

**Funding Criteria:**

The bequest of the Collins Unitrust to the Conservancy presents a unique opportunity to enhance appreciation and understanding for excellence in land conservation. Projects are funded based on the following criteria:

- **Science-based stewardship on Conservancy-owned lands/lands of partner organizations.** The Conservancy leads by example by demonstrating the importance of a long-term commitment to stewardship. Projects address a critical conservation need that the Conservancy, other NGO's, and public agencies are failing to address and for which alternative funding sources are unlikely.
- **Engagement of partners.** Collins funds are dedicated to projects that provide a model of innovative approaches to land/water management that meet critical needs of public and private partners. Land/water managers and research staff from partner organizations are involved, at the optimal level, in project design and implementation.
- **Exportable.** Each Collins-funded project has a clearly articulated “export” strategy. The strategy may focus on the adoption of practices by adjacent land/water managers, the promotion in scientific journals and through papers presented at conferences, and/or advancing a policy objective.
- **Meaningful scale.** Collins funds are targeted towards projects that are working at scales that are ecologically meaningful for multiple conservation targets and that have the potential to have wide-ranging impacts on best management practices on the ground.
- **Long-term in nature.** Stewardship is by nature a long-term endeavor, requiring persistence and continuity in information, resources, and methods. Collins-funded projects recognize these constraints and articulate long-term stewardship commitments and responsibilities. Collins funds are viewed as “start-up” funds with award amounts tapering off over the project duration, supplanted by other public and private support.
- **Excellence.** We anticipate that each Collins-funded project will become a touchstone for best practices that become widely known in conservation circles. Collins-funded projects are recognized for their scientific excellence, creativity, applicability and impact.