

Cooperative Endangered Species (ESA Section 6) Grants

Grants for states and territories

Grants for states and territories, offered through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized under section 6 of the ESA) fund participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed and listed species. These funds may in turn be awarded to private landowners and groups for conservation projects. Catalog of Domestic Federal Assistance Number 15.615.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers many other programs to help States, Territories, and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species.

Purpose	Species Benefiting	Competition	Financial Match Requirement*
implementation of conservation projects	federally listed threatened or endangered species	formula	25% of estimated project cost; or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project
acquisition of habitat in support of approved recovery goals or objectives	federally listed threatened or endangered species	regional competition	25% of estimated project cost; or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project
support development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)	federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP**	national competition	25% of estimated project cost; or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project
acquisition of land associated with approved HCPs	federally listed threatened or endangered species, unlisted (including State-listed species), proposed and candidate species covered by the HCP**	national competition	25% of estimated project cost; or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project

Cooperative Endangered Species (ESA Section 6) Grants
Awarded in Montana 2006-2010

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/index.html#grants>

2010

Saypo Cattle Company Easement, Rocky Mountain Front * (Teton County, MT) \$392,007. This grant award will support the placement of a conservation easement on 12,000 acres of a working cattle ranch along the Rocky Mountain Front (Front). This property contains a wide diversity of habitat types along a vertical gradient of 1,700 feet, including coniferous forest, limber pine savanna, aspen stands, wet meadows, prairie potholes, native grasslands, and two creeks with associated riparian habitat. The riparian areas on this property represent some of the best unprotected occupied grizzly bear habitat on the Front, with high-quality forage, security cover, little human disturbance, and connectivity to adjacent habitat. This conservation easement will link a contiguous block of 50,000 acres of protected habitat to other public lands along the Front.

2009

Clearwater Lands Project (Missoula County, MT) \$6,000,000. The Clearwater lands acquisition of 7,871 acres would work toward eventual protection of the larger Clearwater land block of over 23,000 acres. This project would complement the Plum Creek HCP by protecting lands for the covered bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and mountain whitefish. Acquisition of these lands would provide linkage with adjacent protected wilderness and roadless areas, which would benefit not only the covered species, but also the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and gray wolf that use this area as a corridor. This project involves the participation of many partners and has been recognized as one of the largest and most important conservation efforts in the country. We recommend full funding of \$6,000,000 for this proposal.

Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Wind Energy HCP. (States: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas) \$1,080,990. The planning proposal requests \$1,080,990 in Federal funding. The planning proposal lands encompasses the whooping cranes migration route in the U.S. and their wintering grounds, along with containing a significant portion of current and historic habitat of the lesser prairie-chicken. This bi-regional habitat conservation plan will be the first of its type in the country to involve alternative fuel sources and climate change issues while protecting imperiled species.

2008

Native Fish HCP: Blackfoot Easement Project (Powell, Lewis & Clark, Missoula Counties, MT): \$6,515,391. The Blackfoot watershed provides crucial connectivity for many imperiled wildlife species including native bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish. The funds provided will help complete the Blackfoot Easement Project, which aims to provide permanent protection for at least 34,000 acres of watershed and working landscape. The parcels proposed for acquisition are adjacent to National Forest and state lands and will fill a critical void in maintaining unfragmented landscape benefiting other species grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, Trumpeter swan, bald eagle, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

2007

***Native Fish HCP: Blackfoot Easement Project** (Lewis & Clark County, MT): \$3,887,375. The Blackfoot watershed provides crucial connectivity for many imperiled wildlife species including native bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish. Intrinsic to this system as well are the imperiled grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The lands proposed for conservation easement acquisition are adjacent to National Forest and State lands and fill a critical void in maintaining the unfragmented landscape.

2006

***Native Fish HCP: Blackfoot Easement Project** (Lewis & Clark, Missoula and Powell Counties, MT): \$2,699,000. The Blackfoot watershed provides crucial connectivity for many imperiled wildlife species including native bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish. Intrinsic to this system as well are the imperiled grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The lands proposed for conservation easement acquisition are adjacent to National Forest and State lands and fill a critical void in maintaining the unfragmented landscape.

Montana Division of Natural Resources Forested Trust Land HCP (Twenty Five Counties in Western MT): \$574,334. This grant will enable the Montana Department of Natural Resources to complete a HCP that covers half a million acres of State lands protecting five listed species (grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bull trout, bald eagle, gray wolf) and two State sensitive species (Columbia River redband trout and westslope cutthroat trout) in northwestern Montana. This project will set a statewide precedence for balancing forest practices and public land management with species conservation. The overall conservation strategy will emphasize forest management practices that maintain healthy ecosystems, promote biodiversity, and protect important ecological features across all HCP-covered lands.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Tools for State and Private Landowners

- Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances provide incentives for non-Federal landowners to conserve candidate species.
- Endangered and Threatened Species Permits for native species. Permits provide exemptions to ESA prohibitions
- Conservation Banking: Incentives for Stewardship fact sheet (PDF).
- Endangered Species Grants for States, Territories, and Private Landowners
- Safe Harbor Agreements for Private Property Owners, Questions and Answers (PDF)
- Incidental take permits and Habitat Conservation Planning help landowners legally proceed with activities that might otherwise result in the illegal harm to a listed species.
- Endangered and Threatened Species Permits for native species.

Link for above info: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/landowner/index.html#tools>