

## New Mexico State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

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



*New Mexico, Photo Courtesy of USGS*

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife** **Conserving the Rio Grande Sucker**

The Rio Grande sucker, once common in New Mexico, is now found only in one shallow meandering stream called Hot Creek. In order to protect this state endangered species and to prevent it from becoming a federally listed endangered species, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has used State Wildlife Grants to develop a restoration plan. Biologists have worked to transplant the sucker from Hot Creek into three other rivers. This is a proactive approach to conserve the Rio Grande Sucker before it becomes more rare and more costly to protect.



*Leopard Frog, Photo Courtesy of USGS*

### **Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Places** **Chiricahua Leopard Frog Restoration**

The Chiricahua leopard frog became a federally listed endangered species in 2000, after a decline in its population due to habitat loss and fragmentation, disease, and environmental contamination. Now State Wildlife Grant funds are being used to return the Chiricahua leopard frog to the mountains, valleys and river drainages where it has historically lived. After reintroducing the frogs to new habitat, biologists will use radio transmitters to track how the frogs do in their new home. Since the health of frogs is an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all, information on the Chiricahua frog will ultimately benefit both wildlife and people.



*Gray Flycatcher, Photo Courtesy of NPS*

### **Research: Gathering Information to Take Action** **Short Grass Prairie Bird Conservation**

In order to take proactive measures to conserve wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations, decision-makers need solid information. The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department are using State Wildlife Grants to get the most thorough information possible. This project will initiate an inventory and monitoring system for grassland birds in northeastern New Mexico as part of a regional monitoring effort. Information from the study will be used to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for short-grass prairie birds. Having complete knowledge of where various species of birds are living in the state will enable cost-effective conservation decisions.

**Congress has appropriated \$6.2 million in State Wildlife Grants to New Mexico since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$3 million state and partner dollars.**



**The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**  
444 North Capitol Street NW ▪ Suite 725 ▪ Washington D.C., 20001  
(202) 624-7890 ▪ [www.iafwa.org](http://www.iafwa.org) ▪ [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com)

**Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency**  
P.O. Box 41489 ▪ Nashville, TN 37204  
[www.state.tn.us/twra](http://www.state.tn.us/twra)