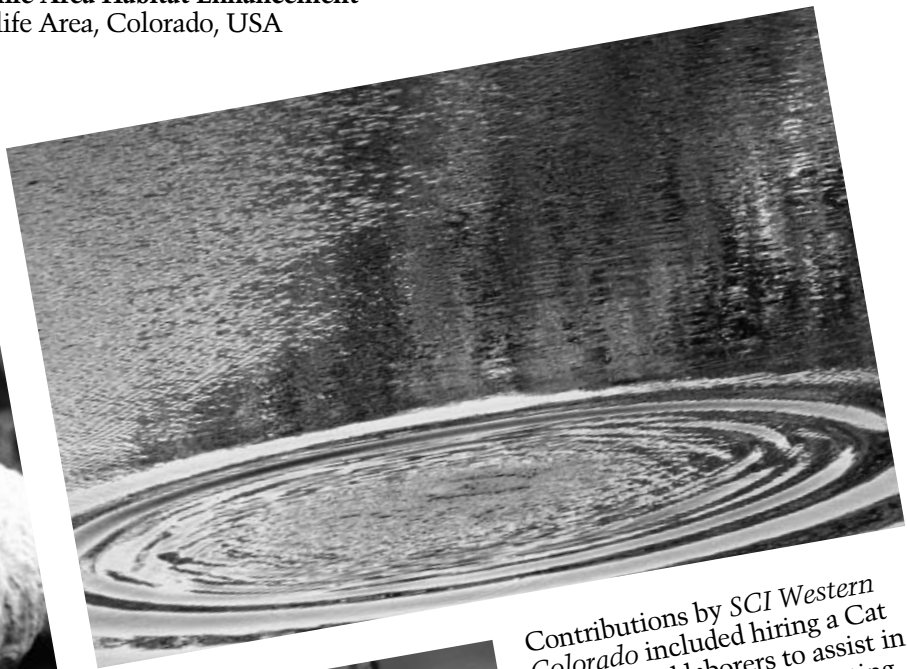


Making a Difference for Wildlife

Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



Billy Creek State Wildlife Area Habitat Enhancement
Billy Creek State Wildlife Area, Colorado, USA
Total Funds: \$4,500



LOCATED ON SOME 5,500 acres of southwestern Colorado's Uncompahgre River Valley, the Billy Creek State Wildlife Area, for the most part, boasts abundant wildlife and a habitat rich in sagebrush, oak brush, piñon-juniper and cottonwood, as well as a man-made pond to enhance water availability and to increase angling opportunities.

However, a section of the area known as "The Adobes" is largely moonscape, consisting mainly of barren, alkaline clay hills. Years of erosion by Billy Creek through The Adobes had resulted in a deep channel that was completely unsupportive of local wildlife.

In 1997, with the help of SCI's *Western Colorado Chapter*, Colorado's Division of Wildlife (DOW) began efforts to repair the damage. During the five-month program, the creek's banks were cut back, willows were planted, spreader dams installed, and vast areas of The Adobes were reseeded to minimize future creek bank erosion and enhance the habitat for wildlife.

Contributions by *SCI Western Colorado* included hiring a Cat operator and laborers to assist in the effort, as well as generating public awareness to gain greater community support. In all, *SCI Western Colorado* contributed some \$4,500 in funds for the program. Just some of the local wildlife benefiting from the newly enhanced creek banks include deer, elk, bears, rabbits, and a host of avian species.

"The project was a tremendous success," said *SCI Western Colorado* President John W. Nelson. "Restoring the area to a more natural state was incredibly fulfilling, and my fellow SCI members and I would have done more if asked."

To help fund this and other meaningful wildlife conservation initiatives, contribute to the SCI Foundation. Call 800-377-5399 or visit www.sci-foundation.org.