



# RESTORE Colorado

## NFWF CONTACTS

### Chris West

Director,  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
chris.west@nfwf.org  
303-222-6484

### Seth Gallagher

Director,  
Grasslands and Intermountain West  
seth.gallagher@nfwf.org  
303-222-6483

### Kirstin Neff, Ph.D.

Manager,  
Southwest Rivers  
kirstin.neff@nfwf.org  
303-222-6485

### Daley Burns

Senior Coordinator,  
Regional Programs  
daley.burns@nfwf.org  
202-595-2440

## PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Gates Family Foundation
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Occidental Petroleum
- Corteva Agriscience

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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



Sage-grouse

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Occidental Petroleum, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announced the second round of funding for the RESTORE Colorado Program. Ten new grants were awarded for more than \$3 million. The ten awards announced generated more than \$8.7 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$11.8 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

## 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)

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habitat restoration, expansion and improvement projects across priority landscapes. The 10 projects awarded in 2021 are expected to contribute the following accomplishments to these landscapes:

**River corridors, riparian areas and wetlands**

- 21 miles of instream habitat restored.
- 39 miles of stream opened.
- 5 passage barriers rectified.
- 840 acres of floodplain restored.
- 210 acres of wetlands restored.
- 44 miles of riparian habitat treated for invasive species.

**Eastern Colorado grasslands**

- 6,100 acres of grassland restored on private lands.
- 31,200 acres of grassland under improved management on private lands.
- 8,470 acres of grassland under improved management on public lands.
- 217 acres treated to remove annual invasive plants.
- 560 acres of invasive trees removed.

**Sagebrush**

- 200 mesic wet meadow structures installed.
- 2,820 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on private lands.
- 25 acres of mesic habitat with restored hydrology on public lands.

**Forestland / Big game winter range and migration routes**

- 380 acres of forestland restored on public lands.

**Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat on Swan River to Improve Connectivity for Cutthroat Trout (CO)**

Summit County Government

Grant Amount: ..... \$300,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$2,435,000

Total Project Amount: ..... \$2,735,000

Restore riparian floodplain, wetlands and upland habitat to increase habitat quality and connectivity for native cutthroat, brown and brook trout species in the Swan River Valley. Project will restore 0.8 miles of the main stem stream to a natural condition and 30 adjacent acres of riparian and upland habitat.

**Restore Riparian Habitat and Connectivity on the Colorado River around the Windy Gap Reservoir (CO)**

Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: ..... \$255,695

Matching Funds: ..... \$4,401,600

Total Project Amount: ..... \$4,657,295

Restore the hydrology and connectivity of the Colorado River by building a natural channel and floodplain around Windy Gap Reservoir, an on-channel reservoir that blocks the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms. Project will link cross-jurisdictional restoration efforts to restore habitat



**Black-footed ferret**

for lost and declining aquatic species and provide economic benefits to the small Grand County communities that rely on these stream reaches for recreation.

**Improving Habitat and Reducing Wildfire Risk by Treating Railroad Bridge Forestland (CO)**

National Forest Foundation

Grant Amount: ..... \$454,024

Matching Funds: ..... \$183,156

Total Project Amount: ..... \$637,180

Improve wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of severe wildfire by 50% through targeted, cross-jurisdictional treatments in Chaffee County on the Arkansas River headwaters. Project will restore 380 acres of forestland through mechanical mastication and hand thinning treatments, benefiting mule deer, bighorn sheep, elk and wild turkey populations and reducing the risk of severe wildfire to the Town of Buena Vista.

**Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat in the Tomichi Creek Watershed (CO)**

Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: ..... \$299,661

Matching Funds: ..... \$453,000

Total Project Amount: ..... \$752,661

Coordinate restoration work on federal, state and private land to accomplish riparian, forest and range-land habitat improvements throughout the Tomichi Creek watershed near Gunnison, Colorado. Project will restore 8.5 miles of stream and 10 acres of mesic habitat to benefit big game, aquatic species and two priority native species: the Gunnison sage-grouse and green lineage Colorado cutthroat trout.

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### Restoring Riparian and Upland Habitat in the Little Dolores River Watershed (CO)

Mesa County Land Conservancy

Grant Amount: ..... \$381,036  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$530,302  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$911,338

Restore riparian and upland habitat in the Little Dolores River watershed by installing Beaver Dam Analogue and Zeedyk structures to improve hydrology, removing invasive Russian olive and tamarisk, restoring declining Aspen groves, removing fencing and reducing grazing intensity. Project will restore more than 300 acres of habitat benefitting a variety of species include Gunnison sage-grouse, mule deer and elk.

### Removing Invasive Tamarisk to Restore Riparian Habitat and Instream flow (CO)

Conservation Legacy

Grant Amount: ..... \$260,008  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$58,900  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$318,908

Treat invasive tamarisk along the Dolores River below McPhee Dam, restoring the river to a resilient, self-sustaining state. Project will restore 500 acres of stream bank and 35 miles of riparian habitat by treating tamarisk and revegetate native plants.

### Increasing Strategic Ranch Enrollment in the Audubon Conservation Ranching Program (CO)

National Audubon Society

Grant Amount: ..... \$317,686  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$94,497  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$412,183

Strategically restore and improve management on private ranches in critical grassland habitat and identify and develop specific ranch habitat management plans and monitoring to benefit focal bird species such as lesser prairie chicken, eastern black rail, lark bunting and thick-billed longspur. Project will restore hydrology on more than 6,000 acres of mesic habitat and improve management on more than 30,000 acres of grassland habitat.

### Restoring Riparian and Wetland Habitat to Benefit Trout Spawning in Badger Creek (CO)

Central Colorado Conservancy

Grant Amount: ..... \$390,101  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$119,962  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$510,063

Design and implement riparian and wetland restoration and improved grazing management projects within the Badger Creek Headwaters watershed. Project will deliver 142 acres of reconnected floodplain and reestablished native riparian vegetation, 6.7 miles of restored stream geomorphology, restore 85 acres of restored wetlands, 1.6 miles of livestock fencing and improve 8,909 acres of rangeland habitat on public and private land.



Bull moose

### Restoring Sagebrush Shrubland for Sage-Grouse and Big Game Habitat in Dolores and San Miguel (CO)

Montezuma Land Conservancy

Grant Amount: ..... \$277,679  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$91,205  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$368,884

Increase capacity for planning and implementation of landscape-scale restoration efforts in sagebrush shrublands in southwest Colorado to enhance big game habitat and working lands resilience. Project will implement mesic restoration through the installation of approximately 100 Zeedyk structures, as well as invasive species removal and retreatment of tamarisk on approximately 158 acres of Dry Creek Basin in San Miguel County.

### Restoring Riparian and Wetland Hydrology and Species Habitat in the South Platte Headwaters (CO)

Colorado Open Lands

Grant Amount: ..... \$131,795  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$370,020  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$501,815

Restore natural function and habitat in the headwaters of the South Platte watershed, using low-tech treatments to restore stream geomorphology to increase aquatic species habitat, reconnect floodplain and reestablish native riparian vegetation, and restore wetland. Project will restore 164 acres of riparian habitat, 111 acres of wetland habitat, and 4.3 miles of stream habitat to benefit boreal toad, northern leopard frog, bald eagle, Lewis's woodpecker, short-eared owls and river otter.