



# Southern Plains Grassland Program

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## FUNDING PARTNERS

- 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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$12 billion.

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

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Herd of cattle on privately owned ranchland in Nebraska

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with Cargill, Sysco and Burger King, announced the fourth round of funding for the Southern Plains Grassland Program. Five grants were awarded to improve grassland health, support biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration, totaling roughly \$1.6 million in awards which leveraged more than \$1.8 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$3.4 million.

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

- Improving grazing management on 156,000 acres of tribal, public lands and private ranches
- Restoring 7,360 acres of upland and grassland habitat
- Improving 104 miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications
- Increasing regional capacity through technical assistance to producers

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**Building Capacity for Grassland Habitat Conservation in Oklahoma**

Grantee: The Learning Center at the Euchee Butterfly Farm  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$204,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$328,100  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$532,800

Increase the quality, quantity and connectivity of grassland habitat. Project will work with tribal and non-tribal landowners in Oklahoma to restore grasslands and support pollinators by providing training, hands-on support and access to milkweed and other native plants. Project will work with tribal and non-tribal landholders in Oklahoma to build capacity for restoration of native forbs and milkweeds on rural working lands through training workshops, on-site technical assistance, webinars and a regionally organized native seed bank.

**Restoring Native Grasslands and Enhancing Habitat for Grassland Birds and At-risk Species (TX, OK)**

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$398,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$442,200  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$840,200

Restore and enhance native grassland habitat in Texas and Oklahoma through prescribed fire, brush management, prescribed grazing, range planting and herbaceous weed treatment. Project will increase habitat suitability for declining grassland birds and other at-risk species, improve ecosystem function, and strengthen resilience of private working lands across the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture landscape.

**Using Virtual Fencing to Promote Resilient and Biodiverse Working Landscapes (OK, NM, TX)**

Grantee: Oklahoma State University  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$375,300  
 Matching Funds:..... \$425,900  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$801,200

Implement heterogeneity-based range management

using virtual fencing on Southern High Plains shortgrass prairie to benefit cattle production, pronghorn, dung beetle communities and ecosystem services. Project will restore landscape heterogeneity and enhance ecosystem services, providing a tested model for increasing grassland resiliency while benefiting biodiversity and agricultural operations.

**Utilizing Virtual Fencing as Regenerative Grazing Tool to Increase Habitat Connectivity (KS, OK)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$295,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$295,300  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$590,500

Facilitate the uptake and deployment of virtual fencing as an emergent regenerative grazing tool in Kansas and Oklahoma and connect ranchers with NRCS cost-share programs to implement complementary practices that support adaptive rotational grazing. Project will benefit grassland birds and other wildlife by enhancing habitat across 50,000 acres, while improving ranch productivity and landscape resilience.

**Working Harder and Smarter: Targeted Delivery of Rangeland Conservation in the SGP (CO, NE, NM)**

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$334,600  
 Matching Funds:..... \$350,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$684,600

Enhance conservation outcomes on private rangelands in the Southern Great Plains through a comprehensive approach that invests in community-level grassland conservation collaborations. Project will scale up the adoption of sustainable conservation practices, invest in effectiveness monitoring, and improve data tracking to guide allocation of Farm Bill resources toward practices that deliver the greatest benefits for grassland birds and soil carbon.