2015 Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities Awards

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Wells Fargo are pleased to announce the 2015 Environmental Solutions for Communities recipients. The goal of this grant program is to help communities create a more sustainable future through responsible environmental stewardship.

San Francisco Peninsula Stewardship Project (CA)
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet will engage thousands of student and community volunteers to enhance and restore natural lands and creeks across the San Francisco Bay Area Peninsula, encompassing Santa Clara and Southern San Mateo Counties. The project includes 18 highly visible habitat restoration sites ranging from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the San Francisco Bay, which are managed under contract with federal and state agencies, municipalities, and corporations.

South Valley Community Farm and Indoor/Outdoor Learning Center (NM)
First Choice Community Healthcare

First Choice Community Healthcare will reclaim a vacant lot and adjacent storm drainage ponding area to re-establish the agricultural tradition of the South Valley. This project will engage community members in water conservation, water harvesting and agricultural production in an arid climate.

Red Mountain Park Forest Management and Sustainability Program (AL)
The Red Mountain Park Fund, Inc.

The Red Mountain Park Fund will restore and rehabilitate Red Mountain Park to its natural state while promoting healthy forest environments that can be enjoyed by visitors and help native flora/fauna thrive. This project will engage a broad base of volunteers, academic institutions, government agencies, and nonprofit partners in forest restoration and education.

Engaging the Community to Restore the James River in the Richmond Region (VA)
James River Association

James River Association will advance the restoration goals for the James River that have been identified by Virginia’s Capital Region Collaborative. Project activities will include volunteer work within the watershed that focus on invasive species removal and riparian buffer restoration; both large-scale and self-led cleanup events; educational opportunities specifically geared toward high school students on Presquile Island; and the creation of an overall vision, with the identification of specific projects to meet the vision, through the Regional Rivers Plan.
Conservation for Underserved in Minneapolis Saint Paul (MN)
Great River Greening

Great River Greening will bring conservation to underserved communities through new parks, nontraditional partnerships, local volunteer engagement, and youth job training. This project will develop 125 new natural acres in underserved areas in Saint Paul, engage 1,000 local volunteers, and engage 68 at-risk and minority urban youth.

Sustaining Accessible Trails with Youth Based Projects in Rocky Mountain National Park (CO)
Larimer County Conservation Corps

Larimer County Conservation Corps will deploy youth crews into Rocky Mountain National Park to improve accessibility trails as an integral activity in conserving the park’s sensitive ecosystems while providing work preparedness for local youth. This project will employ 32 youth and improve accessibility to three highly popular trails while sustaining the integrity of the Park’s cultural and natural resources.

Sustainable South Platte River Initiative (CO)
The Greenway Foundation, Inc.

The Greenway Foundation will supplement flows in the South Platte River during the days of the year that the river currently receives no water from Chatfield Reservoir. This project will restore the biology of this urban river through improved flows.

Growing the Greenway: Expanding Green Parks and Public Understanding of Green Land Management in Downtown Boston (MA)
Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Inc.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy will restore 12 small deteriorating parks (1.3 acres in total) up to the Greenway’s high standards of excellence in sustainability and beauty. This project will install green irrigation infrastructure and rehabilitate trees and landscaping, while educating volunteers and community members about sustainable land management practices.

Portland Eastside Greening Project (OR)
Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees will increase the urban forest canopy in the neediest and lowest income neighborhoods in Northeast and Southeast Portland by offering tree planting subsidies to homeowners. This project will identify underserved neighborhoods that have low canopy cover, and reduce tree costs for homeowners.
**Inspiring Journeys: An Initiative for Jenny Lake 2015 Backcountry Restoration (WY)**

**Grand Teton National Park Foundation**

Grand Teton National Park Foundation will restore trails, bridges, key destinations, and a visitor complex at Jenny Lake, Grand Teton’s most popular destination, for the National Park Service (NPS) centennial in 2016. This project will reverse accimilated trail damage and work toward the creation of a sustainable trail network.

**Ruffer Mountain Nature Preserve’s Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Community Outreach for the Importance of Native Landscaping (AL)**

**Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition, Inc**

Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition will remove invasive plants and reseed with native plant species appropriate to specific habitats, encouraging wildlife to utilize the area. This project will educate the community about the importance of landscaping with native plant species.

**Hog Island Coastal Wetland Restoration and Resiliency Project (VA)**

**Ducks Unlimited, Inc.**

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. will restore 1,300 acres of coastal wetlands that are critical to numerous migratory bird species along with hundreds of other fish and wildlife species in southeast Virginia. This project will protect managed wetlands from the potential impacts of sea-level rise while providing a reliable source of wetlands for wildlife in the face of continuing coastal wetland loss from conversion, degradation and climate change.

**Alaskan Youth Restoring Alaska’s Parks: Nabesna Area Restoration Project**

**The Student Conservation Association, Inc.**

The Student Conservation Association will recruit, train and lead Alaskan youth to restore and protect wildlife habitat, scenic quality and natural resources in the Nabesna area in response to resource degradation from overuse. This project will engage Alaskan youth in educational and hands-on work skills to complete a restoration project while living and learning at the work site.

**North Davis Riparian Greenbelt Restoration and Enhancements (CA)**

**Putah Creek Council**

Putah Creek Council will add native vegetation and channel seeding to an existing community urban greening project in Davis, CA. This project will enhance a 1.25 mile long storm water/agricultural runoff channel by replacing weeds with native vegetation and wildlife habitat, improving water quality and educating the community about landscaping for wildlife habitat and water conservation.
The Use of Environmental Education Programs and Activities to Improve Environmental Conditions in an Urban Community (MD)

National Aquarium in Baltimore, Inc.

National Aquarium in Baltimore will improve environmental conditions within the Brooklyn neighborhood in Baltimore, Maryland and connect residents to the natural environment by engaging them in local habitat and wildlife conservation efforts. This project will enable residents to make environmentally friendly decisions due to an increased sense of environmental awareness, become stewards of the environment and that this environmentally conscious community can serve as a model for surrounding communities.

Flint Street Farm (MA)

The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land will work with the City of Boston, local citizens, and a variety of community development organizations to create Boston’s newest urban farm on Flint Street in the low-income neighborhood of Mattapan, six miles from downtown Boston. This project will provide important stormwater mitigation benefits while also generating employment and economic activity in Mattapan and surrounding neighborhoods.

Retrofit Baltimore Resource Conservation and Community Restoration Project (MD)

Civic Works, Inc.

Civic Works will implement stormwater and energy efficiency measures in 400 homes in Baltimore City, empowering homeowners to assume conservation leadership roles within their social networks. This project will conserve resources in the Baltimore region by annually saving 404,000 kWh, 40,560 therms, and 1,728,960 gallons of water, and will contribute to Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts by annually reducing stormwater runoff by 200,000 gallons.

The Restoration of the American River Parkway (CA)

American River Parkway Foundation

American River Parkway Foundation will restore the Parkway through diverse programs using volunteers and staff. This project will remove invasive plants, reduce waterway pollutants, increase the presence of native plants and rebuild decaying parkway infrastructure.
Des Moines Urban Forest Management Project (IA)
Tree Des Moines, Inc

Tree Des Moines will facilitate a community-wide health assessment of trees, stumps, and planting sites on public lands and city parks in Des Moines, Iowa, resulting in the creation of long-term master plan for the management, protection, and care of Des Moines’ urban forest. This project will conduct education and outreach programs to train local volunteers as “tree stewards” and work with community partners to launch a planting initiative to begin replacing trees lost to the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive pests and diseases.

Bastrop County Community Reforestation Program (TX)
Treefolks, Inc.

Treefolks will provide free comprehensive reforestation services to private landowners affected by the devastating 2011 complex wildfire in Bastrop, Texas. This project will assist in planting 420,000 native loblolly pine trees on privately owned property to allow for county-wide recovery, and eventual restoration, of the unique Lost Pines ecosystem.

Florida House Demonstration Landscape: Creating a Residential Market for Watershed Friendly Practices and Urban Agriculture (FL)
Florida House Foundation of Sarasota Inc

Florida House Foundation of Sarasota will create a compelling model residential yard, open to the public, and an accompanying educational program which demonstrates retention and treatment of storm water via bio-swales, porous paving and cisterns; use of storm water to irrigate home food production including a Permaculture, raised beds and vertical gardens; and integration of beautiful native thickets into home landscapes to create bio-diversity, food and cover for wildlife. This project will educate 10,000 visitors per year, educate 2,500 5th grade STEM students, and establish partnerships among local institutions, policymakers and landscape professionals to build a market for best watershed practices.

Protecting Threatened Wetlands: Invasive Species Removal, Land Stewardship and Nature Education for Conservation in Metropolitan Fort Wayne (IN)
Little River Wetlands Project, Inc.

Little River Wetlands Project will enhance natural habitats, primarily through invasive plant management, at three of Little River Wetlands Project’s restored wetland nature preserves (971 acres total) in and near Fort Wayne, Indiana to enhance the preserves’ capacities to improve local water quality, store floodwater, provide high-quality wildlife habitat, and promote nature recreation for community well-being. This project will involve businesses, landowners, community leaders, and other citizens in environmental learning and conservation activities, leading to improved private lands stewardship, better local water quality and enhanced community well-being.
Santa Fe River Demonstration Rain Gardens (NM)  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Santa Fe Watershed Association will plan, design, and construct bio-retention basins in the Santa Fe River watershed to capture surface water runoff prior to it reaching the river bed in order to filter out contaminants including chemicals, minerals, and sediment. This project will support implementation efforts with ongoing instruction and outreach, and will engage community volunteers.

City of Roseville Urban Orchard Demonstration Project (MN)  
The Minnesota Project

The Minnesota Project will plan and install a community orchard demonstration program in an urban location. This project will provide long-term fresh food access to those in need, engage residents in learning and practicing tree care and harvesting techniques, improve the health of Roseville’s residents and environment, and assemble lessons learned for sharing with other communities interested in starting publicly accessible edible landscapes.

Nature Explore Classroom at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center (TX)  
City of Denton

City of Denton will construct The Nature Explore Classroom at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center (CCNHC), an ADA-compliant educational facility specifically designed to incorporate the outdoors into meaningful learning activities that help preschool to first grade children connect with nature. This project will connect underserved populations to over 2,900 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, upland prairie, and diverse aquatic habitats located within Lake Lewisville's upper floodplain in Denton.

Chicano Park Gateway Greening (CA)  
Urban Corps of San Diego County

Urban Corps of San Diego County will create a new green gateway to historic Chicano Park through impervious surface removal, tree planting, bioswale installation, and landscaping. The project will improve storm water infiltration, benefit air and water quality, sequester greenhouse gases, and train and employ local disadvantaged young adults.
Tar River Land Conservancy will restore 30 acres of abandoned farm fields to native shortleaf pine and warm season grasses to improve wildlife habitat and protect water quality on the 220-acre Ledge Creek Forest Conservation Area located outside Raleigh and Durham, North Carolina. Improvements will be made to invite and allow public access to this Conservation Area for hiking, nature photography, and educational tours by local residents, visitors, and school groups.

Town of Cary will promote conservation of land and water resources within the Town of Cary, encouraging residents to adopt behaviors that will reduce household environmental impacts. This project will integrate outreach and volunteer engagement to promote new wildlife programming, train future sustainability leaders, integrate existing conservation programs, and protect and restore local ecosystems.

Heal the Bay will focus on protecting and restoring riparian habitat in streams throughout the Malibu Creek Watershed in Los Angeles County. Project activities will include monitoring and improving water quality that impacts local waterways and beaches; training and empowering community-based volunteers to become environmental stewards through stream monitoring and restoration; and engaging the local community through year-round stewardship and educational events.

Town of Little Elm will plant 80 native and water-wise trees and install a water-efficient irrigation system along the 0.35-mile concrete linear bicycle and pedestrian trail that leads to Cottonwood Park. This project will engage two local Boy Scout troops in tree planting activities and grand opening events, fostering community involvement in the ongoing stewardship of Little Elm's trees.
Johnson Oak Park (CT)
The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land will partner with the City of Bridgeport to redesign and reconstruct Johnson Oak Park in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The transformation of the four-acre site, which abuts the Jettie S. Tisdale School, from a dangerous and largely vacant urban lot to a verdant, safe, and vibrant community amenity will provide recreational, economic, and environmental benefits (including innovative green infrastructure components) to the underserved East End neighborhood of Bridgeport.

Prospect Village Gardens (NE)
City of Omaha, Nebraska

City of Omaha will create community gardens on city-owned vacant lots in Northeast Omaha, an identified food desert. This project will build 4 to 6 temporary community gardens and 1 or 2 permanent community gardens with environmentally positive impacts in the Prospect Village neighborhood.

Native Plants for Birds and People: Working with Nurserymen to Promote Native Plants and Bringing People Together to Plant Bird-Friendly Gardens (NC)
National Audubon Society, Inc.

National Audubon Society will increase supply of native plants by engaging nursery owners in Audubon's Local Roots marketing program and increase demand for native plants through a communications campaign. This project will plant bird-friendly native-plant gardens in public and private spaces for the benefit of birds and people alike.

Creating an Innovative Outdoor Environmental Institute for Pre-Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade Students (MO)
City Garden Montessori School

City Garden Montessori School will create an outdoor learning space for City Garden students that will provide an extension of the Montessori classroom where students will use the space to learn mathematics, environmental ethics, science, cultural, and social economic lessons to create life-long learners who value and respect themselves, others, the environment, and the world community. The project is critical to exposing students who live in an urban setting to the environment through meaningful direct contact, to providing students with an alternative method of teaching to become versatile learners, and to cultivating teamwork, opportunity, responsibility, and high self-esteem in every student regardless of race or economic status.
City Blossoms' Community Green Space: Expansion to a Third Site in the Anacostia River Basin (DC)

*City Blossoms*

City Blossoms will replicate the success of the Community Green Spaces project by partnering with the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative in the Mayfair neighborhood along the Anacostia River to design and develop a thriving new green space. This project will create community green spaces to reflect the combined social needs of the neighborhood with the environmental health potential of increasing habitat and community stewardship.

The Nebraska Watershed Network and the Lower Platte River Management Plan: Engaging with the Omaha Community

*University of Nebraska*

University of Nebraska will fulfill components of the Lower Platte River Management Plan by engaging citizens and high school students from underrepresented populations in an environmental program aimed at developing the capacity for community based, environmental stewardship. This project will empower the community to participate in active environmental stewardship programs aimed at the local reaches of the Elkhorn, Platte and Missouri Rivers.

Camden City Hall Interactive Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project (NJ)

*Cooper's Ferry Partnership*

Cooper’s Ferry Partnership will install a highly-visible, unique, interactive, and educational “pop-up” rainwater harvesting system in Roosevelt Plaza Park (RPP) at the doorstep of Camden City Hall. The project will educate residents and visitors about the benefits of green infrastructure, remove gallons of stormwater from the City’s overtaxed combined sewer system, thereby reducing sewer overflows and localized flooding, and improve both the quality of life of Camden residents and the water quality of neighboring waterways.

Story Mill Community Park (MT) - II

*The Trust for Public Land*

The Trust for Public Land will create a 30-acre nature sanctuary at the site of the future 55-acre Story Mill Community Park, located in Bozeman, Montana. This project will include on-the-ground restoration activities, ongoing monitoring, and outreach and education with local college students and community members as part of the park's interpretation program.
Rain Barrel/Rain Garden Community Education Workshops (TX)
University of Houston-Clear Lake Environmental Institute of Houston

University of Houston-Clear Lake Environmental Institute of Houston will implement a series of community education workshops to address the many benefits of rain gardens and rain barrels for water conservation and pollution prevention. This project will save thousands of gallons of water and reduce pollution from stormwater runoff.

Improving Water Quality and Restoring the Natural Habitat of Lower Jordan Creek in Juneau (AK)
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition will develop a Best Management Practices (BMP) manual for stormwater on Jordan Creek. The project will include a demonstration project on 600ft of lower Jordan Creek to treat storm-water before it enters the creek using an L-shape bioswale, construction of a barrier fence to prevent snow from being pushed into the stream, and the restoration of riparian habitat by controlling invasive plants and planting native trees and shrubs.

Sustainable Youth: Creating Green Infrastructure Through Community-Based Urban Forestry (CA)
Earth Team

Earth Team will recruit small teams (10-12) of low income senior students from three partner public schools to work year long with Earth Team staff. Students will learn about the importance of urban forests, restore an artesian well on campus connected to the local watershed and plant 1,000 trees in and around campus locations to improve community livelihoods. An innovative community-based urban forestry employing youth and engaging residents of disadvantaged communities around low income high schools in the coastal cities of Richmond and Oakland, California

On the Frontlines of Conservation: Citizen Scientists Restore Pollinator Habitat (MN)
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation will provide education and engage a wide diversity of people and communities in creating needed habitat for pollinators. This project will focus on preserving, protecting, and propagating two species of native flowering plants Milkweeds and Prairie Clovers.
SCA Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Habitat Protection and Restoration Program in Houston Parks (TX)
*The Student Conservation Association, Inc.*

The Student Conservation Association will support two city-wide conservation internships and a two-week SCA Community Program Crew of high school students to enhance and guide a natural resource management strategy for the City of Houston's park system. The strategy will enhance the operations and inventory of urban natural areas within the City limits, as well as improve access to environmental education and stewardship opportunities for urban youth.

KYCC Urban Forestry Volunteer Leader Program (CA)
*Koreatown Youth and Community Center*

Koreatown Youth and Community Center will create an Urban Forestry Volunteer Leader Program in order to create Volunteer Leaders in South Los Angeles who will lead tree planting events that galvanize the entire community, including children, youth and adult community members. This project will bring trees to resource poor and low canopy areas of South Los Angeles, thereby improving both the environmental and socioeconomic profile of the low-income neighborhood.

Living Arroyos (CA)
*Urban Creeks Council*

Urban Creeks Council will restore urban streams in the San Francisco Bay Area through public-private partnership. This project will harness the power of communities to build sustainable habitats that benefit people and other living things.

Ocean Connectors South Bay Clean Up: Youth-Led Habitat Restoration and Clean Up in South San Diego Bay (CA)
*The Ocean Foundation*

The Ocean Foundation will engage a targeted population of 500 underserved urban youth and 100 adults in habitat protection, resource management, and coastal conservation. Planting of native vegetation, litter abatement, and invasive plant removal will be conducted over five acres of critical upland, coastal wetland, beach, and river corridor habitat, which serve as nesting and foraging areas for numerous resident and migratory species.

City of Gainesville Greenway Challenge (FL)
*City of Gainesville*

City of Gainesville will restore 47 acres of habitat by removing invasive non-native plants in 8 nature parks utilizing volunteer, intern, staff, and contractual labor. This project will engage and educate over 2,320 citizen volunteers in the removal of 15 aggressive invasive plant species.
Black Creek Bio-Blitz (SC)
*Pee Dee Land Trust*

Pee Dee Land Trust will coordinate a year-long Bio-Blitz, a high-profile, community-based inventory of the native flora, fauna, and aquatic life of the nature preserves to engage public and private school students, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and area residents in becoming more aware of their role as stewards of biodiversity and water quality in their own backyards. The Black Creek Bio-Blitz will include well-publicized community participation in developing species databases, photographs, maps, signage, and will be managed with an interactive website and social media.

Urban Edwards Aquifer Awareness and Protection Project (TX)
*Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance*

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance will engage citizens and students in the creation of ten Community Rain Gardens. This project will establish protocol for identifying and implementing LID techniques to enhance the function of existing, state mandated Best Management Practices, and monitoring to assess water quality improvement.

Coastal Resilience in Los Angeles (CA)
*The Nature Conservancy*

The Nature Conservancy will identify places in coastal Los Angeles where conditions favor a nature-based approach to sea level rise adaptation, and deliver a triple bottom-line result benefitting environment, economy, and disadvantaged communities. This project will engage regional stakeholders in the assessment of shoreline management, identification of green infrastructure, and outreach to the community through workshops, meetings, press, and an interactive decision support tool.

Chosewood Park Forest Restoration (GA)
*Trees Atlanta, Inc.*

Trees Atlanta will work with partners to restore 5.5 acres of urban forest and parkland by removing invasive plants and planting native understory trees and shrubs in the park. Project activities will include the installation of an acidic cove forest, an urban orchard, two bioswales and the enhancement of the park entrance and the forest mulch path.
Student-led Coastal and Estuarine Restoration in the Choctawhatchee Watershed of Northwest Florida (FL)
Northwest Florida State College Foundation, Inc.

Northwest Florida State College Foundation will educate and train 3000 K-12 students in Okaloosa and Walton County School Districts. Students will then restore .7 miles of dune habitat and 1.1 acres of salt marsh habitat in the estuarine and coastal areas around the Choctawhatchee Watershed, and will use their newfound knowledge of coastal and estuarine habitats to create educational outreach tools—volunteer events, public service announcements, and educational materials—that will reach over 310,000 people, helping to create an active community of watershed stewards.

WaYS Forward: Restoring Native Habitat (ME)
Penobscot Indian Nation

Penobscot Indian Nation will provide employment, training, and mentoring to 6 to 9 Wabanaki youth. Participants will conduct monitoring and control of nonnative invasive plants in a habitat restoration project on the Penobscot Experimental Forest (PEF), providing tangible benefits to the USFS and enabling Native students to assess their prospects in conservation science as a full-time career.

Yakima Basin Restoration Stewards (WA)
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will engage 16 youth in habitat restoration, monitoring, stewardship, and community outreach on USDA Forest Service, State, and private lands. This opportunity will provide economically-disadvantaged youth with hands-on, meaningful employment opportunities including job training in natural resources and opportunities to network with federal, state, and tribal entities.

Oregon Coast Stewardship Project
Northwest Youth Corps

Northwest Youth Corps will engage 100 teenagers between the ages of 15 and 18 in high priority conservation projects in Natural Areas near and in Oregon coastal communities. Teenagers from Astoria, Seaside, Newport, Lincoln City, Coos Bay, and Bandon will have the opportunity to learn about natural resources, train for a job, and receive high school credit, while earning a stipend.

San Juan Islands National Monument and San Juan Island National Historical Park Youth Initiative (WA)
Madrona Institute

Madrona Institute will gather and share Coast Salish Peoples stories associated with conservation topic areas to inform new signage on Department of Interior lands. Primary activities include using GPS/GIS to model traditional Salish Peoples place and resource names, forage fish spawning sites, clam gardens, and salmon population monitoring.
Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP)  
*University of Alaska Anchorage*

University of Alaska Anchorage will provide conservation career exploration through academic success and summer internships. This project will support students in the ANSEP Summer Bridge and University components who successfully complete internships with USFS professionals, preparing them to apply and compete for permanent federal job opportunities upon graduation.

**Restoration in the Rogue River Basin: Preserving the Endemic Dwarf Woolly Meadowfoam and Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Habitats on the Table Rocks (OR)**  
*Rogue Workforce Partnership*

Rogue Workforce Partnership will restore habitat areas in the Rogue River Basin with priority given to vernal pool and oak savanna restoration at the Table Rocks Management Area (an area of critical environmental concern). Project aims to support special status plants and endemic species by reducing the spread of invasive species in the vernal pool-mounded prairie and Oregon white oak savanna plant communities.

**San Gabriel River Watershed Rangers Program (CA)**  
*Watershed Conservation Authority*

Watershed Conservation Authority will deploy a crew of at-risk youth to conduct roaming outreach along high-use recreational corridors of the east, north, and west Forks of the San Gabriel River. This project will target the cumulative habitat impacts of trash and recreational uses (rock dam building) that results in stream modification by speaking with the recreating public about the importance of sustainable recreation, best management practices, and applicable USFS regulations.

**Cooper-Santee Longleaf Conservation Project (SC)**  
*Low Country Land Trust*

The Lowcountry Open Land Trust will restore and enhance 325 acres of longleaf pine habitat and protect 1,000 acres of critical lands within the Santee and Cooper River Corridors. The project will result in a contiguous greenbelt of protected properties along the western edge of the Corridor, thereby buffering and enhancing the vast lands of the Francis Marion National Forest and protecting water quality within the Santee and Cooper River watersheds.

**Jay Watch: Growing Audubon Citizen Science in Southwest Florida's Unique Scrub Habitat**  
*Audubon Florida*

Audubon Florida will train and deploy more than 280 citizen scientists in 17 counties to collect breeding success data for Florida’s only endemic bird species, the Florida Scrub-Jay, which has declined by more than 90% in the past 100 years. This project will extend community engagement with the charismatic Florida Scrub-Jay as a symbol of habitat management needs in the rural areas of the densely populated target counties.