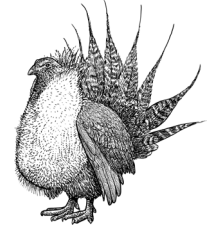


Funding Opportunities for Wyoming Sage-Grouse Conservation Efforts (revised November 2023)



This list of potential funding sources is not intended to be all encompassing. Various private foundations, companies and individuals not listed below often partner in conservation efforts. Finding and contacting these potential partners is best accomplished on a local level. The list below includes funding sources that can address various scales of projects ranging from the individual landowner to multi-state efforts. Contact the sources for detailed information, eligibility, and application criteria.

State of Wyoming Sources:

Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account - Created by legislative action in 2005 for the purposes of preserving and enhancing Wyoming's wildlife and natural resources. Income from the trust account funds a wide variety of conservation programs.
<http://wwnr.state.wy.us>

Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) Trust Fund - Matching grants program for riparian or upland habitat improvement, water development, and industrial water projects.
<http://wgfd.wyo.gov>

Wyoming Sage-Grouse Conservation Project Funds - Funding approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission designed to implement projects identified in local Sage-Grouse Conservation Plans. <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Habitat/Sage-Grouse-Management/Sage-Grouse-Local-Working-Groups>

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) - Provides funding for the purposes of mitigating damage caused to livestock, wildlife and crops by predatory animals, predacious birds, and depredating animals or for the protection of human health and safety.
<http://www.wyadmb.com>

Federal Sources:

U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service <http://www.fws.gov>

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program – Provides assistance to private landowners who want to restore or improve habitat on their property. The landowner is reimbursed based on the cost sharing formula in the agreement, after project completion.

Private Stewardship Program – Provides grants or other assistance to individuals and groups engaged in private conservation efforts that benefits species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands. Maximum Federal share is 90%.

Cooperative Conservation Initiative - Supports efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat. Maximum Federal share is 50%.

Multistate Conservation Grant Program - Supports sport fish and wildlife restoration projects identified by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Maximum Federal share is 100%.

Tribal Landowner Incentive Program - For actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on tribal lands. Maximum Federal share is 75%.

Tribal Wildlife Grants – Provides for development and implementation of programs for the benefit of tribal wildlife and their habitat. Maximum Federal share is 100%.

Conservation Grants - Provides financial assistance to States to implement wildlife conservation projects such as habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies and development of management plans. Maximum Federal share is 75 % for a single state or 90% for two or more states implementing a joint project.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - A voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, you can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long- term, resource conserving covers and enhance wildlife habitat on eligible agricultural land.

- General CRP- farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive cropland from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality.
- Grassland CRP- helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov>

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) - Provides voluntary conservation technical assistance to land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. This assistance is for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource issues.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility. A broad program with a variety of funding pools, including Working Lands for Wildlife, that provides special funding for Sage-grouse and Big Game related projects.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – CIG is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG partners work to address our nation’s water quality, air quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations.

Conservation Stewardship program (CStwP) - The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level. The program is designed to compensate agricultural and forest producers who agree to increase their level of conservation by adopting additional conservation activities and maintaining their baseline level of conservation. CSP is for producers who are passionate about conservation and environmental stewardship.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands. ACEP is a new program that consolidates three former programs – the Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program and Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP) – RCCP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land. promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management <http://www.blm.gov>

Challenge Cost Share – This program is designed to leverage funds with partners to monitor and inventory resources; implement habitat improvement projects; develop recovery plans; protect or document cultural resources; provide enhanced recreational experiences; and to better manage wild horse and burro populations. Matching funds, goods or services are required.

U.S.D.A. Forest Service <http://www.fs.fed.us>

Cooperative project funding – Contact local U.S. Forest Service staff for information about opportunities to develop partnerships in projects involving National Forests or National Grasslands.

Partnership Resource Center - The Partnership Resource Center of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the USDA - Forest Service (FS) provides partnering organizations and FS

staff with the information to enhance working relationships. Partnerships expand opportunities for obtaining grants. Many funding sources prefer or require them because projects involving partnerships have an increased potential for success. <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org>

Other potential funding sources include but are not limited to:

Wyoming Wildlife – The Foundation – The Wyoming Wildlife - The Foundation (now a component fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation) is a charitable, non-advocacy organization dedicated to conservation education and the funding and management of projects that benefit Wyoming wildlife. <http://www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org>

Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition - Funding generated from the sale of Governor’s licenses placed in five accounts: bighorn sheep, moose, elk, mule deer and general wildlife. Funds administered by the Wyoming Wildlife – The Foundation. <http://www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org/index.aspx>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Conservation Partners Program - Grants funded through Conservation Partners provide staff and technical assistance to private landowners in regions where some of the nation’s most crucial conservation issues can be addressed through Farm Bill programs. <http://www.nfwf.org/conservationpartners/Pages/home.aspx>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) - Provides support for the formation of local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships engage federal resource agencies, state and local governments, private landowners, and others in developing weed management projects within an integrated pest management strategy. Non- Federal matching funds, goods or services are required. <http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/home.aspx>

Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) - Capacity Grants Program - Habitats within the IWJV area support nearly 100% of the range of all high priority sagebrush steppe landbird species, such as: Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Sage-Grouse and Brewer’s Sparrow. The IWJV Capacity Grants Program is designed to build capacity and catalyze partnerships that measurably contribute to the protection, restoration, or enhancement of priority bird habitats to support sustainable populations of birds in the Intermountain West. Successful capacity grants are meant to join conservation partners together—around priority areas, habitats, or bird species—to improve conservation program effectiveness. <http://iwjv.org/funding-opportunity/iwjv-capacity-grants-program>

Partnering the Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands-- Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands is a joint effort of the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in service of proactive, voluntary sagebrush habitat conservation. The IWJV and BLM established Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands with a five-year Intra-Agency Agreement (IAA) in 2016, with a goal to catalyze proactive, voluntary, and community-led sagebrush rangeland conservation across public and private lands for future generations. Additional IAAs were signed in 2019 and 2023 to continue our shared work, with the two IAAs in 2023 focusing on work to manage wildfire, fuels, and the BLM's Restoration Landscapes. <http://www.partnersinthesage.com>

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - TNC works with conservation supporters and partner organizations to create funding for conservation worldwide using a variety of creative methods. <http://nature.org>

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) - RMEF is a wildlife conservation organization with an emphasis on elk. It advocates sustainable, ethical use of resources and seeks common ground among stakeholders. RMEF funds habitat restoration and improvement projects, acquires land or conservation easements. <http://www.rmef.org>

Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) - MDF's goals center on restoring, improving and protecting mule deer habitat. MDF achieves its goals through partnering with state and federal wildlife agencies, conservation groups, businesses and individuals to fund and implement habitat enhancement projects on both public and private lands. <http://www.muledeer.org>

Muley Fanatic Foundation (MFF) – MFF's mission is to ensure the conservation of mule deer and their habitat and to provide such supporting services to further the sport of hunting and sound wildlife management. <http://www.muleyfanatic.com>

One Shot Antelope Foundation -Water for Wildlife - Water for Wildlife is a conservation program designed to benefit wildlife and the environment in arid regions of the West. Emphasis focuses on the development of supplemental water resources in areas where both the habitat and wildlife are being impaired by lack of this vital resource. <http://www.waterforwildlife.com>

North American Grouse Partnership (NAGP) - Promotes the conservation of prairie grouse and the habitats necessary for their survival and reproduction. <http://www.grousepartners.org>

Pheasants Forever (PF) – Some sage-grouse populations in Wyoming occur within areas that have a local PF chapter. Local chapters determine how their funds are spent. Game birds other than pheasants may be eligible for funding. <http://www.pheasantsforever.org/chapters/>

Bow Hunters of Wyoming (BOW) – BOW assists with wildlife studies, habitat improvement, water guzzlers and other conservation efforts. <http://www.bowhuntersofwyoming.vcn.com>

Audubon Society – Rocky Mountains -- More than 350 species depend on the sagebrush ecosystem, as well as people. Reaching 14 states, sagebrush country is vital bird habitat, but only half of it is left and new demands continue to be placed on it. Audubon’s Sagebrush Ecosystem Initiative brings together citizens, industry, government, and NGOs to find pragmatic solutions that balance the needs of people and birds. Join us in conserving this American treasure. <https://rockies.audubon.org/sagebrush>

Audubon Society – Wyoming Local Chapters – Local Audubon Society chapters promote the conservation and appreciation of birds and other wildlife through education, outreach, and habitat stewardship. Several local chapters provide small grant opportunities. Wyoming local chapters can be found at: <https://www.audubon.org/about/audubon-near-you?state=WY>

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Sagebrush Science Initiative -- The Sagebrush Science Initiative (SSI) is a collaborative effort originally between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and WAFWA to identify and fill the highest priority gaps in scientific knowledge needed to effectively conserve sagebrush dependent species and the sagebrush habitats they depend on. <https://wafwa.org/initiative-programs/sagebrush-science-initiative/>

Working Lands for Wildlife -- Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s premier approach for conserving America’s working lands to benefit people, wildlife and rural communities. <https://www.wlfw.org/>

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) -- For more than 80 years, the National Wildlife Federation has been uniting Americans to ensure wildlife thrive. Through our hands-on programs, policy work, community outreach, and more, we forge a conservation army of millions of people that work each day to build a better future for both people and wildlife—because in saving wildlife, we save ourselves. <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Wildlife-Conservation/Greater-Sage-Grouse>