



Klamath Basin Restoration Program

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- Bureau of Reclamation
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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 \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Williamson River Delta Preserve at Upper Klamath Lake

BACKGROUND

The Klamath Basin Restoration Program comprises several federal grantmaking partnerships with the goal of conserving native resident and anadromous fish in the Klamath River Basin.

Located in Southern Oregon and Northern California, the Klamath River is an extremely productive watershed, with extraordinary terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. River, riparian, lake and wetland habitats in the basin historically supported healthy populations of culturally and economically important fish such as the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon and the Lost River and shortnose suckers. Today, fish and wildlife vitality are threatened in the Klamath Basin with over a dozen native fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act. There is a critical need to restore water quality, water quantity and the aquatic and terrestrial habitats of the Klamath Basin for the benefit of fish, wildlife and the health and cultural heritage of human communities.

Since the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation began funding habitat restoration and water transaction work in the basin almost 30 years ago, more than \$23 million has been awarded for over 130 projects in this vital landscape. Initial investments focused on identifying high-priority conservation areas, data collection and removal of non native plant species. In recent years we have expanded the breadth of our conservation work to encompass the entire basin, tackling large-scale habitat restoration, water quality improvement, habitat connectivity, and on-farm water management projects to benefit fish, wildlife and people. Currently, NFWF has robust partnerships in the Klamath Basin with three federal entities: the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

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A fisheries biologist with the Yurok Tribe visits a groundwater palisade project to improve stream habitat for coho salmon near the mouth of the Klamath River.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OBJECTIVES

Bureau of Reclamation

Since 2015, NFWF and Reclamation have administered over \$5.7 million for projects to conserve SONCC coho salmon through two grantmaking efforts – the Klamath Coho Habitat Restoration Program and the Trinity River Restoration Program. Both programs aim to enhance aquatic habitat by removing barriers to fish passage, improving access to critical spawning and rearing areas, and funding water transactions to keep more water instream in their respective focal geographies. Additionally, the Trinity River Restoration Program funds water quality improvement projects to reduce fine sediment from entering the Trinity River and its tributary watersheds.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

In 2022, the Shasta Valley Regional Conservation Partnership Program was created in partnership with NRCS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center, FWS, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to further the conservation goals of the broader Klamath Basin Salmon Restoration Program. In the inaugural

2023 funding cycle of the Shasta Valley Program, NFWF awarded over \$5 million for projects to improve river flows and water quality in the Shasta River watershed, where efficient water use is critical for both agriculture and native species. NFWF anticipates awarding a further \$2 million for similar projects in 2024, along with \$500,000 for drought resilience technical assistance projects throughout the Klamath Basin.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS and NFWF began working together on water conservation projects in the basin in the 1990s and that collaboration continues today. In 2013, FWS and NFWF created a funding partnership to restore water quality, water quantity and the aquatic and terrestrial habitats of the Klamath Basin for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and communities. Since its inception, the FWS Klamath funding program has awarded over \$7.4 million to a wide range of projects. Recent examples include conducting water quality monitoring to assess nutrient loads in Upper Klamath Lake and an effort to rear Lost River and shortnose sucker larvae for eventual release into Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries.