

The Nature Conservancy and Practical Farmers of Iowa

On behalf of Great Pathfinder Wind, Apex Clean Energy awarded two conservation grants to restore critical oxbow wetland habitats in the Boone River, North Raccoon River, and Rock River watersheds. Funds were distributed to the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) in the amounts of \$170,000 and \$55,000, respectively.

About the Oxbow Restoration Projects

The Boone River, North Raccoon River, and Rock River are sub-watersheds of the Des Moines River in north-central Iowa, which is home to some of the most biologically diverse and healthy freshwater communities in the state. Oxbow wetlands are natural and critical components of Iowa's hydrology, and their historical functions for wildlife habitat, water quality, and flood control have largely been eliminated from the landscape. TNC and PFI will use the grant funds to restore 29 degraded oxbow wetlands over four years.

The restoration process will entail excavation of the U-shaped oxbows and reconnecting them with adjacent water bodies. This process allows the depressions to refill and mimic natural hydrological conditions, which will provide healthy wetland habitat for wildlife; prevent erosion; and benefit public recreation, flood storage, and water quality. The restoration project will also:

- ensure that the areas that rely on the North Raccoon River have access to safe drinking water, as oxbow wetlands clean water before it reaches the river main stems
- reduce flooding impacts for over 600,000 people in the downstream communities
- create habitat for the federally endangered Topeka shiner and other bird and fish species
- treat agricultural runoff and present an opportunity to return significant ecosystem functions back to the landscape

Apex's donation was matched 1:1 by TNC and 1:11 by PFI.

About the Apex Conservation Grant Program

As a company with a core value of sustainability, Apex Clean Energy endeavors to not only minimize our projects' impacts, but also promote an ecological balance. Through the Apex Conservation Grant Program, each renewable energy project commercialized by Apex will contribute a sum of money, proportional to the size of the project, to support local or regional wildlife conservation, reforestation and flora restoration, protection of sensitive habitats such as grassland or wetlands, and other environmental conservation initiatives in or near project communities.

