



Killer Whale Research and Conservation

NFWF CONTACTS

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- SeaWorld Entertainment
- BNSF Railway
- Marine Mammal Commission
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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 \$6.8 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Killer whale breaching

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), SeaWorld Entertainment, BNSF Railway, Marine Mammal Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration announced a 2021-year round of funding for Killer Whale Research and Conservation projects. Seven new grants totaling \$971,280 were awarded. The seven awarded grants generated \$951,576 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$1,922,856.

The following seven projects address three threat categories that were prioritized by the Washington Governor's Orca Task Force in 2018: 1) prey availability, 2) vessel impacts, and 3) toxins/pollutants; with an additional underlying priority for more research to understand these threats. All seven projects work in concert to address the highest priority threats, including lack of available prey (Chinook salmon) in both the quantity and diversity needed to sustain the nutritional needs of the killer whale population. This year's slate contains salmon habitat restoration, reduction of sound and disturbance from large and small vessels to increase killer whale feeding success, non-invasive prey analysis and new innovations to increase salmon survivorship.

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Orca jumping out of water

Non-invasive Diet Characterization of Southern Resident Killer Whales (WA)

Grantee: Northwest Fisheries Science Center
 Grant Amount:\$148,760
 Matching Funds:\$148,760
 Total Project Amount:\$297,520
 Test the use of stable isotopes to analyze dietary composition for Southern Resident killer whales in the Salish Sea using naturally occurring chemical tracers. Project will measure how stable isotopes in fecal matter and breath samples reflect diets from a feeding study on captive killer whales and compare to archived collected samples from Southern Resident killer whales.

Monitoring Stormwater Pollution Entering Southern Resident Killer Whale Habitat in North Puget Sound (WA)

Grantee: Friends of Skagit Beaches
 Grant Amount: \$74,423
 Matching Funds: \$76,600
 Total Project Amount:\$151,023
 Expand the Anacortes Stormwater Monitoring Project to three North Puget Sound communities. Project will set up citizen science monitoring projects to identify baseline conditions for stormwater systems, educate residents about harmful effects of polluted stormwater, engage volunteers to help local governments find and mitigate sources of pollution, and improve killer whale habitat quality.

Protecting Puget Sound Chinook Salmon from Harbor Seal Predation (WA)

Grantee: Oceans Initiative
 Grant Amount:\$235,630
 Matching Funds:\$468,156
 Total Project Amount:\$703,786
 Implement a pinniped predation reduction strategy at Ballard Locks to increase passage of Chinook salmon through fish ladders on their return migration to Cedar River spawning grounds. Project will test a pinniped avoidance device to increase long-term abundance of Puget Sound Chinook salmon as available prey for endangered Southern Resident killer whales.

Design Alternatives to Improve Connectivity for Salmon through McGlinn Island Jetty (WA)

Grantee: Skagit River System Cooperative
 Grant Amount:\$108,537
 Matching Funds: N/A
 Total Project Amount:\$108,537
 Explore opportunities at McGlinn Island to increase habitat connectivity and access for juvenile salmon. Project will evaluate potential modifications to the McGlinn Island Jetty that would improve connectivity for fish between the Skagit River and the Swinomish Channel without creating changes to sedimentation rates.

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Jumping chinook salmon

Facilitating Whale Sighting Network Participation in the WhaleReport Alert System (WA)

Grantee: Washington Maritime Blue

Grant Amount: \$50,930

Matching Funds: \$58,060

Total Project Amount: \$108,990

Enhance the Whale Report Alert System, a real-time geographically-based alert system for commercial mariners, with timely, accurate United States whale sightings data. Project will increase the number of Washington whale sightings entered into the system and provide data analysis of the number of whale sightings, whale alerts, and mariner uses.

Preparing for Riparian Restoration for Chinook Salmon in the Middle Fork Nooksack River (WA)

Grantee: Lummi Indian Business Council

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Matching Funds: \$200,000

Total Project Amount: \$400,000

Restore spawning, rearing and holding habitat to recover Nooksack Chinook populations and increase prey availability for the Southern Resident killer whale. Project will develop final designs to construct engineered logjams along 0.5 miles and plant 0.46 acres along 0.08 miles of priority habitat.

Restoration of the South Fork Nooksack River for Chinook Salmon (WA)

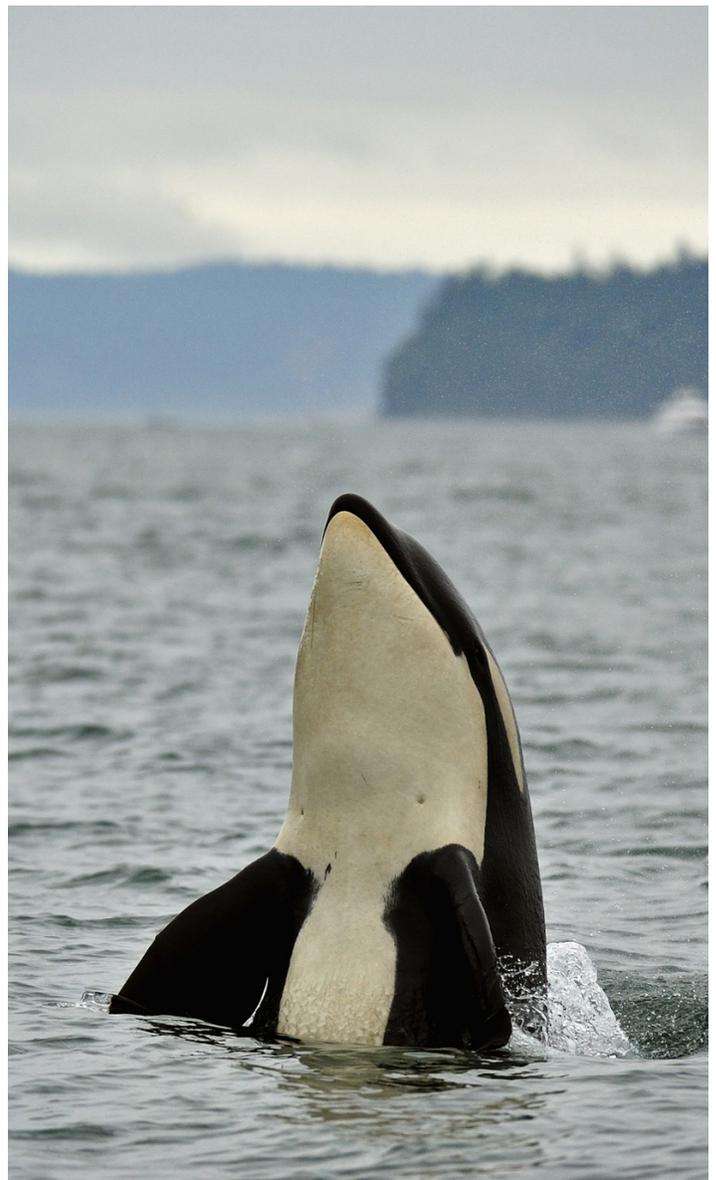
Grantee: Nooksack Indian Tribe

Grant Amount: \$153,000

Matching Funds: N/A

Total Project Amount: \$153,000

Complete final engineering designs, obtain permits, and implement restoration of 0.4 miles of mainstem riverine habitat in the South Fork Nooksack River. Project will restore upstream migration, holding, spawning, and rearing habitat of endangered Puget Sound Chinook salmon to improve abundance and productivity of a primary food source of Southern Resident killer whales.



Killer whale in Puget Sound