



# Southwest Rivers Program - Headwaters

## NFWF CONTACTS

**Kirstin Neff**  
 Manager  
 Southwest Rivers Program  
[kirstin.neff@NFWF.org](mailto:kirstin.neff@NFWF.org)  
 303-222-6485

**Cayla Donnelly**  
 Coordinator  
 Regional Programs  
[cayla.donnelly@NFWF.org](mailto:cayla.donnelly@NFWF.org)  
 202-595-2417

## PARTNERS

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Trinchera Blanca Foundation
- 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW  
 Suite 1000  
 Washington, D.C., 20005  
 202-857-0166



Southwestern willow flycatcher

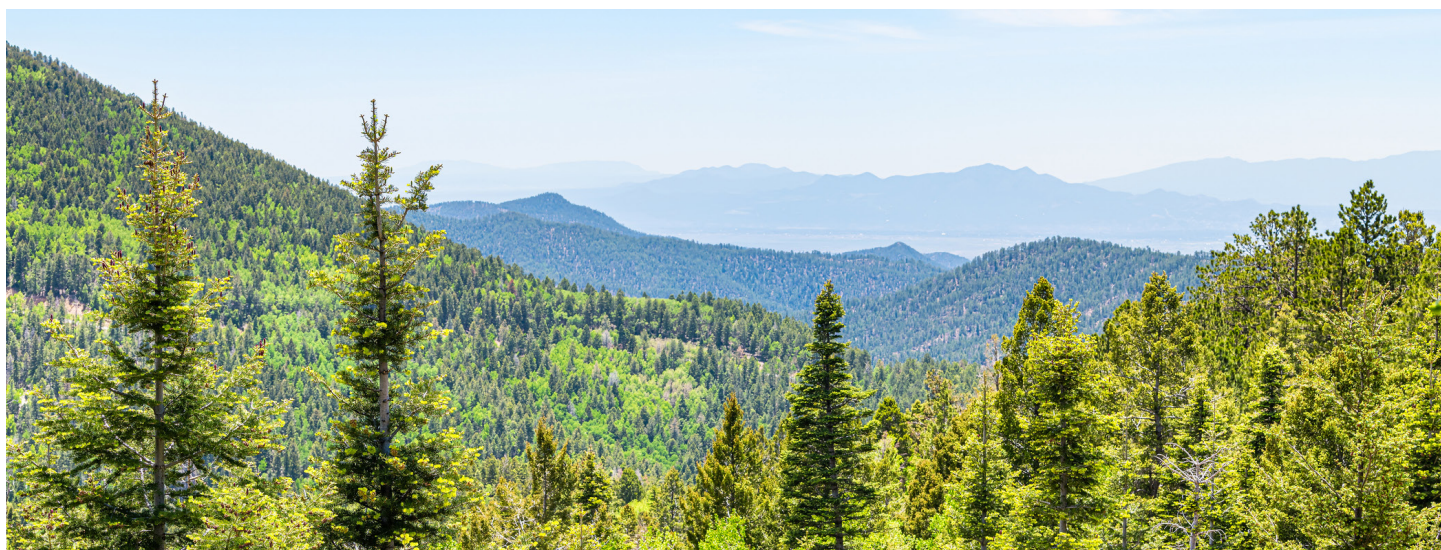
## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Trinchera Blanca Foundation, an affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation, announced a 2022-year round of funding for Southwest Rivers Headwaters projects under the Southwest Rivers Program. This year, the program received additional support from the Bezos Earth Fund. Five new aquatic and riparian habitat restoration grants totaling nearly \$1 million were awarded. The five awards announced generated over \$1 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of over \$2 million.

The Southwest Rivers Program was launched in 2018 to fund projects that improve stream corridors, riparian systems and associated habitats from headwaters to mainstem rivers in the Southwest. Through the Southwest Rivers Headwaters funding opportunity, the program funds projects that produce measurable outcomes for species of conservation concern in the riparian corridors of the headwaters region of the Rio Grande. Since 2020, the funding opportunity has included a pilot focal area of increasing interest in the Gila River Watershed.

The following five projects address one key strategy for species and habitat restoration in headwaters streams of the Rio Grande and Gila River: riparian and instream habitat restoration and enhancement.

*(continued)*



Santa Fe National Forest

## ARIZONA

### Apache Trout Recovery on Fort Apache Indian Reservation (AZ)

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Arizona Fisheries Resources Office

Grant Amount:..... \$292,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$342,900  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$635,100

Replace a failing gabion barrier in Crooked Creek with a concrete jump and velocity barrier and complete ongoing partial design work on six other replacement barriers on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to protect Apache trout populations. Project will protect 9 km of high-quality Apache trout recovery habitat from reinvasion of brown trout and increase the availability of over 60 km of habitat.

### Restoring Native Habitat Refugia for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher on the Gila River (AZ)

Grantee: Gila Watershed Partnership of AZ

Grant Amount:..... \$101,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$116,900  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$218,700

Restore over 200 acres of riparian habitat for the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher along the Upper Gila River in Arizona. Project will protect critical breeding habitat from the tamarisk leaf beetle, a biological control of the invasive salt cedar.

## NEW MEXICO

### Rio Cebolla Wetland and Watershed Natural Process Based Restoration Initiative (NM)

Grantee: Rio Grande Return

Grant Amount:..... \$189,500  
 Matching Funds:..... \$189,700  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$379,200

Conduct restoration activities on the Rio Cebolla in the Santa Fe National Forest such as watershed thinning, riparian and wetland vegetation planting, and beaver dam analog

installation. Project will restore a cottonwood and willow overstory, increase channel complexity and floodplain connectivity through the addition of in-stream structures, and protect riparian habitat from grazing, benefiting Rio Grande cutthroat trout, New Mexico meadow jumping mouse and other sensitive and threatened species.

## MULTIPLE STATES

### Habitat Restoration and Reintroduction for Imperiled Herpetofauna of the Black, San Francisco, and Upper Gila-Mangas Watersheds (AZ, NM)

Grantee: Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$227,100  
 Matching Funds:..... \$227,100  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$454,200

Restore wetland habitat quality and availability in the San Francisco, Upper Gila-Mangas, and Black River watersheds through a watershed inventory of target species and threats, prioritization of potential remediation sites, wetland restoration, and ultimately, Chiricahua leopard frog reintroduction. Project will create eight, 1-acre wetlands, and 0.25 miles of heavy-duty livestock exclusion fencing to increase habitat quality, availability, and biodiversity to critical headwaters of the Upper Gila and Salt Rivers.

### Riparian Restoration of Headwater Streams in the Chiricahua Mountains (AZ, NM)

Grantee: Borderlands Restoration Network

Grant Amount:..... \$188,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$195,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$383,200

Hire and train local youth to construct rock and wood erosion-control structures instream and along floodplains in headwater streams of the San Simon River watershed in the Chiricahua Mountains. Project will restore 2 miles of riparian forest habitat in multiple headwaters drainages while enhancing groundwater recharge.