



Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative

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PARTNERS

- Apache Corporation
- Chevron
- ConocoPhillips
- Occidental
- Shell USA
- XTO Energy, an ExxonMobil subsidiary
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bezos Earth Fund

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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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OVERVIEW

The Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative (PWCI) is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy rivers, streams and grasslands that provide important wildlife habitat in the Pecos River watershed of southeastern New Mexico and West Texas. The fund was launched in 2017 to identify significant conservation opportunities that improve habitat, address water scarcity, improve water quality and engage local communities.

Since its inception, the PWCI has invested a total of \$8 million in 43 projects that address three priority strategies: habitat restoration and management of riparian and grassland systems; species intervention; and species information. These projects benefit migratory

grassland birds like chestnut collared longspur and Sprague's pipit as well as pronghorn, and implement aquatic and riparian restoration activities that benefit Pecos pupfish, Pecos gambusia, Texas hornshell, Rio Grande cooter, and Bell's vireo.



Rio Grande cooter

The PWCI is an unprecedented and strategic partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Apache Corporation, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Occidental, Shell USA, XTO Energy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management with additional support this year from the Bezos Earth Fund. Implementation partners include soil and water conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, state wildlife agencies in New Mexico and Texas, federal agencies, and universities.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative will:

- Strengthen the health of habitat along the Pecos River and its tributaries in West Texas and southern New Mexico, including some of the last remaining populations of fish and other aquatic species found only in the Chihuahuan Desert
- Improve the management and function of native grasslands, many of which have been negatively impacted by past management and fragmentation
- Address water quality and scarcity concerns for wildlife and agricultural uses
- Identify opportunities to re-establish species to areas of their range where they have been lost or bolster small remnant populations

PWCI investments are targeted primarily to tributary watersheds and grasslands within the region where investments in restoration are expected to realize the greatest return for species. The priority conservation strategies for the region were determined by a team of local partners with on-the-ground knowledge of conservation needs and opportunities and are detailed in NFWF's Southwest Rivers Business Plan.