



Bring Back the Native Fish

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ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

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Yellowstone cutthroat trout

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service announced a 2022-year round of funding for Bring Back the Native Fish projects. Seven new native fish conservation and habitat restoration project grants totaling \$806,000 were awarded. The seven awards announced generated more than \$4.4 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$5.2 million.

The Bring Back the Native Fish Program seeks to restore, protect and enhance native fish species of conservation concern throughout the United States. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. The end result is conservation of aquatic ecosystems, increased instream flows and partnerships that benefit native fish species throughout the United States. This funding opportunity also provides funding to implement the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Leading factors in native fish species decline are habitat alteration, lack of adequate instream flows and invasive and/or nonnative species. The following projects address key threats to focal species by restoring connectivity, restoring riparian and instream habitat and water quality and managing invasive species.

(continued)

DNA Analysis of Southern Appalachian Brook Trout to Inform Reintroduction and Stream Management Practices (NC, TN)

Grantee: The University of Tennessee

Grant Amount: \$95,800
 Matching Funds: \$95,900
 Total Project Amount: \$191,700

Conduct DNA analysis of Southern Appalachian brook trout to evaluate the success of various source populations. Project will benefit reintroduction and stream management practices through more reliable restoration with reduced impact on source populations.

Restoring Wetlands along Reeder Creek to Recover Cutthroat and Bull Trout Habitat Using Beaver Mimicry (ID)

Grantee: Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Grant Amount: \$50,000
 Matching Funds: \$1,343,500
 Total Project Amount: \$1,393,500

Install low-tech process-based restoration structures and plant native vegetation to restore the wetland ecosystem of Reeder Creek, Idaho. Project will restore wetland function including instream habitat and flow connectivity and will improve water quality for native cutthroat trout and bull trout.

Suppression of Lake Trout in Flathead Lake to Benefit Native Bull Trout (MT)

Grantee: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Grant Amount: \$80,000
 Matching Funds: \$890,000
 Total Project Amount: \$970,000

Suppress invasive lake trout in Flathead Lake through increased harvesting and management efforts including gillnetting, processing, and program support. Project will assist in the recovery of native bull trout by reducing predation by non-native lake trout.

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Conservation in Mill Creek through Stream Habitat Restoration and Protection from Invasives (MT)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$186,700
 Matching Funds: \$267,000
 Total Project Amount: \$453,700

Improve Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) habitat in Mill Creek by adding wood structures to encourage pool formation, capture spawning gravels, and increase channel roughness and complexity. Protect a genetically unhybridized YCT population from non-native trout invasion by constructing a barrier. Project will improve spawning, rearing, and over-wintering habitat and increase the overall population resiliency from invasion and hybridization by non-native salmonids.

Rio Grande Sucker and Chub Conservation in Las Animas Creek through Invasive Species Removal and Refuge Creation (NM)

Grantee: Turner Endangered Species Fund



Steelhead trout

Grant Amount: \$ 93,500
 Matching Funds: \$ 93,300
 Total Project Amount: \$188,800

Remove invasive fish from 1.5m of Las Animas Creek to enhance Rio Grande sucker and chub recovery. Project will install two stock tanks for performing translocations during invasive removal as well as to create potential future refuge for sucker and chub.

Cold Water Refugia for Native Salmon and Trout at the Salmonberry-Nehalem River Confluence (OR)

Grantee: Lower Nehalem Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$100,000
 Matching Funds: \$600,000
 Total Project Amount: \$700,000

Complete designs for and install instream structures to provide vegetative cover for Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and cutthroat trout. Project will enhance 0.2 miles and 2.5 acres of in stream habitat in a cold water refugia at the confluence of the Salmonberry and Nehalem rivers.

Restoration of Riparian Habitat for Steelhead and Chinook Salmon in Ochocho Preserve (OR)

Grantee: Deschutes Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$1,136,000
 Total Project Amount: \$1,336,000

Restore riparian habitat through creation of new baseflow stream channels and restoration of floodplains, wetlands, and uplands in Ochocho Preserve. Project will renew ecologic functionality of waterways to aid in the reintroduction of Chinook salmon and summer steelhead, restore perennial wetlands that mimic historic conditions, re-connect floodplains and improve water quality.