

Wyoming 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 Wyoming's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Roundtail Chub, Photo
Courtesy of USBR

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas Helping Fish in the Green River

The Green River is a big western river that starts in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains and winds its way through the desert to the Colorado River, hundreds of miles away. It's a river that's been impacted by dam construction, creation of channels and other problems. It's also a river that's home to three species of fish that need our help: the bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker and roundtail chub. State Wildlife Grants are funding a multi-year effort to learn more about these three species. This information will be used by multiple states to plan a management strategy that will eliminate the need to list these species under the Endangered Species Act. This conserves wildlife and natural places before they become more rare and costly to protect.



Wyoming Frog, Photo
Courtesy of USFWS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action Amphibian Assessment

One of the biggest challenges facing natural resource managers in Wyoming is a lack of information. Insufficient data, especially concerning amphibians, makes planning and management costly and ineffective. State Wildlife Grants are helping to change this by funding basic research on Wyoming's amphibians. Detailed statewide surveys will allow the Department of Game and Fish to develop long-term action plans that will eliminate the need to list these species under the federal Endangered Species Act, helping to conserve wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations to enjoy.



Sage Grouse, Photo
Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Sage Grouse Management

The sage grouse has suffered a long-term decline in numbers and has been proposed for listing as threatened in the west. A variety of reasons have been offered for this decline, including drought, grazing, predators, sagebrush habitat losses, mineral development, urbanization, and loss of water sources. State Wildlife Grant funds will be used to evaluate the type, intensity, and timing of grazing systems and natural fire cycles that are compatible with and help maintain the life needs of sage grouse. Taking proactive measures to conserve the sage grouse may help avoid listing the bird as threatened, saving taxpayer money.

Congress has appropriated \$3.7 million in State Wildlife Grants from the federal government since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$860 thousand state and partner dollars.