Salmon Recovery Grants 2025

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Projects in Asotin County

Asotin County Conservation District — Grant Awarded: $150,000
Restoring Mill Creek

The Asotin County Conservation District will use this grant to install wood habitat structures in 1.1 miles of Mill Creek, south of Anatone, along State Route 129. Adding 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 steelhead trout to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give steelhead more varied habitat. The creek is used by steelhead, 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 project 25-1019.

Asotin County Conservation District — Grant Awarded: $161,000
Developing Restoration Plans for Asotin County Creek Banks

The Asotin County Conservation District will use this grant to assess habitat conditions of the banks of tributaries to the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers in Asotin County and develop restoration plans. The conservation district will evaluate Snake River tributaries including Alpowa, Asotin, Couse, George, and Tenmile Creeks, and Grande Ronde River tributaries including Buford, Cottonwood, Cougar, Joseph, Rattlesnake, Shumaker, and Wenatchee Creeks. The conservation district will develop restoration plans for each project area that will identify the actions needed for restoring healthy habitat along the banks. The tributaries are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1096.

Projects in Chelan County

Cascadia Conservation District — Grant Awarded: $200,000
Mapping Water Temperatures in Wenatchee and Okanogan River Watersheds

The Cascadia Conservation District will use this grant to survey and map water temperatures in the watersheds of the Wenatchee and Okanogan Rivers. The conservation district will identify and map all cold- and warm-water features and the river's temperature profile and provide a detailed geospatial thermal infrared mosaic map. Information about the water temperatures will help scientists decide where projects are most needed and where projects can best enhance and protect cold-water features for the most benefit for salmon and steelhead trout. The watersheds

are used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1231.

Cascadia Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $470,000**
Reconnecting Roaring Creek Floodplain

The Cascadia Conservation District will use this grant to restore natural processes and reconnect 1.4 miles of Roaring Creek to its forty-acre floodplain. Historic grazing, logging, fires, and loss of beavers have resulted in an eroded channel, floodplain disconnection, reduced water flows, and simplification of the creek network. The conservation district will restore the streambed and reconnect the floodplain by raising the stream channel and adding woody material. These actions will help slow the flow of water and guide it back onto the floodplain, promoting natural tree and shrub growth. The added woody material also will create cover and diverse habitat for fish while helping direct water onto the floodplain. 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 project 25-1232.

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: $500,000**
Restoring the Wenatchee River's Goodwin Side Channel

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore the Goodwin side channel of the Wenatchee River. The enhancement group will plant trees and bushes along the waterway to shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees eventually will drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the trees and plants will keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act; by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act; and by coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1213.

Chelan County **Grant Awarded: $171,091**
Completing Designs for Restoration of the Entiat River

Chelan County will use this grant to create a final design and complete hydraulic modeling, a wetland delineation survey, and cultural resource surveys for a project on the lower Entiat River. Because of the confined river channel and limited floodplain habitats, this section of the river lacks the ability to create habitat through natural processes alone. The future restoration project will place wood in the river to improve side channel connectivity and habitat quality and plant the riverbank to help shade the water and keep it cool for fish. The river is used by spring

Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1215.

Chelan County **Grant Awarded: $56,084**
Completing Designs for Restoration of the Lower Chiwawa River

Chelan County will use this grant to prepare construction-ready designs, complete environmental compliance tasks, and prepare bid documents for a project to improve about 1.4 miles of the lower Chiwawa River area. The future restoration project will create up to a quarter-mile of side channel habitat, enhance habitats near two cold-water tributary confluences, reduce the impact of dispersed camping sites, decommission about 1,000 feet of forest roads, and enhance vegetation along fifteen acres of streambank. The river is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1216.

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $445,000**
Conserving Lower Peshastin Creek

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to conserve more than thirty-seven acres along lower Peshastin Creek. The land trust will buy the 22.2-acre Snider property, including a full half-mile stretch on each side of Peshastin Creek, and secure a voluntary land preservation agreement (also called a conservation easement) for fifteen acres of the Mountain Valley property, protecting another half-mile of one side of the creek just downstream. The land includes forested floodplains with high ecological integrity. The purchase will prevent degradation and facilitate restoration in this important reach. The creek is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1224.

Chelan County **Grant Awarded: $783,296**
Conserving Nason Creek

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department and Chelan Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy fifteen acres of waterfront along Nason Creek and plant its banks. The partners will treat noxious weeds on a half-acre and plant trees and shrubs on nearly 2.5 acres. 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 purchase is the first step in an extensive restoration project aimed at reversing the trend of dramatic warming of the creek. The creek is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1210.

More projects in Chelan County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Clallam County

10,000 Years Institute — Grant Awarded: $50,658
Clearing Harmful Weeds Along Calawah Riverbanks

The 10,000 Years Institute will use this grant to treat invasive plants along forty-six miles of road along the Calawah River, along 128 miles of the river, along the lower end of its large tributaries, and on about four hundred acres of its floodplain. In addition, the institute will map and assess floodplain forests for thinning and planting needs. Working along the roads, the institute can target sources of seeds, which drop from cars and trucks and spread to the rivers via ditch water, wind, humans, and animals. The invasive plants increase erosion, clog waterways, and prevent native species from growing. This project will partner with another to plant native species including trees in the treated areas. Trees shade 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 roots of the trees keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. This project is the beginning of a coordinated, watershed-scale effort to protect and restore salmon and steelhead habitat in the Calawah River watershed. The larger effort will include placement of woody materials in the stream, addressing road drainage, and improving fish passage. 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 project 24-1607.

Clallam Conservation District — Grant Awarded: $50,658
Planting the Banks of Waterways in the Quillayute River Watershed

The Clallam Conservation District will use this grant to plant the banks of waterways in the Quillayute River watershed and caretake previous plantings. The conservation district will plant more than forty-eight acres and maintain plants on another twelve acres at multiple sites throughout the watershed. Many of the plantings will be in areas either lacking trees or infested with invasive weeds such as reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry. 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, the roots of the trees keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. 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 project 24-1608.

Clallam Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $268,423**
Restoring Riverbanks in the Big River Watershed

The Clallam Conservation District will use this grant to restore and maintain riverbank habitat in the Big River watershed and provide outreach to landowners. The conservation district will target areas that lack trees along its waterways and those dominated by reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry, which inhibit properly functioning habitat for fish. 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 watershed is used by Lake Ozette sockeye salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1137.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe **Grant Awarded: $107,788**
Conserving the Dungeness River

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to buy up to thirty-two acres along the lower Dungeness River near other conserved land. The land includes the river and its forested channel networks. Purchasing the land would bring the total area of conserved land along the lower Dungeness River to two hundred acres. This conserved land allows for restoration when needed, provides additional room for the river, and offers increased public access. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1082.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe **Grant Awarded: $120,000**
Designing Restoration of the Dungeness River

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to evaluate ways to increase the flow of water in the lower three miles of the Dungeness River and develop a preliminary design to implement a restoration project. The habitat throughout this reach of the river is worsened by increasingly low flows during drought years, requiring manual efforts to help salmon through this reach. The

river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1205.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe **Grant Awarded: $376,460**
Improving Salmon Habitat in the Upper Dungeness River

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to place logjams in the upper Dungeness River to improve salmon spawning and rearing habitat. In the twentieth century, government agencies and private landowners regularly removed logjams in the upper river, damaging salmon habitat. This project is part of an ongoing and phased effort by the Tribe to restore logjams and increase salmon productivity in this part of the watershed. The Tribe will place the logjams in floodplain reaches flowing through state timberlands. 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 gravel 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. This part of 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; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information about project 24-1420.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe **Grant Awarded: $430,000**
Controlling Noxious Weeds in the Elwha River Watershed

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to continue planting trees and shrubs in the former Mills and Aldwell reservoirs on the Elwha 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 Tribe also will control noxious weeds along seventy miles of river in the lower Elwha River watershed and up to 3,176 acres of floodplains in the lower and middle Elwha River and adjacent tributaries. 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; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon and Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1079.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe **Grant Awarded: $350,000**
Designing Floodplain Restoration on the Elwha River

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to conduct geomorphic, hydrologic, and hydraulic analyses on nearly two miles of the lower Elwha River and its floodplain. The analysis will support engineering designs for restoration of a reach that runs upstream of the State Route 101 bridge to the boundary with Olympic National Park. This reach suffers from a lack of woody materials, channel incision, and floodplain modifications. 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; 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 project 25-1004.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe **Grant Awarded: $350,000**
Designing Restoration of the Pysht River

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to complete studies and develop engineered restoration plans for about five miles of the Pysht River in western Clallam County. The Tribe will conduct a geomorphic, hydrologic, and hydraulic analysis of a segment of the river to support the development of engineered restoration plans and cost estimates for future work including placing logjams, which can create spawning and rearing habitat. The project will build on previous conservation and restoration efforts in the Pysht River watershed by the North Olympic Land Trust and the Lower Elwha Klallam and Makah Tribes. The river provides habitat for Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, as well as steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information about project 24-1313.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe **Grant Awarded: $350,000**
Designing Restoration of the South Fork Pysht River

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to complete an engineering design for a project to restore the lower South Fork Pysht River, the largest tributary to the Pysht River. This area is chronically lacking in large woody materials in the river. Woody materials, such as logjams, create places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The project is a partnership between the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Merrill & Ring, which owns the land in the project reach. Since 1994, the two have completed a series of cooperative restoration projects that have added wood to the river and restored its banks. The river is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, as well as steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information about project 24-1314.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition **Grant Awarded: $712,449**
Designing and Restoring Ossert Creek

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to design and build a project to place logjams in lower the 0.8 mile of Ossert Creek. The creek is a tributary to the Hoko River in western Clallam County. The Hoko and its tributaries hold tribal treaty significance to both the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes, and is valued by area residents and visitors. The creek is simplified and incised. Adding logjams to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators while providing the structure the channel needs. It also slows the water, reduces erosion, builds diverse habitat types that salmon need, and allows gravel to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. The project targets restoration of spawning and rearing habitat for fish. The river is home to Chinook, chum, coho, and pink salmon, as well as steelhead and cutthroat trout and lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1321.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition **Grant Awarded: $337,885**
Designing Restoration of the Hoko River at Upper Cowan Ranch

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to complete final designs for a project to place logjams in the Hoko River, excavate side channels, and plant thirty-six acres of riverbank in an area known as the Upper Cowan Ranch, which is part of Hoko River State Park. The Hoko is an important watershed in western Clallam County because it has significant low gradient habitat and supports the largest native coho salmon and winter steelhead trout populations on the north Olympic Peninsula. The project targets restoration of spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Installing logjams in the river creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. The logjams also slow the water flow, reduce erosion, and allow gravel to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, the logjams build diverse habitat by creating riffles, pools, and side channels. Planting trees and shrubs along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The roots of the plants stabilize eroding banks and the plants drop branches into the water, providing wood to the rivers system. The river is used by Chinook, chum, coho, and pink salmon as well as steelhead and cutthroat trout and lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information about project 24-1320.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition **Grant Awarded: $584,367**
Maintaining the Banks of the Dungeness River

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to restore forty-five acres of habitat along 2.3 miles of the Dungeness River near Sequim. The salmon coalition will continue its efforts to control noxious weeds, with emphasis on invasive butterfly bush and knotweed. The salmon coalition also will plant and seed thirty-two acres and maintain the sites until the forest is established. Both butterfly bush and knotweed grow incredibly fast and tend to displace

native vegetation. Along the lower Dungeness River, about 20 percent of riverbank vegetation has been removed in the past 150 years, leaving riverbanks significantly denuded. The loss of shade-providing trees and shrubs has led to warmer water, which can kill salmon. Planting trees and shrubs along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. Also, 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, and pink salmon and steelhead and bull 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 about project 24-1009.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition — Grant Awarded: $175,374
Restoring the Hoko River Watershed

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to plant trees and shrubs on thirty-seven acres of abandoned pastureland next to the lower Hoko River and estuary and the lower reaches of the Little Hoko River. Historic land uses have led to simplified channel systems that lack large woody materials and water that is too warm for salmon. 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 North Olympic Salmon Coalition is partnering with the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Makah Tribe, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission on this project. The river is used by Chinook, coho, and chum salmon; steelhead and cutthroat trout; and Pacific lamprey. Coastal Chinook salmon and Olympic Peninsula steelhead trout are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. This project is partially funded. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1077.

Projects in Clark County

Clark Public Utilities — Grant Awarded: $854,358
Restoring the East Fork Lewis River Floodplain

Clark Public Utilities will use this grant to remove invasive weeds and plant fifty thousand native trees and shrubs in a large wetland complex in the lower East Fork Lewis River floodplain. The site has water that is too warm for salmon, few shade-providing trees, abundant invasive weeds, and pollution from run-off. The work will be done on forty-three acres along nearly one mile of stream and off-channel of the East Fork Lewis River, a few miles from La Center. This is the third phase of a multiphase project to restore the banks of the waterways. Planting trees 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. This effort fills a gap between restoration completed upstream recently by Clark Public Utilities and downstream by Clark County and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership. The land is owned by Clark County and preserved by its Legacy Lands program. The area 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 project 25-1112.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership **Grant Awarded: $295,903**
Continuing Restoration of Dyer Creek

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will use this grant to plant about one thousand feet of Dyer Creek and place large woody materials in 4.2 acres of adjacent wetland. Dyer Creek, a tributary to the East Fork Lewis River, is an incised, single thread channel with little woody material in the floodplain and dominated by reed canary grass. The work will rehabilitate degraded conditions along Dyer Creek in the valley bottom. Planting trees and shrubs 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. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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, 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 by Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1113.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership **Grant Awarded: $142,636**
Inventorying Barriers to Fish Passage in the Lower Columbia River

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will use this grant to continue its work to inventory barriers on the lower Columbia River. The partnership will assess fish passage barriers to reduce uncertainties and adjust data to improve the effectiveness of a modeling tool at prioritizing barriers for correction. The river is used by steelhead trout and coho, chum, and Chinook salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1110.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $155,227
Designing Restoration of Cedar Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to produce permit-ready designs for a project to improve rearing habitat in Cedar Creek, east of Woodland. The project would restore 2.7 miles of Cedar Creek and a half-mile of tributaries. Additionally, the enhancement group will design fish passage improvements in John and Doty Creeks. 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 project 25-1143.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $296,570
Planting the Banks of Cedar Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to control invasive plants and plant native plants on eleven acres along Cedar Creek in the North Fork Lewis River basin. 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 creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, and by 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 project 25-1149.

Projects in Columbia County

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Awarded: $644,007
Restoring Habitat Along the Banks of the Tucannon River

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will coordinate with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to use this grant to restore habitat along 2.5 miles of the Tucannon River, focusing on reconnecting the floodplain and improving river function to increase spawning and rearing habitat. Activities will focus on planting an extensive area along the Tucannon River with native trees, shrubs, and wetland plants. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and by Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1095.

Projects in Cowlitz County

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $1,812,666
Placing Logs by Helicopter in Mulholland Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore 1.2 miles of lower Mulholland Creek between its confluence with the Coweeman River and Mulholland Falls. The enhancement group will place large woody materials using helicopters. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. This project also will create off-channel and winter rearing habitat and reconnect floodplain areas. This project is part of a larger, watershed-scale restoration strategy in the Coweeman River watershed. 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, as well as by sea-run cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and beaver. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1122.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $278,152
Restoring Old Beaver Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to expand a current project by restoring 1.5 miles of Old Beaver Creek a neighboring tributary of Bear Creek. The enhancement group has been installing habitat structures and planting plants along Bear Creek to improve habitat. 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 project 25-1121.

Projects in Douglas County

Projects in Douglas County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Garfield County

Pomeroy Conservation District — Grant Awarded: $146,575
Adding Wood Structures in Pataha Creek

The Pomeroy Conservation District will use this grant to enhance existing wood structures and add up to thirty more along 2.6 miles of Pataha Creek to improve fish habitat. Pataha Creek suffers from channel instability, not enough water and water that is too warm, has too much

sediment, and doesn't have enough habitat diversity. In 2015 and 2020, post-assisted log structures and beaver dam analogs were installed on private property in the upper creek to encourage beavers to build dams. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams. The dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river. Young steelhead trout can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Adding log 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 steelhead to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give steelhead more varied habitat. Recently, the landowner acquired more than a mile of stream and is interested in restoring the area. The creek is used by steelhead, 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 project 25-1026.

Pomeroy Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $109,997**
Continuing Restoration of Tumalum Creek

The Pomeroy Conservation District will use this grant to add wood structures to Tumalum Creek, a tributary to the Tucannon River in southeastern Washington. The creek historically provided critical habitat for steelhead trout. However, past land uses, such as grazing on the creek banks and the removal of beaver, degraded the creek's habitat. Since 2019, the conservation district has installed beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures to improve habitat. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams. The dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river. Young steelhead can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Adding post-assisted log 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 steelhead to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give steelhead more varied habitat. With this grant, the conservation district will adapt the existing structures and add new ones to expand floodplain connectivity and further enhance habitat complexity. The river is used by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1038.

Projects in Grays Harbor County

Grays Harbor Conservation District — Grant Awarded: $356,192
Restoring the Banks of the West Fork Satsop River

The Grays Harbor Conservation District will use this grant to restore and maintain nearly one mile of habitat along the banks of the West Fork Satsop River. The conservation district will mow grass and apply mulch to reduce weeds and promote tree and shrub establishment of recent plantings funded by the Conservation Commission on 12.6 acres. The conservation district also will install 2,350 native trees and shrubs on 5.6 acres of pasture grasses, reed canary grass, and blackberry. This work will be followed up with stewardship mowing and mulching. Currently the area lacks mature trees and shrubs along the riverbanks. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. Mature plants 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 Satsop River is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1115.

Wild Salmon Center — Grant Awarded: $249,602
Opening Fish Passage in a Raft River Tributary

The Wild Salmon Center will use this grant to replace an undersized culvert that blocks fish passage in an unnamed tributary to the Raft River, opening access to nearly a quarter-mile of spawning and rearing habitat, including seventeen acres of forested wetlands. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The tributary and river are used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead, resident, and sea-run cutthroat trout, and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1099.

More projects in Grays Harbor County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Island County

Island County — Grant Awarded: $897,954
Removing a Barrier to Fish Passage in Race Lagoon

Island County Public Works will use this grant to complete designs and replace a culvert under Race Road near Coupeville. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Removal of the barrier will open

critical rearing habitat for juvenile fish. The culvert is on a coastal stream that drains to Race Lagoon, which has been identified as important pocket estuary for migrating salmon from the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish Rivers. Pocket estuaries and small coastal streams provide important feeding, resting, and hiding habitat for juvenile salmon as they transition from freshwater to saltwater. The lagoon 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 project 24-1117.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Awarded: $253,489**
Assessing the Feasibility of Lowering Maylor Marsh for Young Salmon

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to explore the feasibility of lowering fifteen to twenty acres of dredged materials in Maylor Marsh and creating tidal channels to improve rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook and other salmon. Maylor Marsh is a fifty-six-acre saltwater marsh on Maylor Point and is part of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The western edge of the marsh is formed by a lengthy spit that extends into Oak Harbor. In 1942, the Navy dredged the harbor to improve navigation, and pumped the dredge materials into a containment area between the north end of the spit and the Maylor Point uplands. Over time, these materials settled and an extensive tidal channel network has formed. Today, these tidal channels are used by rearing juvenile Chinook and other salmon at a wide range of tides, allowing the fish to stay there and grow for a long time before heading to the ocean About fifteen to twenty acres of marsh remain too high to support saltmarsh function. The marsh 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 project 24-1734.

Tulalip Tribes **Grant Awarded: $314,395**
Connecting the Cultus Bay Estuary

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to develop preliminary designs for a project to remove or replace a flap tide gate with bridges, reconnecting the inner estuary of Cultus Bay. Recently, a flood blew out part of a dike and road where the tide gate was. The road provides access to a house and other structures. The Tribe will consider alternatives, such alternate access routes, tide gate and levee removal, alternative bridge crossings, and a setback berm. 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 and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1274.

Whidbey Camano Land Trust — Grant Awarded: $201,000
Conserving the Kristoferson Creek Beaver Marsh

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement (also called a conservation easement) for seventy-three acres, including a portion of Kristoferson Creek and nearly a half-mile of the creek's tributaries. The site is next to the newly replaced East Camano Drive on Camano Island. The purchase will prevent development and logging along the creek. Kristoferson Creek is Camano Island's largest salmon bearing stream, and 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 project 25-1080.

More projects in Island County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Jefferson County

10,000 Years Institute — Grant Awarded: $86,060
Continuing to Control Invasive Plants on the Banks of the Snahapish River

The 10,000 Years Institute will use this grant to control reed canarygrass and other non-native plants along the banks of the Snahapish River to protect rare, high-quality fish habitat and restore natural river processes. 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, and by cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1103.

Hoh Indian Tribe — Grant Awarded: $139,991
Designing Restoration of Fish Passage in Ruby Creek

The Hoh Indian Tribe will use this grant to develop preliminary designs to remove a fish-blocking culvert in Ruby Creek, a tributary of the Hoh River. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The culvert was installed in 2021 as an emergency repair when Oil City Road washed out in a flood. The culvert completely blocks fish because it is too high. It has not been fish-passable since the previous culvert was installed in 1998. Replacing the culvert will restore fish access to more than one mile of habitat and reduce the chances of the road washing out again. The creek is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1129.

Jefferson County **Grant Awarded: $223,450**
Completing Dosewallips Powerlines Final Design

Jefferson County will use this grant to complete a final design for a project to restore part of the Powerlines Reach in the lower Dosewallips River. The goal of the project is to restore floodplain functions and increase the quantity, complexity, and diversity of spawning and rearing habitat for salmon. The project would place logjams and shoreline plants on twenty-nine acres and more than a half-mile of river and side channels. 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, it changes the 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 and chum salmon and steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1015.

Jefferson Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $376,916**
Conserving Lower Snow Creek

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy 6.7 acres south of Discovery Bay in the Snow Creek watershed in Jefferson County. In addition, the land trust will reach out to eight nearby landowners along Snow Creek just west of U.S. Route 101 to gage their interest and willingness to protect their land permanently and restore their section of Snow Creek. The land trust will work with regional partners to identify the most beneficial acquisitions and restoration plans to fit with restoration efforts planned for the entire watershed. The creek 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 project 25-1006.

Quinault Indian Nation **Grant Awarded: $127,897**
Designing Fixes to Road Failures in the Upper Quinault River Floodplain

The Quinault Indian Nation will use this grant to develop conceptual designs for projects to fix road failures in the upper Quinault River floodplain. In the past two years alone, both the North Shore and South Shore Roads were washed out and the North Shore Road culvert failed. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. These road failures impact the Tribe’s goals for salmon recovery and comprehensive alternatives need to be developed. The Tribe will coordinate with

landowners, seek public input, and deliver conceptual designs to road managers for the North Shore Road culvert failure area. The river is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1101.

Wild Salmon Center — Grant Awarded: $350,104
Placing Logjams in Goodman Creek

The Wild Salmon Center 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 center 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 project 23-1148.

More projects in Jefferson County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in King County

Adopt A Stream Foundation — Grant Awarded: $178,497
Expanding Planting on the Banks of the Sammamish River

The Adopt A Stream Foundation will use this grant to plant trees along the Sammamish River and maintain recently restored areas in the Wildcliffe Shores housing development. The foundation has restored more than nine hundred feet of Sammamish River bank in Kenmore since 2018. The foundation will plant an additional 2.4 acres, monitor plant health, and control invasive species. 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 grant will support the volunteers who regularly work at the site as well as ongoing outreach to residents about restoration efforts. The riverbanks have been dominated by reed canary grass and other invasives and the river exceeded state standards for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and bacteria. With the expansion, the foundation

will have restored 7.6 acres of forest along the Sammamish River. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, 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 sockeye salmon and resident cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1066.

King County **Grant Awarded: $600,000**

Connecting Wetlands to the Green River

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to build three inlet channels that connect floodplain wetlands to the Green River and existing side channel. In addition, the County will remove a buried rock revetment beneath an access road, remove levee material, and add water roughening features throughout the inlets, floodplain, riverbanks, and river. The County also will place snags and brush piles in the floodplain. Adding wood, such as brush piles, 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 County will plant all disturbed areas with native vegetation. 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 project 24-1156.

King County **Grant Awarded: $305,528**

Designing a Barrier Removal Under Southeast High Point Way

The King County Road Services Division will use this grant to design a bridge to replace an undersized culvert that carries the East Fork Issaquah Creek under Southeast High Point Way. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The East Fork Issaquah Creek provides spawning habitat for salmon. The bridge will restore full access for salmon to more than five miles of stream and will accommodate climate change during the next fifty to seventy-five years. 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 coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1222.

King County **Grant Awarded: $400,000**
Designing Restoration of Southeast Fish Hatchery Road Habitat

King County will use this grant to complete a conceptual design and begin a preliminary design for a project that will increase floodplain connection, naturalize the riverbank, and restore the right bank of the Snoqualmie River, 1.5 miles downstream from Snoqualmie Falls. The design will focus on removal of human-made constraints such as abandoned bridge abutments and a paved road, installation of large woody materials at the river's confluence to slow the river and create new habitat, removal of non-native plants, and movement of earth to increase access to a wetland-pond complex. The work will create a mosaic of connected habitats for young fish to use as they grow. 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, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1050.

King County **Grant Awarded: $829,794**
Rehabilitating Northeast Auburn Creek

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to improve fish passage, create off-channel areas for young salmon, and restore the banks of northeast Auburn Creek. The County will replace a poorly functioning flap gate and culvert that are barriers to fish passage in the creek. A flap gate in a creek channel opens only one way, and closes automatically when the flow of the creek reverses, like during floods. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and can block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The County will create a newly oriented tributary channel between the new flap gate and the Green River and reconnect a wetland to the creek. The work will give salmon access to nearly four miles of off-channel habitat. Off-channel habitat is crucial for salmon because it gives them a place to find refuge from the fast-flowing river, feed, hide from predators, and grow larger. Finally, the County will place large wood in the new channel and plant the banks of the channel and the Green River. Adding wood, such as tree root wads and logs, creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and creates different types of habitat that fish need to thrive. Planting trees and shrubs along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish and providing food for the insects that salmon eat. The creek and river 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 project 24-1108.

King County **Grant Awarded: $350,000**
Replanting the Banks of Green River Tributaries

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to plant more than 150,000 trees and shrubs on forty-nine acres along Stonequarry and North Fork Newaukum Creeks, important tributaries of the Green River. The creeks are devoid of trees and shrubs, which has allowed too much sunlight to reach the water, warming the water to levels that exceed state water quality standards and can be deadly for salmon. Planting trees and bushes along a creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish and providing food for the insects that salmon eat. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, and Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1030.

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust **Grant Awarded: $1,587,261**
Continuing Restoration of Issaquah Creek in Lake Sammamish State Park

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will use this grant to complete designs and restore about 1.25 miles of Issaquah Creek in Lake Sammamish State Park. The creek is incised and has a single channel and no places for fish to rest during high water flows. The restoration project is meant to restore natural habitat-forming processes by connecting the creek to its floodplain, increasing off-channel habitat, placing large woody materials in the stream to improve habitat diversity, and planting the creek banks and a wetland. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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. 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. This project continues the work underway between the Greenway Trust, the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and other partners, and builds upon more than fifteen years of habitat restoration in the park The creek 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 project 23-1103.

More projects in King County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Kitsap County

Great Peninsula Conservancy — Grant Awarded: $580,328
Conserving Dickerson Creek

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 162 acres and 2 miles of Dickerson Creek and its tributaries in Kitsap County. The creek is an important tributary of Chico Creek, the most productive salmon run on the Kitsap Peninsula. Next to 14,000 acres of public and protected land, the project site provides spawning and rearing habitat and critical resting habitat in the watershed. The purchase will protect a wide, four-hundred-foot buffer along the creek, safeguarding the mature forest there. The river 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 project 24-1139.

Great Peninsula Conservancy — Grant Awarded: $387,200
Designing Restoration of Johnson Creek Estuary

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to complete a preliminary design for a project to restore an important pocket estuary at the mouth of Johnson Creek. The non-functioning estuary is behind a rock bulkhead and has been altered into a series of freshwater ponds fed by Johnson Creek and artesian wells. The restored site will provide rearing and feeding habitat for juvenile fish. The creek is used by Chinook and chum salmon, 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 project 25-1014.

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $214,286
Studying Restoration Projects for Lower Big Beef Creek and Estuary

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to study the feasibility of restoration actions in Big Beef Creek's lower mile and estuary. The actions are meant to increase spawning and rearing habitat. The group will look at three elements limiting habitat: a channel-spanning weir in the Big Beef Creek estuary, a spawning channel that is ten feet below Big Beef Creek, and a remnant University of Washington research facility, hatchery buildings, and access roads in the estuary floodplain. Addressing these elements could recreate the historic opening to Hood Canal and allow restoration of the estuary and lower river channel. The creek is 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 project 25-1010.

Kitsap County **Grant Awarded: $295,932**
Restoring Dyes Inlet Lagoon through Bulkhead Removal

Kitsap County and Shore Friendly Kitsap will use this grant to remove bulkheads across four private properties and restore part of the Dyes Inlet embayment. Bulkheads are built on shorelines to prevent erosion. They damage salmon habitat by disrupting the natural erosion that supplies sand and gravel to beaches, where salmon and the animals they eat live. The partners also will add plants to the area. 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. This project will increase tidal inundation and cross-shore connectivity, ultimately increasing embayment habitat for salmon and trout. The inlet is used by steelhead trout and Chinook salmon, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a species of concern; and by chum salmon, which is Tribally important. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1089.

Wild Fish Conservancy **Grant Awarded: $300,000**
Mapping Steelhead Trout Streams

The Wild Fish Conservancy will use this grant to map and classify streams used by steelhead trout in forty-four square miles of watersheds in east Kitsap County. State and local governments protect streams from land-use impacts by requiring streamside buffers determined by each stream reach's classification, or water type. The state's water type maps are inaccurate, with many streams mapped incorrectly or not at all. Consequently, streams that warrant protection may not receive appropriate buffers. The conservancy will generate species-specific distribution data for the statewide dataset. In addition, the conservancy will identify restoration opportunities. The watersheds 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 project 24-1170.

Wild Fish Conservancy **Grant Awarded: $109,672**
Restoring Finn Creek Estuary

The Wild Fish Conservancy will use this grant to remove barriers to fish migration in Finn Creek and restore its estuary. A culvert and a tide gate at the mouth of Finn Creek in Norwegian Point County Park block fish access. In addition, the creek's estuary has been buried under fill for decades. These conditions have blocked fish access to two miles of spawning and rearing habitats. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The Wild Fish Conservancy will remove the culverts

and place large woody materials, such as trees and root wads, in the creek and plant its banks. 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 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 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; by chum and pink salmon, and by sea-run cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1159.

More projects in Kitsap County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Kittitas County

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Awarded: $424,670
Planting the Banks of the Upper Cle Elum River

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to plant and place large woody materials in the Cle Elum River floodplain, in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, upstream of the Cle Elum Reservoir. 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. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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 river is used by sockeye salmon. The work also will benefit steelhead and bull trout, which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and Chinook and coho salmon upon their reintroduction to the watershed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1188.

Kittitas Conservation Trust — Grant Awarded: $332,363
Designing Restoration at Hutchinson Ranch

The Kittitas Conservation Trust will use this grant to assess habitat and develop conceptual designs and a plan for improving the Yakima River floodplain at the newly acquired Hutchinson

Ranch River Conservancy. The trust will determine the feasibility of connecting the Yakima River with its historic floodplain, creating side-channel habitat, improving riverbank habitat, and reducing flood risk to the community of Thorp. The future restoration project will improve habitat for steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for coho and Chinook salmon, native trout, and lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1179.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $255,586
Designing Restoration of the Confluence of Swauk and Hurley Creeks

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete preliminary designs to restore the confluence of Hurley and Swauk Creeks and their floodplains. The future restoration likely will involve moving Forest Service Road 9711, placing wood in the creeks, grading and changing the creek channels to reconnect floodplains, and planting the creek banks. The long-term restoration goal is to improve spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for rainbow and cutthroat trout, and Chinook and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1182.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $134,000
Planting Trees along the West Fork Teanaway River

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant trees along about a half-mile of the West Fork Teanaway River, where it was burned in the 2017 Jolly Mountain Fire. This stretch of the river suffers from water that is too warm for salmon. Planting trees 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 enhancement group will plant five thousand saplings on twenty acres of riverbank and 1,250 saplings on five acres of upper slopes. This will accelerate forest regeneration, leading to long-term shade and more large wood for the stream. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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 river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by resident rainbow and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1184.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $780,041
Planting the Lower Kittitas River Floodplain

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant trees on 16.4 acres and maintain another seventeen acres of cottonwood trees in the Kittitas River floodplain, five miles south of Ellensburg. Planting trees 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. Planting trees in the floodplain reduces the impacts of flooding and improves side-channel refuge habitat for fish during floods. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook and coho salmon, rainbow trout, and Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1183.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $205,847
Reestablishing a Forest Along the Teanaway River

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant trees on 2.4 acres on the bank of the Teanaway River, northeast of Cle Elum. A significant tributary to the upper Yakima River, the Teanaway is an important producer of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, yet suffers from high water temperatures. The enhancement group will plant eighteen hundred native trees and maintain them for two years. Planting trees 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 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 project 25-1185.

Projects in Klickitat County

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Awarded: $500,170
Enhancing White Creek with Large Woody Debris

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to place wood via helicopter, restoring channel complexity and habitat diversity in White Creek. This project will complete a multi-year effort to replenish wood along nine miles of the creek, a tributary of the Klickitat River, which provides essential spawning and rearing habitat. Adding wood, such as tree root wads and logs, 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 river 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 project 25-1104.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Awarded: $200,000
Planting the Banks of Schoolhouse Creek

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to improve the habitat along nearly a quarter-mile and 1.5 acres of Schoolhouse Creek, a fish-bearing tributary of the White Salmon River. The Yakama Nation will place beaver dam analogs and unanchored wood structures in the stream to realign the valley and stream channel and increase connectivity across the valley bottom. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams. The dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river. Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Adding 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, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. In addition, The Yakama Nation will manage invasive reed canarygrass, Himalayan blackberry, and Scotch broom infestations and replant the area with more than four thousand native plants. 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 work will encourage the reestablishment of native shrubs, trees, plants, and grasses. This project will improve the quality and quantity of habitat for steelhead and bull trout and Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, 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 project 25-1105.

More projects in Klickitat County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Lewis County

Cascade Forest Conservancy — Grant Awarded: $334,413
Restoring the Salmon Creek Watershed

The Cascade Forest Conservancy will use this grant to restore about two miles of streams in four areas in the Salmon Creek watershed. Salmon Creek, a tributary of the Cowlitz River, is a drinking water source for Vader and Castle Rock and supports significant fish populations. Land use impacts, including logging, farming, and residential development, have led to degradation of streambanks, increased erosion, impaired water quality, and disconnected waterways from their

wider floodplains and therefore less likely to retain water into the dry season when wildfire threats increase. The restoration work will focus on replanting streambanks, reconnecting floodplains, reducing erosion, and creating more varied habitat types. The conservancy will place structures to replicate beaver dams and post-assisted log structures in the streams and fall trees into the stream. Adding 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. It also changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Finally, it can stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. The conservancy also will plant the streambanks. 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 area is used by coho 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 project 25-1170.

Lewis Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $185,556**
Designing and Building Fish Passage in Ripple Creek

The Lewis Conservation District will use this grant to design and then replace a fish-blocking culvert with a bridge to open habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The culvert is under a private access road over Ripple Creek, a tributary to Stearns Creek near Napavine. Lewis County is working on replacing the downstream barriers and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, City of Napavine, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad are working with landowners upstream to replace the remaining barriers. This is part of a coordinated effort to replace culverts in the Stearns Creek basin. This grant also funds planting native shrubs to improve shade and other habitat conditions in the creek. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1075.

Lewis County **Grant Awarded: $159,632**
Designing Corrections to Barriers Blocking Fish in Ripple Creek

The Lewis County Public Works Department will use this grant to complete designs for a project to replace two fish passage barriers in Ripple Creek in two different places under Haywire Road. The new fish passage structures will restore access to more than one mile of habitat for coho salmon and winter steelhead trout, and once other upstream barriers are corrected, improve access to 7.8 miles of habitat for coho and 6.6 miles of habitat for steelhead. The project design will choose the correct locations to install large woody material, streambed material, meander bars, and meandering low flow notches as well as the removal of constrictions that will increase floodplain connections. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1074.

Lewis County **Grant Awarded: $148,218**
Restoring Fish Passage in Berwick Creek

The Lewis County Public Works Department will use this grant improve fish passage, control invasive plants, and replant the banks of Berwick Creek, near Chehalis. The County will replace two adjacent undersized culverts in the creek that are restricting fish passage. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. This project is part of a coordinated effort between Lewis County, Lewis Conservation District, and the City of Chehalis to address all passage barriers in Berwick Creek. Once other barriers in the system are corrected, replacing these culverts will improve access to 8.3 miles of habitat for coho salmon and 6.6 miles of habitat for steelhead trout. The County also will place large woody material and streambed gravels in the creek. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. Finally, the County will remove invasive plants and replant about eight hundred feet of the creek's banks. Planting trees and bushes along a creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1107.

Projects in Mason County

Capitol Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $175,875**
Buying Land in Chapman Cove for Protection

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy nearly thirty acres of undeveloped shoreline on the Campbell Creek-Uncle John Creek estuary in Chapman Cove in Oakland Bay. The purchase includes a mile of shoreline, 23.4 acres of wetlands, and 6.5 acres of uplands. This small estuary serves as a nursery for Chinook salmon and other salmon species. 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 project 25-1053.

Mason Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $339,250**
Designing Restoration of the Skokomish River Confluence Reach

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to develop permit-ready designs for a project to restore the Confluence Reach of the Skokomish River. Previously, the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers identified five high-priority restoration projects that include improving fish passage, connecting floodplains, and improving habitat quality. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1007.

Mason Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $457,050**
Reconnecting Skokomish River Side Channel

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to reconnect 1.7 miles of abandoned side channel to the Skokomish River, creating forty-five acres of high-quality habitat. Reconnecting the historic side channel will increase the habitat available to rearing salmon species, provide a place to rest during floods, decrease flood impacts, improve floodplain functions, and reduce fish stranding potential. The project builds on several completed projects including side channel construction, creation of overflow channels in the floodplain, and placement of large woody materials to slow the river. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon, and steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1008.

Mason Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $174,125**
Removing Knotweed Along Mason County Creeks

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to treat knotweed on 10.6 acres in the watersheds of Cranberry, Deer, Goldsborough, Mill, and Skookum Creeks and survey seventy-one miles of Schumacher and Sherwood Creeks for knotweed infestations. Knotweed is a highly invasive species that alters native plant communities, prohibits forest establishment, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging streams. In addition, the conservation district will maintain trees and plants on another 11.6 acres. Maintenance includes clearing competing vegetation from around the plants, removing plant protectors, adding plants where needed, and controlling invasive plants. The creeks are 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 project 25-1076.

Mason County Conservation District **Grant Requested: $29,169**
Restoring Gosnell Creek

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to install ten large wood habitat structures in Gosnell Creek and build a back-channel connecting to the creek's floodplain. Work will be done

south of West Cloquallum Road and upstream of Isabella Lake in Mason County. Gosnell Creek is the upper reach of the largest waterway in the Mill Creek watershed, which is one of the largest watersheds in the area. Gosnell Creek's cool temperatures and gravelly tributaries allow salmon and trout to spawn and rear. Many of the natural processes in the watershed are intact in its forested upper reaches, however agricultural practices and rural development have affected the lower ones. The wood structures create places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek 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 project 24-1203.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $988,262
Beginning Restoration of Skookum Creek

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to begin restoring Skookum Creek. The salmon enhancement group will improve up to a quarter-mile of stream channel in a thirty-acre area, remove a barrier to fish passage, place woody materials in the creek, realign and enhance incised stream channels, plant the creek banks, and increase side channels. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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. 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 creek is used by coho and chum salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1241.

More projects in Mason County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Okanogan County

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Awarded: $100,000
Reconnecting Beaver Creek Floodplain

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to restore habitat and reconnect the floodplain along nearly one mile of Beaver Creek. The creek has an incised channel and is disconnected from its

floodplain due to a history of cattle grazing, logging, fires, construction, and recreation use. The Tribe will place two hundred root wads and log structures in the creek and plant trees along its banks to improve habitat for fish. Adding wood, such as tree root wads and logs, to the stream creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and helps push the water onto the floodplain to encourage nature plant growth. Planting trees along a creek 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. The creek is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1225.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation **Grant Awarded: $464,825**
Enhancing Cold-Water Refuges in the Upper Methow River's Fawn Reach

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will use this grant to build nine, low-profile, log structures that will create pools and shelter for fish near cold groundwater areas, and form two alcoves along the floodplain. The project will improve cold-water areas in the upper Methow River's Fawn Reach by creating stable pools and backwater habitats to give fish a place to rest and hide from predators. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1219.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation **Grant Awarded: $360,000**
Planting the Banks of the Methow River

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will use this grant to plant 17.6 acres of native trees and shrubs along the Sugar Reach of the Methow River, just north of the river's confluence with the Twisp River. 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 foundation will maintain the plantings for up to five years until established and self-sufficient. The river is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1218.

Trout Unlimited Incorporated **Grant Awarded: $225,000**
Planning Upgrades to Fulton Ditch Irrigation

Trout Unlimited, along with the Fulton Ditch Company, will use this grant to continue designing and completing permits for a project to convert an open-air irrigation system to a piped one. The current system has the potential to divert about twenty-two cubic feet per second of water from the Chewuch River, nearly half the river's flow during low flow periods, if the tarped sections of the ditch continue to degrade. The project would move the diversion four miles downstream to the Methow River and pump water to customers on-demand. This will keep more water in the river for fish. The river is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1214.

Projects in Pacific County

Cowlitz Indian Tribe **Grant Awarded: $241,046**
Studying Sediment Movement in the Lower East Fork Grays River

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to study the collection of sediment, creation of habitat, fish use, and entire stream changes following restoration in the lower East Fork Grays River. The Tribe will look at more than four miles of restored habitat in Pacific County. This project provides an unprecedented opportunity to learn from the effects of intensive and extensive restoration efforts. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1240.

Pacific Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $300,000**
Designing Improvements to Habitat in the Upper Willapa River

The Pacific Conservation District will use this grant to conduct analysis, complete designs, and prepare permit applications for a project to restore habitat in at least two miles of the upper Willapa River. Multiple landowners have expressed interest in improving the river and its banks for the long-term health of the river and alignment with their land-use practices. The district already is working with landowners to plant trees and shrubs along the banks and to install livestock exclusion fencing. The creek is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1116.

Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $77,450
Planting Trees and Shrubs in the Rue Creek Watershed

The Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant trees and shrubs in the Rue Creek watershed, south of Rue Creek Road in Raymond. Logging has left the banks of Rue Creek dominated by a single type of tree-alder. The valley floor along West Fork Rue Creek was a spruce-dominated forest until the mid-1990s, when logging and storms left few trees standing. Now, the valley floor is dominated by beaver dams and extensive reed canary grass. The fisheries enhancement group will plant forty-eight acres with different types of trees and shrubs to diversify the 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 and chum salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1769.

Projects in Pend Oreille County

Kalispel Tribe of Indians — Grant Awarded: $227,450
Conserving the Banks of Harvey Creek

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians will use this grant to buy about thirty-seven acres along Harvey Creek, a large tributary to Sullivan Lake in the northeastern corner of Washington. The creek is in a remote location dominated by public land and dense forest, making it resilient to climate change and an important source of cold water for the Sullivan Lake and Sullivan Creek watersheds. A 1.5-mile reach flows along Sullivan Lake Road into Sullivan Lake and is mostly privately owned. Buying this piece of timber company property will preserve the intact forest and allow restoration of the portion of creek habitat that has been degraded. The river is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by westslope cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1245.

Pend Oreille Conservation District — Grant Awarded: $342,000
Screening Fish From the Skookum Creek Irrigation Ditch

The Pend Orielle Conservation District will use this grant to design and build a fish-safe diversion structure for the Skookum Creek irrigation ditch and modernize a section of the ditch that is leaking and wasting water. The one-hundred-year-old irrigation ditch provides water to at least eight properties. Its headgate is severely outdated with no fish screening, resulting in significant wasted water and fish stranding. The creek is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by west

slope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1202.

Projects in Pierce County

Great Peninsula Conservancy — Grant Awarded: $92,623
Conserving Nelyaly Creek

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy twenty-one acres of undeveloped land in the lower reaches of Nelyaly Creek on the Gig Harbor peninsula. The project will protect nearly a half-mile of stream, including a quarter-mile of Nelyaly Creek, along with the creekbank, wetlands, and floodplains. The creek is used by coho salmon, which is a species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1085.

Great Peninsula Conservancy — Grant Awarded: $257,377
Conserving the Rocky Creek Estuary

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy about seven acres of a coastal inlet estuary at the head of Rocky Bay in Pierce County. The purchase will protect an intact shoreline, estuary, and stream channel processes, which provide critical areas for fish to grow, rest, hide from predators, and transition to and from saltwater. The site includes an active channel migration zone for Rocky Creek, a stream and wetland complex that has seen a significant investment in restoration projects in past decades. The estuary is used by steelhead trout and Chinook salmon, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a species of concern; and by chum salmon, which is Tribally important. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1084.

Long Live the Kings — Grant Awarded: $190,406
Studying Reconnecting Off-Channel Habitats to the Nisqually River

Long Live the Kings, in partnership with Joint Base Lewis McChord and the Nisqually Indian Tribe, will use this grant to complete a feasibility study and cost analysis to better understand how best to restore two sites along the lower Nisqually River between north Yelm and the Nisqually Indian Reservation. The area is home to historic off-channel oxbow wetlands with potentially valuable habitat for juvenile salmon but has been harmed by roads and development. The feasibility study and cost analysis will assess potential restoration impacts on re-connectivity and fish passage at each project site and develop design concepts for restoration. This project represents the first step toward restoring high-quality habitat at these two sites. 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 project 25-1031.

Nisqually Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $407,823**
Conserving Muck Creek

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy seventy acres of forested wetlands in the Muck Creek floodplain and one-third mile of seasonal tributaries that drain into Muck Creek. The creek is one stream in a system with limited flow and the land is one of three properties with forested wetlands that drain to this part of the creek. The land is for sale for residential development. Conserving this land will ensure future use of the land for fish and other wildlife habitat. The creek 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, which is a species significant to the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1012.

Nisqually Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $213,261**
Conserving the Lower Ohop Valley

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 65.2 acres, including 0.1 mile of Ohop Creek shoreline and 48 acres in the Ohop Valley, in preparation for the next phase of restoration. The land contains steep slopes along the edge of the valley. The purchase will allow restoration partners to maximize in-stream, floodplain, and stream bank habitat improvements in this part of the valley. The creek 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 project 24-1034.

Nisqually Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $54,505**
Gaging Interest in Protecting Land Along Muck Creek

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to complete a conservation feasibility analysis for privately owned land along Muck Creek, a tributary to the Nisqually River. The analysis will create a ranked list of properties for landowner outreach. The land trust then will contact landowners to gage their interest in permanently protecting their properties and complete initial due diligence and property valuations for up to two high-priority conservation projects, if willing landowners are identified. Muck Creek 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 project 24-1087.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $140,000
Assessing the Puyallup and Nisqually River Deltas

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to map, assess, prioritize, and create conceptual designs for restoration projects on small streams where they end in bay formations along thirty miles of shoreline between the Puyallup and Nisqually River deltas. Specifically, the salmon enhancement group will rank each stream mouth or embayment based on size, form, vegetation, land cover, impairments, connectivity and tidal restrictions, and slope. Then, the salmon enhancement group will evaluate the embayment structure and function through more detailed mapping and generate a ranked list of stream and embayment delta sites needing restoration. Finally, the salmon enhancement group will create concept designs for three sites. 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 and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1399.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $895,000
Placing Wood and Plants in South Prairie Creek

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to place five wood structures in South Prairie Creek. Adding wood structures 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. Small woody material also collects on the large wood. All these changes create an environment that makes conditions favorable for riffles and pools to form, which give salmon more varied habitat. The enhancement group also will remove invasive plants and replant thirty-seven acres along the creek. Planting trees and shrubs 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 creek is used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1195.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $1,858,970
Restoring South Prairie Creek

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore South Prairie Creek. The salmon enhancement group will remove floodplain fill from a former horse track, excavate side channels to restore a multi-threaded channel network in a relic channel, place wood structures in the creek and its side channel and floodplain to increase habitat complexity

and floodplain engagement, and plant trees and shrubs on thirty acres of creek banks and wetlands. The work will reconnect the creek to its floodplain and increase the types of habitat in the creek. Adding wood structures, such as tree root wads and logs, 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. All these changes allow the formation of 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 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 project 24-1396.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: $861,123**
Restoring the Middle Reach of Ohop Creek

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore the middle reach of Ohop Creek and its banks, near State Route 161 in Eatonville. The area is a key spawning area for several species of salmon. It suffers from bank armoring, channelization, limited in-stream habitat, and poor-quality creek banks. The salmon enhancement group will remove armoring alongside the creek, place wood structures in and alongside the creek, plant native trees and shrubs, and reconnect the floodplain. Placing wood structures, such as tree root wads and logs, in 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 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 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 project 22-1059.

Trout Unlimited Incorporated **Grant Awarded: $287,001**
Designing Fish Passage in the Snoquera Landscape

Trout Unlimited will use this grant to address barriers to fish passage, restoring access to more than two miles of habitat in tributaries to the Greenwater River and Huckleberry Creek. This project is part of a larger overall effort to restore habitat across the 191,000-acre Snoquera

Landscape near Mount Rainier in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Trout Unlimited will develop conceptual designs and complete geotechnical and cultural resource site investigations to replace culverts in Twenty-eight Mile Creek and an unnamed tributary to Huckleberry Creek. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The creeks are 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; 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 project 25-1204.

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Awarded: $264,410
Planning Restoration of the Snoquera Landscape

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to produce design plans for at least eight projects along seven miles of high-priority salmon habitat in the upper White River in the Snoquera Landscape near Mount Rainier in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The department will analyze existing data, conduct field surveys to categorize site conditions, and produce design plans. When implemented, the projects will improve habitat, increase floodplain connectivity, and promote cool-water and resting areas for salmon. 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; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by pink salmon and resident trout species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1203.

More projects in Pierce County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in San Juan County

Friends of the San Juans — Grant Awarded: $142,027
Assessing Restoration of Davis Bay and Richardson Marsh

The Friends of the San Juans will use this grant to gather and analyze data on the condition of the Richardson Bay marsh and discuss restoration actions with landowners. The expansive Richardson Bay marsh on southwest Lopez Island drains into Davis Bay, a top priority area for salmon recovery. A dike and tide gate at the marsh's outlet has block tidal flow the marsh resulting in an infestation of invasive reed canary grass, blocked fish passage, flooded county roads, and area wells with sea water intrusion. The goal of this planning project is to fill data gaps and explore landowner willingness for a restoration project at Davis Bay and Richardson Marsh. Restoration will improve conditions for out-migrating juvenile salmon and their prey by improving wetland and beach habitats and processes. The bay 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 project 24-1656.

Friends of the San Juans **Grant Awarded: $483,516**
Removing Shoreline Armor on Lopez Island

Friends of the San Juans, in partnership with the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank and the Washington State Department of Transportation, will use this grant to remove eighty-five feet of rock revetment on the beach, a derelict concrete boat ramp, and most of the revetment along a decommissioned road at Upright Head on Lopez Island. The friends group also will move infrastructure, regrade and replant the slope, and add gravel and sand to the beach. The work will restore spawning habitat for forage fish, a key food for imperiled salmon species. The friends group also will install interpretive signs to educate visitors on the ecological importance of the site and restoration efforts. 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 project 25-1151.

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank **Grant Awarded: $595,455**
Conserving Eastsound Shoreline

The San Juan County Conservation Land Bank will use this grant to buy nearly twenty-four acres of undeveloped shoreline at Eastsound on Orcas Island. The land is a high-priority area for the rearing of Chinook salmon and for use by the fish salmon eat. The land includes a quarter-mile of rocky shoreline with a 260-foot pocket beach, an intermittent stream, mature vegetation, and a small holding area offshore for herring. The land bank has protected more than a mile of undeveloped shoreline in the county using previous grants. Public opportunities for hiking, kayaking, and wildlife viewing are anticipated in the future. 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 and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1659.

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank **Grant Awarded: $521,500**
Expanding the Coho Preserve

The San Juan Conservation Land Bank will use this grant to buy seven acres to expand the Coho Preserve by six acres and extend protection to the eastern banks of lower Cascade Creek, a significant salmon-bearing stream in San Juan County. The purchase will protect critical salmon habitat on Orcas Island and ensure that high-quality habitat along a quarter-mile of creek, marine shoreline, and tidelands in Buck Bay stays intact and protected from residential development. 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 and coastal cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1087.

San Juan Preservation Trust **Grant Awarded: $85,300**
Finding San Juan Outer Islands Sites for Conservation

The San Juan Preservation Trust will use this grant to reach out to eight landowners who own high-priority shoreline habitat to see if they are willing to sell their land or the development rights. The land trust will focus on people who own land on islands without ferry service. The land trust will create maps, complete title review, and conduct field assessments. In addition, Friends of the San Juans will survey seasonal spawning areas at four of the properties with pocket beaches. 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 project 25-1088.

More projects in San Juan County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Skagit County

Lummi Nation **Grant Awarded: $133,709**
Continuing Restoration of the South Fork Nooksack River at Cavanaugh Island

The Lummi Nation will use this grant for unanticipated cost increases to a project funded in 2023. That project is placing logjams in the South Fork Nooksack River and its side channel, west of State Route 9, in Skagit County. The Tribe is placing fourteen logjams and four habitat structures in the river. 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 Tribe also will plant more than seven acres, with one mile along the riverbank. 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 and bull 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 project 22-1364.

Seattle City Light — Grant Awarded: $429,965
Conserving Skagit River Watershed Habitat

Seattle City Light will use this grant to conserve about seventeen acres of high-quality habitat for Chinook salmon in the Skagit River watershed through cooperative land acquisition. Seattle City Light will follow the 2023 Skagit Watershed Council Protection Strategy Update. The watershed is used by Chinook salmon and bull 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 project 25-1167.

Skagit County — Grant Awarded: $527,000
Completing Designs for Restoring Mill Creek at South Skagit Highway

Skagit County will use this grant to complete preliminary designs for moving a portion of the South Skagit Highway out of the Skagit floodplain and the alluvial fans of Mill and Savage Creeks. The highway disconnects 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 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 project 23-1182.

Skagit County — Grant Awarded: $248,720
Replacing Fish-Blocking Culverts in Lower Day Slough

Skagit County will use this grant to replace four culverts at one crossing on Lower Day Slough with a bridge to open fish migration routes. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The County also will install streambed sediment and replant the area. This work completes the last significant barrier on Lower Day Slough, completing years of work that the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group began in 2014. The slough 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; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1165.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $95,047
Controlling Weeds at Marblemount and Along Day Creek

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to control weeds at two restoration sites: Marblemount Conservation Area and Day Creek. The enhancement group will maintain

44.5 acres in four years to diminish the impact of invasive plants on native plant communities. Plantings along waterways 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 enhancement group will control weeds on the thirty-seven acres at Marblemount and on 7.5 acres along Day Creek. In addition, the enhancement group will plant twelve hundred plants at Day Creek in open areas and areas where weeds are removed. The areas are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1168.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: $372,183**
Planting and Maintaining Skagit River Sloughs

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore the banks and floodplains of sloughs along the Skagit River. The goal is to target challenges that have hampered the progress of restoration or natural succession so the native plant communities can become self-sustaining. Altogether, the enhancement group will control weeds on ninety-six acres and plant up to sixty-one acres. 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. At House Slough, the enhancement group will clear blackberries and plant native shrubs and trees to enhance the twenty-two-year-old buffer and install fencing to provide relief from elk damage. At Pressentin Park, the enhancement group will manage a Scotch broom infestation and replant. At Youngs Slough, the enhancement group will plant trees in the forest to accelerate succession of this previously logged forest, where massive red cedar once stood. The waterways are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1161.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: $255,615**
Restoring DeBay's Reach

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to remove invasive plants on more than thirty-eight acres along the DeBay’s Reach of the Skagit River and along a slough, then plant native trees and shrubs to create floodplain forests. The fisheries enhancement group will install 12,800 native trees and shrubs on 22.5 floodplain acres and replant an additional 15.5 acres with 2,000 plants. 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, 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 chum and pink salmon; and by bull and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1735.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: $111,000**
Restoring Riverbanks

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to remove invasive plants and plant at least three thousand native trees and shrubs on more than 10.3 acres of Skagit River floodplain. 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 reach 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; by chum and pink salmon; and by bull and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1736.

Skagit Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $1,090,406**
Conserving Land in Skagit River Watershed

The Skagit Land Trust will use this grant to buy land or voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, on at least fifty acres of high-quality habitat for Chinook salmon in the floodplains of the Skagit, Sauk, and Cascade Rivers and along major tributaries and some creeks. The watershed 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 project 24-1742.

Skagit Land Trust **Grant Awarded: $429,964**
Conserving Skagit River Watershed Habitat

The Skagit Land Trust will use this grant to conserve about seventeen acres of high-quality habitat for Chinook salmon in the Skagit River watershed through cooperative land acquisition or land preservation agreements (also called conservation easements) from willing sellers. The land trust will follow the 2023 Skagit Watershed Council Protection Strategy Update. The watershed is used by Chinook salmon and bull 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 project 25-1166.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Awarded: $321,519**
Assessing the Feasibility of Removing Fill in the Cascade River Floodplain

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to determine the feasibility and best alternative for restoring floodplain processes on about 133 acres in the middle Cascade River above Marble Creek. The floodplains are impaired by fill that comprises the road prism of U.S. Forest Service Road 1550. 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 project 24-1738.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Awarded: $91,334**
Controlling Weeds Along Nookachamps Creek and Savage Slough

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to control competing plants and invasive species on forty-six acres. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1160.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Awarded: $522,104**
Designing the Dunlap Causeway Reconnection

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to develop preliminary designs for a distributary channel that will reconnect the North Fork Skagit River and Swinomish Navigation Channel via Dunlap Bay. The new channel will create a safe route for juvenile Chinook and other salmon to move past the McGlinn jetty. It also will improve access to more than six thousand acres of estuarine habitat in the Swinomish Navigation Channel and Padilla Bay to the north. The area 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, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1159.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Awarded: $150,000**
Maintaining Plantings Along Hansen Creek

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to remove competing plants and control invasive species on seventy-five acres along Hansen Creek. Plantings 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 creek is used by steelhead

and bull trout and Chinook salmon, 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 project 25-1169.

Skagit River System Cooperative — Grant Awarded: $1,307,794
Restoring the Similk Estuary

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to restore an impaired and disconnected eighteen-acre pocket estuary at the north end of Similk Bay on Swinomish Tribal land. The cooperative will restore a network of tidal channels, remove part of berm to allow tidal exchange, and remove invasive species. The work will create rearing habitat for Chinook salmon that would otherwise have extremely low survival. Pocket estuaries provide important rearing habitat for young salmon. There, they can hide from predators, feed, and grow. The estuary is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1739.

More projects in Skagit County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Skamania County

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Awarded: $944,450
Designing Restoration of Dry Creek

Yakama Nation Fisheries will use this grant to develop a preliminary design for restoration of two miles of Dry Creek. The design calls for placing wood structures within and next to the creek and planting native vegetation and removing a spoil pile in the floodplain. Adding 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 gravel 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. Removing the spoil pile will open up additional floodplain and promote vegetation growth along the waterways. The creek is used by summer-run 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 project 25-1157.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe **Grant Awarded: $122,037**
Designing Restoration of Wildboy Creek

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to develop a preliminary design for a project to install logjams throughout one mile of Wildboy Creek, a tributary to the West Fork Washougal River, to increase floodplain connectivity, rebuild incised channels, and restore habitat complexity The project area is near the Texas Creek confluence. Adding 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 gravel 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 coho 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 project 25-1192.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe **Grant Awarded: $323,689**
Designing Steelhead Access in the Washougal River

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to create a preliminary design for a project to restore historic steelhead access over Punchbowl Falls and increase habitat complexity in 6.5 miles of the Washougal River in Skamania County. The catastrophic Yacolt Burn (1902) and the Rock Creek Fire (1927), followed by thirty years of extensive logging, splash damming, and stream cleaning efforts resulted in simplified, degraded, and incised stream channels in the Washougal River watershed and a recent loss of an historic logjam that helped steelhead pass over Punchbowl Falls. The Tribe will evaluate historic photos and documentation to design a logjam that mimics the previous natural logjam and will allow water to collect behind the falls and re-establish passage. The project also calls for placing logjams upstream of the falls to reduce the flow of sediment, reconnect floodplains, bury exposed bedrock channels, and increase the quantity and quality of spawning and rearing habitat. This project will restore fish passage and enhance spawning and rearing conditions in the headwaters of the Washougal River. The river reach is used by summer-run 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 project 25-1147.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe **Grant Awarded: $1,444,842**
Reconnecting the Hardy Creek Floodplain

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to restore floodplain function to 4.25 acres and nearly a half-mile of Reach 5 of Hardy Creek, in the Pierce National Wildlife Refuge in Skamania County. The Tribe will install hundreds of logs and piles in the alluvial fan and plant more than forty-five hundred native trees and shrubs in the Hardy Creek floodplain. Adding logs to the stream reaches creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the

water, which reduces erosion and allows gravel to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. It also changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and shrubs 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 creek is used by steelhead trout and Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, 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 project 25-1176.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group **Grant Awarded: $499,295**
Designing Restoration of the Green River

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to design restoration projects in the upper Green River, a large tributary to the Toutle River subbasin that feeds the lower Columbia River. The projects are meant to increase spawning and winter rearing habitat in the headwater reaches of the Green River. The river is a gene bank for wild steelhead trout. It 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 project 25-1119.

More projects in Skamania County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Snohomish County

Adopt A Stream Foundation **Grant Awarded: $297,808**
Planting a Wetland Fed by Winters Creek

The Adopt A Stream Foundation will use this grant to remove invasive plants and replant a wetland fed by Winters Creek. The foundation will plant native plants on 5.4 acres of reed canary grass-choked oxbow wetland. The foundation also will control invasive plants and replant an additional nearly fifteen acres of forested area surrounding the wetland. 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 wetland, which connects to the Sultan River, is important off-channel habitat for the numerous salmon species. The area is used by bull trout and Chinook 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 project 25-1068.

Adopt A Stream Foundation — Grant Awarded: $229,697
Restoring Woods Creek

The Adopt A Stream Foundation will use this grant to place five logjams on privately owned land along lower Woods Creek and plant trees and shrubs on up to 0.8 acre of creek banks. Lower Woods Creek lacks wood structures, has too much fine sediment, has infrequent and shallow pools, and water that is too warm in the summer. Adding logjam 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. 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 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 project 24-1260.

Snohomish County — Grant Awarded: $1,673,210
Conserving Community Floodplains

Snohomish County Surface Water Management will use this grant to acquire up to one-hundred acres of salmon habitat for permanent protection and future restoration along two sub-reaches of the lower Skykomish River near Sultan, and along Ebey and Steamboat Sloughs in the Snohomish Estuary. The purchase and the restoration planned there will increase rearing habitat for young fish. The County plans to connect floodplains, restore wetland buffers, and improve habitat in the river and sloughs. The County also will move any buildings off the land. The river and sloughs are used by 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 project 24-1254.

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians — Grant Awarded: $508,834
Conserving Stillaguamish River Floodplain

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians will use this grant to buy thirty-five acres of riverbank and floodplain habitat along about one-third mile of the Stillaguamish River and the North Fork Stillaguamish River. The land is either next to or directly across the river from land owned by the Tribe or Snohomish County. The North Fork Stillaguamish River property is 10.2 acres and includes about 0.1 mile of shoreline with high-quality banks and upland forest. The Stillaguamish River property is 25.4 acres and includes nearly 0.2 mile of shoreline. It is split

between fallow and actively farmed land. These properties will provide opportunities for restoration work and will protect the land forever. Conserving this land is part of a larger project to restore a corridor of lands along Chinook salmon-bearing waters, from spawning grounds to tidelands. 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 project 24-1210.

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians **Grant Awarded: $349,999**
Enhancing Tidal Channels on Leque Island

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians will use this grant to excavate tidal channels on Leque Island at the north end of Port Susan Bay. These channels will help improve access for Chinook salmon and bull trout throughout Leque Island. The Tribe will place the channel spoils in mounds and berms to encourage establishment of native marsh plants. This project builds upon previous restoration work where levees were removed, tidal channels excavated, a berm and walking trail were built. However, after five years, juvenile Chinook salmon numbers are lower than expected, and native marsh plants have grown on only 20 percent of the site. The river is used by bull trout and Chinook 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 project 25-1252.

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians **Grant Awarded: $428,226**
Maintaining Plantings on the Lower South Fork Stillaguamish River

The Stillaguamish Tribe and Snohomish Conservation District will use this grant to control invasive plants and plant more native trees and shrubs on the restored banks and floodplains of the lower South Fork Stillaguamish 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 partners will control invasive plants on forty-four acres along 0.8 river miles. In addition, they will plant 5.5 acres of trees and shrubs. 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; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; by chum and pink salmon; and by rainbow and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1042.

The Nature Conservancy — Grant Awarded: $300,000
Monitoring the Effectiveness of Port Susan Bay Restoration

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to measure the response of restored channel connectivity in the Stillaguamish River delta. The Nature Conservancy collected data following its restoration project at Port Susan Bay. The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians has two future restoration projects on more than seven hundred acres next-door. The three restoration projects allow a great opportunity to learn how an estuarine system responds to successive increases in marsh habitat and channel connections. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1198.

Tulalip Tribes — Grant Awarded: $598,054
Conserving Snohomish Watershed Floodplain

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to buy 214 priority floodplain acres in the Pilchuck, Skykomish, Snohomish, or Snoqualmie River watersheds. The long-term goal is to create a corridor of protected lands along the Snohomish River and its major tributaries, where floodplain and river processes are allowed to function naturally. 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, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1055.

Tulalip Tribes — Grant Awarded: $190,386
Improving the Banks and Floodplain of the Pilchuck River

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to control invasive plants, such as knotweed, and plant native trees and shrubs along ten acres of the banks and floodplain of the Pilchuck River in Lochsloy. Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that displaces native plant communities, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging the stream. 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 Tribes acquired the land recently and a large levee removal and channel enhancement project is under construction at the site. The river is used by bull trout and Chinook salmon, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead trout and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1056.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Awarded: $417,780
Assessing Leque Island Tidal Channel Enhancements

The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to develop a hydraulic model and assess alternatives to improve estuary habitat at Leque Island in Port Susan Bay. In 2019, the Department of Fish and Wildlife removed dikes surrounding the island to allow tides to restore the marsh habitat. It also built a spur dike to protect infrastructure. After five years, juvenile salmon accessing the area is lower than expected and native marsh plants grew on only 20 percent of the site. The partners are exploring three locations to widen the channel outlets to more closely reflect a natural system and increase access for Chinook salmon. They will examine alternative breach design impacts and seek a preferred alternative approach to improve marsh access for juvenile salmon and drainage within the site. Leque Island is a unique location with juvenile Chinook salmon originating from Skagit, Snohomish, and Stillaguamish Rivers. The area is used by Chinook salmon and bull 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 Pacific herring and surf smelt. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1040.

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Awarded: $196,865
Designing Restoration of the Lower Skykomish River

The Department of Natural Resources and the City of Monroe will use this grant to complete a conceptual design for the 224-acre Cadman site in the lower Skykomish River. This site includes 1.5 miles of the Skykomish River, 1.7 miles of side channels, and nearly fifty-two acres of waterbodies, making it an ideal area for rearing and spawning. The partners will assess baseline habitat conditions, water quality, fish use, riverbank and floodplain condition, and potential restoration actions, and develop conceptual designs for at least three projects. 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. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1057.

Wild Fish Conservancy — Grant Awarded: $38,750
Completing Designs for Grant Creek Restoration

The Wild Fish Conservancy will use this grant to complete designs for a project to restore habitat in 0.1 mile of Grant Creek at its confluence with the North Fork Stillaguamish River, northeast of Arlington. All fish that enter or leave Grant Creek must pass through the project area, which lacks important habitat, such as large wood. Adding large wood, such as tree root wads and logs, 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 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 project 24-1028.

More projects in Snohomish County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Thurston County

Capitol Land Trust — Grant Awarded: $145,000
Conserving Rainbow Ranch on Eld Inlet

Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement (also called a conservation easement) to conserve nearly thirty-six acres of Eld Inlet shoreline, McLane Creek banks, wetlands, and uplands. The property is at the mouth of McLane Creek in Olympia. The protection of this property will expand the land conserved by the land trust in Eld Inlet to nearly 450 acres. Permanent protection of this property will protect prime soils and soils of statewide importance, open space, as well as nearly a half-mile of shoreline along McLane Creek and its estuary. Large numbers of juvenile fish born in McLane Creek use the area for feeding and transitioning to life at sea. Adult spawning salmon use the site as a holding area until the nearby McLane Creek flows are high enough for them to swim upstream to spawn. The creek 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 chum salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1051.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $120,500
Connecting with Landowners to Restore the Middle Deschutes River Basin

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to reach out to landowners interested in restoration in the middle Deschutes River basin. The goal is to improve river habitat, floodplain connection, and riverbank buffers. The enhancement group will begin with a comprehensive river survey and an evaluation of streamside buffers, parcel size, stream mileage, floodplain potential area, potential for water storage and fine sediment reduction, and proximity to other priority land. Then the enhancement group will reach out to landowners and develop a list of prioritized landowners, a report, a web mapping tool, and a preliminary design for one property. In 2024, the enhancement group received many inquiries from landowners who lost land from erosion. 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 project 25-1060.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement **Grant Awarded: $655,010**
Placing Logjams in the Upper Deschutes River

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement will use this grant to place logjams in the upper Deschutes River and Mitchell Creek. The logjams will be placed in 1.7 miles of the upper Deschutes and 0.2 mile of Mitchell Creek at its confluence with the Deschutes. About one hundred trees will be tipped into the river as part of this project, and nearly 250 additional pieces of wood will be placed by helicopter. 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, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1188.

Thurston Conservation District **Grant Awarded: $253,000**
Designing Restoration of Thompson Creek

The Thurston Conservation District will use this grant to complete designs for a project to restore Thompson Creek, near the border of Thurston and Lewis Counties. The designs will explore alternatives for restoration including where and how to place large woody materials and reconnect the floodplain. The next phase of the project will control weeds and plant native species on ten acres along the creek's banks. The project's end goal is to restore rearing and spawning habitat for winter steelhead trout and coho salmon. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and 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, 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. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1078.

Projects in Walla Walla County

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Restoring the Touchet River **Grant Awarded: $133,996**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will use this grant to place log structures in a half mile of the Touchet River and plant its banks. Habitat conditions have been

degraded by bare riverbanks, nearby agriculture, and erosion. Adding logs 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 steelhead trout to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give steelhead 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 steelhead 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 steelhead, 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 project 25-1037.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Restoring the Walla Walla River — Grant Awarded: $750,000

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will use this grant to place large wood and replant the banks of the Walla Walla River, near the Frenchtown historic site. This project also will reconnect the floodplain and allow water to flow into side channels. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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. 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 steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1021.

Tri-State Steelheaders Incorporated — Grant Awarded: $397,432
Placing Logs in the Walla Walla River

The Tri-State Steelheaders will use this grant to continue to place logs and log structures along 1,000 feet of the Walla Walla River near Lowden. Adding logs 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 group also will plant the riverbanks. 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. This project is part of a larger project to restore nearly two miles of the river. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are

species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by margined sculpin, leopard dace, and river lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1024.

Projects in Whatcom County

Lummi Nation — Grant Awarded: $2,392,983
Restoring the Skookum Reach

The Lummi Nation Natural Resources Department will use this grant to restore more than one mile of habitat to the Skookum Reach area of the South Fork Nooksack River. The Tribe will place up to forty-nine logjams in the reach, create more than one-third mile of side channels, cover riprap with logs and other earthen material, excavate banks to widen the active channel, and add two floodplain berms. The area suffers from low habitat diversity and warm water. 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, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The waterway 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; by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon; and by bull trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1387.

Nooksack Indian Tribe — Grant Awarded: $500,000
Designing and Planning Restoration for the Lower Nooksack

This Nooksack Indian Tribe will use this grant to complete planning for restoration of thirty miles of the Nooksack River from Deming to Ferndale in Whatcom County, and develop a conceptual design for a project reach in that area. The overall goal of the work is to restore upstream migration, holding, and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon in the Nooksack River where loss of side channels and floodplain wetlands has led to a lack of habitat diversity. The river is used by Chinook salmon steelhead and bull 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 sockeye salmon and cutthroat trout. The project will be coordinated with Whatcom County's floodplain management planning process, which seeks to reduce flood risk while supporting salmon recovery. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1145.

Whatcom Land Trust — Grant Awarded: $539,200
Conserving Lower Kenney Creek

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy 2.7 acres including about 215 feet of shoreline along lower Kenney Creek, a salmon-bearing tributary of the North Fork Nooksack River. Additionally, the land trust will remove all structures within one hundred feet of the creek and replant the creek banks. This project is part of a greater effort to restore fish passage at the mouth of the creek. The creek has historically supported winter steelhead trout, bull trout, and spring Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as pink, chum, and coho salmon and sea-run coastal cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1146.

More projects in Whatcom County are at the end of this document in the "Projects in Multiple Counties" section.

Projects in Yakima County

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Awarded: $97,881
Designing Floodplain Reconnection of South Fork Cowiche Creek

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to complete preliminary designs for a floodplain reconnection project in South Fork Cowiche Creek in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. This portion of the creek has simplified and incised channels and is disconnected from its floodplain and side channels. The goal of the restoration project is to increase floodplain and side channel connectivity and add large woody material to provide more habitat for salmon rearing and spawning. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, 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 river 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 project 25-1189.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Awarded: $299,987
Evaluating Fish Use and Deaths in the Yakima River

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, will use this grant to evaluate overwinter and downstream survival of at-risk salmonids in the Yakima River basin. The primary goal of the project is to identify and track habitat use patterns in areas where

a large number of juveniles die. The data collected also will be used to refine and improve survival estimates of steelhead trout, which are a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by spring Chinook salmon, and resident rainbow trout. The data collected will inform habitat and river management decisions in the Yakima basin by identifying the location and possible mechanisms of survival bottlenecks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1199.

Yakima County **Grant Awarded: $190,000**
Designing Removal of Causeways on Blue Slough

Yakima County, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will use this grant to create a conceptual design for a project that will excavate causeways along Blue Slough to improve habitat and fish passage. Blue Slough is a 5.6-mile side channel of the Yakima River in Yakima. Work will include establishing restoration criteria, conducting a cultural resources survey and wetland delineations, prioritizing barriers, identifying up to four project options, and designing the preferred project. Currently, several causeways divide Blue Slough between its confluence near Union Gap at Thorp Road and Yakima Sportsman State Park. The goal of the project is to make progress towards a future floodplain restoration project that will reduce the severity of floods and maintain consistent water flow through the side channel year-round, making Blue Slough a more suitable habitat for rearing and spawning salmon. The river 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 project 25-1186.

Yakima County **Grant Awarded: $500,000**
Restoring Fish Passage in the South Fork Tieton River at Rimrock Reservoir

Yakima County, in partnership with state and federal agencies, will use this grant to restore year-round fish passage between Rimrock Reservoir and the South Fork Tieton River. The County will excavate a channel to provide access to the river while the reservoir is low, circumventing a human-made, forty-foot waterfall that has blocked bull trout from reaching spawning grounds in the river when reservoir levels are low. The river and reservoir are used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as by kokanee salmon and rainbow trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1187.

Projects in Multiple Counties

Chelan and Douglas Counties

Trout Unlimited Incorporated — Grant Awarded: $349,916
Helping Beavers in Chelan and Douglas Counties

Trout Unlimited will use this grant to work with landowners to allow beavers and the habitat they create to remain in place on twenty properties in Chelan and Douglas County watersheds. In addition, Trout Unlimited will place hand-built log structures that mimic beaver dams in two creeks. Beaver dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river, and guide water to streambanks to encourage natural tree and shrub growth. Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. The river is used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1228.

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $182,824
Maintaining Upper Columbia River Habitat

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, in partnership with the Cascadia Conservation District and Trout Unlimited, will use this grant to restore habitat at twenty-six restoration sites in the watersheds of the Wenatchee and Entiat Rivers and in two tributaries of the Columbia River. The group will manage invasive plant species and noxious weeds, replace unsuccessful plantings, place wood structures in streams, and water planted areas. Additionally, they will maintain beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures in the waterways and will remove nuisance beavers. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams and post-assisted log structures are structures made of posts that simulate logjams. Both slow the water, allowing deep, cool pools to form, reducing erosion, and allowing small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. They also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The rivers are used by spring Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull 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 project 25-1217.

Grays Harbor and Jefferson Counties

Quinault Indian Nation — Grant Awarded: $235,955
Restoring the Banks of the Upper Quinault River

The Quinault Indian Nation will use this grant to remove invasive plants and maintain more than 925 acres along the upper Quinault River for the next three years. Crews will add plants where needed and plant an additional nearly 139 acres, 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 bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1102.

Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $83,300
Maintaining Plantings Along Summer Chum Streams

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to maintain plantings along streams with summer chum salmon. The enhancement group also will add to the plantings and manage weeds there. Planting trees and bushes along streams 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 chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1033.

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $292,250
Controlling Knotweed and Planting the Banks of Summer Chum Streams

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to replant the banks of nine streams used by summer chum salmon, emphasizing planting conifers and fast-growing, shade-producing trees and shrubs. The enhancement group also will survey and treat invasive knotweed. Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that displaces native plant communities, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging the stream. 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 streams are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook and chum salmon, 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 project 25-1032.

Klickitat and Skamania Counties

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Conserving the Lower White Salmon River — Grant Awarded: $1,000,000

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to buy and conserve 2.3 miles of the lower White Salmon River in Skamania and Klickitat Counties, upstream of the former Condit Dam. The purchase will protect intact, high-quality habitat critical for salmon, steelhead, and other species. The Yakama Nation will buy 170.5 acres of undeveloped land and 4.6 miles of streambank. Condit Dam was removed in 2012, restoring up to thirty-three miles of habitat. The White Salmon River provides cold-water refuge for fish. The land primarily is rural but experiencing significant development pressure. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, 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 project 25-1194.

Island, King, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties

Tulalip Tribes — Grant Awarded: $299,978
Monitoring Offshore Puget Sound Juvenile Salmon

The Tulalip Tribes and partners will use this grant to conduct comprehensive juvenile salmon monitoring surveys in offshore marine waters in northern Washington and all basins of Puget Sound for two years. The partners will analyze sample collections from these surveys, compile trends from annual surveys conducted since 2021, compare observed factors limiting marine survival rates, and report on this information to help salmon management decision makers improve salmon return forecasting and habitat restoration effectiveness. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1197.