



Southern Plains Grassland Program

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- Sysco
- Burger King
- Cargill
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Cow in Kansas | Credit: Darcy Daniels

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) awarded grants through the Southern Plains Grasslands Program with individual contributions provided by Burger King, Sysco, Cargill, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Six grants were awarded to improve grassland health, support biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration to improve climate resilience. Approximately \$2.19 million in grant awards will leverage about \$2.23 million in matching contributions from the grantees to generate a total conservation impact of \$4.42 million.

These six grants will contribute to the goals of the Southern Plains Grassland Program by:

- Improving grazing management on 103,600 acres of private, working ranches
- Restoring 26,400 acres of upland and grassland habitat
- Removing or improving 10 miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications
- Increasing regional capacity through funding of four Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions

(continued)

Combatting Mesquite Encroachment in Core Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat (NM)

Grantee: Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management

Grant Amount: \$141,200

Matching Funds: \$141,200

Total Project Amount: \$282,400

Utilize brush encroachment mitigation efforts to improve lesser prairie-chicken habitat and overall rangeland health through the treatment of 5,150 acres of honey mesquite in southeastern New Mexico. Project will prioritize landscape habitat connectivity initiatives by implementing brush control across multiple properties (including private and state land status) within the lesser prairie-chicken Core Management Area.

Enhancing Habitat Resiliency of the Southern Plains with Adaptive Grazing and Restoration (NM)

Grantee: Western Landowners Alliance

Grant Amount: \$491,500

Matching Funds: \$492,000

Total Project Amount: \$983,500

Implement adaptive, process-based restoration and management to improve landscape function, support wildlife and boost economic productivity in alignment with multi-jurisdictional resource management objectives important to the Southern Great Plains. Project will advance coordinated resource management for landscape resiliency and a suite of ecosystem services on working lands through relevant, community-based technical assistance capacity.



Lesser prairie chicken

Improving Grassland Habitat through the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (OK)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$179,900

Matching Funds: \$180,000

Total Project Amount: \$359,900

Provide technical assistance and outreach with landowners and partners in Oklahoma to develop management plans, design and implement best practices, and assist with Grassland Restoration Incentive Program enrollment. Project will increase the amount of suitable grassland habitat on 23,000 acres of private/tribal lands through prescribed grazing, prescribed fire, and brush management in order to improve biological diversity, ecosystem function, soil health and water conservation.

Restoring Grasslands and Wildlife Habitat through Adaptive Grazing Management (OK)

Grantee: Noble Research Institute

Grant Amount: \$471,200

Matching Funds: \$471,200

Total Project Amount: \$942,400

Improve grassland ecosystem health in Southern Oklahoma and inform adaptive grazing management practices on 13,500 acres of private working lands. Project will revitalize soil health and enhance wildlife habitat while allowing farmers and ranchers the ability to manage ranch operations more cost effectively.

Strengthening Grasslands Resilience in the Southern Plains (KS, OK)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$492,300

Matching Funds: \$492,300

Total Project Amount: \$984,600

Leverage conservation programs, organizational resources, and conservation anchor properties, outpacing threats within high priority landscapes, and piloting a stronghold-based framework to sustain and restore ecological goods and services provided by Southern Plains Grasslands. Project will build a scalable model for grassland development, long-term voluntary conservation of high-quality habitat in large blocks to sustain ecological function, biodiversity, and climate resilience over time.

Strengthening Habitat Resilience and Management in the Southern Plains (CO; KS; NE; NM; OK; TX)

Grantee: The Mule Deer Foundation

Grant Amount: \$418,200

Matching Funds: \$450,800

Total Project Amount: \$869,000

Build a Southern Great Plains Habitat Initiative to improve habitat conditions for mule deer and other wildlife, assist private landowners with practices which will improve grasslands and range conditions on their properties, create climate resilient landscapes, and increase carbon sequestration through the increased native vegetation within the Initiative area. Project will contribute to lesser prairie chicken recovery and conservation and grassland restoration.