



Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative, 2021-2022

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PARTNERS

- Apache Corporation
- Chevron
- ConocoPhillips
- Occidental
- Shell Oil Company
- XTO Energy, an ExxonMobil subsidiary
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- 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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Bitter Lake National Wildlife

PARTNERSHIP SUMMARY

In its fifth year, the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative (PWCi) continues to build upon existing relationships and conservation efforts and develop new partnerships to expand its reach and impact. In 2022, corporate partnerships remained strong with support from Apache Corporation, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Occidental, Shell Oil Company (Shell), and XTO Energy. These companies are joined by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The PWCi makes proactive and science-based conservation investments across the unique Chihuahuan Desert landscape to benefit native species and improve habitats for people and wildlife. The initiative identifies and invests in conservation opportunities that improve habitat, address water scarcity, improve water quality and engage local communities.

In its fifth year, the PWCi supported nine projects that are restoring riparian and grassland habitats, protecting native aquatic populations from invasive species, and defining the necessary actions to conserve several lesser-understood species. In this grant slate, NFWF has leveraged \$1.5 million from the initiative's corporate and federal program partners and \$3.8 million in grantee match for a total conservation impact of more than \$5.3 million.

(continued)



Pecos pupfish in New Mexico

ANTICIPATED CONSERVATION IMPACT

Projects:..... 9
 Acres of invasive riparian plants removed: 1,109
 Acres of grassland restored:.....11,477
 Miles of pronghorn-friendly fencing improvements: 49
 People reached through outreach or technical assistance: 200

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Corporate Partners:..... \$1,168,276
 Bureau of Land Management:..... \$200,000
 US Fish and Wildlife Service:..... \$150,000
 Grantee Matching Funds:..... \$3,781,239
TOTAL.....\$5,299,515

Grantee match to NFWF funding ratio:2.4:1
 Corporate funding leverage:.....3.5:1
 Federal funding leverage: 14:1

YEARS 1-5 BY THE NUMBERS

Applications Received:..... 74
 Organizations Submitting Applications: 38
 Awards Made: 44
 Total Funding Requested:..... \$14,056,486
 Total Funding Awarded:..... \$8,331,939

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The initiative launched its fifth RFP in September 2021. Twelve proposals were received, requesting more than \$1.8 million in total funding. In January 2022, the initiative’s partners recommended nine high-quality projects for the grant slate, which was then approved by the NFWF Board of Directors in March 2022. The grant slate included six projects in New Mexico, two in Texas and one spanning both states, with four focused on riparian habitat and five on grasslands.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

One of the nine projects awarded in 2022 will be implemented by the USFWS’ Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which will use these funds to restore critical riparian habitat and install pronghorn friendly fencing.

Vegetative Restoration of Blue Springs (NM)

Grantee: Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District
NFWF Award Amount:..... \$222,200
Matching Funds:..... \$222,200
Total Project: \$444,400

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will restore the Rio Hondo river channel leading up to its confluence with the Pecos River and will replace five miles of boundary fencing with pronghorn-friendly fence at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, NM. The project will improve the overall health of the river channel and improve conditions for species such as the endangered Pecos and NM state species of concern Pecos pupfish. The Rio Hondo channel is currently overrun with invasive plants such as phragmites, salt cedar, and ravenna grass as it approaches its confluence with the Pecos River. Islands of phragmites within the channel prevent proper outflow, causing flooding and preventing monitoring and survey efforts. American Conservation Experience crews will chemically treat phragmites and ravenna grass and mechanically remove salt cedars. Additionally, the Service will replace 5 miles of boundary fencing with pronghorn-friendly fence in partnership with Friends of Bitter Lake. The boundary fence will protect wetlands and sensitive spring areas that harbor additional aquatic species of conservation concern including Koster’s springsnail, Roswell springsnail, Noel’s amphipod, and the federally threatened Pecos sunflower.

