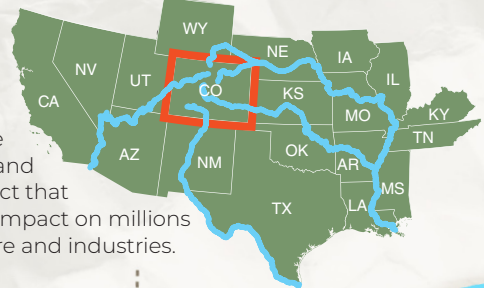


# Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative TRICKLE-DOWN EFFECT

As the human population continues to swell, so too do the threats to forests, wildlife habitat and communities. The Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, partnership between the NWF and USDA Forest Service, aims to improve wildlife habitat for wild turkeys and many other species in Colorado, while at the same time enhancing forest resiliency to wildfire and insect damage. This work also impacts the quality of water sources that begin at the headwaters of Colorado's four watersheds and meander throughout the country, affecting a total of 19 states. It's a trickle-down effect that starts by benefiting wild turkeys and other wildlife, but ultimately will have a lasting impact on millions of acres of habitat and miles of waterways, in addition to our communities, agriculture and industries.



## The RMRI project areas

**1** The Upper Arkansas landscape, an additional RMRI project, is working to restore 30,000-45,000 acres of public and private lands in priority areas across the 900,000-acre project area.

**2** RMRI's marquee project takes place in Southwest Colorado, part of the Colorado River basin. Wildlife habitat work here will restore over 300,000 acres of public and private lands in priority areas across the 750,000-acre project area.

**3** The Upper South Platte River project, an additional RMRI landscape, is working to restore 150,000 acres of public and private lands in priority areas across the 885,000-acre watershed.



## Colorado's watersheds

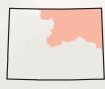
### Colorado River

- States impacted: Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, California, New Mexico, Colorado
- Water from the Colorado River is piped across the continental divide to Colorado's populated Front Range – estimated population: 5 million. This water source impacts drinking water in communities such as Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, Longmont, Boulder, Denver's metro area, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Trinidad.
- Critical water resources in the project area support fish and wildlife habitat, and the water supply for six Colorado communities (Durango, Bayfield, Mancos, Dolores, Hesperus, Cortez), three tribes in two states and numerous downstream communities in the Colorado River watershed.



### South Platte River

- States impacted: Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana
- The South Platte River system forms the Platte River in Nebraska and eventually connects with the Missouri River and then into the mighty Mississippi. This watershed provides drinking water to the Denver-metro region, about three-quarters of the state's population. The Upper South Platte River project will help improve forest health while decreasing erosion and silt in the watershed. This leads to better water quality downstream, effecting close to 1.8 million square miles of watershed area down to the Gulf of Mexico.



### Arkansas River

- States impacted: Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Mississippi, Louisiana
- The project's top community priority is to accelerate action to address declining forest health caused by fire suppression. The work delivers regional and national benefits since these headwaters, in Colorado's largest river basin, provide drinking water for more than a million people.



### Rio Grande

- States impacted: Texas, New Mexico, Colorado
- The Rio Grande River watershed is not currently part of RMRI, but future plans may impact the Upper Rio Grande watershed in Colorado and in the Middle Rio Grande in New Mexico.



### For more

[www.restoringtherockies.org](http://www.restoringtherockies.org) and [NWF.org](http://NWF.org)



61% of Colorado's Gold Medal trout waters are impacted by the Upper Arkansas project

Upper South Platte is home to five major reservoirs, popular trout waters and hiking

Home to 8 of the state's 14ers (mountain peaks exceeding 14,000 feet) and healthy elk populations