

Columbia River Basin

North Slope Ochoco Holistic Restoration Project

Lead partner: Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District

The Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District in Oregon has a long-standing, collaborative program that focuses on the improvement and protection of natural resources for the betterment of agricultural producers, the local community, and fish and wildlife. Using an innovative GIS approach to target treatment areas, the partners will implement a coordinated and directed effort to expand upon the current work being done to address key natural resource concerns in a ridge-top to ridge-top manner. EQIP, ACEP, and CSP will be used to accomplish objectives including pre-commercial thinning, irrigation efficiency projects, conservation easements, juniper removal, range restoration, spring developments, riparian restoration, and critical habitat restoration. Success will be gauged by the evaluation of measurable objectives and the expansion of established monitoring programs.

Upper Columbia Irrigation Enhancement Project

Lead partner: Trout Unlimited, Inc.

This project in Washington State will help fund irrigation efficiency improvements with large irrigators and irrigation districts to modernize water delivery infrastructure. Enhanced instream flows will benefit critical spawning and rearing areas for Endangered Species Act (ESA) fish and provide passage during migration during seasonal low flows. Complementing multiple existing conservation plans in the region, the project's goal is to implement irrigation efficiencies, on irrigated acres, with more individual landowners. These enhancements will increase instream flows in critical Upper Columbia Tributaries by more than 50 cubic feet per second, as well as improve water quality by increasing instream flow, decreasing stream temperature, and mitigate delivery of fertilizers and pesticides to ESA salmon-bearing tributaries. The Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited (TU-WWP) will place the water savings from the efficiency improvements into the Washington State Trust Water Right Program.

White River Irrigation Efficiency and Stream Flow Restoration Project

Lead partner: Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation

Partners for this project in Oregon have identified specific goals, already planned through a collaborative approach in the county, including the installation of six unscreened fish passage barriers, saving acre feet of water annually, and restoring flows to miles of stream, of which 15 miles of stream were over-allocated and seasonally dewatered. Identified activities will increase water quality, improve irrigation efficiency, and improve fish habitat in this critical area.

Yakama Nation On-Reservation Lower Yakima Basin Restoration Project

Lead Partner: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

This project addresses critical needs for the integrated conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, water quantity, and water quality on the Yakama Reservation in the lower Yakima River basin. The actions in this proposal will accelerate the recovery of threatened middle Columbia steelhead on the lower tributaries of the Yakima River, which currently produce more than 50 percent of the wild steelhead population in the Yakima basin. These actions will also benefit multiple other aquatic and riparian species, including chinook and sockeye salmon, Pacific lamprey, and important cultural plant species.