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DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

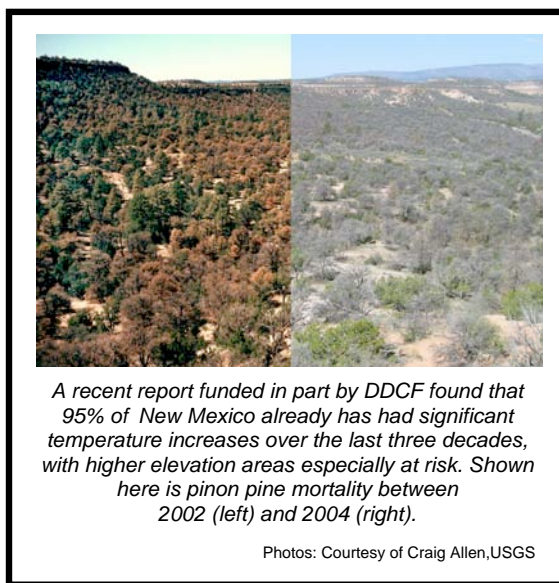
Environment Program

\$3.6 Million Awarded to Help States Safeguard Nature in an Era of Climate Change

Grants will enable four organizations to assist states in updating and implementing their wildlife action plans

New York – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) today announced grants totaling nearly \$3.6 million over four years to help states account for climate change in their wildlife action plans. The grants were awarded to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

“The challenge that climate change poses to the natural places that people, plants and animals need to survive is something that must be brought into our planning processes,” said Dr. Mark Shaffer, director of DDCF’s Environment Program. “The good news is that in every state, officials already have worked with scientists, conservationists, sportsmen and other concerned citizens to develop what are known as wildlife action plans, so we can focus our efforts on updating these plans to account for climate change, and implementing these plans on an accelerated timeline, rather than starting from scratch.”



A recent report funded in part by DDCF found that 95% of New Mexico already has had significant temperature increases over the last three decades, with higher elevation areas especially at risk. Shown here is pinon pine mortality between 2002 (left) and 2004 (right).

Photos: Courtesy of Craig Allen, USGS

“Wildlife action plans have proven to be an effective way for government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and interested individuals to find and focus on a state’s highest conservation priorities, ensuring that we get the most out of every conservation dollar spent,” said Matt Hogan, Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. In addition to representing state fish and wildlife agencies, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies leads Teaming With Wildlife, the national conservation coalition of 6,000 organizations that support the full implementation of the state wildlife action plans to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.

State wildlife action plans were first conceived in 2000, when Congress mandated that each state develop a comprehensive strategy for conserving its wildlife. The states submitted their plans to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the fall of 2005, and they were all approved by February of 2007. Additional information about the wildlife action plans can be found at www.wildlifeactionplans.org.

“Global warming threatens our wildlife, from frogs to salmon, wolverines, butterflies and sea turtles,” said Rodger Schlickeisen, President of Defenders of Wildlife. “All wildlife will need to cope with the complex threats caused by global warming, and these grants will allow us to develop the strategies we need to help wildlife survive.”

“We can no longer assume that the climate of today will be the climate of tomorrow,” said John Kostyack, Executive Director of Wildlife Conservation and Global Warming at National Wildlife Federation. “By updating

our conservation plans now to account for climate change, we can ensure that our conservation investments will pay off not only for our generation, but for many generations to come.”

“America's sportsmen enjoy amazing opportunities for fishing and hunting because of the conservation actions of the last century,” said TRCP President and CEO George Cooper. “Sportsmen are increasingly concerned about the impact of climate change on those resources, and increasingly willing to take steps now to safeguard our wildlife and our outdoor way of life.”

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

www.fishwildlife.org

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will receive a grant of \$800,000 over four years in support of a set of activities aimed both at updating the action plans to account for climate change and advancing the implementation of the action plans on the ground. Specific activities will include developing guidance to help states incorporate climate change into their action plans, facilitating nationally coordinated conservation of at-risk amphibians and reptiles, and developing national effectiveness measures related to the implementation of the plans. For additional information, please contact Mark Humpert, Teaming With Wildlife Director, at 202-624-3637 or mhumpert@fishwildlife.org

Defenders of Wildlife

www.defenders.org

A grant of \$1,200,001 over four years will enable Defenders to assist states in developing strategies to address the impacts of climate change, with a special focus on the issue of corridors and connectivity. To help advance the implementation of the plans, Defenders also will develop a synthesis guide to mapping priority areas in the context of wildlife plans, and conduct workshops examining the ways in which the state wildlife action plans can assist in transportation planning. For additional information, please contact Noah Matson of Defenders at 202-772-0294 or nmatson@defenders.org

National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

www.nwf.org

With a grant of \$1,200,281 over four years, NWF will help states revise their action plans to account for climate change. Specifically, NWF will assist agencies in selected pilot states with identifying and assessing the species and habitats most vulnerable to climate change, and identifying and promoting best practices in planning for climate change. NWF also will work in partnership with Teaming with Wildlife coalitions. Pilot states include New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia and Washington. For additional information please contact Aislinn Maestas of NWF at 202-797-6624 or maestas@nwf.org

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP)

www.trcp.org

TRCP will receive a grant of \$399,690 over four years to create a multimedia public communications campaign to inform sportsmen of the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife, and inspire additional support for integrating and implementing climate change strategies as part of the state wildlife action plans. For additional information please contact Brian McClintock of TRCP at 202-654-4613 or brianm@trcp.org

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