



ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

We must sustain the places that sustain us. Conservation solutions that make economic sense will stand the test of time providing opportunity to future generations. To do this, we:

- Protect oceans and rivers and the livelihoods they support;
- Are open to ideas from farmers, fishermen, businesses and conservationists, ensuring them an active role in solutions that are good for the environment and the economy;
- Work to end overfishing and protect coastal jobs;
- Improve the quality and availability of water in our nation's largest river basins; and
- Restore lost wetlands and the protection they provide to people and communities along the Gulf Coast.

Protecting the Sources of Life and Livelihoods

Sam and Helen Walton instilled in their children and grandchildren a love of the outdoors. The family spent many memorable days canoeing the Buffalo National River, hunting quail and taking summer road trips to Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. From these and many other experiences comes a belief that our well-being, as individuals and communities, depends on a healthy environment. The work in our Environment Program currently plans four initiatives:

Ocean: We invest in Indonesia and the Americas — the U.S., Mexico, Peru and Chile — to end overfishing, improve ocean health and preserve coastal livelihoods.

Mississippi River: We align policy and market incentives to encourage farmers to adopt practices that improve water quality, build soil health and reduce pollution across the basin, while continuing to meet the growing demand for food.

Colorado River: We work to develop a flexible water management system by increasing market incentives for agricultural and urban water efficiency in the

Upper Basin; shaping binational and multistate water agreements in the Lower Basin; and restoring riparian habitat and water flows.

Coastal Gulf of Mexico: Currently our focus is on slowing and reversing the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana by using the natural function of the Mississippi River to deposit land-building sediment across the delta. These sediment diversion projects bring the promise of meaningful environmental restoration — both in the short term by creating jobs and in the long term by protecting the region's environment and economy.

Media Contact

Mark Shields | Sr. Communications Officer, Environment | mshields@wffmail.com

Environment Program Director

Moira Mcdonald



Moira is director of the Environment Program at the Walton Family Foundation. For the last 11 years, she led the foundation's Mississippi River and coastal initiatives. Moira has more than 20 years' experience in wetlands and freshwater conservation and previously managed Mississippi River and Great Lakes programs at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Moira received her undergraduate degree in environmental science and Russian studies from Brown University and has a master's and a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Minnesota.

Recent News and Announcements

Walton Family Foundation Expands its Investment in Forest and Wetland Restoration in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley

The Walton Family Foundation has awarded The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) \$1.25 million to restore, enhance and protect the sensitive forest, wetland and aquatic habitats in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. NFWF and its partners have leveraged this funding to generate an additional \$30 million in matching federal funds. NFWF, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and International Paper awarded eight grants through the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund (LMAV Fund).



Walton Family Foundation Names Moira Mcdonald Director of Environment Program

The Walton Family Foundation named Moira Mcdonald, Ph.D., the director of the Environment Program, which focuses on protecting rivers, oceans, and the communities that rely on them. With nearly a dozen years leading the Walton Family Foundation's Mississippi River and Delta Program, Mcdonald helped leverage historic funding for Coastal Louisiana restoration and led work to make conservation a more integral part of federal agricultural policy.



Audubon and the Walton Family Foundation Invest in Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

The National Audubon Society announced a \$250,000 investment from the Walton Family Foundation to build on the success of the Audubon on Campus Chapter Program by expanding engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Walton Family Foundation Awards Grant to LightHawk Conservation Flying

The Walton Family Foundation's Colorado River initiative announced a \$100,000 grant to LightHawk, the largest environmental flying organization in the country that uses aviation to support conservation solutions. The grant will support LightHawk's work to provide an important big-picture perspective throughout the Colorado River Basin to educate decision-makers about the challenges facing the river and the importance of safeguarding the river and the communities, environments and economies that rely on it.

Rebuilding Gulf Coast Demands Commitment and Willingness to Change

The people of Louisiana's coast have lived through more than most over the last 15 years — from hurricanes Katrina and Rita (among others) to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the current pandemic that is gripping the nation. Through all of that adversity, the region has proven time and again just how resilient and strong its communities are. Despite past and future challenges, there are very real reasons to be both hopeful and to take decisive action in service of the region's long-term future.

Farmers and Ranchers Lead the Way on Conserving the Colorado River

Disruptions to our daily lives have a way of making us appreciate things that we might normally take for granted. In the midst of a global pandemic, access to clean water and healthy food seems more vital than ever. This extraordinary situation motivates us all to take a step back to examine what we can do to ensure the long-term security of our most precious natural resources.



Open Access to Research Fuels Innovation, Solutions

Great ideas can come from anywhere – but their power to spark innovation grows when they are shared as widely as possible. At the Walton Family Foundation, we are committed to ensuring that people have access to the latest research, regardless of academic qualification or ability to pay. One of the ways we demonstrate that commitment is by providing resources to cover open access publishing fees to ensure the findings in research funded by the foundation's Environment program are freely available to all.



Fish are the Future for Climate-Resilient Oceans

If you take care of fish, you're taking care of a world where people and nature can prosper together. They are an essential source of nutrition for more than a billion people around the world, the cornerstone of the ocean's food chain and the driver of hundreds of millions of jobs globally. Any way you slice it, fish are a key to human well-being and a thriving natural world. And, according to a report released by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, both fish and the oceans that sustain them are in trouble. But fish also represent another equally important thing: they are signs of possibility and hope.

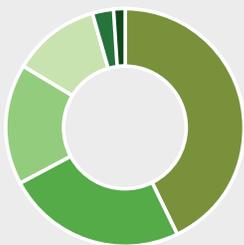
2019 Environment Program Grantmaking

At the Walton Family Foundation, we are working on finding solutions that sustain a healthy environment and healthy communities. We believe the key to systemic change comes through collaboration. In 2019, we witnessed what is possible when people, communities, businesses and governments work together.

The foundation's environment work grew out of the Walton family's strong connection to the outdoors. We focus on protecting oceans and rivers and the livelihoods they support, for the benefit of people and the environment.

We believe that we should use the natural resources of the planet responsibly, so the benefits of healthy ecosystems are available for current and future generations. The progress we're making toward a more sustainable future is exciting – and it's being made possible through collaboration among diverse coalitions.

A full list of 2019 grants is available [here](#).



2019 Environment Program Grants

Environment: \$90.5 million

- Oceans (\$39.4 million)
- Colorado River (\$21.8 million)
- Mississippi River (\$14.8 million)
- Coastal (\$10.7 million)
- Research & Communications (\$2.4 million)
- Innovation (\$1.4 million)



2019 Grants

\$525.8 million in grants awarded in 2019

- K-12 Education (\$207.4 million)
- Environment (\$90.5 million)
- Home Region (\$66.1 million)
- Special Projects (\$161.8 million)

The Walton Family Foundation is, at its core, a family-led foundation. Three generations of the descendants of our founders, Sam and Helen Walton, and their spouses, work together to lead the foundation and create access to opportunity for people and communities. We believe the best ideas can come from anywhere, so we stay open to new thinking from all over. And we partner with those who are closest to the problem because they're usually closest to the solution.

No one ever solved big problems by thinking small. Creating lasting change in society requires leaders driven by a spirit of innovation, a curiosity to explore what is possible and an urgent willingness to be bold where others are cautious. It's how we seed success – it's how opportunity takes root.