



DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILDLIFE ACTION OPPORTUNITIES FUND FACT SHEET - GRANTS 2006

The Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund provides competitive grants to conservation organizations that are focused on implementing priority actions and strategies identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. Funds to support this program were provided by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, which works to accelerate conservation of wildlife habitat through implementation of the Wildlife Action Plans.

During the first year of its two-year funding cycle, the Wildlife Conservation Society awarded 16 grants for over \$1.3 million to a variety of local, regional, and national nonprofit conservation organizations for projects that strive to implement priority conservation activities outlined by the State Wildlife Action Plans. By providing support to a broad swath of organizations and conservation projects, the Wildlife Conservation Society hopes to leverage new and existing partnerships that catalyze implementation and further the conservation goals of the Wildlife Action Plans in all 50 states and 6 U.S. territories. With ever increasing encroachment of commercial, residential and energy development into critical wildlife habitat, the State Wildlife Action Plans provide a comprehensive road map for coordinated efforts in support of protecting important habitats for all wildlife species.

GOALS OF THE WILDLIFE ACTION OPPORTUNITIES FUND

- Grants that directly advance the implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans
- Grants to help integrate State Wildlife Action Plan priorities with other land use planning efforts at the local, state or federal level
- Grants to promote federal, state, and local agency incentive programs that can be applied to State Wildlife Action Plan priorities
- Grants to help publicize and raise the profile of State Wildlife Action Plans to the general public, conservation organizations, interested parties, and decision and policy makers
- Grants that help to improve and fill information gaps in existing Wildlife Action Plans
- Grants aimed towards creating changes in natural resource policy at the local, state, or federal government level that support or improve implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans

2006 STATISTICS

531 proposals received for wildlife conservation action in 50 states and 3 U.S. territories

351 unique applicant organizations

\$45,503,198 in total funding requests

FUNDING TO DATE

Total Grants – 16 projects; \$1,333,841

Habitat restoration/Species reintroduction -- \$898,386

Conservation planning/Plan improvement -- \$220,000

Communications/Landowner outreach – \$215,455

Grant sizes ranging from \$38,000 to \$198,000

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Implementation of State Wildlife Action Plan priorities in 20 states
- Increased awareness and interest in State Wildlife Action Plan priorities
- Provided matching grant funds that helped to leverage both public and private support for State Wildlife Action Plan implementation

ABOUT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild lands. Since 1895, WCS has worked from our Bronx Zoo headquarters to save wildlife and wild lands throughout the world. We uniquely combine the resources of wildlife parks in New York with field projects around the globe to inspire care for nature, provide leadership in environmental education, and help sustain our planet's biological diversity. Together, these activities change individual attitudes toward nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in sustainable interaction on both a local and a global scale. Today WCS is at work in 53 nations across Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America, protecting wild landscapes that are home to a vast variety of species from butterflies to tigers.

<http://www.wcs.org>

ABOUT STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

State Wildlife Action Plans outline the steps that are needed to conserve wildlife and habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect. Taken as a whole, they present a national action agenda for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. In order to receive funds through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and the State Wildlife Grants Program, Congress charged each state and territory with developing a wildlife action plan. These proactive plans, known technically as "comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies," assess the condition of each state's wildlife and habitats, identify the problems they face, and outline the actions that are needed to be conserve them over the long term. More information on State Wildlife Action Plans is available at

<http://wildlifeactionplans.org/>.

Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund Grants 2006

American Bird Conservancy - \$132,000 to conduct outreach and habitat management and restoration activities to support the project *Conservation of Cavity-Nesting Bird Species on Ponderosa Pine Family Forests* in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Atlanta Botanical Garden - \$65,299 to help restore and safeguard critically endangered mountain bog habitats in Northeast Georgia and restore their keystone species.

Audubon Vermont - \$72,000 to support the *Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project* which address the threats of fragmentation and habitat loss to a large number of Vermont's Species of Greatest Conservation Need by providing technical assistance and outreach to landowners, planners, municipalities and residents on public and private land.

Conservation Northwest - \$95,000 to reintroduce the Pacific fisher to the Olympic Peninsula and initiate fisher recovery in Washington State by reestablishing fisher populations in Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest and other suitable habitats.

Five Valleys Land Trust – \$40,000 to develop a coordinated delivery mechanism for the habitat conservation and restoration components of Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy and lay the foundation for new programs and funding to advance the goals of the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Grand Canyon Trust - \$110,000 to rehabilitate and restore wildlife habitat on Arizona's Kaibab Plateau.

Michigan United Conservation Clubs – \$93,455 to forward the implementation of Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan through the expansion of a statewide, broad-based coalition of organizations, combined with an outreach program geared toward the general public and involving hands-on habitat projects.

National Wild Turkey Federation - \$60,087 to support a longleaf pine understory ecosystem restoration initiative for private landowners in Louisiana; providing cost-sharing opportunities and publicizing the importance and value of longleaf pine restoration.

Pheasants Forever - \$50,000 to help implement the *Habitat Wheel Initiative*, which will create grassland habitat on a landscape scale using incentives provided by state, federal and private programs supporting the priorities of the Illinois State Wildlife Action Plan.

Platte River Basin Environments - \$100,000 to conserve and manage Nebraska's critical Wildcat Hills habitats on both conservation-owned and private lands through partnerships and with support of local landowners and communities.

Quail Unlimited - \$100,000 to initiate self-sufficient Habitat Management Teams that focus on early successional restoration and management practices in priority conservation areas as defined in Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan.

Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project - \$55,000 to help align transportation projects with State Wildlife Action Plans in both Colorado and New Mexico by developing GIS data and maps, designing an early warning system and ensuring wildlife collision mitigation measures are placed in effective locations.

The Nature Conservancy – Utah chapter - \$50,000 to help enhance Utah's Wildlife Action Plan to where it serves as a strategic guide for planning and action by all land and resource management agencies, non-profit organizations and private groups with a stake in conserving Utah's wildlife or their habitats.

The Nature Conservancy – New Mexico chapter - \$75,000 to conduct a climate change vulnerability analysis for New Mexico that will (1) assess and map current and projected effects of climate change on habitats and species of conservation concern; and (2) identify pragmatic adaptation strategies for natural resource managers.

Trout Unlimited - \$38,000 to improve stream flows crucial to restoration of arctic grayling in Montana's upper Big Hole River basin by advancing water management strategies and water right transactions.

Wildlife Management Institute - \$198,000 to improve the quantity, quality and conservation status of both shrubland and grassland habitats in six northeastern states (CT, MA, RI, NY, NH, VT) through a collaborative, multi-partner habitat restoration initiative.

Contact:

Darren Long, Program Officer, Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund

Wildlife Conservation Society

Phone: 406-556-7203

Email: dlong@wcs.org

<http://www.wcs.org/wildlifeopportunity>