



NFWF

Rio Grande Headwaters Program

NFWF CONTACTS

Kirstin Neff
Manager,
Southwest Rivers Program
Kirstin.Neff@nfwf.org
303-222-6485

Kate Morgan
Coordinator,
Water Investments
Katherine.Morgan@nfwf.org
202-595-2469

FUNDING PARTNERS



MOORE CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

About NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
202-857-0166



Rio Grande cutthroat trout | Credit: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Trinchera Blanca Foundation announced an inaugural round of funding for Rio Grande Headwaters projects under the Southwest Rivers Program. Five new water conservation habitat restoration grants totaling \$540,000 were awarded. The five awards announced generated \$675,927 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$1.22 million.

In June 2019, the Rio Grande Headwaters program was launched to fund projects that produce measureable outcomes for species of conservation concern in the riparian corridors of the headwaters region of the Rio Grande. Priority species include Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT), Rio Grande chub, Rio Grande sucker and North American beaver.

The program's long-term goals include restoring the hydrologic function of river corridors for species and their habitats, restoring riparian habitat to increase connectivity and native vegetation and identifying opportunities to re-establish species whose range and population have declined.

Rio Chama Aquatic Habitat Restoration (NM)

Grantee: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$100,000

Total Project Amount: \$200,000

Project Summary: Improve instream habitat and channel function for resident fish species including Rio Grande chub, brown trout and rainbow trout, and enhance riparian health for several associated wildlife species. Project will increase fish passage and riparian health and function through channel shaping and revegetation at the site of an important recreational fishery.

(continued)



Beaver

Rio Chama/San Antonio Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration (NM)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$96,059

Matching Funds: \$99,050

Total Project Amount: \$195,109

Project Summary: Advance conservation objectives outlined in the 2013 Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Conservation Strategy, a multi-partner document intended to ensure RGCT persistence throughout its range. This project will enhance partner coordination, advance site characterization, prioritize projects, and implement projects on several tributary streams of the Rio Grande in northern New Mexico.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Habitat Restoration (CO)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$152,416

Matching Funds: \$276,591

Total Project Amount: \$429,007

Project Summary: Recover and conserve the Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Colorado by implementing a suite of conservation strategies throughout the San Luis Valley. Project will bolster existing and construct new riparian fence, restore over 16 miles of stream habitat for RGCT, implement a fish screen and water lease at a key diversion point and prioritize future RGCT conservation efforts.

Rio Grande National Forest Beaver Characterization, Restoration, and Reintroduction (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Grant Amount: \$39,840

Matching Funds: \$46,391

Total Project Amount: \$86,231

Project Summary: Improve the condition of headwaters streams of the Rio Grande in Colorado by restoring five miles of stream channel and 200 acres of riparian wetland habitat in the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF). Project will characterize North American beaver populations, construct beaver dam analogs, and reintroduce 50 beavers to key locations in RGNF to benefit watershed health, riparian habitat, and native aquatic species like the Rio Grande chub, Rio Grande sucker, and Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

Brazos River and Tributaries Wetland and Stream Restoration (NM)

Grantee: Rio Puerco Alliance

Grant Amount: \$151,684

Matching Funds: \$153,895

Total Project Amount: \$305,579

Project Summary: Restore Encinado Creek to reconnect the floodplain and minimize bank erosion. Project will lower stream temperatures and reducing surface runoff, creating improved habitat for native species of conservation concern like Rio Grande cutthroat trout and North American beaver. Additionally, a new barrier will protect RGCT from incursion from invasive species.