



Walker Basin Restoration Program

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RECLAMATION

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. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Walker Lake, Nevada

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announced a round of funding for Walker Basin Restoration Program projects. Four new or continuing water conservation and management grants totaling \$33 million were awarded.

Walker Lake is a natural desert lake in Nevada at the terminus of the Walker River Basin, which includes lands in Nevada and California. Walker Lake is critical to recovery of the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout and is an important stopover for common loons and other migratory birds. Decades of depleted freshwater inflows have resulted in declines in lake elevation and increases in lake salinity, reducing both the quantity and quality of aquatic habitat available to native wildlife.

Since 2009, the Walker Basin Restoration Program (Program) has sought to restore and maintain Walker Lake, and to protect agricultural, environmental, and habitat interests in the Walker River Basin as well as the broader Desert Terminal Lakes region. The Program seeks to increase flows in the Walker River to Walker Lake through a basin-wide strategy that relies on voluntary water transactions and water management initiatives, community-based conservation and stewardship, and applied research and demonstration projects.

(continued)



Lahontan cutthroat trout

Water Rights Acquisition to Benefit Walker Lake

Grantee: Walker Basin Conservancy
 Total Project Amount: \$14,200,000
 Purchase a parcel on the West Walker River that includes water rights that will contribute 4.8 percent toward the Walker Lake recovery goal, while protecting agricultural interests in the Walker Basin.

Water Rights Acquisition to Benefit Walker Lake

Grantee: Walker Basin Conservancy
 Total Project Amount: \$7,650,000
 Purchase three parcels that include decree water, plus additional storage water and groundwater rights. This permanent acquisition will contribute 2.6 percent towards the Walker Lake recovery goal, while protecting agricultural interests in the Walker Basin.

Summit Lake Water Rights Acquisition, Restoration, and Monitoring Project

Grantee: Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
 Total Project Amount: \$2,681,600
 Acquire water rights to benefit environmental flows to Summit Lake, establish a real-time water monitoring program, expand watershed modeling activities to inform restoration actions, and eliminate invasive reed canary grass in Mahogany Creek. This multi-tiered project will improve instream and riparian habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and enhance climate resilience for the Summit Lake watershed.

Pyramid Lake Water Rights and Management Projects

Grantee: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
 Total Project Amount: \$8,508,322
 Provide water for 25 miles of the lower Truckee River and Pyramid Lake, on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation, to

benefit habitat for the endangered cui-ui and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. The project will purchase water rights for environmental benefit and work to maximize water delivery to Pyramid Lake through the optimization of Truckee River Operating Agreement water management strategies like scheduled reservoir releases.



Common loon