

# Conservation Projects

Agricultural Projects Undertaken by the Tow Creek Ranch		
Date	Project	Partners
2000	Tow Creek stream bank stabilization (planting willows)	Tow Creek Ranch Nature Conservancy Great Outdoors Colorado-Yampa River System Legacy Project
2001	Restoration of riparian areas adjacent to Tow Creek - drift fence constructed - electrical fencing erected and taken down as needed - water gaps tested - cattle guard installed	Tow Creek Ranch Partners for Fish and Wildlife Nature Conservancy
2002-2006	High tensile wire perimeter fence erected as barrier to livestock and people - reseeded land disturbed when fencing put in - metal gates and game pass throughs put in fence	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service SF-HM Limited Partnership Claude Utterback Family Trust Victor Morton and Sons, Inc. Partnership for Fish and Wildlife Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Program
2004 and 2005	Reclaim two inactive coal mines - revegetate sites - develop spring - put in water tanks - dig overflow pond	Tow Creek Ranch Division of Minerals & Geology Natural Resources Conservation Service
2005	Develop planned grazing system to provide upland wildlife with food and cover	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2006	Permanent vegetation planted and maintained to reduce erosion and produce high quality forage that will be hayed and grazed	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2006	Hand plant trees in riparian areas to stabilize stream banks to provide windbreaks	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2006	Establish native perennial vegetation on severely eroded areas requiring extra ordinary means - chemical weed control - seedbed preparation - seeding native species	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife
2006-2008	Toadflax spraying	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service

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2007	Forest Management Plan developed	Tow Creek Ranch Colorado State Forest Service Natural Resources Conservation Service
2008	Replace 2 steel stock tanks	Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Program
2009	DIXIE Project - reclaim two inactive coal mine sites- one on State Land and one on adjacent neighboring private land	Tow Creek Ranch Division of Minerals and Geology
2010	Fence Damage Reimbursement Program - reimbursement for fence damages caused by heavy snow and wildlife	Tow Creek Ranch Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Program
2010 and 2011	Tree/Shrub Establishment Practice - 2010 planted 50 willow pole cuttings - 2011 planted 310 willow pole cuttings along Tow Creek to provide woody cover for shelter, food and brood rearing habitat - managed riparian habitat for Western Riparian Leopard Frogs - 2010 Spray Yellow Toadflax in field - 2011 reseed sprayed areas	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2010-2014	Conservation Stewardship Program - monitor 5 key grazing areas to improve management using clippings from cages measuring 1square yard. - photo point in four directions one location on Tow Creek - plant native grasses into 15% or more of forage acres - recycle 100% farm lubricants - retrofit existing water facilities with a wildlife escape device	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2012	Black Bear Population Study - hair samples collected off barbed wire snares - a new scent was implemented	Tow Creek Ranch Colorado Parks and Wildlife
2014	2014 Conservation Activity Plan for NEKO Enterprises, LLC - prepared management plan for forest health and habitat conservation--- update of original management plan	Tow Creek Ranch Colorado State Forest Service Natural Resources Conservation Service
2013 and 2014	Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project - logged 10 acres aspen and 23 acres old, same age, dead sub alpine fir-not clear cut - suitable logged trees removed from site - First burn slash piles	Tow Creek Ranch Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Project Colorado State Forest Service Natural Resources Conservation Service

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2014	Weed Spraying - herbicide used at logging and burn sites to kill emergent weeds	Tow Creek Ranch Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Project
2015	Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project - logged 25 acres dead and diseased aspen - removed suitable logged trees from site - burn slash piles	Tow Creek Ranch Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Project Colorado State Forest Service Natural Resources Conservation Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
2015	Drilled well to provide additional water for livestock and wildlife	Tow Creek Ranch
2016	Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project - Second burn slash piles	Tow Creek Ranch Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Project Colorado State Forest Service Natural Resources Conservation Service
2016	Brush Management Project - hydroaxed 40 acres of oak brush on State Land lease - cleared areas of dense oak brush to allow wildlife and grazing animals to pass through - begin weed management	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2015-2019	Conservation Stewardship Program - establish/maintain 1/3 acre dry land pollinator garden for bees - harvest hay in manner that allows wildlife to flush or to escape - incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15 acres of pasture - hydroaxed 33 acres to open up grazing, allow migration thru oak brush - control weeds - continue all activities undertaken in 2010-2014 Conservation Stewardship Program	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2017	Restoration of Tow Creek bank - remove culvert - stabilize stream bank - increase water for livestock and wildlife - set 2 eight foot watering tanks	Tow Creek Ranch Natural Resources Conservation Service
2000-Present	Spray yearly for weeds, reseed disturbed areas, maintain fencing and roads	Tow Creek Ranch