

**Project Descriptions Arranged by State**  
**FY2009 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund**

**Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:**

**Georgia**

***Acquisition of the Dawson Forest / Forestar Tract (Dawson County, GA): \$1,000,000.***

This grant will enable the acquisition of 488 acres within the Amicalola River Basin. The acquisition of the Dawson Forest/Forestar tract by the state of Georgia is critical to maintain contiguous buffers along Amicalola Creek and its tributaries. Protection of lands with mature forest stands in upland areas, like the Dawson Forest/Forestar Tract, help maintain a natural hydrologic regime in streams. Populations of Etowah darter, an endangered species, occur on this tract. This tract is an in-holding within the State owned Dawson Forest WMA, and acquiring it will connect portions of the WMA that are separated by this tract. Permanent protection of this tract will maintain a forested landscape and will protect Amicalola Creek from development that would result in increased nutrients, sediment, and alteration in hydrology. State ownership also will allow the property to be managed long-term as a Wildlife Management Area.

**New Jersey**

***Bog Turtle Recovery (Sussex County, NJ) \$500,000.***

The State of New Jersey proposes to acquire a 324 acre property to protect habitat for the federally-threatened, state-endangered Bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), state-threatened Wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) and rare plant species Fraser's St. John's-wort (*Triadenum fraseri*). The property is one of the premier individual sites in northern New Jersey characterized as a calcareous fen wetland and is known to support a strong population of Bog turtles of multiple age classes.

**Vermont**

***Establishment of a new wildlife management area protecting the Athens Dome Wetland Complex – Northeastern bulrush (Windham County, VT) \$300,000.***

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and The Nature Conservancy will protect 525 acres as a new Wildlife Management where numerous beaver-influenced wetlands provide ideal habitat for the federally-endangered Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*). This wetland complex includes two documented occurrences of Northeastern bulrush. This project is a unique opportunity to protect the Northeastern bulrush in a relatively undisturbed setting as there are no roads or other infrastructure that would be potentially impacted by natural beaver population dynamics.

***Establishment of Raven Ridge Preserve – Indiana Bat (Addison & Chittenden County, VT) \$500,000.***

The Raven Ridge Conservation Project is a collaborative effort to protect over 420 acres of vital wildlife habitat, statewide-significant natural communities including Dry Oak-Hickory-Hophornbeam Forest, vernal pools and other wetlands, stream frontage, unusual geologic features, public recreational trails and scenic viewpoints, and maternal roosting and foraging habitat of the Indiana bat. Conservation of this land will contribute to the recovery of the federally-endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) by protecting some of the most northerly maternity colony habitat located in Vermont and in the entire Indiana bat's range in the United States.