

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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\$6.2 Million to fund 38 Native American Projects In 19 States for a Wide Range of Conservation Work *Nearly \$1.2 Million goes to tribes in the Pacific Region Of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Lyle Lavery today announced more than \$6.2 million in grants will go to 38 Native American projects in 19 states to fund a wide range of conservation projects nationwide.

“Tribal Wildlife Grants are much more than a fiscal resource for tribes. The projects and partnerships created through this program have enhanced our commitment to Native Americans and to the United States’ shared wildlife resources,” Lavery said.

More than \$34 million has gone to Native American tribes through this U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program in the past six years, providing funding for 175 conservation projects administered by 133 participating Federally-recognized tribes. The grants provide technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of efforts that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.

The grants have enabled tribes to develop increased management capacity, improve and enhance relationships with partners including State agencies, address cultural and environmental priorities, and heighten interest of tribal students in fisheries, wildlife and related fields of study. Some grants have been awarded to enhance recovery efforts for threatened and endangered species.

The grants have also proved to be a critical part of economic development programs on Native American Reservations. Tribal fish, wildlife and other natural resources have attracted hunters and anglers, who spend money on supplies, gasoline, food and lodging at Reservation businesses.

While it is not possible to determine the compounded value to economic development in Indian Country, the Tribal Wildlife Grants have helped open the door to development opportunities involving fish, wildlife and habitat resources on the more than 100 million acres of tribal lands across the United States.

The grants are made exclusively to Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments and are made possible under the Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002, and through a component of the State Wildlife Grant program.

During the current grant cycle, tribes submitted a total of 110 proposals that were scored by panels in each Service Region using uniform ranking criteria. A national panel recommended 38 proposals for funding. The following grants were approved for tribes in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region :

Idaho:

Nez Perce Tribe Restoration of Bighorn Sheep and Habitat along the Main Stem Salmon River	\$200,000
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Idaho and Nevada:

Shoshone Paiute Tribe - Duck Valley Reservation Restore Habitat and Monitor the Impacts of West Nile Virus on the Duck Valley Reservation's Greater Sage-grouse Population	\$199,469
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Oregon:

Burns Paiute Tribe Elimination of Fish Loss within a Burns Paiute Tribe Irrigation Site	\$11,554
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Washington:

Cowlitz Tribe Establishing a Cottonwood Island Sub-population of Columbia White-tailed Deer	\$199,700
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Lummi Indian Nation South Fork of Skookum Reach Restoration Project	\$200,000
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Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Establishing Baseline Ecological Information on the Indian and Elwha Valley Elk Herds of the Olympic Peninsula	\$168,745
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Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Meadow Habitat Restoration Project	\$199,831
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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.