

Tom Spezze, South West, Conservation Field Manager, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF)

Tom Spezze joined NWTF team in the fall of 2015. In his position with NWTF, Tom is responsible for the management of a team of Conservation Biologists and the delivery of conservation and hunting heritage projects and programs across 8 states (CO,NM,OK,TX,AZ,CA,NV,UT).. Tom and his team partner closely with State and Federal natural resource agencies, other NGOs and private landowners on a variety of wildlife habitat enhancement, forest restoration, riparian and watershed enhancement projects as well as Hunting Heritage, R3 (Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation), public hunting access and natural resource policy issues. Recently, he has been appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to the CO Forest Health Advisory Council representing State Wildlife interests and is also actively engaged in supporting the CO Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. Prior to joining the NWTF Team, Tom served as the Executive Director of RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) in the "protection of human life, property and the protection of the Rio Grande watershed" after the West Fork Complex Fire; Tom also served as the Coordinator for the Coalition of 10 Boards of County Commissioners on Endangered Species issues and was a Senior Consultant for DiNatale Water Consultants on various water projects including the Rio Grande Cooperative Project and Rio Grande Basin Water Plan. Prior to this and for the majority of his professional career, Tom enjoyed a 31-year career with Colorado Parks and Wildlife serving at many levels in wildlife management and law enforcement across the state, retiring in 2012 as the South West Regional Manager. Tom has a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University.