



# NFWF

## RESTORE Colorado

### NFWF CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cargill
- Chevron
- Corteva Agriscience
- Nestlé
- Occidental
- Bezos Earth Fund
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- Gates Family Foundation
- Moore Charitable Foundation
- Terra Foundation
- Walton Family 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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$12 billion.

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



Cottonwood trees in Colorado

### BACKGROUND

Colorado boasts spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, and many communities and economies that depend on its rich natural resources. But these resources are increasingly threatened by habitat loss, overuse, and the complexities of managing a landscape divided into a patchwork of public and private lands. Faced with growing population pressures and the consequences of past land use decisions that are no longer viable, Colorado is pioneering new approaches to conservation and resource management.

The Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources (RESTORE) Colorado Program was launched in 2020 by a consortium of funders aiming to combine the best qualities of public agencies, corporations and philanthropy to address conservation priorities statewide. Developed as a collaborative framework for accomplishing large-scale, cross-jurisdictional habitat restoration, expansion and improvement, RESTORE provides opportunities for the proactive management of Colorado's public and private conservation lands to benefit current and future wildlife and communities.

To date, the program has awarded 78 grants, investing nearly \$22 million and leveraging nearly \$35 million in matching contributions to generate a total, on-the-ground impact of more than \$56 million. RESTORE invests across six landscapes and statewide priorities for the greatest impact on ecological connectivity and resilience:

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

*(continued)*

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Grants made through the RESTORE Colorado Program will focus on the restoration, enhancement and expansion of wildlife habitat throughout the state.

Projects under the watershed resilience priority area may contribute to NFWF's Southwest Rivers Business Plan, which aims to benefit focal bird, fish, mussel, and mammal species and improve overall ecosystem health within the Pecos River watershed of southeastern New Mexico and west Texas and the headwaters regions of the Rio Grande and Colorado River watersheds.

Projects under the eastern Colorado grasslands, sagebrush rangelands and big game winter range priorities may contribute to the Rocky Mountain Rangelands Business Plan, which aims to restore and conserve wildlife species associated with sagebrush, irrigated meadows, and aquatic systems while conserving the phenomenon of large mammal migration.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES TO DATE

### River corridors, riparian areas and wetlands:

- 132 miles of instream habitat restored
- 168 miles of stream opened
- 22 passage barriers rectified
- 4,122 acres of floodplain restored
- 1,110 acres of wetlands restored
- 36 miles of riparian habitat treated for invasive species

### Eastern Colorado grasslands:

- 4,305 acres of grassland restored on public lands
- 23,725 acres of grassland restored on private lands
- 277,601 acres of grassland under improved management on private lands
- 141,490 acres of grassland under improved management on public lands
- 16,641 acres treated to remove annual invasive plants
- 5,014 acres of invasive trees removed

### Sagebrush rangelands:

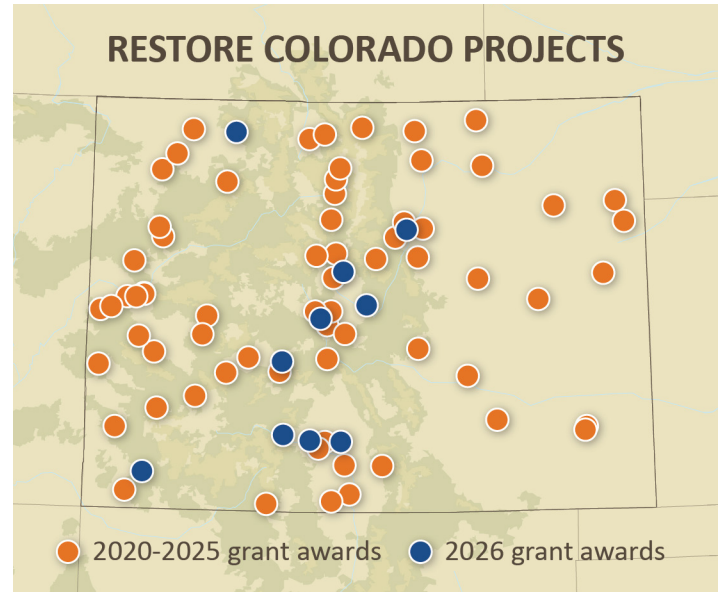
- 3,511 mesic wet meadow structures installed
- 3,529 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on private lands
- 2,127 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on public lands

### Big game winter range and migration routes:

- 195 miles of fencing removed, improved, or installed to benefit migratory big game

### Forestland:

- 1,750 acres of private forestland restored
- 2,418 acres of public forestland restored



Mule deer fawn in Colorado