

# Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful

*A ten-year, locally led campaign to conserve and restore the lands and waters upon which we all depend, and that bind us together as Americans.*

December 14, 2022



1

## 8 Core Principles

- **Collaborative** and inclusive
- Conserve for the **benefit of all people**
- Support **locally led** efforts
- **Honor private property rights** and voluntary stewardship efforts
- Honor **Tribal sovereignty**
- Pursue approaches that **create jobs**
- Use **science** as a guide
- **Build on existing tools** and strategies

2

2

## 6 Areas of Focus

- Create more **parks and safe outdoor opportunities** in nature-deprived communities
- Support **Tribally led conservation** and restoration priorities
- Expand collaborative conservation of **fish and wildlife habitat** and corridors
- Increase access for **outdoor recreation**
- Incentivize and reward the **voluntary conservation efforts** of fishermen, ranchers, farmers, and forest owners
- Create jobs by investing in **restoration and resilience**



3

3

## Additional AtB Components



4

4

## America the Beautiful Challenge

### The \$1 billion America the Beautiful Challenge:

- leveraged **Federal conservation and restoration investments** with private and philanthropic contributions;
- was anchored by **an initial commitment of \$440 million of Federal resources** over the next five years to a new public-private grant program, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation;
- is funding **55 new grants to support landscape-scale conservation projects** in 42 states, three U.S. territories, and for 14 Tribal nations; and
- **received an unprecedented response**—527 proposals requesting a total of \$1.1 billion—illustrating how much impactful conservation work is ready and waiting for investments like these



5

5

## Example: America the Beautiful Challenge Project

### Enhancing Fire-Dependent Plant Communities in the East Gulf Coastal Plain Habitats (AL, LA, MS)

- Grantee: Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
- Grant Amount: \$ 4,330,100
- Matching Funds: \$1,185,400
- **Total Project Amount: \$5,515,500**
- Project description: **Improve resilience of 90,000 acres of fire-dependent habitats** including piney woods, blackland prairie and loess bluffs ecosystems through restoration, habitat management, invasive plant species control, revegetation, cost-sharing, outreach and training. **Project will restore ecosystem services and increase capacity in the East Gulf Coastal Plains while strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, private industry and the public.**

*Other project descriptions available online with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.*

6

6

## Recent Examples of AtB

- Expand collaborative conservation of **fish and wildlife habitat** and corridors
  - April 2022: The Bayou Sauvage Refuge in Louisiana acquired the Little Pine Island tract, a 2,500-acre addition of tidal marshes and hardwood forests.
- Increase access for **outdoor recreation**
  - June 2022: BLM announced increased outdoor recreational opportunities by acquiring 5.1 acres to open access to more than 40 acres of public land and 300 river miles along the Fowl River in Alabama.
- Create more parks and safe outdoor opportunities
  - November 2021: Federal family celebrated the 10th anniversary of the **Urban Waters Federal Partnership**, which includes Lake Pontchartrain, an estuary that connects to the Gulf of Mexico, along with 19 other partner locations.

7

7

## American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas Overview

- The Atlas will be a tool to help provide a **more accessible and comprehensive picture** of conservation and restoration work in America.
- Intended to **reflect conservation as a continuum** and the goals and guiding principles of the initiative.
- Will be informed by:
  - Written comments via *Federal Register* and public listening sessions
  - Conversations with States, Tribes, scientists, and other stakeholders
  - Interagency collaboration (working group co-led by USGS, USDA, NOAA, CEQ)
  - Best available science.

8

8