



DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

**Wildlife Conservation Society
WCS Climate Adaptation Fund
2011 Fact Sheet & Grants List**

With funding provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Climate Adaptation Fund provides competitive grants to non-profit conservation organizations. These grants support applied, on-the-ground projects focused on implementing priority conservation actions for climate adaptation at a landscape scale. In this first year of grantmaking, the Wildlife Conservation Society awarded six grants totaling \$905,323.

Goals of the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund

- Projects that demonstrate land management techniques to assist wildlife adaptation to climate change;
- Projects to create new protected areas, expand core habitat areas, or alter land use designations to secure large expanses of intact habitat;
- Projects that assure connectivity for fish and wildlife among core habitat areas;
- Projects that protect keystone species vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The WCS Climate Adaptation Fund Seeks Projects that:

- Provide proof of concept for innovative wildlife conservation practices that may serve as models for future projects, i.e., on-the-ground demonstration of effective interventions for wildlife adaptation to climate change;
- Implement landscape-scale, regional or multi-state conservation objectives, as defined by a strategic habitat conservation plan;
- Demonstrate strong working partnerships with public agencies or other stakeholders necessary for achieving conservation outcomes.

2011 Requests

- 185 proposals received for climate adaptation actions across the U.S.
- \$28,033,654 million in total funding requests

2011 Funding

- Total Grants - six projects, \$905,323

About the Wildlife Conservation Society

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. We do so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth. Today WCS is at work in over 60 nations across Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America, protecting wild landscapes that are home to a vast array of species from butterflies to tigers.

Learn more, visit WCS on the web at: <http://www.wcs.org>

2011 Grants List

Hawaiian Silversword Foundation, Inc. - WCS Grant: \$250,000; Project Budget: \$521,200 ***Kanakaleonui Bird Corridor Upslope Restoration***



Creating climate refugia to help native bird species avoid avian malaria.

Hawaii's mid-elevation forests, where most of its native bird species are found, have been warming at a faster rate than regional projections. The birds will need to move upslope to cooler areas to escape from mosquitoes that transmit avian malaria. This project aims to restore 525 acres of forested habitat in the Kanakaleonui Bird Corridor and surrounding lands to provide forest birds a continuous area of native forest that will allow them to move to higher elevations.

Scenic Hudson - WCS Grant: \$50,679; Project Budget: \$101,928

Estuarine adaptation: Protecting and prioritizing freshwater tidal wetland migration zones along the Hudson River

Sea level rise presents the most immediate climate change impact to the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem. This project will execute private land acquisition strategies, creating new protected areas around key tidal habitats and facilitating upslope migration and adaptation to expected sea level rise. Approximately 419 acres of privately owned tidal wetlands and intact upland floodplains will be transferred to state protection. The project will also conduct landowner outreach and land acquisition activities to protect up to an additional 1,000 acres of tidal wetlands and adjacent upland migration zones.



Vulnerable tidal wetlands and their upland migration zones will be protected in the Hudson River Estuary.

The Nature Conservancy, Colorado - WCS grant: \$164,900; Project Budget: \$356,821 ***Enhancing resilience of wetland habitats to increase the adaptive capacity of Gunnison sage-grouse.***



Working to increase viable habitat for species like sage grouse in Eastern Colorado.

This project will restore and enhance 500-800 acres of priority brood-rearing habitat for Gunnison sage grouse using techniques that can be readily replicated in other locations. Wetland and riparian areas in three sagebrush shrubland locations will be enhanced to increase adaptive capacity of this imperiled species and other wildlife in the Gunnison Basin. The results of this work will be shared through the Gunnison Climate Working Group and the Southwest Climate Change Initiative to other groups working in similar ecosystems across the West.

Trout Unlimited - WCS Grant: \$140,000; Project Budget: \$498,525

Upper Bear River Reconnect and Flow Restoration Project



Bonneville Cutthroat trout and other cold water species need intact river systems to adapt to a changing climate.

Many native fish and other aquatic and riparian species of the interior West are well-equipped to survive extremes of temperature and precipitation, but they need intact, connected habitats to do so. This project will restore over seven miles of braided river and riparian habitat, reconnecting the East Fork of the Bear River in Utah to its main stem.

The Nature Conservancy, Virginia - WCS Grant: \$149,744; Project Budget: \$728,649

Implementing Climate Change Adaptation Strategies on Virginia's Eastern Shore

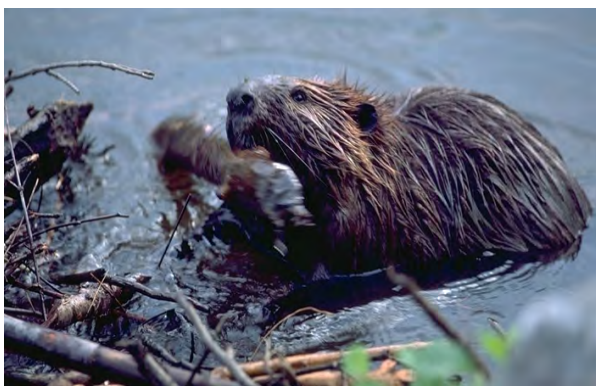
Climate change adaptation strategies will be demonstrated on Virginia's Eastern Shore to inform the expansion and restoration of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Projects will restore a functional oyster reef, improve 300 linear feet of living shoreline, create 7,000 square feet of tidal salt marsh and enhance more than an acre of existing, emergent wetlands. Once demonstrated, these types of interventions can be readily replicated along the Eastern seaboard.



Demonstrating how living shorelines help ecosystems adapt to rising sea levels.

Grand Canyon Trust – WCS Grant: \$150,000; Project Budget: \$303,100

Restoring Beaver in Southern Utah: Keystone Engineer for Climate Change Adaptation



"Ecosystem engineers" such as beavers increase water storage important for areas in the West where increased drought conditions are expected due to climate change.

Beavers can radically alter streams and valley bottom ecosystems through their dam building activities. The water storage ponds created by beavers generate a diversity of habitats and replenish aquifers, making this species a critical ally in helping natural communities adapt to predicted increases in temperature, drought severity and extreme precipitation events in an era of climate change. This project will reintroduce beavers in up to 87 stream segments in Southern Utah as well as track the benefits to ecosystems from the beavers' activities.