



Western Big Game Migration Fund

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PARTNERS

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bezos Earth Fund
- BNSF Railways
- ConocoPhillips
- Microsoft

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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Mule deer

BACKGROUND

The Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund is dedicated to conserving habitat and migration corridors to maintain healthy populations of migratory animals including pronghorn, elk and mule deer, and implementing strategies that have positive effects on a wide diversity of other species to increase habitat connectivity and climate resiliency. The program was launched in 2019 to help private landowners, community-based nonprofits, tribal entities and state agencies efficiently work together to conserve priority habitat corridors and big game herds.

The Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund is a result of Interior Secretarial Order 3362 and a partnership with the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, ConocoPhillips, Bezos Earth Fund, Altria, BNSF Railways and Microsoft.

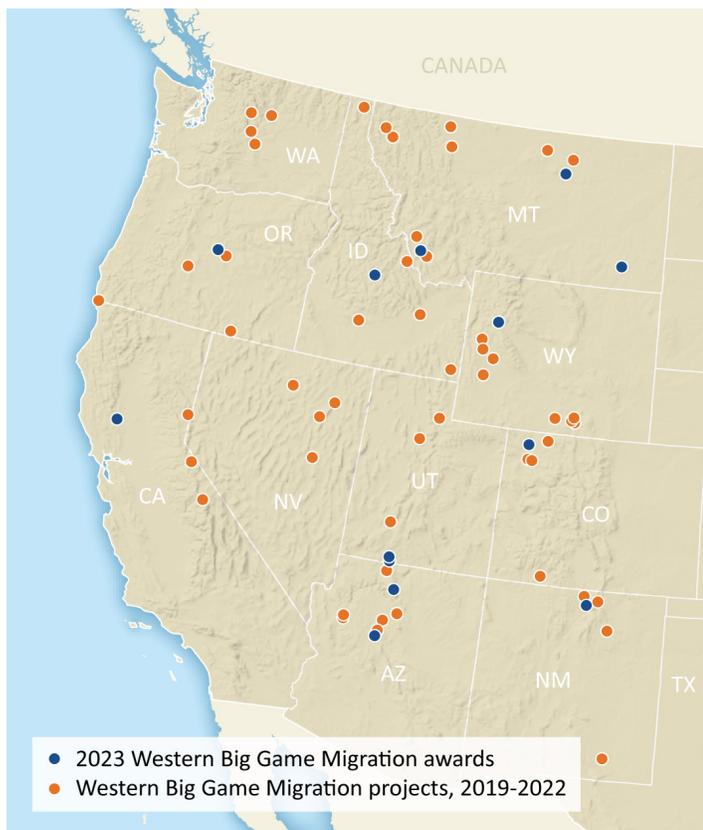
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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

There are significant threats to these incredible migrations throughout the West. Habitat fragmentation often limits the availability of high quality forage and cover and poor habitat condition limits the health and reproductive success of the herd. Modern improvements in wildlife science such as global positioning collars, and remote sensing technologies provide the ability to learn and adapt management efforts with precision. Utilization of technology and the priorities of state game and fish agencies narrows the geographic scope of projects while increasing the project efficiency and return on investment.

This program aims to conserve habitat and migration corridors through:

- Restoring degraded priority winter range, stopover areas and migration corridors as identified by Tribal entities and State Action Plans such as removing encroaching trees from sagebrush ecosystems, rehabilitating areas damaged by fire or treating exotic/invasive vegetation to improve the quality and value of these areas to big game and other wildlife.
- Working cooperatively with private landowners, Tribes and State highway departments to achieve permissive fencing measures including potentially modifying, removing, installing or seasonally adapting fencing if proven to impede movement of big game through priority migration corridors.
- Conservation easements and management agreements, or other actions to protect bottlenecks within corridors and other areas within priority winter range, stopover areas threatened by fragmentation.
- Utilizing other proven actions necessary to improve the habitat quality or restore priority big-game winter range, stopover areas or migration corridors across the West.



Pronghorn

There have been five rounds of grants announced under this program since 2019, which cumulatively awarded \$15.6 million across 66 projects, leveraging \$72.3 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$87.9 million. **The projects collectively will:**

- **Protect** 175,000 acres of private land from fragmentation through conservation easements
- **Restore** 129,000 acres of public, private and tribal land through efforts like invasive weed and conifer removal treatments
- **Improved management** on 902,000 acres of public, private and tribal land through efforts like grazing and wildlife management plans
- **Remove or improve** 886 miles of fencing to be more wildlife friendly, reducing direct mortality and increasing landscape connectivity
- **Restore** hydrology on 41,500 acres of public mesic habitat