



# RESTORE Colorado

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## PARTNERS

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Gates Family Foundation
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
  - Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  - Colorado Water Conservation Board
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management

## 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)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Rocky Mountains in Colorado

## OVERVIEW

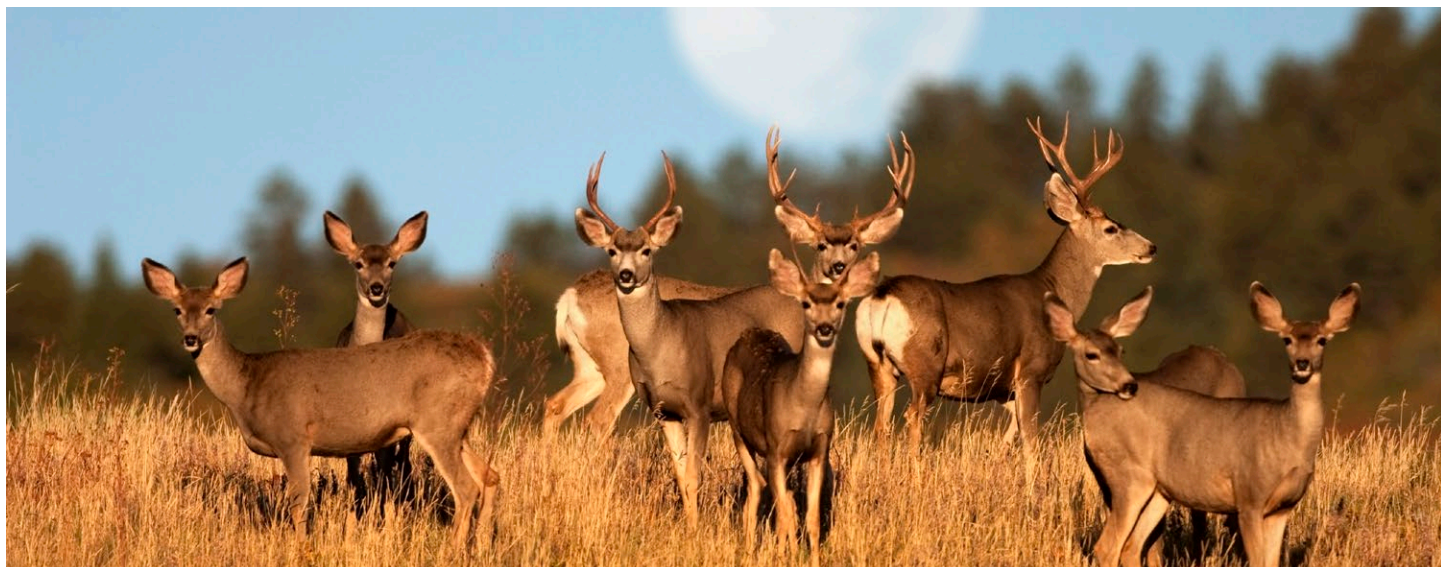
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Great Outdoors Colorado, Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management announced the inaugural round of funding for the RESTORE Colorado Program. Eleven new grants totaling \$2,718,300 were awarded. The eleven awards announced generated \$3,353,600 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$6,071,900.

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 including:

- River corridors, riparian areas and wetlands
- Eastern Colorado grasslands
- Sagebrush
- Big game winter range and migration routes
- Forestland projects in specific geographies

*(continued)*



Mule deer

### **Removing Invasive Tamarisk and Russian Olive to Restore Habitat for Endangered Fish and Birds (CO)**

Grantee: RiversEdge West

Grant Amount: .....\$128,018  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$29,160  
 Total Project: .....\$157,178

Systematically remove invasive tamarisk and Russian olive and revegetate floodplains in the Grand Valley in Mesa County, Colorado to open up backwater habitat for endangered fish. Project will enhance habitat for native and migratory birds and the endangered razorback sucker along a 25 mile stretch of the Colorado River.

### **Restoring Forest Habitat in Chaffee County to Reduce Risk of Catastrophic Wildfire (CO)**

Grantee: Chaffee County

Grant Amount: .....\$366,310  
 Matching Funds: .....\$545,500  
 Total Project: .....\$911,810

Strategically assess the forests at the headwaters of the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, Colorado to identify the 5-10% of the landscape where treatment will decrease the risk severe wildfire poses to community assets by 50-70%. Project will employ forest thinning and seeding to restore more than 400 acres of habitat once forests are assessed.

### **Modifying Fences on Private Ranches to Improve Wildlife Connectivity through Grassland Habitat (CO)**

Grantee: Southern Plains Land Trust

Grant Amount: .....\$216,002  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$69,632  
 Total Project: .....\$285,634

Improve habitat connectivity for pronghorn, elk, mule deer and other grassland obligates in shortgrass prairie in southeastern Colorado. Project will remove, replace, or modify 50 miles of fencing to increase wildlife access across the landscape and to improve livestock management.

### **Removing Fish Barriers and Restoring the Conejos River Floodplain (CO)**

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Grant Amount: .....\$350,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$23,800  
 Total Project: .....\$373,800

Improve aquatic and riparian habitat on the South Branch of the Conejos River in Colorado by replacing three irrigation diversions currently acting as fish barriers. Project will re-open more than nine miles of stream and restore nearly 24 acres of floodplain and streambanks.

### **Combating Habitat Fragmentation and Loss in Grassland Ecosystems (CO)**

Grantee: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Grant Amount: .....\$378,465  
 Matching Funds: .....\$600,175  
 Total Project: .....\$978,640

Help reverse the decline of grassland obligate bird species by combating habitat fragmentation and loss through collaborative efforts in Colorado. Project will work with landowners and other resource professionals to conserve 40,000 grassland acres on private working lands.

### **Improving Big Game Winter Range and Restoring Sagebrush Habitat (CO)**

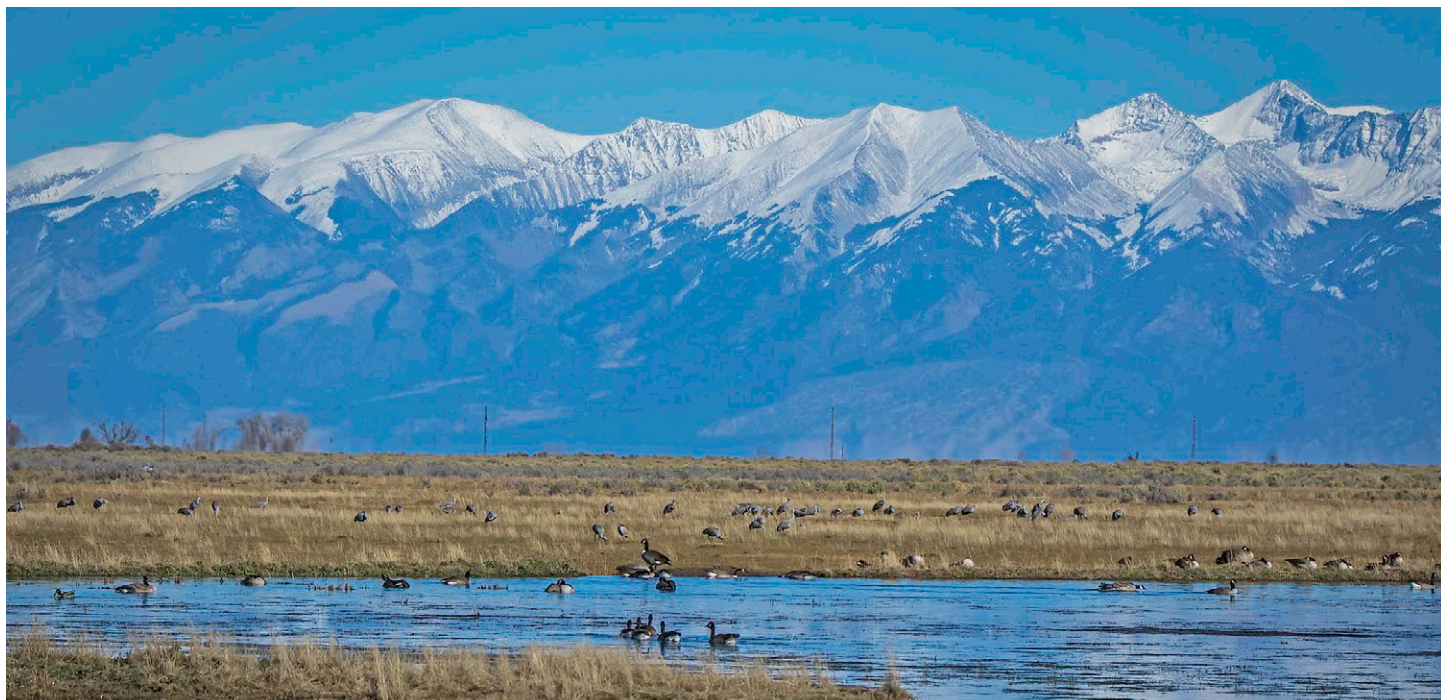
Grantee: State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Grant Amount: .....\$250,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$0  
 Total Project: .....\$250,000

Expand capacity related to planned and ongoing landscape scale habitat management activities in the Bears Ears and White River priority big game herd management units in Colorado. Project will remove 40 miles of fencing and restore 680 acres of sagebrush habitat by removing invasive trees.

(continued)





Canada geese and sandhill cranes in southern Colorado

#### **Restoring Mesic Meadow and Sagebrush Habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse and Big Game Species (CO)**

Grantee: Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

Grant Amount: .....\$238,658

Matching Funds: .....\$240,526

Total Project: .....\$479,184

Restore sagebrush shrublands and mesic wet meadows to benefit greater sage-grouse and big game species in Northwest Colorado. Project will restore hydrology on 40 acres of private lands by installing 400 mesic meadow restoration ("Zeedyk") structures and remove 20 miles of fencing.

#### **Removing Invasive Conifer to Restore Sagebrush Habitat (CO)**

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Colorado Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Grant Amount: .....\$100,000

Matching Funds: .....\$94,694

Total Project: .....\$194,694

Enhance sagebrush habitats in priority Colorado Partners for Fish and Wildlife focal areas to benefit primarily Gunnison sage-grouse. Project will remove invasive conifer trees to improve 500 acres and implement wet meadow restoration projects on 50 acres of privately owned working lands.

#### **Improving Big Game Winter Habitat on the San Juan National Forest (CO)**

Grantee: Dolores Public Lands Office

Grant Amount: .....\$150,000

Matching Funds: .....\$450,000

Total Project: .....\$600,000

Improve and enhance habitat conditions for big game

transitional and winter ranges on the San Juan National Forest, Dolores Ranger District in Colorado. Project will improve 400 acres of ponderosa pine habitat by using thinning, prescribed fire.

#### **Improving Wildlife Connectivity and Motorist Safety Across US Highway 24 (CO)**

Grantee: Colorado Department of Transportation

Grant Amount: .....\$267,853

Matching Funds: .....\$1,300,154

Total Project: .....\$1,568,007

Restore a safe migration corridor for the Mosquito Range, Buffalo Peaks and South Park mule deer and elk herds across US Highway 24 in Colorado. Project will improve motorist safety and decrease wildlife-vehicle collisions by 90% by installing four miles of fencing to direct elk, deer and other wildlife to an existing wildlife bridge.

#### **Restore Platte River Wetlands Habitat to Benefit Ducks, Geese and Waterbirds (CO)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: .....\$272,954

Matching Funds: .....\$0

Total Project: .....\$272,954

Enhance habitat for ducks, geese and other waterbirds that depend upon high-quality wetland habitats being available during critical periods of their life cycles in Colorado. Project will restore 830 acres of floodplain wetlands and 1,878 acres of mesic habitat, and improve management on 2,791 acres.