



# Pecos Water Conservation Initiative

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## PARTNERS

- Apache Corporation
- Chevron
- Marathon Oil
- Noble Energy
- Occidental
- Shell
- XTO Energy, an ExxonMobil subsidiary
- USDA NRCS - New Mexico
- USDA NRCS - Texas

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

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

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Pronghorn in New Mexico

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Apache Corporation, Chevron, Marathon Oil Corporation, Noble Energy, Occidental, Shell and XTO Energy, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Mexico and Texas announced a third-year round of funding for Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative projects. NFWF awarded seven new habitat conservation and species research grants totaling \$1.45 million, leveraging \$1.89 million in matching contributions from grantees and generating a total conservation impact of over \$3.3 million.

In November 2017, the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative was launched to fund projects that will have the greatest positive return on investments for the unique wildlife species, habitats and local communities of the Pecos River Watershed, a riparian corridor in the Chihuahuan Desert home to many species found nowhere else in the world.

The Initiative's long-term goals include strengthening the health of existing habitats along the Pecos River and its tributaries, improving the management and function of native grasslands, addressing water quality and scarcity concerns for wildlife and agricultural uses, and identifying opportunities to re-establish species to areas of their range where they have been lost or to bolster small remnant populations.

*(continued)*

### Demonstrating the Feasibility of a Groundwater Leasing Program to Restore Comanche Springs (TX)

Grantee: Texas Water Trade

Grant Amount: .....\$300,050  
 Matching Funds: .....\$300,050  
 Total Project: .....\$600,100

Demonstrate the feasibility of restoring Comanche Springs through a groundwater leasing program. Project will evaluate using voluntary market transactions as a means of reducing pumping in the Edwards-Trinity aquifer to support the reintroduction of Comanche Springs pupfish and Pecos gambusia.

### Monitoring and Habitat Enhancement at Diamond Y Spring Preserve (TX)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy of Texas

Grant Amount: .....\$197,893  
 Matching Funds: .....\$200,000  
 Total Project: .....\$397,893

Monitor and enhance aquatic species and habitats at Diamond Y Spring Preserve. Project will map habitats and establish fish monitoring, evaluate breeding success of species including Leon Springs pupfish, Pecos gambusia, and others, map vegetation and monitor hydrology to determine restoration potential, update the preserve's conservation plan, and initiate selected habitat management and restoration actions.

### Restoration of the Phantom Spring Ciénega (TX)

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Grant Amount: .....\$35,239  
 Matching Funds: .....\$85,950  
 Total Project: .....\$121,189

Restore the Phantom Spring Ciénega to maintain habitat for Pecos gambusia, Comanche Springs pupfish and other endangered aquatic species. Project will remove all of the existing water control features that are no longer functioning and deepen the ciénega to eliminate the need for pumping all together, exploring alternative plans as necessary.

### Marfa and Marathon Grassland Habitat Enhancement for Migratory Birds and Pronghorn: Phase III (TX)

Grantee: Borderlands Research Institute-Sul Ross State University

Grant Amount: .....\$246,759  
 Matching Funds: .....\$246,759  
 Total Project: .....\$493,518

Conduct brush management activities in the Marfa and Marathon grasslands to improve grassland health and habitat for pronghorn and grassland birds. Project will conduct brush management on 4,000 acres of brush-invaded grassland using herbicide treatments, as well as implement fence modifications to promote pronghorn movements.



Pecos gambusia

### Pronghorn Restoration in the Southeast Plains: Phase II (NM)

Grantee: New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts

Grant Amount: .....\$246,534  
 Matching Funds: .....\$640,000  
 Total Project: .....\$886,534

Expand ongoing efforts to restore grassland habitat and facilitate broader pronghorn movement throughout its historic range within Lincoln, Chaves and Eddy counties, New Mexico. Project will modify 40 miles of fence and remove mesquite across 13,000 acres of grassland in historic pronghorn antelope habitat.

### Monitoring Wintering Grassland Birds in the Chihuahuan Desert: Phase IV (NM)

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Grant Amount: .....\$230,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$230,000  
 Total Project: .....\$460,000

Apply a rigorous sampling protocol to estimate the density of wintering grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert including Sprague's pipits and chestnut-collared longspurs. Project will implement a previously-developed monitoring program in order to produce robust baseline estimates of wintering bird populations and evaluate the impact of ongoing grassland restoration investments in New Mexico.

### Evaluating Salinity Tolerance of Texas Hornshell (TX)

Grantee: Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Grant Amount: .....\$189,868  
 Matching Funds: .....\$189,872  
 Total Project: .....\$379,740

Study the salinity tolerance of Texas hornshell and identify potential locations for its reintroduction or reaches for habitat restoration. Project will provide a better understanding of habitat requirements for Texas hornshell by examining the effects of salinity tolerance for multiple life stages.