

## Colorado State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

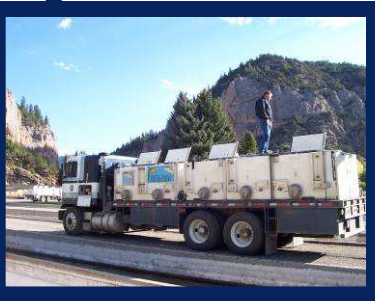
In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Colorado's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



*Outreach Project  
Photo Courtesy of Colorado DOW*

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Gunnison Sage-grouse Citizen Stewardship Program**

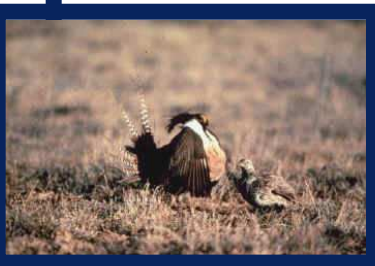
State Wildlife Grant funding is helping Colorado Audubon establish a local citizen group to assist in the monitoring of Gunnison sage-grouse. Through this program, local volunteers will maintain fences to protect breeding areas on BLM lands, reach out to ranchers about the conservation of sage-grouse habitat, help in managing the impact of bird watchers at breeding sites, and assist with sagebrush habitat research by Western State College. This is a proactive and cost-effective program that gets local people directly involved conservation.



*Fish Stocking Truck  
Photo Courtesy of Colorado DOW*

### **Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas Colorado Native Fish Hatchery**

The Colorado Division of Wildlife opened the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility in 2000 with a mission to recover aquatic species with declining populations. This will conserve fish before they become rare and more costly to protect. State Wildlife Grant funds were used to help drill a new and more secure well for the facility. The project will improve water quantity and quality at the facility, and increase the Division of Wildlife's ability to hatch, raise and stock at-risk species of native fish in streams across the state. Recovery programs in the Colorado River, the Rio Grande River and in eastern Colorado waterways will all benefit from this new and expanded facility.



*Gunnison Sage Grouse  
Photo Courtesy of Colorado DOW*

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Ochs Ranch Conservation Easement**

Ochs Ranch contains the core population of the Gunnison sage-grouse, a species that is in decline. The State Wildlife Grants Program partially funded a conservation easement to protect this critical habitat from the rapid growth the area is undergoing. Conservationists, wildlife officials, local ranchers and state land officials all worked extensively in support of the project as an important step in the conservation of Gunnison sage-grouse and they have developed a management plan for the property to protect and improve this habitat. As our communities grow, State Wildlife Grants can help fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations.

**Congress has appropriated \$7.6 million in State Wildlife Grants to Colorado since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$4 million state and partner dollars.**