

Salmon Recovery Grants Awarded 2023-2025

Projects in Asotin County

Grants Awarded: \$606,293

Asotin County Conservation District Restoring Asotin Creek

Grant Awarded: \$151,821

The Asotin County Conservation District will use this grant to install a stream crossing, control invasive plants, place large woody materials and boulders in the water, and enhance the banks along 1.2 miles of Asotin Creek. Adding woody materials to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along the creek will shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which are species 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](#). (23-1023)

Trout Unlimited Inc. Restoring Asotin Creek

Grant Awarded: \$454,472

Trout Unlimited will use this grant to design and implement a project to add wood structures to Asotin Creek. Trout Unlimited will identify key floodplain-confining features for removal with a mini-excavator and then install wood structures to improve habitat. Adding wood structures to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which increases the frequency of floodplain inundation and reduces erosion. This allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The work will target priority reaches in the upper 2.5 miles of unrestored sections of Charley Creek, in the North Fork Asotin Creek, and in the lower 1.25 miles of South Fork Asotin Creek, all in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Asotin Wildlife Management Area. Trout Unlimited also will maintain previously restored areas. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which are species 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](#). (23-1036)

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Project in Benton County

Grant Awarded: \$648,638

Benton Conservation District Creating a Cool-water Pool in the Yakima River

Grant Awarded: \$648,638

The Benton Conservation District, in partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, will use this grant to create a cool-water pool in the Yakima River at its confluence with Amon Creek. This will give migrating adult salmon and steelhead needed cold-water refuge in warm seasons. The conservation district will re-route 750 feet of Amon Creek from its present confluence to a natural, deeper hole downstream on the Yakima River. The conservation district also will plant the banks of the newly created channel and remove invasive Russian olive trees. The river and creek are used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act Creek, and by Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1168)

Projects in Chelan County

Grants Awarded: \$2,906,562

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group Restoring Lower Chiwaukum Creek

Grant Awarded: \$580,000

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to place logjams in the lower 0.75 mile of Chiwaukum Creek at its confluence with the Wenatchee River to protect and enhance important cold-water refuge for salmon species. Adding large wood to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. The fisheries enhancement group also will remove infrastructure in the adjacent Tumwater Campground while partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to develop plans and eventually re-open the once popular campground. The creek and its floodplain were severely impacted by logging and the construction of U.S. Highway 2 and the Tumwater Campground, all of which have constrained habitat and habitat-forming processes. The creek is used by upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act; by bull and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” under the act; and by sockeye salmon, rainbow trout, and others. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1264)

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Chelan County

Grant Awarded: \$211,900

Designing the Reconnection of Nason Creek to its Floodplain

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to complete final designs, conduct studies, prepare reports for permit applications, and complete environmental compliance tasks for a future project that will reconnect lower Nason Creek with its floodplain. The future restoration will aim to improve the habitat in the creek, plant its banks, and reconnect the creek to its floodplain and side channels.

Nason Creek is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by upper Columbia River bull and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the act. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#).

(23-1281)

Chelan County

Grant Awarded: \$82,968

Identifying Cold-water Areas of the Lower Wenatchee River and Peshastin Creek

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to identify, map, and characterize cold water areas in twenty-six miles of the lower Wenatchee River and sixteen miles of Peshastin Creek. The County will use both drones and ground-based techniques to observe stream temperature throughout the areas of interest, which are identified as high-priority data gaps. The County also will identify habitat restoration actions to protect, expand, and improve functionality of those cold-water areas to increase fish survival in the face of warming temperatures due to climate change. The Wenatchee River and Peshastin Creek are important habitat for upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for bull and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” under the act. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more](#)

[information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1287)

Chelan County

Grant Awarded: \$61,636

Monitoring Floodplain Restoration Effectiveness

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to monitor juvenile salmon species’ response to previous habitat restoration actions in two subbasins of the upper Columbia River. The project builds on an ongoing study looking at how juvenile salmon species respond to and use logjams. Physical and biological habitat data will be collected. The study also will look at the differences between restored and unrestored areas and the effectiveness of project designs. The County will classify floodplain

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restoration designs, monitor disconnected pools over time, and develop solutions on how to minimize lethal fish stranding caused by disconnected pools in future restoration efforts. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1283)

Chelan County

Grant Awarded: \$500,058

Reconnecting the Upper Wenatchee River to its Floodplain

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to place logjams and large boulder clusters in the upper Wenatchee River and excavate a channel to better connect the river to a fifty-five-acre wetland channel network, which will enhance juvenile rearing habitat. While the site has experienced minimal human-caused impacts during the past fifty years, historical impacts from logging and splash dam-facilitated log transport contributed to the lack of river complexity and spawning and rearing habitat observed today. Adding logjams and boulders to the river changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. The Wenatchee River is used by upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as "endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by upper Columbia River bull and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" under the act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1282)

Chelan County

Grant Awarded: \$750,000

Restoring Flow in Icicle Creek

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to move Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company's diversion in Icicle Creek, downstream to a new pump station, and replace the irrigation canal with a pressurized, on-demand, pipeline. This will provide permanent flow to the lowest 4.5 miles of Icicle Creek. Icicle Creek has extremely low flows in the summer, which results in warm water and hazardous conditions for salmon species. The irrigation company continuously has diverted nearly twelve cubic feet per second of water at the shared diversion with the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery since 1940. The modern pipeline will reduce maximum diversion to eight cubic feet per second, with an average use of four to six cubic feet per second. This work will double the amount of water in lower Icicle Creek in the summer, offsetting some effects of climate change. Icicle Creek is used by upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as "endangered" under the federal

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Endangered Species Act; by bull and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the act; and by hatchery coho salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1279)

Chelan Douglas Land Trust Protecting Mission Creek

Grant Awarded: \$720,000

The Chelan Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on about forty acres of orchard on Mission Creek, near Cashmere. The easement will protect the land, ensuring it isn’t developed. The landowners will remove the orchard and two irrigation diversions in Mission Creek. The land will be open to the public access via foot access and educational and scientific study. The land trust and landowners will work with salmon recovery partners to develop future restoration possibilities. The creek is used by upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act; by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the act; and by coho salmon and lamprey. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23 1269)

For additional projects in Chelan County, look in the section titled “Projects Crossing Multiple Counties” at the end of this document.

Projects in Clallam County

Grants Awarded: \$3,016,289

Clallam Conservation District Improving Fish Passage in Hermison Creek

Grant Awarded: \$140,219

The Clallam Conservation District will use this grant to plan and implement a project to replace two culverts in Hermison Creek, a tributary to the Historic Oxbow on the Quillayute River. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Replacing the culverts will reconnect nearly one mile of stream, beaver pond, and wetland habitat to the oxbow, and will mark the first step in the Quileute Tribe's multi-year plan to restore the oxbow. The lower culvert is undersized, resulting in an incised channel downstream and a ponded wetland upstream. The conservation district will use the grant to complete final engineering designs to replace this culvert with a bridge. The second culvert also is undersized and rusting away. The channel is deeply incised immediately downstream of it. The conservation district will use the grant to replace this culvert, treat invasive weeds,

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and replant the area. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, and by cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1055)

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Placing Wood in the Little Hoko River

Grant Awarded: \$842,412

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to place logs via helicopter in twenty-five locations along about three miles of the Little Hoko River. Adding logs to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (22-1187)

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Planting Former Reservoirs in the Elwha River

Grant Awarded: \$191,613

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to plant trees and shrubs on 500 acres in the former Mills and Aldwell reservoirs of the Elwha River. The work will focus on planting trees in young hardwood forests and along shorelines dominated by plants. The goal is to help rebuild Pacific salmon populations by nurturing, protecting, and enhancing degraded and developing salmon habitat on the Elwha River. Planting trees and bushes along the water helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants also drop leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that 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 and bull trout, all of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The river also is used by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, by Pacific lamprey, which is a candidate for listing, and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (21-1094)

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North Olympic Land Trust Conserving the Elwha River

Grant Awarded: \$1,082,094

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to possibly buy and restore about thirty-one acres along the Elwha River. The purchase would protect permanently some of the best salmon habitat in the Elwha River watershed outside Olympic National Park by preventing floodplain modification and habitat degradation or loss. Much of the land is in the floodplain, river meander zone, or at high risk of erosion. The restoration work would include decommissioning all the infrastructure and replanting the riverbanks with native species. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. There will be public access for hiking and sports fishing. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by chum, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1114)

North Olympic Salmon Coalition Restoring Fish Passage in Johnson Creek

Grant Awarded: \$440,663

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to replace three culverts with a structure that will open nearly sixteen acres of rearing and more than two miles of spawning and rearing habitat in Johnson Creek, in western Clallam County. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry water under roads and often block fish migration because they are too steep, too tall, or too small to allow fish to pass through easily. The Johnson B tributary runs in a roadside ditch before meeting Johnson Creek at the culvert outlets. The tributary and road are impacting each other. Johnson B is too straight, has no plants along its bank, no woody materials in its waters, and is eroding the road. Johnson B historically contained some of the highest densities of salmon redds (nests) in the area. By replacing the culverts, the water flow processes will improve. The salmon coalition also will move the Johnson B tributary to the adjacent forest and place large woody materials in the water to improve the salmon habitat. Adding woody materials, such as logs and root wads, to a stream creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as

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“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](#). (22-1084)

Wild Salmon Center Improving Fish Passage in Cedar Creek

Grant Awarded: \$319,288

The Wild Salmon Center will use this grant to plan and implement a project to replace a culvert that is blocking fish passage in Cedar Creek, a tributary to Anton Creek, which flows into Bear Creek, a Sol Duc River tributary. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Replacing the culvert, which is on land owned by the Wilhelm family, will reconnect nearly one mile of salmon habitat and address the last barrier on tributaries of Anton and Cedar Creeks. The creek is used by Chinook and coho salmon; cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout; and lamprey. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1134)

Projects in Clark County

Grants Awarded: \$1,298,095

Cowlitz Indian Tribe Designing the Floodplain Reconnection of Salmon Creek

Grant Awarded: \$298,100

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to create a preliminary design for a project to reconnect the Salmon Creek floodplain and increase fish passage to wetlands and side channels in the Gordy Jolma Family Natural Area, previously known as The Cedars on Salmon Creek golf course. The Tribe and Clark County, which owns the former golf course, will assess the site conditions, water flow, and infrastructure, and then develop a restoration design to increase floodplain connectivity and habitat complexity to benefit Salmon Creek populations of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1151)

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Designing Cold-water Refuge in the East Fork Lewis River

Grant Awarded: \$282,097

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will use this grant to develop preliminary designs for projects to improve cold-water refuge areas for salmon and steelhead at

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four locations in the East Fork Lewis River. Three of the locations have cold water throughout the summer but limited access to fish. At these locations, the partnership will consider actions to increase access and habitat quality, such as excavating the river channel, placing wood in the river, removing barriers, and planting the riverbanks. The fourth location is a side channel with potential for lowering water temperature where the partnership will consider actions such as grading the channel, installing large woody materials, importing spawning gravel, and planting the banks. The river is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1145)

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group Improving Mason Creek’s Banks and Floodplain

Grant Awarded: \$228,161

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to design and implement a project to restore 2.5 miles of upper Mason Creek. The fish enhancement group will place log structures and beaver dam analogs in the creek as well as plant the creek banks with plants. Adding log structures to the creek slows the water and creates riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting creek banks shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The roots of the plants also keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. While considered one of the more productive tributaries for salmon in this region, Mason Creek often runs dry in the summer, stranding fish. The project is expected to improve habitat so it can hold enough water to restore year-round flow. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as Pacific Lamprey and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1155)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Creating the Eagle Island Chum Channel

Grant Awarded: \$340,000

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to build a side channel near Eagle Island in the North Fork Lewis River to provide and protect groundwater on the island, which will create more spawning and rearing habitat for chum salmon. The channel will be on department-owned land and will increase the number of lower Columbia River chum returning to the basin. Chum salmon is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit

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RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project.](#)
(23-1206)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Awarded: \$149,737** **Developing a Model to Analyze Columbia River Chum Salmon Numbers**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to develop a statistical analysis to fill a critical gap in the monitoring and evaluation of Columbia River chum salmon, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The department will update a model it is building for Columbia River steelhead for application to chum salmon. The model will be used to analyze up to twenty years of data for chum salmon that have been collected to generate unbiased estimates for six of the ten populations in Washington. The analysis provides information for the department to measure the status of the populations and their progress toward recovery and the success of restoration actions. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project.](#) (23-1169)

Projects in Columbia County **Grants Awarded: \$679,814**

Columbia Conservation District **Grant Awarded: \$484,500** **Restoring the Tucannon River**

The Columbia Conservation District will use this grant to place fifty-eight large wood structures in about one mile of the Tucannon River and plant 1,500 trees on its floodplain, about twelve miles upstream from its confluence with the Snake River. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logjams, to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The wood structures will increase the frequency of floodplain inundation. Trees planted along the river shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The goal is to create a healthy, naturally functioning river channel and floodplain. in support of ESA Threatened Snake River spring Chinook, fall Chinook, Summer Steelhead and Columbia Bull trout. The reach also supports Coho and pacific Lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project.](#) (23-1028)

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Nez Perce Tribe Restoring Cummings Creek with Wood Structures

Grant Awarded: \$195,314

The Nez Perce Tribe will use this grant to place 140 wood structures in two miles of Cummings Creek, a tributary to the Tucannon River. Adding wood structures to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, reproduce, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which balances erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Work will be done on land owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife between the mouth of Cummings Creek and two miles upstream. The goal of this project is to promote self-sustaining, natural stream processes that improve and maintain spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River steelhead trout, which is a species 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](#). (23-1032)

Projects in Cowlitz County

Grants Awarded: \$721,968

Cowlitz Conservation District Designing a Bridge over Rock Creek

Grant Awarded: \$68,763

The Cowlitz Conservation District will use this grant to design a bridge and restore off-channel habitat in Rock Creek, a tributary to the Toutle River. Two culverts, which are large structures (often pipes) that carry streams under roads, failed and the resulting mudflow scoured Rock Creek. Cowlitz County has installed a temporary bridge and is designing a permanent bridge and this grant will contribute to that design. The grant also provides restoration of habitat next to the Toutle River, a high priority for chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1131)

Cowlitz Conservation District Opening Fish Passage in a Cowlitz River Tributary

Grant Awarded: \$316,370

The Cowlitz Conservation District will use this grant to correct a culvert, which is blocking fish passage in a Cowlitz River tributary, near Castle Rock. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The work will improve access to nearly a half-mile of habitat.

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The tributary is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1130)

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: \$276,745** **Developing a Restoration Strategy for the Green River**

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to identify limiting factors for salmon and steelhead in the Green River and develop a restoration strategy to address these factors. The group will be looking at the area between the confluence of Cascade and Shultz Creeks. The river is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1153)

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: \$60,090** **Designing Removal of a Barrier to Fish Passage in Schoolhouse Creek**

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, along with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, will use this grant to develop a design to replace a barrier to fish passage in Schoolhouse Creek under Schoolhouse Road and make a passageway through a water intake dam. The creek is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1154)

Projects in Grays Harbor County **Grants Awarded: \$436,009**

Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force **Grant Awarded: \$237,059** **Improving Fish Passage in Damon Creek**

The Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force will use this grant to help correct a culvert preventing fish passage at the mouth of Damon Creek under Kirkpatrick Road, near the lower Humptulips River. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The fisheries task force will replace the culvert with one that is passable, opening nearly six miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat in forestlands upstream. The fisheries task

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force also will create a boat ramp from the muddy slope next to the culvert to provide safer recreational fishing and boating access to the Humptulips River. The creek is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1071)

Grays Harbor County Opening Fish Passage in Chenois Creek

Grant Awarded: \$120,802

Grays Harbor County will use this grant to design and permit a project to replace two culverts blocking fish passage in Chenois Creek. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. These culverts are under Chenois Valley Road, northwest of Hoquiam and near the creek's junction with Grays Harbor. When corrected, fish will have access to nearly seven miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat in forested land upstream. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and cutthroat and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1113)

The Nature Conservancy Improving Fish Passage in the Copalis River

Grant Awarded: \$78,148

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to remove barriers to fish passage, decommission a road, and replant the banks of the Copalis River. The Nature Conservancy will remove two collapsing bridges, one debris-filled culvert, and a failing ditch relief culvert. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The Nature Conservancy also will decommission a road prism, treat invasive weeds, and plant trees in the area. Planting trees along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, tree roots keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The work will be done in the conservancy's Copalis Preserve, one-third mile northwest of the upper Copalis River. Several surrounding wetland complexes are both to the north and south of the work site. The overall goal is to restore water connectivity to the wetlands. The river is used by coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1125)

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Projects in Island County

Grants Awarded: \$2,608,931

Skagit River System Cooperative Designing Restoration of Crescent Harbor Creek

Grant Awarded: \$276,180

The Skagit River System Cooperative, in partnership with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, will use this grant to assess the feasibility and develop a preliminary design for a project to restore the middle reach of Crescent Harbor Creek to a more natural, sinuous alignment. Located just upstream of the successfully completed restoration project on lower Crescent Harbor Creek, this section of the stream runs through an extensive ditch network, which has reduced floodplain connectivity and simplified the habitat in the creek. Completed restoration at the site will restore fish access and a natural alignment to nearly a mile of the creek, restore floodplain and wetland connectivity, and diversify the habitat types in the creek. The creek is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1081)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust Conserving and Restoring the Keystone Preserve

Grant Awarded: \$2,332,751

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy 175 acres, including more than a half-mile of shoreline and bluff, and to remove a beach house and shoreline armoring along Admiralty Bay. Armoring, which can include boulders or concrete bulkheads, causes waves to remove the fine gravel and shoreline plants that salmon rely on for food and spawning. The bay is used by Chinook and chum salmon, both of which are species 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](#). (22-1085)

Projects in Jefferson County

Grants Awarded: \$3,655,450

10,000 Years Institute Planting and Reconnecting Habitat at a Hoh River Floodplain

Grant Awarded: \$120,054

The 10,000 Years Institute will use this grant to plant seventy-five acres, a half-mile east of Owl Creek and remove a culvert to reconnect about one mile of floodplain and off-channel habitat that was disconnected from the Hoh River by a historic road used

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for the Spruce Railroad. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The work will restore a resilient and functional area along the creek and provide access to off-channel habitat along the Hoh River. Planting trees and bushes along a creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook, chum, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon and by bull, cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout. The Hoh River is renowned worldwide for these wild fish, and recreational fishing is important to the local economy. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1140)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Designing and Restoring a Duckabush River Oxbow

Grant Awarded: \$136,772

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete a design and restore fish habitat in the Duckabush Oxbow Wetlands and Preserve, which is along the Duckabush River, about one mile from a U.S. Route 101 causeway. This is the final phase of an effort to improve habitat for salmon species in the preserve owned by the Jefferson Land Trust. The salmon enhancement group will remove fill from five areas in the oxbow channel and historic floodplain to connect the channel and wetlands to a side channel during high flows. The work will promote a more natural movement of sediment, benefitting spawning habitat downstream. Additionally, reestablishing the side channel and improving the river's ability to reach its floodplain will decrease the speed of the river during high-water events. A slower river will reduce the number of salmon redds (or nests) washed out and destroyed, improving salmon survival rates. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1063)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Designing Restoration for the Moon Valley Reach of the Lower Big Quilcene River

Grant Awarded: \$706,265

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete the final design of plans to re-connect the Big Quilcene River to at least 100 acres of its historical floodplain, restore the river's migration zone, increase the length of the river, and decrease its slope to create better habitat for salmon. The river is used by chum salmon

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and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (22-1095)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Designing Restoration of the Big Quilcene River

Grant Awarded: \$883,660

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete the final design of habitat elements on the lower Big Quilcene River. The design will address channel reconfiguration, floodplain restoration, habitat improvements, large woody materials placement, and replanting. The river is used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (22-1096)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Designing Restoration of the Little Quilcene Estuarine Delta

Grant Awarded: \$249,760

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete a conceptual design for the large-scale and comprehensive restoration of the Little Quilcene River’s estuarine delta. This project will result in creation of three design alternatives. The proposed restoration will aim to restore large amounts of estuarine and freshwater habitat and reduce barriers to upstream fish migration. Elements that will be considered in the development of the conceptual design include reconnection of a historic floodplain and estuary into Quilcene Bay, building distributary and tidal channels, reconnecting salt marsh habitat, adding large woody materials to create more varied habitat, and planting the riverbanks to shade the water. The river is used by Hood Canal summer chum salmon and Puget Sound steelhead trout, which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by migrating juvenile Puget Sound Chinook salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1061)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Removing Knotweed and Enhancing Riverbanks

Grant Awarded: \$209,539

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to survey and treat invasive knotweeds and replant areas in eight river basins with the goal of restoring the structure and function of native plant communities along the waterways. Planting trees

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and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The rivers are used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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.](#)
(23 1068)

Jefferson County

Grant Awarded: \$218,428

Assessing the Lower Dosewallips River

Jefferson County, working with other partners and the local community, will use this grant to assess habitat on the lower Dosewallips River floodplain, estuary, and shorelines to understand floodplain function and identify opportunities for improvements. The County will assess sea-level and climate impact projections, survey vegetation, and run a hydrologic model across a range of river flows. The County will discuss the work with stakeholders and then develop recommendations for a restoration plan. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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.](#) (23-1062)

Jefferson Land Trust

Grant Awarded: \$333,713

Conserving and Restoring Lower Chimacum Creek

The Jefferson Land Trust and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy and restore more than two acres of Chimacum Creek and its forested banks, in Port Hadlock. Restoring Hood Canal summer chum salmon along the lower Chimacum Creek has been a conservation priority of many partners for the past thirty years with nearly 150 acres in the river’s lower reaches already protected. Buying the two acres will fill gaps in salmon habitat protection. Two of the properties include steep slopes that are eroding and will be stabilized by tree and shrub planting and removal of invasive species. The third property will be conserved by a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to protect more than 500 feet of in-stream habitat. The overall goal of the project is to protect and restore land near a growing urban area and eliminate risk to spawning habitat for summer chum salmon, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered

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Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1065)

Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition Placing Logjams in Goodman Creek

Grant Awarded: \$317,537

The Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition will use this grant to design and implement a project to place logjams and large pieces of wood in about 1.5 miles of Goodman Creek, on the west Olympic Peninsula. Adding wood and logjams to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The salmon coalition also will plant trees along the creek banks. Planting trees along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, tree roots keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1148)

Trout Unlimited Inc. Improving Fish Passage in a Donkey Creek Tributary

Grant Awarded: \$479,722

Trout Unlimited will use this grant to finalize the design and implement a project to replace a culvert blocking fish passage in a tributary to Donkey Creek, which runs under the Clearwater Road near Queets. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. This culvert is too small and restricts access to usable habitat and will be replaced with a properly sized and situated culvert. Donkey Creek is in the Clearwater River drainage. The tributary is used by coho salmon and steelhead, sea run cutthroat, and resident trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1126)

For additional projects in Jefferson County, look in the section titled "Projects Crossing Multiple Counties" at the end of this document.

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Projects in King County

Grants Awarded: \$4,478,384

Enumclaw

Grant Awarded: \$590,171

Rerouting Boise Creek at Enumclaw Golf Course

The City of Enumclaw will use this grant to re-route about one-third mile of Boise Creek to a historic channel along the steep hillside of Enumclaw Golf Course to improve both water quality and habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The City also will plant the creek banks and place large woody material in the channel. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Adding woody materials like logs to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek is used by White River spring Chinook salmon, fall Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1165)

Kent

Grant Awarded: \$255,319

Developing Restoration Alternatives for the Lower Green River

The City of Kent will use this grant to complete a feasibility study and analyze alternatives for restoring salmon habitat along 0.8 mile of the lower Green River. The City wants to restore the floodplain function after a levee was set back, create a greater variety of habitat types, and slow the water for juvenile fish along the heavily developed lower Green River. In addition, the City wants to control invasive plants along the river and replant a buffer along the river to provide shade for the water. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1052)

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Kent

Grant Awarded: \$300,000

Planning the Restoration of Lower Russell Road Habitat

The City of Kent will use this grant to create preliminary designs and begin preparing permit applications to build about six acres of off-channel habitat on the lower Green River near Van Doren's Landing Park. The future restoration will reshape the riverbank, place large woody materials such as logs and root wads in the river, and plant the area. The restoration is expected to create rearing and refuge habitat for juvenile salmon, help store flood waters to reduce flood risk, and increase floodplain habitat connections, species diversity, and native plants. Adding logs to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that 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 and chum salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (22-1043)

King County

Grant Awarded: \$300,987

Designing Auburn Narrows Floodplain Restoration

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to complete preliminary designs to improve habitat in the middle Green River. A levee prevents the river from accessing the floodplain and the river lacks quality juvenile rearing habitat. The designs will detail the removal of the levee and a section of road in the floodway and placement of large woody materials in the river and native plants along the shoreline. Adding large woody materials like logs to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves in the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit

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RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#).
(22-1041)

King County

Grant Awarded: \$100,520

Designing Restoration of the Cedar River

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to prepare final design documents and restore the left bank of the lower Cedar River near the mouth of the Taylor Creek reach. The County will reconnect up to sixteen acres of the Cedar River to its floodplain and remove up to 600 feet of the Rutledge Johnson levee, to restore natural river processes. The project will improve salmon habitat and function. Currently, habitat for juvenile fish largely is confined to the river through this reach, which has less slow-moving water for rearing and resting. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (23-1122)

King County

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

Designing Restoration of the Miller River Floodplain

King County will use this grant to develop a preliminary design for restoring the lowermost mile of Miller River, its floodplain, and its confluence with the Skykomish River to improve salmon migration and habitat. The restoration plan will include removing part of the old Cascade highway, a small culvert in Spree Creek, and invasive plants, as well as removing or reconfiguring about a quarter-mile of flood control facilities, placing woody materials in the river, and replanting the area. Putting woody materials, such as logs and tree root wads, in a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants 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, by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by

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pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1149)

King County

Grant Awarded: \$340,576

Restoring the Green River in Flaming Geyer State Park

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to partially restore wetland and tributary habitat on the western bank of Flaming Geyer State Park, place logs in a side channel, and plant creek banks and a wetland with native trees and shrubs. Adding logs creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a shoreline helps shade the water, keeping it cool 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 area is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (22-1044)

Seattle Public Utilities

Grant Awarded: \$400,000

Conserving Cedar River Floodplain

Seattle Public Utilities will use this grant to buy twenty acres, known as the Sherry parcel, of the Royal Arch reach of the Cedar River. The utility already has purchased about thirty acres on the right-bank of the river both upstream and downstream of this land. The parcel is one of only two remaining large parcels in the mile-long reach. The purchase will increase the amount of publicly preserved--and now increasingly restored habitat--in the area. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (23-1120)

Seattle Public Utilities

Grant Awarded: \$1,457,509

Enhancing the Cedar River's Upper Royal Arch Reach Habitat

Seattle Public Utilities will use this grant to reconnect the Cedar River at the Upper Royal Arch Reach to parts of its floodplain and historic side channel. The work will create more

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resting and rearing habitat for Chinook and other salmon and trout. Crews will remove remnants of development and bank armoring, create an extensive network of side channels to provide resting and rearing areas for fish, create wetlands, place large woody materials in the river and its side channels, and replant the area. Adding woody structures like logs to a stream creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a riverbank helps shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The Cedar River is used by Chinook salmon, which is species 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](#). (22-1191)

Sound Salmon Solutions

Grant Awarded: \$301,109

Restoring the South Fork Skykomish Riverbanks

Sound Salmon Solutions and King County Noxious Weed Control Program will use this grant to assess and treat areas in the South Fork Skykomish River infested with knotweed and then replant treated areas. Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that displaces native plant communities, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging the stream. The partners will plant more than 15,000 trees and shrubs, across nearly 1.5 miles of riverbank. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1111)

Tukwila

Grant Awarded: \$82,193

Buying Land in the Nelsen Side Channel

The City of Tukwila will use this grant to buy 1.46 acres on the lower Green River to expand a restoration project there. For the original project, the City will set back a levee, reconnecting the Green River to a historic channel, improve habitat in the river, and create one acre of off-channel habitat. Off channel habitat is critical for young fish so they rest, especially during high water flows where the water can push them into the marine environment too quickly. Future habitat improvements will include placing wood

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structures in the river and planting the riverbanks. Planting trees and bushes along a riverbank helps shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Adding woody structures like logs to a stream creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The work will create rare, off-channel rearing habitat and restore a forest along the Nelson side channel of the Green River. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (23-1115)

Tukwila

Grant Awarded: \$200,000

Improving the Nelsen Side Channel of the Green River

The City of Tukwila, in partnership with DirtCorps, will use this grant to secure permits and complete preliminary designs for a project to reconnect the Green River to its historic channel, improve habitat in the river, and create one acre of off-channel habitat. The future habitat improvements will include placing wood structures in the river and planting the riverbanks. Planting trees and bushes along a riverbank helps shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Adding woody structures like logs to a stream creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the river, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the riverbed, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logs change the flow of the river, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (22-1047)

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Projects in Kitsap County

Grants Awarded: \$2,033,418

Great Peninsula Conservancy Acquiring the Johnson Creek Estuary

Grant Awarded: \$377,800

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy thirteen acres of Johnson Creek estuary in Seabeck. The land includes extensive tidelands, an armored shoreline, and a historic pocket estuary. The historic extent of the estuary is behind a rock bulkhead and has been altered into a series of three ponds fed by Johnson Creek. Future phases will restore estuarine function. Located a half-mile from Big Beef Estuary, the Johnson Creek estuary is expected to provide excellent rearing and feeding habitat for juvenile Hood Canal summer chum, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and other salmon species. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project.](#) (23-1067)

Great Peninsula Conservancy Conserving Salmonberry Creek

Grant Awarded: \$369,646

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, and permanently protect about eighty-five acres of salmon habitat on Salmonberry Creek in the Curley Creek watershed. The project’s goal is to protect more than one mile of the creek and its tributaries, which are heavily used by coho salmon for spawning and rearing and are designated critical habitat of Puget Sound steelhead trout. The land contains a half-mile of Salmonberry Creek, a half-mile of high-quality tributaries, and a mature forest along the creek bank. The creek is used by steelhead trout, 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. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (22-1110)

Great Peninsula Conservancy Protecting the Crabapple-Carpenter Creek Estuary

Grant Awarded: \$832,242

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy and permanently protect fifty acres of habitat in the Crabapple-Carpenter Creek estuary in Kingston. The land contains high-quality salt marsh, tide flats, wetlands along Crabapple Creek, and a remnant old-growth Sitka spruce fringe. The purchase will protect a rare and important estuary system in central Puget Sound. Once purchased, the conservancy will explore

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enhancement activities including placing large woody materials there. The conservancy also will do a Boundary Line Adjustment to exclude about seven acres and a house, with the goal of creating an environmental education center there. The estuary is used by Chinook salmon and chum salmon, both of which are listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by cutthroat trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1131)

Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group Restoring Rose Point Embayment

Grant Awarded: \$453,730

The Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore a historic embayment connected to a stream at Rose Point near Eglon to improve habitat for migrating salmon. The enhancement group will remove 770 feet of bulkhead, berms, and fill to restore about two acres of salt marsh. The enhancement group also will re-create two barrier spits, reconnect the stream to the salt marsh, replace an undersized bridge that blocks fish passage, restore about 500 feet of channelized stream upstream of the bridge, and replant native vegetation along the stream and shoreline next to the restored estuary. 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 that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The stream is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (22-1100)

Projects in Kittitas County

Grants Awarded: \$1,406,636

Kittitas County

Grant Awarded: \$672,426

Designing and Restoring Yakima River Floodplain in Kittitas County

The Kittitas County Public Works Department and the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to design and implement restoration of the Ringer Loop reach of the Yakima River, four miles south of Ellensburg. Work will include completing a preliminary design for a floodplain reconnection project, maintaining more than thirty-one acres of recently planted habitat along the river and floodplain, and using new methods to plant seventeen acres with cottonwood tree seeds. Together

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these activities build upon recent efforts by the county and its partners to acquire more than 500 acres of floodplain and restore nearly 650 acres and nearly four miles of the Yakima River. The river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by spring Chinook and coho salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1053)

Kittitas Conservation Trust Restoring Gold Creek

Grant Awarded: \$500,000

The Kittitas Conservation Trust will use this grant to place twenty-eight logjams in Gold Creek, east of Snoqualmie Pass. Adding logjams to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion. Finally, logjams change the flow of the water, creating pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. This project is part of a larger restoration effort to restore habitat complexity in the creek to that found in the historic old-growth forest of the Gold Creek Valley. The larger project is aimed at reducing the duration and extent of summer dewatering and improving fish access to spawning and rearing habitats upstream. The creek is used by bull trout, which is a species 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](#). (23-1220)

Washington Water Trust Buying Teanaway River Water Rights

Grant Awarded: \$234,210

The Washington Water Trust will use this grant to buy water rights for the Teanaway River. This is the latest phase in a ten-year strategy launched in 2016 to restore twelve cubic feet per second of water flow to the Teanaway River, one of the highest priority steelhead and salmon tributary in the Yakima River basin. The water trust will work with willing owners of pre-1905 water rights that are available in all but the driest years to augment the river’s flow and protect it from getting too low or too warm. Adding flow to the Teanaway River will increase the usable area for fish. Previous purchases were critical in helping the Teanaway sustain adequate water flows for fish during the record-breaking 2015 drought. The river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1197)

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Projects in Klickitat County

Grants Awarded: \$650,000

Columbia Land Trust Enhancing the Upper Rattlesnake Creek Floodplain

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to improve floodplain habitat along a 1.2-mile reach of upper Rattlesnake Creek, 13.5 miles north of the town of White Salmon. The land trust will place thirty-five wood structures at thirteen locations, fall alders into the floodplain, and plant trees in the area. Adding trees and wood structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees in the floodplain will shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also will drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the tree roots keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The work will increase the creek's flow into the floodplain and side channels, slow the water during storms, and hold water in the upper watershed later into the year. Finally, the land trust will remove a quarter mile of old irrigation pipe that could pollute the creek's floodplain. The work will increase the quantity and quality of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout, which is a species 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](#). (23-1216)

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Conserving the Lower White Salmon River

Grant Awarded: \$500,000

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to buy and conserve 275 acres, including 3.3 miles of the White Salmon River. PacificCorp is selling the land as part of its divestment from the White Salmon basin now that Condit Dam has been removed. The tribe's acquisition will protect and conserve the abundance and accessibility of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1217)

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Projects in Lewis County

Grants Awarded: \$1,365,727

Lewis Conservation District Planting the Mill Creek Basin

Grant Awarded: \$117,300

The Lewis Conservation District will use this grant to plant willows and other plants along more than one-third mile of stream and twelve acres in the Mill Creek basin and on land owned by Port Blakely Timber Company. Planting trees along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. This goal of this project is to provide food to attract beavers so they will connect the floodplain for salmon rearing and summer water retention. The creek is used by steelhead trout and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1072)

Lewis County Designing Restoration of a Blue Creek Tributary

Grant Awarded: \$495,750

The Lewis County Public Works Department will use this grant to design projects to restore fish passage in a Blue Creek tributary. The County will develop preliminary designs for modifications of weirs and dams associated with the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery, removal of a bridge, placement of large woody materials in the tributary, and grading of the channel. The County also might develop designs for projects to create a side channel to redirect flows away from roadside ditches and replacement of corrugated metal culverts (large pipes and other structures that carry streams under roads) to carry additional water flows from side channels. The tributary is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, which are species 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](#). (23-1138)

Lewis County Improving Fish Passage in a Lucas Creek Tributary

Grant Awarded: \$376,150

The Lewis County Public Works Department will use this grant to help replace a culvert blocking fish passage under Lucas Creek Road, about 4.5 miles north of Onalaska. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Replacement of this culvert will restore immediate, unimpeded access to nearly two miles of habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. The County also will install and remove a bypass road, replant the area,

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and add a guardrail to improve roadway safety. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1137)

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group Designing Salmon Creek Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$206,527

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to design restoration projects to improve habitat at Camp Singing Wind, which contains about one mile of Salmon Creek, four spring-fed tributaries, and a large, connected wetland. Salmon Creek is one of the largest tributaries of the Cowlitz River downstream of the reservoirs. The design will set the stage for watershed-wide restoration of Salmon Creek during the next decade. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1156)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Assessing Chum Salmon Spawning Grounds in the Cowlitz River

Grant Awarded: \$170,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to assess chum salmon spawning habitat in the Cowlitz River. Staff will review maps to identify likely locations and landowners, visit the sites to collect data and document habitat types, chose sites with the highest likelihood of success for more intense evaluation, and collect information on water temperatures and groundwater depths during several years. Chum salmon is a species 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](#). (23-1207)

Projects in Mason County

Grants Awarded: \$8,188,795

Great Peninsula Conservancy Conserving the Tahuya River

Grant Awarded: \$1,424,800

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy and conserve one mile of the Tahuya River and about 130 acres of floodplain and riverbank forest in a critical reach of the river for Hood Canal summer chum recovery. The conservancy also will remove farm infrastructure and relocate tenants. In addition, the conservancy will survey the water movement, habitat, and fish use and analyze topographic information to develop

Salmon Recovery Grants Awarded 2023-2025

different ways of restoring the area and a conceptual design of a preferred option. When complete, the restoration will reconnect floodplain and side channel habitat and help reduce erosion, which is damaging salmon habitat. The river is used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (22-1097)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Acquiring Union River Wetlands

Grant Awarded: \$609,198

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to buy and conserve up to thirty acres of wetlands in the Union River estuary near Belfair. The Union River watershed is surrounded by major roads and residential developments and many human-built barriers have led to wetland loss. The purchase will expand the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Union Wildlife area to 700 acres of protected estuary, freshwater wetlands, and forested floodplain. Juvenile Hood Canal summer chum salmon, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, rely on the sub-estuary and the complex shallow channels found there. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1064)

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Conserving and Planning Restoration of the Tahuya River’s White Owl Reach

Grant Awarded: \$557,669

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to buy nearly eleven acres on the right bank of the Tahuya River at White Owl reach that include residential structures, outbuildings, and bank armoring. The enhancement group will create a preliminary design to remove the armoring and investigate the impact to neighboring land to determine if additional land purchases or easements will be needed. Purchase of the land along with the removal of bank armoring and restoration and planting of the riverbank will protect and restore the river and allow it to access its historic floodplain and channel migration zone in this reach. In turn, this will increase the areas that sediment can deposit instead of on spawning gravel downstream. The river is used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, which are species 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](#). (22-1092)

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Mason Conservation District Restoring Creek Banks

Grant Awarded: \$168,300

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to restore the banks of Cranberry, Deer, Goldsborough, and Mill Creeks. The conservation district will plant six acres along the creeks, maintain twenty acres, treat knotweed on four acres, and restore more than a mile of streams. Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that displaces native plant communities, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging the stream. Replanting the creek banks with native plants will shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creeks are used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project.](#) (23-1076)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Designing a Fish Passage Project in Shadow Valley

Grant Awarded: \$18,084

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete a preliminary design for a project that will replace a wooden fish ladder with a fish-passable structure and a stream channel at a private road crossing on a tributary to Mill Creek. Correction of the fish passage barrier will result in opening fish passage in this system for the first time in several decades. The tributary is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by chum salmon and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (22-1178)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Planting the West Oakland Bay Estuary

Grant Awarded: \$100,744

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant salt marsh plants in the west and south lobes of west Oakland Bay. The salmon enhancement group will buy native salt marsh plants, collect and sow seeds, establish nurse-beds, plant plugs or transplants, install geese exclusion fencing, and other related tasks. The bay is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species

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listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1088)

Squaxin Island Tribe Restoring West Oakland Bay

Grant Awarded: \$5,310,000

The Squaxin Island Tribe will use this grant to complete the restoration of the north salt marsh lobe on west Oakland Bay. The Tribe will remove a quarter-mile of bulkhead and plant salt grass and salt marsh plants on seventeen acres of salt marsh to promote the growth of intertidal vegetation. The bay is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1175)

For additional projects in Mason County, look in the section titled “Projects Crossing Multiple Counties” at the end of this document.

Projects in Okanogan County

Grants Awarded: \$918,503

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group Designing Restoration of the Goat Creek Alluvial Fan on the Methow River

Grant Awarded: \$50,093

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete final designs for a project to selectively remove parts of a half-mile levee along the Methow River, which will reconnect high-flow side channels, giving fish a place to rest and feed. Cascade Fisheries also will place large wood structures along a 0.75-mile section of the Methow River and in high-flow channels to create pools and provide cover for salmon species. This project will help restore natural processes of floodplain connection as well as improve habitat. The identified reaches of the Methow River are used by upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon and upper Columbia River steelhead, both of which are species listed as “endangered” and “threatened,” respectively, under the federal Endangered Species Act. Additionally, bull trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” under the act, rely on this habitat. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1263)

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Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation Designing Restoration of the Upper Methow River

Grant Awarded: \$240,042

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will use this grant to complete a preliminary design for a project to expand habitat in the upper Methow River. The project builds on findings of a prior assessment identified a high density of cold-water patches in the project area. The project will occur on land owned by the foundation and private landowners, and next to state-owned aquatic land. The project will aim to create varied types of habitat in the river and shade along its banks to take advantage of the many cold-water pockets in the river. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act; by upper Columbia River bull and steelhead, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the act. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1276)

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation Protecting the Chewuch River

Grant Awarded: \$390,951

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will use this grant to buy and protect permanently eighteen acres of floodplain and shoreline habitat along the Chewuch River. The purchase will facilitate future restoration projects in the area and connect adjacent private and public land. The Chewuch River is a major spawning area for upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon and upper Columbia River steelhead, both of which are species listed as “endangered” and “threatened,” respectively, under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Chewuch River also provides valuable migration and juvenile rearing habitat for bull trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” under the act. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1275)

Trout Unlimited Inc. Designing Fulton Ditch Irrigation Efficiencies

Grant Awarded: \$237,417

Trout Unlimited will use this grant to complete a preliminary design for a project to improve flow in the lower Chewuch and middle Methow Rivers. The Fulton Ditch irrigation system diverts water from the Chewuch River for irrigation and other water uses, but the open ditch allows much of the water to seep out before it is used. The rivers often have too little water or water that is too warm for salmon and steelhead. This project is the first phase in developing an efficient irrigation system that reduces

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the amount of water diverted from the Chewuch River. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by both upper Columbia River bull and steelhead trout, which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the act. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1277)

For additional projects in Okanogan County, look in the section titled “Projects Crossing Multiple Counties” at the end of this document.

Projects in Pacific County **Grants Awarded: \$1,228,004**

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) Grant Awarded: \$169,652 **Designing Restoration of Southern Greenhead Slough**

The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce will use this grant to evaluate and design actions to restore eighty-six acres of estuarine habitat in southern Greenhead Slough and increase connectivity between water bodies in the area. Construction of State Route 101 through Willapa Bay in the 1930s restricted tidal flows to hundreds of acres of estuarine wetland in the southeastern corner of Willapa Bay, an area now called Greenhead Slough. Five streams that flow off Bear Ridge and used to flow directly into Willapa Bay now end in a roadside ditch, which runs north along State Route 101 to a bridge at the north end of Greenhead Slough. The ditch is deeply incised from the combined flows of the five streams. The southern end of Greenhead Slough is upstream of the influence of the highway berm but still separated from Bear River by a dike. Tidal flows to the southern end of the slough are restricted to flow from the slough ditch. The taskforce will consider the following actions to restore southern estuary habitat: build a bridge or culvert in the dike between Greenhead Slough and Bear River, build a bridge or culvert under State Route 101 to connect South Creek and Greenhead Slough with Bear River, and restore the historical tidal channels in the southern slough. The future project will increase the size and function of estuarine habitat and provide additional off-channel habitat for Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1016)

Cowlitz Indian Tribe Grant Awarded: \$547,358 **Placing Logjams in the Lower East Fork Grays River**

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to build logjams in 1.3 miles of the lower East Fork Grays River, reconnecting floodplains and improving habitat for salmon and

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steelhead. Adding logjams to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows 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 is part of a larger tribal effort to restore habitat function and processes in the East Fork Grays River area. The river is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, all of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1194)

Pacific Conservation District

Grant Awarded: \$240,000

Designing Improvements to Fish Passage in the Willapa River Watershed

The Pacific Conservation District will use this grant to design projects to improve fish passage in the mid Willapa River watershed on land owned by Pacific County, a private landowner, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The conservation district will complete a preliminary design and permits to correct a culvert on an unnamed stream that crosses under Robertson County Road. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The stream also crosses under a state parks trail. The conservation district will coordinate to ensure the county road and state trail restoration actions work together. These barriers are near the stream’s confluence with the Willapa River. The removal of the fish barriers will give fish access to nearly three miles of spawning and rearing habitat. The stream is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1147)

Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

Grant Awarded: \$221,014

Designing Restoration of Patton Creek

The Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to design a project that will remove a culvert that blocks fish passage and return Patton Creek to its natural channel at its confluence with the Willapa River. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The design will include actions to restore the lower portion of Patton Creek and adjacent portion of the Willapa River and the remainder of Patton Creek above an existing homesite, about four miles in total. The design will incorporate elements to improve summer water flows, reduce water temperature, and improve the types of

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habitat found in the creek. The river is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1124)

Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Studying Incubation and Restoration Effects

Grant Awarded: \$49,980

The Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to run genetic tests on salmon to evaluate the effectiveness of remote incubation in developing naturally spawning salmon in restored habitat. On two forks of Rue Creek, the fisheries enhancement group is raising coho from Forks Creek hatchery eggs. These eggs are broken into two groups, with half spawned from hatchery-origin fish and half from wild-origin fish. Salmon and steelhead abundances are greatly depleted from historical levels and the quality of spawning and rearing habitat has been substantially degraded. Current tools used to recover salmon runs include recovery of natural spawning runs with remote site incubation (i.e., increase the number of eggs in the gravel) and habitat restoration projects that improve fish use and survival. To date, these tools have been implemented separately and there has been no evaluation of how the incubation and restoration projects work together or how efforts could be better coordinated and adapted. The study will evaluate the effectiveness of incubation systems in these conditions and provide insight into the performance of incubated smolts of differing parentage and rearing techniques. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1149)

Project in Pend Oreille County

Grant Awarded: \$350,000

Kalispel Tribe of Indians Designing Restoration of Flume Creek

Grant Awarded: \$350,000

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians will use this grant to produce a final design for the restoration of more than a half-mile of Flume Creek, which is used by native westslope cutthroat trout. The design will address habitat disconnection and degradation, both of which are inhibiting native trout and, in some cases, helping non-native fish thrive. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1215)

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Projects in Pierce County

Grants Awarded: \$3,582,416

Nisqually Land Trust Conserving Land Along Middle Ohop Creek

Grant Awarded: \$426,357

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy up to ninety-eight acres, including nearly one mile of shoreline along the primary spawning reach of Ohop Creek. The land is in the Ohop Valley and along the steep valley bluff that contains seeps and springs that drain to the valley. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1057)

Nisqually Land Trust Conserving the Nisqually River at McKenna Reach

Grant Awarded: \$266,366

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to conserve twelve acres along the Nisqually River. The land includes a quarter mile along the Pierce County side of the McKenna reach, a forested bluff with old-growth Douglas-fir and western red cedar, and a side-channel that runs along the toe of the slope. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (21-1030)

North Olympic Land Trust Restoring the Middle Ohop River

Grant Awarded: \$725,477

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to restore more than 1,000 feet of Ohop Creek near State Route 161 in Eatonville. The area is a key salmon spawning area. The land trust will remove bank armoring, place large woody materials in the river, and plant it banks. Armor is a barrier, such as seawalls, large boulders, or riprap, placed on shorelines to prevent erosion. It damages salmon habitat because it disrupts the natural erosion that supplies sand and gravel to beaches, where salmon and their prey live. Adding woody materials, such as trees and root wads, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon

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more varied habitat. Replanting the riverbanks with trees and bushes shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The work will increase habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity, improve the condition of the riverbanks, and generally improving spawning and rearing habitat. The creek is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species at risk of extinction, and by chum, coho, and pink salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1059)

Pierce County Restoring Fennel Creek

Grant Awarded: \$450,000

The Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department will use this grant to reconnect Fennel Creek to its floodplain and plant the creek banks, immediately upstream from its confluence with the Puyallup River. The County will excavate large notches in eight locations in the flood berm on the creek's right bank, allowing the creek to reconnect to its floodplain. The County also will remove three small culverts (pipes or other structures that carry the creek under roads) and install beaver dam analogs in an unnamed creek on the project site to improve fish passage and water retention. The County will grade the area, remove weeds, plant the creek banks, and place large woody materials in the area. Planting trees and bushes along the creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Adding woody materials to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. It changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Finally, the County will maintain previously restored areas in the floodplain between Fennel Creek and the Puyallup River by laying gravel and planting native plants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1093)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Designing Restoration of the White River

Grant Awarded: \$199,120

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to design restoration of the White River, upstream of Mud Mountain Dam and the West Fork

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White River. The future restoration project will remove nearly two miles of road from the floodplain and place logjams and individual pieces of wood across twenty-two miles of river. The work will reconnect the river with its floodplain and create forested bars and complex channel networks there. The floodplain had been damaged by past land-use practices of stripping forests from the valley bottom. Adding logjams to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by White River spring Chinook salmon, fall Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1096)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Restoring Lower Ohop Creek

Grant Awarded: \$215,035

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to design and install wood and habitat structures in lower Ohop Creek, from State Route 7 downstream to near the boundary of Nisqually Land Trust and state park lands. Lower Ohop Creek has suffered from incision, disconnecting the creek from its floodplain. Adding woody materials to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1018)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Restoring the Greenwater River

Grant Awarded: \$1,300,061

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to remove remnant road fill and armoring from the Greenwater River floodplain, remove weirs from the mouth of Midnight Creek, and place large wood structures in a nearly one-mile section of the river. The fill is constraining the river channel and disconnecting forested floodplain habitat. The weirs are limiting fish passage and affecting sediment deposits.

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The result is that the river moves too swiftly in this area and has poor habitat for fish. The enhancement group will remove 12,000 cubic yards of floodplain fill and armor from old forest roads and place thirty large wood structures in the river. Adding woody structures, such as logs and root wads, to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by White River spring Chinook salmon, fall Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1166)

Projects in San Juan County	Grants Awarded: \$4,086,089
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Friends of the San Juans	Grant Awarded: \$79,585
Designing Restoration Near Ferry Terminal	

The Friends of the San Juans will use this grant to conduct site assessments, apply for permits, and secure landowner support for full restoration design of a project to restore a beach next to the Lopez ferry terminal. The area has roads, a water line, a decades old landslide, large rock armoring, and an old concrete boat launch ramp. The eventual restoration project will consider realignment of the access road and waterline, unburying more than 2,000 square feet of beach, removing the rock and concrete debris from the beach, and replanting the area and lower bluff. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1270)

Friends of the San Juans	Grant Awarded: \$73,714
Reassessing Eelgrass Health in San Juan County	

The Friends of the San Juans will use this grant to assess eelgrass health in San Juan County. The friends group will reassess areas evaluated in 2003, providing updated mapping data and supporting an analysis of what has changed during the past twenty years. The results will expand the understanding of the status of eelgrass and improve the effectiveness of recovery efforts. In 2003, the Friends of the San Juans and the

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Washington Department of Natural Resources mapped the deep-water edge and shoreline extent of eelgrass for all the marine shorelines in the county and surveyed nineteen embayments. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species 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](#). (22-1423)

Friends of the San Juans

Grant Awarded: \$59,000

Restoring a Neck Point Pocket Beach

The Friends of the San Juans will use this grant to remove armor and intertidal rock and improve 500 feet of beach at Neck Point on the west end of Shaw Island. The goal of this restoration project is to improve critical habitat for juvenile salmon and salmon prey. The project site includes nearly 200 feet of unnecessary rock armor next to another 300 feet of extensive intertidal rock debris from decades of failing roadway armoring. The project will unbury more than 6,000 square feet of intertidal beach where salmon prey spawn. The entire site will be nourished with sand and pea gravel, and the backshore along the armor removal area will be replanted with native plants. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species 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](#). (22-1421)

Friends of the San Juans

Grant Awarded: \$150,019

Restoring an Eastsound Waterfront Beach

The Friends of the San Juans will use this grant to remove armor in Eastsound Waterfront Park on Orcas Island. Armor is a barrier, such as a seawall, large boulders, or riprap, placed on shorelines to prevent erosion. It damages salmon habitat because it disrupts the natural erosion that supplies sand and gravel to beaches, where salmon and the animals they eat live. Removing the armor will improve natural processes and the beach and backshore habitat for spawning and rearing forage fish, migrating juvenile salmon, and other species that use the near-shore. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1271)

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San Juan County **Restoring the Weeks Point Way Shoreline**

Grant Awarded: \$64,878

San Juan County Environmental Stewardship will use this grant to restore the Weeks Point Way Public Beach, on the northeast shore of Fisherman Bay on Lopez Island. The County will remove about forty-eight feet of small angular rock from a low shoreline bank that is showing signs of failing and will fill the rock removal area. Shoreline armor is a barrier, such as a seawall, large boulders, or riprap, placed on shorelines to prevent erosion. It damages salmon habitat because it disrupts the natural erosion that supplies sand and gravel to beaches, where salmon and the animals they eat live. The work would improve spawning and rearing habitat for forage fish, juvenile salmon species headed to the ocean, and other species including adult salmon. In addition, the work will improve the public's access and enjoyment of the beach and adjacent park. The park is popular with the local community and provides access to the shoreline for non-motorized boats. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species 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](#). (23-1173)

San Juan County Land Bank **Conserving Land along Watmough Bay**

Grant Awarded: \$500,000

The San Juan County Land Bank will use this grant to buy nearly twelve acres along Watmough Bay at the south end of Lopez Island in the San Juan Islands. The land bank successfully bought the land in 2022 from a willing seller and will use the grant to cover some of the costs. The land was the last unprotected parcel on Watmough Bay. Purchase of it alleviated the threat of development and created more than one and a half miles of protected shoreline. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and is a documented spawning site for surf smelt, which salmon eat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1424)

San Juan Islands Conservation District **Recovering Eelgrass Around the San Juan Islands**

Grant Awarded: \$109,028

The San Juan Islands Conservation District will use this grant to continue eelgrass meadow restoration efforts at Bell Point in Westcott Bay and begin at multiple other sites in the San Juan Islands. Rapid disappearance of eelgrass in the San Juans has been documented at widespread sites since the early 2000s. This loss is not fully understood

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but carries with it many severe environmental, economic, and cultural impacts. Healthy eelgrass is one of the most critical components for long-term Chinook salmon survival because it hosts the eggs of forage fish that salmon prey on and provides safe harbor for juvenile salmon. The conservation district will expand seed collection from one site to up to four sites, increase the ability to harvest and store significantly more seeds, continue repeated seed planting and monitoring at Bell Point, determine the degree to which residents and landowners can contribute to program success, and maintain a seed bank and program manual to support broader eelgrass seeding efforts. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1420)

San Juan Preservation Trust Conserving Orcas Island Shoreline

Grant Awarded: \$3,049,865

The San Juan Preservation Trust, in partnership with the San Juan County Land Bank, will use this grant to buy a voluntary preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for nearly thirteen acres of wetlands and near-shore areas used by Chinook salmon and the forage fish that they eat, on the northwestern shoreline of Orcas Island. The area has substantial impacts from residential development and is "threatened" by additional development if not protected. The conservation easement would prevent future development and the opportunity for subdivision and as part of the project, six cabins near the shoreline will be removed. In addition, the San Juan Preservation Trust and the land bank will allow public access to the shoreline and tidelands that connect with much more expansive public tidelands further west to the Point Doughty Natural Area Preserve. The area is used by Chinook, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by chum salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1439)

Projects in Skagit County

Grants Awarded: \$11,948,293

Lummi Nation Restoring the South Fork Nooksack River near Lyman

Grant Awarded: \$1,442,135

The Lummi Nation will use this grant to place seventeen logjams and thirty-seven habitat structures in the South Fork Nooksack River, north of Lyman. The Tribe also will plant twenty-two acres of riverbank to restore spawning, rearing, and holding habitat for Chinook salmon. Adding logjams to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the

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flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook salmon and bull and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1365)

Lummi Nation

Grant Awarded: \$950,771

Restoring the South Fork Nooksack River’s Cavanaugh Island

The Lummi Nation will use this grant to restore habitat in the South Fork Nooksack River, west of State Route 9, at Cavanaugh Island. The Tribe will place fourteen logjams and four habitat structures in the river and plant the riverbanks. Adding logjams to the river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The goal is to restore spawning, rearing, and holding habitat for Chinook salmon. The river is used by Chinook salmon and bull and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1364)

Seattle

Grant Awarded: \$62,120

Conserving the Skagit River

Seattle City Light will use this grant to continue efforts to conserve high-quality habitat in the Skagit River system. They will partner with Skagit Land Trust to buy eighteen acres of Skagit River waterfront and floodplain habitat near South Lyman Ferry Road and Cape Horn Road. The work will include reaching out to landowners and evaluating sites. The purchases protect existing riverbank habitat and allow for restoration of impacted

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habitat that serves a vital function in creating and maintaining healthy salmon habitat. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species 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](#). (22-1595)

Skagit County

Grant Awarded: \$458,263

Designing Fish Passage at Mill Creek

Skagit County will use this grant to complete preliminary designs for a new channel alignment for Mill Creek and conceptual designs for crossing structures on South Skagit Highway at Mill and Savage Creeks. South Skagit Highway at Mill Creek and Savage Slough disconnect the Skagit River from sixty-two acres of its floodplain, isolate more than five acres of wetlands, and impair nearly twenty-two acres of slough and wetland habitat. Conditions have resulted in sediment filling in crossings. This design work will look at solutions beyond dredging, including moving the road out of the floodplain. This work will include engagement with landowners and a funding analysis. The creeks and slough are used by Chinook salmon, which is a species 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](#). (23-1182)

Skagit County

Grant Awarded: \$391,000

Designing Fish Passage in Martin Slough

Skagit County will use this grant to complete a final design for a crossing to replace a culvert that is blocking fish in Martin Slough. The County will conduct a high-level alternatives analysis for a project either to install a larger culvert, a bridge, or a prefabricated modular bridge should the road become jeopardized and require abandonment. A new crossing would restore fish access to off-channel floodplain habitat in the slough. The slough is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1181)

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Grant Awarded: \$128,194

Assessing the Feasibility of Reconnecting Bowman Bay with a Wetland

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to determine the feasibility of reconnecting a historic tidal wetland with Bowman Bay and if the connection can be

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maintained naturally. Bowman Bay, a nearly half-mile-long pocket beach, is on the southwest shore of Fidalgo Island and is the site of ongoing restoration efforts. The proposed restoration would connect a park with a three-acre wetland at the south end of Bowman Bay. The area is disconnected from the bay by a trail berm with two to three buried pipes, including a small culvert installed under the trail footbridge that blocks fish passage. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The wetland partially was filled and drained, and hatchery ponds with buried outlet pipes were installed. A boardwalk would provide continued trail access. The bay is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1450)

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Maintaining Restoration Sites

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to remove competing plants and controlling invasive weeds on 121 acres of floodplain and land along waterways. The fisheries enhancement group will partner with landowners at eight restored sites throughout the Skagit River basin. The project will ensure the success of the revegetated areas. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1185)

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Restoring the banks of the Skagit River

Grant Awarded: \$224,000

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to treat invasive plants and replant the floodplain and banks of the middle and upper Skagit River. Work will occur on land owned by the U.S. Forest Service and on Young's Slough. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act;

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by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1460)

Skagit Land Trust Conserving Skagit River Watershed Habitat

Grant Awarded: \$1,360,000

The Skagit Land Trust will use this grant to by an anticipated seventy-five acres of riverfront and floodplain in the Skagit River watershed to conserve high-quality habitat and enable restoration of impacted habitat. This grant operates as a block grant that allows the land trust to respond quickly to acquisition opportunities and real estate market conditions and better serve landowners' needs. The land trust has been able to purchase or obtain easements on high-priority, high-quality habitat using these grants. The Skagit watershed is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1183)

Skagit River System Cooperative Designing Restoration of Tenas Creek

Grant Awarded: \$1,183,210

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to develop final designs and finalize permits for a project to restore natural process in Tenas Creek, a tributary of the Suiattle River. Designs will include removing a training dike, riprap, and about 600 feet of a road prism, and replacing an undersized bridge by building two additional bridge spans. The construction will unconstrain the creek and allow natural floodplain and channel migration processes in the lower reach of the creek, restoring important spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and trout. The proposed project also will prevent a likely catastrophic washout of Suiattle River Road. This road is important to industries using the forest, to tribes for cultural use, and to the public for recreation. The creek is used by Chinook salmon in particular the Suiattle spring stock, and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; by coho and pink salmon, and by bull trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1128)

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Skagit River System Cooperative Maintaining Land Along the Skagit River

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to remove competing plants and controlling invasive weeds on floodplains and land along waterways at seven restored sites throughout the Skagit River basin. The cooperative will partner with landowners to ensure the success of the revegetated areas. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1186)

Skagit River System Cooperative Planting the Skagit Riverbanks

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to treat weeds and plant the banks and floodplains in the Skagit River watershed. Work will occur on lands under conservation ownership, and includes up to four years of maintenance to ensure plant survival. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1596)

Skagit River System Cooperative Restoring the Banks of Barnaby Slough

Grant Awarded: \$223,000

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to plant fifteen acres along Barnaby Slough, which is part of an extensive network of off-channel habitats connected to the Skagit River. This work will help restore streambank and floodplain forests. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. The roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Finally, when the trees die, they contribute large wood to the water, giving fish a place to rest and hide and creating different types of habitat for fish. The slough is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act;

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by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1452)

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Awarded: \$204,000** **Replanting the Banks of the Skagit River and Alder Creek**

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to control invasive species and replant seventeen acres of privately owned land along the middle Skagit River and Alder Creek. The goal is to restore functional stream bank and floodplain forests. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. The roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Finally, when the trees die, they contribute large wood to the water, giving fish a place to rest and hide and creating different types of habitat for fish. The river and creek are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1454)

Skagit River System Cooperative **Proposed Grant Award: \$368,000** **Restoring the Banks of Davis Slough**

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to control invasive species and plant native vegetation on twenty-nine acres of wetland and buffers along Davis Slough, which is in the floodplain of the middle Skagit River. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The slough is used by Chinook salmon, 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. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1458)

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Awarded: \$478,600** **Restoring Middle Skagit River Floodplain**

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to control invasive species and plant native plants in a nearly forty-four-acre floodplain and buffer area along the

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middle Skagit River and Grandy Creek. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. When the trees die, they contribute large wood to the river, which gives places for fish to rest and hide and which creates different types of habitat. In addition to planting, the cooperative will maintain the Riparian Implementer's Workgroup to identify future restoration activities. The river and creek are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1187)

Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

Grant Awarded: \$180,000

Developing Restoration Alternatives for Clark Creek

The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe will use this grant to develop restoration alternatives, determine feasibility of each alternative, and identify the preferred alternative for a suite of projects to improve habitat in Clark Creek and the nearby Cascade River. The projects examined will include reconnecting the river floodplain to an alluvial fan, restoring flow in historic floodplain tributary channels, replacing fish passage barriers at road crossings, and increasing connectivity of side channels. The river and creek are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1466)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Restoring the Milltown Island Estuary**

Awarded: \$3,845,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore estuary habitat on Milltown Island in the South Fork Skagit River delta. The department will remove portions of the perimeter dike and cross-dike, excavate channels and tidal headwaters, manage weeds, and plant native estuarine vegetation. The work will restore water, sediment, and wood delivery to the 220-acre site allowing natural processes to maintain newly connected estuarine habitats. The delta is used by six stocks of Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by other salmon species, waterfowl, beaver, and other wildlife. Visit

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RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#).
(22-1467)

Projects in Skamania County

Grants Awarded: \$274,344

Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Grant Awarded: \$178,324

Designing Restoration of a Hardy Creek Reach

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to create a preliminary design to restore natural stream processes in nearly a half-mile of Hardy Creek in the Pierce National Wildlife Refuge. The restoration project will open a portion of the creek that is constricted, which restores floodplain connection, habitat complexity, and habitat-forming processes throughout the reach. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1193)

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Grant Awarded: \$96,020

Enhancing the Nutrients and Riverbanks of Four Rivers

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to place fish carcasses and plants along 100 miles of the East Fork Lewis, Kalama, Washougal, and Toutle Rivers. Planting trees along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the tree roots keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Placing hatchery salmon carcasses along the river provides food for juvenile fish and fertilizes the surrounding area, including the new willow trees. The rivers are used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species 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](#). (23-1157)

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Projects in Snohomish County

Grants Awarded: \$6,573,036

Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Grant Awarded: \$114,000

Designing a Snohomish River Connection to the Getchell Wetland

Ducks Unlimited will use this grant to complete preliminary design for a project to restore tidal flooding to a seven-acre wetland, known as the Getchell wetland, on private agricultural land along the Snohomish River. The future restoration project will remove obsolete and failing farm infrastructure to create an unrestricted connection between the river and the wetland to restore off-channel salmon habitat and separate the wetland from agricultural drainage. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1106)

Mukilteo

Grant Awarded: \$299,848

Designing the Daylighting of Japanese Gulch Creek

The City of Mukilteo will use this grant to complete final designs for a project to daylight a portion of Japanese Gulch Creek where it meets the Puget Sound. The future project will remove a concrete culvert that runs from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line to an outfall on Puget Sound. The City will replace the structure with a fish-passable culvert under First Street and create a natural, open channel estuary at the end of the creek. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The work will improve access for spawning salmon to Japanese Gulch Creek. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1108)

Snohomish Conservation District

Grant Awarded: \$100,000

Replanting the Banks of Woods Creek

The Snohomish Conservation District will use this grant to complete planting on at least ten acres of wetlands and creek bank in priority reaches of the West Fork Woods Creek on private property. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which

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provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. In 2013, the conservation district began a large-scale re-forestation initiative in the Woods Creek watershed to improve salmon habitat. The initiative's goal is to restore 80 percent of the forest within fifty feet of the creek, which is estimated to be about forty-five acres. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1148)

Snohomish County **Grant Awarded: \$373,490** **Assessing and Treating Knotweed Along the Skykomish River**

Snohomish County will use this grant to assess and treat areas in the Skykomish River basin infested with knotweed and then replant treated areas. Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that displaces native plant communities, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging the stream. The County will assess levels of knotweed infestation on the North Fork Skykomish River and the county line for the South Fork Skykomish River. The overall goal is to improve the health and function of riverbanks and floodplain plants. Plants, trees, and bushes along a waterway shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. They also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots 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 species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1110)

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians **Grant Awarded: \$1,656,840** **Acquiring North Fork Stillaguamish River Floodplain and Riverbank**

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians will buy and protect more than 100 acres of riverbank and floodplain habitat along nearly three miles of the North Fork Stillaguamish River from the Cicero bridge to Fortson, east of Darrington. This project will connect previously acquired and protected parcels to advance the long-term effort of restoring an area that's for Chinook salmon habitat. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1069)

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Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

Grant Awarded: \$202,084

Replanting the Banks of the North Fork Stillaguamish River

The Stillaguamish Tribe will use this grant to replant the banks of the North Fork Stillaguamish River, in the French-Segelsen sub-basin. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants 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 species 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.](#) (23-1117)

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

Grant Awarded: \$866,668

Restoring the Trafton Floodplain

The Stillaguamish Tribe, along with Snohomish County, will use this grant to complete permitting and designs and begin work on a project to restore the Trafton floodplain, along the North Fork Stillaguamish River, northeast of Arlington. The future restoration will include moving dirt to restore natural floodplain roughness, building side channels to give salmon places to rest and grow, placing logjams in the floodplain to create more varied salmon habitat, moving portions of the Whitehorse Trail to maintain recreation, and treating invasive plants. This grant will allow the Tribe to complete floodplain excavation for the side channels and buy wood for the logjams. The overall project will improve habitat on the Tribe's 158-acre Trafton property and the County's 72-acre Trafton Trailhead Park. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project.](#) (23-1075)

The Nature Conservancy

Grant Awarded: \$1,729,000

Restoring Port Susan Bay Part Two

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to create estuarine tidal marshland where the Stillaguamish River drains into Port Susan Bay. The Nature Conservancy will excavate distributary and tidal channels and outlets, remove remnant dike material, and provide opportunities to connect with other restoration projects in the delta area. This project is part of a larger restoration effort to restore key natural processes on 115 acres of

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estuarine tidal marsh in the Stillaguamish River delta. The work will increase the amount, types, and connection of habitat, as well as improve tidal exchange and expand freshwater distribution. This newly formed habitat will support the growth and survival juvenile salmon species by providing critical habitat that provides shelter and food as they transition from freshwater rivers to the sea. The bay is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (22-1063)

Tulalip Tribes

Grant Awarded: \$596,109

Conserving Snohomish River Floodplain

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to buy thirty acres in the Skykomish and Pilchuck Rivers' watersheds. The long-term goal is to conserve a corridor along the Snohomish and its major tributaries where floodplain and riverine processes are allowed to function naturally. The rivers are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1140)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Awarded: \$500,000

Designing Restoration of the Spencer Island Estuary

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will use this grant to complete the final design and permitting of a project to restore habitat in the Snohomish estuary on Spencer Island. The future restoration project will restore habitat and improve tidal flow and channel formation by lowering and breaching the dikes surrounding the island and re-establishing tidal channels through excavation. The estuary is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1112)

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Wild Fish Conservancy Designing Restoration of Grant Creek

Grant Awarded: \$135,000

The Wild Fish Conservancy will use this grant to complete an assessment and preliminary designs for a project to restore the banks and in-stream habitat of Grant Creek at its confluence with the North Fork Stillaguamish River, northeast of Arlington. The creek confluence lacks large woody materials. The future restoration project would place wood in the creek. Adding wood to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The work will improve spawning, rearing, and migration habitat and high-flow resting areas. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1116)

Projects in Thurston County

Grants Awarded: \$1,875,300

Capitol Land Trust Protecting Hudson Cove Habitat

Grant Awarded: \$765,370

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 228 acres of mostly undeveloped forestland and shoreline on the Steamboat Island Peninsula in Olympia. The land has 1.5 miles of mostly undeveloped, forested, Totten Inlet shoreline, a 7.8-acre pocket estuary, and streams. The cove is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1176)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Correcting Barriers to Fish Passage in Deschutes River Tributaries

Grant Awarded: \$378,052

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to design and build a project to correct two barriers to fish passage on tributaries to the Deschutes River. Both barriers are on private land and have willing landowners, making these projects time sensitive. The first barrier is at Equus Lane and Spurgeon Creek,

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immediately upstream of recently completed barrier correction projects. Correcting this barrier will keep the investment going in Spurgeon Creek, a high priority tributary for spawning and rearing, and open nearly one mile of high-quality habitat upstream. The second barrier is at Silver Springs and the Monarch Sculpture Park. Correcting it would open nearly 0.2 mile of cold-water refuge. The river is used by steelhead trout, 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. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1099)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: \$325,000** **Designing Woody Material Placement in Deschutes River and its Tributaries**

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to design and permit projects to place large woody materials in eighteen miles of the Deschutes River and its upper tributaries (Huckleberry Johnson, Mitchell, and Thurston Creeks). Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logjams, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Most of these river reaches are owned by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. The river is used by steelhead trout, 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. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1100)

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: \$133,382** **Removing a Bulkhead for The Evergreen State College**

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to remove a bulkhead, concrete pad, and stairway, and plant nearly one acre behind the structure at Bushoowah-Ahlee Point along Eld Inlet and Snyder Cove. The project will remove the final piece in what is the longest un-armored section of shoreline on Eld Inlet. This section of beach is owned by The Evergreen State College and offers public access, making this a highly visible project with opportunities for continued monitoring as part of the college's environmental program. The area is used by Chinook salmon, 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. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1160)

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Tumwater

Grant Awarded: \$257,550

Removing a Barrier to Fish Passage in Percival Creek

The City of Tumwater will use this grant to replace a culvert under Sapp Road that is blocking fish passage in Percival Creek. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads but often block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The City will replace the culvert with a four-sided box culvert that will open access to 1.3 miles of habitat in the creek, nearly 51 miles of rearing habitat, and additional spawning habitat. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by chum, and coho salmon, and resident, sea run cutthroat, and steelhead trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1161)

Wild Fish Conservancy

Grant Awarded: \$15,946

Designing and Restoring a Deschutes River Tributary

The Wild Fish Conservancy will use this grant to design and implement a suite of projects that will improve habitat in Meyer Creek, a unique, spring-fed wetland and stream complex that feeds the Deschutes River. Restoration actions will include removing three failing culverts, installing livestock fencing to protect streams and wetlands, placing large woody materials in the creek, removing invasive plants, and planting the creek and wetland banks. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry water under roads and often block fish migration because they are too steep, too tall, or too small to allow fish to pass through easily. Adding woody materials to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the creek, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along the banks of creek 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 twenty-two-acre tributary property belongs to the Meyer family, which is committed to implement protection and restoration actions that improve the environment. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1162)

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Project in Wahkiakum County

Grant Awarded: \$169,500

Wahkiakum Conservation District Restoring Thadbar Creek

Grant Awarded: \$169,500

The Wahkiakum Conservation District will use this grant to restore a section of Thadbar Creek, a tributary of the Grays River, by placing wood structures in the creek and planting its banks with trees and shrubs. Adding wood structures to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by chum and coho salmon, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1129)

Projects in Walla Walla County

Grants Awarded: \$1,457,945

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Restoring the Touchet River

Grant Awarded: \$550,000

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will use this grant to place large woody materials along three miles of the Touchet River, on privately owned land. Salmon habitat has been damaged by historic clearing of trees along the river and conversion of floodplain to agricultural production. This project will work with the landowner to reverse those impacts. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logjams, in the river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It reactivates the floodplain and slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn, and fine sediments to settle on the floodplain, improving tree growth along the water’s edge in the desert environment. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by bull and steelhead trout, both of which are species 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](#). (23-1027)

Salmon Recovery Grants Awarded 2023-2025

Tri State Steelheaders Inc.

Grant Awarded: \$367,003

Adding Woody Materials to the Walla Walla River

The Tri State Steelheaders Inc. will use this grant to place logs and log structures along 1,000 feet of the Walla Walla River and plant the riverbanks. Adding logs to the river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the river, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. This project continues previous restoration work along two miles of the river. The river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook salmon, bull trout, margined sculpin, leopard dace, and river lamprey. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1029)

Walla Walla County Conservation District

Restoring Coppei Creek

Grant Awarded: \$540,942

The Walla Walla County Conservation District will use this grant to complete final designs and implement a project to improve floodplain habitat and habitat in Coppei Creek, next to Coppei Road, south of Waitsburg. The conservation district will set back a levee, excavate channel meanders, place large woody materials in the creek, and plant 4.5 acres of floodplain. Adding large woody materials to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which increases the frequency of floodplain inundation and reduces erosion. This allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along the creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The work will be done on private land. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species 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](#). (23-1022)

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Projects in Whatcom County

Grants Awarded: \$13,686,204

Lummi Nation

Grant Awarded: \$192,531

Designing Restoration of the Middle Fork Nooksack River's Porter Creek Reach

The Lummi Nation will use this grant to design a project to restore habitat in the Middle Fork Nooksack River, north of Mosquito Lake Road in Whatcom County. The future project will place logjams in the river and plant the riverbanks. Adding logjams to a river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants 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 species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1176)

Nooksack Indian Tribe

Grant Awarded: \$265,923

Designing Restoration for the North Fork Nooksack River near Boulder Creek

The Nooksack Indian Tribe will use this grant to develop preliminary designs for restoration of 2.2 miles of the North Fork Nooksack River and its floodplain in the Below Boulder-Lone Tree reach and in Boulder and Bruce Creeks tributaries. Designs are anticipated to incorporate logjams to protect and encourage formation and growth of forested islands, reconnect side channels, and promote floodplain-channel interactions. The primary goal is to restore stable spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon, which is considered essential for recovery of the Endangered Species Act-listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon. The river is used by Chinook salmon and bull and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as "threatened" with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1177)

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Nooksack Indian Tribe

Grant Awarded: \$9,975,000

Restoring the South Fork Nooksack River at Fish Camp Reach

The Nooksack Indian Tribe will use this grant to restore 2.4 miles of the South Fork Nooksack River and its floodplain habitat in the Fish Camp reach, near the town of Acme. The Tribe will place twenty-six logjams in the river and eighteen wood structures on the riverbank, as well as remove nearly a mile of riprap bank hardening and revetment. The work will restore migration, holding, spawning, and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon. In 2021, more than 2,500 Chinook died on the spawning grounds before they could spawn due to high water temperatures, low flows, and degraded habitat. Adding logjams to the river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The Fish Camp reach is heavily used by natural-origin Chinook, as well as hatchery-origin Chinook returning to the Skookum hatchery upstream. The river is used by Chinook salmon and bull trout, both of which are listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon, and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1360)

Whatcom County

Grant Awarded: \$2,900,000

Reconnecting the South Fork Nooksack River

The Whatcom County Public Works Department will use this grant to buy about 700 acres of floodplain, riverbank forest, and steep slopes along four miles of South Fork Nooksack River. The purchase will allow the County to remove several hundred feet of levee along the left bank of the river, reconnecting more than 130 acres of floodplain habitat as part of the reach-scale Fish Camp project undertaken jointly with the Nooksack Indian Tribe and floodplain landowners. The river is used by early Chinook salmon and bull and steelhead trout, all of which are listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout. This acquisition will also support active management of upland forests to enhance watershed health. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (22-1356)

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Whatcom Land Trust Conserving a Riverbank Forest

Grant Awarded: \$352,750

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy eight acres, including about 650 feet of shoreline on the South Fork Nooksack River and seven acres of riverbank forest near Saxon Road. The land trust also will remove a house and outbuildings near the river. The land includes both main-channel and side-channel habitat. Acquiring and protecting this habitat will prevent future hardening of the streambank, facilitate future restoration projects, and prevent degradation of the riverbank forest. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as “threatened” with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1172)

Projects in Yakima County

Grants Awarded: \$551,197

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Designing Restoration of Upper Toppenish Creek

Grant Awarded: \$51,197

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to complete the design for a project to place large woody materials in Toppenish Creek to increase habitat complexity. Adding woody materials to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The woody materials will be placed in a reach of Toppenish Creek upstream from Willy Dick Creek. This reach has low amounts of woody materials because of past logging and road building activities. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species 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](#). (23-1209)

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Restoring the Klickitat River Floodplain Connection

Grant Awarded: \$500,000

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to remove about 650 feet of the Bureau of Indian Affairs 32 Road (Howard Lake Road) and two bridges spanning the Klickitat River to increase water flow to about forty acres of floodplain. In addition, the tribe will excavate side-channel inlets and add logjams, other wood materials, and boulders to the area. Adding logjams to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from

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predators. It also slows 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 water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The work will increase the types of habitat available to steelhead trout, which is a species 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](#). (23-1195)

Projects Crossing Multiple Counties

Grants Awarded: \$107,438

Chelan and Okanogan Counties

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Grant Awarded: \$40,836

Assessing Fish Distribution in Upper Columbia River Basins

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to assess the presence of upper Columbia spring Chinook salmon and steelhead at 340 sites in the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow Rivers’ basins. Fish presence will be determined using eDNA sampling methods. This cost-effective method involves collecting water samples that are tested in a lab for the presence of fish DNA. If DNA is observed in the sample, biologists can be confident said species are present upstream of the location water samples were collected. Many of these sites are on small tributaries where the presence of salmonids is unknown, limiting restoration opportunities. Cascade Fisheries will share assessment results publicly, which will inform future restoration and protection proposals. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (23-1267)

Jefferson and Mason Counties

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Grant Awarded: \$66,602

Caring for Riverbank Plants

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to bolster and add plants and control noxious and invasive weeds along four rivers. The work is meant to ensure survival of plantings in these restored areas. Work will be done along the Dewatto, Little Quilcene, Tahuya, and Union Rivers. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The rivers are used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species

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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.](#) (23-1069)