



NFWF

RESTORE Colorado

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PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Walton Family Foundation
- Occidental
- Chevron
- Gates Family Foundation
- U.S. Forest Service
- Terra Foundation

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.



Greater sage-grouse

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2025 round of funding for Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources (RESTORE) Colorado projects with support from Great Outdoors Colorado, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Walton Family Foundation, Occidental, Chevron, the Gates Family Foundation, U.S. Forest Service and Terra Foundation. Nine new grants were awarded a total of \$2.8 million to advance conservation across the state of Colorado. The nine awards announced leveraged more than \$1.2 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$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 have strained wildlife and their habitats in the region.

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

- Watershed resilience (wetlands, riparian and upland habitats including forests)
- Eastern Colorado grasslands
- Sagebrush rangelands
- Big game winter range and migration corridors
- Capacity building for conservation project development and delivery
- Urban areas

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Building Capacity to Restore Retired Farmland in the San Luis Valley (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Open Lands

Grant Amount:.....\$297,700

Matching Funds:.....\$65,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$362,700

Restore retired farmland and build staff capacity in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, to leverage existing NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding and develop additional funding for the upper Rio Grande Basin, thereby amplifying community conservation and habitat restoration outcomes. Project will restore 960 acres of private grasslands, improve management on 3,840 acres, develop six management plans and monitor six sites.

Building Resilience on Working Lands in the Middle Gunnison Watershed (CO)

Grantee: Colorado West Land Trust

Grant Amount:.....\$319,800

Matching Funds:.....\$692,300

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,012,100

Restore floodplains and riparian areas, rehabilitate drought-affected agricultural areas, and enhance Gunnison sage-grouse habitat and winter grazing lands along the North and Smith forks of the Gunnison River. Project will restore 16 wetland and 25 floodplain acres; improve management on 550 private acres; restore hydrology on 10 mesic acres; install 2 miles, remove 3 miles and improve 3 miles of fencing; install 150 structures; engage 120 volunteers; monitor four sites and produce two studies.

Creating a Management Plan for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway (CO)

Grantee: Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

Grant Amount:.....\$185,000

Matching Funds:.....\$6,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$191,900

Create a long-term, multi-jurisdictional management plan for future enhancements and maintenance of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway to enhance wildlife habitats and improve access to the waterway. Project will engage 25 volunteers, monitor 12 sites and produce five studies used to inform one management plan.

Engaging Volunteers to Restore Mesic Meadow Habitat in Northern Colorado

Grantee: Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

Grant Amount:.....\$204,600

Matching Funds:.....\$282,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$487,100

Engage volunteers to construct rock erosion control structures in northern Colorado to restore the hydrology of priority habitat for greater sage-grouse, and improve conditions for big game and other sagebrush-obligate species. Project will engage 220 volunteers to construct 440 structures, restore hydrology of 113 acres of mesic habitat on public land and improve management practices on 3,100 acres of public land.

Implementing Habitat Restoration for Beaver Attraction on Elkhorn Creek (CO)

Grantee: Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

Grant Amount:.....\$459,300

Matching Funds:.....\$170,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$629,300

Restore 2 miles of stream reaches using low-tech, process-based restoration techniques along 5 miles of historical beaver habitat in Elkhorn Creek in the Cache la Poudre River watershed in Larimer County, and accompany restoration activities with research evaluating local and at-scale ecological implications to improve restoration implementation. Project will engage 30 volunteers, restore 1.8 instream miles and produce two studies used to inform management.



Mule deer

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Elkhorn Creek in Larimer County, Colorado

Implementing Low-tech, Process-based Restoration in the South Fork Williams Fork Watershed (CO)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount:.....\$317,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$0
 Total Project Amount:.....\$317,900
 Employ low-tech, process-based restoration techniques, such as beaver dam analog and post-assisted log structure construction, to improve channel stability and riparian conditions, and aid hydrological connectivity on tributaries to the Yampa River in Routt National Forest, Colorado. Project will restore 2 floodplain-acres and 2 instream miles, install 30 structures, restore hydrology of 2 acres of mesic habitat, monitor three sites and engage 12 volunteers.

Repairing Vinelands Power Plant Infrastructure to Enhance River Habitat for Endangered Fish (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Water Trust
 Grant Amount:.....\$402,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$5,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$408,400
 Upgrade the Vinelands Power Plant near Grand Junction, Colorado, to allow water to pass through the hydroelectric facility to the Colorado River, maintaining flow for threatened and endangered native fish species, and sign a 20-year agreement for water deliveries that will support both ecological and community needs. Project will deliver water to 15 river-miles and lease 5,000 acre-feet of water annually.

Restoring Cattail-invaded Wetlands in the San Luis Valley (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust
 Grant Amount:.....\$312,400
 Matching Funds:.....\$12,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$325,100
 Restore and map cattail-invaded wetlands in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, to benefit wetland-dependent species, such as migratory waterfowl, wading- and shore-birds, and amphibians, and engage stakeholders to promote and expand wetland restoration efforts. Project will restore 26 wetland-acres and produce one study.

Restoring Wetlands for Waterfowl in the South Platte Basin of Northern Colorado

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
 Grant Amount:.....\$300,300
 Matching Funds:.....\$0
 Total Project Amount:.....\$300,300
 Implement wetland conservation activities across three State Wildlife Areas in the South Platte Basin of northern Colorado to increase the availability and quality of wetland habitats utilized by breeding and non-breeding populations of ducks, geese and other waterbirds during critical periods of their lifecycles. Project will restore 400 acres of wetland habitat and improve capacity to manage waterfowl habitat on 710 acres of public land.