



# 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

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.

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

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Columbia River

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the USDA Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) approved projects and transaction funding for the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP). Eighteen new water conservation and management grants totaling more than \$2.7 million were awarded. The 18 awards will leverage more than \$1.6 million in match from the grantees. And \$2 million in funding has been set aside for additional water transactions in 2025, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$6.4 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. To enhance stream flow, the 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, the program supports grantees in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington to assist landowners who wish to restore flows to key fish habitat. 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. This year, the CBWTP included support for flow restoration and aquatic ecosystem enhancement activities for projects that take place within the boundaries of U.S. Forest Service Region 6 National Forests and support for habitat improvement and technical assistance projects on working lands within Washington State.

Funding for this program is provided by BPA in cooperation with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and through coordination with Columbia Basin Fish Accord partners: the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Additional funding is provided by USFS and NRCS.

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**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:.....\$312,000

Matching Funds:.....\$223,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$535,800

Identify, assess, prioritize and implement new water transactions in the Upper Salmon and Teton River basins across Idaho. Project will improve tributary flows for the benefit of Snake River spring/summer-run Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead and native trout populations.

**MONTANA****Restoring, Reconnecting and Protecting Instream Flow in the Upper Clark Fork Basin (MT)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:.....\$147,700

Matching Funds:.....\$15,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$162,700

Develop water right leases and transactions that augment streamflow and critical habitat for native trout species, including bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, throughout the Clark Fork River Basin, as well as the Blackfoot River and Bitterroot River subbasins in Montana. 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

Grant Amount:.....\$221,600

Matching Funds:.....\$200,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$421,600

Develop, implement and monitor water transactions in the Clark Fork River Basin of Montana. Project will improve streamflows and aquatic habitat conditions for native trout and white fish by reconnecting key tributaries and restoring chronically dewatered stream reaches.

**OREGON****Deschutes Basin Streamflow Restoration (OR)**

Grantee: Deschutes River Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$255,000

Matching Funds:.....\$150,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$405,000

Restore stream flow in Oregon's Deschutes Basin through voluntary water transactions with willing landowners and irrigation districts. Project will improve habitat and water quality for native fish, including salmon and federally listed steelhead trout.

**Elevating Instream Flow Enhancement in High Priority Streams in Northeast Oregon**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:.....\$399,000

Matching Funds:.....\$41,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$440,500

Utilize a variety of transaction tools including leases, transfers, conserved water, forbearance and minimum flow agreements to bolster flows in high priority streams throughout northeast Oregon for the benefit of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead, and other native aquatic species.

**Real-Time Instream Flow Assessment of Water Transactions (OR)**

Grantee: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Amount:.....\$9,200

Matching Funds:.....\$5,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$14,200

Continue to develop a real-time instream flow tracking system to ensure that water transactions are monitored through an automated program across Oregon. Project will increase instream flows by ensuring stakeholders are immediately aware of compliance lapses and when management adjustments are necessary.

**WASHINGTON****Elevating Instream Flow Restoration in the Methow and Okanogan Basins (WA)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:.....\$91,300

Matching Funds:.....\$100,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$191,300

Identify, prioritize, develop and execute water transactions in the Methow and Okanogan subbasins of Washington, working in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. This project 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, steelhead and their habitats.

**Methow Basin Instream Flow Improvement (WA)**

Grantee: Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$37,300

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$37,300

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.

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Lake Chelan

**Optimizing Water Management for Salmon Habitat in Chelan County (WA)**

Grantee: Cascadia Conservation District  
 Grant Amount:..... \$130,300  
 Matching Funds:..... \$70,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$200,300  
 Conduct outreach, education and technical assistance to private landowners in the Entiat, Lake Chelan, Stemilt-Squilchuck and Wenatchee watersheds to improve aquatic species habitat and survival for ESA-listed spring Chinook, summer steelhead and bull trout. Project will provide water quality conservation plans, technical assistance and education to improve insufficient instream flows by increasing surface water availability and conserving water in anadromous salmonid streams while supporting sustainable agriculture.

**Provide Streamflow Monitoring and Water Transaction Support (WA)**

Grantee: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Grant Amount:..... \$103,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$150,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$253,900  
 Provide stream monitoring and technical assistance to program partners on prioritization, identification and development of water right transactions. Project will provide review of monitoring plans to ensure that stream flow and, where appropriate, biological monitoring are incorporated to understand and maximize conservation impact.

**Restoring Healthy Watershed and Fish Populations in Okanogan County (WA)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited  
 Grant Amount:..... \$172,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$230,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$402,800  
 Identify and conduct targeted and general outreach to landowners and agricultural producers in the Methow and Okanogan subbasins of the upper Columbia River in Washington State to benefit ESA-listed Pacific salmon, steelhead and their aquatic ecosystems. Project will provide technical assistance and engage landowners in conservation planning and practice implementation through NRCS administered Farm Bill programs.

**Restoring Streamflow in Wenatchee, Yakima and Entiat (WA)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited  
 Grant Amount:..... \$236,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$250,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$486,800  
 Increase streamflow priority tributaries and improve fish survival and recruitment in mainstem habitats by working with agricultural landowners on projects that benefit Pacific salmon and steelhead, and their habitats. Project will identify, prioritize, develop and execute streamflow projects in Central and North Central Washington—Wenatchee, Entiat and Yakima Subbasins—working in collaboration with water right holders, irrigators and agency partners.

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Tissue sample collection from a Chinook salmon

**Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Columbia Basin (WA)**

Grantee: Washington Water Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$189,600  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$189,600

Restore fish-critical streams in the Columbia River Basin by implementing instream flow acquisitions in the Yakima, Klickitat, White Salmon, and Spokane basins in Washington State. This project will benefit ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead by developing water transactions to meet flow targets in priority areas.

**Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Columbia Basin - Colville (WA)**

Grantee: Washington Water Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$90,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$87,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$177,000

Restore streamflow in the Upper Columbia Basin, including the Wenatchee, Okanogan and Methow Watersheds to benefit ESA-listed steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout. Project work will proceed in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Fish and Wildlife Department and other local partners, and prioritize projects according to published recovery planning and subbasin planning documents.

**Wenatchee Subbasin Alluvial Water Storage Restoration on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (WA)**

Grantee: Chelan County Natural Resource Department  
 Grant Amount:..... \$74,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$14,800  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$89,000

Design and implement alluvial water storage projects at Big Meadow Creek and Brush Creek on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest lands. Project will improve habitat and water quality for native fish, including ESA-listed Upper Columbia spring Chinook, Upper Columbia steelhead and bull trout.

**Wenatchee Subbasin Instream Flow Improvement (WA)**

Grantee: Chelan County Natural Resource Department  
 Grant Amount:..... \$46,400  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$46,400

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.

**MULTIPLE STATES**

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

Grantee: Nez Perce Tribe  
 Grant Amount:..... \$16,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$110,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$126,900

Increase flow restoration efforts in the Nez Perce tribal geographies in Idaho and Oregon. Project will increase tribal capacity to coordinate with other groups developing water transactions within the broad geography of ceded lands, and also enable the Tribe to propose transactions uniquely linked to tribal relationships, tribal treaty rights, and tribal sovereignty.

**Stream Flow Restoration to Benefit Salmon, Steelhead and Trout in the Columbia Basin - Umatilla (OR, WA)**

Grantee: Washington Water Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$185,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$185,700

Restore fish-critical streams in the Columbia River Basin by implementing instream flow acquisitions in Washington and Oregon. Project will continue its partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to benefit ESA-threatened summer steelhead and bull trout, as well as reintroduced spring Chinook.