



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

News Release

December 19, 2011

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Yakima Basin Receives \$1.2 Million in Grants for Salmon Recovery

The [Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#) announced the award of nearly \$1.2 million in grants to Yakima Basin organizations to help bring salmon back from the brink of extinction.

“These grants do two things: They provide needed money for local organizations to help repair damaged rivers and streams and protect the most pristine areas,” said Don “Bud” Hover, chair of the state funding board. “They also create jobs. They will put people to work improving the environment and restoring something that is important to Washington’s economy: salmon.”

The local grant review process is coordinated by the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB), a consortium that include tribes, local governments, technical and biological experts and citizens all working together to spearhead local salmon recovery efforts. They encourage and review project proposals and make recommendations about which projects to forward to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for funding. From 2005 to 2009, local governments, the Yakama Nation, State and Federal Biologists and stakeholders worked together to write a recovery plan that details what needs to be done to get Yakima steelhead off the Endangered Species List. Now, each year YBFWRB works with the Salmon Funding Recovery Board to get funding to the projects that do the best job implementing the recovery plan. It’s a great example of partnership between local, tribal, state, and federal governments.

The Yakima Basin Region includes Kittitas, Yakima and a portion of Benton Counties. The \$1.2 million is divided into \$585,813 for projects in Kittitas County, and \$508,887 for projects in Yakima County. The nine local projects awarded funds during this year’s grant round range from small, landowner-initiated side channel restoration projects to larger-scale county sponsored floodplain projects. Each project will implement recovery plan goals of improving places salmon use to reproduce and grow on their way to and from to the ocean.

In addition to steelhead, the Yakima Basin once supported large populations of Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, oceangoing lamprey, and migratory bull trout. While only bull trout and steelhead are listed under the ESA, all of these species have declined significantly over the last 150 years. Recovering steelhead is just one objective of ongoing efforts to restore conditions that allow all of these species to thrive.

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