



Acres for America



Acres for America was created in 2005 as a novel way for the corporate world and the conservation community to work cooperatively to conserve vital wildlife habitat for future generations. Founding partner Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. launched the program by committing \$35 million over 10 years to permanently conserve at least one acre of priority wildlife habitat for every acre developed for the company's facilities. This commitment to protect at least 138,000 acres is one of the largest public-private partnerships for wildlife habitat protection and the first time a retail company has tied its footprint to land conservation.



The *Acres for America* program provides critical funds to complete timely conservation acquisitions before they are lost in the marketplace. The Foundation identifies key habitats throughout the country, working in partnership with the nation's local, state and national conservation organizations and public land management agencies. To date, six signature grants have been made. These include:

- Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana (6,098 acres);
- Sherfield Cave and the Headwaters of the Buffalo National River Headwaters, Arkansas (1,226 acres);
- North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Arizona (1,200 acres tied to 850,000 acres of public land grazing allotments);
- Back to Home Waters/ Squaw Creek, Oregon (1,120 acres);
- Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, Maine (312,000-acre easement);
- McCloud Forestlands Project, California (9,200-acre easement).



The six projects represent a commitment of \$9.8 million from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., which leveraged additional funding from project partners to invest a total of nearly \$28 million for land conservation. With additional projects planned for 2006, the *Acres for America* program will permanently conserve more than 360,000 acres, helping connect conservation landscapes totaling nearly 4 million acres and producing a conservation investment nearing \$50 million.

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McCloud Forestlands Project

Project: *McCloud Forestlands Project*
Location: *Shasta and Siskiyou Counties, California*
Grantee: *The Pacific Forest Trust*



With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Wal-Mart, The Pacific Forest Trust is purchasing a conservation easement on 9,200 acres of significant working forestlands and rich wildlife habitat within view of the majestic Mt. Shasta. Situated within the Klamath Cascade eco-region, one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world, this project will benefit over 250 species of birds, fish and mammals. In addition, the protection of this property through the purchase of a conservation easement will help sustain the economic and recreational benefits that these private commercial forestlands provide for the local communities and for outdoor enthusiasts in California and across the country.



The 9,200-acre McCloud River - Bear Creek forestlands lie within a larger 33,000 acre property owned by Bascom Pacific. Comprised of a virtual checkerboard of tracts these lands function as stepping stones that provide habitat for black bear, elk, bobcat, and mountain lion. Special status species found there include bald eagle, pileated woodpecker, silver-haired bat, northern flying squirrel, northern goshawk, and the imperiled redband trout. The easement will protect lands that provide linkages with more than 2.1 million acres of national forestlands in the Klamath, including the Shasta Trinity National Forest. Located in the headwaters of the Sacramento River, these ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests, wet meadows and aspen groves will continue to protect the water quality and flows of the river system that produces most of the salmon caught in California.



Under the terms of the easement, the forest will remain a working forest subject to the high standards of stewardship required of commercial timber harvests by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council. In fact this will be the largest conservation easement in the state on lands owned and stewarded by a major commercial forest owner and is considered a conservation model for other private forest owners in the region.