



# Klamath Basin Restoration Program

## NFWF CONTACTS

**Jonathan Birdsong**  
 Director,  
 Western Regional Office  
[jonathan.birdsong@nfwf.org](mailto:jonathan.birdsong@nfwf.org)  
 415-243-3101

**Femke Freiberg**  
 Program Director,  
 Western Water  
[femke.freiberg@nfwf.org](mailto:femke.freiberg@nfwf.org)  
 415-243-3104

**Erica Engstrom**  
 Program Manager,  
 Western Water  
[erica.engstrom@nfwf.org](mailto:erica.engstrom@nfwf.org)  
 415-490-5211

## PARTNERS

- Bureau of Reclamation
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation 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 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)



Coho salmon

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) announced a 2024-round of funding for Klamath Basin Salmon Restoration Program projects. Six new water conservation and management grants totaling more than \$1.6 million were awarded. The six awards announced will generate over \$3.3 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$5 million.

The Klamath Basin Salmon Restoration Program is intended to conserve 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 NFWF 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 nonnative 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 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

*(continued)*



Williamson River Delta Preserve is located at the mouth of the Williamson River on Upper Klamath Lake

**Huseman Ditch Pipeline and Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Planning (CA)**

Grantee: Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District  
 Grant Amount:..... \$345,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$ 1,010,100  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,355,100  
 Plan to improve water quality and aquatic habitat by rewatering a critical salmon rearing reach by a minimum of 2.4 cubic feet per second (cfs) through conversion of approximately 14,600 feet of unlined, open-earth irrigation ditch to a buried pipeline, and enhanced irrigation-efficiency technology. The project will fund the development of project alternatives, scoring criteria to rank alternatives, 90-100 percent designs, plans to develop habitat and thermal refugia, installation of soil moisture sensors, and additional monitoring and data collection to improve irrigation management through voluntary measures.

**Improving Coho Access and Habitat in Wildcat Creek, Scott River Watershed (CA)**

Grantee: Scott River Watershed Council  
 Grant Amount:..... \$128,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$25,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$153,000  
 Improve access for hatchery influence-free coho salmon to spawning and rearing habitat in Wildcat Creek in the Scott River watershed. The project will provide shovel-ready engineered designs to reverse degradation in the most downstream segment of the stream to ensure access to the 1.7 miles of currently existing spawning and rearing reaches upstream.

**Lower Thompson Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project (CA)**

Grantee: Mid Klamath Watershed Council  
 Grant Amount:..... \$260,100  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$260,100  
 Create spawning and rearing habitat for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon, Klamath Mountains Province steelhead trout, Upper Klamath/Trinity Rivers Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, and Klamath River lamprey and reestablish a functioning native riparian plant population along approximately 0.25 miles of Thompson Creek, a tributary to the Klamath River. The project will include the construction of one off-channel rearing pond, two instream wood structures, and revegetation with native riparian plantings of all disturbed soils to improve critical access to cool and low-velocity habitat for native salmonid and other aquatic species.

**Salt Creek Floodplain Restoration Project (CA)**

Grantee: Watershed Research and Training Center  
 Grant Amount:..... \$470,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,026,600  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,497,500  
 Improve 2,000 feet of heavily degraded salmonid habitat along Salt Creek, a South Fork Trinity River tributary, by reconnecting the creek to its historic floodplain using engineered and process-based restoration techniques. The project will increase aquifer recharge and storage for slow release to temper a thermal barrier for salmonids, restore geomorphic functions that will improve salmonid spawning gravels, create pools for summer cool water refugia, increase habitat heterogeneity for winter flow high-velocity refugia, and improve native riparian flora, all of which will increase the resilience of aquatic species from the impacts of climate change.



Juvenile coho salmon

**Scott Valley Irrigation Water Management Assessment Project (CA)**

Grantee: Scott River Water Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$251,300

Matching Funds:..... \$251,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$502,600

Engage 10-20 willing Scott Valley farmers and ranchers by providing technical assistance to determine the design and costs associated with installing flow meters on agricultural wells, with a goal of 20 groundwater well assessments. The project will include a plan to determine the design and costs associated with deploying soil moisture sensors on the property with metered irrigation wells, as well as developing an on-farm irrigation water management plan to maximize water use efficiency for each participating landowner.

**Upper Hayfork Creek Assessment and Planning Project (CA)**

Grantee: Watershed Research and Training Center

Grant Amount:..... \$189,000

Matching Funds:..... \$30,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$219,000

Assess over 17 stream miles and 700 floodplain acres within the upper Hayfork Creek watershed, a major tributary to the South Fork Trinity River, to identify restoration opportunities to improve salmonid habitat quality and quantity. The project will utilize GIS and LiDAR analyses, field measurements of salmonid presence and habitat characterization, and a comparison of ecological flow needs with water availability to produce one Restoration Assessment and Planning document with a priority list of restoration projects and one restoration design to advance toward implementation.