



NFWF

Southern Plains Grassland Program

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cargill
- Sysco
- Burger King
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Cows in Kansas

OVERVIEW

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Cargill, Sysco, Burger King and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), announced the fourth round of funding for the Southern Plains Grassland Program. Seven grants were awarded to improve grassland health, support biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration, totaling roughly \$2.8 million in awards, which leveraged more than \$2.3 million in matching contributions from the grantees, for a total conservation impact of \$5.1 million.

These seven grants will contribute to the goals of the Southern Plains Grassland Program by:

- Improving grazing management on 122,948 acres of Tribal lands and private ranches
- Restoring 37,571 acres of upland and grassland habitat
- Improving 20 miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications
- Increasing regional capacity through technical assistance to producers

(continued)

Building Capacity in Southeastern New Mexico to Improve Grassland Conditions

Grantee: Playa Lakes Joint Venture

Grant Amount:..... \$464,100

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$464,100

Build capacity for timely delivery of NRCS programs to improve grassland condition in southeastern New Mexico.

Project will hire a part-time biologist, contract with an archaeologist, develop targeted communications to facilitate landowner interest in NRCS conservation programs and alleviate delays in cultural clearances.

Developing Southern Plains Generational Grasslands (CO, KS, OK)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$595,000

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$595,000

Build a scalable model for grassland development, to achieve long-term voluntary conservation of high-quality habitat to sustain ecological function, biodiversity and resilience over time. Project will improve management of 6,000 acres by identifying specific barriers to conservation practice adoption, implementing actions to address barriers, developing a process for effectively transferring these strategies to additional landscapes and building partnerships for coordinated development.

Expanding and Supporting Restoration of Grasslands through Audubon Conservation Ranching (NM, TX)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:..... \$258,500

Matching Funds:..... \$258,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$517,000

Engage landowners in the Audubon Conservation Ranching (ACR) program and related working lands management programs in grassland and arid land habitats to improve resilience and sustainability of land management and grazing practices. Project will invest in regional capacity of state-based range ecologists to deliver on-the-ground conservation through management planning, technical guidance, implementation of practices and ecological monitoring.

Improving Wildfire Resilience in Oklahoma Grasslands

Grantee: Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Grant Amount:..... \$300,000

Matching Funds:..... \$500,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$800,000

Create resilient and ecologically functional upland grasslands and wet meadows in Oklahoma through a collaborative partnership between state, Tribal and county-level partners. Project will facilitate prescribed fire on 15,000 acres, chemically treat 900 acres of salt cedar, remove woody invasives on 691 acres, seed native grass on 140 acres, supplement 80 acres of EQIP mechanical removal of woody invasives and enhance multiple wet meadow sites using low-tech, process-based restoration.

Restoring Native Grassland and Expanding Regenerative Grazing in the Southern Plains (CO, NE, WY)

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund

Grant Amount:..... \$351,000

Matching Funds:..... \$351,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$702,000

Expand the Sustainable Ranching Initiative's impact to the Southern Plains to improve land productivity, restore habitats and foster sustainable practices, while building a community of ranchers committed to conservation. Project will enroll four new ranches, improve grazing infrastructure on 20,000-40,000 acres and restoring 300 acres of marginal cropland to native grassland.

Scaling of Grassland Conservation across the Biome (NE)

Grantee: Nebraska Community Foundation FBO Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

Grant Amount:..... \$362,000

Matching Funds:..... \$751,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,113,300

Scale up grassland conservation across the biome through collaboration across multiple Joint Ventures to export and replicate successful projects to other focal geographies. Project will develop templates to assist Joint Ventures and their partners in leveraging additional financial resources and complete an implementation case study to mechanically treat 24,375 acres and implement 5,500 acres of prescribed fire to treat and/or address reinfestation of treated acres.

Virtual Fencing: An Alternative to Fencing Infrastructure Post-fire (TX)

Grantee: Texas Tech University

Grant Amount:..... \$499,400

Matching Funds:..... \$499,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$998,900

Address the impacts in the Texas Panhandle of the Smokehouse Creek Wildfire, which engulfed more than 1 million acres. Project will apply virtual fencing on approximately 23,000 acres of private, working ranches as an alternative to rebuilding physical cross fences post-fire and use it as a tool to implement a managed grazing system and provide increased landscape permeability for ungulates.



Horned lark