



NFWF

Restore Colorado

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PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Gates Family Foundation
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Occidental Petroleum
- Corteva Agriscience

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Sandhill cranes in Monte Vista, Colorado

BACKGROUND

Stretching from the rolling shortgrass prairies of the Great Plains to the crest of the Rocky Mountains, and into the canyons of the desert Southwest, Colorado hosts some of the most impressive landscapes and wildlife habitat in the country. At the same time, a rapidly growing human population and increasing demands on public and private lands has strained wildlife and their habitats in the region.

Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources (RESTORE) Colorado began in 2020. The inaugural slate was awarded in March 2020, investing more than \$2.7 million in 11 projects, which leveraged \$3.4 million in matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of \$6.1 million. The second round of funding was awarded in March 2021, investing \$3.1 million in 10 projects, which leveraged \$8.7 million in matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of \$11.8 million.

These projects are completing cross-jurisdictional, large-scale habitat restoration, expansion and improvement projects across five priority landscapes:

1. River corridors, riparian areas and wetlands
2. Eastern Colorado grasslands
3. Sagebrush
4. Big game winter range and migration routes
5. Forestland

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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The partners developed this program as a means to accomplish wildlife habitat restoration, expansion and improvement at-scale and provide opportunities for the proactive management of Colorado's public and private conservation lands for the greatest benefit to wildlife and local communities. Based on the success of the inaugural grant slates in 2020 and 2021, the partners expect this program to continue and expand in the future.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Grants made through the RESTORE Colorado Program will focus on the restoration, enhancement and expansion of wildlife habitat throughout the state. Projects under the river corridors, riparian areas and wetland priority may contribute to NFWF's Southwest Rivers Business Plan, which aims to benefit priority fish, mussel, bird and mammal species and overall ecosystem health of the habitat along the Pecos River and associated Chihuahuan grasslands and riparian and aquatic habitats in the Rio Grande. Projects under the eastern Colorado grasslands, sagebrush and big game winter range priorities may contribute to the Rocky Mountain Rangelands Business Plan, which aims to restore and conserve wildlife species associated with sagebrush, irrigated meadows and aquatic systems while conserving the phenomenon of large mammal migration.



Program area and projects funded to date



Mule deer

PROGRAM OUTCOMES TO DATE:

River corridors, riparian areas and wetlands

- 21.3 miles of instream habitat restored.
- 58.1 miles of stream opened.
- 8 passage barriers rectified.
- 1,750 acres of floodplain restored.
- 210 acres of wetlands restored.
- 44 miles of riparian habitat treated for invasive species.

Eastern Colorado grasslands

- 500 acres of grassland restored on public lands.
- 6,100 acres of grassland restored on private lands.
- 96,980 acres of grassland under improved management on private lands.
- 86,590 acres of grassland under improved management on public lands.
- 637 acres treated to remove annual invasive plants.
- 2,580 acres of invasive trees removed.

Sagebrush

- 600 mesic wet meadow structures installed.
- 3,240 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on private lands.
- 1,525 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on public lands.

Big game winter range and migration routes

- 76 miles of fencing removed or improved to wildlife-friendly specifications.

Forestland

- 830 acres of forestland restored on private lands.
- 440 acres of forestland restored on public lands.