



Southern Plains Land Trust  
GAINING GROUND FOR PRAIRIE WILDLIFE

---

# SOUTHERN PLAINS LAND TRUST

---

*Location: USA*

## Wilder Rangelands Case Study

*Rangelands Working Group,  
Global Rewilding Alliance*

**Rewilding**  
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

*Photo credits: Lauren McCain*

# Table of contents

---

<b>OVERVIEW</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>APPROACH: HOLISTIC LANDSCAPE-SCALE REWILDING</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>OUTCOMES &amp; IMPACT</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>PART OF A LARGER EFFORT</b>	<b>07</b>

---



*Photo credits: Emma Balunek*



# Overview

---

*The Global Rewilding Alliance has convened Alliance Partners — including Southern Plains Land Trust — and cross-sector experts through its Rangelands Working Group to launch the Rewilding Rangelands Initiative: a coordinated effort to restore ecological function and foster coexistence across the world's rangelands.*

The Southern Plains Land Trust is committed to preserving the unique ecological heritage of the Southern Great Plains, **America's Serengeti**, by protecting and rewilding native shortgrass prairie.

Through rewilding of keystone species such as the **American Bison**, **Black-tailed Prairie Dog**, and **American Beaver**, Southern Plains Land Trust works to conserve and restore these increasingly threatened landscapes, ensuring their ecological integrity and biodiversity for future generations.



*Photo credits: Sean Boggs*

Southern Plains Land Trust embraces a vision of providing a safe refuge for wildlife to benefit the entire region.



## APPROACH:

# Holistic Landscape-Scale Rewilding

Southern Plains Land Trust focuses on rewilding large, ecologically significant areas across the Southern Plains, a region facing significant pressure from development and agricultural conversion. Their approach emphasizes a **holistic view of land stewardship**, aiming to maintain natural processes and support a rich diversity of life by managing for biodiversity.

### Land Conservation & Connectivity

Southern Plains Land Trust actively works to **acquire and protect private lands** that are ecologically important, often prioritizing areas that form corridors, expand existing conservation networks, or provide refuge for threatened species.

Removal of interior fencing coupled with replacing perimeter fencing with **wildlife-friendly wire at all of their preserves** has drastically improved landscape connectivity, which is crucial for the movement of wildlife and the resilience of ecological systems.

### Rangeland Rewilding

Where lands have been degraded, Southern Plains Land Trust engages in science-based restoration efforts. This includes re-establishing native grasses and forbs, managing invasive species, and implementing practices that improve soil health and water infiltration. With the help of different species - such as beavers to create dams - the goal is to bring these **landscapes back to their natural, healthy state, supporting native plant communities and the wildlife that depends on them.**



*Photo credits: Emma Balunek*



## APPROACH:

# Holistic Landscape-Scale Rewilding

### Wildlife & Ecological Processes

By protecting and restoring rangelands, Southern Plains Land Trust aims to support the **native wildlife** of the Southern Plains. This includes a variety of grassland-dependent species, such as birds, mammals (like **Bison** and the endangered **black-footed Ferret**), and insects, as well as the preservation of the natural ecological processes that define these habitats, like nutrient cycling and fire regimes.



*Photo credits: Karen Voepel*

### Public Engagement & Partnerships

Southern Plains Land Trust collaborates with **landowners, conservation partners, scientists, and local communities**. They often provide educational opportunities and support research initiatives to further understanding and appreciation of Southern Plains ecosystems.



# Outcomes & Impact

---

- Protection and restoration of critical **native grassland and prairie ecosystems** within the Southern Plains.
- Improved health and resilience of rangelands, leading to enhanced biodiversity and **ecological functions**.
- Support for **native flora and fauna** (with a particular focus on keystone and threatened species), contributing to the conservation of species adapted to these environments.
- A model for effective rangeland conservation and restoration in a vital but **vulnerable ecological region**.



*Photo credits: Rich Reading*

The Southern Plains Land Trust demonstrates the critical importance of protecting and rewilding native rangelands. Through their dedicated efforts, they provide a vital blueprint for safeguarding the unique biodiversity and ecological services of the Southern Plains for the future.

**Learn more about them [here](#).**



# Part of a larger effort

These case studies are part of the the **Rewilding Rangelands Initiative** — a collaborative effort to restore ecological functionality and uplift coexistence across rangelands through coordinated action across disciplines, sectors, and geographies.

A growing coalition of the Global Rewilding Alliance, Alliance Partners and experts have joined the Rangelands Working Group.

Explore other [case studies](#) and learn more about the [Initiative](#).

---

## ABOUT THE GLOBAL REWILDING ALLIANCE

The Global Rewilding Alliance is a worldwide organisation catalysing the rewilding movement by bringing together an active network of over 290 partners, working on every continent to help nature heal herself and secure a thriving future for people, nature and planet.

Our mission is to mainstream rewilding in science, policy and practice.

The core support of our Global Rewilding [Champions](#) is enabling us to build the hopeful, growing, global rewilding movement.

---



*Published May 2026*

© Global Rewilding Alliance  
[www.globalrewilding.earth](http://www.globalrewilding.earth)

Partner of

