



RESTORE Colorado

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PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Gates Family Foundation
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Occidental Petroleum
- Trinchera Blanca Foundation
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- Bezos Earth Fund

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Mule deer in Colorado

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and its partners recently announced the third round of funding from the RESTORE Colorado Program. Fifteen awards totalling more than \$3.5 million will leverage more than \$9.2 in match from the grantees to generate a total conservation impact of \$12.7 million.

Stretching from the rolling shortgrass prairies of the Great Plains to the crest of the Rocky Mountains, and into the canyons of the desert Southwest, Colorado hosts some of the most impressive landscapes and wildlife habitat in the country. At the same time, a rapidly growing human population and increasing demands on public and private lands has strained wildlife and their habitats in the region.

Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources (RESTORE) Colorado funds at-scale habitat restoration, expansion and improvement projects across priority landscapes throughout the state. The 15 projects awarded in 2022 are expected to contribute the following accomplishments to these landscapes:

- Restore 92 acres of floodplain habitat and open 16 miles of stream habitat to native fish passage
- Restore 10,360 acres and improve management on 76,700 acres of public and private grassland
- Restore 6,400 acres through invasive species treatment and removal
- Remove or improve 40 miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications
- Restore 425 acres of forestland habitat

(continued)



Elk jump over a fence in Colorado

Restoring Riparian and Instream Habitat on Mancos River to Improve Connectivity for Native Fish (CO)

Grantee: Mountain Studies Institute
 Grant Amount:.....\$587,400
 Matching Funds:.....\$731,100
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,318,500
 Restore riparian habitat and revegetate degraded floodplains, in-stream habitat and improve hydrology to benefit imperiled warm water native fish including the roundtail chub, bluehead sucker and flannelmouth sucker. Project will rectify two barriers for fish passage, open access to 16 miles of stream for fish refugia, restore 1.34 miles of stream geomorphology and aquatic habitat, restore 11.32 acres of floodplain, and treat 40 acres for invasive tamarisk.

Improving Big Game Winter Range and Migration Routes by Removing Woody Invasives (CO)

Grantee: White River Conservation District
 Grant Amount:.....\$238,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$457,200
 Total Project Amount:.....\$696,100
 Improve winter range habitat and migration routes for elk and mule deer populations through the management of woody species encroachment on private and public lands which are part of the Stewart Gulch Coordinated Resources Management Plan for the Oldland Ranch located southwest of Meeker, Colorado. Project will treat woody invasives on 974 acres of land, opening up areas for wildlife movement and improving the quality of both wildlife and livestock forage.

Restoring Riparian Habitat along the Rio Grande in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
 Grant Amount:.....\$258,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$302,400
 Total Project Amount:.....\$560,400
 Improve the health and resilience of the Rio Grande downstream of the Chicago Ditch diversion dam in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge by restoring riparian areas to benefit target species including Rio Grande chub, Southwestern willow flycatcher and northern leopard frog. These actions will result in improved aquatic habitat complexity and connectivity, enhanced native fisheries, restoration of native vegetation, reconnected floodplains, reduced streambank erosion and improved water quality.

Eradicating Annual Invasive Grasses to Improve Elk and Mule Deer Winter Range (CO)

Grantee: Larimer County Natural Resources
 Grant Amount:.....\$328,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$159,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$488,600
 Restore winter range habitat needed for mule deer and elk in Larimer, Boulder, and Jefferson counties by controlling and eradicating invasive, annual grasses (cheatgrass and feral rye) with indaziflam, a scientifically proven and widely accepted herbicide. Project will restore more than 4,300 acres through invasive grass treatments, making the landscape more resistant and resilient to future disturbances (such as wildfire) and provide critical food resources for mule deer and elk.

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Increasing Biodiversity and Reducing Fire Risk with Cross-Jurisdictional Forestland Restoration (CO)

Grantee: National Forest Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$305,700
 Matching Funds:.....\$289,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$594,700

Increase quality and quantity of elk and mule deer forage, reduce risk of catastrophic fire, improve forest resilience, and enhance hydrologic function in riverside upland forest habitat on public and private lands in Chaffee County, Colorado. Project will restore 425 acres of ponderosa pine woodlands, dry mixed conifer forests, aspen stands, lodgepole pine forests, and sagebrush shrublands over a three-year period.

Eradicating Annual Invasives to Restore Native Grassland on Private Working Rangelands (CO)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Amount:.....\$103,400
 Matching Funds:.....\$51,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$155,000

Treat invasive annual grasses on native mixed grass and sand sagebrush habitats in targeted sections of working rangelands in Yuma County, Colorado using indaziflam herbicide, proven to be highly effective at controlling cheatgrass. Project will restore 2,500 acres of native grassland habitat to increase forage for cattle and wildlife.

Removing Derelict Fencing to Increase Habitat Connectivity for Big Game (CO)

Grantee: Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Grant Amount:.....\$101,100
 Matching Funds:.....\$104,300
 Total Project Amount:.....\$205,400

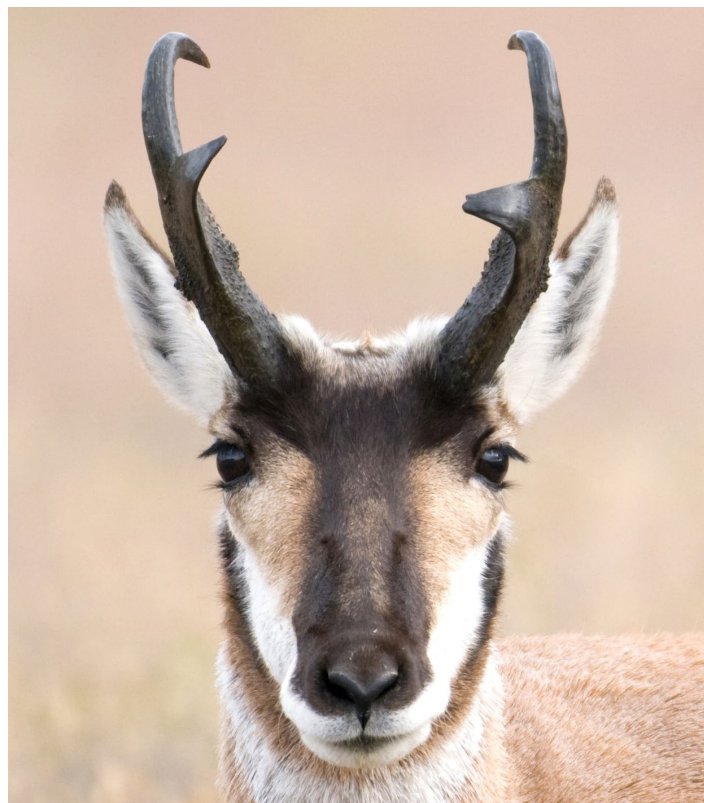
Remove derelict fencing that currently serve as a barrier for elk, mule deer and pronghorn migration and dispersal across northwest Colorado. Project will mobilize volunteers to remove 40 miles of fence to improve habitat connectivity.

Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat in the Rio Grande Natural Area (CO)

Grantee: Costilla County

Grant Amount:.....\$275,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$40,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$340,000

Restore riparian and upland habitat in the Rio Grande Natural Area to address grazing issues through strategic fencing infrastructure and new wells, and achieve improved riparian and upland vegetation and reduction of soil erosion. Project will promote river corridor connectivity, enhance water quality, provide shade for fisheries and increase the quality of wildlife habitat.



Pronghorn

Increasing Grassland Resilience and Productivity through Improved Grazing Management (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Cattlemen's Association

Grant Amount:.....\$413,100
 Matching Funds:.....\$255,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$668,100

Convene a multidisciplinary team of scientists and livestock producers to work together to study and identify a new set of core grazing management principles on working lands in the eastern Colorado grasslands to systematically improve resiliency and habitat quality. Project will improve management on 20,000 acres of working rangeland to improve grassland health, support biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration to improve climate resilience.

Eradicating Annual Invasives to Restore Native Grassland in Weld County (CO)

Grantee: Weld County Weed Division

Grant Amount:.....\$174,800
 Matching Funds:.....\$139,200
 Total Project Amount:.....\$314,000

Restore grassland habitat on private, state and federal lands in Northern Weld County, Colorado, by controlling and eradicating invasive, annual grasses with Indaziflam, a scientifically proven and widely accepted herbicide. Project will restore 4,000 acres of habitat and implement a robust educational campaign to inform stakeholders and community members of project successes.

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Increasing Habitat Connectivity and Driver Safety with Wildlife Underpasses on US Highway 160 (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Department of Transportation
 Grant Amount:..... \$337,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$6,730,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$7,067,500
 Construct up to three wildlife underpass structures and install wildlife exclusionary fencing, escape ramps and deer guards along U.S. Highway 160, east of Fort Garland, Colorado, to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions and connect critical habitats for both mule deer and elk. Project will significantly improve wildlife movement across the highway and increase driver safety.

Restoring Sagebrush Rangeland Habitat through a Conservation Partnership Coordinator (CO)

Grantee: The Mule Deer Foundation
 Grant Amount:..... \$383,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$390,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$773,600
 Restore habitat for mule deer, sage-grouse and other wildlife in cross-jurisdictional sagebrush rangelands in northwest Colorado by removing invasive conifer and cheatgrass, restoring wet meadow hydrology, reintroducing native fire regimes, improving grazing management and modifying fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications. Project will hire a Northwest Colorado Sagebrush Conservation Partnership Coordinator to identify and prioritize habitat and range improvement projects on 20,000 acres.

Project Name: Improving Habitat and Public Access to the Grand Valley Wetland (CO)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
 Grant Amount:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$200,000
 Restore wetland habitat to benefit wildlife and the local community by increasing the number and diversity of wetland dependant species using the wetland and riparian forest habitat in Mesa County, Colorado. Project will restore 343 acres of wetland habitat and provide recreational opportunities for local community members.

Restoring Riparian and Mesic Habitat in the East Troublesome Fire Scar (CO)

Grantee: Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
 Grant Amount:..... \$300,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$300,000
 Identify, prioritize, and implement activities that aim to restore habitat, stream reaches and mesic areas within affected areas of the East Troublesome Fire in Grand County, Colorado via restoration practices such as low-tech process-based restoration techniques, aerial mulching, channel stabilization, sediment basin treatments, floodplain roughening and debris removal. Project will regenerate three miles of stream reach habitat and mesic area ecology.



Northern leopard frog in Colorado



Greater sage grouse in Colorado

Restoring Forest Habitat to Benefit Big Game Species on Private, Working Lands (CO)

Grantee: Jefferson Conservation District
 Grant Amount:..... \$100,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$350,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$450,000
 Develop and manage an ecology-based forest habitat restoration project on private lands in northeastern Park County, Colorado, through mechanical forest thinning methods. Project will increase structural habitat heterogeneity and improve grass, forb, and shrub quantity and quality, for the benefit of upland wildlife species on 200 acres of habitat.