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News Release



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Trout Travails Treated with \$3 Million in Fish Aid

Recognizing the need to fix crumbling stream-banks and dilapidated culverts, and to improve water quality for brook trout and other aquatic species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently provided more than \$3 million to support 70 fish habitat projects in 31 states across the nation. With an additional \$7.8 million in partner contributions, the projects will restore and enhance stream, lake, and coastal habitat to improve recreational fishing and help recover endangered species.

The funding is provided for priority projects identified under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The partnerships formed as part of the plan help direct funding and other resources to habitat improvement projects offering the highest long-term conservation returns.

The Pacific Northwest states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington received more than \$200,000 combined to help fund five fish habitat projects. These projects include:

- **Western Native Trout Initiative, Elk Creek, ID** (Palisades Reservoir) – \$10,000 in Service funds and \$40,000 in partner funds to remove one fish passage barrier, opening more than eight miles of instream habitat to Yellowstone cutthroat trout and other aquatic species.
- **Western Native Trout Initiative, Teton Creek, ID** – \$20,000 in Service funds and \$149,000 in partner funds to restore 0.41 miles of instream habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout. This tributary contains the last remnant fluvial Yellowstone cutthroat trout spawning run and has the highest juvenile recruitment in Teton Valley.

- **Western Native Trout Initiative, Georgetown Creek, ID** -- \$15,000 in Service funds and \$85,000 in partner funds to remove one fish passage barrier, reopening more than five miles of stream to fish passage for migratory Bonneville cutthroat trout.
- **Western Native Trout Initiative, Honey Creek, OR** -- \$43,200 in Service funds and \$92,350 in partner funds to remove one fish passage barrier, opening more than two miles of fish passage and 0.2 miles of instream habitat to redband trout and Warner sucker.
- **Western Native Trout Initiative, North Fork Ahtanum Creek gauging station in Washington** -- \$30,000 in Service funds and \$145,000 in partner funds will remove one fish passage barrier reopening more than 17 miles of fish passage to bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout and steelhead. This project will restore the natural function of the creek.

Funding was also provided to seven “demonstration” projects coordinated under proposed fish habitat partnerships – partnerships that have applied for, but yet to receive, recognition under NFHAP. One project is in the Pacific Northwest:

- **North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership, Rudio Creek, OR** – \$100,000 in Service funds and \$410,890 in partner funds to reroute water diversion and improve onsite irrigation efficiency to restore summer flows on two miles of Rudio Creek for steelhead and spring chinook salmon.

“Rudio Creek is located in the John Day Basin and is considered a steelhead and salmon stronghold, one of the few in the Columbia Basin where fish populations remain largely wild and abundant,” said Ren Lohofener, Pacific Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “The Service is one of many partners working together to conserve the critical ecosystem processes for this area’s iconic species.”

For a complete listing of funded projects around the country, please visit: www.fws.gov/fisheries For more information about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, its partnerships and programs, please visit:

www.fishhabitat.org

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.