



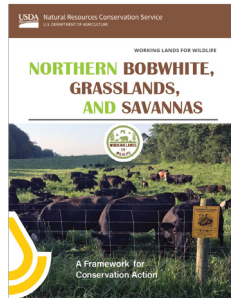
The ANCHOR Approach

Areawide Networks to Connect Habitat and Optimize Resiliency

What is ANCHOR?

ANCHOR is a new conservation approach that builds **Areawide Networks** to **Connect Habitat** and **Optimize Resiliency**. The approach guides investments in strategic “anchor” locations to connect wildlife populations, enhance landscape resiliency, and strengthen rural economies. Unlike earlier approaches, **ANCHOR** integrates practices of conservation management by: (1) generating a *library of species-specific habitat connectivity models* at range wide scales, (2) ranking *site selections* to focus local action on the highest priority places, and (3) magnifying each local investment by placing it in the context of *continental, national, and regional conservation outcomes*. **ANCHOR** addresses the natural resource management challenges for the 21st century.

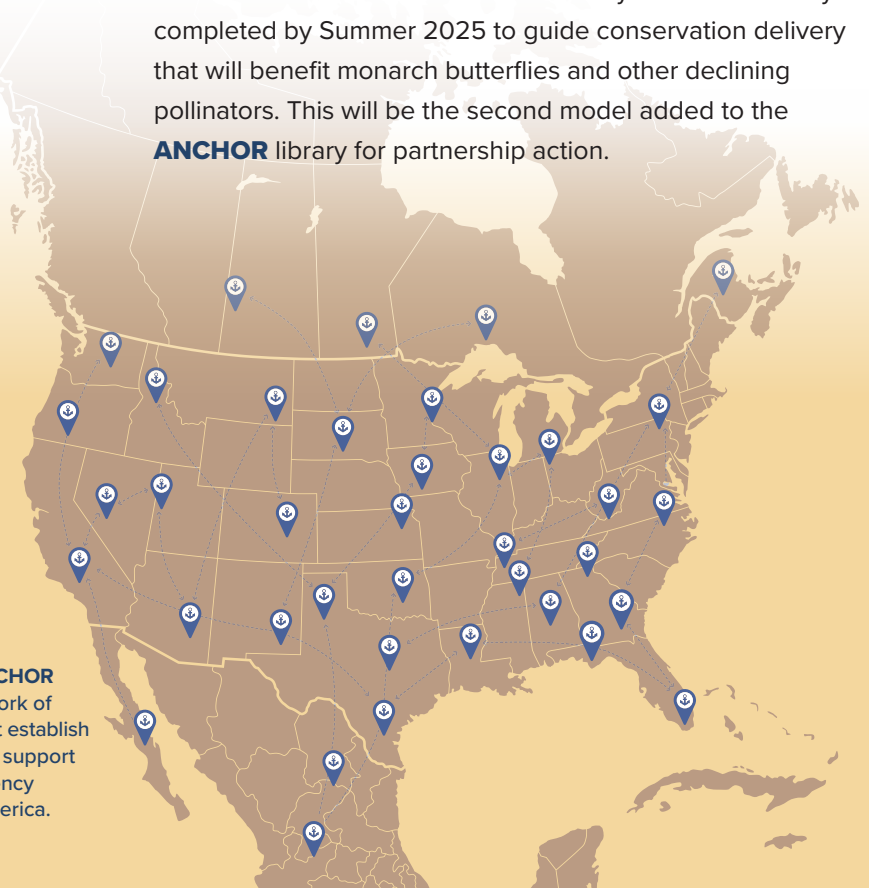
USDA’s Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) **Northern Bobwhite, Grassland, and Savannas Framework**¹ initially developed **ANCHOR** as a pilot project across 25 states. Collaborating with researchers from **Conservation Science Partners** and the University of Georgia’s **GAME Lab**, the team generated connectivity models for Eastern grasslands and savannas across the range of Northern Bobwhite. It soon became apparent that the **ANCHOR** approach could be replicated across North America to advance landscape conservation in a novel way.



ESTABLISHING NETWORKS. The **ANCHOR** approach identifies and protects important travel and migration corridors necessary for wildlife to adapt to changing land uses and climate impacts. New efforts are already underway to use the **ANCHOR** approach to benefit additional species and landscapes. The Trinational Monarch Conservation Partnership has joined forces with **ANCHOR** and will have their connectivity model tentatively completed by Summer 2025 to guide conservation delivery that will benefit monarch butterflies and other declining pollinators. This will be the second model added to the **ANCHOR** library for partnership action.



SITE SELECTION. Connectivity ranking scores are calculated to determine the relative importance of specific public or large private lands to serve as anchors and build resiliency across working landscapes. Partnerships are formed to secure anchor sites across a landscape network and maintain habitat at those sites. Through voluntary conservation actions, private landowners and corporate partners can play an important role in **ANCHOR** partnerships with support from **USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs** and other opportunities.



Map depicts **ANCHOR** vision for a network of land anchors that establish connectivity and support landscape resiliency across North America.

1. Grasslands and Savannas (landscapepartnership.org)



LOOKING FORWARD. With the successful demonstration of the **ANCHOR** approach through the pilots, next steps begin with establishing formal partnerships among federal and state agencies to identify, manage, and connect high quality anchor sites to build a land conservation network. Partnerships support both the conservation delivery and science aspirations of **ANCHOR**.

Our vision is that **ANCHOR** will evolve to use a systems approach that incorporates economic indicators, climate science, and social sciences. Through these ongoing collaborations, **ANCHOR** will reconnect our broken landscapes to stabilize biodiversity losses and reduce environmental risks that impact working landscapes and under-served communities.



For more information on the ANCHOR approach or to become a partner contact:
 Bridgett Estel Costanzo,
 USDA WLFW Regional Coordinator
Bridgett.Costanzo@usda.gov;
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Learn more about the ANCHOR Approach at <https://landscapepartnership.org/anchor>

ANCHOR PARTNERS
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