

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California requests that 50% of the fine in this matter go into the Northern Coastal California Restoration Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to further the specific goals outlined below.



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("the Foundation") was created by Congress in 1984 to benefit the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitats on which they depend. The Foundation's purpose is to sustain and expand our nation's fish, wildlife and plant resources through healthier habitats, stronger partnerships and enhanced stewardship. They have had great success in achieving their mission by bringing together the talent and resources of federal, state, and local agencies, tribal organizations, corporations, foundations and individuals, increasing those resources through leveraging of their funding, and by investing in emerging leaders, conservation techniques, and innovative solutions to natural resource challenges.

The Foundation has awarded over 6,000 grants and contracts to more than 2,000 recipients. These grants represent an investment of more than \$380,826,000 in funds administered by the Foundation and over \$418,326,000 in other non-federal funds contributed by the Foundation's recipients. Of the total amount investment, approximately 50% was awarded for the restoration and/or protection of habitats for fish, wildlife and plants; 16% for public education and community outreach projects; 12% for applied research projects that will generate data which furthers the conservation and management of fish, wildlife and plants; 12% for the conservation and management of specific imperiled species; 7% for conservation planning activities; and 3% for equipment to be used for implementation of Foundation funded projects.

The United States Department of the Interior and its agencies are the primary partners of the Foundation. Together, these agencies are working to conserve the living resources of our nation with respect for and partnership with human communities. Some examples of current efforts to achieve this are characterized by the following programs:

California Condor Recovery – In partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Peregrine Fund, The Ventana Wilderness Society, and the Grand Canyon Foundation; the Foundation has invested \$536,395 in 9 projects to recover this majestic bird. This investment was matched by \$1,019,906 in other funds by the recipients for a total of \$1,556,301. In Fiscal Year 2003, the Foundation awarded \$100,000 for condor recovery in Arizona and California.

Sage Grouse Recovery – Working closely with the Bureau of Land Management toward the goal of returning sage grouse populations in the western states to robust and sustainable levels in order to avoid their listing under the Endangered Species Act, the Foundation has invested \$1,544,649 in 29 projects throughout the range of these sage steppe birds. In Fiscal Year 2003, the Foundation awarded 6 grants to 6 organizations for \$281,746 which is matched by \$322,000 in additional funds by the grantees.

Rangeland Conservation – The vast landscapes of the western United States are not only National treasures for their scenic beauty and abundance of wildlife but for the economic benefits that they provide to our nation and the ranchers who steward them.

Conserving these areas as productive landscapes for wildlife and for people is an important goal of the Foundation. Working in close collaboration with the state Cattlemen's Associations, the Foundation has funded the establishment and growth of "Cattlemen's Land Trusts" throughout the west. \$670,000 has been invested in creating the capacity for local groups to take leadership in conserving their landscapes. Demonstrating the Foundation's commitment to the conservation of rangelands, in Fiscal Year 2003 alone, 54 grants were awarded for \$2,888,770 to 50 organizations which leverages an additional \$5,407,512 for local rangeland conservation.

Conservation on Tribal Lands - The landscapes under the stewardship of our nation's tribes are of unsurpassed importance to the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants. Working closely with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we are investing in projects to improve capacity for the conservation of these vital lands and resources. The Foundation has awarded 27 grants investing \$1,171,075 which leveraged \$2,335,877 to accomplish this.

National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial – The unparalleled role that the National Wildlife Refuge System has played in conserving our wildlife truly is deserving of recognition on its centennial. Toward that end, the Foundation in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service has committed over \$1.8 million in Federal funds that are leveraging \$3.4 million in non-federal funds through 72 grants to enhance refuges. In addition, the Foundation has generated an additional \$1.1 million in new private funds to support the Refuge Centennial from corporate and individual donors.

In March of 2004, the Foundation¹ established the Northern Coastal California Restoration Fund ("the Fund") to receive monies to be used to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats on which they depend in the Northern California Bay Area. The specific purpose of the Fund is to finance:

- (a) on the ground habitat conservation and protection projects in and near the Port of San Francisco including the estuary of San Francisco Bay ("SF Bay") and its tributaries and watershed and the Northern coast of California to benefit the fish and wildlife species and the habitats upon which they depend;
- (b) improvement of public access areas and other public information/education projects that benefit the United States Fish and Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge System;
- (c) projects that encourage collaboration and support local communities seeking environmentally and economically sustainable solutions for natural resource management; and

¹ The actions contemplated are authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. § 661, et seq., as amended; by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 742a-j; and by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., as amended.

(d) applied research that is directly related to improvement of the SF Bay's and Northern coastal California's natural resources management.

The people living in or near such habitats are intended to be the beneficiaries of the Fund, on behalf of such species and habitats. The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California believes that an amount of \$500,000 placed into the Fund will promote conservation of wildlife resources in the SF Bay Area.