



# RESTORE Colorado

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## PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Occidental Petroleum Corporation
- Gates Family Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- Cargill
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest 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.

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

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Pronghorns

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2023 round of funding for RESTORE Colorado projects with support from the US Forest Service, Great Outdoors Colorado, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Cargill, Bureau of Land Management, Walton family Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Eleven new grants were awarded a total of \$3.1 million to advance conservation across the state of Colorado. The 11 awards announced generated \$2.3 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$5.4 million.

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 and Environment (RESTORE) Colorado funds at-scale habitat restoration, expansion and improvement projects across priority landscapes including:

- River corridors, riparian areas, and wetlands
- Eastern Colorado grasslands
- Sagebrush
- Big game winter range and migration routes
- Forestland projects in specific geographies

*(continued)*



Bighorn sheep

**Enhancing Hydrology of the Yampa River to Benefit Endangered and Threatened Fish (CO)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:..... \$250,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0.00  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$250,800  
 Reconstruct the historic Maybell Ditch and modernize the headgate of Colorado’s lower Yampa River to benefit fish passage, restore hydrology, and improve habitat connectivity while maintaining water-users’ irrigation needs. Project will rectify 1 fish passage barrier and open 55 miles of stream.

**Promoting Community-Level Conservation to Incentivize Private Land Stewardship (CO)**

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  
 Grant Amount:..... \$102,400  
 Matching Funds:..... \$44,300  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$146,700  
 Host a series of collaborative workshops to co-create goals, objectives, and rulesets for programmatic enrollment and financial compensation for landowners in Colorado. Project will encourage landowner participation in stewardship and conservation activities which will have an immense downstream on-the-ground impact.

**Reducing Disease Transmission to Bighorn Sheep and Improving Big Game Seasonal Range (CO)**

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation  
 Grant Amount:..... \$247,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$101,900  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$349,700  
 Collaborate with federal and private partners to remove the threat of disease transmission from domestic sheep to priority bighorn herds and improve riparian habitat along Colorado’s Gunnison River. Project will convert a sheep grazing allotment to a cattle grazing allotment for the improved management of 11,000 acres, restore 3.75 instream miles, install 4 water catchments, monitor 4 sites, and include 15 volunteers.

**Removing Barriers to Big Game Movement on Colorado’s Western Slope (CO)**

Grantee: Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
 Grant Amount:..... \$103,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$178,000  
 Increase migration corridor permeability on the Western Slope of Colorado to benefit elk, mule deer, and pronghorn. Project will remove 20 miles of wildlife-unfriendly fencing.

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### Restoring Floodplains and Mitigating Wildfire Risk Across Pinyon Mesa (CO)

Grantee: Mesa County Land Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$387,900  
 Matching Funds:.....\$139,600  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$527,500

Collaborate with landowners and local organizations to restore floodplains and riparian areas, rehabilitate drought-affected agricultural areas, enhance forest health, and mitigate wildfire risk across western Colorado's Pinyon Mesa. Project will remove 5 miles of wildlife-unfriendly fencing, restore 15 floodplain acres, install 100 mesic restoration structures, remove 4 miles of instream invasives, restore hydrology on 4 acres of mesic habitat, and include 40 volunteers.

### Restoring Landscape Resiliency on Baldy Mountain (CO)

Grantee: National Forest Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$340,700  
 Matching Funds:.....\$567,400  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$908,100

Protect wildlife-urban interface resources to benefit wildlife and restore understory growth in southwest Colorado. Project will masticate invasive woody vegetation on 470.6 acres and monitor 11 sites for oak and aspen growth.

### Restoring Shortgrass Prairie and Riparian Areas in the Denver Metropolitan Area (CO)

Grantee: Denver Zoological Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$330,400  
 Matching Funds:.....\$150,400  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$480,800

Implement conservation practices in central Colorado's Daniels Park and Highlands Ranch Backcountry Wilderness Area to preserve the grassland ecosystem and reconnect

Coloradans to grassland landscapes. Project will restore 229 acres via bison reintroduction, treat 20 acres for invasive plants, restore 1.24 instream miles, remove trees from 24 acres, install 150 mesic restoration structures, and include 1,000 volunteers.

### Restoring Shortgrass Prairie by Reintroducing Prairie Dogs and Black-Footed Ferrets (CO)

Grantee: Colorado State University Pueblo

Grant Amount:.....\$277,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$25,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$302,000

Restore functional patches of southeastern Colorado's shortgrass prairie via mowing invasive shrubs, translocating prairie dogs to maintain shrub exclusion, and reintroducing black-footed ferrets. Project will restore and manage 1,500 acres of grasslands, monitor 2 sites, complete 30 prairie dog and ferret translocations, and include 20 volunteers.

### Restoring the Hydrology of the South Platte River (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Open Lands

Grant Amount:.....\$312,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$783,800  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,095,800

Use low-tech process-based restoration techniques to reconnect degraded stream-wetland riverscapes on Colorado's South Platte River to restore natural hydrological function and ecosystem health. Project will restore 450 floodplain acres, restore 9.5 instream miles, monitor 12 sites, and include 125 volunteers.

### Restoring the Kawuneeche Valley to Benefit Wetlands in the North Fork Colorado River Basin (CO)

Grantee: Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Grant Amount:.....\$300,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$0.00  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$300,000

Increase the water table, improve sediment retention, and encourage beaver return to Colorado's Kawuneeche Valley. Project will restore 30 floodplain acres, restore 0.75 instream miles, install 30 beaver dam analogs, monitor 1 site, remove invasive vegetation from 0.75 instream miles, restore hydrology of 30 acres of mesic habitat, and restore up to 32 wetland acres.

### Using Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration Techniques to Restore Dry Fork Creek (CO)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:.....\$450,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$397,700  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$847,700

Address stream degradation of Colorado's Dry Fork Creek using low-tech process-based restoration techniques such as reseeded, installing Zeedyk structures, and replacing road culverts to restore wetland habitats, improve water quality, and increase forage quality and availability. Project will restore 10 floodplain acres and restore 56 wetland acres.



Black-footed ferret released into the wild in Colorado