Bring Back the Natives/More Fish 2016 Grant Slate

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PARTNERS

Funding for Bring Back the Natives/More Fish is provided by:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bass Pro Shops
- Brunswick Foundation

To learn more about the program, go to **www.nfwf.org/bbn**

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at **www.nfwf.org**

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Northern pike

OVERVIEW

The decline in native fish populations is a nationwide ecological concern. Habitats supporting native fish and associated aquatic species are continually threatened by numerous causes. In order to address the threats to native freshwater fish species, NFWF coordinates the Bring Back the Natives/More Fish program with the support of federal agencies and private donors.

The Bring Back the Natives/More Fish program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. The end result is conservation of aquatic ecosystems, increase of instream flows, and partnerships that benefit native fish species throughout the U.S. This funding opportunity also provides grants to implement the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

The Bring Back the Natives/More Fish program provides funding to projects that identify measureable conservation outcomes for native fish species of special concern. Because the leading factors in native fish species decline are habitat alteration, lack of adequate instream flows, and invasive and/or non-native species, projects that address these threats are of particular interest.

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Cutthroat trout

1) Interagency eDNA Database of Fish Distributions to Support Strategic Conservation Decisions
Grantee: USDA-Forest Service - Rocky Mountain Research Station
NFWF Award Amount: $89,362
Matching Funds: $8,600,400
Total Project: $8,689,762

Develop a large environmental DNA (eDNA) database, website and digital tools to coordinate monitoring and promote information exchange among all agencies of aquatic species in rivers and streams in the western U.S. Project will support development of models and maps showing distributions of native and invasive species to provide decision support for strategic investment strategies related to environmental stressors, habitat degradation, invasive species and preservation of native species.

2) Upper Greenbrier Aquatic Restoration (WV)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited
NFWF Award Amount: $94,481
Matching Funds: $194,788
Total Project: $289,269

Partner with the Monongahela National Forest to recreate habitat and hydrologic conditions that will provide habitat refugia, improve natural systems resilience, and reconnect migration venues for native fish, such as the eastern brook trout. Project will conduct restoration activities to upgrade the condition class of the East Fork, Middle River and West Fork watersheds.

3) Upper Green River Native Fish Initiative (WY)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited
NFWF Award Amount: $95,000
Matching Funds: $200,000
Total Project: $295,000

Partner with the Bureau of Land Management, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and others to implement five on-the-ground projects that will reconnect and restore Colorado River cutthroat trout and other native fish populations in the Upper Green River Basin in Wyoming at a landscape scale. Project will open 42 miles of stream for fish migration and restore 473 acres of riparian habitat.

4) Beaverdam Stream: Opening a Habitat-Rich Tributary of the East Machias River (ME)
Grantee: Downeast Salmon Federation
NFWF Award Amount: $41,671
Matching Funds: $74,503
Total Project: $116,174

Make habitat-rich areas of Beaverdam Stream accessible to endangered Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish species, including three "Species of Concern." Project will remove a fish barrier, reconnect the stream to the river and the Gulf of Maine, restoring one of the highest priority habitats in the

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Downeast Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit, and protect 850 feet of riparian buffer.

5) Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration (OR)
Grantee: The Freshwater Trust
NFWF Award Amount: $87,814
Matching Funds: $200,000
Total Project: $287,814

Benefit salmon and steelhead in the Sandy River basin by accelerating the recovery of naturally functioning conditions within the stream channels and floodplain areas of Salmon River and Still Creek. Project will reactivate flow to five historic side channels, construct 31 large wood habitat structures, place boulders, and place additional large wood in side channels and on stream margins.

6) Coquille Wetland Livestock Exclusion and Native Species Establishment (OR)
Grantee: Coquille Watershed Association
NFWF Award Amount: $31,075
Matching Funds: $164,703
Total Project: $195,778

Restore fish access to 1.3 stream miles of low gradient floodplain stream, create a small wetland complex and improve off-channel, over-wintering habitat for Oregon Coastal coho in designated critical coho habitat in southern Oregon's Coquille River. Project will install 6,000 feet of wildlife-friendly, livestock-exclusion fencing and plant 2,000 native species in newly created wetland after custom-built, fish-friendly tidegate is installed and channel is re-meandered.

7) Mehl Creek Watershed Restoration (OR)
Grantee: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
NFWF Award Amount: $89,773
Matching Funds: $215,372
Total Project: $305,145

Partner with industry, ranchers, and state and federal agencies to restore 2.5 miles of habitat for anadromous fish like coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout and lamprey in Mehl Creek, a significant tributary to the Umpqua River in southwestern Oregon. Project will place large wood and boulder structures to diversify flow, prevent bank erosion and incision, improve sediment and substrate retention, improve temperature conditions, and provide refuge for juvenile and adult fish from predators.

8) Restore Native Fish Habitat and Build Sustainable Grazing Practices in the Weber River (UT)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited
NFWF Award Amount: $99,684
Matching Funds: $201,581
Total Project: $301,265

Improve the resilience of Bonneville cutthroat trout and bluehead sucker populations in the Weber River and its tributaries. Project will modify or remove 10 migration barriers and irrigation diversions to reconnect 43.5 miles of habitat, and collaborate with landowners to improve grazing practices on approximately 26.000 acres of rangeland in the South Fork of Chalk and Huff Creeks to reduce sediment loading.

9) North Fork Spanish Creek Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration (MT)
Grantee: Turner Endangered Species Fund
NFWF Award Amount: $90,000
Matching Funds: $394,689
Total Project: $484,689

Restore native westslope cutthroat trout population to 17 miles of upper North Fork Spanish Creek in the Gallatin River watershed of southwestern Montana and protect with a fish movement barrier. Project will more than double the historic habitat occupied by native trout in the Gallatin River basin and provide a large, self-sustaining population as a source of individuals for restoration elsewhere.

10) Integration of Novel Grazing Practices with Salmonid Restoration on Public Range Allotments (OR)
Grantee: U.S. Forest Service
NFWF Award Amount: $62,496
Matching Funds: $95,000
Total Project: $157,496

Implement, monitor and evaluate a novel but practical set of cattle grazing practices for integration with stream and riparian restoration activities to support recovery of threatened steelhead and Chinook salmon in a long-term restoration experiment. Results will be relevant to management of millions of acres of public range allotments in the western U.S. where salmonid recovery is a primary goal and cattle grazing is a dominant land use.

11) Restoration of Bull Trout and Westslope Cutthroat Trout in the Blackfoot River Watershed (MT)
Grantee: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
NFWF Award Amount: $72,466
Matching Funds: $185,000
Total Project: $257,466

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Steelhead trout

Eliminate entrainment of native westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout down an irrigation diversion and restore 4,000 feet of instream and riparian habitat in the Blackfoot River watershed of Montana. Project will upgrade an unscreened irrigation diversion with a fish screen and head gate, and improve stream bank stability, instream and riparian habitat, and floodplain connectivity along Nevada Creek.

12) Refining Propagation Techniques for Endangered Desert Fish (AZ)
Grantee: Arizona Game and Fish Department/Native Fish
NFWF Award Amount: $99,506
Matching Funds: $99,506
Total Project: $199,012

Maintain and improve propagation techniques for refuge populations of endangered desert fish, such as spikedace and loach minnow, for re-stocking into waterways of the Colorado River Basin. Project will support ongoing efforts at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Aquatic Research and Conservation Center to refine propagation techniques for endangered desert fish.

13) Improve Fish Passage for Salmonids in Manzanita Creek (CA)
Grantee: Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council
NFWF Award Amount: $19,586
Matching Funds: $19,624
Total Project: $39,210

Improve passage conditions for salmonids like the Southern Oregon/Northern California coho through increased flow conditions and accessibility of 2.6 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. Project will develop a design for restoration of the Manzanita Creek to a natural stream bottom and establish an implementation plan for working in the remote location, parts of which are in a designated wilderness area.

14) Planning for Restoration of Fish Passage in East Weaver Creek (CA)
Grantee: Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council
NFWF Award Amount: $27,088
Matching Funds: $100,000
Total Project: $127,088

Develop a design and preliminary environmental permit review for activities to regain access to migration, spawning and juvenile rearing habitat for salmonids and other native fish species. Project will seek to restore critical habitat for federally threatened coho salmon, Klamath Mountains Province Distinct Population Segment steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and four resident fish species, while assuring a reliable water supply to the community.