

NEWS RELEASE

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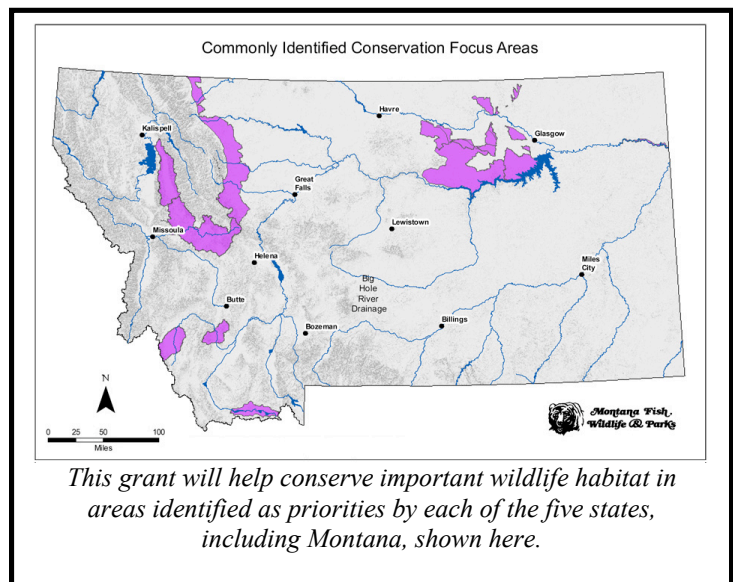
\$13 Million Grant to Accelerate the Conservation of Wildlife Habitat in the West

Grant to Focus on the Protection of Priority Areas Identified by Five States in Their Wildlife Action Plans

NEW YORK – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced a grant of \$13 million over three years to accelerate the implementation of the state wildlife action plans in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming.

DDCF awarded the grant to The Nature Conservancy, which will work in partnership with other organizations across the region. An estimated \$11 million of the total grant will be devoted directly to the protection of habitat identified as a priority in the wildlife action plans of these five states. The remaining funds will be used to undertake educational efforts and build partnerships that advance the implementation of the plans in these states, and across the West.

“The state wildlife action plans offer new hope for wildlife conservation, providing a shared vision that is grounded in sound science, common sense and collaboration,” said Dr. Joan Spero, president of DDCF.



“This grant is aimed at accelerating the implementation of the promising wildlife action plans in these five states,” said Dr. Mark Shaffer, director of DDCF’s Environment Program. “The wildlife action plans identify the areas that state officials, working in consultation with scientists, conservationists, ranchers, hunters, anglers and others, determined to be the top priorities for action now, while much of our wildlife is still abundant and habitat conservation is still cost-effective. The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is pleased to put its support behind these proactive plans and this collaborative approach.”

State wildlife action plans were first conceived in 2000, when Congress mandated that each state develop a comprehensive strategy for conserving its wildlife. The states submitted their plans to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the fall of 2005, and they were all approved by February of 2007. In developing these plans, the state wildlife agencies were careful to consider the broad range of wildlife, including game and non-game species, common species as well as endangered ones. They identified and prioritized key wildlife habitat, in many cases using the latest technology to map these lands. They also brought multiple stakeholders to the table -

academics and activists, scientists and sportsmen, along with other interested members of the local public – to work together to establish a common conservation agenda that could achieve broad acceptance within each state.

“Protecting land, water and wildlife is an essential part of protecting our time-honored way of life here in the West,” said Jamie Williams, who will manage the grant for The Nature Conservancy. “This extraordinary grant will help us conserve the natural wonder of our western landscape for our children, and our children’s children.”

Many conservation organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, and the Colorado Conservation Trust, will work closely with local land trusts, private landowners and local and state governments to identify and implement projects that will be funded through the grant. As part of the agreement, The Nature Conservancy and partners will match the capital funds provided in the grant on a five-to-one basis, representing a total commitment of more than \$55 million to wildlife action plan priorities in these five states over the next three years.

“The wildlife action plans are an important resource, both in the way they identify the habitats in greatest need of conservation and the way they bring together diverse partnerships to conserve these sensitive landscapes,” said Shaun McGrath, Program Director for the Western Governors’ Association’s (WGA) Wildlife Corridors Initiative. “The Western Governors’ Association acknowledges and commends the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for their important investment in making these plans a reality.”

The WGA Wildlife Corridor Initiative brings together diverse stakeholders, including state and federal wildlife managers, tribes, local government officials, conservation groups and industry, to identify habitats in greatest need of conservation in the West and develop recommendations on needed policy options and tools for preserving those landscapes.

“The power of common vision is never to be underestimated,” said Mark Elsbree, Vice President and Northwest Director of The Conservation Fund, which will be working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. “With state wildlife action plans, we are protecting important areas for wildlife and our way of life.”

Impressed by the inclusive, collaborative, proactive and state-based principles guiding the wildlife action plans, DDCF decided in 2004 to utilize state wildlife action plans as the focusing mechanism for its funding of habitat conservation. This grant of \$13 million to accelerate conservation efforts in the West is the third major grant DDCF has awarded to protect priority habitats in a cluster of states with strong wildlife action plans and promising conservation opportunities. In 2006, DDCF awarded a \$7.5 million grant to help implement wildlife action plans in four states in the Southeast: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. And in 2007, a grant of \$10.8 million for similar purposes in the Midwest: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. Including this most recent grant, DDCF has awarded more than \$60 million since 2004 to organizations working to develop, promote and implement the state wildlife action plans across the country.

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people’s lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke’s properties.

The Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org) is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 15 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 102 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.