



NFWF

Western Big Game Migration 2019 Grant Slate

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ConocoPhillips

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Rocky Mountain elk

OVERVIEW

In 2019, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors Program through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and ConocoPhillips. The goal of the program is to promote robust, sustainable populations of elk, mule deer and pronghorn in response to Secretarial Order 3362. Through this partnership, nine grants were awarded totaling \$2.1 million, leveraging \$8.6 million in match from grantees and generating a total conservation impact of \$10.7 million.

This new program requires that all projects specifically address state-identified priorities to conserve or restore habitat and measurably contribute to the sustainability of local and regional big-game populations. Proposed accomplishments include:

- Restoring degraded priority winter range, stopover areas and migration corridors by activities identified through state plans
- Working cooperatively with private landowners and state highway departments to improve fencing, including modifying, removing, installing if serving to direct big game movement out of harm's way, or seasonally adapting fencing if proven to impede movement of big game through priority migration corridors
- Implementing measures such as conservation easements and management agreements or other actions to protect bottle necks within corridors and other areas within priority winter range or stopover areas threatened by fragmentation
- Using other proven actions necessary to improve the habitat quality or restore priority big-game winter range stopover areas or migration corridors across the West

(continued)

Protecting Sagebrush Habitat for Migratory Species in Nevada through a Conservation Easement

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$850,000
Total Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Permanently protect 2,100 acres of private rangeland along the base of the Ruby Mountains in northern Nevada. Project will conserve habitat along a critical migratory corridor for the largest population of mule deer in Nevada and will serve as important sagebrush, grassland and riparian habitat for pronghorn, elk, Lahontan cutthroat trout and several state species of conservation priority.

Sagebrush Restoration for Mule Deer Wintering Range in Nevada

Grantee: Nevada Department of Wildlife
 Grant Amount: \$158,239
 Matching Funds: \$746,590
Total Amount:..... \$904,829

Post-fire restoration will establish pockets of sagebrush within crucial mule deer winter range to act as seed sources for the rest of the surrounding areas and to provide cover and forage for all sagebrush obligate species in Nevada. Project will use a herbicide application, a 1-year chemical fallow, and a seeding treatment to restore 2,500 acres of public land.

Removing Invasive Pinyon Pine and Juniper to Restore Sagebrush Habitat in Utah

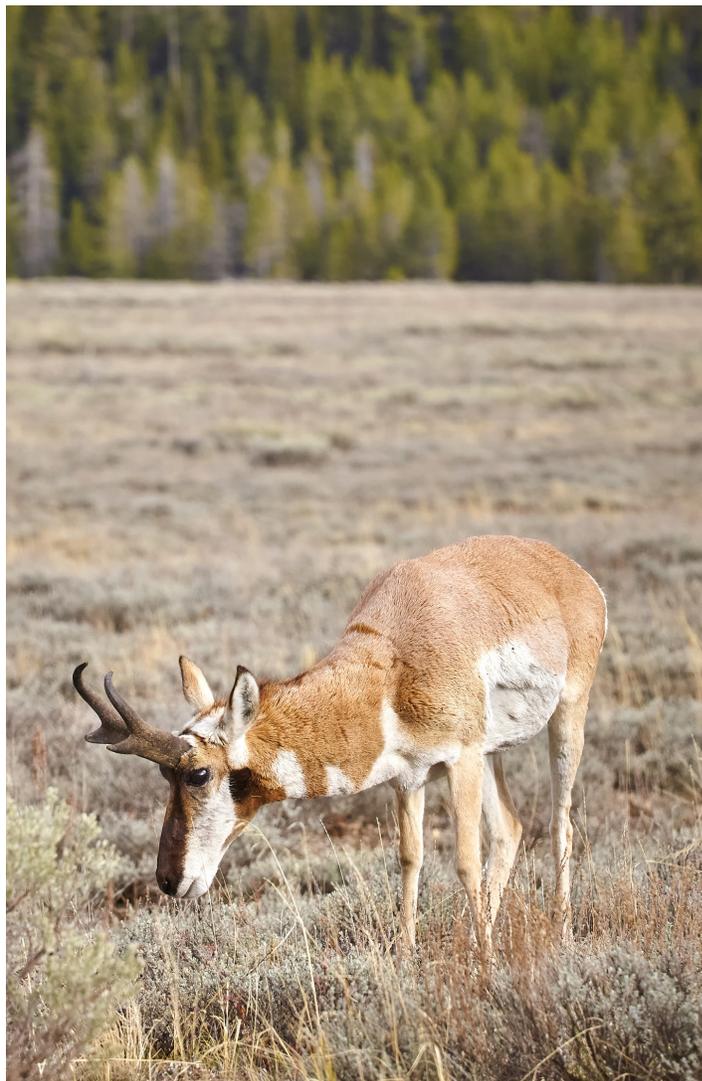
Grantee: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
 Grant Amount: \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$282,809
Total Amount:..... \$482,809

Enhance and restore sagebrush habitat in crucial mule deer and elk winter ranges across federal, state and private lands in Miller Creek and Little Bear Valley in Utah. Project will remove invasive pinyon pine and Utah juniper through mechanical and manual cutting crews on 9,752 acres.

Conservation and Restoration of Mule Deer Winter Range Habitat in Washington

Grantee: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Grant Amount: \$137,360
 Matching Funds: \$137,369
Total Amount:..... \$274,729

Improve winter range habitat quality and migration corridors for mule deer in eastern Washington by implementing conservation and restoration projects in two high-priority Mule Deer Management Zones that promote robust and sustainable populations. Project will restore 3,500 acres and reconnect 7.5 miles of a migration corridor.



Pronghorn

Preservation, Protection and Restoration of Mule Deer Winter Range Habitat in Wyoming

Grantee: The Mule Deer Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$913,000
 Matching Funds: \$1,442,851
Total Amount:..... \$2,355,851

Restore and enhance mule deer habitat in Wyoming. Project will implement 25,560 acres of invasive weed treatments, modify 55 miles of fences within big game migration corridors and crucial winter ranges, conduct land restoration on 2,355 acres of public land to benefit the Platte Valley and Sublette herds.



Mule deer

Coordinating Conservation Efforts to Restore Connectivity of Migration Corridors in Montana

Grantee: Ranchers Stewardship Alliance

Grant Amount: \$123,667

Matching Funds: \$128,748

Total Amount: \$252,415

Implement targeted habitat restoration and enhancement projects to benefit pronghorn, mule deer and elk in six counties in north-central Montana. Project will work with local nonprofits, landowners and state and federal agencies to coordinate and implement projects that reduce fragmentation, restore connectivity, and enhance habitat quality for big game species on 6,000 acres of private land.

Fence Modification and Habitat Enhancement for Big Game in Big Hole Valley, Montana

Grantee: Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Matching Funds: \$61,065

Total Amount: \$101,065

Modify fences and enhance habitat through conifer removal from sage-steppe, erosion control structures, and improved grazing management, that will improve wildlife passage and forage opportunities for pronghorn, elk, mule deer and other species in Big Hole Valley, Montana. Project will improve 35 miles of fencing, restore more than 100 acres of habitat and improve management on 5,000 acres.

Reducing Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions and Increasing Habitat Connectivity in the San Juan Basin (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Department of Transportation

Grant Amount: \$317,734

Matching Funds: \$3,470,546

Total Amount: \$3,788,280

Improve motorist safety, reduce wildlife mortality, and increase habitat connectivity along a major big game migratory route in the San Juan Basin in southwest Colorado. In partnership with the Southern Ute Tribe, the project will provide wildlife/highway fencing to direct mule deer and elk to two newly constructed overpass and underpass structures.

Enhancing Mule Deer Habitat Connectivity through a Conservation Easement in Wyoming

Grantee: Jackson Hole Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$1,515,000

Total Amount: \$1,615,000

Permanently protect key wildlife habitat and enhance landscape-scale connectivity between the Upper Green River Basin and the Gros Ventre and Wyoming Mountain Ranges. Project will purchase a 280 acre conservation easement that will extinguish development rights and prohibit subdivision within a known migration corridor and a high-quality habitat stopover area for the Sublette mule deer herd.