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# News Release



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## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Announce Pacific Northwest Native Fish Habitat Initiative Fund Grants**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Pacific Region Fisheries Program today announced \$174,279 in grants to be leveraged with \$432,000 of matching funds to support seven projects under the Native Fish Habitat Initiative-Pacific Northwest Fund (NFHI-PNW). This fund is a partnership between FWS and NFWF with money coming from the FWS and administered by NFWF.

The NFHI-PNW finances on-the-ground projects in the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho that support the objectives of various initiatives, such as the Cross-Program Recovery Initiative, National Fish Habitat Initiative, and Western Native Trout Initiative. The NFHI-PNW is focused on projects that will result in habitat conservation, protection, restoration, or management actions that benefit native trout, such as coastal cutthroat, westslope cutthroat, Yellowstone cutthroat, bull trout, and redband trout, as well as Pacific lamprey and other native lamprey species. In addition, projects that provide habitat benefits on National Wildlife Refuge System lands or other Federal, state, or tribal refuges, reserves, and protected areas are encouraged, as well as projects that demonstrate partnerships with various interests and have a cost-share component.

Healthy waterways and robust fish populations are vital to the well-being of our society. They provide clean water and sustainable fisheries. They also are vital for less tangible reasons, as anyone who has fished wild waters or canoed a tranquil stream can attest.

“These grants are important to conserving aquatic resources in this region of the country,” said Dan Diggs, Assistant Regional Director of Pacific Region Fisheries Resources. “These grants will also help to establish long-term partnerships which are the basis for fostering conservation stewardship necessary to the continued health of aquatic habitat.”

The NFHI-PNW offers an excellent opportunity to meet the challenges of restoring and managing aquatic habitats on a regional scale. Success lies in local action, strategically applied and collaboratively funded, yielding local and national benefits – and more fish! This is the vision: Healthy fish, healthy habitats, healthy people and healthy economies.

The following grants have been awarded:

### **Tryon Creek Watershed Trout and Lamprey Restoration Project**

***Grantee: Friends of Tryon Creek State Park***

**(\$19,800 grant with a \$36,980 match)**

Friends of Tryon Creek State Park will enhance native trout and lamprey habitat through on-the-ground restoration in the Tryon Creek watershed. This project includes the placement of brush check dams in three tributaries to Tryon Creek to enhance up to two miles of native trout and lamprey habitat and enhancement of approximately 10 acres of riparian, floodplain, and upland areas through invasive species removal and re-vegetation. Local citizens will participate in restoration and monitoring activities. The project will also develop educational and interpretive programs to highlight restoration projects and the history of the watershed. The project will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (below).

### **Assessment of Restoring Fish Passage in Tryon Creek**

***Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- Columbia River Fisheries Program Office***

**(\$15,000 grant with an \$80,000 match)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will partner with the Friends of Tryon Creek to determine the presence and distribution of Pacific and western brook lamprey in Tryon Creek, one of the largest urban watersheds in Oregon, before and after restoration work on an existing culvert that affects fish passage. Preliminary survey data shows that lamprey are underrepresented in Tryon Creek upstream of the culvert while larval lamprey have been detected immediately downstream of the culvert. Culvert restoration activities are scheduled for the summer of 2007. Pre- and post-restoration assessment of lamprey species is needed to gauge the efficacy of the restoration work and the need for further restoration to ensure long-term lamprey conservation. The project includes activities to educate Friends of Tryon Creek and Tryon Creek watershed community members on the ecological importance of native lamprey species and to train these groups in Lamprey and habitat survey methods. The project addresses needs identified in the Lower Columbia and Columbia Estuary Bi-State subbasin plans.

### **Newton Creek Fish Habitat Project**

***Grantee: Marys River Watershed Council***

**(\$20,000 grant with a \$47,050 match)**

Marys River Watershed Council will remove a small dam on Newton Creek to provide passage for cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey to 1.45 miles of upstream habitat in the Marys River Watershed. The project also includes reshaping and stabilizing the stream banks, placing large woody debris in the stream, and replanting native riparian vegetation. Students and local community members will monitor water quality and temperature, fish presence, and vegetation survival rate to evaluate the success of the restoration efforts. These groups will be involved in all phases of the project and will be educated on the habitat needs of cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. The Oregon Wildlife Conservation Strategy lists cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey as strategy species for the Willamette Valley Ecoregion, and the Newton Creek watershed is listed as a Conservation Opportunity Areas in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

**Little Nestucca River Restoration Project, Nestucca Bay NWR**

***Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Columbia River Fisheries Program Office***  
**(\$40,000 grant with a \$57,500 match)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will remove 0.7 miles of dike along the Little Nestucca River and reestablish 3,965 feet of historic tidal channels to restore physical conditions allowing unrestricted tidal inundation and access by coastal cutthroat trout, steelhead, and chinook and coho salmon. Effectiveness of the project will be measured by collecting and comparing data regarding physical suitability of the aquatic habitat, native trout and salmonid use, and invertebrate composition after the restoration project to data collected by the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians prior to construction. This project is consistent with several objectives and actions contained in the Action Plan prepared by the Nestucca/Neskowin Watersheds Council. This project is a collaborative effort being implemented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and the Siletz Tribe.

**New Zealand Mudsail Outreach in the Deschutes River System**

***Grantee: Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, Portland State University***  
**(\$14,979 grant with a \$4,720 match)**

Portland State University's Center for Lakes and Reservoirs will conduct outreach with the goal of slowing the spread of New Zealand mudsnails in the Deschutes River in Central Oregon. Federally listed as a Wild and Scenic River, the Deschutes River supports native fisheries of national significance, including salmon, steelhead, redband trout and bull trout. In 2005, the invasive New Zealand mudsnail was confirmed in the lower Deschutes River, which has the potential to detrimentally affect aquatic resources through competitive interactions with native invertebrates and associated changes in community structure and ecosystem function. The project will develop a variety of prevention tools, such as gear cleaning stations and prevention workshops, to raise awareness of New Zealand mudsnails with a variety of constituents, including anglers, rafters, boaters, field biologists, tribes, and watershed councils. The project will also develop a citizen monitoring network for early detection and prevention, and will build long-term collaborative partnerships with agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations.

**Pine Creek Fish Passage Project**

***Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – La Grande Fish and Wildlife Office***  
**(\$22,000 grant with a \$75,000 match)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will install fish screens on a currently unscreened 10+ cubic feet per second irrigation diversion on Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek, to protect bull trout and redband trout from entrainment. The project includes design and installation of rotary drum fish screens with bypass pipes for fish to return to the stream. At least 10 landowners draw water from this irrigation diversion. This project will foster increased landowner cooperation in addressing the remaining unscreened diversions in the Pine Creek basin. Clear Creek is a high-quality headwater stream that is designated as critical habitat for bull trout. This project is consistent with the draft Bull Trout Recovery Plan, which identifies the removal of barriers and obstacles to fish passage as a key management need in this basin. This project is in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## **Deep Creek Restoration for Native Salmonids**

**Grantee: *Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge***

**(\$42,500 grant with a \$130,750 match)**

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge will restore riparian habitat for bull trout, redband trout, kokanee, and native salmonids along Deep Creek by stabilizing stream banks, planting trees and shrubs, limiting livestock access, and removing undersized culverts that are acting as fish migration barriers. This project will decrease the amount of sedimentation to improve spawning of native trout species and to reduce the amount of sediments flowing into the Kootenai River, which is the critical habitat for endangered Kootenai River white sturgeon. Project partners include the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Association of Conservation District, and private landowners.

For more information about these projects or NFHI-PNW please contact, Amy Gaskill at 503.231.6874 or Cara Rose at 503.417.8700 X-21.

The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** is a nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984 and dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants, and the habitat on which they depend. The Foundation creates partnerships between the public and private sectors to strategically invest in conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Foundation awarded over 7,000 grants to more than 2,600 organizations in the United States and abroad and has leveraged – with its partners – more than \$300 million in federal funds since its establishment, for a total of more than \$1 billion in funding for conservation. The Foundation is recognized by Charity Navigator with a top 4-star rating for efficiency and effectiveness. Ninety-two cents of every dollar contributed to the Foundation is directed to on-the-ground conservation projects, with five cents supporting management and administration of the Foundation’s multi-million dollar grants program and three cents funding partnership development and fundraising. For more information, visit [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).

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. For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/>