



Grassland Resilience and Conservation Initiative

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- McDonald's USA
- Cargill
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Golden State Foods
- Lopez Foods
- OSI Group

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 more than \$12 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



A pronghorn mother and fawns in Montana

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced a 2026-year round of funding for *Grassland Resilience and Conservation Initiative* projects. Six new land conservation grants totaling nearly \$2.4 million were awarded, using funding previously provided by McDonald's USA and several of its key beef and beverage suppliers. The six awards announced are leveraging approximately \$96.7 million in matching contributions from grantees, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$99.1 million. The funding will cover critical transaction and due diligence costs associated with conservation easements on 31 properties across 11 states, helping permanently conserve more than 100,650 acres of grasslands while keeping ranching operations productive and economically viable.

The *Grassland Resilience and Conservation Initiative* is a public-private conservation partnership launched in 2025 that aims to enhance wildlife habitat, conserve water resources and improve soil health. This initiative seeks to improve the health and resilience of 4 million acres of grasslands over seven years, with significant investments expected in the Great Plains, Rocky Mountain West, Midwest, West Coast and Southeast.

The six projects listed below are the first to be awarded under the land conservation priority of the *Grassland Resilience and Conservation Initiative*. Land conservation efforts offer a unique contribution to this program through the permanent protection of intact grasslands that are the centerpiece of rural economies and the beef supply chain in the United States. This funding opportunity facilitates conservation easements by supporting the transaction and due diligence costs associated with these efforts, helping to catalyze the final steps in closing a conservation easement.

(continued)

Conserve Grasslands and Support Rancher Livelihoods across Seven States via Conservation Easements (CA, CO, KS, NE, OK, TX, WY)

Grantee: Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
 Grant Amount:.....\$1,251,800
 Matching Funds:.....\$67,964,400
 Total Project Amount:.....\$69,216,200
 Pilot a hub model for the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts to coordinate among its members and protect 49,501 acres of grassland habitat on 17 properties across seven states. Project will protect habitat for pronghorn, mule deer, and sage-grouse and provide proof of concept for a public-private conservation management framework.

Protecting Grassland Habitat and Working Lands in Southern Colorado

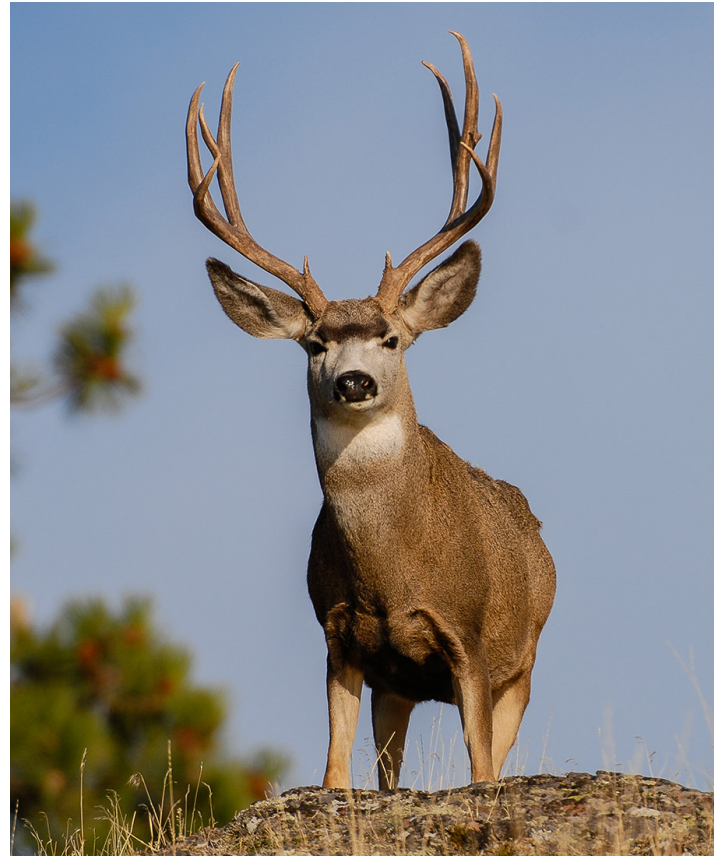
Grantee: Palmer Land Trust
 Grant Amount:.....\$100,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$5,130,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$5,230,600
 Cover transaction costs to support the closing of a conservation easement on 1,468 acres of shortgrass prairie habitat in southern Colorado and protect it from the rapid urban development engulfing the region. Project will conserve habitat for the federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse and multiple threatened avian species such as the golden eagle and sacred quail, as well as provide a buffer of land for the Schriever Space Force Base.

Protect Working Lands and Wildlife Habitat in the Central Rocky Mountains (ID, MT, WA)

Grantee: Heart of the Rockies Initiative
 Grant Amount:.....\$267,100
 Matching Funds:.....\$13,539,300
 Total Project Amount:.....\$13,806,400
 Secure permanent conservation easements on 7,243 acres of grassland habitat and working ranches across the northern Rocky Mountain region to preserve long-term ecosystem resilience. Project will cover transaction costs to land trusts that will protect four properties to sustain the local ranching economy and ensure that land remains undeveloped.

Create Lasting Protection for Kansas Working Lands and Intact Grasslands

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:.....\$343,800
 Matching Funds:.....\$2,162,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$2,506,500
 Cover transaction costs to complete three permanent conservation easements on properties that will protect 15,767 acres of intact grasslands in Kansas and will connect to thousands of acres of already protected land. Project will conserve properties that have high ecological value and protect vital habitat for migratory birds, native plant species and local endangered species.



Mule deer

Protect Native Grassland Habitat from Conversion across South Dakota and Nebraska

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:.....\$172,800
 Matching Funds:.....\$1,727,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,900,400
 Conserve 15,222 acres of grassland habitat across three properties in the Northern Great Plains via conservation easements. Project will pay for transaction costs to close easements on lands that contain waterways to preserve local water quantity and quality while protecting focal bird species like the lark bunting, Baird's sparrow and the chestnut-collared longspur.

Permanently Protect Montana Grassland Habitat through Conservation Easements

Grantee: The Montana Land Reliance
 Grant Amount:.....\$253,500
 Matching Funds:.....\$6,140,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$6,393,500
 Cover transaction costs for permanent conservation easements that will protect 11,452 acres of grassland habitat. Project will conserve vital habitat for species such as greater sage-grouse, burrowing owl, and golden eagle and sustain working agricultural lands to strengthen the resilience of Montana's beef production economy.