



# Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

- Apache Corporation
- Chevron
- ConocoPhillips
- Corteva Agriscience
- Occidental
- Shell Oil Company
- XTO Energy, an ExxonMobil subsidiary
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management

## 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 \$6.8 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

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Pronghorn in New Mexico

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Apache Corporation, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Corteva Agriscience, Occidental, Shell Oil Company (Shell), and XTO Energy, an ExxonMobil subsidiary, joined by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a fourth-year round of funding for Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative projects. Seven new watershed conservation grants totaling \$1.45 million were awarded. The awards leveraged \$3.04 million in match from the grantees, generating a total conservation impact of \$4.49 million.

The Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative was launched in 2017 to fund projects that will have the greatest positive return on investments for the unique wildlife species, habitats and local communities of the Pecos River Watershed, a riparian corridor in the Chihuahuan Desert home to many species found nowhere else in the world.

The Initiative's long-term goals include strengthening the health of existing habitats along the Pecos River and its tributaries, improving the management and function of native grasslands, addressing water quality and scarcity concerns for wildlife and agricultural uses, and identifying opportunities to re-establish species to areas of their range where they have been lost or to bolster small remnant populations.

*(continued)*

### Regional Surveying for Grassland Bird Communities in the Trans-Pecos (TX)

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Grant Amount: ..... \$236,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$236,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$472,000

Continue rigorous bird monitoring and install a new automated telemetry (Motus) site to further understand the non-breeding ecology of grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert, including Sprague's pipit and chestnut-collared longspur. Project will track the movements of tagged grassland birds to estimate within-season movement and seasonal survival for these species and inform on-the-ground range management.

### Pecos River Flow Restoration (TX)

Grantee: Texas Water Trade

Grant Amount: ..... \$229,331  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$266,500  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$495,831

Restore riverine, riparian and wetland systems that can provide habitat for Pecos gambusia, Texas hornshell and avian species, including Bell's vireo in the Pecos River watershed. Project will address complex water quality and scarcity concerns for the benefit of both wildlife and agricultural uses and develop a mitigation strategy for habitat loss and impairment resulting from a small set of orphan wells in Pecos County.

### Instream Flow Initiative for the Texas Hornshell Mussel (NM)

Grantee: Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM)

Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$250,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$500,000

Provide instream flow for the Texas hornshell mussel in southeast New Mexico's Black and Delaware Rivers through short or long-term water transactions in times of low flow (3 cubic feet per second or less). Project will develop a framework for a long-term plan and budget to maintain instream flows.

### Vegetative Restoration of Blue Springs (NM)

Grantee: Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount: ..... \$207,519  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$208,694  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$416,213

Remove salt cedar and Russian olive trees in and around the riparian area of Blue Springs, an important spring on the Black River in Eddy County, New Mexico, and eradicate mesquite in adjacent upland areas. Project will remove these invasive species in order to enhance soil, water, vegetation and wildlife habitat along the springs and wetlands.



Texas hornshell

### Northern Hudspeth County Grassland Restoration (TX)

Grantee: Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas

Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$250,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$500,000

Conduct herbicide application to restore at least 6,000 acres of brush-invaded dry mixed prairie in northern Hudspeth County, Texas. The project will strategically expand the existing grassland for the greatest net gain of contiguous, usable habitat for grassland obligate species like pronghorn.

### Project Name: Southeast New Mexico Plains Pronghorn Restoration (NM)

Grantee: Chaves Soil & Water Conservation District

Grant Amount: ..... \$105,041  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$1,648,119  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$1,753,160

Enhance grassland habitat and improve landscape connectivity for pronghorn across ranches and pastures in Chaves County, New Mexico. Project will restore nearly 5,000 acres of grassland habitat through mesquite brush control and install at least five miles of pronghorn-friendly fencing.

### Grassland Restoration on Working Lands in the Big Bend Soil and Water Conservation District: Phase II (TX)

Grantee: Big Bend Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount: ..... \$180,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$180,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$360,000

Restore native grassland habitat for use by pronghorn and migratory grassland birds in Brewster and Jeff Davis Counties in West Texas. Project will install pronghorn-friendly fence and conduct brush management to control expansion of nonnative species, including mesquite, tarbush, whitebrush, acacia and creosote.