



NFWF

# Acres for America 2018 Grant Slate

## NFWF CONTACT

Chris West

Director, Rocky Mountain

Regional Office

[chris.west@nfwf.org](mailto:chris.west@nfwf.org)

303-222-6484

## ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street NW,  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-857-0166

**Walmart**  **Acres for America**



Grizzly bear and cubs

## OVERVIEW

Acres for America, one of the most effective public-private partnerships in the history of U.S. conservation efforts, announced \$3.2 million in grants to protect and connect wildlife habitat across more than 84,350 acres in Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Montana, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont. These eight grants will leverage an additional \$70.8 million in matching contributions, pushing the total conservation impact for the 2018 grant slate to more than \$74 million.

Acres for America is NFWF's premier land conservation program. Since 2005, NFWF and Walmart have supported the conservation of critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife; connected existing protected lands to unify wild places and protected migration routes; provided access for people to enjoy the outdoors; and helped to ensure the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching and recreation.

Since its inception, Acres for America has funded 88 projects in 38 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to permanently protect more than 1.4 million acres — far surpassing its original goal of 100,000 acres — and connecting over 10 million acres.

*(continued)*



Sandhill crane | Credit: Nigel Winnu

**Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Expansion (AK)**

Grantee: The Conservation Fund

Grant Award:..... \$135,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$513,464

**Total Amount:..... \$648,464**

Lead a partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expand Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge by 520 acres. Project will secure this cherished wildlife area within the city of Fairbanks, Alaska and allow for the enhancement of wildlife habitat for sandhill cranes, waterfowl and other migratory birds, and provide for expanded public recreation.

**Brushy Mountain Conservation Easement along the Coast Ranges of California**

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Grant Award:..... \$500,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$31,775,000

**Total Amount:..... \$32,275,000**

Permanently protect 26,144 acres of private forestland and rangeland along the Coast Ranges of California. Project will conserve high-quality critical habitat for salmon and steelhead trout, tule elk and numerous other sensitive species; expand a 49-mile long corridor of protected lands;

and enhance public access to the Eel River. Project will also help to maintain a family-owned, sustainably-managed forest and a local timber industry reliant on private forestlands.

**Conservation of Kootenai Forestlands in the Cabinet-Yaak Linkage Area of Montana**

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Award:..... \$400,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$8,000,000

**Total Amount:..... \$8,400,000**

Purchase a conservation easement with the Stimson Lumber Company on the 22,275-acre Kootenai Forestlands property. Project will protect a critical watershed and forestland habitats in the Cabinet-Yaak Linkage Area, a key connection for grizzly bear, lynx and bull trout. Project will prevent subdivision and development; ensure public access and protect a major drinking water reservoir.

**Protection of Sabine Ranch for Incorporation into the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge (TX)**

Grantee: The Conservation Fund

Grant Award:..... \$500,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$5,000,000

**Total Amount:..... \$5,500,000**

Acquire 12,376 acres of Texas coastal prairie and marsh

(continued)





Northern river otter | Credit: Tom Koerner, USFWS

habitats within the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge boundary. Project will protect water quality, shallow aquatic habitats, and emergent marshes that are essential for shorebirds, and other migratory waterfowl.

#### **Acquisition of Rockhouse Creek for the Enhancement of the Kings River in the Ozark Highlands (AR)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 Grant Award:..... \$370,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$990,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$1,360,000**

Acquire the 550-acre Rockhouse Creek tract, connecting more than 20,000 acres of previously protected and publicly accessible land along the King's River in the Ozark Highlands. Project will secure habitat for 18 Ozark endemic species, expand opportunities for public recreation and support a planned stream restoration project.

#### **Acquisition of Canoochee Sandhills for Gopher Tortoise Conservation (GA)**

Grantee: Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
 Grant Award:..... \$500,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$9,500,850  
**Total Amount:..... \$10,000,850**

Acquire the 6,065-acre Canoochee Sandhills property in Georgia to create a new publicly accessible wildlife management area. Project will support viable gopher tortoise habitat to potentially avoid a federal listing of this candidate species, as well as allow for expansion of longleaf pine habitat on the property.

#### **Protection of Groton Plantation in the Savannah River Watershed (SC)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 Grant Award:..... \$500,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$10,445,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$10,945,000**

Purchase a conservation easement on Groton Plantation, protecting 13,681 acres of high priority longleaf pine forest in South Carolina. Project will connect 125,000 acres of public and private protected lands in South Carolina and Georgia; create a 50-mile wildlife corridor; and provide habitat for rare plant and animal species including the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise. The project will also protect a major drinking water source for Savannah, Georgia and secure forestry-related jobs in the local rural economy.

#### **Rolston Rest Acquisition within Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest**

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land  
 Grant Award:..... \$300,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$4,600,500  
**Total Amount:..... \$4,900,500**

Acquire the 2,745-acre Rolston Rest property, the largest unprotected inholding within Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest. Project will safeguard habitat for black bear, northern river otter, bobcat and Bicknell's thrush while protecting drinking water sources for local communities and increasing recreational access for hikers, cross-country skiers, hunters and anglers.