



ON THE COVER
Silver Creek Preserve

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America's Great Outdoors



November 2011

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Introduction

President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative on April 16, 2010, to foster a 21st-century approach to conservation that is designed by and accomplished in partnership with the American people. He charged the Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality with leading this initiative. The President directed senior Administration officials to undertake an unprecedented listening tour to learn from communities outside of the Nation's Capital that have developed innovative and successful conservation initiatives. The result was perhaps the most robust public conversation about conservation in American history: 51 public listening sessions with more than 10,000 participants and more than 105,000 comments submitted. Building on this conversation, on February 16, 2011, federal agencies submitted to the President "America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations," a report which defines an action plan for conservation and recreation in the 21st century.

The AGO report identified 10 major goals and 75 action items to advance this initiative, from expanding youth programs to increasing public awareness about conservation to better managing our public lands. Among these were three major place-based goals to focus the collective conservation and recreation efforts of the federal government: create and enhance urban parks and greenspaces, renew and restore rivers, and conserve large, rural landscapes.

During the spring and summer of 2011, Secretary Salazar continued the conversation with Americans outside Washington, this time seeking recommendations in each state about opportunities that support the three place-based goals of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Secretary Salazar and his leadership team at the Department of the Interior asked Governors and their senior leadership and stakeholders in all 50 states to identify specific projects in which the federal government could partner with states to advance the AGO goals. The response we received was outstanding. Many states identified far more worthy project ideas than we could list in this report. Based on this input, this America's Great Outdoors Fifty-State Report summarizes two project ideas in each state for the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies to partner with state and local governments and other stakeholders on a shared conservation and recreation agenda. Here are some highlights and themes we

Greenway, all over the country are focused on improving the quality of life for their citizens through parks, trails, and open space. Close-to-home parks and greenspaces are especially valuable in connecting young people with the outdoors.

2. People love their rivers.

Since most communities are located along a river, rivers are a particularly good way to connect Americans to the great outdoors. And rivers can be restored through community-scale efforts, encouraging people to become and stay involved. From riverside trails for hiking and biking, to water trails, to multi-dimensional river recreation and restoration initiatives, to projects that aim to restore river ecology, we are inspired and encouraged by the range and diversity of proposed river-related projects at the local, state, and regional levels.

Alabama

Gulf Coast Restoration

LEADERSHIP PARTNERSHIP
GOVERNMENT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : The Gulf Coastal Plain of Alabama, more than 31,000 square miles and home to two million people, is a key area in need of conservation. The region's wetland and pine forest ecosystems are critical habitats for many threatened and endangered species like the Red Cockaded Woodpecker and Red Hills Salamander. The region is expected to see significant new development and population growth during the next 25 years, putting more pressure on these species and their habitat. The State of Alabama has partnered with federal agencies and conservation organizations to acquire easements to conserve habitat, protect migration corridors, and enhance recreational opportunities. The partnership's primary focus is on conservation of the remaining longleaf pine ecosystem. Another important goal of this project is to provide a conservation buffer for local military activities, including "Dark Areas."

PROJECT AREA : Support acquisition of conservation easements to conserve critical habitat for protected species and the continuation of military activities at Fort Rucker, Fort Benning, and Eglin Air Force Base.

PARTNERS : FWS, DOD, State of Alabama, and University of Alabama.

Conservation Education for Alabama's Youth

EDUCATION
ADULTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : As in many parts of the country, there is an increasing disconnect between Alabama's citizens and the outdoors. This disconnect shows up in the decreased amount of time young people are in the outdoors, the increased time they spend in front of electronic devices, and the decline in outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing. Alabama is seeking partners to help it address this growing disconnect between people and nature, between urban and rural communities, and between youth and outdoor recreation. Opportunities include an expansion of outdoor recreation in public schools curricula, including hunter and angler education.

PROJECT AREA : Partner with the State of Alabama to develop environmental education programs and to connect young people to the outdoors.

PARTNERS : NPS, Alabama State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Department of Public Health, and Alabama Department of Education.

Alaska

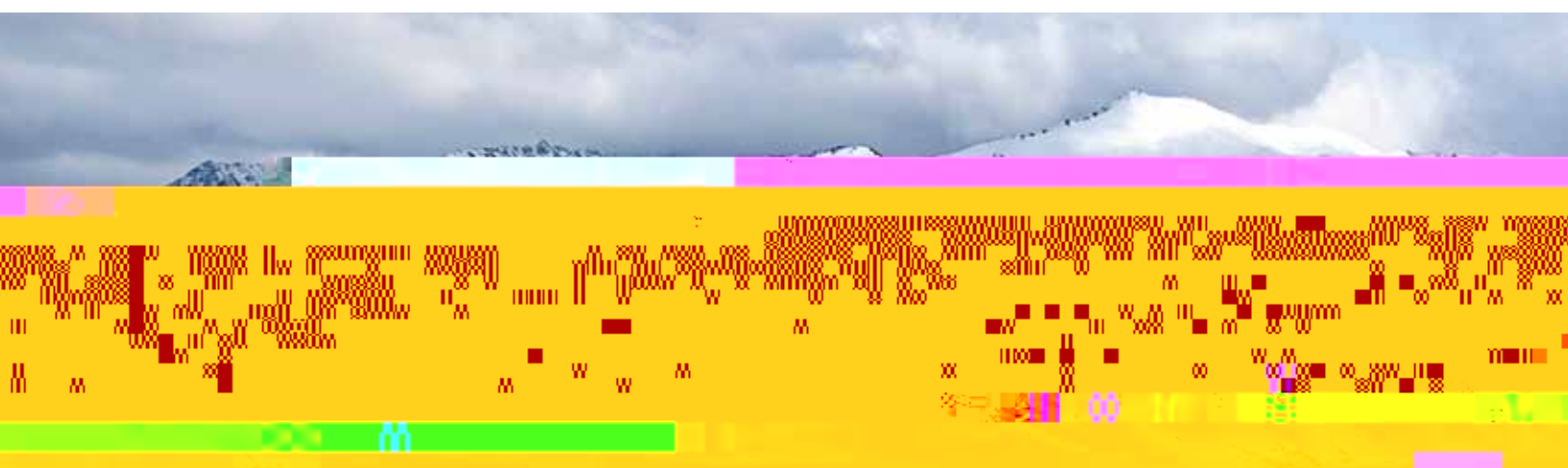
Denali State Park Trails

TRC
CA

PDN : Denali State Park sits on the south side of the Alaska Range, adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. The 325,000-acre park is remarkable for its spectacular views of towering glaciers and ice-carved gorges. Glacial streams wind down to the tundra, home to moose, grizzly bears, caribou, and other wildlife. With its beautiful views and unique landscape, the region is popular for sightseeing and recreation by both residents and out-of-state visitors, and anticipated developments in the region are expected to increase demand. The state park provides a range of recreation experiences that often complement those available in the national park, including a trail system with several trailheads along the state's major north-south highway. The state needs assistance to plan, develop, and maintain an all-season trail system that allows for optimum outdoor recreational use of the area while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the park.

PA : Provide technical assistance from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to develop a trail management plan with recommendations for design, construction, management, and potential funding sources.

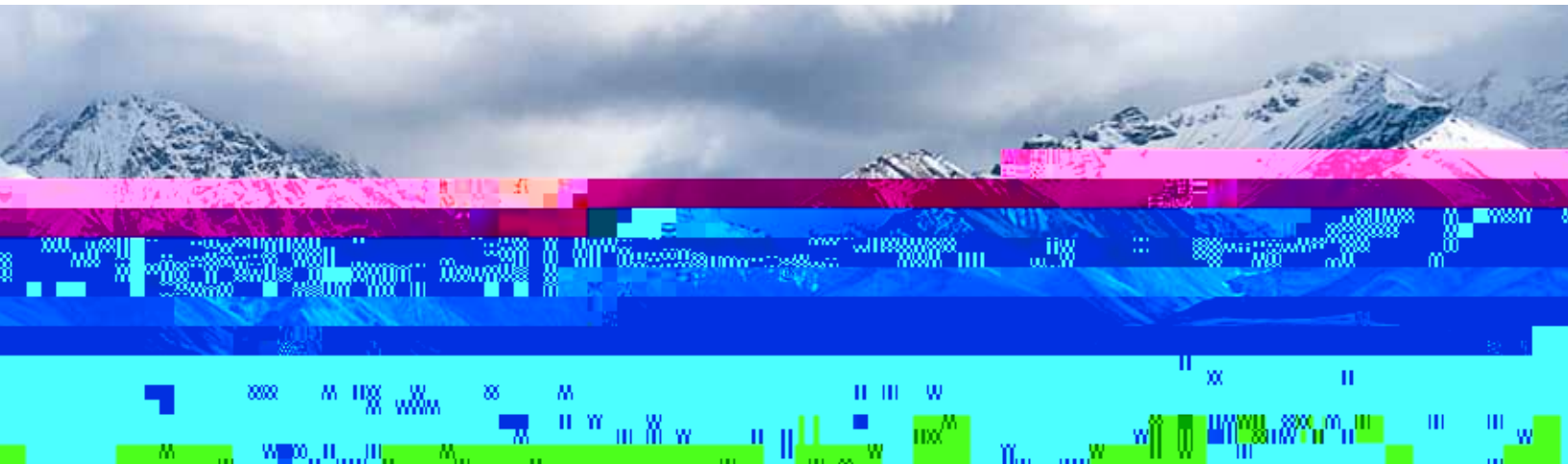
PN : NPS, State of Alaska, and Denali State Park.



Kachemak Bay Water Trail

WATER TRAIL
HOMER, ALASKA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The goal of the Kachemak Bay Water Trails Association in Homer is to identify a designated water trail suitable for small watercraft from the Homer Spit up the north shore of Kachemak Bay and down the south shore to Seldovia. This trail would connect communities at both ends of the bay to one another and to the outstanding recreational and educational offerings of the bay. The proposed trail is approximately 125 miles long and the proposal will identify access points, landing sites, and recreational facilities



Arizona

Rio Salado

Urban Park and Youth Environment

Project Description: The Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is a nature center in the heart of the City of Phoenix's Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, a 600-acre park along the Salt River. Located less than two miles from downtown Phoenix, the center is a gateway to lush Sonoran riparian habitat used by over 200 species of birds and other wildlife.

The River Pathways Program supports the AGO priorities of restoring and revitalizing a significant river while creating more green space, urban parkways, and fishing opportunities for residents of Phoenix. The project will engage youth in conservation and monitoring in the Agua Fria National Monument; open a new recreation area near the shore of Lake Pleasant Regional Park on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Maricopa County Parks; and build and maintain 18 to 20 miles of trails within the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area.

The River Pathways Program has a goal of educating 25,000 Phoenix inner city youth (94 percent of whom are minority students) in basic environmental literacy by 2015. As part of the project, young people will build regional trails, monitor fragile riparian resources, and restore avian and aquatic habitat.

Program Area: Provide technical and financial support to build trails and develop the recreation site at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Expand urban fishing opportunities.

Partners: BLM, BOR, FWS, ACE, Audubon Arizona, City of Phoenix, Maricopa County, Valley Forward, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Phoenix Union High School District, local Workforce Investment Boards, Phoenix College, and

Am. J. G. O. F. - S. R. t

Arkansas River Trail

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Arkansas River Trail, Arkansas

Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Arkansas: Arkansas, “the Natural State,” takes pride in their connection to the outdoors. Already, a chain of parks, on both sides of the Arkansas River, links a complex of city trails and parks that runs from the Clinton Presidential Center in downtown Little Rock to the Big Dam Bridge in West Little Rock. The state and the communities envision the Arkansas River Trail reaching from downtown Little Rock to Pinnacle Mountain State Park (and the 225-mile Ouachita Wilderness Trail) on the southern shore, and from downtown North Little Rock to Cook’s Landing on the northern shore. These routes will directly connect city residents to the surrounding rural areas. A pedestrian bridge across Murray Lock and Dam and a renovated railroad bridge near the Presidential Library Center and Park will help create another 14-mile loop. All together this project will open approximately 24 miles of trail in central Arkansas.

While a great deal of progress has already been made in developing these trails and parks, another 12.5 miles of the Arkansas River Trail needs to be completed.

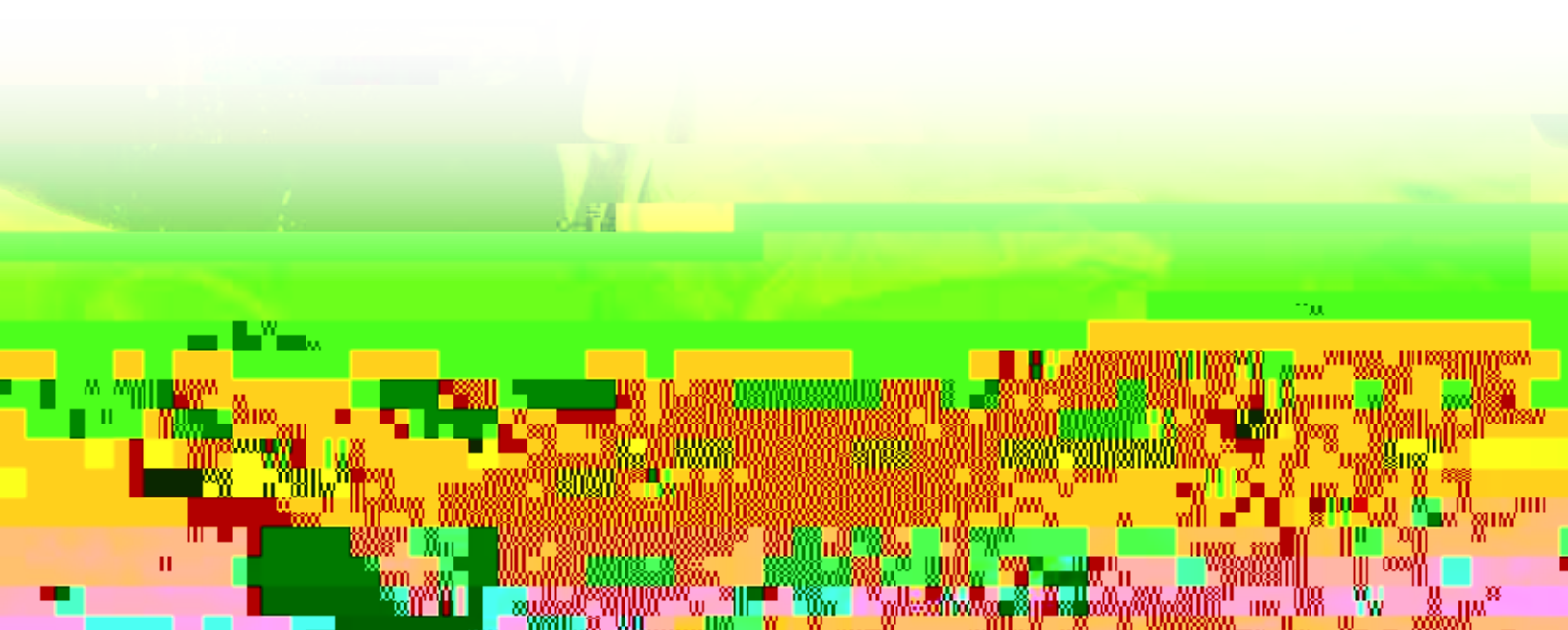
Project Area: Provide technical and financial assistance to acquire and complete the Arkansas River Trail.

Partners: NPS, State of Arkansas, and City of Little Rock.

California

San Joaquin River

N
B
R
t
R
R



Los Angeles River Trail & San Gabriel River Trail Improvements

TRANSPORTATION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Almost 5.7 million people live within 10 miles of California's Los Angeles River Trail, and 5.5 million are within 10 miles of the nearby San Gabriel River Trail. These recreational trails along Los Angeles County's principal rivers connect urban residents to a network of the region's great parks and outdoor recreation areas, including Los Angeles State Historic Park, Griffith Park, the Arroyo Seco, and Angeles National Forest. Improvements to these trails will ensure they continue to provide healthy recreation, connect neighborhoods to existing outdoor recreation areas, and provide a non-motorized transportation alternative.

The City of Los Angeles has committed to connecting people to the rivers and trails

Colorado

Rocky Mountain Greenway

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SAND CREEK GREENWAY, SOUTH PLATTE RIVER AND SAND CREEK GREENWAY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: As a result of decades of private, local, state, and federal investment, significant areas of open land are now protected and available for public use in and around the Denver metropolitan area. This investment includes establishment of 40,000 acres of parks and open space, creation of over 140 miles of trails, and completion of water quality and recreation improvements within the Denver metro greenway system. There has been significant federal, state, and local investment in the cleanup and restoration of the Rocky Flats and Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuges, as well as private and public investment in the creation of Confluence and Commons parks in the Central Platte Valley in Denver. An investment of \$100 million in these environmental and recreational improvements has created an estimated \$10 billion of related economic benefits.

To maximize the benefit of these disparate assets, federal, state, and local partners want to create links to creeks, river corridors, and local, state, and federal parks and open space areas. The state and DOI are joining forces to create a “Rocky Mountain Greenway”—a system of uninterrupted trails linking the three national wildlife refuges in the metro region (Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR, Two Ponds NWR, and Rocky Flats NWR) and other trail systems in the Denver Metro Region. The NPS also will explore creating connections from Rocky Mountain National Park to the Denver metro area.

PROVIDER ACTION: Provide technical and financial support to connect the three national wildlife refuges in the metro region. Provide financial assistance for water quality and riparian habitat improvements and for work to extend trails and open space along the South Platte River and Sand Creek Greenway.

Yampa River Basin

RI B C R t ;
L L C t
N t t C

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : The Yampa River Basin in northwestern Colorado is one of the most hydrologically and biologically intact watersheds in the West. As the largest naturally flowing river in Colorado, the Yampa hosts high-quality recreational experiences for boaters and fishermen. It provides roosting and nesting habitat for the sandhill crane, blue heron, and bald eagle. The river is also vital winter habitat for Colorado's second largest elk herd, and large deer herds, making the area a world-class hunting destination.

Good stewardship and conservation of these lands and waters—both public and private—is critical to ensuring strong local economies built around ranching, wildlife, and recreation that contribute greatly to the economic and ecological health of the state of Colorado and the Colorado River basin as a whole. Two recent successes in the area include 61,485 acres of private land on 131 different properties that have been placed under conservation easement and extensive public and private investment in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. The creation of the Yampa River State Park, the reconstruction of important buildings at Dinosaur National Monument, and recreation improvements at Elkhead Reservoir are the first of many steps that will

Connecticut

Connecticut River

NOAA, B, U, P, C

Project Description: Over the course of the Connecticut River's 410-mile journey from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound, the river ties together four New England states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The river is also the centerpiece of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge that encompasses the entire watershed, including several federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in Connecticut. The river flows through Hartford where public agencies have made significant strides to reconnect residents to the river through new riverside parks, a new science center, recreational trails, and a highly successful urban youth rowing program.

Despite the success in developing varied recreational opportunities on the Connecticut River, there is still a need for more access points for water-based recreation and to draw citizens to the river. The goal is to continue to support local efforts to enhance river access. The state envisions new launch sites for canoes and kayaks, more trails along the river and its major tributaries (including the Farmington and Salmon rivers), added camping areas, hosting public events, and making further investments in open space near the river.

The state also is working in Hartford to expand the city park system and join it to the Connecticut River. Its centerpiece, the GreenWalk, is a one-mile chain of parks and plazas connecting the gold-domed Capitol in Bushnell Park to the Connecticut River waterfront.

Project Action: Provide technical and financial support to increase access to the Connecticut River. Designate a portion of the Connecticut River in Connecticut as a National Blueway.

Partners: FWS, NPS, State of Connecticut, City of Hartford, Riverfront Recapture, Friends of Conte Refuge, and other nonpro t partners.

Naugatuck River

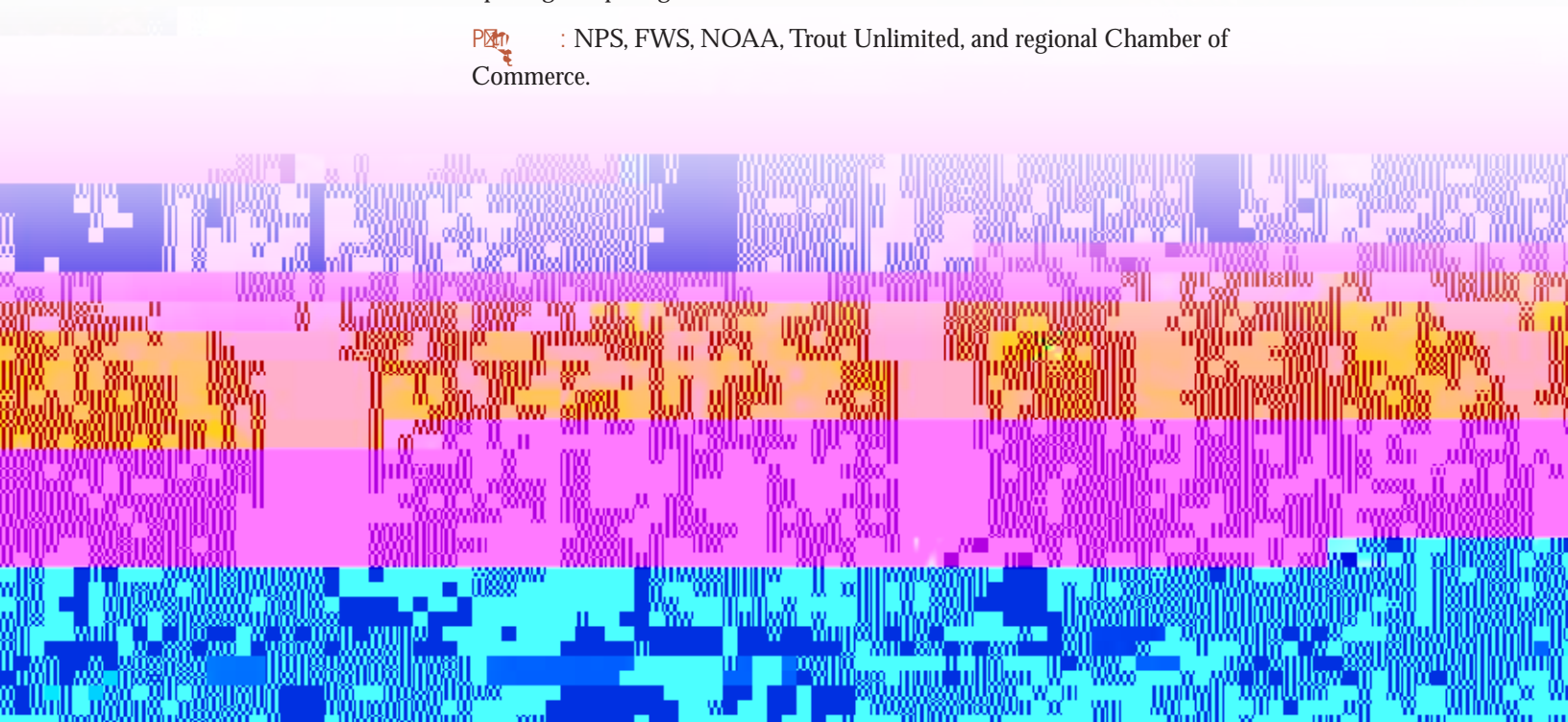
NOAA, BAA, R, W, C, A, R, t

Project Description: Western Connecticut's Naugatuck River encompasses a 310-square-mile watershed that includes former heavily industrialized urban areas, including the City of Waterbury. Over the last decade, the river has undergone a rebirth with millions of dollars invested to improve water quality, restore habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. The state has focused on upgrading treatment plants—including a \$100 million project in Waterbury—and removing dams and other structures.

Associated with the above efforts, the state has embarked on a comprehensive program to revitalize major urban areas along the river. The state envisions a multi-sector partnership with NPS, NOAA, Trout Unlimited, and the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce to help shape a comprehensive corridor initiative to enhance recreational access, increase fishing opportunities, restore and improve natural resources, and stimulate economic development along this National Blueway.

Project Area: Help the state and communities to restore and enhance the river by completing the Naugatuck River Greenway, creating new public access to the river, and opening fish passages on the river.

Partners: NPS, FWS, NOAA, Trout Unlimited, and regional Chamber of Commerce.



Delaware



First State National Historical Park

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Purpose: Delaware was the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution and is now the only state with no National Park area. Designating a National Park area would boost tourism and provide urban outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and visitors.

The purpose of the park would be to preserve and interpret resources associated with early Dutch, Swedish, and English settlements, as well as Delaware's role in the birth of the nation.

The concept is that the park connects four interpretative centers linked to sites across the state to tell a comprehensive story of Delaware's coastal heritage. In cooperation with state agencies and local governments, NPS would manage the centers and provide interpretation staff at various attractions. With this "hub and spoke" concept, park boundaries would be drawn loosely to include as many sites as possible that are representative of the themes.

The First State National Historical Park Act was introduced in 2009 and awaits Congressional approval. It is supported by the State of Delaware.

Priority: Support Congressional approval of First State National Historical Park.

Partners: NPS, State of Delaware, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

Delaware National Bayshore

Location: Delaware Bayshore, Delaware

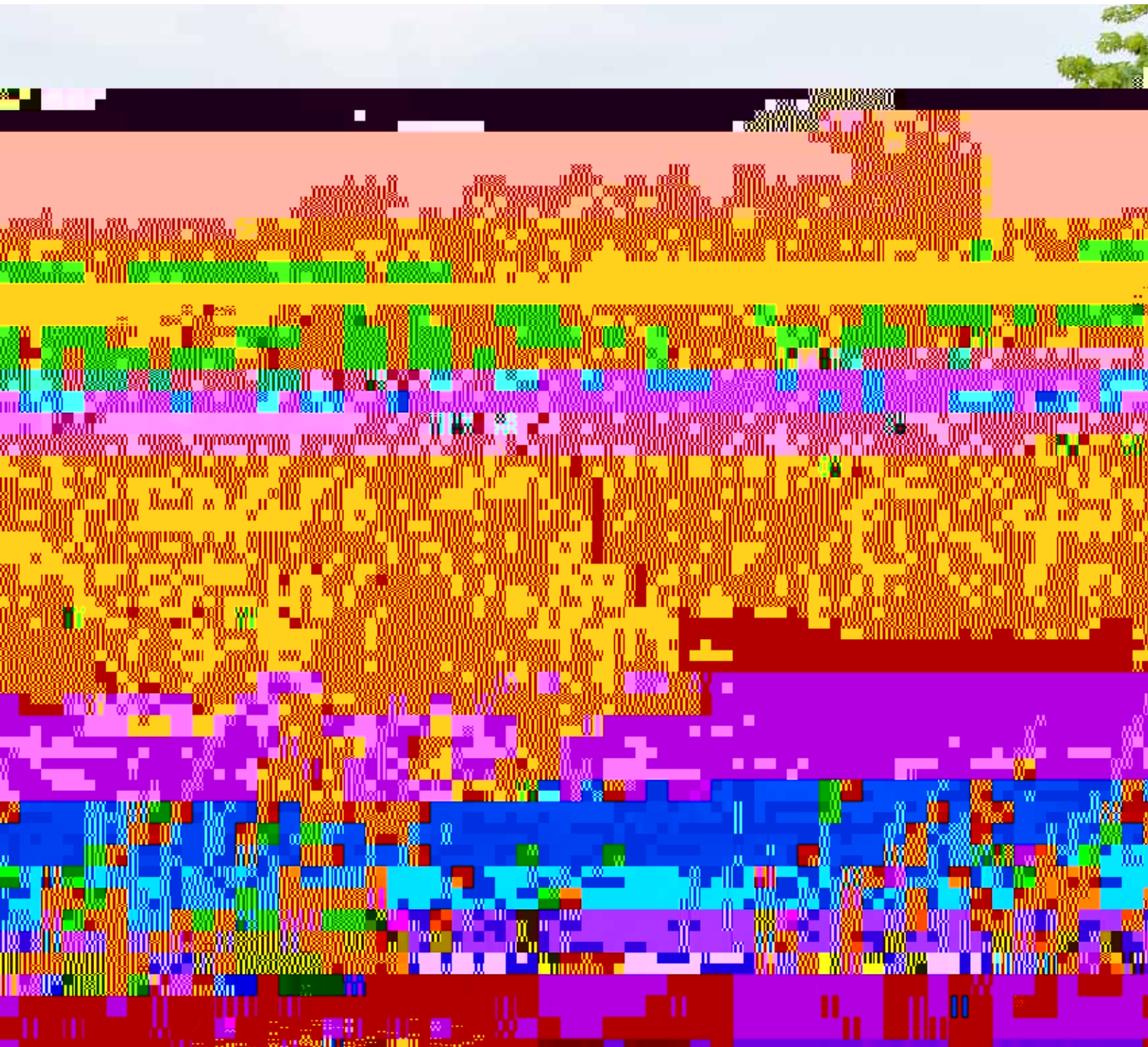
Project Description: The Delaware Bayshore is a widely recognized area of global ecological significance. Extensive coastal marshes, beaches, and agricultural lands annually support more than a half-million shorebirds during both spring and fall migration. This makes the Bayshore one of the best birding and hunting areas on the East Coast. More than half of the Bayshore region is protected as refuges, wildlife areas, agriculture preserves, parks, and cultural heritage sites.

The state seeks DOI's assistance to conserve, restore, and provide access to the Bayshore by leveraging federal, state, and private resources. Coordinated landscape-scale conservation among federal, state, and local agencies, private conservation organizations, private landowners, and local communities would ensure protection of diverse natural habitats and improve recreational opportunities for 30 million Americans who live within a three-hour drive of the Bayshore. Delaware would also like to partner with DOI to evaluate the potential for designating its eastern shore as America's first "National Bayshore."

This project aligns with many AGO objectives: landscape-scale conservation, enhancement of vital habitat, restoration of waterways, connection of local communities to the outdoors, and recreation.

Project Action: Collaborate with Delaware to conserve and restore the Delaware Bayshore and to enhance recreation. Evaluate the possibility of designating the area as the first National Bayshore.





Partners: NPS, FWS, State of Delaware, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.



District of Columbia

Anacostia Riverwalk Trail


R   **A**

P  **J**  **D**  **J**  **N** : The Anacostia Riverwalk is a planned multi-use trail along the east and west banks of the Anacostia River in Washington, DC. The trail will provide a safe and convenient means for people to access the Anacostia Waterfront and enjoy Anacostia Park. Once completed, the Riverwalk will consist of a 48-mile trail system that will include 20 miles of trail along the Anacostia waterfront within the District of Columbia. The Riverwalk will connect 16 waterfront neighborhoods to the Anacostia Park and the Anacostia River.

District of Columbia residents and visitors will be able to walk and bike on the Riverwalk to several popular destinations, including the Fish Wharf, new baseball stadium, Poplar Point, Navy Yard, historic Anacostia, RFK stadium, Kingman Island, and National Arboretum. At either end, the trail will connect to the National Mall at the Tidal Basin and to Bladensburg Marina Park in Prince George's County, MD. Access points are being linked to neighborhoods and points of interest along the length of the trail.

Regionally, the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail will connect to the Fort Circle Trails, Bladensburg Trail, Mount Vernon Trail, and C&O Trail. Nationally, the Riverwalk Trail will provide access to the East Coast Greenway, a network of bicycle trails linking Maine to Florida. The District of Columbia's Metrorail system will interface with the Riverwalk Trail to create a full range of transportation alternatives in the region.

Many sections of the Riverwalk are now complete. The District of Columbia has been working with the NPS to complete sections located on NPS lands. Currently the NPS is working closely with the DC Department of Transportation to complete a missing section of the Riverwalk, which would connect the District of Columbia part of the Riverwalk to the Maryland part.

P   **I** : Provide technical and financial assistance to complete missing links in the Anacostia Riverwalk.

P  : NPS. Other partners include USDA for access to the National Arboretum, and CSX railroad for trail sections that traverse railway lines.

Florida



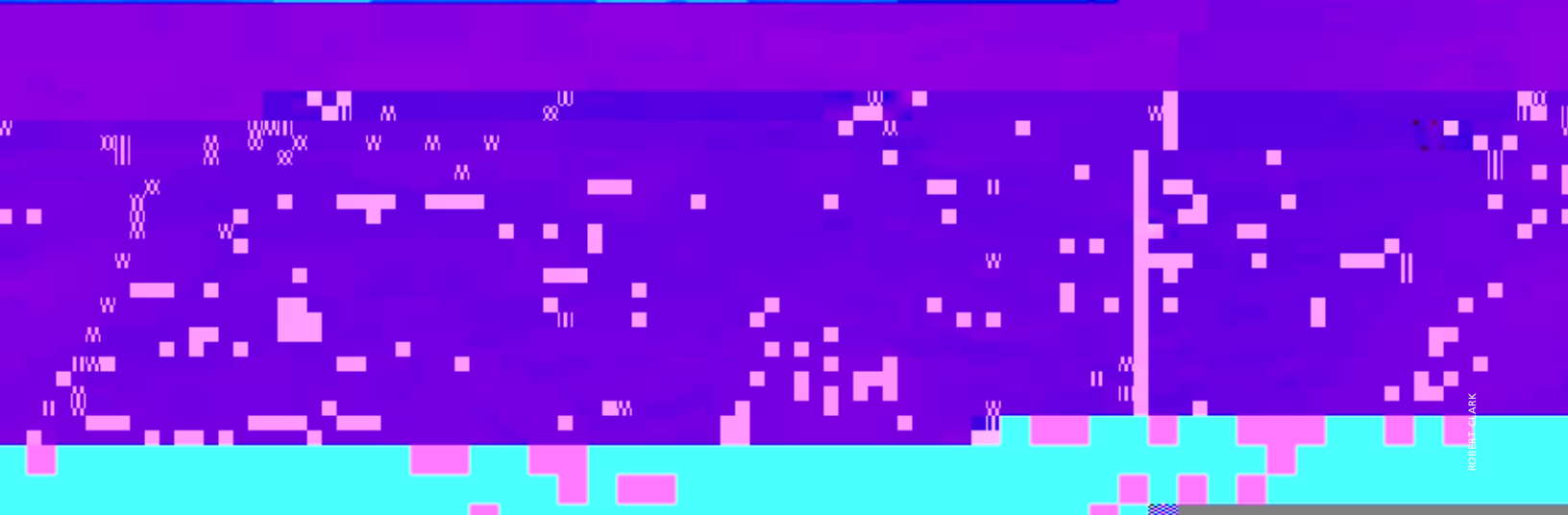
Shingle Creek Trail

TRAIL AREA
ORANGE, FLORIDA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : Shingle Creek Trail is a multi-use recreational trail being developed through cooperation between the local governments of Orange County, Osceola County, City of Orlando, and City of Kissimmee. When fully acquired, it will stretch 32 miles through one of Florida's heavily urbanized metropolitan areas. This trail will become part of an extensive trail network that extends from Kissimmee to Wekiwa Springs State Park and from Orlando to Mascotte. In its entirety, it will serve as a key north-south connector in a larger regional trails network that includes the West Orange Trail, South Lake Trail, Cross Seminole Trail, and Seminole Wekiva Trail. Completing the Shingle Creek Trail will significantly increase outdoor opportunities for bikers and pedestrians in urban central Florida. It will also connect the public to the growing areas of protected land along the Shingle Creek watershed. These parcels connect to form a regional linear open-space park, creating even more opportunities for recreation near the Shingle Creek water body—the northernmost headwaters of the unique Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades ecosystem.

PROJECT AREA : Provide technical and financial assistance to complete key sections of the Shingle Creek Trail.

PROJECT PARTNERS : NPS; State of Florida; local governments of Orange County, Osceola County, City of Orlando, and City of Kissimmee; South Florida Water Management District; State Trust for Public Land; Florida Communities Trust; Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks; Office of Greenways and Trails; and other partners.



ROBERT CLARK

Georgia

Get Outdoors Georgia

RESEARCH
GET OUTDOORS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 72 million American adults are medically obese and 40 percent do not exercise regularly. Georgia created a platform, Get Outdoors Georgia, to achieve a healthier population through outdoor activities. This program targets both youth and adult populations in urban and rural areas. Get Outdoors Georgia could benefit from a partnership with the NPS Healthy Parks Healthy People Initiative. This NPS program works with national, state, and local parks, as well as businesses, healthcare providers, scientists, foundations, and advocacy organizations to foster the health-related role that parks and outdoor spaces play in our society. In the Parks Prescription Program, for example, doctors prescribe activities like a daily walk in a park as a part of their treatment. Bringing NPS expertise to these issues could greatly benefit Georgia's program.

PARTNERSHIP : Partner with Georgia to demonstrate and promote health benefits of parks and to enhance recreational access and opportunities for urban youth.

PARTNERS : NPS, State of Georgia, health care providers, and foundations.

Panola Mountain State Park

GRAND ARABIA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : Just 20 miles from downtown Atlanta, Panola Mountain State Park is a recreational jewel for metropolitan Atlanta. Panola Mountain's designation as a National Natural Landmark recognizes its 100-acre granite outcrop that shelters rare plants of the Piedmont region. The park encompasses 1,635 acres of critical recreation and conservation lands and protects four miles of frontage on the South River. Neglected for decades, the South River needs improved water quality and riparian habitat. Because of its proximity to Atlanta, the park is accessible to millions of Georgians and visitors. Panola Mountain State Park connects with Arabia Mountain National

Hawaii

North Kona-South Kohala Coastline / Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Geographic Information Systems

Project Description: Thirty-one miles of coastline on the Island of Hawaii make up the North Kona-South Kohala Coastline String of Parks, beginning at Honokohau Small Boat Harbor and ending at Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site. Hawaii wants to connect these seven national, state, and county parks via aquatic and terrestrial trails interspersed with multi-use recreation facilities. The NPS Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail already provides land links through parks in coastal areas, and it could be linked by sea as well, via recreational boating opportunities.

In addition to providing recreation access, the North Kona-South Kohala Coastline has a rich cultural history, including ancient artifacts at sacred sites, and great potential for environmental education and interpretation. The NPS is working with a dozen local communities in the trail corridor to develop community-based trail management plans.

The plans include an economic development component focused on creating jobs in the recreation and visitor services fields. This project meets AGO outdoor recreation goals and is supported by state and community entities.

Project Area: Provide technical and financial assistance to the Island of Hawaii to enhance the Ala Kahakai Trail and provide new access along the Kona Coast. Work with the state and local communities in greenway, water trail, and interpretive planning for 31 miles of the Kona Coast.

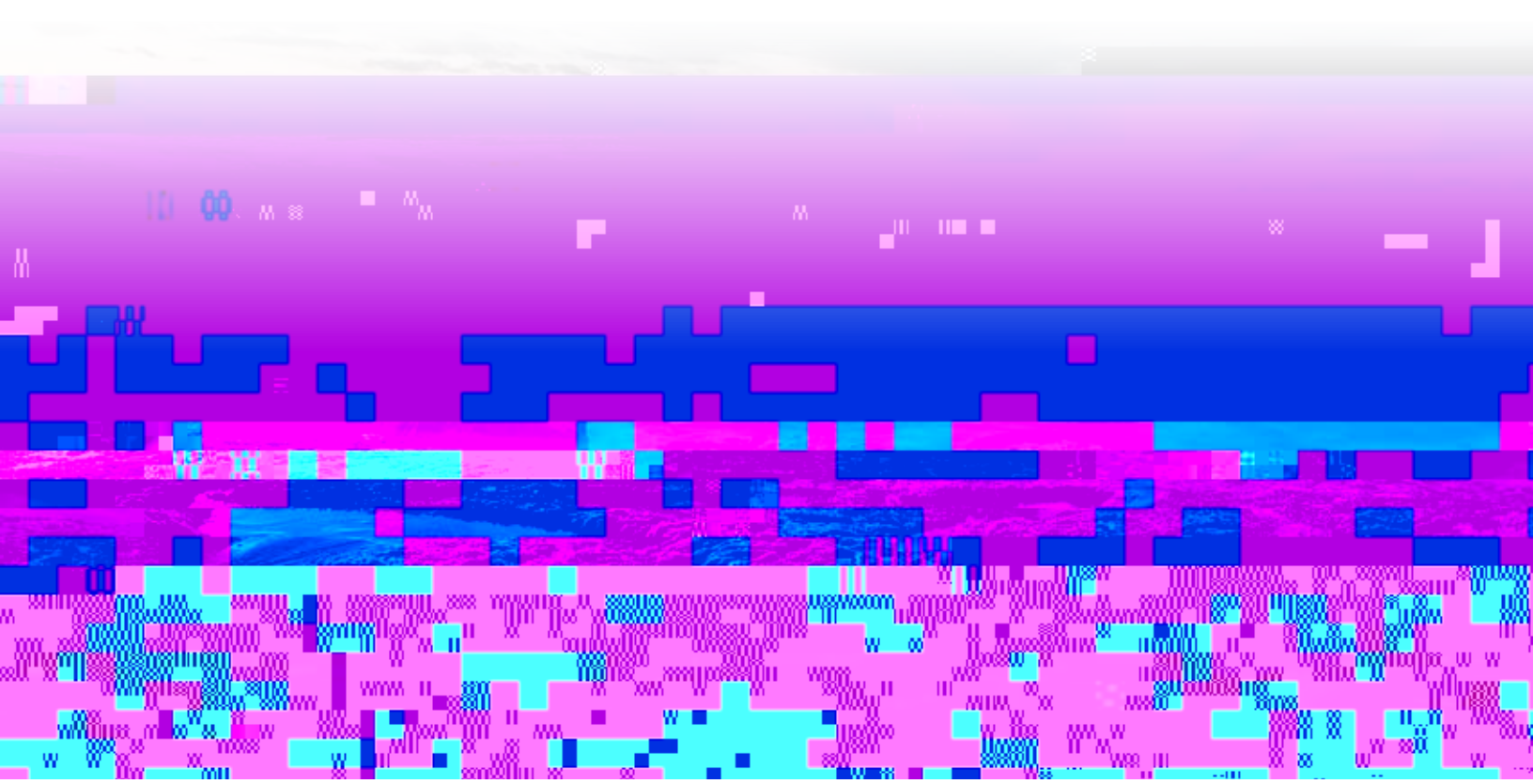
Partners: NPS, State of Hawaii, Island of Hawaii, local communities, and non-profit organizations.

Wailua River National Blueway

National Blueway
Island of Kauai

Purpose: The slowly meandering Wailua River on the Island of Kauai is a heavily used recreational destination. Its culturally and historically significant features include the sacred Fern Grotto site, several Hawaiian Heiau, and ancient petroglyphs.

State and Nps will use this plan to guide development in the Wailua River National Blueway.



Am. J. G. O. F. - S. R. t t t t

Owyhee Land Exchange

Location: Southwest Idaho

Project Description: The Owyhee Wilderness is a BLM-managed wilderness area in southwest Idaho along the Owyhee River. This landscape is defined by rivers cutting steep canyons out of high desert and sagebrush plateaus. Only rough roads provide access to empty, open land.

BLM and the State of Idaho have been working on a potential land exchange under the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009. The exchange would swap state-owned trust lands within the Owyhee Wilderness for BLM lands outside the area. This will result in more contiguous wilderness and provide the potential for more revenue for the new state trust lands. There are 32,538 acres of federal land and 38,440 acres of state of Idaho land included in this exchange, but it will not be executed until both BLM and the State of Idaho have completed several tasks.

Project Aims: Provide matching funds for cultural resource surveys, boundary surveys, market appraisal, and other work required to complete the land exchange.

Partners: BLM, State of Idaho, and non-profit organizations.



Illinois

Calumet Millennium Reserve

RI R R R R
C I I I I R I I

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : The Calumet Millennium Reserve project will promote redevelopment of an underused industrial zone while rehabilitating wetlands habitat on Chicago's South Side. The project will restore drained wetland basins, historic prairie and forest habitats, and create a link to existing conservation lands. By acquiring and restoring brown fields, wetlands, streams, and coastline on the Calumet River, Lake Calumet, and Wolf Lake and in the Indiana Dunes region, this project will provide high-quality wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities in an urban setting. Chicago's Calumet Millennium Reserve Plan has slated over 4,000 acres to become part of the Calumet Millennium Reserve. The plan calls for extensive multi-use trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities in the metropolitan area. The City of Chicago continues to acquire environmentally important tracts of private land in the target area to become a state forest preserve or Chicago Park District natural area.

PROJECT ACTION : Coordinate with state and local entities to integrate the conservation, recreation, and restoration activities at Lake Calumet with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Lake Michigan National Recreation Trail. Provide financial and technical support to acquire lands in the Calumet Millennium Reserve target area. Provide technical assistance to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to advance the project.

PROJECT PARTNERS : NPS, USGS, State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

Location: McHenry County, Illinois

Project Description: In 2010, the Governors, Senators, and Representatives of Wisconsin and Illinois requested a feasibility study for a potential new National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, on the western edge of the Chicago/Milwaukee metropolitan region, is now approaching final stages of planning within the FWS. Hackmatack's planned area encompasses over 60 public and private parks, preserves, and conservation areas whose natural ecosystems total about 23,000 acres and provide habitat for 109 species of concern, including 49 birds and 47 plants.

The refuge would be the nucleus of disparate fragments of conserved land in a 350,000-acre study area, giving a cohesive picture of landscape-scale conservation. The refuge would also provide outdoor education opportunities to the estimated 3.5 million people within 30 miles of the project area. This includes hundreds of thousands of children and their families who otherwise lack ready access, with the next nearest Refuge 150 miles away. The state of Illinois has formally supported the plan. McHenry County, Illinois has expressed support for establishing the refuge and has open space conservation revenues that may be available to leverage protection of lands near the proposed refuge.

Project Action: Establish Hackmatack as a National Wildlife Refuge. Work with state and local governments, private organizations, and landowners to expand the impact of the refuge through cooperative management of private and public lands. Continue coordination with the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to ensure that potential refuge conservation projects complement planning activities for parks and open space in southeast Wisconsin.

Partners: FWS, NPS, States of Illinois and Wisconsin, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners.

Indiana

Wabash River—Healthy Rivers Initiative



PROBLEM: The Wabash River is the largest undammed river east of the Mississippi. It forms the border between Illinois and Indiana for nearly 200 miles and has greatly diverse plant and animal life. The many creeks, streams, and rivers that feed the Wabash River have been ditched and tilled, significantly altering the natural flow of water. This contributes to more frequent and intense flooding from rainstorms. The June 2008 floods affected 1.4 million acres of Hoosier farmland, causing \$200 million in damages. Indiana is the second largest state source of phosphorus and nitrogen pollution in the Mississippi River system, which in turn contributes to the large dead zone (hypoxia) in the Gulf of Mexico. Six major stresses degrade the river: changes in natural water flow; high nutrient, herbicide, and insecticide levels; localized problems with pollution from cities; alteration of land adjoining the river; elimination of tree cover along the river; and invasive species. Strategic and science-based conservation and



Indiana Dunes

WETA

National

Project Director

Iowa

Loess Hills

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This 650,000-acre region is considered the best example of “loess” topography in the world, a rare geologic formation that provides habitat to 49 species of rare plants and animals. Hawks and other raptors are a common sight in this major migration corridor, and the area is also home to rare native prairie grasses that are quickly disappearing. The region also contains numerous cultural and historic landmarks. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, which runs through prairie, woodland, and farmland at the heart of the region, is one of the nation’s “10 most outstanding byways,” a reflection of the landscape’s natural beauty and scenic value. Thirty thousand acres of the Loess Hills are currently protected, mostly through conservation easements and inclusion in the Loess Hill State Forest. This area provides opportunities for youth engagement and recreation in seven counties. Furthermore, the Loess Hills area is within reach of Council Bluffs and Sioux City, the two urban areas in western Iowa and eastern South Dakota. A strong foundation for advancing this project has been laid with conservation organizations like the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to work with willing sellers of working lands to conserve the few remaining relatively undisturbed areas.

PROJECT ACTION: Provide financial support for strategic land protection, including acquisition of conservation easements on working lands. Explore the potential designation of the area as a national preserve. Provide technical and financial assistance to communities to better conserve and manage the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Loess Hills.

PROJECT PARTNERS: NPS, State of Iowa, and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and other nonprofit organizations.

Southern Prairie Pothole National Wildlife Refuge

Willow Creek
North Central

Project Description: Glacially formed prairie potholes and their surrounding wetlands in north-central Iowa provide critical habitat for over 90 species of birds. They produce at least 50 percent of the North American continental duck population each year. This wetland landscape is also an important resource for food control, water quality, and aquifer recharging. Iowa's Prairie Pothole region offers many outdoor recreation opportunities along the American Discovery Trail. To protect this unique landscape, the State of Iowa, local leaders, and nonprofit organizations seek to expand the existing Dunbar Slough/Willow Creek wetland complex by 5,000 acres and to establish the area as a National Wildlife Refuge. These partners also aim to develop a veteran-led youth conservation education pilot program.

In addition, this project would complement the Northern Plains Migratory Bird Habitat

Kansas

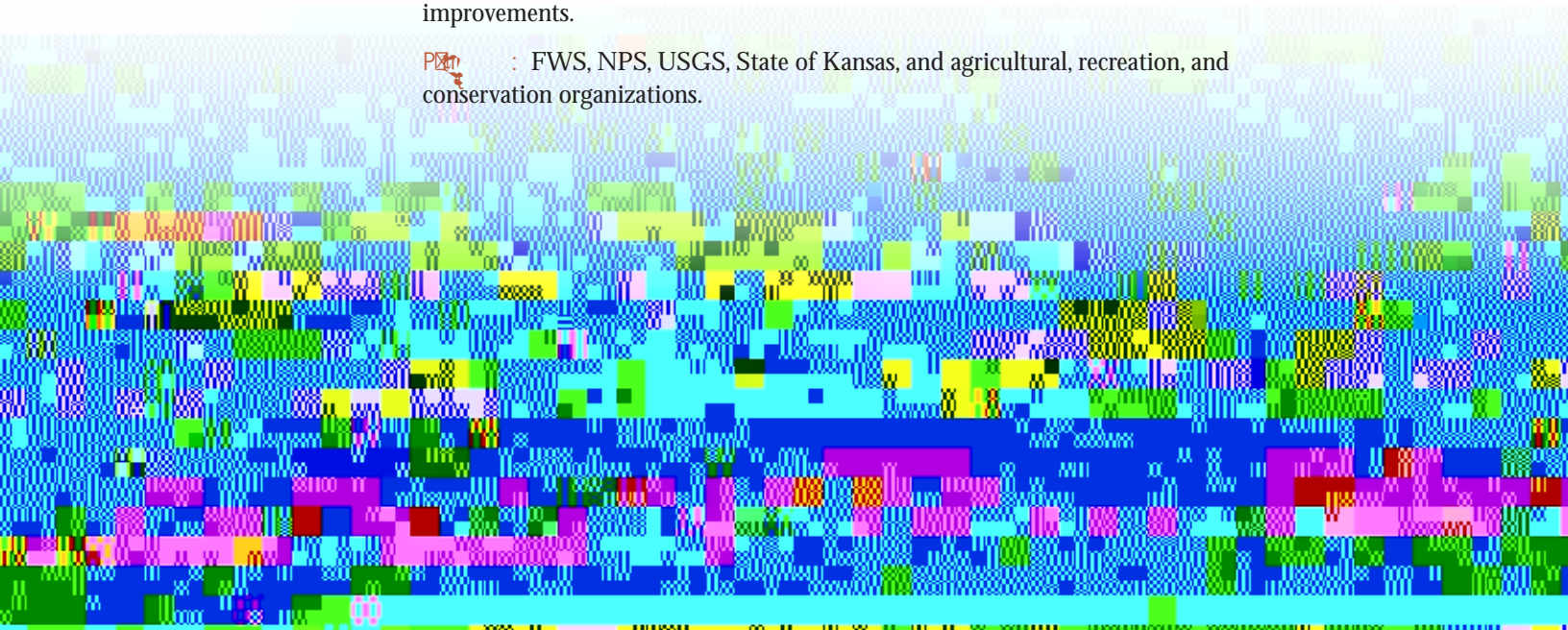
Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

REVIEW | LOCATIONS
EFFECTIVE | KANSAS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : Only three percent of the native-prairie grasslands that once stretched from Canada to Texas remain today. Establishing a new easement-based conservation area by working with key ranching community partners will protect up to 1.1 million acres of North America's last landscape-scale tallgrass prairie. The Flint Hills area is also an important part of the conservation and recreation agenda of the State of Kansas. Rolling prairies provide ample hiking, biking, river, and equestrian trails. The state has partnered with a variety of government and private organizations to secure over 70,000 acres of voluntary conservation easements in addition to 11,000 square miles that wind energy developers have agreed to conserve. The Flint Hills plan calls for construction of the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, an education-focused visitor center for the NPS Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The plan also calls for campsite and cabin improvements along the Flint Hills' trails, as well as development of a wetland-management plan to preserve crucial habitats. Kansas recognizes the importance of youth engagement and aims to create educational and interpretive opportunities throughout these facilities.

PROJECT ACTION : Establish a new easement-based conservation area; provide technical and financial assistance to the State of Kansas toward construction of the Flint Hills Discovery Center, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Visitor Center, and campsite improvements.

PROJECT PARTNERS : FWS, NPS, USGS, State of Kansas, and agricultural, recreation, and conservation organizations.



Kentucky

Kentucky River Water Trail

WATER TRAIL
LEXINGTON, KY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Bluewater Trails Program of Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has designated 10 state water trails throughout the Commonwealth, including the Kentucky River Water Trail southeast of Lexington. A 19-mile section of the river was designated a State Water Trail and a National Recreation Trail on National Trails Day in 2011.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Riverkeepers, and the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program are partnering to extend the water trail upstream with an eventual goal of a water trail along all 400 miles of the river. The water trail currently includes Pool 9 and will eventually reach Pool 14 in Lee County. The Commonwealth of Kentucky highlights this water trail as one of Kentucky's wild adventure tourism attractions.

PROJECT ACTION: Provide planning and technical assistance to the Commonwealth of Kentucky through RTCA to extend the Kentucky River Water Trail from Pool 10 to Pool 14. Designate this section as a National Water Trail. Provide financial support for the construction of boating infrastructure at access sites along the trail.

PROJECT: NPS, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Kentucky Riverkeepers.

Dawkins Line Rail-Trail

T

E K

P J D J J N : e proposed 36-mile-long Dawkins Line has the potential to become the Commonwealth of Kentucky's longest rail-trail, doubling the miles of rail-trail in the Commonwealth. is unused rail corridor stretches from

Louisiana

Urban Waters Initiative

U R A
N O L

Project: As one of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership's seven pilot locations, the City of New Orleans is collaborating with state agencies, local NGOs, and the federal government to revitalize and increase access to rivers, lakes, and streams in an area that has been damaged by recent natural disasters. Lake Pontchartrain, an estuary that connects to the Gulf of Mexico, continues to recover from lingering impacts of Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon Spill. Notwithstanding these challenges, it has also become an important center for recreation and education opportunities. It covers over 630 square miles, serving six Louisiana parishes and 1.5 million people.

Urban residents rely on lakeshore access for important recreational opportunities. To that end, the Partnership is working on initiating the Lake Corridor Greenway, a multi-use recreational path that will link a network of parks, playgrounds, and community centers to the lake and to each other. Other Partnership projects include developing environmental and historical education programs on the area's ecology and maritime industry, improving water quality, rebuilding recreational facilities, and engaging local youth to design signage for completed projects. One specific project is the construction of a fishing pier in Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge. The pier will increase recreational opportunities and access for refuge visitors.

These efforts are community-generated and community-led, but they are supported by a wide variety of federal agencies and other partners.

Partners: Continue to provide technical and financial support for the Lake Corridor Greenway, construction of a fishing pier in Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge, and other projects through the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

Partners: FWS, EPA, NPS, NOAA, USGS, USACE, City of New Orleans, and other conservation partners.

Restoration of Lake Pontchartrain Basin

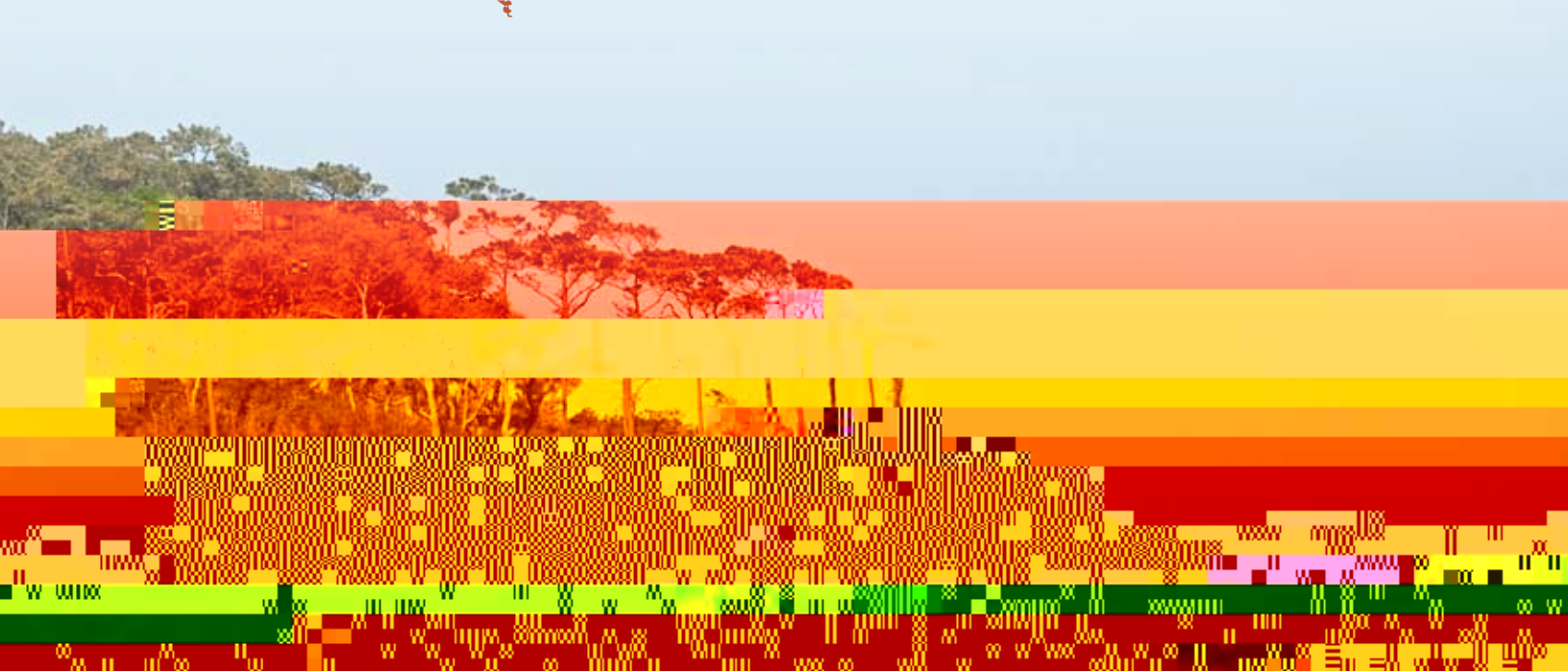
HOURLY REPORT
NOVEMBER 1, 2018

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Over the past decade, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided recommendations and technical assistance regarding water quality and wetland restoration programs and projects in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. Using funds from the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, the FWS has also restored wetlands on Goose Point Marsh and on Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge. The next significant project in the Basin would create marshland in the Bayou Bonfouca, in St. Tammany Parish. Hydraulically dredged material from Lake Pontchartrain would be used to create and nourish 575 acres of marsh, providing valuable habitat. Crews will construct tidal creeks to provide tidal connectivity and access for marine organisms.

This project will create approximately 424 net acres over the 20-year project life. It is currently in the engineering and design phase and will require additional financial and technical assistance to be completed.

PROJECT ACTION: Provide technical and financial support for Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation.

PROJECT: FWS and State of Louisiana.



Maine

Penobscot River Restoration Project



The Penobscot River and its tributaries flow from the North Woods through the heart of Maine into Penobscot Bay. Maine's largest watershed provides a critical link between fresh water and the sea and is also a valuable natural resource in energy production through hydroelectric dams. The Penobscot River Restoration Project (PRRP) is a landmark conservation effort to restore natural processes and ecological benefits to the watershed through dam removal.

As the result of a multi-party hydropower settlement agreement, the Penobscot River Restoration Trust purchased three dams owned by PPL Corporation, with plans to remove the Veazie and Great Works dams and to build a fish bypass at the Howland Project. This will restore hundreds of miles of migration and spawning habitat for 11 species of sea-run fish, including the endangered Atlantic salmon and shortnose sturgeon. This habitat includes the ancestral home and present-day reservation of the Penobscot Indian Nation, who will benefit both economically and culturally from the return of the fish. PPL will increase energy production at five existing sites on the river, so energy production levels will remain the same. PRRP has secured the permits necessary for dam decommissioning and removal. Great Works Dam removal is expected to begin in 2012, and removal of Veazie Dam will start in 2014. Although national, state, and local partners have raised \$25 million for the project, additional financial and technical resources are needed to complete the removal of both dams and to construct the fish by-pass. The project has a high priority for the FWS, which has invested \$2 million in the project in the past four years.

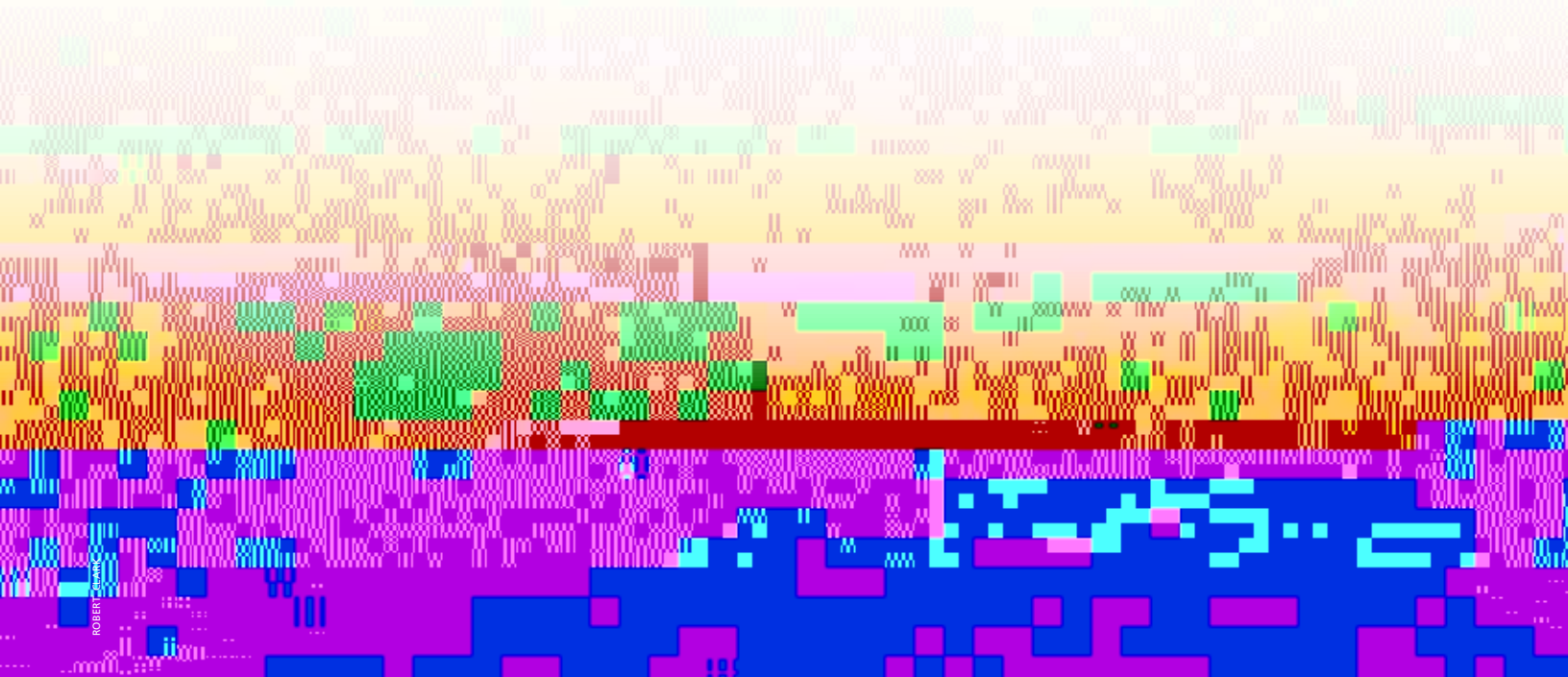
Penobscot Indian Nation

Keeping Maine's Forests



Partnership : Keeping Maine's Forests is a partnership of forest landowners, recreationists, conservation and environmental organizations, and state and federal agencies working to demonstrate new ways of promoting forest stewardship. The group's goal is to enhance the forest-based economy in rural communities while preserving the wild, healthy nature of Maine's forests. Proposed pilot projects are already poised to have a significant impact on wildlife habitat across the state. The Downeast Project in eastern Maine builds on an existing base of conserved lands to protect white-tailed deer habitat and endangered Atlantic salmon rivers. In western Maine, the Western Mountains and Lakes Pilot Project will protect high-value recreation land central to the state's tourism industry. The project's holistic approach to forest conservation is advantageous for the entire state. Economics, recreation, and youth-engagement are the priorities in this whole-landscape conservation initiative. The project advances the landscape conservation goals of AGO while operating on a community-led, voluntary basis. Keeping Maine's Forests is a pilot project set forth by the New England Governors' Conference.

The initiative's larger goals include heavy engagement with private landowners, conservation incentives that reward stewardship and best management practices, and support for local timber industries to encourage the benefits of responsible forestry. The landscape-



ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN

Maryland

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, Maryland

PROJUDGMENT : The proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park will trace Tubman's early life on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where she was born, escaped from slavery, and then returned as one of the leaders of the Underground Railroad to lead others to freedom. In her later years, Tubman also recruited for the Union in the Civil War and was a nurse and spy. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources seeks to acquire four top-priority historic properties totaling 1,245 acres for the National Historical Park in Dorchester County. In addition to their connection with the Harriet Tubman story, these properties also fall within the boundary of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The state has gathered all funding needed to construct the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, which will be jointly managed by the National Park Service and the Maryland State Park Service, should the park be designated by Congress.

PROVISION : Support designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. Provide financial assistance for acquiring conservation easements for priority historic properties to enhance the historical park.

PROVISION : NPS, USFWS, and Maryland DNR.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

National Blueway
Established by the Secretary of the Interior

Purpose: The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail follows the historic water routes of Smith's travels, based on his map and journals. The trail, which the NPS administers, includes some 3,000 miles in parts of present-day Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. It also connects with 16 National Wildlife Refuges, 12 National Park areas, and three National Trails. It offers opportunities for tourism, environmental and cultural education, conservation, and recreation. The multi-dimensional nature of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail makes it a model for a new system of National Blueways.

As a major partner with NPS, the State of Maryland is developing a comprehensive interpretive and trails plan for 4,600 acres of historic and ecologically significant lands (the recently acquired Maryland Province Properties). This land links the Captain John Smith Trail to the founding of Maryland, integrating cultural history with ecological protection and providing citizens access to unique natural areas. The plan will call for additional investment in land, restoration, historic preservation, recreation, and interpretation of the cultural and natural resources.

Plan: Support implementing the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail plan through investments in land, restoration, preservation, recreation, and interpretation. Designate the entire multi-state trail as a National Blueway.

Partners: NPS, BLM, and State of Maryland, with the support of several national and local entities, including the Conservation Fund.

Massachusetts

Blackstone River Valley Greenway

Recreation Trails
Connecticut - Massachusetts

Project Description: Massachusetts and Rhode Island have committed to work as partners to complete the Blackstone River Valley Greenway, which consists of the Blackstone River, historic Blackstone Canal, and a bike path. The Greenway runs the length of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, which extends from Worcester, Massachusetts, to Providence, Rhode Island. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is currently constructing a segment of the 50-mile bi-state greenway to connect these New England cities and link the Rhode Island border to the State Heritage Park in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. A major facet of the program in Massachusetts is the addition of bike trails that will traverse major cities, including Boston, and complement the commonwealth's outdoor recreation legacy while providing an alternative to driving.

Project Area: Support the Blackstone River Valley Greenway Initiative in Rhode Island and Massachusetts through planning, technical assistance, and funding.

Partners: NPS, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State of Rhode Island, FWS, and National Heritage Corridor Commission.

Michigan

Detroit River

U.S. Park

Detroit, Michigan

The Detroit River goes along the U.S.-Canadian border and divides the major metropolitan areas of Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, winding through an area home to 5.7 million people. This 32-mile long American Heritage River is an important natural resource amidst an urban environment. It offers outdoor recreation and wildlife access that local residents would not otherwise have. The Detroit River Restoration Project will connect parks throughout the riparian corridor via trails and an extended boardwalk, providing improved land-based recreational opportunities that will benefit underserved minority populations. In addition, the project aims to reopen the city's only access point for fishing and boating. The Detroit River Restoration Project will also focus on improving public access to the river and reestablishing water-based recreation in this area.

Partners: Provide technical and financial assistance to improve access to the Detroit River and complete trail projects.

Partners: NPS, FWS, City of Detroit, State of Michigan, and other local and state partners.

Detroit River Restoration

RIVER / YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : The City of Detroit plans to engage youth, particularly in underserved minority communities, to help with waterfront and river restoration work. The Detroit River, which the State of Michigan identified as a critical place for restoration and improved access, provides the opportunity for employing underserved youth in communities near the river through the hiring of the local youth conservation corps.

This project would foster urban youth's appreciation of the Detroit River and help

Minnesota

Upper Minnesota River Watershed

National Blueway
State Scenic River
Minnesota

Project Description: The 335-mile-long Minnesota River flows through an agricultural watershed that encompasses 20 percent of the state. The upper Minnesota River Valley corridor has a high density of county and state parks, wildlife or aquatic management areas, natural areas, and a National Wildlife Refuge, Wild and Scenic River, National Scenic Byway, and Minnesota Water Trail. This corridor also has a rich natural and cultural history of regional and national significance. The area is a focus of numerous partnerships—between local governments, citizens, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal agencies—to plan and implement programs to connect people to the river. Supporting the expansion of the infrastructure in parks and trails along the river is a key component of this project that will help connect more people to the river.

The Upper Minnesota Watershed project furthers AGO goals through the protection of additional critical natural areas for wildlife migration and expanding and improving access to the river for public use and enjoyment.

Project Action: Designate the upper Minnesota River as a National Blueway. Provide technical or financial support for expansion and improvement of river access.

Partners: NPS, FWS, State of Minnesota, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

Twin Cities Parks: Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

U.S. Park Service, Minneapolis, MN
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

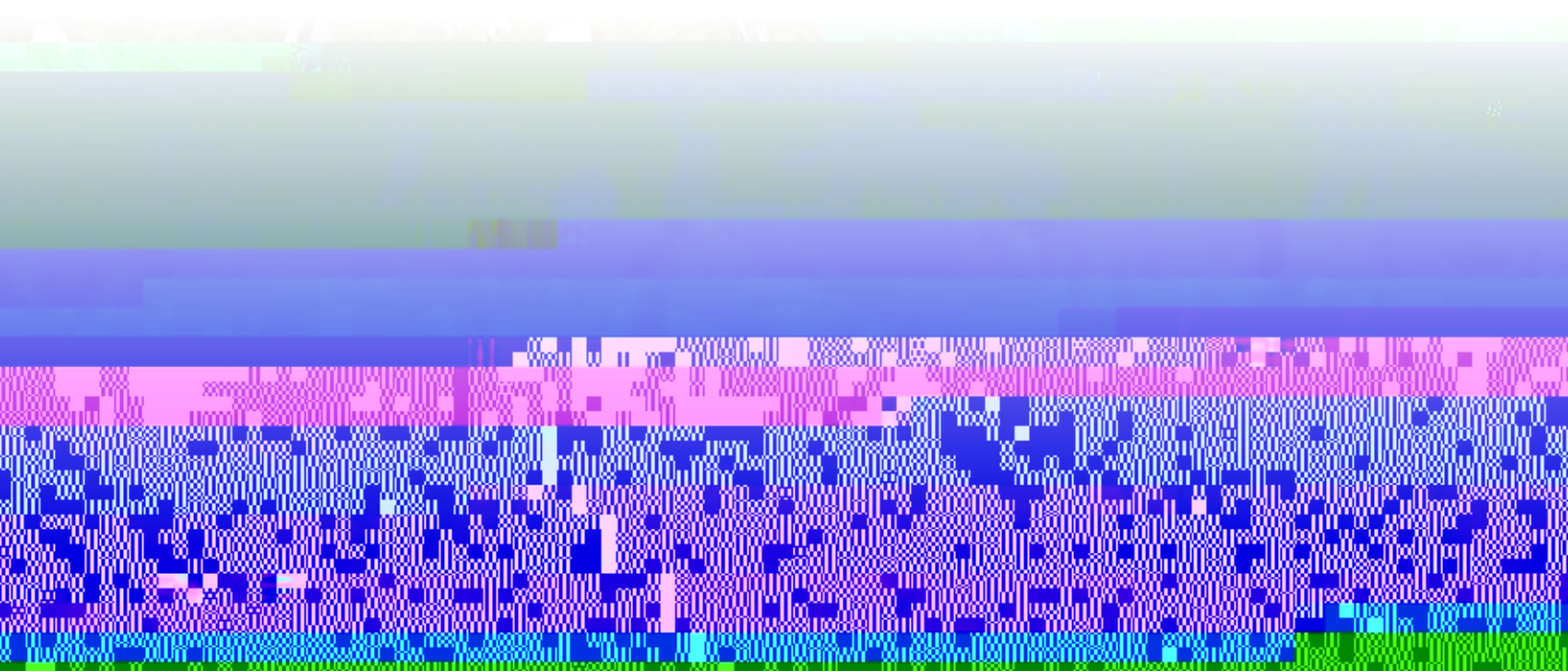
PROBLEM STATEMENT: The confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers in the Twin Cities is an area of immense importance for conservation and recreation by virtue of the tremendous water, geologic, vegetative, and cultural resources there. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service, includes 72 miles of the Mississippi River stretching from the cities of Dayton/Ramsey through the heart of Minneapolis/St. Paul. State agencies, the NPS, Army Corps of Engineers, FWS, and many local governments and nongovernmental organizations have a presence along the river in this area. This area has potential for accelerated work that supports the goals of America's Great Outdoors to increase recreational access in an urban area, restore the natural systems, and engage young people and communities of color in activities along the river. Fort Snelling State Park and its historic and cultural resources could also be better integrated into the river experience. Partners believe that the federal government needs to take a leadership role in coordinating the restoration and management of, and increased access to the Mississippi River upstream, through, and downstream of the Twin Cities. Designating the Mississippi River in this region as a National Blueway could also benefit the region by helping to attract more tourists.

PROPOSED ACTION: Create a Mississippi River recreation and wildlife coordinating body to maximize local, state, federal, and private partners' restoration, recreation, and education accomplishments. Designate the Mississippi River in this region as a National Blueway.

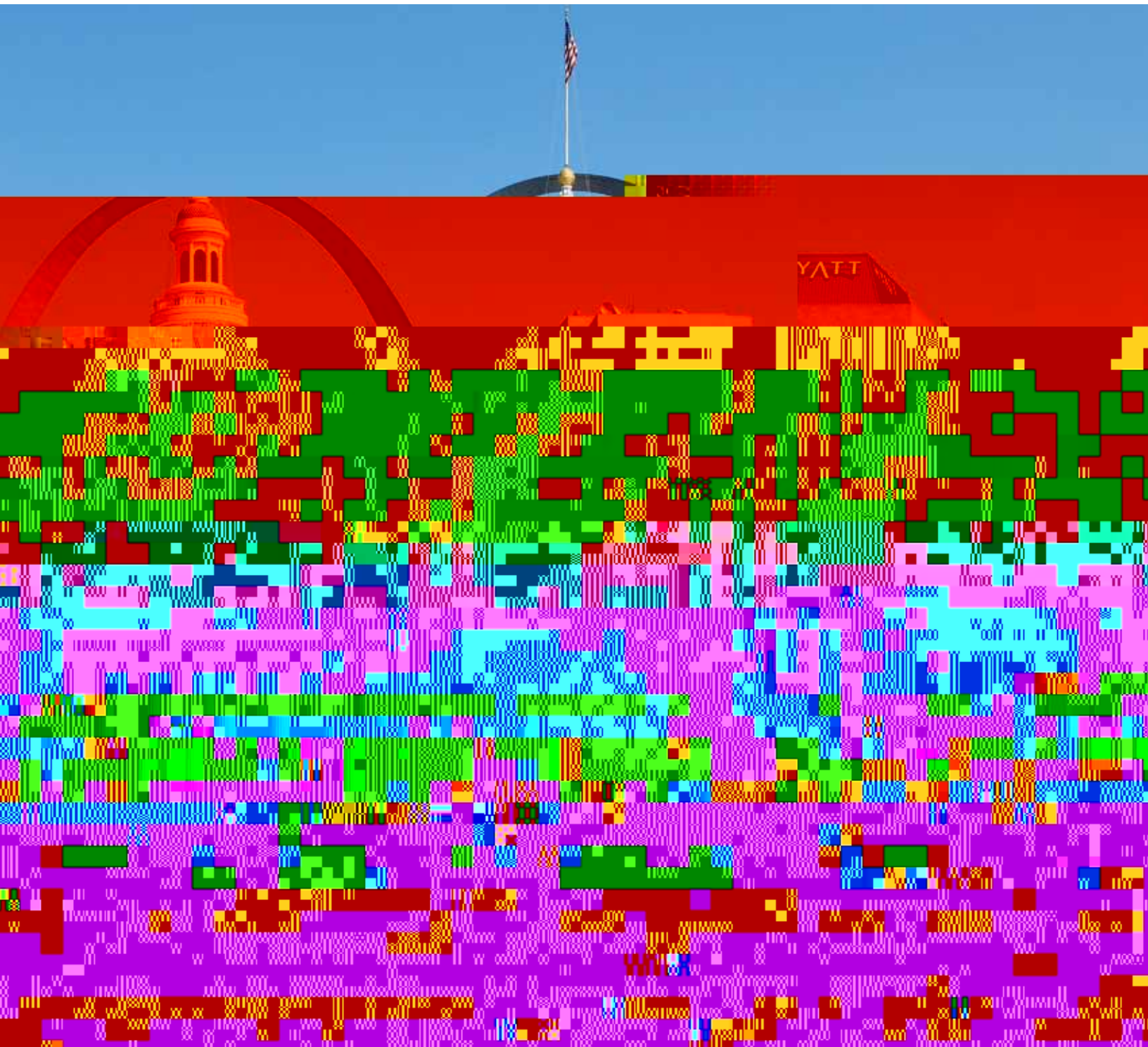
PROPOSED PARTNERS: NPS, FWS, USACE, State of Minnesota, and other stakeholders.

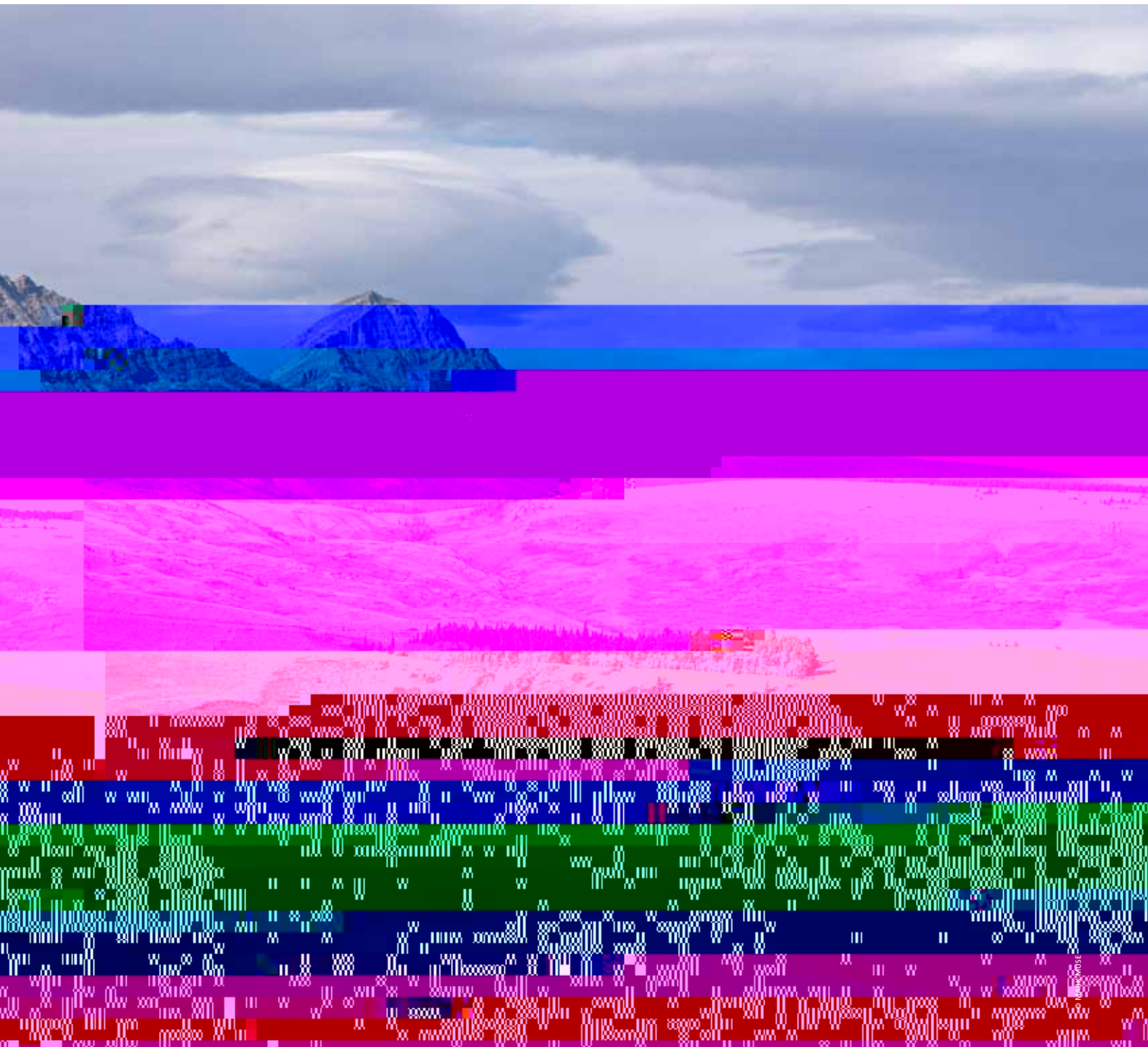
Mississippi

Mississippi Coastal Heritage Trail



Pascagoula River National Blueway





Montana

Nebraska

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

RI R
C t N t

P J D J J N : The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program is a basin-wide effort by DOI and the states of Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming to manage the Platte River, whose waters support multiple uses. The long-term objective is to use incentive-based water projects to provide sufficient water to and through the central Platte River to improve and maintain habitat for target species. Platte River habitat is essential to the recovery of the whooping crane, interior least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon, all threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The program provides measures to help recover these species, thereby providing ESA compliance for existing water projects and certain new water projects in the Platte River Basin. The program has three main elements: (1) increasing stream flows in the central Platte River during relevant time periods through retiming and water conservation/supply projects; (2) enhancing, restoring and protecting habitat for target bird species; and (3) accommodating new water-related activities. Top priorities for Nebraska include increasing stream flow during relevant periods and making certain areas accessible to the public for recreation purposes.

P A J : Improve river flow for species recovery and provide financial support for habitat protection and recreation access.

P : BOR, USGS, and State of Nebraska.

Platte River Access

Recreation

Conservation

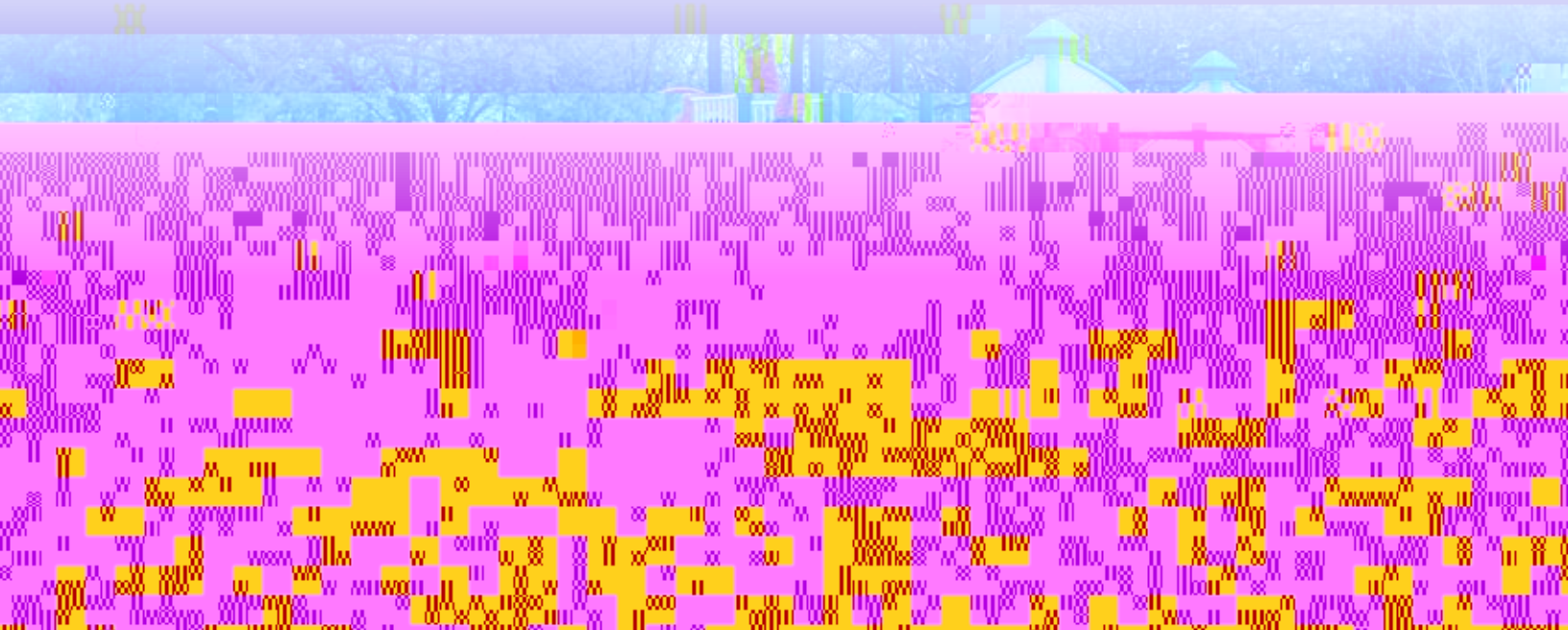
Project Description: The Platte River in Nebraska drains a large part of the central Great Plains and eastern Rocky Mountains and is a significant river system in the Missouri River watershed. The States of Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming have partnered with DOI on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) to manage the river's multiple uses. The long-term objective is to use incentive-based water projects to provide sufficient water to and through the central Platte River habitat area to improve and maintain habitat for target species. To this end, it has acquired approximately 8,600 acres of habitat through sponsorship agreements, purchases, leases, or perpetual easements from willing sellers and partners.

This land is now also part of the Platte River Recreation Access (PRRA) program, a part of PRRIP that allows the public to access riverside habitat for recreational use, while still protecting targeted species. Currently, PRRA lands are open for limited activities in certain periods of the year. Deer and turkey hunting, fishing, bird watching, mushroom gathering, and hiking are permitted in winter and early fall, with certain times blocked out for migration season to protect native birds. At other times, only

Nevada

Lorenzi Park Renovation

U   P 



Colorado River Heritage Greenway Park and Trails

T
C

P **J** **D** **J** **N** : In 2000, the Bureau of Reclamation identified project lands in the Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona area compatible for recreation use. Clark County, Bureau of Reclamation, and the NPS developed a proposal to restore the riverfront and plant native vegetation from the toe of Davis Dam to the townsite of Laughlin. As part of a larger effort, the BOR cooperatively developed a plan for a loop trail from Davis Dam to the Mojave River Indian Reservation and returning to Davis Dam on the Arizona side of the river. The project's first phase will be completed in February 2012.

The project includes building 5.25 miles of trails, day-use areas, picnic sites, shade shelters, fishing piers, equestrian facilities, and a highway bridge overpass and underpass, and providing access to the Colorado River. The first phase of construction, totaling \$23,819,480, was funded by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) along with \$2 million more from Clark County.

Clark County, BOR, and NPS will work on completing part of the trails system to finish a seven-mile loop and short interpretive trail. To complete both trails, part of the original concept for the entire Regional Park, will require more funding and matching in-kind support. This collaborative work will use agency staff and Youth Conservation Corps crews to meet trail and project construction goals.

P **A** : Complete the seven-mile trail segment. Provide financial and technical support to hire a youth crew to complete two trail segments. Support the NPS Exotic Plant Management Team crew to eradicate invasive species.

P : NPS, BLM, BOR, and Clark County.

New Hampshire

Northern Forest

LEWIS & CLARK / CONSERVATION / WILDLIFE / NORTHERN FOREST

The Northern Forest covers some 30 million acres across New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and New York. Its forests are diverse, ranging from the extensive broadleaf deciduous and mixed forests to montane and lowland spruce- fir and low-elevation forests of oak, pine, and hickory. Forests help define the region's character and are integral to its economy.

Federal partners have made notable investments in recent years through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Forest Legacy Program. Public-private conservation has enabled significant conservation in this region—conserved lands have increased from 4.3 million acres in 1997 to over 6.5 million acres today. Many opportunities remain to ensure that this largest remaining contiguous forest east of the Mississippi River continues to provide the products, outdoor recreation, and wildlife benefits that communities will continue to rely on for generations to come. In particular, conservation of land in and around national wildlife refuges in the region can contribute to the region's economic and ecological integrity. This project supports the AGO priorities of large landscape conservation and conservation of rural working lands.

PROJECT AREA: Provide financial support to acquire land and conservation easements at Umbagog (Androscoggin River headwaters) and Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Mascoma River headwaters).

PARTNERS: FWS and Friends of Conte Refuge.

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Illegible text, possibly a title or subtitle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Connecticut River, New England's largest, flows 410 miles from its source at New Hampshire's northern tip to its mouth on Long Island Sound. Along the way the river drains a 7.2-million-acre watershed in four states: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Federal areas include Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the only multi-state watershed unit in the National Wildlife Refuge System. To date, the Conte drainage encompasses 35,134.5 (n-a)5 (cr)ws Nn(easg I

New Jersey

Barnegat Bay



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Landscape preservation in the Barnegat Bay watershed is part of a comprehensive effort to restore the coast of the nation's most densely populated state, New Jersey. As a point of access to nature for so many residents, Barnegat Bay has significant recreational value. A longtime center for commercial fishing, the bay is also popular with recreational boaters and holds great potential for further ecotourism. It is also close to a number of state parks containing valuable ecosystems and wildlife habitat. Increased public access along New Jersey's waterways is therefore a significant state interest, as it will allow residents increased environmental and recreational opportunities. To achieve this, the state has placed a priority on acquiring 18 parcels totaling 1,019 acres as valuable additions to Double Trouble and Bass River state parks, as well as to Colliers Mills

Barnegat Bay

WATERFRONT
BRICK TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY. EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Set along Barnegat Bay, Brick Township is a community of nearly 79,000 people. The State of New Jersey has designated it as an Urban Aid Community, indicating that it is a low-income, high-population center in need of state funds for further support and development. Barnegat Bay is a vitally important natural, recreational, and economic resource for New Jersey and is a state priority. The township is acquiring a 21-acre property for a park and recreation area that will provide much-needed public waterfront access and outdoor-recreation opportunities on the bay, as well as a link to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. The township has proposed

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New Mexico

Price's Dairy

UNIVERSITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Price's Dairy is in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico, five miles south of downtown, on North America's second largest river, the Rio Grande. At 570 acres, this former dairy is one of the largest remaining farms in the Middle Rio Grande Valley and the largest agricultural property in the Albuquerque metro region. The City of Albuquerque is among the fastest growing urban areas in the United States. Its development footprint contributes to a loss of history and culture and significantly stresses the natural resources of the valley and Rio Grande.

The property's size and location has made it the target of various development schemes as well as efforts by various federal, state, and local agencies to preserve and protect it. The Secretary of the Interior recently announced that a proposed urban National Wildlife Refuge in this location has been approved. Protecting the property as a refuge will greatly bolster environmental education for students and provide a gateway to the larger regional NWR system. It would also protect the property's natural-resource values that would be lost through development. Also, because of its significant water rights, protecting this property would add to the health and vitality of the adjacent Rio Grande, which struggles not only to support the people who depend on it for water but the wildlife living in and around it.

As one of the last undeveloped parcels along the Rio Grande, Price's Dairy is an important refuge and waypoint for migratory birds like sandhill cranes, Arctic geese, and varied duck species, migrating along the river from summer-breeding grounds in the North to wintering havens in the South. While supporting this critical flyway, the river corridor also provides an opportunity for hiking and biking along the state-planned Rio Grande Trail.

PROJECT ACTION PLAN: Establish an urban Middle Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge.

PROJECT:

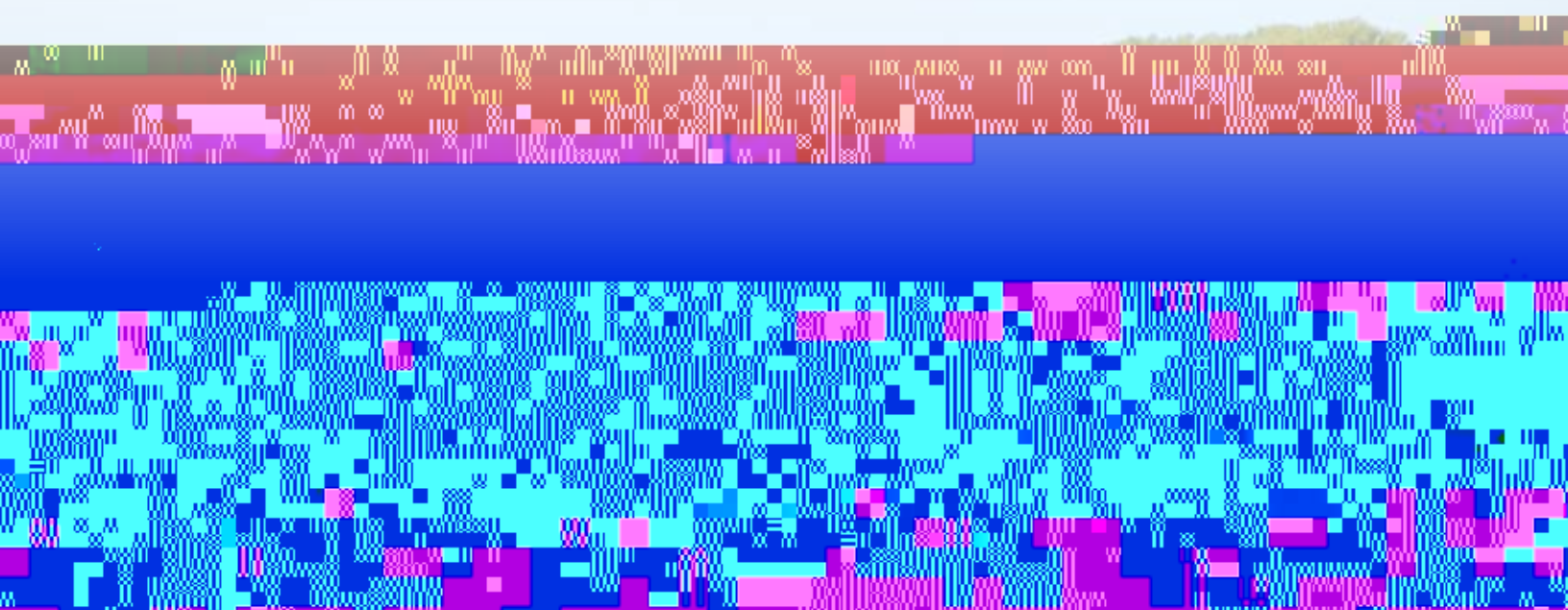
Aztec Ruins National Monument

THE AZTEC RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Ancestral Pueblo structures dating back to the 11th century offer historical insight and educational opportunities within close reach of the town of Aztec, New Mexico. The Aztec Ruins General Management Plan calls for collaboration with the city on a joint trail system to connect the monument and town via a pedestrian bridge across the Animas River. This increased access would further connect local residents to their nearby history, enhancing public engagement and enjoyment.

The monument has already begun to collaborate with state, federal, and local agencies to create the trail and bridge. Using a National Park Foundation grant and a technical assistance grant from RTCA, strategic planning is well underway. The city has collaborated with the New Mexico Department of Transportation on bridge construction, and the monument is making appropriate adjustments to pedestrian traffic and river corridor access in preparation for the bridge. However, the project still requires a significant amount of planning and funding before it can be completed.

PROJECT AREA:



New York

Harlem River/Roberto Clemente State Park

RI A R
T B N Y t

Project Description: Roberto Clemente Park is in the middle of a developing greenway along the Harlem River. The state-run park serves an economically challenged community—including a low-income apartment building with 3,000 residents on the park border—and hosts over one million visitors annually. Unfortunately, there is no public access to the Bronx side of the Harlem River because the only historic access in the park to the river is closed. Many park facilities—fields, docks, boat launches, and trails—need significant upgrades. Specific capital needs at the park include acquiring access to the riverfront, developing and improving park facilities, and building trail connections to the New York City greenway system.

The Harlem River is also a pilot site for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. The partnership aims to support river restoration in seven U.S. cities. On the Harlem River, NPS, FWS, ACE, EPA, and USDA are assessing ways to both restore the river and increase public access to it.

The state and New York City would like to partner with the federal government on this project to: (1) connect the park to a waterfront greenway and to the historic High Bridge. The High Bridge project would restore the connection between the Bronx and Manhattan for cyclist and pedestrians; (2) work with USDA to develop urban gardens; (3) work with EPA to implement stormwater management infrastructure; and (4) expand opportunities for neighborhood youth to engage in outdoor activities and learn about the outdoors.

Project Action: Provide technical and financial support for project elements related to river access and restoration, youth engagement, trail development, and open space acquisition. Engage other federal agencies on urban gardens and storm water management.

Partners: State of New York, New York City, NPS, Harlem River Alliance, EPA, HUD, USFS, and FWS.

Finger Lakes Trail and Water Access Improvements

WATER TRAIL
UNION

PROBLEM : New York's Finger Lakes are in west-central upstate New York and include 11 bodies of water. Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake—the two longest lakes—are among the deepest in America. The lakes are nationally recognized as a unique natural and cultural resource. The lakes and land surrounding them are also a significant open-space resource next to and accessible from major upstate New York metropolitan areas—Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Albany. Annually, the lakes receive up to five million tourists, who spend some \$90 million on hunting, fishing, birding, and recreation. The NPS Erie Canalway National Heritage Area at Seneca Lake and the FWS Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge are important federal holdings in the area. Because only a small part of the lakes is accessible to the public, many local governments would like to develop more recreational access points. Skaneateles Lake, (another of the Finger Lakes), for example, has only one public-access site that allows swimming along the 32 miles of lake shoreline. Once more access points were established, creating a water trail along the Finger Lakes would attract more people to water-based recreation in the area.

PROPOSED ACTION : Provide technical and financial support for projects to increase access to the lakes and to connect populated areas with parks, other open space, and lakefronts. Once enough access exists, designate the Finger Lakes as a National Water trail.

PROJECT : NPS, State of New York, local municipalities, and Finger Lakes Institute.

North Carolina

Waccamaw River National Blueway

North Carolina

P J D J J N : Creating a National Blueway along the Waccamaw River in North Carolina would preserve critical floodplain, protect an important wildlife-migration corridor, provide many recreational opportunities, and support new adventure-tourism businesses. Linked with the Waccamaw River Blue Trail in South Carolina, the National Blueway would create a two-state water trail from its source at Lake Waccamaw in North Carolina to Winyah Bay in South Carolina.

The 60,000-acre Waccamaw River floodplain in southeastern North Carolina stretches south to the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina, as one of the largest contiguous wildlife habitats in the southern coastal plain. Significant features include three endemic natural communities, one endemic plant, and 11 endemic animals, including the federally listed Waccamaw silverside, Waccamaw darter, and Waccamaw killifish. These three fish exist only in Lake Waccamaw or the Waccamaw River.

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission have identified this corridor as a top state conservation priority for 20 years. Two counties along the corridor, Brunswick and Columbus, have expressed support for the Waccamaw River Blueway, which can provide multiple recreation opportunities and support new businesses.

P A J : Provide technical and financial assistance to develop a Blueway along the Waccamaw River; acquire conservation easements and restore wildlife habitat. Designate the Waccamaw as a National Blueway.

P : NPS, FWS, American Rivers, Pee Dee Land Trust, Winyah Rivers Foundation, City of Conway, and Horry and Georgetown counties.

North Dakota

Dakota Grasslands

Land Conservation / Wildlife

The Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area's millions of acres of depressional wetlands constitute one of the world's richest wetland systems. These "prairie potholes" and surrounding grasslands are highly productive and support a great diversity of bird life. Once a vast grassland, the Prairie Pothole Region is now dominated by cropland. But three million acres of wetlands and large tracts of native prairie remain. The Prairie Pothole Region is one of the most altered—yet also most important—migratory-bird habitats in the Western Hemisphere. It is the backbone of North America's "duck factory" and critical habitat for many wetland- and grassland-dependent migratory birds.

The FWS will seek to acquire easements from willing sellers on some two million acres of native-prairie habitat to benefit wildlife and support traditional economic activities, especially livestock production. The proposal will expand land protection that the National Wildlife Refuge System already provides through several wildlife refuges and wetland-management districts in the area.

This project joins the federal government with agricultural communities and other partners in the Dakotas to conserve wildlife and its habitat while ensuring continuation of the regions' agricultural heritage.

Project Action: Provide technical and financial assistance to acquire conservation easements to protect up to 1.7 million acres of critical grassland habitat and 238,000 acres of associated wetlands.

Partners: FWS, USGS, NRCS, State of North Dakota, and non-profit organizations.

Missouri River Forest Restoration Project

Location: Cottonwood River

Project Description: Over the next three years, the Missouri River Forest Restoration Project will restore and protect riparian floodplain forests along the 75-mile expanse of the Missouri River between Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe. The cottonwood forests in the Missouri River floodplain are in poor condition as a result of progressive mortality of mature trees and the absence of natural regeneration.

Restoration will provide important public benefits, including bank stabilization and reduced sedimentation, added food and cover in wildlife habitat, improved river water quality, and enhanced outdoor recreation and conservation education. Tree and shrub plantings are proposed on three state-owned or managed sites and adjacent private lands along the Missouri River floodplain. The Missouri River Forest Restoration Project supports AGO goals by conserving working forest landscapes and habitat while creating youth engagement and recreation opportunities.

Project Activities: Provide financial and technical assistance for the planning, supplies, and labor of replanting trees and shrubs along the Missouri floodplain. Collaborate with youth corps for project work.

Partners: FWS, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, North Dakota Forest Service, North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts, and private land owners.

Ohio

Ohio to Erie Trail Connections

U.S. Department of the Interior
Columbus, Ohio

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Ohio to Erie Trail is intended to be a continuous trail from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, linking lands that railroads and canals formerly used. When completed, it will connect Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati as well as many other communities. By closing two gaps in the system in Columbus, the route will be completely connected for 160 miles. The proposed trails, Alum Creek and Camp Chase, travel through low-income neighborhoods and would give access to 18 city parks and connect with the Battelle Darby Creek and Big Darby Creek national scenic rivers. This effort would support AGO goals by increasing access to urban green spaces. Both trail projects are construction-ready and have ample support locally and from the state. The Cleveland component proposes to create new urban parks along the mouth and shoreline of Cuyahoga River. To increase recreational access, the project proposes a new launch area for canoes and kayaks and allows for the establishment of a Water Trail along the Cuyahoga River.

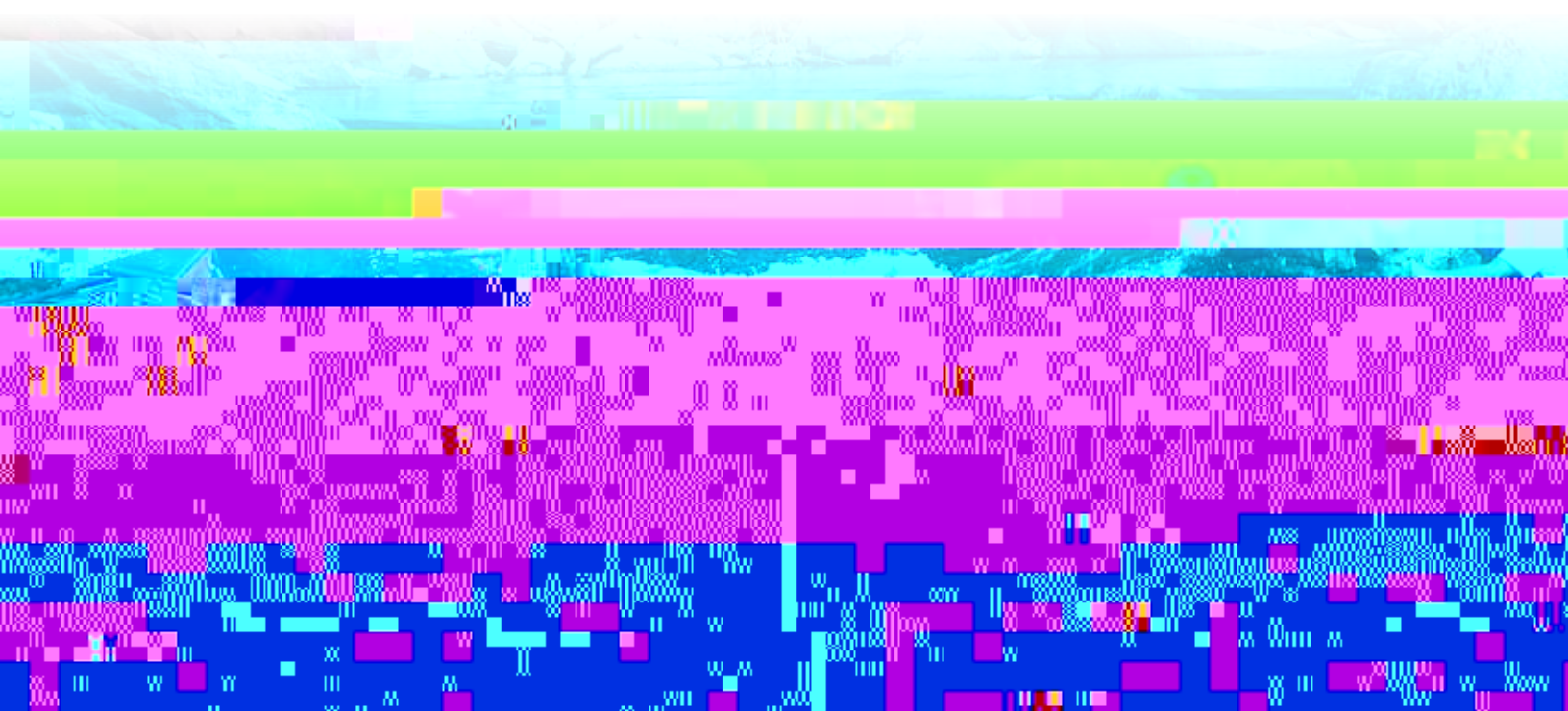
PROJECT AREA: Provide financial support for acquiring the land to complete gaps in the trail system in Columbus and for acquiring land for two urban parks and creation of public river access in Cleveland.

PROJECT PARTNERS: NPS, FWS, Columbus Recreation and Parks, Cleveland Metroparks, local nongovernmental organizations, and youth corps.

Grand Lake St. Marys Watershed Wetland Development

Environmental Resources
Wetland Office

Project Description: Grand Lake St. Marys, a 13,500-acre lake in west



Oklahoma

Honey Springs Battlefield Park

Recreation, History, and Preservation
State Office

Project Description: Some 1,200 acres of Oklahoma Historical Society-owned land makes up Honey Springs Battlefield Park, the site of the largest Civil War engagement in Oklahoma. Multi-cultural Civil War soldiers, including American Indians, fought side by side on Honey Springs Battlefield. Preserving the region's remarkable cultural history is of state and national significance. The Honey Springs Battlefield Park project complements AGO goals by preserving this important historic landmark for both educational and recreational purposes. Increased access and improved park infrastructure are the project's highlights. These will draw more tourism and enhance the visitor experience. Guests can learn about the war's profound effect on the American Indian population. They can explore Oklahoma's wildlife while traversing the park along miles of hiking and biking trails. McIntosh and Muskogee counties and the Oklahoma Historical Society support improving the park, as do local stakeholders.

Project Action: Support designation of Honey Springs as a National Battlefield Park.

Partners: NPS, McIntosh and Muskogee counties, Oklahoma Historical Society, and Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield.

Blue River

NB
S C O M

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : The 141-mile-long Blue River, one of Oklahoma's few remaining free-flowing rivers, lies within jurisdictional boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation Indian Tribe and is also part of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. It is within 150 miles of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and 175 miles of Oklahoma City and their large, diverse urban populations. Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, and Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery are all nearby and would benefit from watershed-protection measures for the river. Blue River Wildlife Management Area is next to the river, and the river corridor offers abundant recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, hunting, canoeing, and fishing. Trout are stocked in the stream, and in cooler winter months the Blue River is a premier Oklahoma trout-fishing destination. It is also a significant smallmouth bass fishery year-round.

The Blue River project furthers AGO goals through the protection of additional critical natural areas for wildlife migration and expanding and improving access to the river for public use and enjoyment.

PROJECT ACTION : Designate the Blue River as a National Blueway. Provide technical or financial support for expanding and improving river access.

PROJECT PARTNERS : NPS, FWS, State of Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation, and local nongovernmental organizations.

Oregon

Table Rocks



Project Description: The Table Rocks are twin volcanic buttes that rise above the north bank of the Rogue River. The lands are managed by the Nature Conservancy (3,584 acres) and Bureau of Land Management (1,280 acres). Over 30 years ago, the Nature Conservancy purchased land on the Table Rocks and created their first preserve in the Rogue Valley. In 1984, the BLM designated 1,280 acres as the Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect critical habitat for special status plant and animal species, unique geologic and scenic values, and to provide environmental education opportunities.

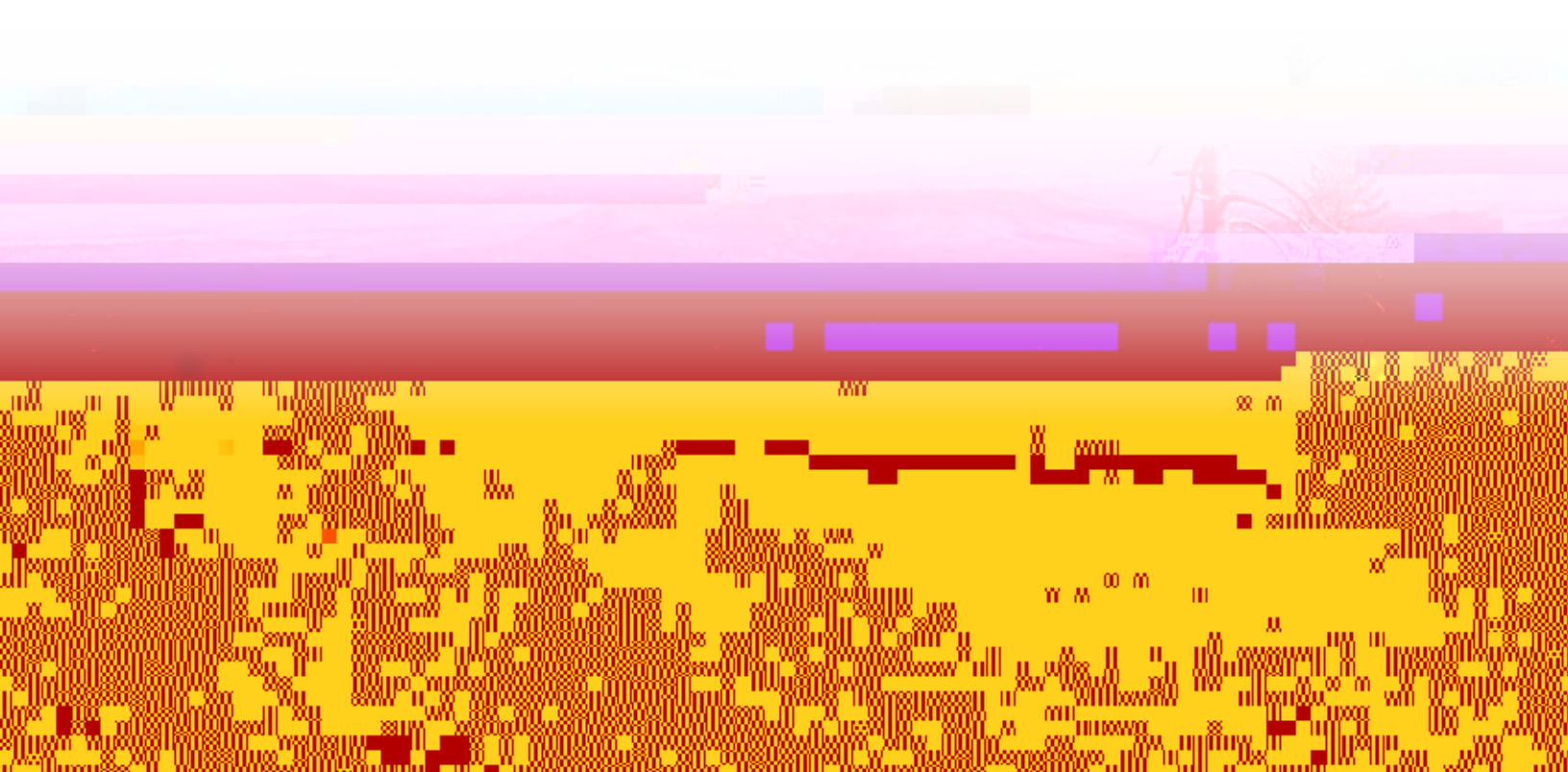
The people of Oregon, especially those in the Rogue Valley and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, have an enduring relationship with this special place. The 7.5 million-year-old landforms have been important to pioneers, residents, and visitors to the Rogue Valley and to Native Americans who called this area home. Every year some 45,000 visitors hike through oak savannas to reach the open grassland and vernal pools on the mesa summits and to look out over the Rogue Valley toward the Cascade Range and Siskiyou Mountains. In the spring, BLM-led field trips to the tops of Table Rocks are a staple of the outdoor education and science curriculum for over 4,000 Rogue Valley school children.

In 2009, FWS and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board invested \$1.8 million in protecting the Table Rocks by supplying funds to buy additional lands from the Nature Conservancy. The state needs funding to acquire more land to guarantee public access for hiking, to provide educational opportunities, and to protect the special biologic, geologic, and cultural values of the Table Rocks. The BLM, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Nature Conservancy recently signed an agreement to coordinate resources and pursue funding for acquiring key lands from willing sellers, to help protect the values of the Table Rocks, and to cooperatively manage these lands as the Table Rocks Management Area.

Project Action: Provide funds to buy adjacent land for more continuous ownership and cooperative land management to protect the cultural, historical, educational, and recreational values of the Table Rocks.

Partners: BLM, the Nature Conservancy, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Willamette Valley Conservation Plan



Pennsylvania

Lower Susquehanna Landscape Initiative

Lower Susquehanna Landscape Initiative
M.I.P. C.R.

The Susquehanna River's 27,500-square-mile watershed covers nearly half of Pennsylvania and supplies 50 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's fresh water. As the longest U.S. river with no commercial boat traffic, the Susquehanna is a popular recreation destination and important link to Pennsylvania's outdoors, river towns, and cultural heritage. Investments in river access on the lower Susquehanna will further AGO goals of building youth and community connections to this resource, providing education and recreation opportunities, and enhancing networks of water trails. As part of this large landscape initiative, enhancements are needed to Columbia Borough's Riverfront Park along the lower Susquehanna in Lancaster County. These enhancements will meet visitor needs and serve as a gateway to the river. They will also educate people about Columbia's historic connection to the Chesapeake Bay. Completing a high-trestle bridge and five-mile section of the Manor Rail Trail will link to 23 more miles of trails traversing Lancaster County. In addition, the ongoing relicensing of major hydropower dams on the Susquehanna creates an opportunity for shoreline management, recreation planning, and access development. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership has applied for designation of the Susquehanna River as a connecting Water Trail to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enthusiastically supports the designation and the Landscape Initiative projects.

Partnership: Provide financial assistance for improvements to the Riverfront Park in Columbia Borough. Designate the Susquehanna as a connecting Water Trail to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Partners: NPS, FWS, and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Urban Greening

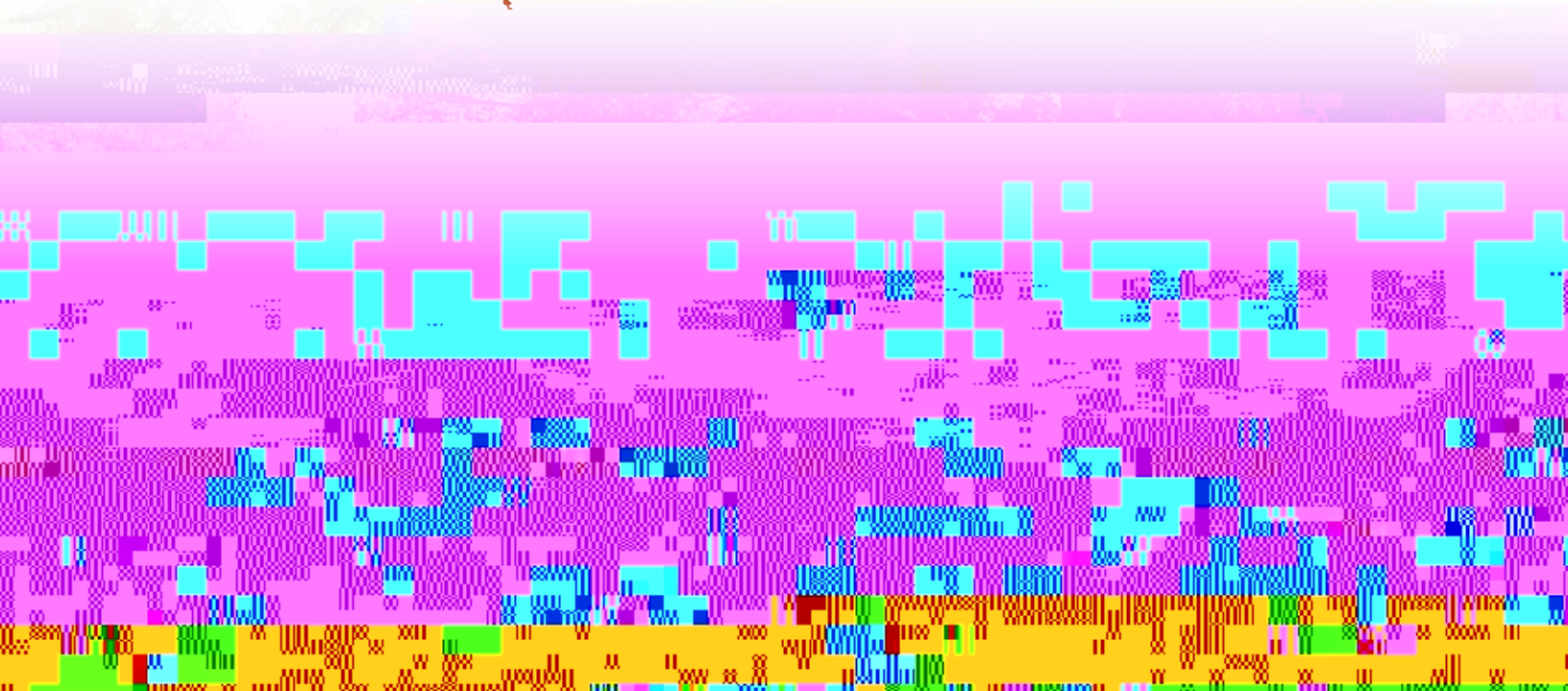
Urban Greening

Philadelphia and Pittsburgh

Philadelphia and Pittsburgh: Pennsylvania's largest cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, are engaged in work designed to bring conservation, recreation, and economic value to neighborhoods that lack parks and trees. Philadelphia prioritized improvement of public schools and parks in underserved neighborhoods in the first tier of the Green 2015 campaign. In Pittsburgh, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is targeting neighborhoods for a focused greening initiative and has raised considerable funds from the city and other local partners to implement it. These tailored greening projects in Pennsylvania's two most populous cities will enhance outdoor-recreation opportunities for all age groups, make the cities more attractive tourist destinations, and provide underserved neighborhoods with the plethora of advantages parks offer. By actively engaging communities in the beautification of their own neighborhoods, by planting trees or learning effective storm-water management techniques, this project creates a collective investment in and further enjoyment of outdoor shared spaces.

Philadelphia and Pittsburgh: Provide Pittsburgh and Philadelphia with financial and technical assistance to support AGO-related projects of their urban greening initiatives.

Philadelphia: No objects of the law.



Rhode Island

Blackstone River Valley Project

Environmental Impact Statement
Project, River Valley, Massachusetts



South Carolina

Longleaf Pine Focal Area



P J D I I N : Longleaf pine was once a dominant species on 90 million acres of forests stretching from Virginia to Texas. Today just over three percent of this historic longleaf Pine ecosystem remains, on public and private lands supporting 29 federally listed threatened and endangered species and over 400 endemic plant species.

The FWS, NPS, and USFS are submitting a collaborative Land and Water Conservation Fund proposal—the South Carolina Longleaf Pine Focal Area—to expand and preserve this natural resource. The State of South Carolina fully supports the project and is excited about the momentum it could give other current conservation efforts. This project would support AGO goals by conserving a large-scale landscape that will protect habitat for a

South Dakota

Blood Run National Historic Landmark

Historical Preservation Resources

Project Description: Blood Run National Historic Landmark, one of the oldest sites of long-term human habitation in North America, is a culturally significant area to both South Dakota and Iowa. The landmark offers residents of Sioux Falls—South Dakota’s most populous city—important outdoor-recreation opportunities. Located a few miles southeast of the city along Big Sioux River are 300 acres of undeveloped native-forest habitat adjacent to the landmark that the state wants to acquire.

The state considers acquiring and protecting the land around the site critical because of the owner’s circumstances and the interest of commercial developers. NPS identified the landmark in 2000 as a worthy national park area. Acquiring the land and designating a park would advance AGO goals by conserving a historic, undeveloped landscape and providing urban residents with nearby outdoor recreation opportunities.

Project Action: Provide financial support to acquire a 300-acre section of land for Blood Run National Historic Landmark.

Partners: NPS, State of South Dakota, and nonprofit organizations.

Tennessee

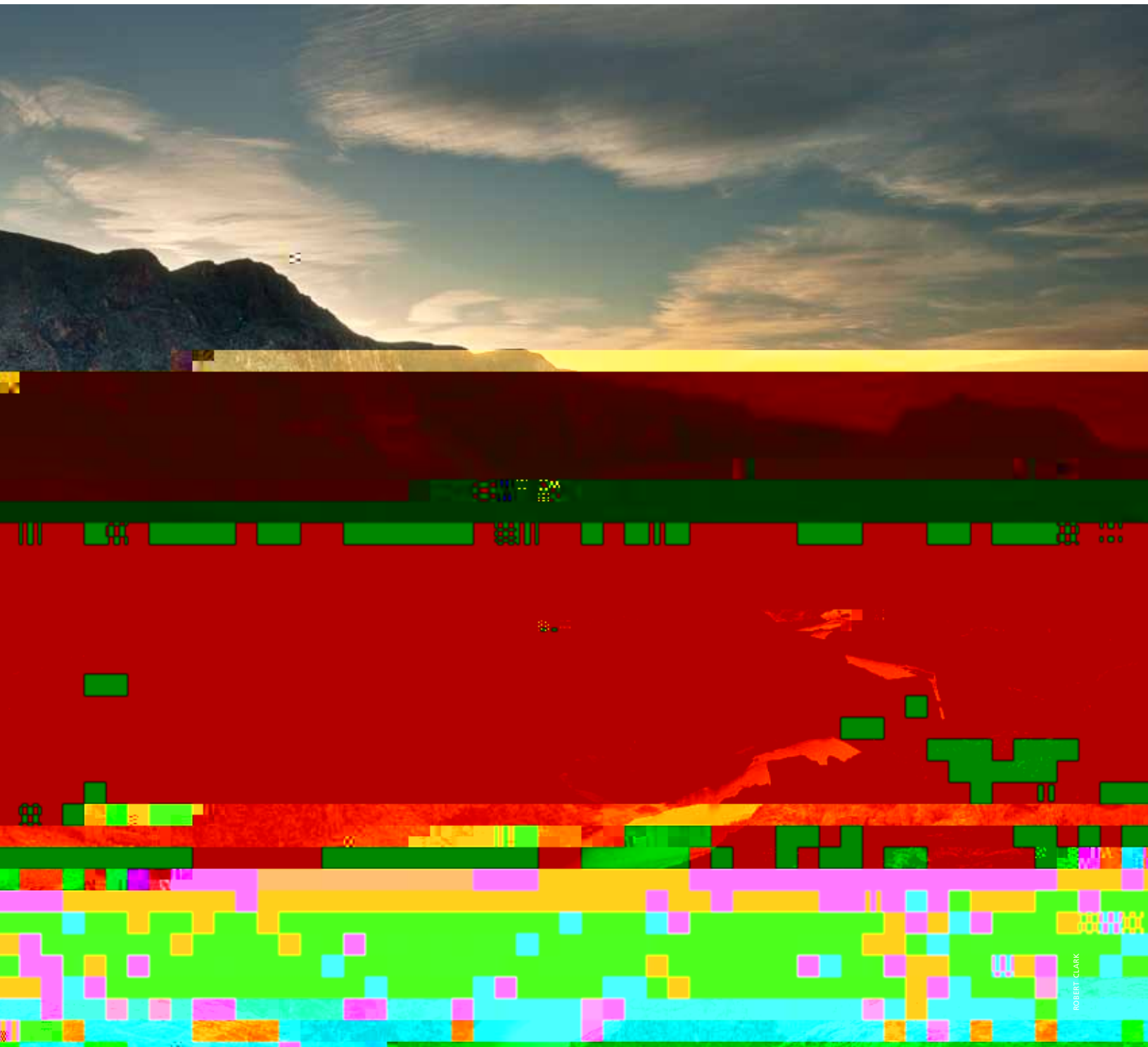
Paint Rock River Watershed

Project A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

The Paint Rock River Watershed in Tennessee and Alabama, one of the most biologically diverse freshwater systems in the world, is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's top priority for a new national wildlife refuge in Tennessee. Some strategic landholdings in the headwaters region have been conserved, but considerable work remains to connect these properties in a cohesive network of public lands protecting the natural and cultural resources of the area. Many NGOs and state government agencies are partnering in support of a new National Wildlife Refuge for the watershed. This project aligns with several AGO goals, including large landscape conservation, enhanced river access, and support for creative public-private partnerships.

Project A: Work with state, local, and nonprofit partners to establish a new National Wildlife Refuge in the Paint Rock River Watershed.

Partners: FWS, State of Tennessee, and nonprofit organizations.



ROBERT CLARK

Texas

Rio Grande Watershed



PROTECTION: From El Paso to Brownsville, the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River winds its way through some of the most culturally, ecologically, and topographically diverse lands in Texas. Conservation of the river is a longstanding, shared concern for state and federal agencies, private landowners, nonprofit organizations, water managers, recreational interests, and a host of other stakeholders. The watershed encompasses some of the most important state and federal recreational and conservation lands in

Utah



Jordan River Parkway

Trail Name: Jordan River Parkway
Location: San Juan County, Utah
Project Description: Jordan River Parkway is a continuous, non-motorized, paved trail system next to the river, which flows over 50 miles from Utah Lake to the

Vermont

Winooski River Watershed Project

RIPARIAN CORRIDOR
BUILDOUT, VERMONT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project will bring together state, regional, and local partners and stakeholder groups to conserve private working lands and provide flood control. The Winooski River watershed is in Vermont's most populous areas, and several major cities and towns rely on it for public drinking water. This past spring, parts of the Winooski River rose to historic levels, and floodwaters washed out roads, damaged structures, over-ran wastewater treatment facilities, and caused significant nutrient and sedimentary pollution, some of which ended up in Lake Champlain. The watershed is also home to many important working farms and forests and wildlife habitat.

A major initiative of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is to help communities protect their riparian corridors by taking advantage of the natural protection from flood damage. This project will help protect communities from the real economic burdens of future flooding, enhance recreational opportunities that connect people to water and the land, stimulate economic development, and create green jobs. The project will target critical watershed and floodplain protection areas for acquiring conservation easements. It will also provide technical and financial assistance to farmers and forest landowners to incorporate best management practices and develop watershed-management plans.

PROJECT AIMS: Provide financial and technical support to the wildlife habitat conservation and recreational access aspects of the project.

PROJECT PARTNERS: FWS, USGS, and State of Vermont.

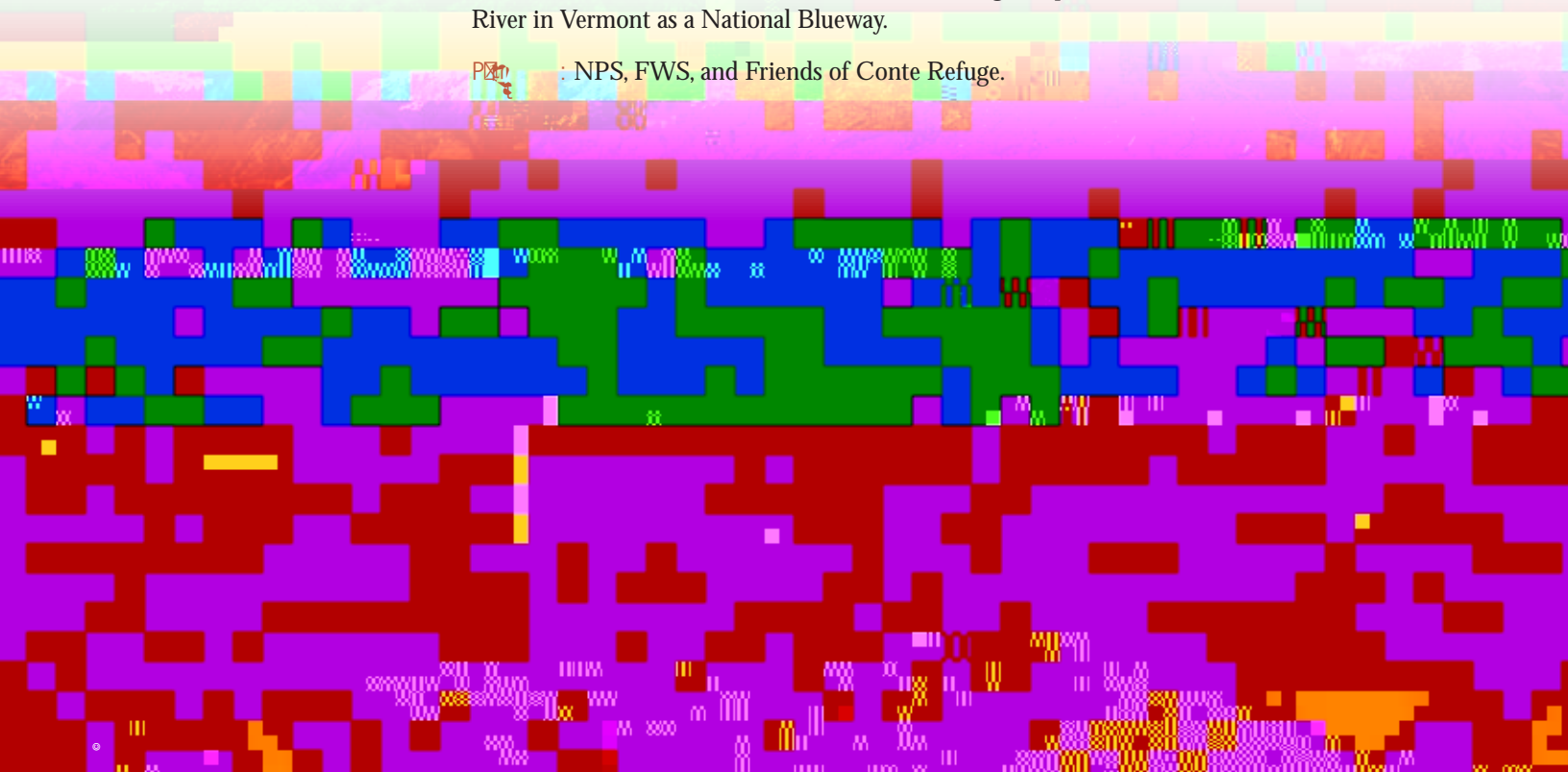
Connecticut River



Project Description: The Connecticut River's 410-mile journey from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound links four New England states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The river is the centerpiece of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge that encompasses the entire watershed, and many Vermont towns and cities are clustered along the stream. Vermont is working to increase environmental awareness and recreational use of the river. Fishing and boating are popular on Vermont's stretch of the Connecticut River. Creating new access points and promoting connectivity between the river and other nearby natural areas will better enable residents and visitors to engage in these water-related activities. Designating the Connecticut River as a National Blueway will also help draw more visitors to the area.

Project Goal: Provide added funding for a Vermont project in the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge to promote connectivity in the Connecticut River watershed and the Northern Forest. Designate parts of the Connecticut River in Vermont as a National Blueway.

Partners: NPS, FWS, and Friends of Conte Refuge.



Virginia

Fort Monroe National Historical Park

Hampton, Virginia: Fort Monroe and Old Point Comfort in Hampton have played significant roles in America's history, dating back to the arrival of the first English colonists. Settlers of Jamestown built a fort at the site in 1609, and the first enslaved Africans in America arrived at the fort in 1619. Over two centuries later, Fort Monroe

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

NATIONAL BLUEWAYS
EAST VIRGINIA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION : The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail follows the historic water routes of Smith's travels. The trail stretches about 3,000 miles through parts of present-day Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia and connects with 16 national wildlife refuges, 12 national park areas, and three national trails. It offers opportunities for tourism, environmental and cultural education, conservation, and recreation. The multi-dimensional nature of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail makes it a model for a new system of National Blueways. The Commonwealth of Virginia is active in development of the trail and seeks to collaborate with the NPS to enhance access to the trail and to develop and improve interpretive signage. Virginia plans to work with non-profit groups to improve access to connecting trails as well.

PROJECT AREA :





ROBERT DARK

Washington

Pacific Northwest Trail – Olympic Discovery Trail Convergence

Project Description: Along 1,200 miles of recreational pathways that begin in Glacier National Park and culminate on the Pacific Coast of Washington state, the Pacific Northwest Trail ties together national, state, and local trails, including the 120-mile Olympic Discovery Trail, built along the historic route of the Pacific Railroad line. Traversing the lowlands of the northern Olympic Peninsula and ending near Cape Alava on the Pacific Coast, the Olympic Discovery Trail now has about 40 miles of paved surface. This segment already provides outstanding recreational opportunities for hikers, bicyclists, and, in some areas, equestrians. It runs over railroad trestles, through agricultural land, and along the saltwater coastline, giving users access to a number of different outdoor environments and connecting the cities of Sequim and Port Angeles to the Sequim Bay Area. An additional six-mile stretch of hard pack gravel trail connects Port Townsend with the larger trail network. In the long term, the state plans to acquire and build out the entire 120 miles of the trail. This will provide residents all along the trail system access to more outdoor recreational opportunities in more parts of the state.

Project Activities: Provide technical and financial assistance to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Transportation, recreation and conservation organizations, and tribes to define, design, and acquire key segments of the trail.

Project Partners: NPS, State of Washington, local tribes, and nonprofit organizations.

Lower Columbia Water Trail Partners: Department of Transportation

West Virginia

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge



Project Description: West Virginia is the heart of the Central Appalachians, home to one of the healthiest, most biologically diverse temperate broadleaf forests on Earth and some of the largest intact forest blocks in the eastern United States. These forests shelter cool headwater streams that deliver clean water to larger rivers, like the Potomac and Ohio, and ultimately millions of people. And these forests are at the doorstep of the urban East Coast—within a day’s drive of Washington, Baltimore, and New York City. Collaborative conservation efforts to connect federal, state, and private land are essential to protecting critical wildlife migration corridors and ultimately to sustaining a network of healthy land and waters that will provide the full range of benefits to people.

In West Virginia, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of several federal and state conservation areas. Others include the Monogahela National Forest, Gauley River National Recreation Area, New River Gorge National River, and Bluestone National Scenic River. The Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture, and others are working cooperatively to develop a management strategy to enhance the natural and recreational values of these related sites.

Project Activities: Provide technical and financial assistance to acquire inholdings and buffers in the Canaan Valley and to create greater connectivity among protected lands. Work with partners and local, state, and federal agencies to conserve and manage public lands in this region more thoughtfully to enhance their natural and recreation values.

Partners: FWS, NPS, State of West Virginia, Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture.

New River Gorge National River

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S
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W
V

P J D J J N : e New River Gorge National River offers an unparalleled opportunity to acquaint young Americans with some of the best natural environments in the eastern United States. e Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has purchased 10,000 acres next to the New River Gorge National River for the permanent

Wisconsin

Lake Michigan Water Trail

Topic: Lake Michigan Shoreline

Project Description: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is working with the NPS, other federal agencies, and the Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission to develop a new, 450-mile Water Trail along the Lake Michigan shoreline. This trail will become the state's second longest and will increase public access to the trail and along the shoreline. A campaign to start in 2012 will engage local communities and private allies to help acquire land for and to build the new trail. The four states bordering Lake Michigan are also working to expand on the national recreation trail designation that exists on part of the lake. The partnership would support AGO priorities by enhancing recreational access and opportunities and engaging citizens in conservation and the great outdoors.

Partners: Provide technical and financial assistance for site development, signage, and land and easement acquisition needed for public access. Designate the Lake Michigan shoreline as a National Water Trail.

Partners: NPS, State of Wisconsin, NOAA, and Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission.

Ice Age Trail

Trail
Conservation

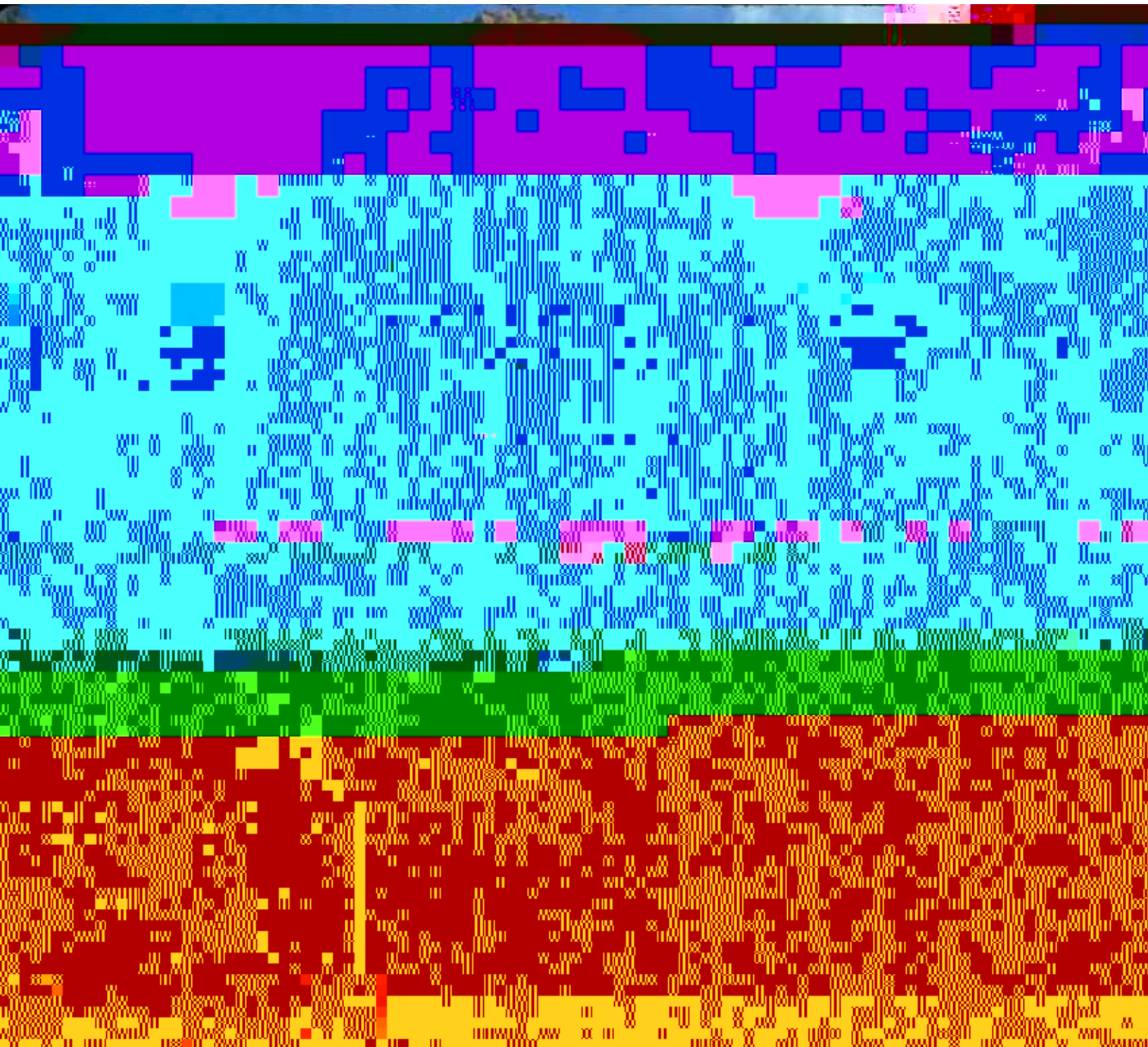
Project Description: The variety of recreation options within a one-hour drive of Madison—the state capital—make the Baraboo Hills/Devil's Lake area a hub for outdoor activity that serves over 1.7 million visitors a year. The area combines unique geologic features, diverse fauna, prehistoric earth mounds, historic Civilian Conservation Corps buildings, and spectacular scenery.

The Baraboo Hills, long recognized as ecologically unique and valuable, host many preserves, state natural areas, and two state parks. The NPS designated the southern range of the Baraboo Hills as a National Natural Landmark in 1980. Various organizations, including the University of Wisconsin, Baraboo Range Preservation Association, and Wisconsin DNR have formed a strong conservation partnership and protected thousands of acres through acquisitions and easements.

One such partnership is the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, a collaboration between the NPS, State of Wisconsin, and Ice Age Trail Alliance. They work together on trail management and development for the Ice Age Trail. One of only 11 National Scenic Trails in the United States, Ice Age Trail stretches for 1,200 miles across Wisconsin. State and local partners are working to connect trail segments through strategic conservation easements. This project supports several AGO goals, including large landscape conservation, preservation of natural and culturally significant areas, and support for creative public-private partnerships.

Project Area: Expand the Ice Age Trail through strategic conservation easements.

Partners: Wisconsin DNR, NPS, Ice Age Trail Alliance, and nonprofit organizations.



Wyoming

Devils Tower Conservation Easement

Context: Wyoming National Monument

Project Description: Ranches and other working lands surrounding Devils Tower National Monument provide important ecological and economic benefits for northeastern Wyoming. The opportunity exists to work with willing sellers of conservation easements on lands next to the monument to maintain traditional ranching and farming activities and to reduce land fragmentation around sensitive public lands. The Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust is a partner with the NPS in the preliminary stages of this effort.

This project would support AGO goals by helping to conserve and protect a natural and cultural icon while preserving traditional ranching and agriculture.

Partners: Engage local stakeholders in dialogue about conserving working lands in northeastern Wyoming. Work with partners to acquire conservation easements from willing sellers on lands adjacent to Devils Tower National Monument.

Partners: NPS, State of Wyoming, and Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust.

Grand Teton National Park Multi-Use Pathways Program

Context: Wyoming National Monument

Project Description: Grand Teton National Park is building 16 miles of completely accessible multi-use pathways for walking, biking, and skating. The first, eight-mile phase opened in 2008. When completed this year the six-mile second phase will connect to the larger network that Jackson Hole Community Pathways is building outside the park. The park pathway will be completely accessible by standards set under the Americans with Disabilities Act. When phase two is complete, the park will immediately begin design for phase three, a two-mile spur to a road loop popular for biking and skiing.

Appendix A: Youth Engagement

21 -C t t C S I C

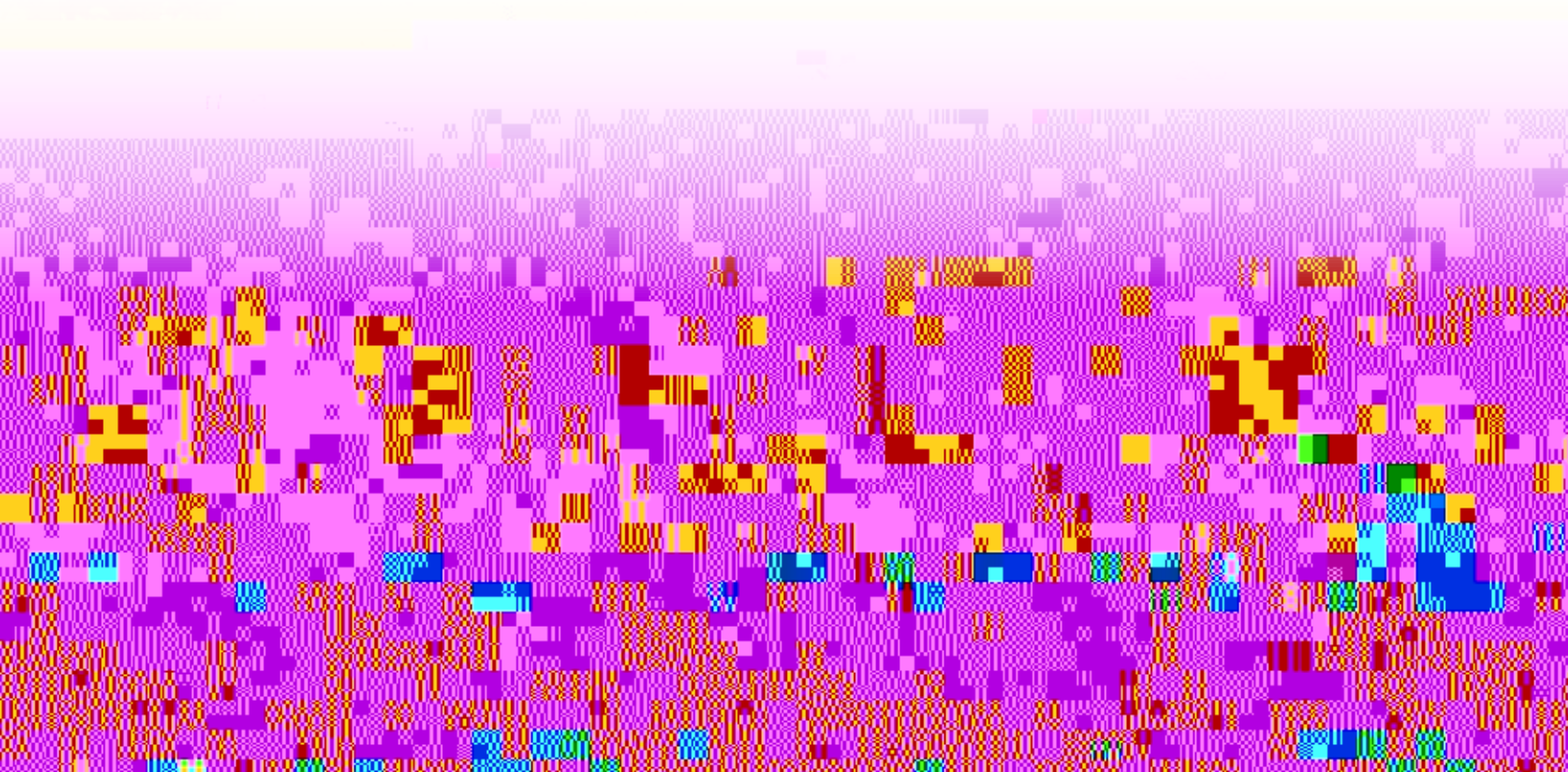
the objectives for Secretary Salazar's 50-state initiative were to increase states' and key stakeholders' knowledge of America's Great Outdoors and to solicit specific project ideas to advance the primary, place-based goals of AGO—urban parks, rivers, and landscapes. While the conversation was centered on project ideas related to these goals, officials and stakeholders in most states also cited the importance of engaging young people in the outdoors. They suggested projects designed to draw more young people to outdoor spaces or as stand-alone projects involving youth employment (through a conservation corps) or environmental education. Specific projects presented by states related to youth employment focus on conservation and construction work like stream restoration, trail maintenance, or building a visitor center. Other projects stress outdoor leadership for young adults by encouraging them to take responsibility for the environment. These suggestions align well with the AGO objectives to engage, educate, and employ young people.

The following examples of youth projects illustrate the diversity of ideas presented by states and stakeholders where the Department could partner with public and private organizations to advance the youth and education goals of America's Great Outdoors.

The Montana Conservation Corps, with Habitat for Humanity, The Nature Conservancy, and others, have “shovel ready work” to improve access and restore the confluence of Clark Fork River and Rock Creek, western Montana's blue-ribbon trout stream. Youth can help build access sites, clear interpretive trails, and even build educational facilities for a day camp where

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- The California Conservation Corps provides youth with jobs and an opportunity to connect with the outdoors. One California Conservation Corps project in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would draw inner-city youth from areas where access to the natural world is almost non-existent. These young people would gain outdoor experience in the NRA's 150,000 acres, which include state and local parks. Their work on maintenance and construction of trails and other facilities will contribute



Appendix B: MULTI-STATE PROJECTS

While Secretary Salazar's request of Governors was to learn about their state's priorities related to landscapes, rivers and urban parks, we discovered that some projects were regional in scale and identified as priorities by more than one state. Ecosystems, wildlife and river corridors, and large working landscapes do not conform to state borders, and many states already work together to conserve these lands and waters. Because the federal government's work transcends state boundaries, states have sought our help on a variety of projects of regional significance. The following multi-state AGO projects include both new projects and projects highlighted earlier in this report:



The Mississippi River Blues are part of the largest international bird migration corridor in the nation. They contain exceptional ecosystems—from algal talus slopes to hillside blue prairies and rare forests. The State of Iowa has partnered with Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and local nongovernmental organizations to promote the Mississippi Blues region as an ecotourism destination. The Blues connect people and communities with the outdoors while protecting regional heritage. In addition, the Mississippi River Blues partnership aims to protect water quality and reduce flooding by conserving targeted lands.



Spanning 410 miles through four New England states, the Connecticut River has long been an important commercial link between Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Today, it provides valuable recreational opportunities for the numerous surrounding communities and has the potential to offer even more widespread public access. The river itself, its wildlife and surrounding ecosystem, are among the most promising resources for accomplishing important AGO conservation and recreation goals.

This significant potential prompted the New England Governors' Council to include the Connecticut River in its River and Heritage Corridors National Demonstration Project. In this collaborative initiative, the four states have committed to improving access to and promoting opportunities offered by the Connecticut River. This includes constructing more access points and recreational facilities along the river and



The Dakota Grasslands project exemplifies the AGO commitment to collaborative solutions. State and federal agencies, through partnerships with conservation organizations, are working with private landowners to conserve, voluntarily, approximately



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is situated near the Illinois-Indiana border close to a number of underserved urban communities. The Lakeshore's Lake Michigan Water Trail already provides water-based recreation opportunities to over 9 million people, allowing them access to unique ecosystems and enhancing their outdoor experiences. In particular, young people benefit from interpretive programs that get them out on the lake in canoes and kayaks, allowing them to experience the natural

Appendix C: GLOSSARY

D **U** **R** **I** **S** **:**

A **m** **i** **n** **H** **i** **s** **R** **i** **:** Rivers of natural, economic, historical, or cultural value are maintained by local communities through an EPA partnership program.

G **r** **e** **e** **n** **w** **a** **y** **:** A greenway is a scenic trail or route set aside for recreational activities and often frequented

NEP, P, P: Parkway refers to a roadway and the parkland paralleling the roadway. All were intended for scenic motoring along a protected corridor and often connect cultural sites.

NEP, P :

Wilderness Area: First designated by the National Wilderness Preservation System established by the 1964 Wilderness Act, Wilderness Areas are essentially undisturbed natural environments. They retain a primeval character and are shaped primarily by the forces of nature, free of human influence. They are managed by the BLM, FWS, USFS, and NPS to preserve natural landscapes and maintain the habitat of many wildlife species.

Wilderness Management Area: These state-managed conservation areas are dedicated to preserving and managing high-quality habitats for a variety of fish and wildlife species. They are, therefore, popular recreation spots for wildlife-based outdoor activities, like fishing and hunting.

LIABILITY:

Conservation Easement: A legal agreement that restricts certain uses of land to protect its natural resources, such as forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

Successful joint use agreements allow for multipurpose landscapes, which relieve private landowners of liability issues in return for opening their lands for public use. State foresters, in partnership with local communities and the USFS, provide technical assistance on the management, protection, and wise use of the non-industrial private forest and the nearly 100 million acres of urban and community forests. State conservationists, working with state technical committees and the USDA provide assistance on the management, protection, and use of agricultural land.

Conservation Corps: Around the country, Corps programs engage thousands of youth and young adults in natural resource-based work on projects that address unmet conservation needs. Many states have funded Corps programs for decades, and local communities frequently turn to Corps to train and prepare young people for employment. Corps members gain abilities that last a lifetime, including work readiness, educational advancement, and civic engagement, and provide lasting benefits to natural resources and people in their communities.

Corps Network: Established in 1985, the Corps Network is the voice of the nation's 143 Service and Conservation Corps. Operating in 45 states and the District of Columbia now, Corps Network members enroll over 30,000 young men and women in service every year to improve communities and the environment.

Federal Land Management: This term refers to local organizations dedicated to the interests and preservation of a natural site. They can provide needed financial, expert, and volunteer support for federal, state, and local parks, open spaces, trails, and outdoor recreation activities.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): The LWCF acquires new federal recreation lands as grants to state and local governments. For discussion purposes, the LWCF program is often divided into the "state side" grants to state and local governments and the "federal side" portion of the LWCF that buys land in new forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other recreation areas owned by the federal government.

National Wetlands Conservation Act: Administered by the FWS, this act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.

Public Lands Service Coalition: Founded by the Student Conservation Association, the Corps Network, and the Southwest Conservation Corps, the Public Lands Service Coalition is an alliance of over a dozen national, regional, and local nonprofit organizations dedicated to promoting youth service jobs and career development on public lands.

Rail-Trail Conservancy: This nonprofit organization's mission is to create a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for recreationists.

River, Trail, and Community Assistance Program (RTCA): RTCA is the community assistance arm of the NPS. RTCA supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to communities so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

State National Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA): This act allows the BLM to sell public land within a specific boundary around Las Vegas, Nevada. Some of the revenue derived from land sales goes to DOI initiatives like maintenance of parks, trails, and natural areas, landscape conservation, and wildfire prevention.

Student Conservation Association (SCA): SCA provides situations for college and high school students to connect with nature, render hands-on service, gain new skills and perspectives, and launch a lifetime of stewardship. SCA programs include conservation internships, conservation corps, summer and year-round training and service opportunities.

Urban Waters Foundation Partnership: This program will work to revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them. By transforming overlooked urban assets like rivers, streams, and wetlands into treasured centerpieces, the partnership will help drive urban revival. This is a community-based effort, and federal partners will help support community priorities to restore polluted, forgotten urban waterways.

Appendix D: ACRONYMS

AGO	American Geological Oceanographic
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOD	Department of Defense
DOI	Department of the Interior
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey



