



RESTORE Colorado

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PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Occidental
- Gates Family Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- 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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$12 billion.



Sandhill cranes in Colorado

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2026 round of funding for the RESTORE Colorado program, with support from Great Outdoors Colorado, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, the Gates Family Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Terra Foundation. Ten new grants were awarded a total of \$2.8 million to advance conservation across the state of Colorado. The 10 awards announced leveraged nearly \$3.6 million in matching contributions from the grantees, generating a total conservation impact of nearly \$6.4 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.

Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources and Environment (RESTORE) Colorado funds at-scale habitat restoration, capacity building, 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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Build Capacity and Implement Coexistence Strategies to Reduce Human-Beaver Conflict in Colorado

Grantee: Uviation World Water

Grant Amount:.....\$323,800
 Matching Funds:.....\$45,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$368,800

Advance near-term beaver coexistence through building capacity and implementing coexistence strategies to solve beaver conflicts and keep beavers in place for critical wildlife habitat, while also advancing long-term coexistence through knowledge sharing. Project will keep at-risk beavers at 18 currently occupied sites and aims to expand or enhance habitat through landowner partnership in the upper Rio Grande, Roaring Fork and upper Arkansas basins of Colorado.

Creating Pollinator Habitat and Water Resiliency in West Denver Parks (CO)

Grantee: City and County of Denver

Grant Amount:.....\$285,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$600,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$885,000

Replace existing bluegrass turf with native shortgrass prairie to enhance and reconnect pollinator habitat within Lakewood/ Dry Gulch and Paco Sanchez Parks in west Denver, Colorado. Project will promote native plant and wildlife biodiversity, reduce water consumption, and improve conditions for pollinators to inhabit and traverse the riparian corridor.

Enhancing Watershed Resilience & Local Capacity in the Upper Gunnison River Basin (CO)

Grantee: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Grant Amount:.....\$369,100
 Matching Funds:.....\$316,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$685,600

Implement low-tech process-based restoration, cheatgrass treatments, and irrigation water management projects to enhance aquatic, Gunnison sage-grouse, and wintering big game habitats in the Upper Gunnison River Basin, Colorado. Project will ensure key partner positions are sustained and improve watershed resilience across private and public land boundaries to create a more connected, drought-resilient, and adaptive watershed capable of supporting both the community and wildlife.

Grassland and Conifer Forest Restoration for Big Game Species in the Upper Arkansas River Basin (CO)

Grantee: Envision

Grant Amount:.....\$259,700
 Matching Funds:.....\$57,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$316,700

Restore nearly 900 acres of critical piñon-juniper forest and grasslands using low-tech methods to improve forage quality and quantity for mule deer, elk and other priority species in the Upper Arkansas River Basin, Colorado. Project will result in expanded habitat connectivity, improved forage production and restored top habitat.

Improve Aquatic Habitat and Hydrologic Function for Native Fish in the Mancos River Watershed (CO)

Grantee: Mancos Conservation District

Grant Amount:.....\$457,500
 Matching Funds:.....\$446,900
 Total Project Amount:.....\$904,400

Enhance resilience within the Mancos River watershed of southwest Colorado for native warm water fish species such as the flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker and roundtail chub. Project will improve aquatic habitat by removing fish passage barriers, support agricultural producers by updating diversion structures, improve stream habitat while enhancing public access, install flow devices to facilitate beaver coexistence and monitor hydrologic budget to guide future restoration.

Multi-benefit Wetland, Riparian and Stream Restoration at High Creek Fen Preserve (CO)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$262,300
 Matching Funds:.....\$49,100
 Total Project Amount:.....\$311,400

Restore resilient fen wetland, stream and riparian habitat at High Creek Fen Preserve. Project will create habitat for rare plants, macroinvertebrates and priority wildlife species such as mule deer, elk and mountain plover, while also enhancing hydrologic connectivity and providing opportunities for volunteer and community engagement.



Elk in Rocky Mountain National Park

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Beaver dam in the San Juan Mountains

Process-Based Restoration and Adaptive Management to Support Beaver in Park County, Colorado

Grantee: Colorado Open Lands
 Grant Amount:..... \$283,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,693,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,977,500

Implement adaptive management, monitoring and new project development for beaver-based riparian restoration in Park County, Colorado, to restore riverscape function and resilience. Project will restore aquatic and mesic habitat, bolster biodiversity and strengthen regional beaver populations critical to long-term regional conservation goals.

Reconnect and Improve Big-Game Winter Range Habitat on the Rio Grande National Forest (CO)

Grantee: Wild Earth Society Incorporated dba Wildlands Network
 Grant Amount:..... \$216,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$55,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$272,100

Improve winter range habitat by closing unauthorized routes and removing or modifying rangeland fencing in winter concentration and severe winter range for elk and deer on BLM, Rio Grande National Forest and private lands. Project will use volunteers and staff time to survey and map 500 miles of fence, remove or modify 15 miles of fence and close at least 20 miles of unauthorized routes to improve quantity and quality of winter range for these species.

Reintroduction of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to Native Range in Southern Colorado

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount:..... \$151,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$152,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$303,700

Restore genetically pure populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout to its native range in southern Colorado. Project will remove nonnative fish via mechanical and chemical methods, remove or replace stream barriers, utilize low-tech process-based restoration techniques to add habitat and restore riparian areas, and eradicate brook trout from co-occupied streams through introduction of sterile males.

Wet Meadow and Riparian Restoration in the Elkhead Creek Watershed, Colorado

Grantee: National Forest Foundation
 Grant Amount:..... \$186,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$149,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$336,400

Restore wet meadows, riparian habitat, and vegetation corridors in the Elkhead Creek watershed of northwest Colorado through implementation of low-tech process-based restoration and targeted vegetation treatments. Project will increase floodplain connectivity, improve hydrologic function, and enhance habitat for sensitive wildlife species such as Colorado River cutthroat trout, boreal toad, sandhill cranes, and Gunnison sage grouse.