



NFWF

Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- Bonneville Power Administration
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

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. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Chinook salmon in Washington | Credit: USFWS

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) announced projects for the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP). Thirteen new water conservation and management grants totaling more than \$2.4 million were awarded. The 13 awards announced will leverage more than \$1 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$3.4 million.

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 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.

Funding for this program is provided by BPA in cooperation with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and through coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

(continued)

IDAHO**Identifying, Assessing, Prioritizing and Implementing Water Transactions in the Upper Salmon and Teton River Basins (ID)**

Grantee: Idaho Department of Water Resources

Grant Amount: \$319,500

Matching Funds: \$116,300

Total Project Amount: \$435,800

Work with willing landowners to identify, assess, prioritize and implement water transactions in ecologically significant reaches of the Upper Salmon and Teton river basins. Idaho Department of Water Resources will improve instream flows to benefit Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, resident bull trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

MONTANA**Identify, Implement and Monitor Water Transactions in the Clark Fork River Basin (MT)**

Grantee: Clark Fork Coalition

Grant Amount: \$221,500

Matching Funds: \$100,000

Total Project Amount: \$321,500

Work with willing landowners to identify, implement and monitor water transactions in the Clark Fork River basin of Montana. Clark Fork Coalition will improve streamflows and aquatic habitat conditions for native trout and white fish by reconnecting key tributaries to their mainstems and restoring chronically dewatered stream reaches.

Restoring, Reconnecting and Protecting Instream Flow in the Upper Clark Fork Basin, Montana

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$147,600

Matching Funds: \$15,000

Total Project Amount: \$162,600

Work with willing landowners to restore fish-critical streams in the Clark Fork, Blackfoot and Bitterroot river subbasins in Montana. Trout Unlimited will develop water right transactions that work to augment streamflow and critical habitat for native trout species, including bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

OREGON**Identify and Develop Water Transactions and Collaborations to Improve Deschutes Basin Instream Flows (OR)**

Grantee: Deschutes River Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$254,900

Matching Funds: \$288,000

Total Project Amount: \$542,900

Work with willing landowners in central Oregon's Deschutes Basin to improve habitat conditions and water quality through water transactions. Deschutes River Conservancy will restore streamflow and improve water quality through community-based collaborative partnerships to benefit salmon and steelhead trout.

Identify and Develop Water Transactions to Advance Instream Flow Enhancement in High Priority Streams in Northeast Oregon

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$408,100

Matching Funds: \$40,000

Total Project Amount: \$448,100

Work with willing landowners to improve instream flow through voluntary leases, transfers and forbearance agreements throughout northeast Oregon. Trout Unlimited will use these transaction tools to enhance flows in high priority streams to benefit spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead and other native aquatic species.

WASHINGTON**Developing and Implementing Water Transactions to Improve Wenatchee Subbasin Instream Flows (WA)**

Grantee: Chelan County Natural Resource Department

Grant Amount: \$172,500

Matching Funds: \$20,000

Total Project Amount: \$192,500

Work with willing landowners to develop and implement water transactions in the Wenatchee subbasin in Chelan County, Washington. Chelan County Natural Resource Department will improve instream flows and restore habitat for native salmon and steelhead populations.

Identify and Develop Water Transactions to Advance Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Upper Columbia Basin (WA)

Grantee: Washington Water Trust

Grant Amount: \$90,000

Matching Funds: \$12,000

Total Project Amount: \$102,000

Work with willing landowners to identify and develop water transactions to advance stream flow restoration in the upper Columbia Basin. Washington Water Trust will increase stream flow through voluntary water transactions to benefit steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout.

Identify and Develop Water Transactions to Restore Instream Flow in the Methow and Okanogan Basins (WA)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$91,300

Matching Funds: \$90,000

Total Project Amount: \$181,300

Work with willing landowners to identify, prioritize and develop water transactions in the Methow and Okanogan subbasins of Washington, working in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Trout Unlimited will increase streamflow in priority tributaries, improving fish survival, fish passage and recruitment while also fostering partnership with agricultural landowners and irrigators on projects that benefit Pacific salmon and steelhead.

Restoring Streamflow in Wenatchee, Yakima and Entiat through Implementation of Water Transactions (WA)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$236,700

Matching Funds: \$225,000

Total Project Amount: \$461,700

Work with willing landowners to identify, prioritize and develop water transactions in central and north central Washington. Trout Unlimited will increase streamflow in priority tributaries and improve fish survival and recruitment in mainstem habitats that benefit Pacific salmon and steelhead.

Streamflow Monitoring and Water Transaction Support (WA)

Grantee: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Amount: \$103,900

Matching Funds: \$60,000

Total Project Amount: \$163,900

Provide stream monitoring and technical assistance to all Washington state Qualified Local Entities (QLE) on prioritization, identification and development of water right transactions to support the CBWTP. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will review QLE monitoring plans to ensure that stream flow and biological monitoring are incorporated to understand and maximize conservation impact.

MULTIPLE STATES

Identify and Develop Water Transactions to Advance Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Columbia Basin (OR, WA)

Grantee: Washington Water Trust

Grant Amount: \$189,600

Matching Funds: \$0

Total Project Amount: \$189,600

Work with willing landowners to restore fish-critical streams in the Yakima, Klickitat, White Salmon and Fifteenmile subbasins of the Columbia River. Washington Water Trust will develop and implement water transactions to increase streamflow and benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead in Oregon and Washington.

Identify and Develop Water Transactions to Advance Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Walla Walla Basin (OR, WA)

Grantee: Washington Water Trust

Grant Amount: \$185,700

Matching Funds: \$0

Total Project Amount: \$185,700

Work with willing landowners to restore fish-critical streams in the Walla Walla Subbasin of the Columbia River. Washington Water Trust will continue its partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to develop and implement water transactions for the benefit of summer steelhead and bull trout, and reintroduced spring Chinook.

Increase Flow Restoration Efforts in Nez Perce Tribal Geographies (ID, OR)

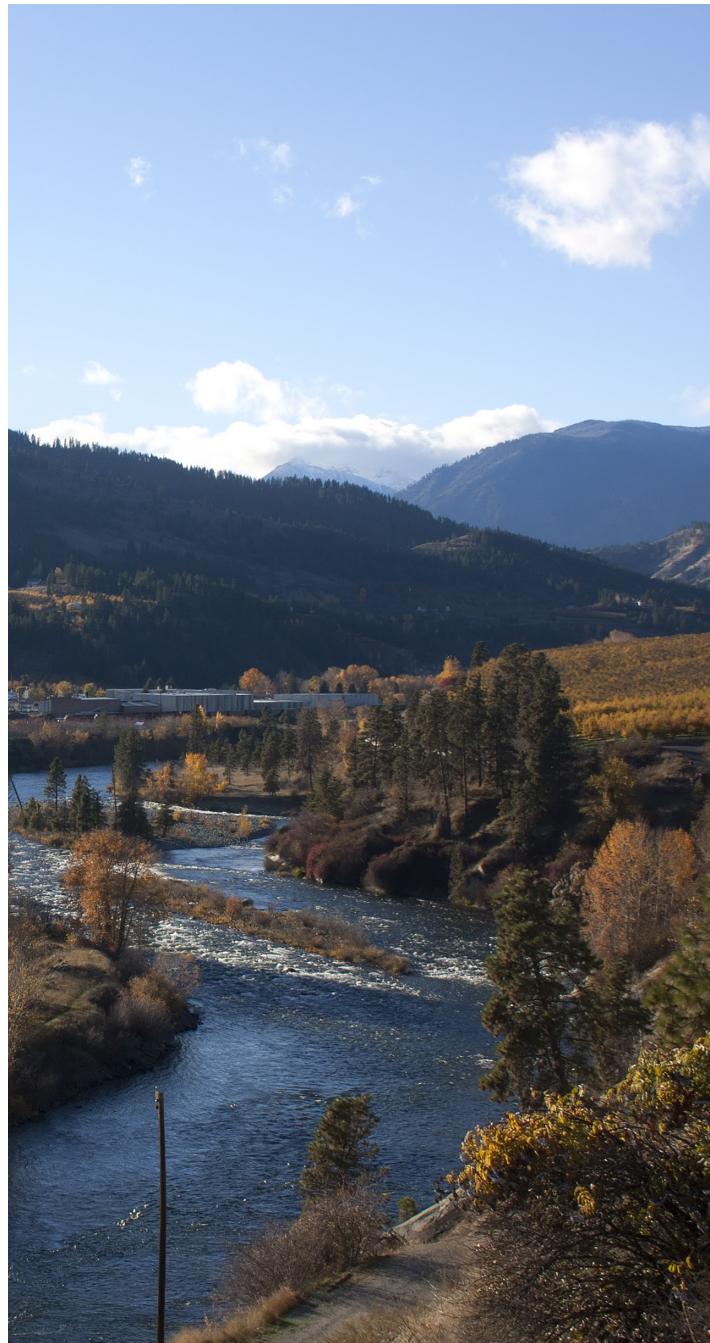
Grantee: Nez Perce Tribe

Grant Amount: \$18,500

Matching Funds: \$45,000

Total Project Amount: \$63,500

Work with willing landowners and partners to increase flow restoration efforts in the Nez Perce tribal geographies in Idaho and Oregon. The Nez Perce Tribe will increase tribal capacity to coordinate with other groups developing water transactions to the benefit of state and federal aquatic species of concern.



Wenatchee River