



Audubon

**Senior Director,
Conservation Funding and Partnerships
Remote Position**



DRi Waterstone
HUMAN CAPITAL

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The Impact of the National Audubon Society

Principled Protection for Birds and Their Habitats

Conservation: Audubon's extensive network of dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly to protect and restore crucial bird habitats across the Americas. From vital migratory stopovers to breeding grounds, Audubon's conservation initiatives span the entire lifecycle of birds.

Advocacy: The National Audubon Society leverages its expertise and influence to shape bird-friendly policies at the local, state, and national levels. Through strategic advocacy, Audubon promotes laws and regulations that safeguard bird populations and their habitats.

Education: Audubon believes that an informed and engaged public is essential for the future of birds. The organization provides educational programs, resources, and opportunities for people of all ages to learn about birds, their behaviors, and the importance of conservation.

Science: With a robust scientific foundation, Audubon conducts research, monitoring, and data analysis to better understand the challenges facing birds. This knowledge informs their conservation strategies and helps identify critical areas for action.

Community Engagement: Audubon's nationwide network of chapters and centers fosters a sense of community among bird enthusiasts and conservationists. These local groups play a vital role in hands-on conservation efforts and education initiatives.



Charting the Course – Conservation Milestones

The **National Audubon Society** uses five 2028 Conservation Milestones to assess progress towards the Guiding Star. They work to improve and expand habitats while tackling the impacts and causes of climate change. They leverage public and corporate policies and funding to achieve gains in habitat and climate, while building a base of supporters inspired to change the world for birds. As a result, the National Audubon Society is prepared **to inspire, influence, innovate**, and achieve unprecedented impact.

**300 Million Acres
(121M ha) of
connected, climate-
resilient bird habitat
conserved.**

| | 2028 MILESTONE | METRIC |
|---|---|--|
|  Habitat Conservation | A connected network of climate resilient lands and waters across the Americas | 300 million acres (121M ha) of quality, connected, and climate-resilient bird habitat conserved |
|  Climate Action | Swift and responsible deployment of renewable energy | 100 gigawatts of new renewable generation and transmission sited |
| | Natural climate solutions as a win-win for birds and climate | 30 billion tons of carbon kept stored in forests, wetlands, and grasslands, with additional carbon sequestered each year |
|  Policy | Government action and funding for birds and the planet | <i>The Healthy Birds, Healthy Planet Policy Agenda passed</i> |
|  Community Building | Bird lovers working together to advance our shared vision | Audubon membership doubled Influential coalitions activated |



The Opportunity

The **Senior Director, Conservation Funding and Partnerships** leads development and implementation of Audubon's strategy to build and deepen partnerships with new, existing, and emerging state, federal, and multi-national public agencies to influence and/or implement impactful, high-priority projects across the organization's priority geographies. The Senior Director will focus on ensuring that processes, practices, and coordination across finance, development, and conservation teams are in place to achieve the stated strategy.

The Senior Director works across departments and at times leads cross-organizational teams to identify, develop, and drive innovative public partnerships and funding investments in Audubon's conservation work across the Americas. Under the Senior Director's leadership, Audubon aspires to more than double public partnerships, cooperative agreements, and opportunities to implement transformational public funding through Audubon-delivered conservation projects over the next five years as part of Flight Plan, its new strategic plan.

The Senior Director will use their entrepreneurial and visionary leadership capabilities to develop strong partnerships with colleagues across the organization and focus teams on the most impactful opportunities for public funding investment. They will work to leverage established relationships with government agencies and foundations distributing public funding and will secure public funding partnerships for large-scale projects that involve multiple partners and community stakeholders.

The Senior Director reports to the Deputy Chief Conservation Officer and will also receive guidance from the Development team.

Essential Functions

- ❖ Develop and drive a comprehensive, multi-year public funding partnership strategy (with annual goals) in support of Flight Plan, the organization's strategic plan.
- ❖ Identify high-impact, priority public funding opportunities for Audubon at the state, federal, and international scales that directly support Audubon-implemented projects aligned with the organization's goals and mission and in partnership with the Development team.
- ❖ Lead collaborative, cross-divisional teams and processes to develop ambitious, innovative priority project concepts that facilitate project implementation funding.



The Opportunity (continued)

- ❖ Track new and emerging public funding opportunities and current trends at the state, national, and international levels. In coordination with the Conservation Leadership Team, develop funding source priorities for which Audubon is uniquely positioned to take advantage of while maintaining best practices for public funding partnerships.
- ❖ With the goal of doubling Audubon's public funding partnership opportunities within the next five years, partner with internal leaders to identify, build, and sustain the external partnerships necessary to grow Audubon's public funding. These partnerships will include relationships with key government agency funders, and collaborations with implementing partners – i.e., other NGOs, subcontractors, and most especially the communities – often frontline communities – in, near, and impacted by the places where Audubon works.
- ❖ Work in close collaboration across departments to prioritize the most impactful funding streams; focus teams on the highest conservation impact opportunities; and lead cross-divisional teams that drive ambitious, innovative, and competitive proposals.
- ❖ Support identifying internal capacity needs and advance streamlined processes to successfully develop strategy and proposals for large-scale projects across multiple funding streams and multiple internal teams.
- ❖ Partner with the Development, Finance, and Conservation teams to co-develop a funding strategy to secure matching resources to optimize and leverage funds, existing work, capacities, and expertise that can be utilized as match from public and private sources, including individual donors and foundations.
- ❖ Imbed Audubon's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) Conservation Principles into all facets of work and periodically assess how publically-funded conservation projects are doing on EDIB, in order to strengthen this facet of Audubon's work.
- ❖ Closely partner with the Vice President, Government Affairs and other Conservation Leaders on informing policy strategy and priorities that increase public partnerships and funding toward mission-aligned conservation efforts.
- ❖ Work in close partnership with Marketing and Communications to tell the Audubon story in bold and compelling ways and capitalize on the full range of Audubon assets to do so, involving senior management, program staff, and volunteers.
- ❖ Develop strong knowledge of Audubon's conservation priorities at local, regional, national, and international levels to aid in the development of projects and programs that align with Audubon's mission and authorized uses of target funding sources.,



The Candidate

Qualifications and Experience:

- ❖ Bachelor's degree required as well as at least 10+ years of successful experience in securing direct public funding such as working as a program officer within a public agency or private foundation distributing public funding. Three years of leadership experience required. An equivalent combination of education and work experience will be considered.
- ❖ Demonstrated success in identifying, applying for, obtaining and/or managing grants or other cooperative agreements from a variety of funding sources at the six-, seven- and ideally eight-figure level.
- ❖ Demonstrated ability to develop and secure funding for large, ambitious, and impactful funding proposals that stretch across programmatic or geographic boundaries.
- ❖ Deep understanding of regulatory requirements for publicly-funded projects and experience implementing compliant projects and programs. Experience with leveraging private investments as match is a plus.
- ❖ Entrepreneurial self-starter with strong organizational, team leadership, and time-management skills. Highly motivated, energetic, and enthusiastic.
- ❖ Strong writer with proven ability to develop high-level, compelling proposals; ability to quickly synthesize complex ideas and align them with public funding priorities.
- ❖ Persuasive communicator with excellent presentation and listening skills who can effectively marshal support for ideas.
- ❖ A proven commitment to further efforts to create a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment and incorporating equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging considerations into proposals and work.
- ❖ Team player with natural affinity for building close, effective working relationships with a diverse group of stakeholders.
- ❖ Must have strong business acumen and experience with developing and managing project budgets.
- ❖ Outstanding stewardship, relationship development, and management skills.
- ❖ Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications; knowledge of Salesforce is a plus.
- ❖ Interest in, understanding of, and commitment to conservation and the mission of National Audubon Society.



Submit your application at
<https://driwaterstonehc.com/position/sr-dir-conservation-funding-partnerships-national-audubon/>

All first-round interviews for this position will take place via video conference with DR/Waterstone.

DR/Waterstone is a women-founded and led executive search firm recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the leading executive recruiting firms in the U.S. With a focus on purpose and mission-driven organizations, we provide executive search and strategic consulting services to help regional, national, and international clients grow, thrive, and excel.

Location: Remote

Compensation:

\$150,000-\$160,000/year=National

\$160,000-\$170,000/year=Alaska, CA (not San Francisco), Connecticut, D.C., Chicago, Oyster Bay, NY

\$170,000-\$180,000/year=NYC (not Oyster Bay), San Francisco, Seattle

Equal-opportunity employer:

The National Audubon Society is a federal contractor and an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. We are committed to a policy of nondiscrimination, inclusion and equal opportunity and actively seek a diverse pool of candidates in this search.

Audubon is committed to a culture of workplace excellence, where our talented and diverse staff are deeply engaged with a strong sense of belonging. The birds Audubon pledges to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. By honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Audubon brings new creativity, effectiveness, and leadership to our work throughout the hemisphere.