



NFWF

Bring Back the Natives

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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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Yellowstone cutthroat trout

BACKGROUND

Bring Back the Natives (BBN) seeks to restore, protect and enhance native fish species of conservation concern nationwide, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The fund was launched in 1991 and is one of NFWF's longest-standing programs. BBN supports projects that conserve aquatic ecosystems, increase in-stream flows and build partnerships that benefit native fish species throughout the United States.

BBN awards over \$500,000 through an annual competitive RFP that focuses on four key strategies: restoring connectivity; restoring riparian and instream habitat and water quality; invasive species management; and innovation. Through 2020, BBN has invested over \$26.6 million in 516 projects across the country, leveraging more than \$97 million in conservation resources. Support for this program is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service.

(continued)



Steelhead

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Projects benefiting one or more of the following native fish species and focal geographies are priorities for funding

- Pacific lamprey, Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin.
- Salmon in the Central and Northern California coasts.
- Intermountain West native trout and char including Yellowstone/Snake River, Colorado River, San Juan, and Greenback cutthroat trout, bull trout, Apache trout and Gila trout.
- Native desert fishes in the arid southwest, including sucker, dace, pupfish and other species, especially those with overlapping distributions with other native fish species of conservation priority.
- Great Lakes native fishes, including lake sturgeon, northern pike and eastern brook trout.
- Southern and southeastern native fish, especially endemic species of concern in the Cumberland, Tennessee and Mobile (Alabama/Coosa) River drainages.
- Native fish of eastern U.S. rivers, especially river herring and American shad in the Chesapeake and Delaware watersheds.

Priority activities include:

- **Restoring Connectivity** — removal of culverts and passage barriers or flow restoration to connect fish to key spawning, rearing and refuge habitats.
- **Restoring Riparian and Instream Habitat and Water Quality** — improvement of instream habitat; habitat complexity enhancement; grazing management and the replanting of riparian areas with native vegetation; reduction of sediment delivery to streams; and channel stabilization and re-aggradation through beaver restoration.
- **Invasive species management** — eradication or control of invasive species that fundamentally alter habitat for native fish species or compete/hybridize with focal species of conservation concern.
- **Innovation** — development of decision support tools and innovative approaches to fish conservation with widescale, multispecies impact; piloting innovative restoration techniques; the identification of key flow restoration thresholds; and innovative public outreach methods.