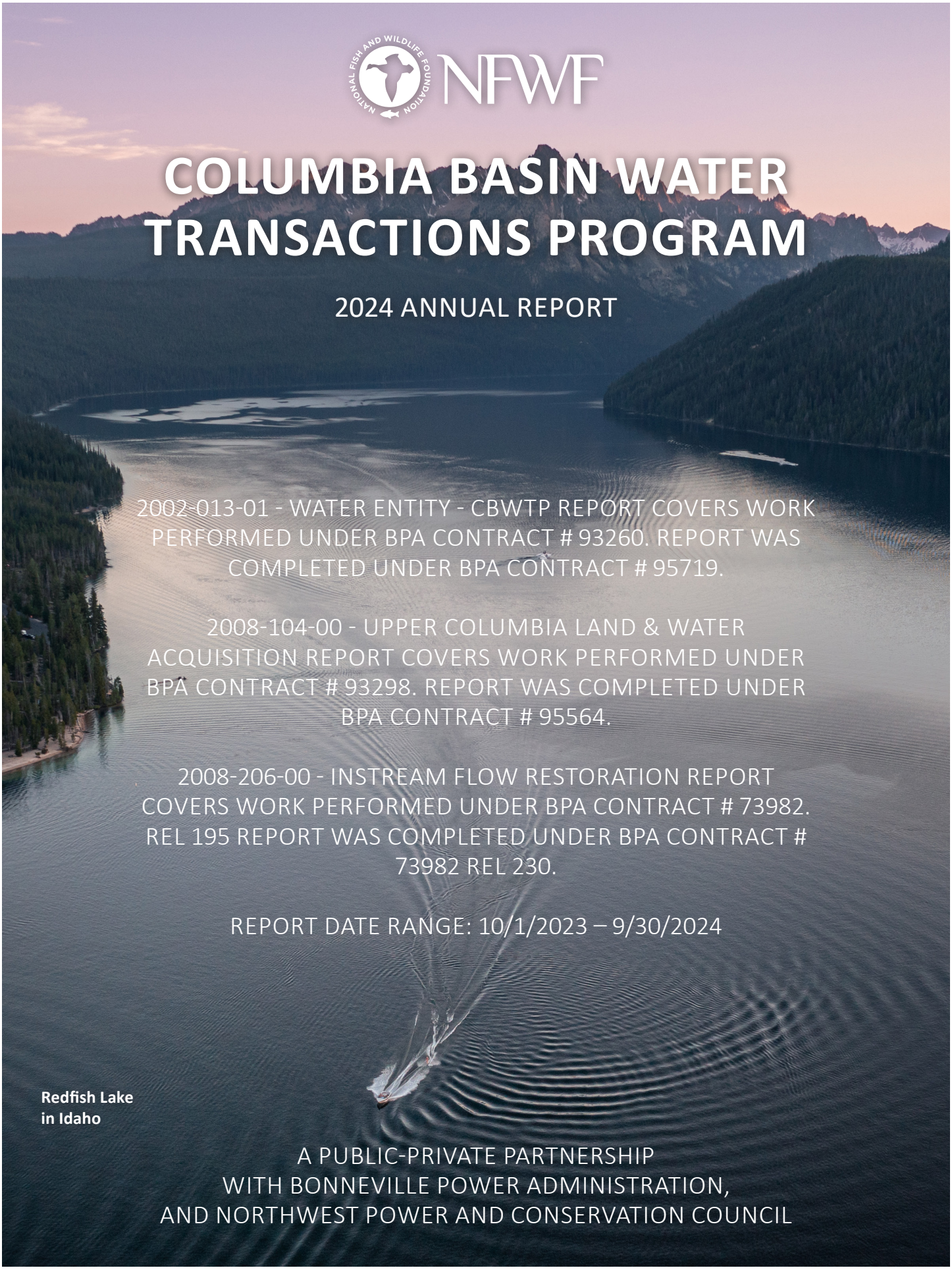


COLUMBIA BASIN WATER TRANSACTIONS PROGRAM

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2002-013-01 - WATER ENTITY - CBWTP REPORT COVERS WORK PERFORMED UNDER BPA CONTRACT # 93260. REPORT WAS COMPLETED UNDER BPA CONTRACT # 95719.

2008-104-00 - UPPER COLUMBIA LAND & WATER ACQUISITION REPORT COVERS WORK PERFORMED UNDER BPA CONTRACT # 93298. REPORT WAS COMPLETED UNDER BPA CONTRACT # 95564.

2008-206-00 - INSTREAM FLOW RESTORATION REPORT COVERS WORK PERFORMED UNDER BPA CONTRACT # 73982. REL 195 REPORT WAS COMPLETED UNDER BPA CONTRACT # 73982 REL 230.

REPORT DATE RANGE: 10/1/2023 – 9/30/2024

Redfish Lake in Idaho

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
WITH BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION,
AND NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL



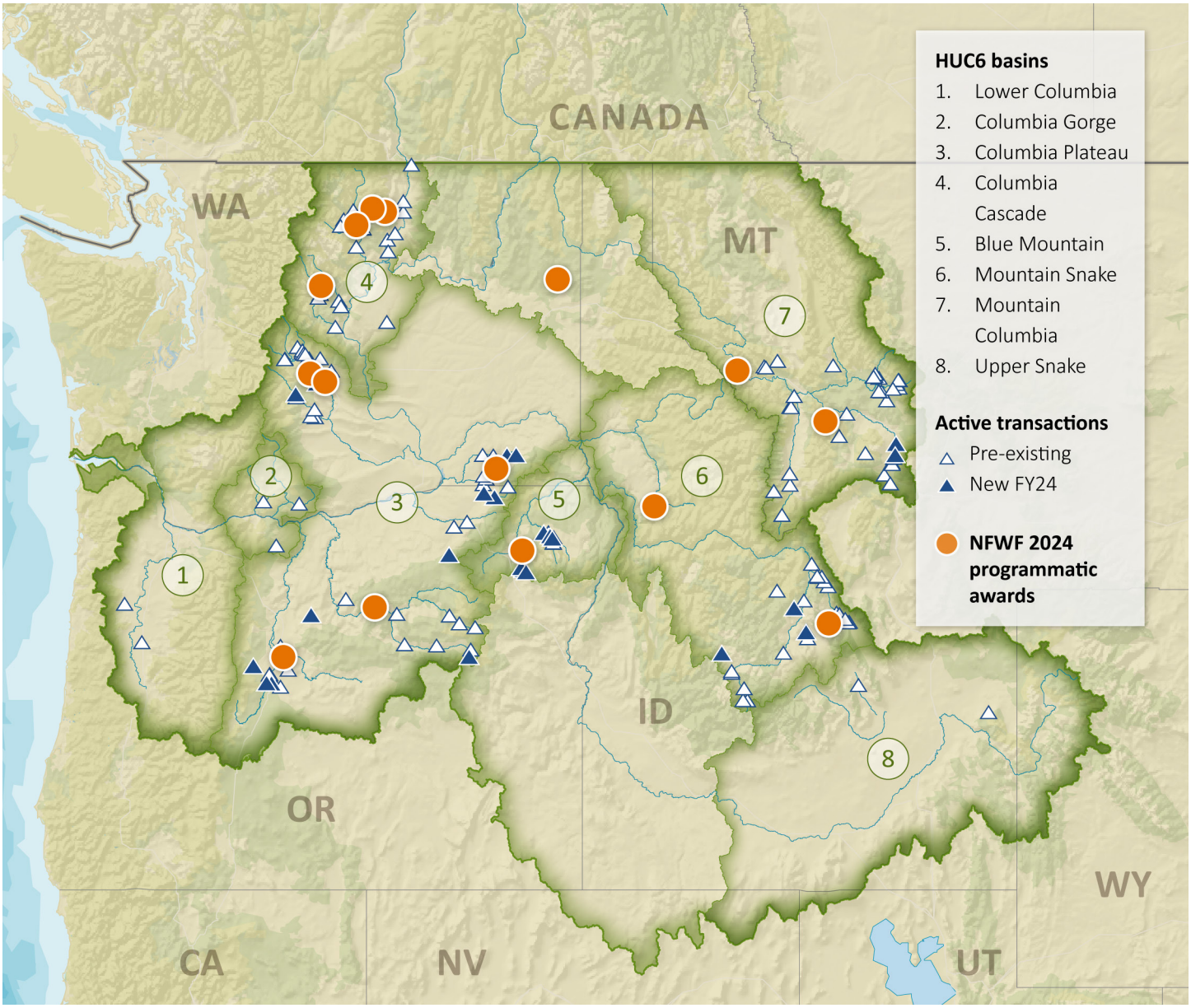
Columbia River in Oregon

The native fish species of the Columbia River Basin rely on the healthy flow of rivers and streams for their survival, resilience and persistence. But stretches of many streams and rivers in the basin run low — and sometimes dry — in summer and early fall because of legal water withdrawals and drought. Inadequate stream flows are a key factor limiting the productivity of Pacific salmon, steelhead trout and a host of resident fish species. To address this need, the **Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP)** was developed in 2002 to address chronically diminished stream flows in tributaries of the Columbia River to enhance streamflow

To enhance stream flow, CBWTP works through locally based entities to acquire water rights voluntarily from willing landowners. Using temporary and permanent water rights acquisitions and other incentive-based approaches, CBWTP supports grantees in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington to assist landowners who wish to restore flows to key fish habitat. Voluntary, market-based water transactions provide an effective and fair way to balance out-of-stream water uses with the need to maintain stream flow for imperiled fish.

From 2002 to 2024, CBWTP has supported 725 water right transactions, which have restored approximately 2.95 million acre-feet of water to key tributary streams in the Columbia Basin.

Funding for this program is provided by the Bonneville Power Administration in cooperation with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and via coordination with Columbia Basin Fish Accord partners: the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.



THE COLUMBIA BASIN

Conserving fresh water for people and fish

The Columbia Basin covers 258,000 square miles, making it one of the largest river basins in the United States. The basin includes public and private lands, multiple mountain ranges, arid valleys, forests and agricultural lands. The mainstem of the Columbia River winds its way through Washington State and forms a significant portion of the border with Oregon before meeting the Pacific Ocean near Astoria, Oregon. This region contains abundant rivers and streams that deliver water to the Columbia River and its tributaries to provide critical fish and wildlife habitat, renewable energy, drinking water, irrigation for agricultural production, highly productive commercial fisheries and scenery that supports world-class tourism and recreation.

The Columbia Basin is home to several threatened and endangered fish species that depend on the freshwater system to migrate and fulfill their life cycle. However, a large part of the Columbia Basin receives very little rain. In many of these arid regions, streams are dewatered due to over-appropriation, irrigation and agricultural practices, and drought. In these parts of the basin, water scarcity can shut down an entire growing and fishing season and cripple local economies. In addition to commercial reliance on robust fisheries, healthy fish populations serve as a food source for people who rely on subsistence fishing and are part of the cultural identity and spiritual well-being of Native Nations of the Columbia River Basin, who consider salmon a sacred First Food. Balancing river health with resource needs is critical to community health throughout the Columbia Basin.



Snake River in Idaho



A weir at the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery along the Salmon River in Idaho



Salmon in the Columbia River, Oregon

33
CBWTP subbasins (HUC-8) with active CBWTP transactions in 2024

33,137
Total acre-feet newly protected instream in 2024

27
New transactions in 2024

117
Cubic feet per second of streamflows newly protected in 2024

424,576
Acre-feet **cumulative** protected for the life of transactions funded in 2024

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Partnering for lasting impact on rivers

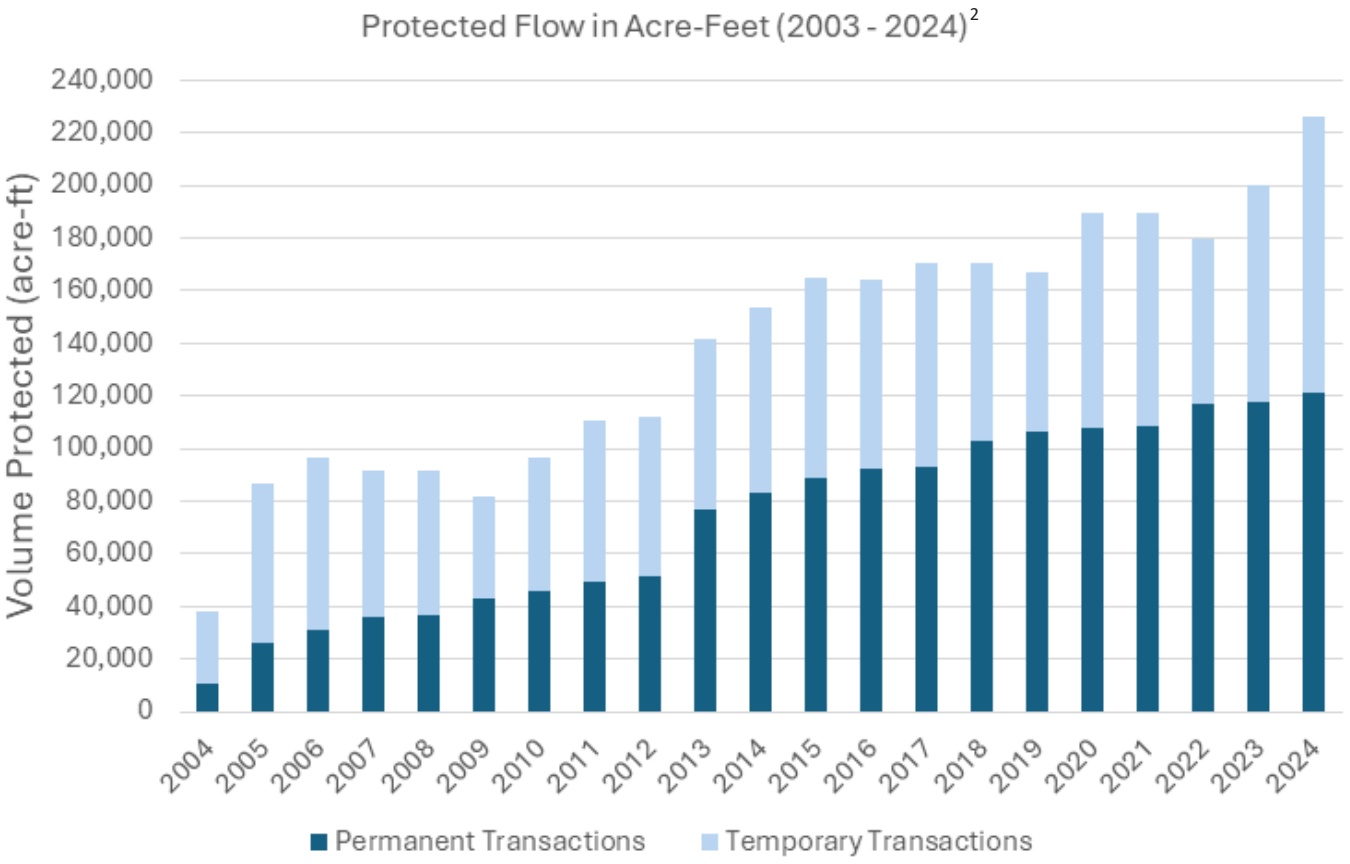
CBWTP has grown steadily over the years and has become the largest and most renowned water transactions program in the country. The program utilizes a competitive grant process to provide support for transaction development, implementation and monitoring to ensure maximum benefit and compliance of transactions throughout their life cycle. The program supports a network of Qualified Local Entities (QLEs) that includes nonprofits, state agencies, municipalities and tribes who work to build trust and relationships with water users to develop win-win water solutions. Restoring instream flows requires taking small, incremental steps toward a longer-term vision and landscape-scale impact, so sustained funding is key. CBWTP strives towards permanent instream flow and works to steadily expand the quantity of protected water in key fish streams throughout the basin, year after year.

In 2024, CBWTP grantees continued to develop meaningful instream flow transactions and work with landowners to revitalize rivers across the basin. BPA supported a total of 27 new transactions in 2024 that added 33,137 acre-feet of protected water instream. Some transaction highlights include Trout Unlimited securing up to 7.08 cfs of permanent winter stock-water for instream flow in the Upper Yakima's Manastash Creek, which will reconnect spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead as well as non-listed Chinook and coho salmon in Washington state. This transaction was the cumulation of 20 years of collaboration between Trout Unlimited, BPA, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Bureau of Reclamation and willing water rights users who participated in numerous irrigation efficiency projects in the area.

On the Upper Clark Fork River, the Clark Fork Coalition successfully negotiated a 20-year lease at Deer Lodge, Montana which allows the water rights user to irrigate in the early season and in wet years, while conserving flow in drier times for juvenile and adult bull trout and cutthroat to migrate through so they can reach more suitable coldwater habitat upstream. These activities, in addition to many more accomplishments, all help to secure water and meet the needs of fish and people in the Columbia Basin.

2024 INVESTMENTS THROUGH THE CBWTP[1]

CHELAN COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT	$31,121
CLARK FORK COALITION	$213,070
DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY	$245,158
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES	$208,711
METHOW SALMON RECOVERY FOUNDATION	$32,230
NEZ PERCE TRIBE	$18,453
TROUT UNLIMITED – MONTANA WATER PROJECT	$121,303
TROUT UNLIMITED – OREGON	$313,942
TROUT UNLIMITED – WASHINGTON WATER PROJECT	$329,419
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE	$96,237
WASHINGTON WATER TRUST	$465,336
WATER TRANSACTIONS	$2,044,335
TOTAL	**$4,119,315**



[1]Investments include programmatic (staff time, travel, etc) expenses and cumulative water transaction investments for the program.
[2]In 2003, water transaction metrics were incomplete. Therefore they have been omitted from this chart.



Steelhead trout in Idaho

IDAHO

Identifying, Prioritizing and Implementing Water Transactions in the Upper Salmon and Teton River Basins (ID)
Grantee: Idaho Department of Water Resources
Total payment:. $778,569
Identify, prioritize and implement new water transactions in the Upper Salmon and Teton river basins. Project will improve tributary flows for the benefit of Snake River spring and summer-run Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead and native trout populations.

Increase Flow Restoration Efforts in the Nez Perce Tribal Geographies (ID, OR, WA)
Grantee: Nez Perce Tribe
Total payment:. $18,453
Project will increase tribal capacity to coordinate with other groups developing water transactions within the broad geography of ceded lands, and enable the tribe to propose transactions uniquely linked to tribal relationships, tribal treaty rights and tribal sovereignty.

MONTANA

Restoring, Reconnecting and Protecting Instream Flow in the Upper Clark Fork Basin (MT)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited – Montana Water Project
Total payment:. $127,803
Develop water rights leases and transactions that work to augment streamflow and critical habitat for native trout species, including bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, throughout the Clark Fork River basin, Blackfoot River and Bitterroot River subbasins. Project will reconnect key tributaries to their mainstems and restore chronically dewatered stream reaches.

Water Transaction Development in the Clark Fork River Basin (MT)
Grantee: Clark Fork Coalition
Total payment:. $413,070
Identify, implement and monitor water transactions in the Clark Fork Basin of Montana. Project will improve stream flows and aquatic habitat conditions for native trout.

OREGON

Deschutes Basin Streamflow Restoration (OR)
Deschutes River Conservancy
Grantee: Total payment:. $349,896
Restore stream flow in Oregon's Deschutes Basin through water transactions. Project will improve habitat and water quality for native fish, including salmon and federally-listed steelhead trout.

Elevating Instream Flow Enhancement in the Umatilla Tribal Geographies and Northeast Oregon (OR)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited - Oregon
Total payment:. $1,377,202
Identify, prioritize and develop water transactions in the Grande Ronde, Wallowa, Umatilla, Walla Walla and John Day river basins working in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Project will improve future flow regimes for ESA-listed salmonids, mitigate out of stream use, increase habitat quantity and lower water temperatures.



Rainbow trout in Oregon

WASHINGTON

Elevating Instream Flow Enhancement in the Methow & Okanogan Basins - Colville (WA)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project
Total payment:. $89,531
Identify, prioritize and develop water transactions in the Methow and Okanogan subbasins of Washington, working in collaboration with the Colville Tribe. Project will increase habitat and instream flow in priority Colville tributaries and will build capacity for working with agricultural landowners on conservation projects that will benefit Pacific salmon, steelhead and their habitat.

Hydrologic Flow Restoration in the Yakima, Entiat and Wenatchee Basins (WA)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project
Total payment:. $249,737
Identify, prioritize and develop projects with willing water right holders in the Entiat, Yakima and Wenatchee subbasins of Washington to complete significant instream flow enhancements to priority streams and tributaries. Project will improve tributary instream habitat to benefit listed salmon and other fish species and their habitats.

Methow Basin Instream Flow Improvement (WA)
Grantee: Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Total payment:. $32,230
Identify, prioritize and develop water transactions in the Methow Basin, a critical tributary of the Columbia River, which is located in northwest Washington state. Project will improve instream flows for ESA-listed salmonids in collaboration with irrigation efficiency improvement efforts.

Provide Streamflow Monitoring and Water Transaction Support (WA)
Grantee: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Total payment:. $96,237
Provide stream monitoring and technical assistance to all Washington state QLEs on prioritization, identification and development of water right transactions. Project will provide review on monitoring plans to ensure that stream flow and, where appropriate, biological monitoring are incorporated into project monitoring plans.

Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Columbia Basin (WA)
Grantee: Washington Water Trust
Total payment:. $189,649
Restore fish-critical streams in the Columbia River Basin by implementing instream flow acquisitions in the Methow, Yakima, Wenatchee, Klickitat and White Salmon river basins. Project will benefit ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Columbia Basin - Colville (WA)
Grantee: Washington Water Trust
Total payment:. $89,956
Restore fish-critical streams in the Columbia River Basin by implementing instream flow acquisitions in the Okanogan, Wenatchee and Methow watersheds. Project will continue its partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to benefit ESA-listed steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout.

Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Columbia Basin - Umatilla (OR, WA)
Grantee: Washington Water Trust
Total payment:. $275,863
Restore fish-critical streams in the Columbia River Basin by implementing instream flow acquisitions in the Walla Walla Basin. Project will continue its partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation to benefit ESA-threatened summer steelhead and bull trout.

Wenatchee Subbasin Instream Flow Improvement Project (WA)
Grantee: Chelan County Natural Resource Department
Total payment:. $31,121
Develop and implement water transactions in the Wenatchee subbasin in Chelan County, Washington. Project will improve instream flows and restore habitat for native salmon and steelhead populations.

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together.

NFWF will advance its mission through innovative public and private partnerships, and by investing financial resources and intellectual capital into science-based programs designed to address conservation priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

In 41 years, NFWF has awarded more than 23,000 projects to over 7,000 organizations in the states and U.S. territories.

In fiscal year 2024, the Foundation invested more than $761 million to support more than 982 conservation projects across the nation. This investment leveraged more than $597.2 million in matching support from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of more than $1.4 billion. This strong performance in fiscal year 2024 pushed the Foundation's cumulative conservation impact since its founding to $11.3 billion.

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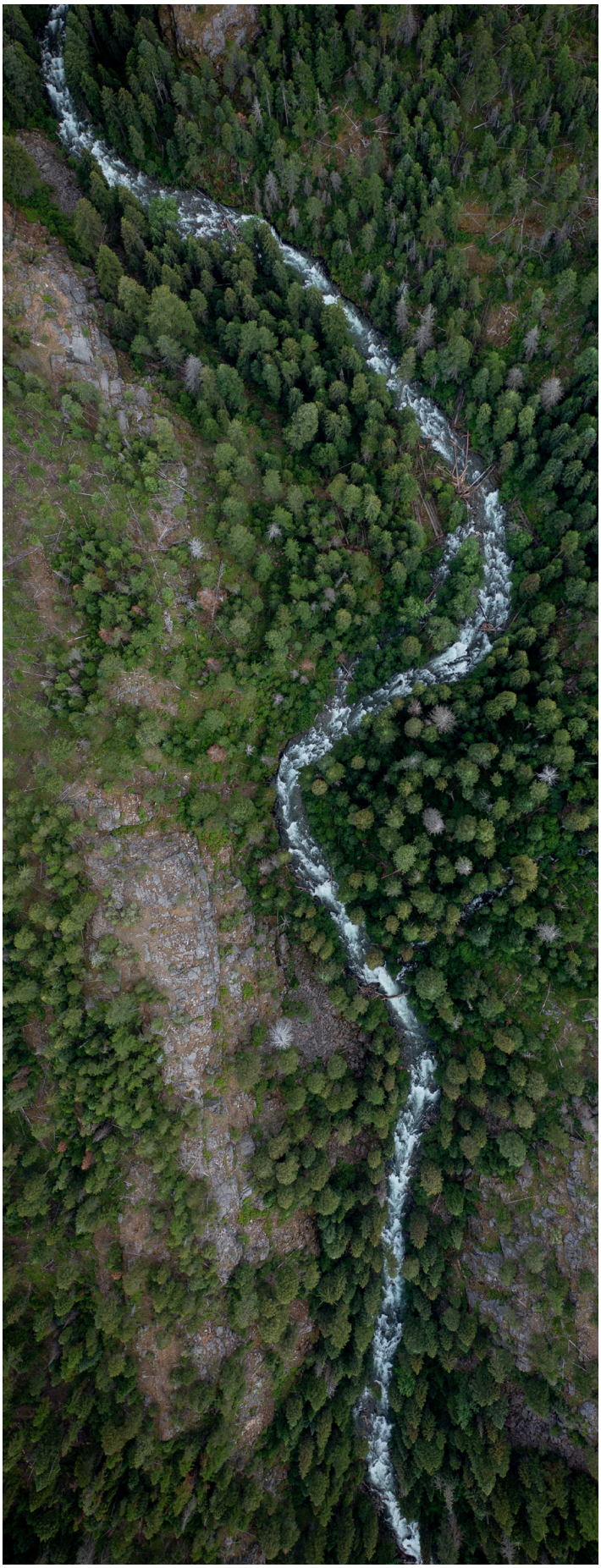
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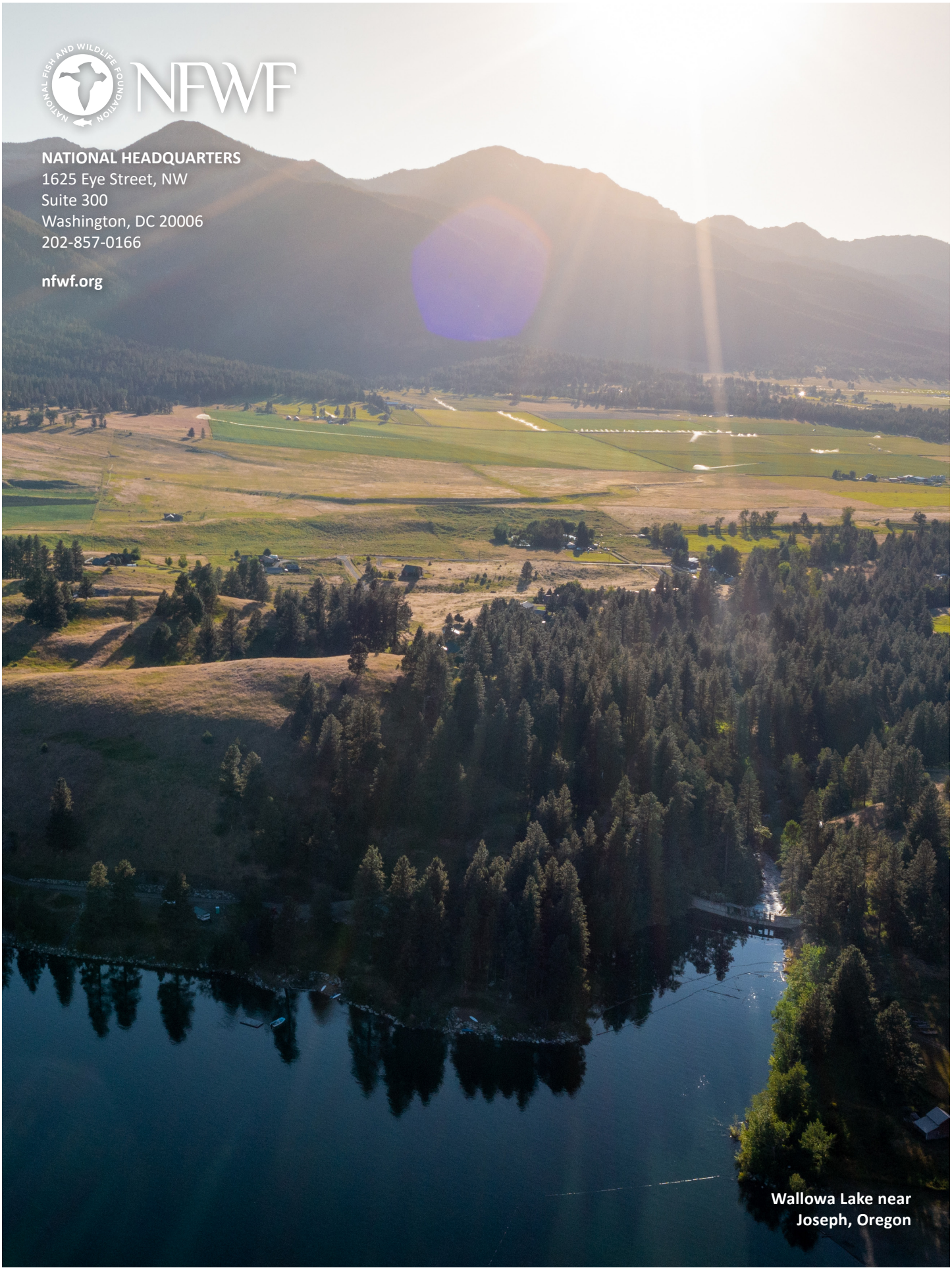
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