



Desert Terminal Lakes Restoration Fund

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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.

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Walker Lake, Nevada

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Bureau of Reclamation announced a 2021 slate of Desert Terminal Lakes Restoration Fund projects. Six conservation grants totaling \$1,209,335 were awarded. These awards will generate \$942,533 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$2,151,868.

Desert Terminal Lake (DTL) funding was originally established by Public Law 101-171 in 2002 to provide water to a unique collection of at-risk natural desert terminal lakes in the northwestern Great Basin. Subsequent legislative amendments made clear that the freshwater lakes of concern include Pyramid, Summit, and Walker Lakes in Nevada and their associated watersheds.

A terminal lake is formed at the end point of an enclosed watershed basin. These lakes have no outlets and, therefore, are greatly affected by variations in water flows caused by upstream activities, such as diversions of surface water, groundwater pumping, and changes in the hydrologic cycle.

(continued)



Lahontan cutthroat trout

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Habitat Recovery Monitoring at Walker Lake (NV)

Grantee: Walker Basin Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$300,000
 Matching Funds: \$105,510
 Total Project Amount: \$405,510

Expand and enhance water quality monitoring activities in Walker Lake to better track improvement of Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat conditions and guide successful species reintroduction. Project will observe, record, and publish water quality data to demonstrate the improvements of Walker Lake conditions resulting from increased program water inflows into Walker Lake.

Sardine Meadow Restoration Project (CA)

Grantee: Truckee River Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$249,259
 Matching Funds: \$250,000
 Total Project Amount: \$499,259

Restore riparian and watershed resources in the Truckee River Watershed. Project will restore 350 acres of Sierra Nevada meadow, 5 miles of historic stream channel, and improve habitat for willow flycatcher and Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Summit Lake Paleoclimatology Study to Inform Restoration and Future Management Actions (NV)

Grantee: Summit Lake Paiute Tribe

Grant Amount: \$153,355
 Matching Funds: \$153,355
 Total Project Amount: \$306,710

Quantify the historical impacts of natural events on lake conditions, hydrologic input, and fire history in the Summit Lake watershed to assist in future lake and watershed management. Project will use lake sediments and tree-ring records to identify historical conditions and how they affected changes in lake level and hydrologic inputs, as well as effects on lake productivity and water quality.

Conserving Carson River Basin Wetland Habitats and Shorebirds in the Lahontan Valley (NV)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount: \$187,207
 Matching Funds: \$233,363
 Total Project Amount: \$420,570

Develop operational species-habitat profiles for shorebirds, assess baseline habitat conditions, and establish a coordinated monitoring program for habitat management to benefit priority shorebird species at Carson Lake and Pasture and Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in the Lahontan Valley. Project will provide site-based habitat management guidance and tools to assess shorebird response and provide applicable models to other Great Basin locations.

Summit Lake Integrated Watershed-Lake Model and Water Isotope Analysis (NV)

Grantee: Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education

Grant Amount: \$69,522
 Matching Funds: \$37,665
 Total Project Amount: \$107,187

Combine remote sensing, stream gauge data, weather station data, measurements from existing water wells, hydrologic modeling, investigation of historic water use, and water isotope analysis to create a detailed water budget for Summit Lake. Project will be used by the Summit Lake Tribe and other land managers for making decisions that will affect the water availability for Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Walker River Floodplain Noxious Weed Control (NV)

Grantee: Mason Valley Conservation District

Grant Amount: \$249,992
 Matching Funds: \$162,640
 Total Project Amount: \$412,632

Inventory, map, treat, and control Nevada State listed noxious weeds on 70 miles of the Walker River Corridor and associated floodplains. Project will increase the freshwater river flow in order to enhance water delivery to Walker Lake.