

Land & Water Conservation Fund FY 2010



Below is a summary of the varied projects Defenders of Wildlife is supporting for Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations for fiscal year 2010. These projects range from the majestic forests of the Cascade Mountains, to native tallgrass prairie in the Midwest, to a biodiversity hotspot in south Texas, to forested wetland in Florida. While each of the projects is unique, they share the irreplaceable habitat values that provide important places for America’s fish and wildlife, as well as special places for hiking, fishing, hunting and other recreational activities. Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations are crucial to protecting all of these priceless places from threats including development and habitat fragmentation. With the rate of global warming expected to increase, protecting these landscapes now becomes even more important.

Project	Description and Threat	Agency*	State	Project Partners and Supporters	Funds requested
Cascade Checkerboard	<p>Secures vital wildlife migration corridors for the greater Cascade Mountain area</p> <p>THREAT: habitat fragmentation from sprawl and rampant population growth in the vicinity of the Forest</p>	USFS	WA	Trust for Public Land, Conservation Northwest, Pacific Crest Biodiversity Project, The Wilderness Society, Cascade Land Conservancy, Alpine Lakes Protection Society, American Lands Alliance, Audubon Society, Sierra Club Washington, Washington Trails Association, The Nature Conservancy, North Cascades Conservation Society, The Mountaineers, the Yakima and Colville Tribes, local sportsman groups.	\$2.2 million
Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	<p>Protects habitat for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, rare habitats and plant communities, and many nongame species</p> <p>THREAT: pressure from the residential and agricultural development of natural wildlife habitat</p>	USFWS	MN	Friends of Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	\$1.25 million
Crown Butte	<p>At the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, this project protects lands in the largest intact ecosystem in the continental U.S.</p> <p>THREAT: increasing development pressure from residential and vacation homes.</p>	USFS	MT	Trust for Public Land	\$8 million

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Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge	<p>Protects one of the last remaining warm-water springs and provides significant habitat for Florida manatees, a state- and federally-listed species</p> <p>THREAT: expanding urban development and groundwater pumping threatens one of the most ecologically significant sites for manatees</p>	USFWS	FL	Representative Brown-Waite, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Citrus County, City of Crystal River, Citrus County Tourist Development Council, Felburn Foundation	\$1.5 million
James River National Wildlife Refuge	<p>Protects habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. The refuge hosts up to 500 bald eagles each summer</p> <p>THREAT: Growing populations in surrounding suburban areas increases the threat of development</p>	USFWS	VA	The Conservation Fund	\$1 million
Lesser Prairie Chicken Area of Critical Environmental Concern	<p>Provides critical habitat for threatened lesser prairie chickens and sand dune lizards and is the highest priority tract for the BLM</p> <p>THREAT: Without acquiring additional habitat, lesser prairie chickens and sand dune lizards may become endangered, resulting in significant restrictions to ranching, oil, and gas development.</p>	BLM	NM	Senator Bingaman, The New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands, The Conservation Fund, Audubon New Mexico, Animal Protection of New Mexico, Forest Guardians, New Mexico Audubon Council, Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Alliance, REP Environmental Education Foundation, New Mexico Chapter of Republicans for Environmental Protections, Southwest Environmental Center	\$1.5 million
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge	<p>Protects over 500 species of birds and at least seventeen listed species, including endangered ocelots</p> <p>THREAT: explosive economic growth in south Texas is converting agricultural land and natural habitat into housing and commercial developments</p>	USFWS	TX	Friends of the Wildlife Corridor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, The Conservation Fund, the Valley Land Fund.	\$7.5 million

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Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge	<p>Protect water quality in the estuary and important wildlife habitat for species such as common eiders, purple sandpipers, American black ducks, many species of sea ducks and a large array of migratory shorebirds</p> <p>THREAT: one of the last large undeveloped properties along the 50 miles of coastline from Kittery to Cape Elizabeth, this project is under pressure from surrounding development.</p>	USFWS	ME	Trust for Public Land	\$3.5 million
Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Program Area	<p>One of the most intact native prairies in the northern Great Plains that would provide habitat for a variety of species, including grizzly bear, piping plover, bald eagle, among many others.</p> <p>THREAT: subdivision and development threaten to fragment habitat.</p>	USFWS	MT	The Nature Conservancy, Teton, Lewis & Clark, and Pondera County Commissioners, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Committee, Montana Land Reliance, the Boone and Crockett Club, and many local landowners.	\$3 million
Sierra Nevada Checkerboard	<p>Restores connectivity and a wildlife migration corridor and provides habitat for a variety of species including northern goshawk, American marten, California spotted owl, and mountain yellow-legged frog.</p> <p>THREAT: increasing population growth in the Lake Tahoe area is placing this area under intense development pressure.</p>	USFS	CA	Trust for Public Land	\$8 million

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Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	<p>This is a priority parcel for FWS that will contribute to a large contiguous block of habitat, vital for many different wildlife species and for the protection of wetlands and water quality.</p> <p>THREAT: expanding development from surrounding urban areas threatens to fragment wildlife habitat and impact wetland and water quality protection</p>	USFWS	NJ	The Conservation Fund	\$1 million
Suwannee River Wildlife Corridor	<p>Protects important habitat and migration corridors for the imperiled Florida black bear, American alligator, FL sandhill cranes, and the Federally-endangered wood stork and gopher tortoise</p> <p>THREAT: habitat loss and fragmentation from development and highways, as well as mining, logging and swamp draining</p>	USFS	FL	Suwannee River Water Management District	\$2.4 million

* USFS – U.S. Forest Service
 USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 BLM – Bureau of Land Management

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