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PARTNERS

- **Great Outdoors Colorado**
- **Gates Family Foundation**
- **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** Habitat Partnership Program
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **U.S. Forest Service**
- **Bureau of Land Management**
- **Occidental Petroleum**
- **Trinchera Blanca Foundation**
- **Center for Disaster** Philanthropy
- **Bezos Earth Fund**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Moose in 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. To date, the program has awarded 36 grants across three slates, investing more than \$9.3 million and leveraging \$21.4 million in matching contributions to generate a total, on-the-ground impact of \$30.7 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
- 5. Forestland
- Eastern Colorado grasslands 2.
- 3. Sagebrush

routes

4. Big game winter range and migration

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.

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 OUTCOMES TO DATE

River corridors, riparian areas and wetlands:

- 26.6 miles of instream habitat restored
- 74.1 miles of stream opened
- 10 passage barriers rectified
- 1,842 acres of floodplain restored
- 310.2 acres of wetlands restored
- 44 miles of riparian habitat treated for invasive species

Eastern Colorado grasslands:

- 3,160 acres of grassland restored on public lands
- 13,300 acres of grassland restored on private lands
- 117,030 acres of grassland under improved management on private lands
- 143,263 acres of grassland under improved management on public lands
- 7,022 acres treated to remove annual invasive plants
- 4,579 acres of invasive trees removed

Sagebrush:

- 640 mesic wet meadow structures installed
- 3,260 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on private lands
- 1,545 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on public lands

Big game winter range and migration routes:

• 116 miles of fencing removed or improved to wildlife-friendly specifications

Forestland:

- 1,170 acres of forestland restored on private lands
- 525 acres of forestland restored on public lands

RESTORE COLORADO PROJECTS





Pronghorn preparing to cross a fence in Colorado



Mule deer and sagebrush in Colorado