



NFWF

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 National Resource Conservation Service
- ConocoPhillips

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.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Elk in Wyoming

OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and ConocoPhillips in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2025-year round of funding for the Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund. Twelve projects were awarded to 12 organizations for a total of \$3.9 million to restore habitat and improve migration corridors across eight Western states. The awards leveraged \$3.4 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$7.3 million.

Western states are home to some of the largest herds of wild native ungulates in North America. However, the seasonal migration routes and natural resources many of these populations rely on face significant threats. Habitat fragmentation often limits the availability of high-quality forage and cover, and poor habitat condition limits the health and reproductive success of the herds.

The 12 projects awarded through this slate will conserve critical winter range and migration corridors in Tribally and state-identified focal areas within Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. They will remove or improve **652 miles** of fencing to wildlife-friendly standards, improve management on **294,304 acres** of rangelands and restore **53,085 acres** of public, private and Tribal lands.

These outcomes will be accomplished through:

- Restoring degraded priority winter range, stopover areas and migration corridors by 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 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
- Management agreements, or other actions to protect bottlenecks within corridors and other areas within priority winter range and 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

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Eagle Mountain City Mule Deer Migration Corridor Fencing and Preservation (UT)

Grantee: Eagle Mountain City

Grant Amount:.....\$97,400

Matching Funds:.....\$97,400

Total Project Amount:.....\$194,800

Enhance the Eagle Mountain City mule deer migration corridor to minimize human-wildlife conflict and restore habitat. Project will install 2.5 miles of fencing and restore degraded farmland with native vegetation.

Grassland Restoration to Improve Habitat for Pronghorn and Elk on the Pueblo of Santa Ana (NM)

Grantee: Pueblo of Santa Ana

Grant Amount:.....\$327,900

Matching Funds:.....\$327,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$655,800

Increase pronghorn survival by improving forage availability and decreasing predation, and improve winter range habitat for elk by increasing forage availability. Project will restore 1,325 acres by manually thinning invasive conifer trees and scattering slash to promote herbaceous vegetation recruitment, and modify the grassland vertical vegetation structure to improve pronghorn detectability of predators.

Improving Migration Routes and Seasonal Habitats in Southwest Montana

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation

Grant Amount:.....\$366,300

Matching Funds:.....\$366,400

Total Project Amount:.....\$732,700

Grow the program to improve, enhance and restore big game migration routes and winter range in southwest Montana by modifying fences to wildlife-friendly standards. Project will change or remove 34 miles of problematic fences in partnership with private, state, federal and NGO partners in the region.

Improving Migration and Winter Range Habitat for Mule Deer (WY)

Grantee: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Grant Amount:.....\$515,500

Matching Funds:.....\$515,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,031,000

Improve migration and winter range habitat within the North Bighorn, Platte Valley, South Rock Springs and Wyoming Range mule deer herd units. Project will implement 13,300 acres of invasive weed treatments, modify 23 miles of fences and restore 560 acres of habitat within big game migration corridors and crucial ranges.

Increasing Capacity for Private Lands Conservation in Idaho

Grantee: The Mule Deer Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$751,900

Matching Funds:.....\$229,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$980,900

Hire two private lands biologists to work in NRCS offices

in Idaho to provide technical assistance, recruit landowner participants, plan and implement projects, and monitor and report annually on progress. Project will modify 30 miles of fencing, improve 10,000 acres of private lands through grazing changes or habitat improvements, restore 3,000 acres of private lands through habitat restoration and improve 2,500 acres of private lands through removal of invasives.

Managing Annual Invasives to Enhance Big Game Winter Range and Migration Habitat (ID)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Amount:.....\$200,000

Matching Funds:.....\$240,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$440,000

Enhance and improve critical forage resources for mule deer, elk, pronghorn, sage-grouse and a variety of other wildlife species. Project will implement aerial herbicide applications to restore 2,552 acres of important big-game winter range and migratory habitats.



Elk in Montana

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Mule deer

Post-Wildfire Enhancement of Big Game Habitat and Migration Corridors Through Virtual Fencing (ID)

Grantee: Western Landowners Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$410,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$410,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$820,600

Implement virtual fencing and improve grazing management to restore wildfire-impacted big-game habitat and migration corridors across Lemhi, Adams, Valley and Boise counties in Idaho, which are key areas identified for mule deer and elk by Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Project will enhance habitat connectivity, promote forage recovery and support ranching operations, ensuring long-term conservation and resilience for 272,407 acres of public and private lands affected by recent wildfires.

Slate Mountain Allotment Historic Grassland and Movement Corridor Restoration (AZ)

Grantee: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Grant Amount:..... \$190,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$194,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$384,400

Restore historic grasslands by removing juniper trees encroaching into a grassland ecosystem on the Slate Mountain allotment in Northern Arizona. Project will restore 1,176 acres, increase wintering habitat quality for pronghorn, Rocky Mountain elk, and mule deer; restore a pronghorn movement corridor; and deliver benefits to golden eagles through ecological uplift.

Summit Lake Big Game Habitat Connectivity Improvement (NV)

Grantee: Summit Lake Paiute Tribe

Grant Amount:..... \$211,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$211,700

Increase sagebrush habitat connectivity for big game species around Summit Lake Indian Reservation. Project will improve 11.25 miles of fencing to reduce barriers to daily movements and seasonal migration for big-game species.

Sheep Creek Range Restoration, Phase 2 - Facilitating Succession for Mule Deer Survival (NV)

Grantee: Nevada Department of Wildlife

Grant Amount:..... \$280,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$455,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$735,000

Halt the invasion of annual grasses, allowing the existing plant community to stabilize, enhance resilience, and provide necessary forage and thermal cover to improve overwinter survival rates. Project will aerially apply herbicide to restore 8,000 acres of wildfire-impacted mule deer winter range and migration corridor.

Twisp Uplands Mule Deer Restoration Project (WA)

Grantee: Conservation Northwest

Grant Amount:..... \$370,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$380,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$750,300

Improve mule deer year-round habitat quality and connectivity in central Washington. Project will improve shrub steppe on 10,600 acres of private and public lands that is critical forage for winter survival, restore surface water and riparian habitat as a summer heat refuge and forage, and improve or remove 60 miles of fencing to manage cattle grazing and eliminate barriers to mule deer migration.

Zion Migration Corridor Habitat Improvement Phase 6 (UT)

Grantee: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$190,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$190,400
 Total Project Amount:..... \$380,400

Improve wildlife habitat by increasing forbs and grasses while decreasing invasive woody species. Project will restore 1,395 acres of deer, elk, wild turkey, and elk habitat on a major migration route along the north fork of the Virgin River in Kane County, southern Utah.