

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grants Awarded 2019-2021

Projects in Clallam County

Grants Awarded: \$6,498,354

Clallam County

Grant Awarded: \$3,046,868

Restoring the Dungeness River Floodplain

Clallam County will use this grant to reconnect .8 mile of the Dungeness River with 112 acres of its historic floodplain by moving a portion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' east bank levee and relocating Towne Road. The County will improve habitat conditions, restore natural river and floodplain processes, and incorporate walking trails in the project. Constructed by the Corps in 1963, the levee constrains the river channel, which results in increased channel confinement, more sediment in the river, erosion, and poor water quality. This project will benefit Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The County will contribute \$552,036 in another state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1300)

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Grant Awarded: \$1,353,273

Adding Logjams in the Elwha River to Create Fish Habitat

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in partnership with the City of Port Angeles, will use this grant to add 24 logjams and reinforce three natural logjams along 1 mile of the Elwha River. This section of the river at Ranney Reach has few deep, cold pools; not enough woody materials; and too much fast-moving water in winter. Logjams create places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Between 1999 and 2017, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe built 52 logjams in the Elwha River. This phased, ongoing logjam creation is one of the largest projects of its kind anywhere in the world. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Tribe will contribute \$250,000 from Port Angeles and a \$150,000 federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1291)

North Olympic Land Trust

Grant Awarded: \$135,151

Conserving Clallam Bay

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to buy 71 acres of important habitat for salmon and steelhead at the mouth of the Clallam River in Clallam Bay. The land includes a half-mile of the Clallam River, highly active floodplain, a quarter-mile of Swamp Creek and tributaries, two fish-bearing forested wetlands, and other short channel segments that provide diverse

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freshwater habitat. The land trust will control noxious weeds and do some planting to supplement work done after recent logging. The area is used by coho, chum, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and occasional Chinook salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1293)

North Olympic Land Trust Protecting the Lower Elwha River

Grant Awarded: \$332,609

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 33 acres along the Elwha River. The land includes about .4 mile of the Elwha River, a side channel, and significant floodplain habitat. The agreement will protect habitat used by Puget Sound Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the Endangered Species Act, along with coho, which are a federal species of concern. The agreement will conserve a buffer along the Elwha River floodplain and preclude future development. Conserving this land will avoid future riverside armoring and helps protect previous, nearby restoration efforts along this critical stretch of river. The land is next to land owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and allows access for pedestrians and sports fishing. The land trust will contribute \$58,696 in cash and other resources. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1299)

North Olympic Land Trust Preserving Morse Creek

Grant Awarded: \$8,135

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to buy 97.3 acres along Morse Creek, conserving about 1 mile of important salmon and shoreline habitat. The land trust also will remove the hydroelectric operation and spillway near Morse Creek. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by bull trout. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$120,825 in cash donations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1314)

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Restoring Upper Dungeness River

Grant Awarded: \$700,000

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to build at least 12 logjams in the upper Dungeness River and Gray Wolf River in Olympic National Forest. During many past decades, the former practice of removing large trees and wood from rivers has severely degraded salmon habitat. While wood removal has stopped, these reaches remain extremely lacking in wood-

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formed habitat. Logjams create places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The rivers are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The U.S. Forest Service, which is partnering with the Tribe on this project, will contribute \$125,000 in donations of materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1301)

Coastal Watershed Institute Conserving the Elwha River Estuary

Grant Awarded: \$573,239

The Coastal Watershed Institute will use this grant to conserve up to 20 acres of the historical west estuary of the Elwha River along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The institute will work with willing sellers to protect marine shoreline and establish long-term estuary conservation management. The Elwha River is known for previously supporting legendary salmon runs. With its two dams now removed, attention has turned to protection and restoration efforts in the estuary and lower river to ensure that the watershed has adequate rearing habitat for the needs of recovering salmon populations. Nearly 97 percent of the Elwha River is under conservation management; however, none of the historical west estuary is managed for conservation. The project will benefit Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Coastal Watershed Institute will contribute \$109,000 from a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1298)

North Olympic Salmon Coalition Restoring Dungeness Riverbank Habitat

Grant Awarded: \$96,878

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to remove weeds and plant 25 acres along 1 mile of the Dungeness River, near Sequim. The coalition will eliminate or control noxious weeds, plant 25 acres with native shrubs and trees, and maintain the plantings until a riverbank forest takes root in about 5 years. Along the lower Dungeness River, about 20 percent of riverbank plants have been removed or significantly stripped. In addition, buddleia, an invasive species commonly known as butterfly bush, has infested the entire lower river corridor. This project will benefit Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The coalition will contribute \$17,334 in cash and donations of

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materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1296)

Coastal Watershed Institute Assessing the Elwha River Estuary

Grant Awarded: \$167,000

The Coastal Watershed Institute will use this grant to evaluate the effects of the Place Road levee on lower Elwha River habitat and processes. The Elwha River was the site of a watershed-scale restoration project that removed two dams to restore habitat-sustaining processes throughout the entire river system. However, a levee isolates more than 6 acres of historic estuary from the Elwha River. The institute will increase its understanding of the effect of the levee on the habitat, evaluate the levee's effectiveness, and develop alternatives to modify the levee to improve habitat and maintain flood protection. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The institute will contribute \$33,000 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1313)

North Olympic Salmon Coalition Restoring Western Clallam County Watersheds

Grant Awarded: \$85,201

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to replant and restore 20 acres of riverbank in western Clallam County along waterways that empty into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Many watersheds in this area, which includes rivers like the Clallam, Sekiu, Hoko, and Pysht, have degraded shorelines dominated by deciduous trees or invasive species. These conditions have impacted water quality and sedimentation. The coalition will engage willing landowners, including Hoko River State Park, to increase the quantity and quality of forests along rivers and streams to benefit habitat for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon; steelhead; and cutthroat and rainbow trout. The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will contribute \$16,667. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1292)

Projects in Island County

Grants Awarded: \$342,815

Snohomish Conservation District Designing Camano Country Club Tide Gate Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$80,150

The Snohomish Conservation District will use this grant to complete a study evaluating the potential for relocating or removing the tide gates in the north lagoon of the Camano Country Club and enhancing the ebb and flow of tides in the south lagoon. Changes would improve access to Camano Country Club Creek and the north lagoon for young Chinook and other

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salmon. The study also will investigate opportunities to enhance lower Camano Country Club Creek and the north lagoon such as removing or replacing part of the beach armoring near the north lagoon. The project will include feasibility analysis, landowner engagement, permit-ready designs, and landowner agreement for restoration actions. The lagoon and creek are used by Chinook salmon, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The conservation district will contribute \$14,150 in cash and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1382)

Island County

Grant Awarded: \$56,309

Designing East Camano Road Fish Passage

Island County will use this grant to develop preliminary designs to replace barriers to migrating fish in Kristoferson Creek under East Camano Drive and to remove a fish barrier 50 feet upstream of the main barriers. Removing the barriers will improve access for salmon and trout to the Kristoferson Creek basin above North East Camano Drive. The project will benefit coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The County will contribute \$9,937 in donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1378)

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation

Grant Awarded: \$45,418

Studying the Feasibility of Restoring the Waterfront at Oak Harbor Marina

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation will use this grant to assess the feasibility of strategies to restore near-shore habitat and natural processes at the Oak Harbor Marina. The study will assess reducing the shoreline armoring with natural elements such as plants, gravel, sand, logs, and root masses. It also will assess removing about 700 feet of storm drain flowing directly into the bay and replacing it with a natural filtering system. The project will benefit Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The foundation will contribute \$74,471 in a grant from the state Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1479)

Skagit River System Cooperative Restoring Crescent Harbor Creek

Grant Awarded: \$160,938

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to reconstruct Crescent Creek between Crescent Harbor Road and the estuary. The restoration will reestablish meanders, pools, and other stream complexity that was lost when the stream was straightened decades ago. The

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restoration will reconnect the channel downstream of Crescent Harbor Road to the adjacent floodplain, and will add more than 400 feet to the channel. The project will benefit Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Skagit River System Cooperative will contribute \$67,000 in donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1366)

Projects in Jefferson County

Grants Awarded: \$601,529

Jefferson Land Trust Protecting Duckabush River

Grant Awarded: \$131,000

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy 25 acres near Duckabush River that are zoned for residential development and under increasing pressure for logging. The river is used by chum salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The land trust will contribute \$24,792 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1230)

Jefferson County Preserving Lower Big Quilcene Floodplain

Grant Awarded: \$300,000

The Jefferson County Public Health Department will use this grant to buy land in a floodplain near the Big Quilcene River to allow for future restoration of spawning habitat for summer chum and help the river reconnect to historic floodplain areas. The river is used by chum salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Jefferson County will contribute \$78,000 in conservation futures.¹ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1227)

Jefferson County Conserving Dosewallips River

Grant Awarded: \$170,529

The Jefferson County Public Health Department will use this grant to buy 21 acres of shoreline and develop designs to restore salmon habitat and connect floodplains near the Powerlines Reach. The project will benefit Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon,

¹Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

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which is a federal species of concern. Jefferson County will contribute \$52,917 in a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1228)

Projects in King County

Grants Awarded: \$7,850,587

King County

Grant Awarded: \$240,000

Designing McSorley Creek Restoration

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to complete final designs and permitting to improve the lower 450 feet of McSorley Creek and 1,000 feet of Puget Sound shoreline at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines. Preliminary designs call for excavating part of the parking lot to create an estuary to provide habitat for Chinook and other salmon; removing shoreline barriers, reconnecting the bluff to the beach, and restoring natural processes. Overall, the project will restore habitat for salmon and the fish they eat while making the park more sustainable in the face of sea level rise. The project will benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. King County will contribute \$43,000 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1398)

King County

Grant Awarded: \$849,600

Designing Set Back Levees on the Snoqualmie River

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to design two projects to set back levees on the Snoqualmie River, downstream of Raging River and the town of Fall City. The future restoration projects are expected to restore a half-mile of riverbank habitat, improve connection with the floodplain, and increase plantings on 60 acres in the floodplain and along waterways. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. King County will contribute \$176,400. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1628)

King County

Grant Awarded: \$280,855

Protecting the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to buy 3.9 acres to further protect the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve. The land includes 1.74 acres of tidelands and waterfront. This project will allow for the removal of about 50 feet of shoreline armoring. Once restored, this project will benefit Chinook, coho, and pink salmon, as well as cutthroat trout, and

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forage fish such as sand lance, surf smelt, and Pacific herring. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. King County will contribute \$49,563 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1445)

King County

Grant Awarded: \$5,900,000

Reconnecting the Riverbend Floodplain

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to restore land near the Cedar River by removing about a half-mile of levee and about 180,000 cubic yards of fill from the surrounding floodplain. The County also will add plants to about 28 acres and build a channel that is nearly 1 mile long. This project connects the Cavanaugh Pond and Ricardi Natural Areas and supports a 52-acre floodplain restoration on the left bank of the Cedar River. This project will enhance and expand habitat for salmon to spawn and rest in and around the river's side channels and floodplain. The project also will accommodate low-impact recreation. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The county will contribute \$766,259 in a local grant and \$280,000 in a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#) (18-1258).

King County

Grant Awarded: \$580,132

Removing Invasive Species and Planting Native Trees along the Green River

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to remove invasive plants and plant native trees and shrubs on 13 acres of Green River shoreline. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which are a federal species of concern. King County will contribute \$119,300 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1444)

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Projects in Kitsap County

Grants Awarded: \$1,560,967

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Restoring Little Manzanita Creek

Grant Awarded: \$754,740

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will use two grant to buy and restore 18.27 acres of undeveloped shoreline, wetland, and streams in Little Manzanita Bay on Bainbridge Island. The land includes 1 acre of tidelands, about .2 mile of undeveloped shoreline, 2.44 acres of wetlands, and more than .25 mile of Manzanita and Mosquito Creeks. The land trust will manage the land as a preserve with opportunities for low-impact recreation. The land trust will remove and manage invasive plants and plant native plants along the shoreline. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the beach, keeping forage fish eggs there protected from the sun. The plants drop insects that young salmon eat on their way to the ocean. Finally, the roots of the plants help stabilize the shoreline naturally. Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, use the area for feeding and protection from predators. The land trust will contribute \$275,690 in cash and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [here](#) and [here](#) for more information and photographs of this project. (18-1471, 18-1472)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Preserving Big Beef Creek Watershed

Grant Awarded: \$569,953

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to buy 297.12 acres in the lower Big Beef Creek watershed that includes recently restored freshwater, wetland, and shoreline habitat critical to summer chum. The project will benefit chum salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The enhancement group will contribute \$2.6 million in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-2228)

Kitsap County Designing Kitsap Beach Armor Removal

Requested: \$236,274

Kitsap County will use this grant to develop preliminary designs to remove eight to ten shoreline retaining walls and initiate permitting. The County will identify willing landowners through the Shore Friendly Program, which offers shoreline guidance to landowners to support Puget Sound protection. Kitsap County will rank the projects based on location, amount of sediment, habitat and species, and size. Removing retaining walls allows waves to remove and deposit sediment on the beach naturally and can result in the creation of new habitat, especially for forage fish, which is an important food source for young salmon. The shoreline is used by Chinook salmon,

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which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Kitsap County will contribute \$45,163 in cash and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1837)

Projects in Mason County

Grants Awarded: \$3,829,757

Mason Conservation District Improving Skokomish River Habitat

Grant Awarded: \$2,636,035

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to add tree root wads and logs to 1.5 miles of the Skokomish River. Tree root wads and logs create places for fish to rest and hide from predators. They also slow the river, which reduces erosion and the amount of sediment in the river. A slower river allows small gravels to settle to the river bottom for spawning areas. Finally, they change the flow of the river, creating riffles and deep cold pools, giving fish more varied habitat. The project will improve habitat for salmon, help move sediment downstream, and improve the river's flow to help fish access Swift Creek. This project will benefit Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The conservation district will contribute \$465,183 in another grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1232)

Mason Conservation District Planning Lower Skokomish River Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$199,711

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to study the lower reach of the Skokomish River to determine the size, location, and amount of tree root wads and logs to install to enhance river habitat. Adding large woody materials to a stream helps provide places for salmon to rest. The conservation district will develop designs and alternatives before getting permits. This project will benefit listed Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1233)

Squaxin Island Tribe Preserving Habitat in and Around Skookum Creek

Grant Awarded: \$994,011

The Squaxin Island Tribe will use this grant to buy 649 acres and 8.4 miles of stream, including 4 miles of Skookum Creek, in the Skookum Valley. The purchase will preserve 68 percent of the side channels and 77 percent of Skookum Creek in conservation or long-term forestry. This

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project will protect habitat for steelhead, which is a species listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act; coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and chum salmon and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1887)

Projects in Pierce County

Grants Awarded: \$2,254,211

Sumner

Grant Awarded: \$439,716

Preserving the White River

The City of Sumner will use this grant to buy 2.99 acres along the White River as part of a larger strategy to secure land for a setback levee on the river's right bank. This project will prevent development and keep the land open for the levee. The setback levee will create important rearing habitat for Chinook salmon, which is nearly nonexistent in the lower White River. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Sumner will contribute \$108,800 in cash, a state grant, and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1770)

Forterra

Grant Awarded: \$647,300

Conserving and Planning Restoration of Fennel Creek

Forterra will use this grant to buy 14 acres and plan restoration projects to return Fennel Creek and its floodplain to a self-sustaining, natural state, which includes a properly functioning shoreline, forested floodplain, and a meandering stream. Years of dredging, filling wetlands, and building structures that blocked migrating fish have prevented salmon from gaining full access to their historic range, increased the number of deaths, and reduced the spawning productivity. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Forterra will contribute \$114,500 in conservation futures² and a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1596)

²Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

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South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Designing Nisqually River Wilcox Reach Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$382,500

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete a preliminary design for a project that will remove a half-mile of levees and berms on the Nisqually River. Removing the levees and berms will re-connect about 100 acres of forested floodplain and area surrounding the river to its side channels and wetlands. The project also calls for installing a series of levee setbacks and wood roughening structures to protect agricultural fields, a farm road, and the Centralia Diversion Dam. This project will benefit steelhead trout, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and Chinook salmon. The enhancement group will contribute \$67,500 in donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1353)

Nisqually Land Trust Conserving Nisqually River Shoreline Habitat

Grant Awarded: \$267,250

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy 35 acres of undeveloped land—about a third-mile of river shoreline—in the town of McKenna along the northern shoreline of the Nisqually River. Much of the surrounded land is developed with houses. The land will provide opportunities for habitat restoration and enhancement, a recovery goal for this reach of the river. This project will benefit steelhead trout, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, as well as Chinook salmon. The land trust will contribute \$47,500. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1385)

Nisqually Land Trust Preserving the Lower Ohop Valley

Grant Awarded: \$30,445

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy 90 acres for future channel development and floodplain restoration in the lower Ohop Valley. Primarily fallow agricultural fields in the Ohop Creek floodplain make up the area, which includes .65 mile of Ohop Creek. The land trust will collaborate with South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and the Nisqually Indian Tribe to care for shoreline plantings in the project area. Stewardship activities will include control of invasive weeds and planting native trees and shrubs in areas with low fish survival and beaver damage. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The project will benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon,

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which is a federal species of concern. The land trust will contribute \$71,975 in conservation futures,³ and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1368)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: \$487,000** **Planning the Upper Puyallup and White River Basins Restoration**

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to evaluate habitat capacity, bottlenecks to salmon productivity and survival, and climate change effects in the upper White River basin and the upper Puyallup River basin. The enhancement group will create a plan to protect and restore the two basins to respond with resiliency to the effects of climate change. Specifically, the enhancement group will develop up to ten conceptual project designs and cost estimates and one preliminary design for a high priority action. The rivers are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The enhancement group will contribute \$88,000 in another grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1761)

Projects in San Juan County **Grants Awarded: \$333,253**

Friends of the San Juans **Grant Awarded: \$199,884** **Protecting Herring Spawning Habitat**

The Friends of the San Juans will use this grant to move and renovate mooring buoys near three herring spawning areas and develop voluntary anchor-out zones. The friends group also will reach out to landowners to participate in a buoy upgrade program and enhance about 15-20 buoys. The project focusses on the three remaining active herring spawning grounds in San Juan County: Fishing and Ship Bays on Orcas Island, Mud and Hunter Bays on Lopez Island, and Blind Bay on Shaw Island. Herring are one of two important fish species that salmon eat. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Friends of the San Juans will contribute \$35,274 in another grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1743)

³Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

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Friends of the San Juans

Grant Awarded: \$79,943

Planning the Protection of Sand Lance Spawning Habitat

The Friends of San Juans will use this grant to identify new sand lance spawning beaches with the goal of improving their protection and restoration. Sand lance are one of the most important sources of food for Chinook salmon. Pacific sand lance spawn on sandy intertidal beaches and are vulnerable to the impacts of shoreline development such as armoring. There are only nine documented spawning beaches in San Juan County and research suggests that local populations of Pacific sand lance are at significantly higher densities than what the nine known spawning beaches could produce. The friends group will use state standard field and sample processing protocols, research results, partnerships, and extensive community participation to conduct three seasons of surveys. Results of these targeted sand lance spawning surveys likely will expand restoration, conservation, and regulatory protection of sand lance spawning habitat. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Friends of the San Juans will contribute \$14,108 in a private grant and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1746)

Friends of the San Juans

Grant Awarded: \$53,426

Planning to Remove Shoreline Armoring

The Friends of the San Juans will use this grant to plan for the removal of shoreline armoring to increase the quantity and quality of habitat for young Chinook salmon and their prey, thereby increasing food for southern resident killer whales. The friends group will reach out to landowners, assess 10-15 potential sites, complete conceptual designs for 3-5 sites, and advance 1-2 sites through preliminary design. Removing armoring will restore habitat and natural coastal processes. This project will benefit Chinook salmon, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Friends of the San Juans will contribute \$30,691 in a private grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1742)

Projects in Skagit County

Grants Awarded: \$3,771,928

Seattle City Light

Grant Awarded: \$603,266

Preserving Habitat Along the Skagit River

Seattle City Light and the Skagit Land Trust will use this grant to buy at least 100 acres in the Skagit River watershed, protecting high-quality Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat. The partners will reach out to landowners who are interested in voluntarily selling their land, as well

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as ensure newly acquired lands have stewardship plans. The project area includes the Skagit, Sauk, and Cascade Rivers and their major tributaries, including some creeks upstream of Sedro-Woolley. The rivers are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The partners will contribute \$285,813. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1502)

Skagit River System Cooperative Planning Tenas Creek Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$254,534

The Skagit River System Cooperative, with the U.S. Forest Service and other landowners, will use this grant to develop and select a preferred restoration option for lower Tenas Creek. The goal is to improve habitat for Chinook salmon and other wildlife and reduce maintenance and emergency repairs associated with a Forest Service road. Tenas Creek is one of nine tributaries to the Suiattle River. It provides cold, clear water to the Suiattle River, which has naturally high sediment levels. The creek channel has been straightened and isolated from its natural floodplain by a dike. The partners will evaluate projects that remove or modify the dike, move the road, and build new bridge crossings. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The cooperative will contribute \$45,000 in cash and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1500)

Skagit River System Cooperative Planning to Restore Skiyou and Ross Island Reaches

Grant Awarded: \$220,691

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to study concepts for removing or modifying bank hardening at Skiyou and Ross Island reaches above Sedro-Woolley to restore floodplain habitat. Rock armor in the river can disrupt the natural river environment by worsening erosion in unarmored areas and displacing vegetation and fish habitat. The area is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Skagit River System Cooperative will contribute \$38,946 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1488)

Skagit County Improving Cedar Grove Fish Passage

Grant Awarded: \$564,892

The Skagit County Public Works Department will use this grant to remove a barrier to fish passage under Cedar Grove Avenue, in Concrete by replacing a culvert with a pedestrian bridge. Culverts are structures, often large pipes, which carry streams under roads. The work will restore

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access to rearing habitat for young fish. The stream is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Skagit County will contribute \$103,180 in donations of cash, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1490)

Skagit River System Cooperative Designing Smokehouse Tidal Marsh Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$416,307

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to design restoration activities, which include a levee setback along the Swinomish River. The future restoration project calls for building about 1 mile of dike and removing or breaching the historic dike along the Swinomish River. This work will create about 120 acres of tidal wetlands, adding to projects already implemented by the Swinomish Tribal Community since 2005. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Skagit River System Cooperative will contribute \$73,466 in a grant from the state Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1484)

Skagit Watershed Council Planning for Sauk River Habitat Protection and Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$106,009

The Skagit Watershed Council will use this grant to prioritize areas around the Sauk River for habitat protection and restoration projects. The council will assemble and analyze watershed and local information to identify high priority projects. The planning work will focus on the Sauk River floodplain from the confluence of the Sauk and Skagit Rivers upstream to Clear Creek, near Darrington. The rivers are used by Chinook salmon, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Skagit Watershed Council will contribute \$18,708 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1499)

Skagit River System Cooperative Planting Skiyou Island Floodplain

Grant Awarded: \$198,229

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to plant 23 acres of U.S. Forest Service land along the Skagit River and Skiyou Slough east of Sedro-Woolley. Both the river and slough don't have enough shoreline plants and suffer from noxious weed infestations. The cooperative will plant native plants along the shorelines, which helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother

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fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Skagit River System Cooperative will contribute \$34,982 in donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1486)

Skagit River System Cooperative Designing Similk Beach Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$320,317

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to reconnect 22 acres of historic pocket estuary to Similk Bay and its near-shore environment. Restoring the connection will benefit Chinook salmon, forage fish, and shellfish. The cooperative and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimate this project will result in 3,782 smolt, or young salmon, every year. The project will contribute to a suite of restoration actions implemented by the Swinomish Tribal Community since 2005 that improve near-shore Chinook habitat along migratory corridors. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Skagit River System Cooperative will contribute \$56,527 in a grant from the state Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1483)

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Designing Anderson Creek Restoration and Fish Passage

Grant Awarded: \$199,600

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to evaluate the feasibility of correcting the fish passage barrier, re-establishing a more natural flow path downstream of the barrier, and developing a vegetation management plan to restore wetland and native floodplain forest communities along Anderson Creek. Anderson Creek is a tributary to the Skagit River, flowing north from Haystack Mountain before joining the river at Ross Island Slough. Nearby land is prone to flooding, as sediment drops out north of the South Skagit Highway, raising the channel higher than the surrounding landscape. The increased sediment threatens fish passage at the culvert, which is a structure that routes the stream below the South Skagit Highway. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1489)

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Skagit County

Grant Awarded: \$648,453

Designing Sauk Tributary Restoration and Fish Passage

The Skagit County Public Works Department will use this grant to complete a design for the possible realignment of a county road and replacement and improvement of three fish-blocking culverts. Culverts are structures, often large pipes, which carry streams under roads. These culverts are under Concrete Sauk Valley Road on tributaries to the Sauk River, about 2 miles south of Rockport. The movement of the Sauk River has compromised the road, reducing it to one lane in one area, and causing the culverts to hang too high for the fish to reach. This project will restore habitat for Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, and return Concrete Sauk Valley Road to two lanes of travel. The tributaries are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Skagit County will contribute \$114,452 in donations of cash and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1491)

Skagit County

Grant Awarded: \$108,501

Designing Skiyou Rock Removal

The Skagit County Public Works Department will use this grant to design a project to remove about 500 feet of rock in the Skagit River. In the early 1970s, the landowner armored the bank. However, in the 1990s the river began moving to the west, undermining the armoring and leaving the rock in the channel. Rock armor in the river can disrupt the natural river environment by worsening erosion in unarmored areas and displacing vegetation and fish habitat. The County will complete a feasibility assessment on the impacts of removing the rock from the river. If possible, the County also will include a construction method recommendation, cost-benefit analysis, preferred alternative, preliminary design, and permitting. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1487)

Skagit County

Grant Awarded: \$131,129

Designing Hansen Creek Reach Restoration

The Skagit County Public Works Department and the Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to complete final designs, baseline assessments, and permitting for a project to restore Hansen Creek, a major tributary of the Skagit River in northern Puget Sound, between State Route 20 and Minkler Road. This will be the second major floodplain restoration project in this lower tributary, with the first occurring above State Route 20 in 2009. The restoration project will create a new channel and floodplain west of the current channel in an area that is lower in

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elevation and already chronically flooded. The stream then will be moved from its current straightened and degraded location into the new channel. The work will improve floodplain habitat and water quality, while also decreasing fish stranding and the widespread flooding plaguing this area of Minkler Road. The work will increase habitat by creating more than a half-mile of new channel and restoring about 80 acres of rearing habitat in this key watershed for Puget Sound recovery. Hansen Creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The partners will contribute \$451,634 from other grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (16-1651)

Another project in this county is listed in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section beginning on page 25.

Projects in Snohomish County **Grants Awarded: \$4,029,908**

Snohomish County **Grant Awarded: \$140,000** **Designing Restoration of the Thomas' Eddy**

The Snohomish County Department of Public Works will use this grant to engage the public in developing designs for projects to improve salmon habitat in the Bob Heirman Wildlife Preserve at Thomas' Eddy in the Snohomish River. A levee built in the 1930s isolated more than 200 acres of Snohomish River floodplain, including about 1.5 miles of channel habitat, and added nearly 1 mile of edge to the river. Proposed future restoration actions include removing a levee, connecting side channels, enhancing edge habitat, placing large logs and root wads, and planting riverbanks. Investigations conducted as part of this planning process likely will lead to preconstruction actions such as non-native fish species removal and initial site clean-up. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The County will contribute \$35,295. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1617)

Snohomish County **Grant Awarded: \$608,289** **Replacing and Undersized Culvert under the Burling Northern Santa Fe Railway**

The Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation will use this grant to replace an undersized culvert under the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway with a bridge in Meadowdale Beach Park, providing a 90-foot opening. Culverts are large pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads. The new bridge will allow Lund's Gulch Creek to return to a more natural meander and deliver sediment to the beach. The work will re-establish and connect a historic 1.3-acre pocket estuary in the park to the shoreline. The County also will remove about

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17,000 cubic yards of fill and about 2,000 cubic yards of shoreline armor. The County will place 27 pieces of wood in the estuary to enhance habitat for young salmon. Woody materials create places for fish to rest and hide from predators. They also slow the water, which reduces erosion and the amount of sediment in the estuary. Slower water allows small gravels to settle to the bottom for spawning areas. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and deep cold pools, giving fish more varied habitat. The project will benefit Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Snohomish County will contribute \$158,176. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1259)

Snohomish County Restoring Jim Creek

Grant Awarded: \$160,000

The Snohomish County Department of Public Works will use this grant to create final designs for projects that place four logjams in a half-mile of Jim Creek, plant its banks, and treat invasive plants. Adding logs to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the creek, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1288)

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians Adding a Retaining Wall to the South Fork Stillaguamish River

Grant Awarded: \$395,005

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians will use this grant to build a half-mile long retaining wall of timber and other native plants on the bank of the South Fork Stillaguamish River across from the Gold Basin Campground. The wall will help stop sediment from getting into the stream, which can limit places where fish rest and spawn and create blockages that promote flooding. The tribe also will add a structure downstream to catch additional sediment. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1532)

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Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

Grant Awarded: \$1,173,476

Preserving the Segelson and Trafton Floodplains

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians will use this grant to buy about 105 acres in the Segelson and Trafton floodplains along the North Fork Stillaguamish River, conserving more than .8 mile of shoreline. The Tribe also will place logjams in the river. Logjams create places for fish to rest and hide from predators. They also slow the river, which reduces erosion and the amount of sediment in the river. A slower river allows small gravels to settle to the river bottom for spawning areas. Finally, they change the flow of the river, creating riffles and deep cold pools, giving fish more varied habitat. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Tribe will contribute \$203,000 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1443)

The Nature Conservancy

Grant Awarded: \$128,495

Planning Port Susan Bay Restoration

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to assess, plan, and permit projects to enhance salmon habitat, water quality, and drainage in the Port Susan Bay Preserve and Stillaguamish estuary. The project will include site mapping and analyzing land geology and the possible lowering of a berm or channel. The bay is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1465)

Tulalip Tribes

Grant Awarded: \$192,913

Preserving the Skykomish River

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to buy 23 acres of shoreline and floodplain on the Skykomish River near Monroe. After buying at least half the land, the Tribe will assess projects to connect floodplains, side channels, and Riley Slough to the Skykomish River. During the past 25 years, the Tribe has observed dramatic reductions in coho spawning in Riley Slough tributaries, with the last spawning reported in 2008. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Tulalip Tribes will contribute \$81,645 in cash and donations of equipment and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1720)

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Tulalip Tribes

Grant Awarded: \$1,231,730

Removing the Pilchuck Dam

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to remove the Pilchuck River Diversion Dam to enhance fish access to habitat and to restore river processes. Since installation in 1912, the dam has blocked upstream migration, effectively reducing fish and other species' ability to use more than 37 miles of high quality habitat upstream of the dam. The City of Snohomish no longer uses the dam for water withdrawals and this proposal has wide support. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which are a federal species of concern. The Tulalip Tribes will contribute \$253,602. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1671)

Another project in this county is listed in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section beginning on page 25.

Projects in Thurston County

Grants Awarded: \$1,376,658

Nisqually Land Trust

Grant Awarded: \$305,405

Conserving the Middle Reach of the Nisqually River

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy 59.2 acres of floodplain, conserving forever the middle reach of the Nisqually River in Thurston County. The land includes a narrow, forested river buffer along the shoreline and 50 acres of fallow berry fields. The land trust will plant native forest species along the shoreline and evaluate potential options to enhance connectivity between the river and the floodplain. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The land trust also will plant trees downstream from the purchased land. The project will benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Other species benefitting include pink and chum salmon and cutthroat trout. The Nisqually Land Trust will contribute \$54,000 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1375)

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Nisqually Land Trust Conserving Lackamas Creek

Grant Awarded: \$170,794

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy 49.5 acres, including about 1,000 feet of Lackamas Creek and 4 acres in the Nisqually River flood zone. This land includes forested shoreline areas and 24 acres of fallow agricultural fields. The project will benefit steelhead, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, as well as Chinook salmon. The land trust will contribute \$56,500. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1367)

Capitol Land Trust Preserving Middle Deschutes River Habitat

Grant Awarded: \$471,832

The Capital Land Trust will use this grant to buy 220 acres and 1.5 miles of the middle Deschutes River, as well as .3 mile of Silver Creek. The project will conserve habitat at the confluence of Silver Creek and the Deschutes River, south of Offutt Lake, in Thurston County. The area is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Capitol Land Trust will contribute \$541,168 in a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1732)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Restoring Habitat in and around the Deschutes River

Grant Awarded: \$183,187

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to place nine large wood structures to the Deschutes River downstream from U.S. Route 507. Large wood structures create places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The project will plant a 100-foot buffer along the shoreline, which will increase stream shading, cool the water, and allow for future wood recruitment. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will contribute \$72,266 in a grant from Thurston County. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1851)

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Nisqually Land Trust

Grant Awarded: \$245,440

Conserving McKenna Reach of the Nisqually River

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy 65 acres of floodplain including .7 mile of the McKenna reach of the Nisqually River to conserve it forever. The land includes a narrow river buffer, off-channel habitat, and about 40 acres of agricultural fields. This project will benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The land trust will contribute \$43,500 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1372)

Projects in Whatcom County

Grants Awarded: \$12,953,156

Bellingham

Grant Awarded: \$10,560,250

Removing the Middle Fork Nooksack Diversion Dam

The City of Bellingham will use this grant to remove a diversion dam on the Middle Fork Nooksack River. The project will restore 16 miles of river and tributary habitat, improve access for migrating fish, and maintain the city's supplemental water supply from river. The restored habitat represents about 20 percent of historic habitat for spring Chinook in the North and Middle Fork Nooksack Rivers and at least 45 percent of the Middle Fork Nooksack River habitat available to winter run steelhead. The project also will connect upper and lower middle fork habitat for bull trout to spawn and migrate. Removing the diversion dam will approve navigability for whitewater kayakers on the river. The project will benefit Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1534)

Lummi Nation

Grant Awarded: \$141,067

Designing Restoration of Middle Fork Porter Creek

The Lummi Nation will use this grant to complete preliminary designs for a project to place logjams in Middle Fork Porter Creek. Logjams create places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the flow of the creek, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The Tribe also will plant the shorelines of nearby channels. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and

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steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1681)

Nooksack Indian Tribe

Grant Awarded: \$2,251,839

Adding Logjams to the Nooksack River

The Nooksack Indian Tribe will use this grant to place 50 logjams in 1 mile of the North Fork Nooksack River near Kendall. Logjams create places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. This project completes the final phase of restoration in the broader Farmhouse Reach of the North Fork Nooksack River. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Tribe will contribute \$456,525 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1685)

Projects in Multiple Counties

Grants Awarded: \$397,969

Skagit and Snohomish Counties

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Grant Awarded: \$397,969

Replanting Skagit Riverbanks

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant more than 34 acres with native vegetation and remove weeds along shorelines and floodplain forests in the Skagit River watershed. This project will continue work with partners including the Town of Hamilton to address shoreline restoration needs in high priority areas. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The watershed is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will contribute \$70,339 in donations of equipment, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (18-1501)