



Rocky Mountain Rangelands

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PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest 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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Sage grouse in Colorado

OVERVIEW

The Intermountain West is a vast area, stretching from the Colorado Rockies to the Sierra Nevada, and includes much of the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. The Rocky Mountains Rangeland program was established in 2019 to support conservation efforts in the human-wildlands interface of the region that maintain robust wildlife populations in a working landscape.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announced an inaugural round of funding for Rocky Mountain Rangelands projects. Seven grants were awarded for more than \$1.5 million, which generated \$3.3 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$4.8 million.

The following seven projects address three key categories identified as a priority by the Rocky Mountain Rangelands Program: 1) mesic wet meadow habitat restoration; 2) management/local eradication of invasive annual grasses on sagebrush rangelands; and 3) technical assistance to conserve habitat through easements. This inaugural slate will:

- Remove or improve 10 miles of fencing.
- Protect 12,455 acres under conservation easement
- Improve management on 13,000 acres by treating annual invasive plants

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Mule deer

- Restore 800 acres on private working lands and 3,000 acres on public lands
- Install 600 Zeedyk and Beaver Dam Analog structure to restore hydrology in 288 acres of mesic habitat.
- Restore 5,010 of grassland by removing woody invasives

Improving Arctic Grayling Overwintering Habitat in Centennial Valley (MT)

Grantee: Montana Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount: \$480,400
 Matching Funds: \$1,560,403
 Total Project: \$2,040,803
 Improve overwintering habitat for adfluvial Arctic grayling in Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge through the construction of an underground pipeline which will transfer and oxygenate water. Project will restore Arctic grayling populations to historic levels.

Increasing Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination in Sagebrush Habitat (CO, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA, MT, WY)

Grantee: The Mule Deer Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$395,012
 Matching Funds: \$882,356
 Total Project Amount: \$977,368
 Increase cross-jurisdictional coordination with state agencies and other partners to implement projects on big game migration corridors and in sage-grouse core habitats. Project will improve habitat through treating invasive species, conservation easements, mesic and wet meadow habitat

restoration, removing or improving fencing and restoring 3,000 acres of shrubland habitat.

Evaluating Impact of Conservation Activities on Sagebrush Obligate Songbirds (CO, ID, UT, WY)

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
 Grant Amount: \$231,169
 Matching Funds: \$231,169
 Total Project Amount: \$462,338
 Evaluate the impacts of conifer removal and control of annual grasses conservation projects on sagebrush obligate songbirds in the Rocky Mountain Rangelands Region. Project will provide a long-term assessment of which projects benefit sagebrush obligate songbirds and help guide future conservation investments.

Restoring Mesic and Wet Meadow Habitat in Sagebrush Landscapes (MT)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$181,069
 Matching Funds: \$181,357
 Total Project Amount: \$362,426
 Restore or preserve mesic and wet meadow habitats within arid sagebrush rangelands in the High Divide of Southwest Montana. Project will improve mesic habitat either through the installation of beaver dam analogues and waterspreading-slowsing structures, or through the removal of conifers threatening the resilience of mesic habitats.

(continued)

Increasing the Pace and Scale of Conservation Easements in the Bear River Watershed (ID, UT, WY)

Grantee: Bear River Land Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$180,000
 Matching Funds: \$306,400
 Total Project Amount: \$420,000
 Hire a Conservation Coordinator to increase the pace and scale of conservation easements in the Bear River Basin of Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. Project will will accelerate the pace of land conservation through creative thinking, successful partnerships, and an ability to work with and communicate effectively with landowners and partners while pursuing opportunities to streamline and expedite conservation easements.

Managing Invasive Annual Grasses to Reduce Fire Size, Frequency and Intensity (ID)

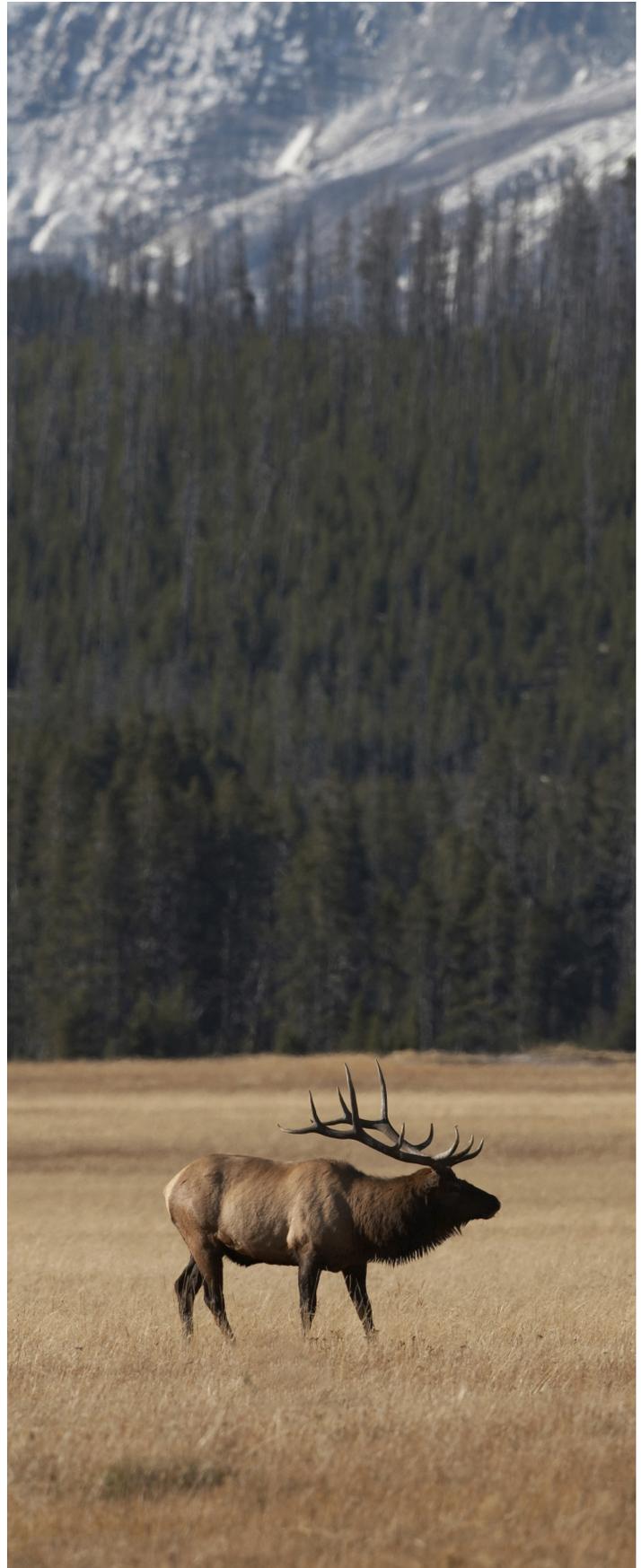
Grantee: Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$169,950
 Matching Funds: \$210,000
 Total Project Amount: \$339,950
 Work collaboratively across jurisdictions in southern Idaho to implement ecologically based rangeland improvement projects to reduce the threat of annual grass invasion. Project will combat the invasion through adaptive herbicides, aerial and ground seeding, and livestock management in an effort to reduce fire size, frequency, and intensity.

Increasing Capacity for Conservation Easements on Working Lands (UT)

Grantee: Summit Land Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$175,010
 Matching Funds: \$6,650,350
 Total Project Amount: \$1,915,610
 Increase capacity to place permanent conservation easements on working lands containing sensitive wetlands, key migratory corridors, and critical wildlife habitat in the upper Weber and Provo River watersheds in Summit, Wasatch, Weber, and Morgan counties. Project will place conservation easements on 4,854 acres of privately-owned working agricultural lands and open spaces.



Arctic grayling



Elk in Yellowstone National Park