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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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# News Release



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## **Acting Secretary Scarlett Announces \$8 Million In Grants to Tribes to Help Conserve Fish and Wildlife**

*More than \$1.4 million goes to tribes in the Service's Pacific Region*

Acting Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett today announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding nearly \$8 million to help federally recognized Indian Tribes conserve fish and wildlife on their lands. Seven tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho will receive a total of more than \$1.4 million.

The Service is awarding the grants under two programs: the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. The Tribal Landowner Incentive Program helps federally recognized Indian tribes protect, restore and manage habitat for species at risk, including federally listed endangered or threatened species, as well as proposed or candidate species on tribal lands. Nationally, the Service is providing more than \$2 million to help fund 15 Tribal Landowner Incentive projects.

About \$6 million will help fund 28 projects across the nation under the Tribal Wildlife Grants program. These grants are awarded to federally recognized Indian tribes to benefit fish and wildlife, including species that are not hunted or fished.

“These grants help tribes preserve and restore fish and wildlife resources that are important to their culture and heritage,” said Acting Secretary Scarlett. “These programs also encourage mutually beneficial partnerships between tribal and federal natural resource management agencies and help ensure a brighter future for fish, wildlife and their habitat on tribal lands.”

Since 2003, the Service has put more than \$38 million to work for tribal conservation efforts through the two grant programs.

Indian tribes have a controlling interest in more than 52 million acres of tribal trust lands and an additional 40 million acres held by Alaska Native corporations. Much of this land is relatively undisturbed, providing a significant amount of rare and important fish and wildlife habitat.

“The Service’s Tribal Landowner Incentive and Wildlife Grant programs provide financial resources and encourage cooperation while supporting the authority of the tribes to manage their resources,” said Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall. “The flexibility of the programs allows the Tribes great latitude in funding natural resource management actions that are driven by their conservation priorities.”

In the Pacific Region, the following Tribal Landowner Incentive Program Grants were awarded:

**IDAHO:**

Nez Perce Tribe Conservation Strategy Development for Rare Palouse Prairie Plants on Nez Perce Tribal Lands	\$141,108
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**OREGON:**

Burns Paiute Tribe Eliminate Fish Loss on Burns Paiute Deeded Lands	\$109,070
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**WASHINGTON:**

Lummi Indian Nation Suggler's Slough Fish Passage Project	\$150,000
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Stillaquamish Tribe Stillaquamish River Mile 22 Restoration Project	\$117,000
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Tribal Wildlife Grants awarded in the Pacific Region:

**OREGON:**

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Black-tailed Deer Assessment of the Grand Ronde Reservation	\$120,000
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Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Upstream Migration Study of Pacific Lamprey in the Willamette Basin	\$129,913
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**WASHINGTON:**

Lummi Indian Nation Upper South Fork Nooksack Instream Project	\$250,000
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Puyallup Tribe South Rainier Elk Herd Management and Habitat Enhancement Project	\$205,844
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Yakama Nation Yakama Reservation 2007 Wildlife Management Plan Development Project	\$249,853
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More details about each of the projects can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ea/tribal>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The

Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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