



NFWF

Bring Back the Natives 2018 Grant Slate

NFWF CONTACT

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Bass Pro Shops
- Brunswick Public Foundation



Yellowstone cutthroat trout

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bass Pro Shops and the Brunswick Public Foundation announced the 2018 funding for Bring Back the Natives projects. Twelve new native fish conservation and restoration grants totaling \$590,000 were awarded, leveraging \$2.07 million in match from the grantees and generating a total conservation impact of \$2.66 million.

The Bring Back the Natives program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. The end result is conservation of aquatic ecosystems, increase of in-stream flows and partnerships that benefit native fish species throughout the United States. This funding opportunity also provides grants to implement the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Restoration activities that address key limiting factors for focal species are priorities for the Bring Back the Natives program. Leading factors in native fish species decline are habitat alteration, lack of adequate in-stream flows, and invasive and/or nonnative species. The following projects address these particular threats.

Improving Habitat Connectivity and Quality for Cutthroat Trout in Meadow Creek (MT)

Grantee: Yaak Valley Forest Council

Grant Award:.....	\$33,500
Matching Funds:	\$64,576

Total Amount:..... \$98,076

Perform 1.2 miles of road re-contouring and 3.9 miles of active decommissioning including

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Westslope cutthroat trout | Credit: National Park Service

removal of two culverts that are acting as barriers to fish passage in the South Fork of Meadow Creek, Yaak, Montana to reduce sediment loading into the habitat. Project will improve water quality and fish habitat connectivity in spawning habitat of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout.

Removing Sawpauh Mill Dam to Restore Fish Passage in Oostanaula Creek and the Hiwassee River (TN)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$62,985
 Matching Funds: \$113,187
Total Amount:..... \$175,173

Restore fish passage, improve water quality, and create habitat for nearly 130 fish species by removing the Sawpauh Mill Dam located at the confluence of Oostanuala Creek and the Hiwassee River outside of Cleveland, Tennessee. Project will reconnect over 140 miles of streams in the Oostanaula/Hiwassee system and build momentum for additional high-impact dam removals in the watershed.

Comprehensive Watershed Restoration and Stream Reconnection in the Clearwater and Grande Ronde Watersheds (ID, OR)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Award:..... \$58,500
 Matching Funds: \$60,000
Total Amount:..... \$118,500

Restore habitat and stream connectivity projects in two Snake River watersheds through a combination of Aquatic Organism Passage restoration, wood installation and floodplain reconnection projects. Project will restore natural

hydrologic processes and increase resiliency for populations of trout, salmon, Pacific lamprey and other native fish species. Project will improve access to over 8 miles of habitat, restore water quality and habitat, and increase spawning success.

Restoring Stream Connectivity for Eastern Brook Trout in the Upper Rappahannock Watershed (VA)

Grantee: The Piedmont Environmental Council
 Grant Award:..... \$65,000
 Matching Funds: \$186,391
Total Amount:..... \$251,391

Improve native eastern brook trout habitat in Virginia's Upper Rappahannock watershed in partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation by replacing culvert structures with an open-span bridge. The project will reconnect 2 miles of intact brook trout habitat and restore 200 linear feet of riparian habitat.

Barrier Removal in the North Creek Basin to Restore Fish Passage (OR)

Grantee: MidCoast Watersheds Council
 Grant Award:..... \$50,000
 Matching Funds: \$1,025,793
Total Amount:..... \$1,075,793

Replace an undersized, failing culvert with a 50-foot spanning open bottom culvert that will allow full upstream access to 3.4 miles of Oregon Coast Coho salmon habitat, including 2.37 miles designated critical habitat, 5.4 miles of winter steelhead habitat, and 13 miles of sea-run cutthroat trout habitat. Project will provide juvenile rearing habitat,



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naturally recruited large woody debris, shade cover and cold water refuge sites.

Restoring Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Habitat in the Upper Teton River (ID)

Grantee: Friends of the Teton River
 Grant Award:..... \$52,233
 Matching Funds: \$70,000
Total Amount:..... \$122,233

Implement stream restoration and best management practices to improve water quality, riparian vegetation, stream shading and habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Upper Teton River. Project will improve 2,000 linear feet of habitat on grazing-impacted and agricultural-adjacent public land.

Instream Habitat Restoration in the East Verde River to Increase Resiliency of a Gila Trout Fishery (AZ)

Grantee: U.S. Forest Service – Tonto National Forest
 Grant Award:..... \$38,531
 Matching Funds: \$64,820
Total Amount:..... \$103,351

Enhance instream and riparian habitat along the East Verde River to improve stream function, increase resiliency to disturbance, and enhance a recreational Gila trout fishery. Project will mitigate recreational impacts, restore hydrologic processes, improve sediment transportation, stabilize stream banks, and support stream heterogeneity and pool habitats to improve Gila trout habitat.

Westslope Cutthroat and Bull Trout Habitat Restoration in the Blackfoot River Watershed (MT)

Grantee: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Grant Award:..... \$49,000
 Matching Funds: \$252,000
Total Amount:..... \$301,000

Restore an 8,000 foot reach of Nevada Creek to improve stream bank stability and instream and riparian habitat benefiting populations of westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Project will expand previously successful methods to construct the proper creek pattern, profile and dimensions while incorporating a riparian revegetation and grazing management plan which will address bank erosion, instream complexity and riparian habitat connection.

Habitat Restoration for the Amargosa River Pupfish in San Bernardino County (CA)

Grantee: Bureau of Land Management - Barstow Field Office
 Grant Award:..... \$6,600
 Matching Funds: \$6,600
Total Amount:..... \$13,200

The Bureau of Land Management - Barstow Field Office will plant native willow and mesquite trees along 0.25 miles

of river encompassing approximately 16 acres of riparian habitat which has been treated previously to remove invasive Salt Cedar. Project will improve habitat and increase the breeding population of the endemic Amargosa River Pupfish as well as reduce the number of invasive aquatic species competitors including mosquito fish and crayfish.

Eradication of Invasive Vinca to benefit Spikedace and Loachminnow in Aravaipa Canyon (AZ)

Grantee: Sky Island Alliance
 Grant Award:..... \$49,744
 Matching Funds: \$90,142
Total Amount:..... \$139,916

Eradicate the invasive vinca plant from Aravaipa Canyon, Arizona where it interferes with natural hydrological processes and competes with native riparian vegetation in priority stream habitat for loachminnow and spikedace. Project will employ an environmentally sensitive and effective removal technique to maintain stream velocity, control fine sediments and restore natural flood patterns.

Reintroduction of Colorado River Cutthroat Trout to Road Beaver Creek (CO)

Grantee: Bureau of Land Management – Gunnison Field Office
 Grant Award:..... \$25,000
 Matching Funds: \$40,800
Total Amount:..... \$65,800

Add 7.5 miles of native trout steam southwest of Gunnison, CO that will reintroduce a conservation population of green lineage Colorado River cutthroat trout back into Road Beaver Creek, a stream within its historic range. Project will construct a fish barrier to ensure no nonnative fish will move upstream, partner with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to eradicate nonnative brook trout, and stock green lineage Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Assessment of Connectivity and Invasion Threat to Restore Greenback Cutthroat Trout in Colorado

Grantee: Colorado State University
 Grant Award:..... \$98,910
 Matching Funds: \$98,910
Total Amount:..... \$197,820

Assess 60 kilometers of stream habitat located in Rocky Mountain National Park and Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest upstream of the Long Draw Reservoir to assist the largest ever greenback cutthroat trout reclamation effort. Project will evaluate the passage of nonnative brook trout at a potential downstream barrier and assess the spatial population structure of the invasive brook trout.