



Southern Plains Grassland Program

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- Sysco
- Burger King
- Cargill
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- 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. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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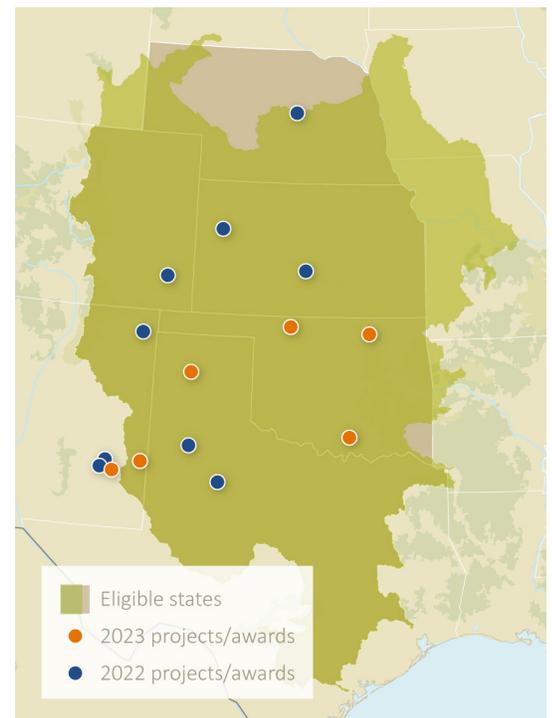
Swift foxes in Colorado

BACKGROUND

The Southern Great Plains host a unique set of wildlife species that are specifically adapted to this grassland ecosystem. Many species such as the Monarch butterfly and songbirds migrate to and from the region to complete their life cycles. Ponghorn, swift fox, prairie chicken, bobwhite quail and other year-round residents live alongside human residents who are engaged in the ranching of livestock, primarily beef cattle.

The Southern Plains Grassland Program seeks to work closely with nonprofit organizations, government partners and the ranching community to bring important financial and technical resources to address the health and resilience of the grasslands of the Southern Great Plains. These actions will increase the vitality of this often-overlooked ecosystem, providing benefits to wildlife and to rural, ranching-based communities. In addition, these actions increase the ability of grasslands to store carbon, providing key benefits to much larger efforts to address climate change.

The grants were awarded through the Southern Plains Grasslands Program with individual contributions provided by Burger King, Sysco, Cargill, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Program footprint with projects

(continued)



American goldfinch in Kansas | Credit: Darcy Daniels

Since 2022, the program has awarded 16 grants to improve grassland health, support biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration to improve climate resilience. In total more than \$5 million has been awarded which generated nearly \$5.9 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$11 million.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This program addresses the following priority strategies:

- Improve grassland health and resilience through improved grazing practices
- Control of invasive species that reduce available forage for livestock and habitat for wildlife
- Restore formerly converted lands back to grassland
- Protect existing high-quality grassland parcels
- Invest in community level grassland collaborative conservation efforts
- Explore innovations in conservation, including:
 - Grass banks and other community cooperative grazing arrangements
 - Innovations in fencing, water delivery and

restoration.

CONSERVATION IMPACT:

- The 16 grants supported through this program will contribute to the goals of the Southern Plains Grassland Program by:
- Improving grazing management on 450,000 acres of private, public and tribal working lands to improve habitat for wildlife, increase climate resilience and support ranchers bottom lines
- Restoring 50,000 acres of upland and grassland habitat on private, public and tribal working lands
- Removing 15,000 acres of invasive eastern red cedar trees to restore healthy grassland habitats
- Removing or improving 14 miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications
- Increasing regional capacity through funding of 10 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions