



DORIS DUKE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILDLIFE ACTION OPPORTUNITIES FUND 2007 FACT SHEET & GRANTS LIST

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 this second year of its initial two-year funding cycle, the Wildlife Conservation Society has awarded 20 grants for \$2 million (a total of 36 grants for \$3.3 million over the two-year program) 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 between states and nonprofits that catalyze implementation 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 areas, the State Wildlife Action Plans provide a comprehensive framework for coordinated efforts in support of protecting important habitats for all species.

### GOALS OF THE WILDLIFE ACTION OPPORTUNITIES FUND

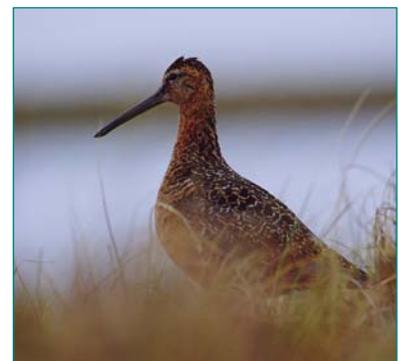
- Grants that advance the implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans' conservation priorities and foster partnerships between state agencies and nonprofit conservation organizations
- Grants to help integrate State Wildlife Action Plan priorities with other land use planning efforts at the local, state or federal level
- Grants for wildlife habitat restoration or reintroduction and management of priority species
- Grants to help publicize and raise the profile of State Wildlife Action Plans to the general public, conservation organizations, interested parties, and policy makers
- Grants for projects designed to work collaboratively with state wildlife agencies to develop strategies and actions for responding to climate change
- Grants aimed towards creating changes in natural resource policy at the local, state, or federal government level that support implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans

### 2007 REQUESTS

- 201 proposals received for wildlife conservation action in 49 states and 1 U.S. territory
- 159 unique applicant organizations
- \$17,445,705 in total funding requests

### 2007 FUNDING

- Total Grants – 20 projects; \$2,000,000
- Habitat restoration/Species reintroduction (5) - \$354,015
- Conservation planning/Plan improvement (8) - \$706,960
- Communications/Policy change (5) – \$539,505
- Climate Change (2) – \$399,520



Long-billed Dowitcher, Alaska/WCS

## 2007 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Funded the implementation of State Wildlife Action Plan priorities in 31 states
- Catalyzed new partnerships and strengthened existing relationships between nonprofit conservation organizations and state wildlife agencies
- Increased interest and awareness of State Wildlife Action Plan priorities
- Provided matching grant funds that helped to leverage an additional \$3.2 million in both public and private support for State Wildlife Action Plan implementation

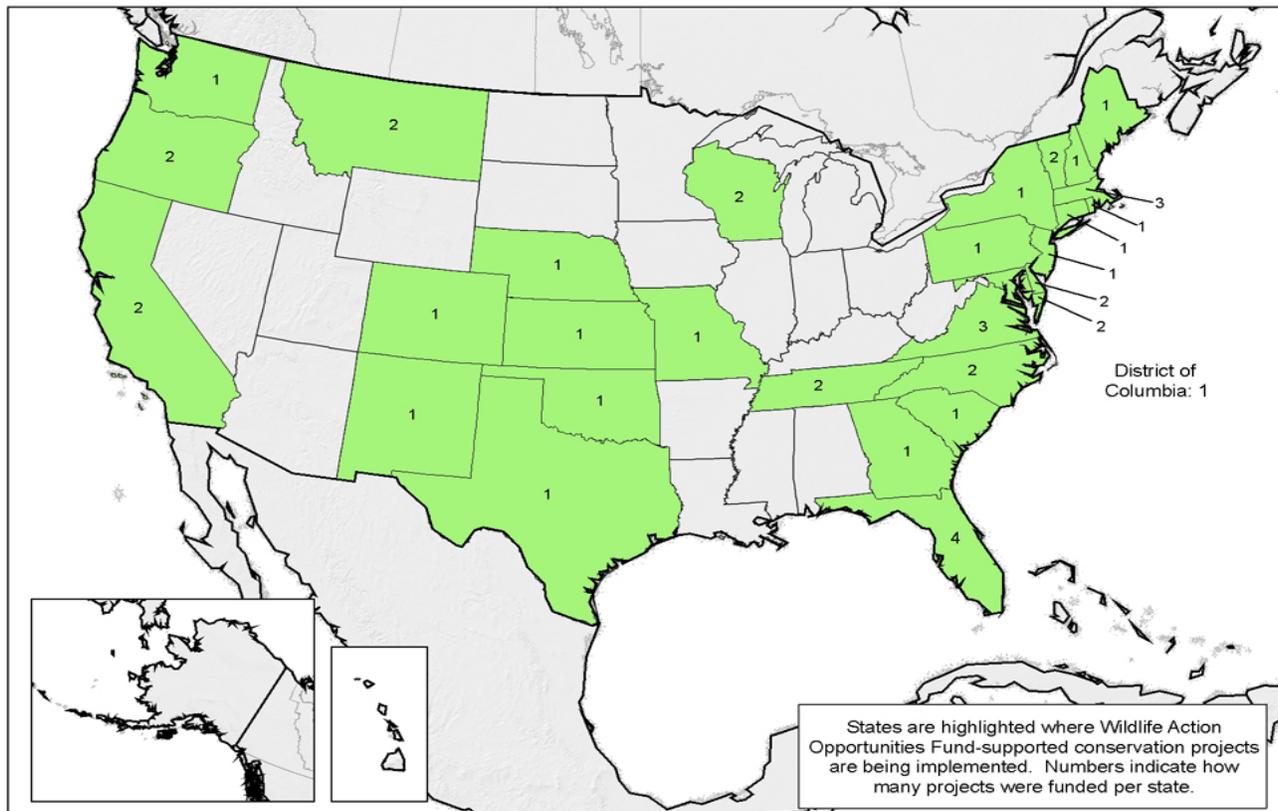
## ABOUT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

*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 conserve them over the long term. More information on State Wildlife Action Plans is available at <http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/>

## Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund Grants 2007



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## 2007 GRANTS LIST

**American Rivers - \$100,000** to work with a diversity of committed partners seeking to restore multiple aquatic species, including two state listed species in the North Branch of the Hoosic River's headwaters through removal of the Briggsville Dam in Clarksburg, Massachusetts.

**Bridging the Gap – Kansas City Wildlands - \$61,700** to convene partners and stakeholders to develop a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) action plan in the Kansas City area in accordance with the Missouri Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and to implement conservation actions identified in the plan.

**Defenders of Wildlife - \$65,000** for creation of a statewide forum to facilitate best practices/guidelines in designing and implementing wildlife connectivity plans and develop a model regional connectivity design approach and one linkage design in California's San Joaquin Valley and foothills.

**Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences - \$92,800** for a project to support State Wildlife Action Plan priority conservation needs in sixteen states; designed to position agencies for proactive management of energy development activities to protect wildlife and habitats.

**Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences - \$199,520** to assist Massachusetts wildlife agencies to ensure that strategies in the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan are adapted for climate change impacts and that these climate-adapted strategies are adopted for implementation by the state agency and its implementation partners.

**National Wildlife Federation - \$200,000** for NWF and affiliates to work in three pilot states (FL, VA, and WA) to help state wildlife agencies become leaders on climate change adaptation using State Wildlife Action Plans as a framework and, nationally, to help ensure that policy makers and natural resource managers support climate change adaptation.

**National Wildlife Federation - \$96,955** for NWF and its affiliates to work in three states (MI, TX, and VT) to facilitate communications between state wildlife agencies, non-profits and other stakeholders to implement conservation priorities State Wildlife Action Plans and also to conduct targeted outreach on the success of partnerships between state wildlife agencies and non-profits around the country to implement State Wildlife Action Plans.

**National Wildlife Refuge Association - \$150,000** for the Beyond Refuge Boundaries – Implementing State Wildlife Action Plans Program, that will conserve key habitats near National Wildlife Refuges in two geographically diverse landscapes; the Delmarva Peninsula (VA, MD and DE) and the Rock River watershed (WI); to protect habitat, to facilitate coordination between partners, to address habitat fragmentation by creating wildlife corridors, and to integrate State Wildlife Action Plans and Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans.

**Playa Lakes Joint Venture - \$92,550** for policy work and engagement with national and state level personnel at the USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service to increase Farm Bill program applicability for playa and aquifer conservation in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

**Southeast Watershed Forum - \$58,295** to work with local city and county leaders, resource organizations and TWRA staff in three TN communities to integrate specific protection strategies in their comprehensive plans to preserve priority habitat identified in the TN SWAP and shape growth away from natural resources that provide long term economic and environmental benefits.

**Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy - \$20,780** to create an accessible and secure GIS-based toolkit for the globally significant Roan Mountain Massif, which will enable the integration of State Wildlife Action Plan data into local government land use planning decisions in three counties in North Carolina and Tennessee.

**Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy - \$42,900** to partner with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Division of Forestry and Volusia County to implement on-the-ground management and prescribed fire to restore and enhance 10,000 acres of upland habitat within five focal properties.

**The Prairie Enthusiasts, Inc. - \$200,000** for outreach and education programs around Wisconsin's 50,000 acre Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area; to inform landowners, local communities, and government officials about Species of Greatest Conservation Need, habitat requirements, and Wisconsin's State Wildlife Action Plan in collaboration with a multi-partner on-the-ground conservation project to increase and improve habitat for 27 Species of Greatest Conservation Need dependant upon grassland and savanna ecosystems.

**The Sonoran Institute - \$75,000** to protect fish and wildlife habitat in Montana from the impacts of unplanned growth by providing wildlife managers, elected officials and rural landowners with the training, tools and assistance needed to effectively manage rural development to conserve ecologically important private lands.

**The Nature Conservancy – Oregon chapter - \$194,385** to develop a collaborative, science-based vision of desired future conditions and wildlife habitat values in each of five landscapes, totaling over 4 million acres in Oregon and Washington; drafting a priority treatment plan at each of the five sites, communication of a collaborative vision and maps to public and private land managers, and beginning implementation of one demonstration project at each landscape.

**The Nature Conservancy – Washington chapter - \$56,115** to support the Glacial Heritage Demonstration Project implementing direct restoration actions to prepare grassland habitat for the reintroduction of extirpated Species of Greatest Conservation Need as outlined in Washington's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

**Trout Unlimited - \$90,000** for the Water and Wine Project; a comprehensive new initiative to restore streams and enhance stream flows in California's Wine Country through partnerships between Trout Unlimited and the wine industry.

**Vermont Natural Resources Council - \$64,000** to prioritize north-south wildlife crossing areas in Vermont using historical and new road ecology science with wildlife passage techniques to fulfill State Wildlife Action Plan priorities to improve wildlife mobility and ability to survive a changing climate, as well as conducting mitigation work focusing on identifying priority road crossing areas in need of land conservation.

**Vermont Wildlife Partnership - \$75,000** to build a diverse coalition of fish and wildlife stakeholder groups that works in partnership with citizens, local officials, non-traditional allies, and state legislators to redirect 1/8 of 1% of Vermont's state sales tax to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to support timely, comprehensive implementation of the Vermont Wildlife Action Plan.

**World Wildlife Fund - \$65,000** for black-tailed prairie dog restoration and conservation work in north central Montana within one of the primary focal areas for prairie dog conservation identified by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks with the intent of increasing habitat important to three more of Montana's Species of Greatest Conservation Need: black-footed ferrets, mountain plovers, and burrowing owls.



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