



# NFWF

## Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative 2018 Grant Slate

### NFWF CONTACTS

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### FUNDING PARTNERS

- Anadarko
- Chevron
- Noble Energy
- Occidental Petroleum
- Shell Oil Company
- XTO Energy Inc.
- NRCS - New Mexico
- NRCS - Texas

### 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Pecos River Canyon, Texas

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Anadarko, Chevron, Noble Energy, Occidental Petroleum, Shell Oil Company, XTO Energy Inc. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service for the states of New Mexico and Texas announced the first awards for the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative. Seven new habitat conservation grants totaling \$1.4 million were awarded, generating \$2.3 million in match from the grantees, for a total conservation impact of more than \$3.7 million.

The Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative was launched in November 2017 to fund and implement 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 that is home to many species found nowhere else in the world.

The Pecos Watershed Conservation 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.

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### **William S. Huey Wildlife Management Area Stream and Riparian Habitat Enhancement (NM)**

Grantee: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$750,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$1,000,000**

Enhance backwater stream habitat on the William S. Huey Wildlife Management Area through bank sculpting, restoration with native vegetation, improvement of water input, and removal of tamarisk along the Pecos River. Project will improve habitat for Pecos pupfish, Rio Grande cooter, southwestern willow flycatcher and multiple other aquatic and riparian species.

### **Conservation of Wild and Native Fishes of the Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion (TX)**

Grantee: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$283,951  
**Total Amount: ..... \$533,981**

Restore and preserve wild and native fishes of the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion, a stronghold for 29 species of native fishes, including Pecos pupfish, Pecos gambusia, Rio Grande darter, Rio Grande chub, Rio Grande silvery minnow and Chihuahua catfish. Project will restore 25 acres of riparian habitats and deliver conservation best management practices on 50,000 acres in focal watersheds, improving habitat conditions for native fishes in 50 miles of creeks and rivers.

### **Managing Pecos Pupfish Habitat in the Pecos Watershed (NM)**

Grantee: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
Grant Amount: ..... \$63,828  
Matching Funds: ..... \$111,108  
**Total Amount: ..... \$174,936**

Improve habitat for the remaining stronghold of the state-threatened Pecos pupfish through the creation of fish barriers that will protect the species from sheepshead minnow invasion. Project will result in improvement to over 90 acres of Pecos pupfish habitat benefiting at least 30 percent of the core population, development of a long-term maintenance plan for the barriers, and increased coordination among managers, leading to more successful and efficient actions to protect the species.

### **Improving Habitat for Imperiled Mussel within the Pecos River (NM)**

Grantee: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
Grant Amount: ..... \$118,843  
Matching Funds: ..... \$220,708  
**Total Amount: ..... \$339,551**

Construct a bypass for hypersaline waters that enter the

Black River in Eddy County, New Mexico to benefit Texas hornshell mussel and its associated host fishes. Project will increase the total available habitat to Texas hornshell by 6.7 miles, a 77 percent increase in available habitat.

### **Grazing Management Enhancements in Eddy County, New Mexico (NM)**

Grantee: New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts  
Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$450,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$700,000**

Implement brush control, installation of alternate water sources, water pipelines and fence lines in upland areas adjacent to the Pecos, Black and Delaware rivers and Red Bluff, Brushy and Salt Grass draws within Eddy County, New Mexico. Project will focus on restoration of grassland ecosystems, enhanced distribution of livestock and enhancement of water quality, quantity and rare aquatic species within these rivers.

### **Restoration of Private Grasslands within the Pecos River Watershed (TX)**

Grantee: Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas  
Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$250,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$500,000**

Work with private landowners to restore or enhance 5,000-8,000 acres of grassland habitat using a range of practices on private lands in the Pecos River Watershed in Texas. Project will directly benefit a number of native species, including Baird's sparrow, Pecos pupfish, Rio Grande chub, Rio Grande cooter and Sprague's pipit. Many of these species have experienced significant declines that can be attributed to habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation at the landscape level.

### **Marfa and Marathon Grassland Enhancement (TX)**

Grantee: Borderlands Research Institute – Sul Ross State University  
Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$251,794  
**Total Amount: ..... \$501,794**

Conduct necessary brush management activities in the Marfa and Marathon grasslands utilizing herbicide treatments to improve grassland health and pronghorn and grassland bird habitat. Project will treat 6,000 acres of grassland using a landowner cost-share program, monitoring pronghorn and grassland bird responses to the treatment and resulting in the creation of region-specific science-driven management recommendations.