

# Land & Water Conservation Fund FY 2011



Below is a summary of the varied projects Defenders of Wildlife is supporting for Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations for fiscal year 2011. These projects range from the majestic forests of the Cascade Mountains, to native prairies on the Great Plains, 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	Project Significance and Threats	Agency*	State	Acres	Funds Requested	Project Partners & Supporters
Androscoggin Headwaters – Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge	Conserves important uplands and wetlands, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Undeveloped ponds offer popular recreational opportunities.  THREAT: Vulnerability to second-home development, especially along the undeveloped ponds.	USFWS	NH	2,920	\$4.5 million	Trust for Public Land, Senator Shaheen, The Mahoosuc Initiative
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	Connects 800 acres of unprotected land that separates the refuge into two separate parts; conserves wetlands in one of Chesapeake Bay's most important and productive estuarine systems.  THREAT: Fragmentation of refuge tracts increases management costs.	USFWS	MD	3,887	\$3 million	The Conservation Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge Association
Cape May National Wildlife Refuge	Protects important habitat for migratory songbirds and wintering waterfowl species including lesser scaup, American black duck and green-winged teal.  THREAT: Heavy threat of development	USFWS	NJ	620	\$2 million	The Conservation Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge

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Cascade Siskiyou National Monument	Connects key old-growth stands and watersheds and provides critical habitat connectivity by consolidating in-holdings.  THREAT: Residential development and industrial logging pressures.	BLM	OR	6,600	\$7.5 million	The Conservation Fund, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Forest Capital, Pacific Forest Trust
Great Lakes – Great Lands Upper Peninsula - Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests	Helps meet the goals of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by acquiring intact forest landscapes for watershed protection and habitat conservation for species such as Canada lynx, bald eagles, ruffed grouse, and gray wolves.  THREAT: Subdivision for residential development.	USFS	MI	3,500	\$4.8 million	Trust for Public Land, Senator Levin, Senator Stabenow, and Representative Stupak
Hells Canyon National Recreation Area	Provides habitat for over 1,000 native plant species and 380 wildlife species, including federally threatened Snake River Steelhead and species of concern such as ferruginous hawks.  THREAT: Residential development and subdivision.	USFS	OR	5,907	\$4.215 million	The Nature Conservancy
Lesser Prairie Chicken Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Provides critical habitat for threatened lesser prairie chickens and sand dune lizards and is the highest priority tract for the BLM  THREAT: Loss and degradation of habitat due to land development and conversion for agriculture; securing habitat now will avoid expensive recovery measures.	BLM	NM	3,244	\$1.75 million	The Conservation Fund, Senator Jeff Bingaman, New Mexico State Land Commission, Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Alliance, New Mexico Chapter of Republicans for Environmental Protections, and others

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Montana Legacy Project – Flathead and Lolo National Forests	<p>Maintains this large contiguous natural area, providing critical habitat and key linkages for grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverines, and fishers.</p> <p>THREAT: Habitat fragmentation from residential development due to increased population growth.</p>	USFS	MT	10,649	\$10 million	<p>The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Missoula County Board of Commissioners, Blackfoot Challenge, Clark Fork Coalition, Swan Ecosystem Center, Clearwater Resource Council</p>
North Carolina National Forests – Pisgah, Nantahala, Uwharrie National Forests	<p>Protects unique high elevation habitats, large tracts of old-growth forests, rare ecological communities, and important watersheds.</p> <p>THREAT: Zoning for residential sub-division has been approved and the properties are under threat of development.</p>	USFS	NC	1,000	\$4.435 million	<p>The Conservation Fund, U.S. Forest Service, Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, Land Trust for Central North Carolina, Trust for Public Land, State of North Carolina</p>
Rocky Fork – Cherokee National Forest	<p>Conserves a large, unfragmented area, providing habitat for peregrine falcons and eastern hell-benders, and recreational and tourism opportunities.</p> <p>THREAT: Increasing development pressure and decreasing state funding for conservation make this property a top acquisition priority for the U.S. Forest Service.</p>	USFS	TN	3,628	\$11 million	<p>The Conservation Fund, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, The Wilderness Society</p>

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Rocky Mountain Front Conservation 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	38,562**	\$11 million	The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy
Russell Creek – Shoshone National Forest	<p>Consolidates an in-holding within the Yellowstone Recovery Zone for grizzly bears and includes prime riparian habitat and important wetlands.</p> <p>THREAT: Sub-division and related development.</p>	USFS	WY	118	\$2.5 million	Trust for Public Land
Sierra Crest – Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests	<p>Restores habitat connectivity and consolidates checkerboard lands, improving management and public access; provides habitat for northern goshawk, American marten, and yellow-legged frog.</p> <p>THREAT: Projected population growth in the Lake Tahoe region increases development pressure; fragmentation makes it difficult to control invasive species and wildfires.</p>	USFS	CA	3,187	\$5.5 million	Trust for Public Land, Senator Feinstein
St. Mary's River Connector – Osceola National Forest	<p>Connects large tracts of public land ownership to maintain habitat and hydrologic linkages important for wildlife and watershed health.</p> <p>THREAT: Residential and industrial development.</p>	USFS	FL	1,063	\$3.7 million	Trust for Public Land

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Washington Cascade Ecosystem – Wenatchee National Forest	Consolidates "checkerboard" lands to protect vital wildlife corridors, prevent habitat fragmentation, and improve forest management.  THREAT: Increased habitat fragmentation from population growth and related housing development.	USFS	WA	2,513	\$4 million	Trust for Public Land, Senator Murray
West Creek – Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge	Provides a critical conservation link between Pinelands National Reserve and the Refuge, allowing for improved wildlife migration and conserving an area of rare Atlantic white cedar forests.  THREAT: In an area with one of the highest percentages of growth in New Jersey, resulting in intense development pressure.	USFWS	NJ	79	\$350,000	Trust for Public Land, Senator Lautenberg, Senator Menendez, Representative Adler, Representative Sires, Representative Rothman
Wind Cave National Park	One of the few remaining intact prairie ecosystems in the world, providing habitat for bison, elk, pronghorn, mule deer, coyotes, and prairie dogs.  THREAT: Property is being auctioned in July, with high threat of sub-division.	NPS	SD	5,600	\$8.557 million	The Conservation Fund

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

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