

# The 1989 Nature Conservancy “OPERATIONS MAP”



## 1. Hakalau, Hawaii

On the “Big Island,” the largest surviving stands of native, high-elevation koa-ohia and ohia forests are home for six endangered Hawaiian forest birds and for the island’s only endemic land mammal—the Hawaiian hoary bat. Since our Fall 1988 report, the Conservancy has bought an additional 400 acres of this native forest, bringing 15,435 acres under protection.

## 2. Big Reed Pond, Maine

Only 6,000 of Maine’s more than 17 million acres of forest have completely escaped the logger’s saw. Two thirds of that acreage is at Big Reed Pond. By securing 3,800 acres here, the Conservancy is protecting a forest ecosystem that has developed undisturbed for thousands of years—very different from the managed woodlands around it. Big Reed Pond is home to moose, bear, loons, and many other creatures of Maine’s north woods.

## 3. Hassayampa River, Arizona

Of all of Arizona’s desert rivers, only four retain long stretches of undeveloped cottonwood-willow riparian woodland. The Conservancy has safeguarded a five-mile reach of the Hassayampa River’s riparian corridor, critical habitat for myriad species such as the black-tailed hawk and yellow-billed cuckoo. A recent six-acre addition brings the preserve to 339 acres, and includes Palm Lake, which will soon serve as a nursery for several species of reintroduced endangered native fish.

## 4. Florida Keys

The Florida Keys embrace West Indian hardwood hammocks and mangrove forests, freshwater wetlands and salt marshes, and one of the world’s largest coral reefs. Harboring a rich diversity of plant and animal life in the only tropical ecosystem in the continental United States, the Keys shelter not only the 300 or so remaining Key deer, but the hawksbill sea turtle and the American crocodile. The Nature Conservancy has opened a staffed office in the Keys, purchased a 45-acre addition to the National Key Deer Refuge on Big Pine Key, purchased 47 acres of mangrove wetlands and a tropical rockland hammock community on Lower Matecumbe Key. By working to raise \$5 million and joining forces with the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, the Conservancy is expanding protected areas and managing them both for visitors and biological diversity in one of America’s most severely threatened areas.

## 5. Nipomo Dunes, California

Stretching for 19 miles between Point Sal and Pismo Beach, Nipomo Dunes is considered the largest relatively undisturbed tract of coastal dune in California. It is one of the few beach dune communities that has escaped the onslaught of introduced grasses. The Conservancy has already protected 567 acres at Nipomo Dunes. But the Conservancy must increase its pace to create the proposed 5,700-acre preserve that will protect the rare coastal ecosystem, refuge for at least 18 rare or endangered plant species and a nesting colony of federally listed California least terns.

## 6. Connecticut River

The Connecticut River Protection Program is The Nature Conservancy’s master plan for protecting the ecological thread that ties New England together. Through the program, the Conservancy seeks to save some 7,000 acres at 102 key sites distributed along the Connecticut River’s 400-mile course from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound. The lands targeted for rescue include some of the last remaining natural areas of their kind in New England. They host hundreds of plant and animal species, some 30 of which are endangered. To date, 32 sites have been protected by gift or purchase already, as the Conservancy moves to complete this vital five-year, \$10.3-million plan.

## 7. Platte River

Every spring, Nebraska’s Platte River attracts more than 230 species of migratory birds including several million ducks and geese, whooping cranes, least terns, and bald eagles, and 80 percent of the world’s migrating sandhill cranes. The Conservancy, the Platte River Whooping Crane Habitat Maintenance Trust and others are creating preserves that will cover about 25,000 acres along 80 miles of the river—places where the birds can rest and feed while en route to northern summer breeding grounds. Some 10,000 acres have been protected. The remaining 15,000 acres of open river, unvegetated sandbars, and wet meadows are also essential to Central Flyway habitat.