birds and insects. These older trees are more likely to survive, and will do a better job improving air quality, providing shade for city residents and addressing urban blight.

"I mean, this is one of the most polluted areas in the city of Detroit," Bradford said. "Being able to educate residents and pull them into this process so they can be a part of nature — it's spot-on."

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS BEZOS EARTH FUND, CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, FRED A. AND BARBARA M. ERB FAMILY FOUNDATION, RALPH C. WILSON, JR. FOUNDATION, THE KRESGE FOUNDATION, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Young volunteers addressing erosion in Arizona

Tapping younger generations to preserve biodiversity

The peaks of southeastern Arizona's "Sky Islands" rise from an earthen-hued sea of flat, high deserts and grasslands. These isolated towers of green emanate a decidedly otherworldly vibe.

A hot spot of biodiversity, the Madrean Sky Islands straddle Arizona and New Mexico in the United States, and Sonora and Chihuahua in Mexico. An estimated 4,000 plant species can be found here, along with 600 species of bees and nearly 500 species of vertebrates, including the only jaguars in the United States.

Watch a video about this project at **nfwf.org/videos**

Landscape-scale aridification represents an existential threat to the wildlife, people and communities of this region. Recent increases in the number and depth of wells, coupled with other factors, have sent groundwater levels plummeting. Today, only 4 percent of the historic rivers and streams still flow in Arizona. When rivers and streams disappear, so do the meandering corridors of vegetation that animals need to move through desert habitats.

"It's difficult to overstate the importance of riparian habitats, which produce 100 times more biomass than the surrounding desert," said Caleb Weaver, youth education program manager with the Borderlands Restoration Network. "The rich habitat of mesquite, oak, ash, cottonwood, sycamore, and other plant life results in food, nesting sites, and shelter for both native and migrating wildlife."

In 2022, NFWF awarded a grant of more than $188,000 to the nonprofit to hire and train young crew members to construct rock-and-wood structures in these remote streambeds. The project will restore 2 miles of riparian forest habitat in multiple headwaters drainages while enhancing groundwater recharge.

"Over time, we've learned that the key to fostering a community-wide ethic of environmental appreciation is to educate and empower the youth of that community," Weaver said. "Our organization has been working with youth in the Arizona townships of Douglas and Patagonia for many years, where both youth and adults are now taking a leading role in local conservation efforts."

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS BEZOS EARTH FUND, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, TRINCHERA BLANCA FOUNDATION, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Crew members working for a NFWF grantee removing derelict fishing nets from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Urgent Challenges

ACTING WITH SPEED AND SCALE TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATE THREATS TO WILDLIFE POPULATION AND HUMAN COMMUNITIES

Black skimmer
along the Gulf Coast

Fulfilling obligations to help the Gulf Coast heal

Sandpipers, plovers and turnstones race along the beach on Dauphin Island, Alabama, dashing in to snatch their next meal as the waves retreat. Gulls, terns, cormorants and pelicans dive beyond the surf break, plucking fish from the Gulf of Mexico.

Herons, egrets, avocets and stilts wade through the barrier island's brackish wetlands, while colorful songbirds flitter through its maritime forests. Weather conditions sometimes set the stage for a birdwatcher's dream experience: a "fallout" event wherein flock after flock of songbirds descends suddenly to take shelter in the first available spit of forested land along the Gulf.

Rich coastal habitats such as those found on Dauphin Island must be protected, and they must be restored following human-caused or natural disasters.

When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010, claiming 11 lives, it unleashed the largest oil spill in the history of the United States. By the time the well was sealed, 87 days after the explosion, approximately 134 million gallons of oil were released into the Gulf. The resulting environmental catastrophe wreaked havoc upon communities, natural habitats and wildlife populations — including those on Dauphin Island.

In 2013, a U.S. District Court approved two plea agreements that directed $2.544 billion to NFWF to fund projects benefiting the natural resources of the Gulf Coast that were impacted by the spill. To date, NFWF has worked closely with state and federal partners to award $1.6 billion from its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) to restore natural resources harmed by the spill.

In fiscal year 2022, NFWF awarded $98.9 million from the GEBF to projects in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, including nearly $7.6 million to advance the restoration of beach and marsh habitats on Dauphin Island. In November 2022, NFWF made a final award of $47 million to projects in Alabama, bringing the total since 2013 to $356 million.

"Together, these investments tell a story of significant accomplishments of fishing reefs in the Gulf of Mexico and a thriving red snapper fishery; of land conservation in the Perdido River Corridor, Fort Morgan Peninsula, and the Grand Bay Savanna to protect habitat for game and non-game species; and of habitat conservation and strengthened resilience in our coastal towns like Dauphin Island and Bayou la Batre," said Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.

Captive-bred black-footed ferrets released in Colorado

Buying time for species on the brink of extinction

"Niff" and "Wiff," two 6-month-old black-footed ferrets raised in captivity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, peeked timidly out of the pet carriers they had ridden in during the long ride to a conservation site near Lamar, Colorado.

The entrance of a prairie dog tunnel beckoned just inches away, but the youngsters needed a bit of a jostle to leave the crates behind and enter their natural environment in the grasslands of the Southern Plains. Eventually, Niff and Wiff (named after the acronym for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) darted out of the carriers and into the tunnels, adding two more individuals to the tiny population of this endangered species.

Throughout 2022, NFWF moved quickly to make time-sensitive investments to stem the loss of declining or endangered species.

NFWF grants fueled efforts by biologists to develop new ways of fighting the drastic decline in bat numbers due to white-nose syndrome.

Other projects restored habitat for Mojave desert tortoises in the desert Southwest and gopher tortoises in the longleaf pine forests of the Southeast.

Rare and declining freshwater species across the nation also benefited from quick action by NFWF and its many grantees. Apache trout and other threatened or endangered desert fish such as Gila chub and Pecos gambusia will reap the benefits of conservation projects unfolding in streams and across the landscapes that feed into them.

Across the nation, NFWF grantees raced the clock to keep threatened or endangered bird species from becoming extinct. Hawaiian petrels, California condors, piping plovers, least Bell's vireos, Hawaiian crows (or 'alalā), Puerto Rican parrots, red-cockaded woodpeckers, southwestern willow flycatchers and so many more species all gained immediate benefits.

NFWF grants enabled crews in remote areas of the Pacific Ocean to remove derelict fishing nets that can entangle and kill endangered Hawaiian monk seals. Others helped decrease the number of endangered sea turtles killed as bycatch in commercial fisheries.

And in Florida, beloved but beleaguered manatees will soon have a new facility in which to rest and recuperate following strandings or periods when sea grasses and other submerged vegetation become scarce.

Monk seal
off Hawai'i

Scaling up efforts to fight the scourge of marine debris

Look at a map of the Pacific Ocean. Zero in on the middle of that vast expanse of blue. Right about there, some 3,000 miles west of California, lies the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

This 582,578 square-mile protected area includes about 70 percent of all shallow-water coral reef habitats in the United States. It's also home to more than 7,000 marine species, 23 of which are endangered.

The Monument's many reefs, atolls and islands represent some of the most remote places on Earth. Yet even there, the modern world leaves its mark. An estimated 57 tons of derelict fishing gear, plastic trash and other floating debris accumulate on the reefs of Papahānaumokuākea each year.

This material damages coral reefs and poses severe risks of entanglement and ingestion to wildlife such as the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle and numerous declining bird species.

In 2022, NFWF awarded a grant of nearly $2.2 million to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project to remove large-scale debris from coral reefs and shorelines at marine debris hot spots within the Monument. The nonprofit group completed two large-scale clean-ups in 2022. Its team of highly skilled free divers focused on cutting derelict nets and ropes from coral reefs. They hauled the debris to a mother ship and transported it all to Hawai'i for disposal.

In total, the group removed 202,950 pounds of debris from more than 1,600 acres of shallow coral reefs.

The team also removed a derelict lifeboat that had beached on an otherwise pristine islet. The lifeboat had been aboard a 650-foot car-carrier ship, which suffered a disastrous onboard fire in January 2019. Aground in the Monument, the lifeboat posed a serious contamination threat due to diesel fuel, batteries and engine fluids that were aboard.

The debris removal team repaired large gashes in the fiberglass hull before towing it to the waiting mother ship.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER NOAA

California spotted owl chick in California

Healing fire scars and removing excess fuels

The threat of intensifying western wildfires did not build up overnight. The conditions driving today's catastrophic wildfires developed over decades of residential and commercial development, insect damage and suppression of natural fires.

Stoked by drought and higher temperatures, future wildfires will continue to threaten forests, communities and wildlife populations throughout California and other western states. The tools and tactics needed to mitigate these growing risks will evolve over time.

Urgent action must be taken now, however, to reduce fuel loads in high-risk areas and heal fresh fire scars before hot-burning invasive plants take hold. Conservation investments here won't just benefit the wildlife and people living in these forested mountains — they will also safeguard headwaters of rivers that supply drinking water to millions of people living downstream.

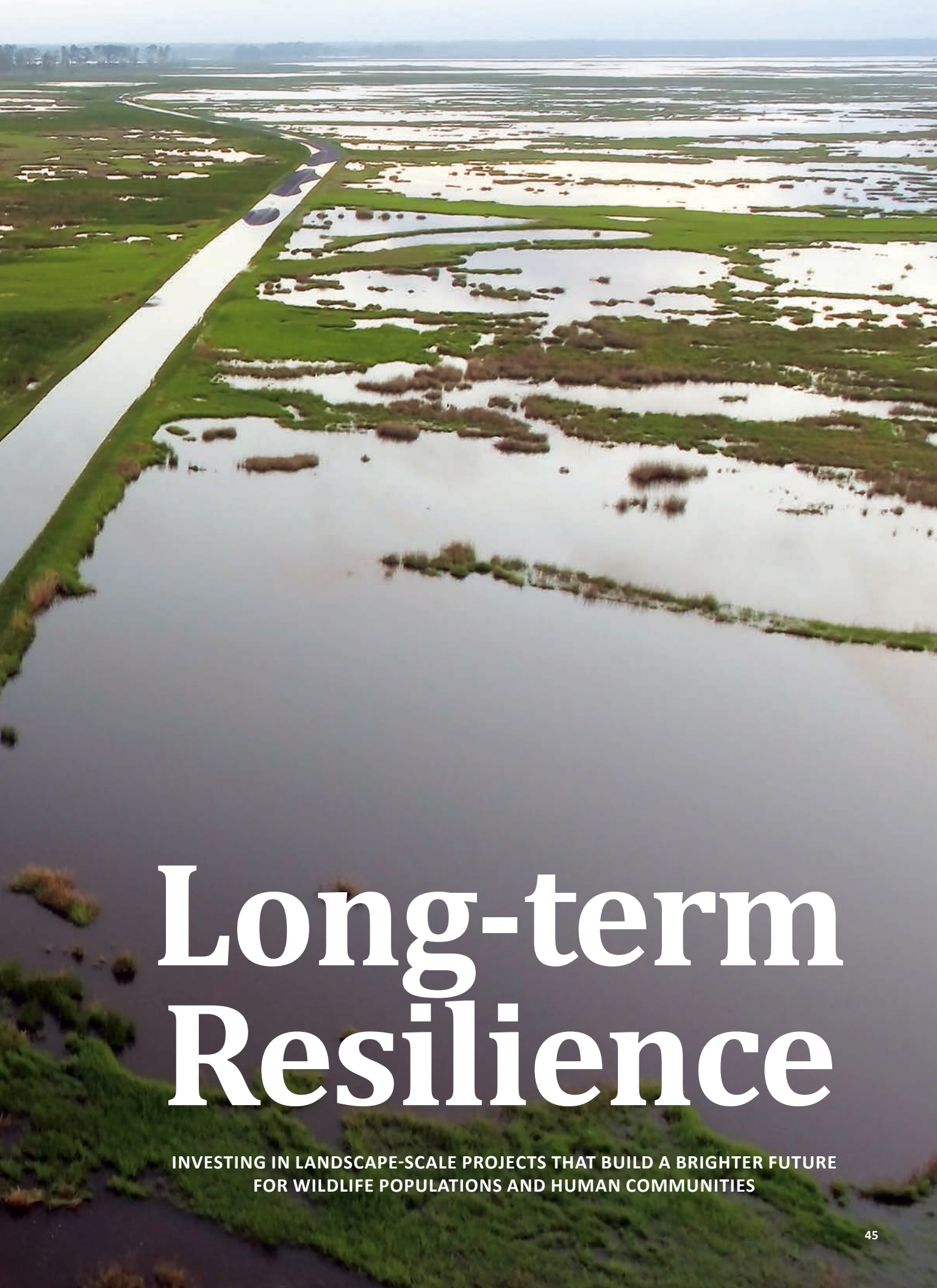
In 2022, NFWF awarded a grant of nearly $220,000 to American Forests to reforest 500 acres scorched by the 2022 King Fire in California's Eldorado National Forest. Crews there will plant a mix of native conifer trees in ways that support forest resilience and restores biodiversity. Comparison plots at the site will help American Forests advance climate-smart strategies regarding the selection of tree species, sites and spacing.

NFWF also awarded a grant of $470,000 to the Mule Deer Foundation to reduce fire risk across an additional 650 acres of mixed conifer forests in Eldorado National Forest. Crews there will use chainsaws and "mastication" machinery to mulch midstory and understory fuels. These machines can return a section of forest to a more natural, less overgrown state. This thinning of so-called "ladder fuels" can reduce the risk of wildfires climbing into a forest's canopy and roaring across entire landscapes.

This more open forest also strongly benefits a range of wildlife species, from mule deer to California spotted owls.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION, LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER & POWER, SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES, U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Climate change and rising sea levels pose existential threats to coastal habitats, wildlife populations and human communities in coastal areas such as Maryland's Eastern Shore.



Long-term Resilience

INVESTING IN LANDSCAPE-SCALE PROJECTS THAT BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND HUMAN COMMUNITIES

Roseate spoonbill near Charleston, South Carolina

Investing in coastal resilience where it does the most good

Pluff mud and heavy equipment make a poor match.

Fiddler crabs can skitter across the famously gooey and pungent sediments of South Carolina's salt marshes. Backhoes and bulldozers usually just sink.

There's no getting around it — restoring the Lowcountry's coastal marshes means a lot of people are going to have to get very muddy.

Thankfully, a little pluff mud (or a lot of it) won't deter a team of local volunteers, state resource managers and restoration experts from working together to restore a degraded tidal marsh in Charleston, S.C.

This particular section of marsh never fully recovered from a drought-related dieback in cordgrass in 2012. The loss of native vegetation impaired the area's ability to support its usually rich assortment of wildlife. Egrets, herons and roseate spoonbills all inhabit these coastal ecosystems, as do culturally and economically important species such as oysters, crabs, shrimp, flounder, red drum and sheepshead.

The nearby historic community also depends on the marsh, and not just for great seafood, recreation and amazing views. A healthy marsh can help mitigate flooding and improve long-term resilience in the face of a changing climate and rising sea levels.

In 2022, NFWF awarded a grant of more than $1.5 million to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to continue efforts to restore the marsh, which is surrounded on three sides by land that holds unique historical and cultural importance as one of the state's earliest African American communities. Socioeconomic disparities continue to impair these neighborhoods' ability to respond to hazards. Fortunately, Charleston's historic preservation plan has prioritized the community for risk reduction and increased resilience.

Homeowners and other members of this community have been working with project managers to plan and execute the restoration, which requires access points through private property. Volunteers will work side-by-side with work crews to hand-excavate channels, build oyster reefs and plant cordgrass.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS AT&T, BEZOS EARTH FUND, NOAA, OCCIDENTAL, SALESFORCE, SHELL USA, TRANSRE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Regal fritillary butterflies on milkweed in Kansas

Improving grasslands for wildlife, cattle and carbon

Conserving and enhancing natural habitats remains one of the most immediate and cost-effective methods to offset CO_2 emissions that contribute to global climate change.

Weighing conservation costs versus carbon benefits can be tricky — much is still being learned about the most effective practices. One thing is certain, though — you can't go wrong with grasslands.

Healthy, intact grasslands capture tremendous amounts of carbon, relative to other habitat types, and store it below ground in deep-running and long-lasting root systems. When these grasslands are tilled to make way for crops or removed due to commercial development, those critical ecological services are lost, often permanently.

"The tallgrass prairie is one of the most altered and endangered ecosystems in North America, and perhaps the world," said Brad Loveless, secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, which is working with stakeholders to conserve the state's grasslands. "It is home to many species that are in decline, including high-profile species like greater prairie-chicken, bobwhite quail and monarch butterflies, but also lesser-known species such as the regal fritillary butterfly and Henslow's sparrow."

In 2022, NFWF awarded a grant of nearly $500,000 to the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition to conserve and enhance these dwindling grasslands by working with ranchers to plant native grasses, control invasive species, improve grazing practices and apply prescribed fire. Invasive vegetation such as eastern red cedar and honey locust out-compete native grasses and forbs, reducing forage for livestock and heightening the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

These efforts are designed to strengthen the ability of more than 16,500 acres of grassland to sequester and store carbon.

This grant was one of hundreds awarded by NFWF in 2022 that will help ranchers and farmers improve their operations and manage risk while at the same time protecting and enhancing habitats for wildlife.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS BEZOS EARTH FUND, BURGER KING, CARGILL, SYSCO, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Eastern indigo snake in a longleaf pine forest in Georgia

Enhancing forest health for wildlife, water and climate

A controlled burn creeping through a well-managed stand of longleaf pine will send a giant plume of smoke into the sky, often visible for miles. Such prescribed fires mimic naturally occurring wildfires that clear away competing hardwoods and support not only the pine trees themselves, but also this forest type's biologically rich understory of fire-loving grasses and herbaceous perennials.

Fire plays a vital role in maintaining the health of the longleaf ecosystem. These long-lived trees, in turn, play a vital role in maintaining healthy wildlife populations, abundant fresh water, and carbon storage both above and below ground. Even so, it can be tough for most people to reconcile that giant plume of smoke with long-term climate benefits. Of all the habitat types in the United States, longleaf pine forests offer some of the most intriguing lessons about the elemental interaction of fire and water, earth and sky.

"The longleaf ecosystem provides tremendous benefit for maintaining long-term resilience in the face of climate change," said Carol Denhof, president of The Longleaf Alliance. "The longleaf pine has a long life span and can store carbon for relatively long periods of time. They are also built to withstand and thrive with fire, survive strong storms, and be less susceptible to insect pests.

"They also do amazing things for surface water quality and quantity. Longleaf forests soak up and filter rainwater, and the trees, as well as the associated ground cover species, are incredibly efficient with water use through times of drought."

In 2022, NFWF awarded more than $1.7 million to The Longleaf Alliance to continue landscape-level conservation projects to replant longleaf seedlings, enhance management across hundreds of thousands of acres of existing longleaf pine forests, and educate the public about the benefits of forest management.

These investments were just a few of the many made by NFWF to protect and enhance the ecological services provided by trees, from towering sequoias in Southern California to spruce hemlocks in Oregon, sugar maples in Michigan, white oaks in Kentucky and, of course, longleaf pines in Georgia.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS ALTRIA, BEZOS EARTH FUND, INTERNATIONAL PAPER, ONE TREE PLANTED, ORTON FOUNDATION, SOUTHERN COMPANY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Yellow perch in Wisconsin

Helping schools and students safeguard water quality

Visit any one of the nation's 98,400 or so public schools and you will see much of the same thing: enormous buildings, giant parking lots, big outdoor walkways. And on rainy days, you may see a lot of stormwater runoff.

Impervious surfaces at public school campuses and elsewhere prohibit rainwater from soaking into the ground, where it can be filtered. Stormwater runoff instead carries urban pollution and harmful surges of water into local sewer systems, streams and rivers.

Runoff might have once been an esoteric subject discussed only by urban planners and ecologists. These days, however, such environmental concerns have become core issues for many Americans, especially many among the nearly 50 million K–12 students in public schools.

Communities and school leaders across the nation now aim to decrease environmental footprints. Such projects can generate immediate improvements to local water quality, sometimes capturing millions of gallons of runoff per year from just one property. These projects also nurture a growing conservation ethic in students, teachers and parents.

In 2022, NFWF awarded $600,000 to Milwaukee Public Schools in Wisconsin and another $440,000 to Chicago Public Schools in Illinois to help fund ambitious efforts to make school campuses more environmentally friendly and to connect students with nature.

Five public schools in Milwaukee will remove 135,000 square feet of impervious surface and install 1.8 acres of green space with native trees and grasses. More than 26,800 square feet of asphalt will be replaced by bioswales, native plantings and other nature-based infrastructure expected to generate 4.3 million gallons of stormwater storage.

Chicago Public Schools also will install rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavements and other pieces of stormwater infrastructure across 70,000 square feet on public schools. Project partners have engaged hundreds of students and dozens of educators, boosting efforts to improve environmental education, stewardship, outdoor learning and wellness.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, CROWN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES, GENERAL MILLS, MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT, RALPH C. WILSON, JR. FOUNDATION, WALDER FOUNDATION, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Moose in Alaska

2022

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

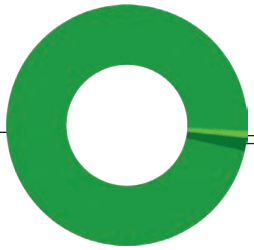
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(in millions of dollars, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022)

	2022	2021
REVENUE, EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS		
Total Revenue and Support	$386.3	$393.5
Total Expenses	$374.0	$362.9
Change in Net Assets	$12.3	$30.6
Net Assets, beginning of year	$274.4	$243.8
Net Assets, end of year	**$286.7**	**$274.4**

USE OF FUNDS

$373,971,983



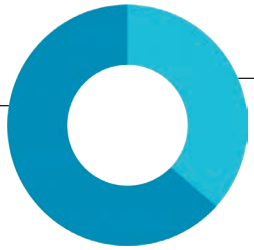
Program/Mission **96.9%**
$362,564,630

Fundraising **1.1%**
$4,027,028

Management and General **2.0%**
$7,380,325

TOTAL REVENUE

$386,285,067



Non-Federal/Other **68%**
$262,282,021

Federal **32%**
$124,003,046

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in millions of dollars, as of September 30, 2022)

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	$2,395.0	$2,726.4
Other Assets	$52.4	$49.1
Total Assets	**$2,447.5**	**$2,775.5**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	$2,160.8	$2,501.1
Net Assets	$286.7	$274.4
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$2,447.5**	**$2,775.5**

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.

ADM and NFWF initiated the Midwest Cover Crop Initiative in February 2022 to catalyze the adoption of cover crops by corn and soybean farmers in the Midwest. Through a targeted approach including outreach, education, technical assistance and economic incentives, the program supports the implementation of cover crops across a nine-state region. Cover crops are recognized as beneficial for improving soil retention, enhancing soil heath, reducing atmospheric greenhouse gases, and improving water resources. Every farm has unique characteristics and strategies for successfully planning and implementing cover crops, so technical assistance is a vital component of expanding its implementation. Specifically, the partnership between NFWF and ADM will award grants that conduct targeted outreach and provide technical assistance to farmers; support the development of four-year contracts with farmers for cover crop plantings that will occur in 2022 and continue through 2025; coordinate targeted incentive payments to farmers; and monitor and report environmental and economic 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 focused collaboration at the intersection of corporate responsibility and conservation need. Working now to restore the Chesapeake Bay, the Cumberland Plateau and piedmont regions of the southeastern United States, and Central Appalachia, the partnership has leveraged $19 million in Altria funding into nearly $152 million in total conservation impact.

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.

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

Wood duck
in Michigan

AstraZeneca and NFWF began working together in 2021 to plant and sustain one million trees in the United States by 2025. This partnership contributes to AstraZeneca's goal to plant and sustain 50 million trees globally by the end of 2025. With a primary focus in the Delaware River Watershed, but with additional targeted investments in other regions of the eastern United States, AstraZeneca is funding tree plantings that maximize the dual role of carbon storage and habitat restoration, including by planting streamside forests on farmland, in parks and residential areas, restoring urban tree canopy in cities and towns and restoring degraded forest lands. These projects will restore habitat for eastern brook trout, American eel, bog turtles, river herring and shad, and migratory songbirds. They also will support green infrastructure in urban communities.

The **Avangrid Foundation** supports a diverse set of NFWF programs. This program portfolio includes efforts to stem the impact of white-nose syndrome on bats, restore and sustain healthy habitats for native birds and fish throughout New England, improve water quality and coastal habitats in Long Island Sound, and support community-based stewardship in urban communities.

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

BNSF Railway and NFWF began working together in 2014 to support community-based projects that conserve wildlife and enhance local cultural and economic values. Working through multiple NFWF programs, this partnership has supported efforts to minimize human conflicts with grizzly bears, reconnect high-priority habitats for pronghorn and mule deer, protect and improve habitat for Mojave desert tortoises, conserve killer whales and salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest, and improve green space and water quality in Chicago and other urban areas. This partnership supports NFWF's efforts to maintain the incredible wildlife assemblages of the western United States and improve the health and vitality of waterways in key cities across the country.

Established in 2022, the partnership between NFWF and **Burger King** funds projects to assist ranchers and private landowners in implementing voluntary grazing lands management practices. Through this partnership, NFWF and Burger King will invest in ranching communities and work together to improve the health of grazing lands across the Southern Great Plains. These improvements will enhance grassland habitat for wildlife and increase carbon sequestration and soil health in grasslands. The Southern Great Plains support millions of acres of grasslands for beef production as well as important habitat for a wide variety of grassland species adapted to this unique ecosystem, including grassland birds, pronghorn, swift fox, prairie chicken and bobwhite quail. Applying proven conservation strategies, this partnership will work with ranchers and livestock producers to implement regenerative agricultural and rangeland management practices. Such practices may include efforts to manage the timing and intensity of grazing, improve fencing solutions, and control invasive species.

Cargill and NFWF began working with ranchers to improve grazing lands management in 2021 through the newly established Southern Plains Grassland Program. Together, NFWF and Cargill aim to implement conservation practices on 2 million acres of grasslands, with the potential to sequester up to 720,000 metric tons of carbon per year. Stretching across sections of Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, the Southern Great Plains is a vast landscape of open grasslands that makes up one of the most important beef production areas in the United States. NFWF will engage a network of on-the-ground partners such as livestock associations, rancher-led collaboratives, universities, state wildlife agencies and conservation nonprofits to implement proven strategies for improving rangeland management including prescribed grazing and invasive species control. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to implement voluntary practices designed to improve the sustainability of working rangelands and restore grasslands and wildlife habitat.

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

Cleveland-Cliffs began working with NFWF in late 2020 after significantly increasing its presence and commitment to the Great Lakes region with the acquisition of ArcelorMittal USA. Now the largest flat-rolled steel producer in North America, Cleveland-Cliffs is committed to supporting Great Lakes stewardship through three NFWF programs: Sustain Our Great Lakes, the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, and the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund. These programs have collectively improved tens of thousands of acres of habitat, reconnected thousands of miles of stream to allow fish passage and added hundreds of millions of gallons of storm water storage capacity in flood-prone areas. This 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.

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, Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund, Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative and Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund, this partnership has supported the conservation of more than 528,000 acres of important bird habitat, spurred advances in bird monitoring and polar bear and beluga whale research, and helped restore movement corridors for pronghorn, mule deer and other western wildlife. With a geographic focus that spans multiple priority landscapes, this partnership supports NFWF's efforts to provide for the needs of wildlife across their full life cycles, secure essential migratory pathways and drive innovations that shape the next generation of wildlife conservation.

Corteva Agriscience and NFWF work together to restore grassland habitat, improve sustainable land management practices, and enhance biodiversity through two separate programs, the Restore Colorado Program and the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative. This partnership directly supports both NFWF's work to implement a variety of conservation strategies and Corteva's goal to enhance biodiversity through sustainable land management and habitat conservation. Together, Corteva and NFWF are helping grantees in Texas restore up to 8,000 acres of brush-invaded dry mixed prairie, benefiting migratory grassland birds and native wildlife. In Colorado, Corteva and NFWF are supporting ranchers as they work to improve grazing lands management on 56,000 acres, restore more than 6,000 acres of grassland, and improve soil health through the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices. Together, these efforts will improve vital habitat for target bird species such as chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague's pipit, lesser prairie chicken, eastern black rail, lark bunting and thick-billed longspur, and other wildlife.

Covanta, a leader in sustainable materials 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 starting in 2008 and expanding through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund in 2021. 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. The Long Island Sound Futures Fund supports efforts to test innovative approaches to conservation, deliver transformative projects and support people and communities who value the sound and take a direct role in its future. Support through both of these efforts have already collected more than 5 million pounds of fishing gear. In addition to being a funding partner, Covanta also provides in-kind support through its solid waste processing facilities. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to restore the quality of marine and coastal habitats and supports the communities and industries that rely on these resources.

Danone North America (DNA) and NFWF began working together in 2019 to advance conservation practices and cutting-edge research focused on improving farm sustainability and performance. With a focus on dairies and other supporting farm operations, their work is helping agricultural producers implement and evaluate soil health practices and other regenerative agricultural approaches. This partnership supports NFWF's efforts to help farmers and ranchers adopt voluntary conservation measures on their working lands — in ways that improve soil function, enhance water quality and improve habitats for local fish and wildlife populations — and DNA's ongoing soil health and regenerative agriculture initiatives to provide financial support for its farmers and incentivize sustainable farm management.

The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation began partnering with NFWF on the Rocky Mountain Rangelands Program in 2022 as part of their commitment to protect our planet for future generations. The Rocky Mountain Rangelands Program supports conservation efforts in the human-wildlands interface that maintain robust wildlife populations in a working landscape and promote climate resiliency. The program relies on local community-led landscape-scale partnerships, which are flourishing across the region and offer promising new approaches that support the conservation and improvements of rangelands, with dual emphasis on livestock production and wildlife habitat.

FedEx and NFWF began working together in 2009 to fund community-based conservation projects in 12 U.S. cities through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. To date, the projects supported by FedEx have engaged more than 4,500 FedEx volunteers along with 540,000 community members to restore 3,600 acres of habitat and plant 360,000 trees. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable stream banks, pollution from stormwater runoff and degraded shorelines caused by development.

Berlandier's tortoise
in Texas

General Mills and NFWF began working together in 2020 to accelerate the implementation of conservation practices that support regenerative agriculture on working lands. These projects help farmers improve soil health and water quality and reduce green-house gas emissions while also enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes Basin and Southern Great Plains. Through this partnership, NFWF provides technical assistance to farmers in areas that supply important dairy and grain ingredients for General Mills products. The partnership supports agricultural management principles that can be utilized to improve local ecosystem health and increase resilience. Examples of conservation actions that are supported through these grants include: minimizing chronic disturbances to the soil and biological community; maximizing the diversity of plants and animals; keeping the soil covered; and keeping a living root in the ground at all times.

International Paper and NFWF began working together to restore and enhance the forested ecosystems of the Southeast in 2013, and we recently renewed this Forestland Stewards Partnership for another five years. The partnership has achieved many significant accomplishments, including establishing or enhancing more than 1 million acres of native forest and wildlife habitat. In 2022 this partnership focused on 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, helping to keep forests as forests.

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

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

In collaboration with The Sustainability Consortium, **Nutrien** supports a NFWF pilot program established in 2021 that is designed to implement market-based conservation practices on farms in Iowa. The pilot program will catalyze the adoption of conservation practices and help farmers gain access to market-based programs that compensate them for practices that provide carbon sequestration and ecosystem services benefits. Through a targeted approach including outreach, education, technical assistance, and economic incentives, the pilot program supports the implementation of conservation practices by farmers in Iowa.

As a founding corporate partner of the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, **Oxy** supports new ways of addressing conservation in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. This effort helps to ensure the responsible 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. Oxy has also expanded its partnership with NFWF to include the RESTORE Colorado, National Coastal Resilience Fund, California Headwaters and Northern Great Plains programs. These additional programs support important conservation needs in landscapes where Oxy has communities upon which they depend.

Pūlama Lāna'i 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, Lāna'i's community stakeholders.

Salesforce began working with NFWF in 2022 to provide resources needed to accelerate and catalyze systemic change through on-the-ground nature-based solutions. With support from the Salesforce Ecosystem Restoration & Climate Justice Fund, NFWF is leveraging its programs to protect and restore degraded landscapes in communities threatened by climate change. Through this partnership with Salesforce, NFWF invests in projects that sequester and store carbon, increase biodiversity and meaningfully engage underserved communities throughout the United States.

The **Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation** 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 eight years, the Fund has focused on planting milkweed and other nectar plants, providing technical assistance to private landowners, and improving coordination and capacity to help reverse population declines of these important species.

Since 2015, **SeaWorld** 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 seven years, the program has awarded 46 grants totaling $5.3 million, drawing an additional $9.2 million in grantee match for a total conservation investment of more than $14.5 million. These awards have fostered collaborative efforts in all three strategies partnering science with management action and restoration activities. NFWF has taken a comprehensive food-web approach to recovering this apex predator and works with state and transboundary management to implement recovery actions.

Shell USA, Inc. and NFWF began working together in 1998 to conserve priority habitats and species in the communities where Shell lives and operates. Over the past two decades, more than 365 projects funded by Shell and other sponsors have generated more than $175 million in on-the-ground conservation impact, supporting the protection, restoration and management of over 232,000 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: the National Coastal Resilience Fund, the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund and the Fisheries Innovation Fund.

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

Southern Company and NFWF have been working together for 19 years to support conservation of species and ecosystems, primarily across the Southeast, but more recently in other parts of the country in support of Southern Company's growing energy business. This enduring partnership has resulted in landscape scale accomplishments across the longleaf ecosystem, as well as building significant new community stewardship capacity. Today, this conservation partnership also supports efforts focused on freshwater habitat restoration in priority watersheds, important research and management to protect bat populations, and shorebird conservation along the Atlantic Flyway.

In collaboration with The Sustainability Consortium, **Syngenta** supports a NFWF pilot program established in 2021 that is designed to implement market-based conservation practices on farms in Iowa. The pilot program will catalyze the adoption of conservation practices and help farmers gain access to market-based programs that compensate them for practices that provide carbon sequestration and ecosystem services benefits. Through a targeted approach including outreach, education, technical assistance, and economic incentives, the pilot program supports the implementation of conservation practices by farmers in Iowa.

Sysco began partnering with NFWF and Cargill on the Southern Plains Grassland Program in 2021 to help ranching communities tackle climate change and improve grasslands and wildlife habitats through one of the largest sustainable beef cattle grazing efforts in the nation. Stretching across sections of Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, the Southern Great Plains is a vast landscape of open grasslands that makes up one of the most important beef production areas in the United States. NFWF is engaging a network of on-the-ground partners, such as livestock associations, rancher-led collaboratives, universities, state wildlife agencies, and conservation non-profits to implement proven strategies for improving rangeland management including prescribed grazing and invasive species control. This conservation partnership supports NFWF's efforts to implement voluntary practices designed to improve the sustainability of working rangelands and restore grasslands and wildlife habitat. Together, NFWF, Sysco and Cargill aim to implement conservation practices on 1 million acres of grasslands by 2026.

The **J.M. Smucker Co.** is focused on improving the sustainability of its supply chain while supporting those who provide ingredients and materials to deliver products across its portfolio of coffee, pet food and pet snacks and snacking brands. As part of this commitment, Smucker began working with NFWF through the Conservation Partners Program in 2022. NFWF and Smucker will invest in projects that provide farmers with technical assistance for planning and implementing practical conservation practices, including reduced tillage, cover crops, crop rotation, nutrient management, irrigation efficiency and field buffers. Through these efforts, the partnership seeks to improve soil health, maximize soil carbon, improve flood and drought resilience, improve water quality and quantity, and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

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 a reinsurance organization headquartered in New York with operations worldwide.

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

Walmart and NFWF began working together to sustain and enhance wildlife populations and natural habitats with the creation of the Acres for America conservation program in 2005. Originally designed to offset Walmart's retail footprint by protecting an equivalent acreage of natural habitats, the program has far surpassed that goal to become one of the most successful public-private land conservation partnerships in the history of the United States. To date, the program has helped to protect over 1.8 million acres across the country. 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.

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.

In 2022, the **Zoetis Foundation** provided a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to accelerate the adoption of conservation practices by farmers and dairy producers. The partnership will invest in projects that deliver technical assistance to farmers in planning and implementing conservation practices and by improving access to Farm Bill and other conservation cost-share programs. Tailored to meet the unique needs of individual farmers, conservation practices will include cover crops, conservation tillage, livestock exclusion fencing and off-stream watering, riparian buffer restoration, manure storage, irrigation efficiencies, and grazing management. Additionally, technical assistance will support farmer transition to digital solutions such as farm management information systems which can lead to improved operational efficiency and lower costs while reducing runoff, improving carbon storage, and generating benefits for fish and wildlife.

Caribou
in Alaska

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. The partners invest in projects that 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.

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

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.

NFWF, in partnership with the **U.S. Department of Defense**, is working to conserve, restore and manage habitat off-base to improve the status of species of concern to military training and operations. The partnership focuses on improving the resilience of coastal military communities through the installation of natural infrastructure and on actions to improve the status of priority species. To benefit species, NFWF supports restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem throughout the Southeast, conservation of riparian habitat in Southern California, and fuels management and species protection actions in Hawai'i. Together, these outcomes support military training and readiness goals.

NFWF is implementing a 10-year conservation plan that will guide off-base activities to benefit desert tortoise in the Mojave Desert in partnership with **U.S. Marine Corps** (USMC) Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. NFWF also partnered with USMC Air Station Camp Pendleton to support habitat conservation for federally listed species. These partnerships will improve military operations and species recovery throughout Southern California.

NFWF and the **U.S. Navy** are implementing a five-year plan to support restoration of the limestone and ravine forest ecosystems on Guam. This effort supports resilience for the island's unique plant and animal species. The partnership builds off an existing program at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawai'i where NFWF is helping to protect and enhance seabird colonies enabling long-term recovery of the birds and improved operations at the base. NFWF also entered into a new partnership with Naval Base Kitsap to support habitat conservation actions that benefit Chinook salmon, a key prey species for killer whales.

In partnership with the **Bonneville Power Administration** and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, NFWF supports 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 improvements with other priority habitat restoration efforts.

The **U.S. Department of the Interior** (DOI), working through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, supports a multi-Department effort to implement large-scale and cross-boundary conservation projects. These locally led, voluntary projects invest in corridors and connectivity, watershed restoration, forest and grassland conservation, community resilience, access, and workforce development. Funding from DOI goes to projects led by States, Tribal Nations, and U.S. territorial governments.

The **Bureau of Land Management** (BLM) partners with NFWF to support migration corridors for big game such as elk, mule deer and pronghorn. The enhancement of these important migration routes provides outsized benefits to a suite of species, including sage-grouse, that depend on the health of these landscapes. NFWF is also working with BLM to support monarch butterfly and other pollinator habitat, riparian sagebrush habitat, southwest headwaters, as well as desert tortoise habitat in the Mojave Desert of Southern California.

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 including the Delaware River, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Central Appalachia, Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Klamath Basin and the sagebrush ecosystem. The partnership benefits a wide range of species from mule deer and pronghorn to turtles, shorebirds, bats and native fish. FWS funding serves as the critical base to a broad range of NFWF conservation programs. The partnership allows NFWF to raise private-sector funds to amplify and complement the federal agency's conservation efforts across the nation, on both public and private lands.

NFWF works with the **Bureau of Reclamation** (Reclamation) within three defined watersheds. In the Middle Rio Grande watershed of New Mexico, NFWF and Reclamation are working with the local irrigation district and landowners to pilot voluntary water leasing and other innovative conservation solutions that support the needs of the farming and ranching community. NFWF also supports Reclamation's coho salmon recovery goals in the Lower Klamath Basin and Trinity River watershed through grant programs 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 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, where NFWF supports community restoration grants and large nutrient reduction grants. The partnership now includes additional large-scale community-based conservation programs in the Great Lakes and Long Island Sound. NFWF also works with EPA to support community engagement and green infrastructure across the country through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program.

NFWF partners with two state of Colorado entities on the RESTORE Colorado program that supports coordinated restoration, improvement and management of wildlife habitat within Colorado. Funding comes from **Great Outdoors Colorado**, which invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open spaces. Additional support comes from the **Colorado Department of Natural Resources** through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program.

Painted bunting singing in Texas

In 2022, NFWF also worked with the following entities:

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Cal Fire
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Milwaukee Metro Sewerage District
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Coast Guard

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

NFWF works with many foundations to advance conservation across the country. These foundations actively supported NFWF conservation programs in 2022.

The **Arthur Vining Davis Foundations** support the Northern Great Plains program, which aims to conserve mixed grass prairie and associated wildlife populations of the northern prairie.

With support from the **Bezos Earth Fund**'s $1 billion overall commitment to restoration made at COP26, NFWF is working to protect and restore degraded landscapes—a critical way to reverse biodiversity loss, enhance water access and quality, build ecosystem resilience, create new jobs and revive rural communities. This work will support conservation projects that generate immediate, overlapping benefits across three urgent areas of concern: advancing carbon goals to mitigate climate change, conserving wildlife biodiversity and boosting the resilience of communities across the nation, including low-income communities and communities of color.

The **Center for Disaster Philanthropy** supports the RESTORE Colorado Program, which was established to fund large-scale restoration and stewardship projects across several habitat priorities in Colorado.

Rooted in the legacy of Arie and Ida Crown, as well as the Jewish tradition of tikun olam — or repairing the world — **Crown Family Philanthropies** is driven by more than 70 years of family commitment to social impact. Crown Family Philanthropies' Great Lakes grant-making supports efforts to address water quality, habitat conservation, and basin-wide policy to ensure that the Great Lakes are protected and restored for the use and enjoyment of people and wildlife for generations to come.

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

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.

A cecropia moth, the largest moth in North America, rests in Michigan.

The **Hunter Family Foundation** supports the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which aims to restore the health, vitality, climate resilience and accessibility of the waterways in Chicago and the Calumet region.

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

The Kresge Foundation was founded in 1924 to promote human progress. Today, Kresge fulfills that mission by building and strengthening pathways to opportunity for low-income people in America's cities, seeking to dismantle structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice. 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.

One Tree Planted supports longleaf pine plantings through the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund.

The **Orton Foundation**, an affiliate of The Moore Charitable Foundation, founded by Louis Bacon, supports the Longleaf Stewardship Fund's work to establish more resilience for wildlife and communities. The fund expands, enhances and accelerates longleaf pine ecosystem restoration across longleaf pine's historical range, which includes North Carolina's Cape Fear Basin.

The **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation** supports the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund and the Sustain Our Great Lakes Program through a special initiative investing in western New York. These programs work to increase the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan and western New York 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**, which has helped to conserve more than 4.5 million acres of environmentally valuable land nationwide, works with NFWF in western Pennsylvania to restore forest and freshwater habitat through the Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program. The program seeks to increase the distribution and abundance of native fish, birds and other wildlife.

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

UBS Optimus Foundation and NFWF began working together in 2021 to enhance nature-based resilience efforts and improve coastal habitat for the benefit of communities and wildlife. UBS Optimus Foundation supports efforts to decrease the risk of natural threats such as hurricanes for communities along the Gulf Coast of the United States.

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

The **Walton Family Foundation,** a family-led foundation, works to create access to opportunity for people and communities through three areas: improving K-12 education, protecting rivers and oceans and the communities they support, and investing in their home region of Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta. The Foundation supports conservation programs at NFWF that address threats to water quality and bottomland hardwoods in the Mississippi River Basin, support sustainable fisheries, and restore riparian habitat in the Colorado River Basin. Walton and NFWF support each other in operating at a landscape scale to maximize outcomes for marine fisheries, wildlife, water and people.

The **William Penn Foundation** supports the Delaware River Restoration Fund, which helps community-based nonprofits and government agencies work together to clean up and restore polluted waters to benefit water quality through the Delaware River Watershed Initiative.

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In 2022, generous gifts from these donors furthered NFWF's actions to sustain and restore wildlife and their habitats. We greatly appreciate their support.

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Seaweed blenny in ivory bush coral

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Brown bear in Alaska

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Burrowing owls in Arizona