



NFWF

Bring Back the Natives 2017 Grant Slate

NFWF CONTACTS

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bass Pro Shops
- Brunswick Public Foundation



Chinook salmon

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bass Pro Shops and the Brunswick Public Foundation announced the 2017 funding for Bring Back the Natives projects. Fifteen grants totaling \$1 million were awarded, generating more than \$1.69 million in non-federal match from the grantees, and providing a total conservation impact of more than \$2.69 million.

The Bring Back the Natives program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. 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, increase of in-stream flows, and partnerships that benefit native fish species throughout the United States. This funding opportunity also provides grants to implement the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Restoration activities that address key limiting factors for focal species are priorities for the Bring Back the Natives program. Leading factors in native fish species decline are habitat alteration, lack of adequate in-stream flows, and invasive and/or nonnative species. The following projects address these particular threats.

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Habitat Restoration in Teton Creek (ID)

Grantee: Friends of the Teton River
 Grant Amount: \$73,598
 Matching Funds: \$114,473
Total Amount:..... \$188,071
 Friends of the Teton River will stabilize and restore instream and riparian habitat in

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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(continued)



Steelhead trout

a priority stream reach on Teton Creek, a Yellowstone cutthroat trout spawning tributary to the upper Teton River. The project will restore habitat conditions and function to support native trout spawning and passage, create corridor connectivity, improve water quality and quantity, and promote integrated land and water conservation through improved conservation stewardship on private lands.

**Upper Columbia Steelhead
Habitat Restoration in Johnson Creek (WA)**

Grantee: Okanogan Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$32,500
 Matching Funds: \$34,631
Total Amount: \$67,131

Okanogan Conservation District will design an implementation plan for restoring spawning and rearing habitat for threatened Upper Columbia steelhead in Johnson Creek, a priority tributary to the Okanogan River. The project will assess current function and develop a plan to restore floodplain and channel habitat structure on an former hay field.

**Prioritize Fish Passage Barriers in the Cle Elum
Ranger District Relative to Salmonid Recovery (WA)**

Grantee: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
 Grant Amount: \$31,791
 Matching Funds: \$45,648
Total Amount: \$77,439

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board will support native fish recovery by assessing and prioritizing fish passage barriers in priority watersheds on the Cle Elum Ranger District. The project will identify problem fish passage features and will inform restoration efforts.

**Beaver Relocation in North Central
Washington to Naturally Restore Salmonid Habitat**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount: \$58,205
 Matching Funds: \$108,226
Total Amount: \$166,431

Trout Unlimited will relocate 30 beavers and install 40 beaver dam analogs in the Wenatchee River and Entiat River basins to restore degraded ecosystems for the benefit of Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, cutthroat



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trout, rainbow trout and other native salmonids. The project will capture nuisance beaver from irrigation ditches, agricultural lands and utility infrastructure, and release them to suitable locations on Forest Service lands and install beaver dam analogs on public and private lands.

Reintroduction of Lake Sturgeon in the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan Basin (WI)

Grantee: Riveredge Nature Center
Grant Amount: \$76,000
Matching Funds: \$86,766
Total Amount:..... \$162,766

Riveredge Nature Center will reintroduce lake sturgeon breeding population to the Milwaukee River and the Lake Michigan Basin. The project will repair hatchery infrastructure to continue annual stocking of 1,000 fingerlings and engage technical experts to conduct a preliminary spawning habitat assessment.

Granite Creek Bull Trout Restoration in the Greater Upper Lolo Watershed (MT)

Grantee: Clark Fork Coalition
Grant Amount: \$66,368
Matching Funds: \$122,000
Total Amount:..... \$188,368

Clark Fork Coalition will restore and enhance native populations of bull trout in the Granite Creek and greater Upper Lolo watershed. The project will open up currently inaccessible high quality habitat for spawning and cold water refugia while reducing negative impacts from road sediment entering the system.

Habitat Restoration and Reintroduction of Endangered Gila Topminnow in Bylas Springs (AZ)

Grantee: USFWS - Arizona Fisheries Resources Office
Grant Amount: \$39,778
Matching Funds: \$40,000
Total Amount:..... \$79,778

USFWS - Arizona Fisheries Resources Office will remove invasive plant species from 1,000 meters of spring habitat in the Bylas Springs Complex to restore endangered Gila topminnow habitat in spring-fed ponds. The project will improve instream habitat through hydraulic restoration and remove entrained sediment prior to fish reintroduction in ponds on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

Rock Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement for Bull and Westlope Cutthroat Trout (MT)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Amount: \$98,500
Matching Funds: \$100,000
Total Amount:..... \$198,500

Trout Unlimited will reconnect bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout habitat in the Rock Creek watershed by replacing irrigation infrastructure, installing fish screens, protecting riparian habitat, and improving road crossings on private and federal agency lands. The project will protect and restore migratory native trout populations and improve resilience by reconnecting tributary habitats, improve stream flow, and provide thermal refugia.

Native Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery in Selway Meadows (MT)

Grantee: USFS - Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
Grant Amount: \$80,000
Matching Funds: \$182,000
Total Amount:..... \$262,000

USFS - Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest will construct a fish passage barrier to remove non-native brook trout and reestablish native westslope cutthroat trout along 33 miles of connected habitat in the Selway Watershed on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The project will improve stream and riparian habitat, decrease sediment delivery from roads, restore vegetation and improve irrigation infrastructure.

George Creek Greenback Cutthroat Trout Restoration in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
Grant Amount: \$60,000
Matching Funds: \$60,000
Total Amount:..... \$120,000

Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife will support native greenback cutthroat trout recovery in Colorado by increasing suitable habitat in the George Creek watershed. This project will establish a metapopulation of greenback cutthroats within a 14-mile stretch of connected streams in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest.

Restoration of Fish Passage in Hall Creek for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (UT)

Grantee: USFS - Dixie National Forest
Grant Amount: \$20,000
Matching Funds: \$20,000
Total Amount:..... \$40,000

USFS - Dixie National Forest will improve fish passage and resiliency of remnant Colorado River cutthroat trout populations in historic habitat. The project will replace an undersized, perched road culvert with a timber bridge to complete a series of barrier removals that will reconnect over 10 miles of habitat.



Eastern brook trout

Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Restoration on Beebe River (NH)

Grantee: The Conservation Fund, A Nonprofit Corporation
 Grant Amount: \$100,000
 Matching Funds: \$106,118
Total Amount:..... \$206,118

The Conservation Fund, A Nonprofit Corporation, will restore habitat for eastern brook trout on 5,435 acres of Beebe River headwaters in central New Hampshire by removing obstructions to fish passage and mitigating impacts of sedimentation and erosion from roads. The Project will install bridges on five tributaries, and relocate and reconstruct over 3.5 miles of road, reconnecting six miles of spawning habitat and 15 miles of river system.

Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration for Diadromous Fish in the Paulins Kill River (NJ)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$100,000
 Matching Funds: \$275,000
Total Amount:..... \$375,000

The Nature Conservancy will restore access to 20 miles of the lower Paulins Kill river and its tributaries for American eel, sea lamprey, American shad, and other diadromous fish. The project will improve water quality, restore floodplain and riparian habitat, restore natural channel hydraulics and sediment transport, and increase recreational use of the river.

Expand Native Eastern Brook Trout Patches in the Upper Delaware River Basin (NJ)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount: \$89,993
 Matching Funds: \$97,000
Total Amount:..... \$186,993

Trout Unlimited will protect and restore native upper Delaware River brook trout habitat. The project will expand the number of brook trout patches from 57 to 61 and reconnect 7.5 miles of habitat throughout the watershed.

Expanding the National Aquatic eDNA Atlas and Data Exchange of Native and Invasive Freshwater Species

Grantee: USFS
 Grant Amount: \$73,269
 Matching Funds: \$300,000
Total Amount:..... \$373,269

USFS will expand the aquatic environmental DNA (eDNA) Atlas database, website, digital tools, and sample repository to a national scale. The project will expand the current coverage of the database of information important to the conservation and management of aquatic species to include waterways in the 37 remaining states to inform strategic conservation investments for suppressing invasives and increasing native populations.