



Western Water Network Grants Project Ideas

This list provides potential projects that would be good candidates for Western Water Network Grant funding during the Spring 2021 round of grants. Many of these ideas have come directly from state and flyway staff, as well as from chapter leaders already leading this work locally. We encourage you to reach out for more information or for support planning and drafting your proposal, facilitating your project, and reporting on your work. Please also feel free to innovate – there are countless projects that are not found on this list that align with our priorities. More information, including a list of region-specific contacts who can help you, can be found on the [Western Water Network Grant webpage](#).

| Policy and Advocacy | |
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| West (any of the 8 priority states) | Submit water-focused LTE's once per month in coordination with Audubon staff in your area |
| Upper CO River Basin | Advocate to state elected leaders to protect and improve river flows and watershed resiliency in Colorado. |
| Lower CO River Basin | Build awareness of the economic implications of groundwater protection and to elevate the voices of people living in groundwater dependent communities. |
| Salton Sea | Organize ten volunteers to participate in Audubon California's advocacy day at the state legislature to elevate the need for action at the Salton Sea. |
| Saline Lakes | Participate in the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival and advocate for public funding for water conservation, as well as encourage individual action on conservation or engagement at the local planning level. |
| Rio Grande | Meet with state elected leaders and greater Albuquerque area commissioners to advocate for long-range water sustainability planning. |
| Habitat Restoration/Enhancement | |
| West (any of the 8 priority states) | Build a collaborative habitat project with an agricultural partner in your area. |
| Upper CO River Basin | Restore riparian habitat along the Colorado River where invasive species have moved in. |
| Lower CO River Basin | Support restoration and education efforts in partnership with indigenous communities. |
| Salton Sea | Use communications and advocacy tools to urge the state to make tangible progress on habitat restoration as part of implementing the Salton Sea Management Plan. |
| Saline Lakes | Organize invasive vegetation removal and shoreline cleanup efforts at Gillmor Sanctuary and/or Lee Creek shoreline. Coordinate with Gillmor Sanctuary managers. |
| Rio Grande | Host a habitat restoration workday with partners within riparian or adjacent habitat. |
| Community Science | |
| Upper CO River Basin | Participate in the Western Rivers Bird Count at sites prioritized for restoration activities. |



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| Lower CO River Basin | Train the next cohort of volunteer surveyors by engaging new volunteers in priority species monitoring (Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ridgway's Rail) and working with Audubon Southwest to provide volunteers with needed training and credentials. |
| Salton Sea | Facilitate engagement with "Eyes on the Sea" to collect scientific data and conduct bird counts on/near the Salton Sea. |
| Saline Lakes | Host bird walks at priority restoration sites and record sightings in e-bird. |
| Rio Grande | Coordinate with Audubon Southwest to facilitate bird walks/surveys along priority reaches of the Middle Rio Grande (the Isleta reach) |

Campus Chapters: Projects built collaboratively between campus and traditional chapters are encouraged! Below are project ideas that may be suitable for such a collaboration.

| Campus Chapter Collaborative Projects |
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| With a traditional chapter or your local state/regional office, build a collaborative habitat restoration/enhancement project focused on riparian, wetland, or saline lake habitat. |
| Work with a traditional chapter or your local state/regional office to engage a cohort of students in ongoing advocacy efforts to protect water resources and water dependent habitats. |
| With a traditional chapter or your local state/regional office, train a cohort of student members to participate in the Western Rivers Bird Count at sites prioritized for restoration activities. |
| With a traditional chapter or your local state/regional office, engage student volunteers in priority species monitoring (Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ridgway's Rail, or other focal species). |
| With a traditional chapter or your local state/regional office, host bird walks at priority restoration sites and record sightings in e-bird. |

Audubon Society Regional Contacts:

- For general questions, grant writing, project development, and implementation support please reach out to Audubon Southwest Outreach Biologist Steven Prager at steven.prager@audubon.org. For targeted local support, you may reach out to the following individuals:
 - Saline Lakes – Max Malmquist, max.malmquist@audubon.org
 - Salton Sea – Andrea Jones, andrea.jones@audubon.org
 - Upper Basin CO River – Abby Burk, abby.burk@audubon.org
 - Lower Basin CO River – Morgan Moore, morgan.moore@audubon.org
 - Rio Grande + New Mexico – Steven Prager, steven.prager@audubon.org