

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

Priority: 1

State(s): FL

Congressional District(s): FL-9, FL-18

Location:

Approximately 50 miles south of Orlando and 75 miles east of Tampa, in Okeechobee, Osceola, Highlands and Polk Counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	2,500	\$10,000,000
Acquired to Date	12,174	\$33,125,885
Remaining to be Acquired	137,402	\$406,062,521

Project Description:

Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area contains the headwaters of the greater Everglades ecosystem, protecting a combination of wetland and upland habitats supporting migratory birds, 143 Federal and State listed species, and regionally important wildlife and plant communities within the Kissimmee River Basin. Habitats include a mosaic of seasonally wet grasslands, longleaf pine savannas, sandhill and scrub, and forested wetlands that support numerous imperiled plants and animals and connect landscapes for a wide array of species including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon’s crested caracara, and Florida grasshopper sparrow. Easements acquired within the Conservation Area protect Florida's cattle ranching heritage and fee acquisitions for the Refuge provide public outdoor recreational opportunities, including opportunities for underserved communities.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is working with willing sellers to acquire 2,500 acres in fee and conservation easements. Refuge acquisitions are strongly supported by a variety of partners and stakeholders. Funding will be leveraged by the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program. Acquisitions will help the Everglades ecosystem become a more connected and functional conservation landscape that will provide effective habitat connections between existing conservation areas and allow habitats and species to shift in response to urban development pressures and climate change. Conservation easements help preserve one of Florida’s last working rural landscapes, protecting a unique regional landscape, trust resources, and the local economy. Acquisitions also contribute to safeguarding water supply for millions of Floridians and marine life by protecting groundwater recharge areas and holding and treating surface water runoff, which significantly contributes to efforts to protect and restore watersheds by reducing fresh and saltwater algae

blooms. Fee acquisitions provide public outdoor recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and hiking.

Cooperator(s):

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Sportsman's Trust, Florida Cattlemen's Association, National Wildlife Refuge Association, The Conservation Fund, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Okeechobee, Osceola, Highlands, and Polk Counties, The Nature Conservancy.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$12,000	\$10,000

O&M Description:

Annual costs are for monitoring easements, and habitat management, including prescribed burning. Annual costs also include maintenance of infrastructure that supports public hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 2

State(s): TX

Congressional District(s): TX-10

Location:

60 miles west of Houston, Texas in Colorado County, Texas near the Community of Eagle Lake.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	346	\$4,500,000
Acquired to Date	10,541	\$6,459,560
Remaining to be Acquired	13,113	\$65,795,000

Project Description:

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1972 for the protection of the Attwater’s prairie-chicken, one of the most endangered birds in North America. It has an acquisition boundary of 24,000 acres. The recovery program for the endangered Attwater's prairie-chicken has focused on two primary areas: 1) developing a successful and sustainable captive breeding and release program; and 2) protecting and restoring enough native coastal prairie to support a self-sustaining population of birds. In partnership with a number of private and non-profit partners, the Service is releasing several hundred prairie-chickens on the core Refuge tract each year. As a birding destination, the Refuge contributes to the economy of nearby Eagle Lake, a small, rural, diverse city. The Refuge partners with schools to provide environmental education to students of all backgrounds. In 2022, the Refuge began a partnership with the Texas Challenge Academy to provide environmental education, community service and leadership development opportunities for at-risk teens.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin the phased acquisition of a 541-acre property. The property consists of approximately 352 acres of restored pastureland and 188 acres of irrigated farmland. Attwater's prairie chickens regularly use this land. The landowner has been approached to sell this property to a buyer who desires to build a housing development, partly due to its proximity to an established Interstate 10 exit. Acquisition would protect the existing Attwater's prairie chicken population and habitat. The Service will restore the irrigated farmland to native prairie, expanding available habitat for Attwater's prairie-chickens

and other grassland birds, including northern bobwhites. Acquisition will also expand public recreational access for environmental education, birding, photography, and hiking.

Cooperator(s):

The Nature Conservancy; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; City of Eagle Lake; Houston Zoo; Fossil Rim Wildlife Center; the Caldwell Zoo (Tyler, TX); and the Sutton Avian Research Center (Bartlesville, OK).

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$7,000	\$20,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include boundary posting, gates, and some road repair. Annual O&M costs include restoration of agricultural fields to native prairie and maintenance.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Dakota Grassland Conservation Area

Priority: 3

State(s): ND, SD

Congressional District(s): ND-AL, SD-AL

Location:

South Dakota and North Dakota, lying east of the Missouri River.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	6,000	\$6,000,000
Acquired to Date	103,278	\$52,100,656
Remaining to be Acquired	1,830,722	\$1,739,186,900

Project Description:

The Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) ecosystem consists of large, unique grassland and wetland complexes that provide critical habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, grassland birds, and other wildlife. Known as America’s “duck factory,” the PPR supports more than 50% of the total breeding population of North America’s migratory waterfowl. The prime breeding habitat for millions of ducks, the PPR includes parts of Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana, and can support upwards of 100 breeding duck pairs per square mile. The Dakota Grassland Conservation Area is part of a large-scale habitat conservation effort to protect this highly diverse and endangered ecosystem across the North and South Dakota portions of the PPR. The Service has made significant progress in protecting priority waterfowl habitat in the PPR, but further habitat fragmentation and degradation continues at an alarming rate. Approximately 81% of the remaining grassland and 65% of wetlands in the PPR have no form of permanent protection. The Service’s conservation easement acquisition program offers landowners a non-regulatory, financial incentive to permanently protect wildlife habitat on private lands in the PPR. Landscape-scale preservation of the rich mosaic of native grasslands and functional wetlands will bolster the ecosystem’s resiliency to climate change.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will pursue the acquisition of wetland and grassland conservation easements from willing sellers on approximately 6,000 acres of grassland and wetland habitat in South Dakota and North Dakota. Easements conserve working landscapes and protect the integrity of native prairie and associated wetlands by preventing further habitat fragmentation. The ecological function of these habitats is preserved by providing for flood water retention, ground water recharge, carbon sequestration, improved

water quality and reduced soil erosion. Acquisitions will benefit migratory birds, plants, and wildlife including Federally listed species such as piping plover, whooping crane, and Dakota skipper.

The funding leverages additional funding from Ducks Unlimited and other conservation partners.

Cooperator(s):

North Dakota Game and Fish Department; North Dakota Natural Resources Trust; Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; The Nature Conservancy; and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$0	\$0

O&M Description:

The Service is already monitoring existing easements in the area; the additional costs would be minimal.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 4

State(s): CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI

Congressional District(s): CT-2, CT-5; MA-9; ME-1; NH-1, NH-2; NY-18; RI-2

Location:

Spans 10 Focus Areas in six northeastern states.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	220	\$1,000,000
Acquired to Date	372	\$1,059,720
Remaining to be Acquired	14,408	\$98,440,280

Project Description:

Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2016 to manage and protect young forest and shrubland habitat for the New England cottontail rabbit, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, monarch butterfly, box turtle, and other species that depend on young forest and shrubland. The Refuge is part of a larger landscape effort with state wildlife agencies and other partners in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island to protect and manage lands for young forest and shrubland habitats and the species that depend on them. The Service plans to conserve 15,000 acres in 10 focus areas. Habitat restoration also benefits Federally listed endangered bog turtles and at-risk migratory birds including prairie warbler, blue-winged warbler, field sparrow, American woodcock, and brown thrasher. The Refuge provides public wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife observation, nature interpretation, hunting, and fishing.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is in negotiations with willing sellers at several focus areas. An example is a 39-acre property located within the Oyster-Dover-Bellamy focus area of NH. The property has a mix of wetlands and regenerating forest, which is ideal for New England cottontail conservation. The property is located within the Oyster River watershed and contains several brooks and areas of wetlands. This diversity of land cover types supports an array of species of concern including American woodcock, brook trout, American eel, wood turtle and spotted turtle. Acquisitions will expand public wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife observation, nature interpretation, hunting, and fishing.

Cooperator(s):

States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York; USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service; The Nature Conservancy; Trust for Public Land; Avalonia Land Conservancy (CT); Open Space Institute; Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire; Dutchess Land

Conservancy (NY), Housatonic Valley Association; Harlem Valley Conservation Alliance (NY); Open Space Institute (NY); Connecticut Audubon Society; York Land Trust (ME); Kittery Land Trust (ME); Great Works Regional Land Trust (ME); Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (NH).

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Start-up cost would be used for boundary marking. Annual costs include habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 5

State(s): ME

Congressional District(s): ME-1

Location:

York and Cumberland Counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	50	\$1,500,000
Acquired to Date	5,776	\$27,769,190
Remaining to be Acquired	9,058	\$90,440,000

Project Description:

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1966 in cooperation with the State of Maine to protect valuable salt marshes and estuaries for migratory birds. Located along 50 miles of coastline in York and Cumberland Counties, the Refuge consists of eleven Divisions stretching from Kittery to Cape Elizabeth. The proximity of the Refuge to the coast and its location between the eastern deciduous forest and the boreal forest creates a biodiverse composition of plants and animals not found elsewhere in Maine. Major habitat types present on the Refuge include forested upland, barrier beach/dune, coastal meadows, tidal salt marsh, and the distinctive rocky coast. The Refuge provides public recreational opportunities, including wildlife observation, fishing, hunting, photography, and kayaking for the growing, and increasingly diverse and more urban, population of southern Maine and its summer visitors.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is in negotiations with several landowners. One such example is a 110-acre property in Kennebunkport, Maine. The property is a mix of various wetland types and upland forest, providing habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, migratory waterfowl, and shorebirds. The property also supports spotted and wood turtles, which are under consideration for ESA listing. This area is included in the draft salt marsh sparrow conservation plan that the Service developed in consultation with the State of Maine. The acquisition is adjacent to existing Refuge lands and will provide an avenue for saltmarsh migration due to

anticipated sea level rise. Acquisitions will expand public wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife observation, nature interpretation, and fishing.

Cooperator(s):

Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative (a partnership among national and local land trusts including the York, Kittery, and Great Works Regional Land Trusts).

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$10,000	\$2,500

O&M Description:

Startup costs include boundary marking. Annual costs include maintenance and law enforcement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 6

State(s): CT, MA, NH, VT

Congressional District(s): CT-1, CT-2, CT-3, CT-5; MA-1, MA-2, MA-3; NH-1, NH-2; VT-AL

Location:

Several focus areas within the Connecticut River Watershed.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	333	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	39,453	\$40,302,741
Remaining to be Acquired	58,044	\$88,197,259

Project Description:

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was authorized in 1991 as a landscape-scale, watershed-based, climate resilient, and partnership empowered land conservation collaboration to protect the Connecticut River Watershed. Land protection promotes ecological integrity and species diversity and reinforces ecosystem structure and function. The Refuge purpose is to conserve, protect, and enhance the Connecticut River Valley populations of Atlantic salmon, American shad, river herring, short-nosed sturgeon, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, osprey, black ducks, and other native species of plants, fish, and wildlife. Refuge Divisions span the rural-suburban-urban gradient creating opportunities to connect with underserved communities and economically depressed areas. The diverse array of compatible public access opportunities provided within the Watershed offer an array of avenues to connect people with nature.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is in negotiations with many willing sellers in each of the refuge’s four states. Many of the targeted tracts are adjacent to existing Refuge lands and other conservation lands, thereby enhancing connectivity for wildlife corridors and public recreation. Two sample properties include a 329-acre conservation easement at the Mascoma River Division in New Hampshire and a 4-acre house lot at the Salmon River Division in Connecticut. The easement constitutes an additional phase of a much larger conservation project and will protect this extensive forest from development while promoting sound forest management practices and allowing for public recreation. The Connecticut property fronts the Salmon River and contains forested riparian habitat important to migratory birds. Acquisition of the tract

and removal of the house will eliminate a source of disturbance to wildlife both to this property and adjoining Refuge lands.

Cooperator(s):

States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, as well as local communities. The Friends of Conte, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, The Trust for Public Land, Kestrel Land Trust, Middlesex Land Trust, and WildLandscapes International. The four-state congressional delegation provides letters of support annually.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$7,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Start-up cost would be used for boundary marking. Annual costs include habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Willamette Valley Conservation Area

Priority: 7

State(s): OR

Congressional District(s): OR-01, OR-04, OR-05, OR-06

Location:

Willamette Valley, Oregon.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	585	\$3,500,000
Acquired to Date	0	\$0
Remaining to be Acquired	22,065	\$151,000,000

Project Description:

The Service is proposing to establish the Willamette Valley Conservation Area for the preservation and restoration of oak and prairie ecosystems. The Service is a partner in the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Cooperative), which consists of more than three dozen nongovernmental organizations, Tribal, private business, university, local, State, and Federal partners. Oak and prairie habitats are home to a diverse array of wildlife and plant species. The Cooperative has designated 23 "strategy species" that are of high conservation value for the State of Oregon and include several Federally listed Threatened or Endangered species, including acorn woodpecker, Fender's blue butterfly (endangered), streaked horned lark (threatened), monarch butterfly, Bradshaw's desert parsley (endangered), and Willamette daisy (endangered). The Service plans to protect 22,650 acres of oak and grassland habitat. The Conservation Area will complement conservation and public recreation efforts of Ankeny, William L. Finley, and Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuges.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire a 585-acre property that is one of the largest prairie restorations in the Willamette Valley. For over 15 years, multiple Federal, State, and other conservation partners have helped the landowner restore agricultural lands to oak and prairie ecosystems. The property now supports several focal species of concern, including western meadowlark, short-eared owl, and elk. It also supports thousands of wintering waterfowl and raptors. The property was the first place in Willamette Valley where short-eared owls were found nesting after an absence of more than eight decades. The property has the potential to contribute to recovery of multiple Federally listed species, such as the streaked horned lark, Fender's blue butterfly, Nelson's checkermallow, and the Willamette daisy. Acquisition will ensure

perpetual conservation of the property and public access for recreation such as wildlife observation, photography, and hiking.

Cooperator(s):

Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative, which is composed of more than three dozen nongovernmental organizations, Tribal, private business, university, local, State, and Federal partners. Partners for this specific acquisition include USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; Cascade Pacific Research, Conservation & Development Council; Oregon State University; the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$7,000	\$9,000

O&M Description:

Start-up cost would be used for boundary marking. Annual costs include habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 8

State(s): CA

Congressional District(s): CA-14, CA-15, CA-16, CA-17

Location:

On San Francisco Bay in the city of Newark in Alameda County.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	81	\$4,690,000
Acquired to Date	29,528	\$43,716,134
Remaining to be Acquired	13,476	\$336,900,000

Project Description:

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is located in south San Francisco Bay, California. One of the largest urban refuges in the United States, it is an island of wildlife habitat in an extensive metropolitan area of 7 million people. The Refuge consists primarily of tidal marsh, salt ponds, mud flats, and seasonal wetlands acting as a keystone to the preservation of the biological and physical integrity of San Francisco Bay. The Refuge provides habitat for nine species of Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and is home to 227 species of birds, including 8 percent of the world population of the western snowy plover. It protects 60 percent of the world's population of California clapper rail, as well as a substantial number of salt marsh harvest mouse, both found only in the remaining tidal marshes of San Francisco Bay. Wintering waterfowl make extensive use of the area, averaging 45,000-75,000 each winter. More than 500,000 shorebirds make use of the mud flats and salt ponds. The Refuge provides public wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, including hiking and fishing.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin phased acquisition of a 430-acre tract. Acquisition will allow the Service and partners to restore the land to tidal marsh for the benefit of the endangered Ridgeway's rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. Tidal marshes provide for sea level rise resiliency and marsh migration. The acquisition supports the goals of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. As part of the acquisition, our conservation partner is having listening sessions with local Tribes to document

cultural resources and lore. Acquisition will expand public wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, such as hiking and fishing.

Cooperator(s):

Trust for Public Lands, California Coastal Commission, Wildlife Conservation Board, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, and San Francisco Bay Estuary Partnership.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$20,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Start-up cost would be used for boundary marking and habitat restoration. Annual costs include habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 9

State(s): AR

Congressional District(s): AR-01

Location:

Adjacent to the White and Cache Rivers and Bayou DeView, 75 miles northeast of Little Rock in Monroe, Prairie, Woodruff, Jackson, Cross, and Poinsett Counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	140	\$500
Acquired to Date	73,561	\$74,085,690
Remaining to be Acquired	212,359	\$530,597,655

Project Description:

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1986 to protect significant wetland habitats and provide critical feeding and resting areas for migrating and wintering waterfowl. As one of the few remaining areas in the Lower Mississippi River Valley not drastically altered by channelization and drainage, the Cache River basin contains a variety of wetland communities including some of the most intact and least disturbed bottomland hardwood forests in the Mississippi Valley region and is the most important wintering area for mallard ducks in North America. The exemplary quality and diversity of habitats attract a wide variety of fish and wildlife, including Federally listed and candidate species such as northern long-eared bat, eastern black rail, interior least tern, piping plover, and monarch butterfly. The wetlands have been designated by the Ramsar Convention as “Wetlands of International Importance.” The Refuge is a nationally renowned area for waterfowl hunting. The Refuge also provides other public wildlife dependent recreation, such as fishing, boating, wildlife observation, photography, and hiking. The Refuge is located within a very rural, economically depressed area of Arkansas, where communities depend on hunting and fishing opportunities provided by the Refuge.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin phased acquisition of a 760-acre tract adjacent to the Cache River and existing Refuge lands. Acquisition would greatly expand conservation of the floodplain of the Cache River and protect an important bottomland hardwoods ecosystem containing extant, seasonally flooded forest, permanent hardwood swamp, and moist-soil areas. Additionally, there are over 450 acres of agricultural land that, once restored to native hardwoods, will expand the floodplain forest and protection of soil and water resources even further. The tract contains high value foraging, migrating, and wintering habitat resources for waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, landbirds, and breeding habitat for wood duck and forest-interior birds. Conservation of this parcel will benefit a wide variety of fish and wildlife species,

potentially including federally listed species such as northern long-eared bat, eastern black rail, red knot, piping plover, and monarch butterfly. The tract is near a county road and will provide public recreational access to 1,200 acres of existing Refuge lands.

Cooperator(s):

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, National Wild Turkey Federation, Arkansas Bow Hunters Association, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Lands, The Conservation Fund, Arbor Day Foundation, and Audubon Arkansas.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$12,000	\$1,500

O&M Description:

Startup costs include boundary marking. Annual costs are for maintenance.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area

Priority: 10

State(s): ND, SD

Congressional District(s): ND-AL, SD-AL

Location:

South Dakota east of the James River Valley and 3 counties in the southeast corner of North Dakota.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	2,000	\$2,000,000
Acquired to Date	77,666	\$20,377,551
Remaining to be Acquired	105,334	\$83,079,250

Project Description:

Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area was established in 2000 to preserve quality tallgrass prairie habitat in southeastern North Dakota and eastern South Dakota to help maintain biodiversity and to slow habitat fragmentation. The Service would use conservation easements to protect 185,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas. Tallgrass prairies support a rich variety of plant, animal, and insect species, including more than 147 species of breeding birds, ranging from neotropical migrants to waterfowl. In some areas, breeding waterfowl densities exceed 100 pairs per square mile. The habitat supports several Federally listed species, including the threatened Dakota skipper, endangered Poweshiek skipperling, and monarch butterfly. The tallgrass prairie ecosystem also supports grassland bird species, including Baird’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and ferruginous hawk. Perpetual conservation easements preserve ecological functions by providing floodwater retention, groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, improved water quality, and reduced soil erosion. The Conservation Area is also rich in culturally significant Native American sites. Conservation of tallgrass prairie also reduces disturbance of burial mounds, stone cairns, teepee rings, and other cultural items in the area.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will pursue the acquisition of perpetual wetland and grassland easements from willing sellers on approximately 2,000 acres of tallgrass prairie. Acquisition of perpetual easements protects important

habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife, while maintaining ranching and other traditional working operations.

Cooperator(s):

North Dakota Game and Fish; Pheasants Forever; Audubon; Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; The Nature Conservancy; and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$0	\$1,000

O&M Description:

Annual costs include monitoring activities.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 11

State(s): IA, MN

Congressional District(s): IA-1, IA-2, IA-3, IA-4; MN-1, MN-2, MN-7, MN-8

Location:

Located in portions of 37 counties in IA and 48 in MN, the Refuge is bounded by the U.S.-Canada border to the north and Des Moines, IA, to the south. The Refuge boundary weaves through the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Agassiz Beach Ridges of northwest MN and the Prairie Coteau regions of southwest MN and northwest IA.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	180	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	14,095	\$9,349,891
Remaining to be Acquired	62,725	\$98,789,075

Project Description:

The Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2000 to address the loss of America’s grasslands and the decline of grassland wildlife. Scientists estimate the original tallgrass prairie in Minnesota and Iowa covered about 25 million acres. Now, there are only about 300,000 acres left in the two states. The refuge was created to work with individuals, groups, and government agencies to permanently preserve and restore some of the northern tallgrass prairie. The Refuge’s long-term goal is to protect 77,000 acres. Federally listed threatened and endangered species on the Refuge include four plant and seven animal species, including western prairie fringed orchid, prairie bush clover, Topeka shiner, rusty patch bumblebee, and piping plover. Several globally rare species can also be found on the Refuge, including the last remaining U.S. populations of the Dakota skipper and regal fritillary butterflies, which are in steep decline. The Refuge consists of many permanent, temporary, and seasonal wetlands crucial to national waterfowl, waterbird, and shorebird populations. These same water resources provide groundwater recharge supply and mitigates for the severity and risk of downstream flooding. The many units of the Refuge are accessible to numerous diverse communities for public recreation such as fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, and photography.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is planning to acquire two or more tracts of land totaling 180 acres of fee title or conservation easement in northwestern Iowa and/or western Minnesota for the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Conservation partners in Iowa and Minnesota will leverage acquisitions by providing matching funds, cost-share opportunities, or donating land. In Iowa, the Service works closely with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Iowa Department of Natural Resources to purchase and manage

tracts of land. In Minnesota, The Nature Conservancy actively provides funding to help restore recently purchased tracts. Some of these land donations are made possible by State of Minnesota grants and, per State law, are open for public hunting and fishing. Acquisition will increase public wildlife observation, education, and photography opportunities. Due to the length of the Refuge, access to units is enjoyed by many diverse communities.

Cooperator(s):

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, county conservation boards, and local Chambers of Commerce.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$1,250	\$1,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include initial restoration and posting of boundary signs. Annual costs include habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 12

State(s): TX

Congressional District(s): TX-34

Location:

South Texas: Lower Rio Grande Valley in Cameron and Willacy Counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	122	\$2,000,000
Acquired to Date	99,017	\$25,344,432
Remaining to be Acquired	54,175	\$124,368,864

Project Description:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1946 to provide habitat for wintering waterfowl and other migratory birds, principally redhead ducks. Today, there is an expanded emphasis that includes endangered species conservation and management for shorebirds. Nearly half of all the bird species found in the continental United States rest, feed, nest, or migrate on or through Refuge lands, making it a premiere bird-watching destination. The Refuge contains the largest population of endangered ocelots in the United States and is important for conservation and recovery efforts for this endangered cat. The Refuge provides public wildlife-dependent recreation such as wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, photography, and environmental education in a state with limited public lands.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin phased acquisition of a 215-acre tract. The tract is located between the Refuge’s Bahia Grande Unit and the Laguna Madre, and contains a mosaic of native Tamaulipan thornscrub, coastal prairie, wetland, and tidal bay habitats. This property is another critical link in completing a coastal wildlife corridor along the Laguna Madre, for the recovery of the federally endangered ocelot. Tamaulipan thornscrub provides the necessary habitat to support one of the last remaining breeding populations of the ocelot in the United States. Acquisition of the tract will allow the Service to have complete management of the Bahia Grande wetland complex. The tract will also provide habitat for native and migratory wildlife species, such as meadowlarks, shorebirds, pelicans, egrets, and fiddler

crabs. The tract's location on Highway 100 makes it ideal for development. Acquisition would expand public recreational access for birding, wildlife observation, photography, and hiking.

Cooperator(s):

The Conservation Fund; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge; Coastal Bends; Bays and Estuaries; and Ducks Unlimited.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$300

O&M Description:

Start-up costs include boundary posting. Annual costs include monitoring activities.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 13

State(s): PA

Congressional District(s): PA-7, PA-8

Location:

60 miles north of Philadelphia in Monroe County.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	200	\$1,000,000
Acquired to Date	5,547	\$6,704,750
Remaining to be Acquired	13,440	\$89,115,000

Project Description:

Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in December 2008 for the conservation of migratory birds and wildlife, and the habitats they depend on. The Refuge provides a diverse mosaic of wetland and upland habitats that support five Federally listed threatened or endangered species such as the bog turtle and Indiana bat. The Kittatinny Ridge (which flanks the south side of the valley) has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Pennsylvania Audubon Society and is a well-known migration flyway that concentrates up to 20,000 migrating raptors and more than 140 bird species every Fall. Large blocks of unfragmented forest along the ridge also serve as valuable breeding areas for interior-forest birds such as ruffed grouse, wood thrush, Eastern wood pewee, scarlet tanager, black-throated blue warbler, and worm-eating warbler. The Refuge provides public recreational opportunities such as fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is planning to acquire four tracts that total about 200 acres. These forested uplands, wetlands, and riparian areas will provide crucial habitat for native wildlife, including the Federally listed as threatened bog turtle and migratory birds of conservation concern. These tracts include lands on the Kittatinny Ridge, an Important Bird Area, and along Cherry Creek. These proposed tracts are adjacent to

existing Refuge lands. Acquisition will expand public recreational opportunities, including wildlife observation, photography, hunting, hiking, and environmental education.

Cooperator(s):

The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service (Appalachian National Scenic Trail), Pocono Natural Heritage Trust, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Monroe County, Open Space Institute, and Wildlands Conservancy.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$3,000

O&M Description:

Start-up cost would be used for boundary marking. Annual costs include habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Grasslands Wildlife Management Area

Priority: 14

State(s): CA

Congressional District(s): CA-13

Location:

Located in the Pacific Flyway between the Cities of Los Banos and Gustine in Merced County.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	150	\$1,000,000
Acquired to Date	94,997	\$66,318,161
Remaining to be Acquired	38,183	\$152,330,200

Project Description:

The Grasslands Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was established in 1979 and is composed mostly of conservation easements. Perpetual conservation easements preserve wetland and grassland habitats while allowing wildlife-friendly agricultural operations. Fee acquisition allows for habitat restoration as well as protection of water quality and quantity. The WMA supports diverse habitats, including seasonally flooded marshlands, semi-permanent marshes, riparian habitats, wet meadows, vernal pools, native uplands, pastures, and native grasslands. These wetlands constitute 30% of the remaining wetlands in California's Central Valley and are extremely important to Pacific Flyway waterfowl populations. In addition to waterfowl, these habitats support shorebirds, wading birds, songbirds, raptors, and other wildlife species.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire a 150-acre tract. Acquisition will allow for improved management of adjacent Service lands and will contribute to the long-term viability of the grassland and wetland ecosystems, providing a haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species. Acquisition will expand public wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, such as wildlife observation and hunting.

Cooperator(s):

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, River Partners, Ducks Unlimited, California Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, and Western Rivers Conservancy.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$10,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Start-up costs will include boundary sign posting. Annual costs will include maintenance and habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 15

State(s): CA

Congressional District(s): CA-07

Location:

Approximately 5 miles southwest of Elk Grove in Sacramento County.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	157	\$3,000,000
Acquired to Date	6,684	\$2,480,439
Remaining to be Acquired	10,955	\$131,472,000

Project Description:

Established in 1992, Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is an urban refuge located 10 miles from downtown Sacramento within the Pacific Flyway. The Refuge consists of a variety of Central Valley habitats including grassland savannah, riparian forest, wetlands, and native freshwater lakes. The diverse habitats support over 200 species of birds and numerous other fish and wildlife species. The Refuge provides public recreational activities, including environmental education, docent-guided walks, canoeing, and waterfowl hunting.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire a 157-acre tract to provide habitat for migratory birds. Farmland in the Central Valley is being converted to permanent crops that are not wildlife friendly and reduce foraging areas for migrating and wintering birds. Acquisition will benefit migratory birds, such as sandhill cranes, and expand birding and other public recreational opportunities.

Cooperator(s):

The Conservation Fund, State of California, and Friends of Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$10,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Start-up costs will include boundary sign posting. Annual costs will include maintenance and habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 16

State(s): WA

Congressional District(s): WA-3

Location:

Pacific County, near the community of Long Beach.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	1,929	\$6,000,000
Acquired to Date	17,668	\$17,734,727
Remaining to be Acquired	7,144	\$20,456,724

Project Description:

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to protect migrating birds and their habitat. The Refuge has grown to encompass diverse ecosystems including salt marsh, muddy tidelands, forest, freshwater wetlands, streams, grasslands, coastal dunes, and beaches. This rich mix of habitats provides places for over 200 bird species to rest, nest, and winter, and benefits chum salmon, river otter, Roosevelt elk, bobcat, and over a dozen species of amphibians. The Refuge is a vital stopover site of the Pacific Flyway and is designated as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site of international importance. The Refuge provides public recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, and shellfish harvesting.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is in negotiations with several willing sellers. Acquisitions focus on upland forest habitats that provide nesting habitat for the federally-listed threatened marbled murrelet and on freshwater and estuarine wetlands that support high levels of plant and animal biodiversity, including critical spawning and rearing habitat for chum, fall Chinook, coho, sea-run cutthroat trout, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey.

The Service will also focus on acquisitions that connect existing Refuge lands to create wildlife corridors and enhance public recreation opportunities such as wildlife viewing, elk and deer hunting, and hiking.

Cooperator(s):

Western Rivers Conservancy, Coast Salmon Partnership and Foundation, Pacific Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, Forterra, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Chinook Indian Nation, and Shoalwater Bay Tribe.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$30,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Start-up costs include boundary posting. Annual costs include routine law enforcement patrol and maintenance.

Project Data Sheet

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 17

State(s): VA

Congressional District(s): VA-1, VA-7

Location:

The Rappahannock River watershed in Essex, King George, Caroline, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	83	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	10,047	\$23,775,570
Remaining to be Acquired	9,870	\$28,138,030

Project Description:

The Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1996. The Refuge protects wetlands and their associated uplands along the Rappahannock River and its major tributaries. Refuge habitats include freshwater tidal marsh, forest swamp, upland deciduous forest, mixed pine forest, and grassland. The area is cultural significant for the Federally recognized Rappahannock Tribe, who own land adjacent to the Refuge. In 2007, areas of the Refuge were designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Shorebirds, neotropical migrant songbirds, raptors, and marsh birds rely on the Rappahannock River’s corridors during the spring and fall migration periods. With help from partners and volunteers, Refuge staff are restoring native grasslands and riparian forests along the river and tributary streams to provide additional habitat for these species. Some of the species the Refuge focuses management actions on include bald eagles, forest dwelling species such as wood thrush and scarlet tanager, and grassland nesting birds such as grasshopper sparrow and northern bobwhite.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin phased acquisition of a conservation easement in the Fones Cliffs area. The tract consists of mostly unbroken forest cover and is adjacent to existing Refuge lands. The larger Fones Cliffs area is recognized for its importance to a substantial population of bald eagles for wintering, roosting, and

foraging, and is an Audubon Important Bird Area of global significance. Acquisition will protect the viewshed for canoers and boaters on the Rappahannock River.

Cooperator(s):

The Rappahannock Tribe, Commonwealth of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, National Park Service, and The Conservation Fund.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$2,000	\$1,000

O&M Description:

Costs include monitoring and enforcement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 18

State(s): IN

Congressional District(s): IN - 8

Location:

Pike and Gibson Counties in southwestern Indiana.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	650	\$2,000,000
Acquired to Date	10,700	\$9,383,763
Remaining to be Acquired	11,536	\$37,953,147

Project Description:

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1994 to protect one of two remaining intact floodplain forest systems in Indiana and improve the water quality of the Patoka River. The Refuge protects wetlands, floodplain forest, and uplands along 30 miles of the Patoka River corridor for the benefit of migratory birds, fish, and wildlife, including Federally listed endangered species such as the Indiana bat and the interior least tern. The Refuge is located near the diverse communities of Evansville and Indianapolis, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky, and provides public access for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will complete the phased acquisition of a 1,650-acre tract. The tract consists of bottomland forests and wetlands that provide habitat for waterfowl, waterbirds, and landbirds, along with associated upland forests and grasslands that provide habitat for Indiana bats. The tract is adjacent to the Patoka River; restoration of farmed land to natural habitat will increase water quality. The tract is easily accessible from county roads and will enhance public access to existing Refuge lands as well as expand public recreational activities, such as wildlife observation, photography, hunting, and fishing.

Cooperator(s):

Ducks Unlimited, Friends of Patoka Refuge, Sycamore Land Trust, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, National Wild Turkey Federation, Indiana Department of

Transportation, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Duke Energy, Evansville Chapter of the Audubon Society, and USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs posting of boundary signs. Annual costs include maintenance, law enforcement, and habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Bear River Watershed Conservation Area

Priority: 19

State(s): ID, UT, WY

Congressional District(s): ID-2, UT-1, WY-AL

Location:

Northeastern corner of Utah, extending into southeastern Idaho and southwestern Wyoming. (Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power Counties in Idaho; Box Elder, Cache, Rich, and Summit Counties in Utah; and Lincoln and Uinta Counties in Wyoming).

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	3,665	\$950,000
Acquired to Date	7,327	\$7,446,940
Remaining to be Acquired	911,708	\$901,106,055

Project Description:

The Bear River Watershed Conservation Area was established in 2016. The Service works with private landowners to help maintain important habitat, coordinate watershed-wide conservation efforts, and protect valuable farm and ranch lands. Wetlands and riparian areas in the watershed’s lower elevations provide some of the most important resting, staging, feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for migratory birds in the Pacific and Central Flyways. The watershed also provides critical wildlife habitat linkages and migratory corridors between the northern and southern Rockies and between Idaho and the Greater Yellowstone ecosystems for mule deer, elk, pronghorn, and moose. In addition to supporting big game species, existing national wildlife refuges and adjacent protected lands provide habitat for over 270 other species; easement acquisition would improve connectivity among these protected lands. The watershed supports millions of birds, including 46 percent of the white-faced ibis, 24 percent of the marbled godwit, and 18 percent of the black-necked stilt populations in North America, and provides habitat for greater sage-grouse and Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is currently working with private landowners on conservation easements, focusing on high priority wetlands and sagebrush steppe habitat benefitting sage thrasher, American avocet, and Bonneville cutthroat trout. Residential and commercial development pose the greatest biological threat within the watershed. Protection of large, unfragmented habitat is key for multiple species, conserving migration corridors and migratory bird breeding grounds, and boosting climate resiliency. The Service works with

local landowners, farmers, and ranchers, to preserve working lands, reduce impacts of development, and conserve sagebrush steppe, wetlands, and riparian buffers.

Cooperator(s):

Bear River Land Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, Western Rivers Conservancy, and the Intermountain West Joint Venture.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$0	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Annual costs include easement monitoring and enforcement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 20

State(s): IL

Congressional District(s): IL-12

Location:

Near the southern boundary of Illinois at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	400	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	16,514	\$13,139,370
Remaining to be Acquired	19,771	\$24,713,750

Project Description:

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1990 and within the Cache River watershed in southern Illinois. The Refuge consists of bottomland hardwood forest, cypress tupelo swamp, herbaceous wetlands, deep water habitats and canebrakes. Due to the ecological significance of this region, the wetlands on the Refuge were designated a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance. The Refuge provides public recreational activities, including hiking, canoeing, hunting, wildlife viewing and photography.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire several tracts totaling 400 acres. Acquisitions focus on historically bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands that are currently in agricultural production. The Service will restore the tracts to provide habitat for waterfowl, waterbirds, landbirds, and federally listed endangered Indiana bats. The tracts are accessed from public roadways and will increase public access to existing Refuge lands as well as expand public recreational activities, such as wildlife observation, photography, hunting, and fishing.

Cooperator(s):

Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Audubon Society, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$7,000	\$3,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include initial restoration and posting of boundary signs. Annual costs include maintenance, law enforcement, and habitat management including restoration of agricultural lands to natural habitat.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

Priority: 21

State(s): KS

Congressional District(s): KS-1, KS-2, KS-4

Location:

The Flint Hills of eastern Kansas run north-south in a long, narrow band and include portions of 21 counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	830	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	10,116	\$3,441,250
Remaining to be Acquired	1,089,054	\$436,058,750

Project Description:

Tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States, with less than 4 percent of the original acreage remaining. Residential, commercial, and industrial development, as well as woody vegetation encroachment, have fragmented tallgrass prairie wildlife habitat. The purpose of the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area is to help maintain the integrity of tallgrass prairie wildlife habitat, stream water quality, and the rich agricultural heritage of the Flint Hills by acquiring and protecting up to 1.1 million acres of habitat through voluntary, perpetual conservation easements. These conservation easements will protect habitat for more than 100 species of grassland birds and 500 plant species and ensure the region's sustainable ranching culture--which directly supports conservation of the tallgrass prairie--continues.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire perpetual conservation easements on 830 acres of tallgrass prairie for the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area. These easements will permanently protect tallgrass prairie while allowing traditional ranching to continue. They will protect habitat for a wide variety of grassland-dependent birds and for the threatened Topeka shiner. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism supports acquisitions for the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area because it fulfills State goals to “maintain the integrity of tallgrass prairie wildlife habitat, stream water quality, and rich agricultural heritage of the Flint Hills.”

Cooperator(s):

The Nature Conservancy; Kansas Land Trust; Ranchland Trust of Kansas; Tallgrass Legacy Alliance; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism; and The Conservation Fund.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$0	\$500

O&M Description:

Annual costs include monitoring of conservation easements.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 22

State(s): AK

Congressional District(s): AK-AL

Location:

Southwestern Alaska

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	12,000	\$2,200,000
Acquired to Date	3,574,938	\$2,952,637
Remaining to be Acquired	955,244	\$153,794,327

Project Description:

The Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge presents a breathtakingly dramatic landscape made up of active volcanoes, towering mountain peaks, rolling tundra and rugged, wave-battered coastlines. As is the case with most of Alaska's coastal refuges, salmon provide the principal nutrient engine for Alaska Peninsula, supporting the species that prey upon them and enriching the rivers and surrounding lands after they spawn and die. Where there are salmon, there will usually be bears, and when the fish are running, Ugashik Lakes and the streams that surround them attract brown bears in great numbers. Other large land mammals include wolverine, the caribou of the approximately 7,000-animal Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd, wolves, and moose. Refuge lands are also home to almost 40% of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run, the largest sustainable sockeye fishery in the world. The Ugashik Lakes system annually produces around 8 million sockeye salmon and contributes nearly 3 million fish to the Bristol Bay sockeye commercial fishery. The Refuge offers a variety of public recreational opportunities, such as sport fishing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, boating, camping, and wildlife observation and photography.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will continue the phased acquisition of a 32,000-acre tract, located at the headwaters of the Ugashik Lakes system. Protecting the headwaters, which is under threat of subsurface development, will ensure protection of the world’s largest sustainable sockeye salmon fishery. The Service is also working

with willing sellers to acquire several tracts near Upper Ugashik Lake. Acquisition will protect water quality, further protecting the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run and protect public fishing opportunities.

Cooperator(s):

The Conservation Fund.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Annual costs include signage, monitoring, overflights, and enforcement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Wyoming Toad Conservation Area

Priority: 23

State(s): WY

Congressional District(s): WY-AL

Location:

Albany County.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	938	\$1,500,000
Acquired to Date	0	\$0
Remaining to be Acquired	42,262	\$96,477,600

Project Description:

The Wyoming Toad Conservation Area was authorized in 2017 but has not been established through land acquisition. From 1985 to 1987, the Wyoming toad was presumed extinct; in 1987, a small population was found at what is now Mortenson Lake National Wildlife Refuge. By 1994, the numbers had drastically dwindled, and the decision was made to bring the last remaining toads into captivity. In 2020, there were 677 individual toads held in captivity. The Service will acquire both fee title and conservation easements in the Laramie Plains to provide release sites and critical habitat for the reestablishment of Wyoming toad populations.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin phased acquisition of a 3,559-acre ranch that is adjacent to Hutton Lake NWR. The ranch consists of riparian and wetland habitat that was historically inhabited by the Wyoming toad and contains habitat suitable for reestablishing the species. In addition, the property has senior water rights that will allow for management of surface water flow and levels. Acquisition will establish the Conservation Area, as well as provide an important step in recovery of the Wyoming toad.

Cooperator(s):

The Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; Audubon; Laramie Rivers Conservation District; Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative; Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and Aquarium and Zoo Association.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$5,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include boundary marking. Annual costs include maintenance and law enforcement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Green River National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 24

State(s): KY

Congressional District(s): KY-1, KY-2

Location:

Henderson County, adjacent to the Ohio River at its confluence with the Green River; approximately 3 miles from Henderson.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	125	\$1,000,000
Acquired to Date	708	\$2,303,834
Remaining to be Acquired	23,292	\$123,477,600

Project Description:

The Green River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2019 to conserve floodplains of the Ohio and Green Rivers, and portions of their surrounding landscapes. The restoration and conservation of bottomland hardwood forest, wetlands, uplands, and agricultural lands will benefit migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife and will improve water quality and quantity. The Service plans to acquire 24,000 acres of land within a 53,000-acre Conservation Partnership Area through donation and acquisition from willing sellers to create the Refuge. The Refuge will provide public wildlife dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin phased acquisition of a 1,335-acre tract. The tract is within low-lying lands in the floodplain of the Ohio and Green Rivers, which experience regular backwater flooding that provides optimal wintering waterfowl habitat. The property is a mixture of cropland suitable for reforestation to bottomland hardwood forest, and existing bottomland hardwood forest. This acquisition will augment conservation efforts by the State of Kentucky and contribute to building a large multi-agency conservation area for public recreation, such as hunting and fishing.

Cooperator(s):

Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Parks, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Louisville District of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Henderson County Tourism,

Southern Conservation Corporation, Ducks Unlimited, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$10,000	\$1,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include boundary posting and signage. Annual costs include maintenance and law enforcement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area

Priority: 25

State(s): CA

Congressional District(s): CA-22

Location:

35 miles northwest of Bakersfield, in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Kings County.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	480	\$1,000,000
Acquired to Date	4,439	\$8,891,554
Remaining to be Acquired	17,383	\$86,804,900

Project Description:

The Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area was established in 2009 with plans for eventual protection of 22,000 acres in an area between Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges. Ninety percent of the land in the WMA will be conserved through the purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners. The Kern/Tulare Basin provides vital wintering and staging areas for northern pintail and other Pacific Flyway waterfowl. Dry upland habitats that are protected in association with wetlands are important to many types of wildlife.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire a 480-acre tract. The acquisition will benefit existing populations of State or Federally listed endangered or threatened species such as San Joaquin kit fox, Tipton kangaroo rat, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard. In addition to protecting upland habitat at the WMA, ownership of upland parcels near the Kern National Wildlife Refuge provides a buffer around wetlands at the Refuge. Acquisitions will also expand public recreational opportunities such as wildlife observation and photography.

Cooperator(s):

Tulare Basin Wetlands Association, California Waterfowl Association, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance, and the many groups associated with the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$2,000

O&M Description:

Start-up costs will include boundary sign posting. Annual costs include maintenance and habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 26

State(s): FL

Congressional District(s): FL-2

Location:

In the Florida Panhandle, 24 miles south of Tallahassee, in Wakulla and Jefferson Counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	355	\$1,000,000
Acquired to Date	85,436	\$21,985,732
Remaining to be Acquired	25,791	\$62,258,715

Project Description:

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1931 to provide wintering habitat for migratory birds. It encompasses over 80,000 acres spread out between Wakulla, Jefferson, and Taylor Counties, and includes about 43 miles along the Gulf Coast of northwest Florida. The Refuge contains upland pine forest, wetland, hardwood forest, pine plantation, shrub and brush land, and freshwater marsh habitat. The Refuge is within a designated Important Bird Area and a Land Management and Research Demonstration Site for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems. Wildlife includes numerous Federally threatened, endangered, and at-risk species, including frosted flatwoods salamanders, red-cockaded woodpeckers, wood storks, eastern black rails, red knots, piping plovers, Florida manatees, gulf sturgeon, gopher tortoises, Florida pine snakes, spotted turtles, American oystercatchers, Wilson’s plovers, and least terns, and loggerhead, green, Kemp’s ridley, and leatherback sea turtles. The Refuge also has strong ties to a rich cultural past, and is home to the St. Marks Lighthouse, which was built in 1842 (current tower) and is still in use today. Over 17,000 acres are protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964 including a designated Globally Important Bird Area. The Refuge provides public recreational opportunities, including to underserved communities, by offering hiking, hunting, photography, wildlife viewing, environmental education, and interpretation opportunities.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire a 300-acre tract to conserve habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species including the red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork, and frosted flatwoods salamanders. The tract has a historical frosted flatwoods salamander pond and other ephemeral wetlands. The acquisition will mitigate the impacts of sea level rise by allowing for the expansion and migration inland of these species. Acquisition will also benefit Florida black bear and migratory birds. Acquisition will provide public wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, including improving public access to existing Refuge lands. The Service will also acquire several small tracts that connect existing Refuge

lands with local roads, creating a fire break for the Refuge and improving management of wildland and prescribed fires for the benefit of red-cockaded woodpeckers and other species.

Cooperator(s):

The Sam Shine Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance, Ducks Unlimited, Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society, The Florida Natural Areas Inventory, St. Marks Refuge Association, Florida Trail Association, Apalachee Audubon Society, Florida Wildlife Federation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Forest Service, Tall Timbers Research Station, and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$3,000	\$11,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include boundary marking. Annual costs include habitat management and restoration, prescribed burning, maintenance, and law enforcement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Priority: 27

State(s): IA, IL, MN, WI

Congressional District(s): IA-1, IA-2; IL-16, IL-17; MN-1; WI-3

Location:

261 miles along the Mississippi River from Wabasha, MN, to Rock Island, IL.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	125	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	212,216	\$10,682,171
Remaining to be Acquired	19,719	\$24,793,235

Project Description:

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge was established in 1924 as a refuge for fish, wildlife, and plants, and a breeding place for migratory birds. The Refuge encompasses one of the largest blocks of floodplain habitat in the lower 48 states. Bordered by steep wooded bluffs that rise 100 to 600 feet above the river valley, the Mississippi River corridor and Refuge offer scenic beauty and productive fish and wildlife habitat. The Refuge extends 261 river miles from the confluence of the Chippewa River in Wisconsin to near Rock Island, Illinois. The Mississippi River is an important migratory flyway for neotropical migrants and waterbirds. The Refuge is designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and a Globally Important Bird Area. The Refuge provides public access for wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, including canoeing, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography. Many underserved and culturally diverse communities, including southeast Asian immigrants and the Amish, make extensive use of the Refuge for fishing.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is working on multiple acquisition projects along the length of the Refuge and will acquire 125 acres in fee title. Priority is given to acquisitions that have railroad access points to the river or are adjacent to existing Refuge lands and State conservation areas so that the Service can restore wildlife habitat connectivity and expand public access for wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, including canoeing, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography.

Cooperator(s):

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wisconsin DNR, Iowa DNR, Illinois DNR, the Friends of the Refuge Headwaters (Winona District), Friends of the Refuge Mississippi River Pools 7 and 8 (La Crosse District), Friends of Pool 9 (McGregor District), Friends of Pool 10 (McGregor District), Stewards of the

Upper Mississippi River Refuge (Savanna District), National Audubon Society, Audubon Minnesota, County Conservation Boards, and local Chambers of Commerce.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$2,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include improvements for public access points and posting of boundary signs. Annual costs include habitat management, such as spraying, mowing, timber stand improvement, and prescribed burns.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 28

State(s): TX

Congressional District(s): TX-15, TX-28, TX-34

Location:

South Texas in Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	240	\$2,000,000
Acquired to Date	106,255	\$86,983,504
Remaining to be Acquired	26,005	\$70,439,139

Project Description:

The Lower Rio Grande Valley area has lost approximately 95 percent of its native Tamaulipan thornscrub habitat due to agriculture, urban expansion, and industrial development, and 99 percent of the native vegetation in riparian areas has been destroyed. Hoping to connect and protect isolated tracts of habitat, the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1979 with a management priority to protect biodiversity. As a wildlife corridor, the Refuge follows the Rio Grande along the last 275 river miles, connecting isolated tracts of land managed by private landowners, non-profit organizations, the State of Texas, and Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges. During migration, birds from the Central and Mississippi Flyways converge in the Valley. Where possible, migrating birds avoid flying too far east (over the Gulf Coast) or too far west (over the desert) and end up funneling through this region. In addition, many birds from South and Central America reach the northernmost point of their range on the Rio Grande with some species literally not migrating any farther north than the river. In addition, the Valley is where four climates (temperate, desert, coastal, and sub-tropical) converge. The 365-day growing season and rich soils of the Rio Grande delta have resulted in over 1,200 plant species within the Valley. This plant diversity attracts and supports a diversity of wildlife, birds, and butterflies that depend on vegetation that can only be found here in the United States. The Refuge supports 18 Federally listed endangered or threatened species, including the ocelot, peregrine falcon, and Kemp’s ridley sea turtle. The Refuge provides public wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, such as wildlife viewing, photography, and hunting.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will begin phased acquisition of a 475-acre tract. The tract consists of coastal salt prairie habitat, which is extremely scarce and currently under threat of development. Typical vegetative species include sea ox-eye daisy, salt flat grass, camphor daisy, seepweed, Salicornia, pickleweed, and prickly pear cactus on lower elevations, and patches of Gulf cordgrass, or sacahuista, on slightly higher

transitional zones. Yucca, huisache, prickly pear cactus, and mesquite would occur in the upland portions of the tract. Acquisition of the property will protect a large block of land for Federally endangered species, such as the northern Aplomado falcon, while providing habitat for native wildlife and migratory bird species. This property contains at least one, and possibly two, northern Aplomado falcon territories. The Refuge currently has limited examples of this type of habitat and acquisition of the property would contribute to endangered species recovery. Acquisition would also buffer the National Park Service's Palo Alto National Historic Site. Acquisition would expand public recreational access, including birding, wildlife observation, hiking, and wildlife photography.

Cooperator(s):

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office, Texas Department of Transportation, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy-Texas, Texas Commission for Environmental Quality, Ducks Unlimited, The Peregrine Fund, Coastal Conservation Association-Texas Chapter, The Rio Grande Valley Nature Coalition, and the Partners for Conservation.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$3,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include fencing and boundary posting. Annual costs include maintenance and habitat management.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 29

State(s): IL, MO

Congressional District(s): IL-12, MO-8

Location:

Situated along the Mississippi River, from St. Louis, MO to Cairo, IL.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	350	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	8,216	\$3,042,400
Remaining to be Acquired	5,566	\$10,497,600

Project Description:

The Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge was established as an individual refuge in 2000. Initial land acquisition was in response to the great flood of 1993. Refuge lands lie within the uncontrolled portion of the Middle Mississippi River, below the confluence with the Missouri, where river levels are not regulated by the lock and dam system. The Refuge is primarily floodplain hardwood forest, marsh/wetland, and open water. Refuge lands provide access to the floodplain for native fish during high water stages and create a corridor of floodplain forest habitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife. The Refuge was designated as an Important Bird Area in 2008. The Refuge provides public wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, such as hunting and fishing.

Purpose / Need:

The Service will acquire a 350-acre tract in the Dogtooth Bend area of the Refuge. The acquisition will facilitate natural river floodplain restoration opportunities, which will support species of concern including pallid sturgeon, least tern, and many mussel species. Water levels fluctuate greatly in this open river section of the Mississippi, and frequent flooding occurs. Acquisition allows for restoration to a naturally functioning floodplain system, which increases water quality and water storage during flood events. Acquisition will also expand public recreational opportunities.

Cooperator(s):

The Army Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, local municipal entities, States of Missouri and Illinois. The Refuge participates in the Middle Mississippi River Partnership,

which is a collaboration of 22 partner organizations, including Federal and State agencies, universities, and not-for-profit organizations.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$8,000	\$2,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include initial restoration and posting of boundary signs. Annual costs include habitat management, law enforcement, and enhancement.

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fiscal Year: 2024

Project / Unit: Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Priority: 30

State(s): OR

Congressional District(s): OR-01

Location:

North Central Oregon Coast.

Project Estimates

Land/Cost	Acres	Cost (\$)
Estimate for FY 2024	4	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	1,198	\$4,423,902
Remaining to be Acquired	3,769	\$13,917,935

Project Description:

Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1991 to protect and enhance habitat for dusky Canada geese (a species of concern) and Aleutian cackling geese (formerly endangered). The Refuge actively engages in pasture management with local dairy farmers to offer prime habitat for thousands of wintering geese. The Refuge protects an array of distinct habitat types including salt marshes, mudflats, labyrinthine tidal creeks, pastures, grasslands, woodlands, freshwater bogs, and forested wetlands. Riverine and estuarine habitats within the Refuge provide essential habitat for the threatened Oregon Coast coho salmon, as well as Chinook salmon, chum salmon, steelhead trout, and coastal cutthroat trout. The Refuge provides public recreational activities such as hiking, canoeing, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and photography.

Purpose / Need:

The Service is negotiating with a willing seller for acquisition of a key tract. Acquisition will allow for tide gate replacement and wet pasture enhancement to expand wintering migratory bird habitat and improve rearing habitat for State and Federally listed Oregon coastal coho salmon.

Once acquired, some portions will become collaboratively farmed pastures, providing economic benefits to local dairy production. Continued acquisition of collaboratively farmed pastures and restoration of diked, poor quality pastures to tidal marsh habitat is key to balancing the preservation of habitat for both

migratory birds and anadromous fish on the Refuge. Acquisitions will enhance public fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities on adjacent Refuge lands.

Cooperator(s):

The Nature Conservancy, North Coast Land Trust, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Nestucca, Neskowin, and Sand Lake Watersheds Council; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Operations & Maintenance

Savings/Cost	Start-up	Annual
Estimated O&M Savings:	\$0	\$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	\$5,000	\$2,000

O&M Description:

Startup costs include initial restoration and posting of boundary signs. Annual costs include habitat management (spraying, mowing, etc.), law enforcement, and enhancement.