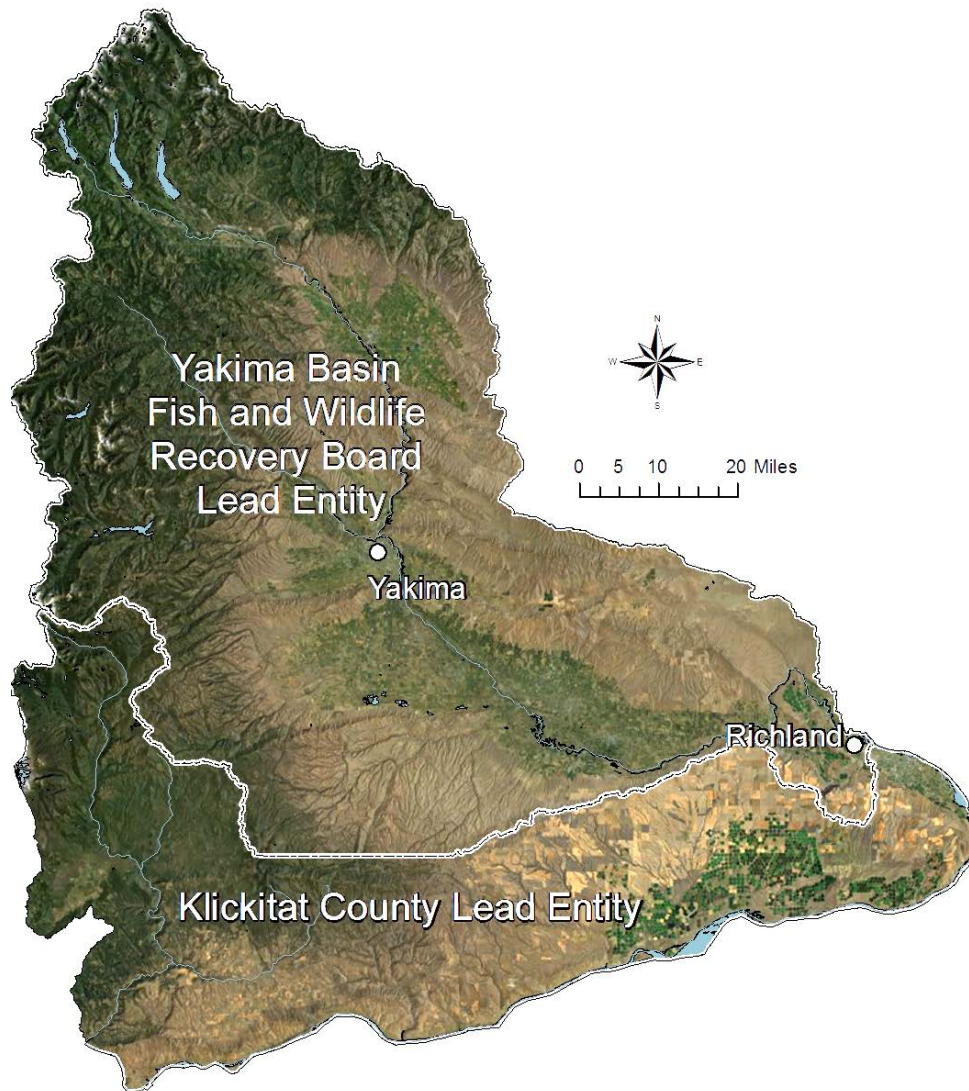


## Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region



Yakima Basin Fish and  
Wildlife Recovery Board  
1200 Chesterly Drive  
Yakima, WA 98902  
[www.ybfwrb.org](http://www.ybfwrb.org)

Lead Entity Coordinator  
Michael Horner  
(509) 453-4104  
[mhorner@ybfwrb.org](mailto:mhorner@ybfwrb.org)

Klickitat Lead Entity  
115 W. Court Street, Box 204  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
<http://www.klickitatcounty.org>

## Region Overview

### Geography

The Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region is comprised of salmon bearing streams in Benton, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat Counties.

### Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA)

Klickitat (30), Rock-Glade (31), Lower Yakima (37), Naches (38), and Upper Yakima (39)

### Federally Recognized Tribes

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

### Endangered Species Act Listings

#### Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

Species	Listed As	Date Listed
Steelhead	Threatened	March 25, 1999
Bull Trout	Threatened	1998

### Salmon Recovery Plan

#### Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan

Recovery Plan	
Regional Organization	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (for the Yakima basin; no recovery organization for Columbia Gorge populations in the middle Columbia region).
Plan Timeframe	15 years ( <i>Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan</i> only)
Actions Identified to Implement Plan	94 ( <i>Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan</i> only)
Estimated Cost (This does not include estimated cost from the Klickitat and Rock Creek plans prepared by the NOAA.)	\$269 million ( <i>Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan</i> only)
Status	NOAA-Fisheries approved the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan in September 2009. This plan incorporates the Yakima board’s <i>Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan</i> and NOAA’s recovery plans for steelhead populations in the Gorge Management Unit of the middle Columbia River steelhead distinct population segment.

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Recovery Plan	
	The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board released the <i>Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan</i> in September 2012, with an update in 2017, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its bull trout recovery plan in 2015.
Implementation Schedule Status	For the Yakima basin, basic elements of a 6-year implementation schedule are completed, providing details of planned actions, key partners, link of actions to limiting factors and plan strategies, time to implement and achieve benefits, and estimated costs. Additional information fields and a tracking and reporting system for the implementation schedule are being developed.
Web Information	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board <a href="#">Web site</a> Klickitat Lead Entity <a href="#">Web page</a>

### Region and Lead Entities

There are five WRIAs in the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB) is the regional salmon recovery organization and lead entity for three of these WRIAs (37, 38, and 39). The Klickitat Lead Entity's geographic area is composed of WRIAs 29b, 30, and 31. The Klickitat Lead Entity's geographic area is not within the purview of a regional organization established under Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.090 or 77.85.200, but is contained within the Lower Columbia and Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Regions. Therefore, a portion of the SRFB project funding allocated to the Lower Columbia and Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Regions is allocated to the Klickitat Lead Entity's geographic area based on a combination of historical funding allocations and anadromous stream miles.

### Regional Area Summary Questions and Responses

#### 1. Internal funding allocations:

##### A. Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across lead entities or watersheds within the region?

The Mid-Columbia region was allocated \$2,157,400 for the 2023 SRFB grant round. Because there is not a single regional organization that includes both the areas served by the Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and that portion of the Klickitat Lead Entity's area that is within the Mid-Columbia region, the two organizations enter into discussions each year about how to divide the Mid-Columbia allocation between them. This year, the Lower Columbia Region made

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additional funds available to the Klickitat Lead Entity, which nearly fully covered the Klickitat 2023 project list. Based on this, the Mid-Columbia SRFB allocation was split with YBFWRB receiving 97.64% and the Klickitat Lead Entity receiving 2.36%. The Yakima Basin lead was allocated \$2,106,471 in PCSRF funding and state PCSRF match. The Klickitat Basin was allocated \$50,929 in PCSRF funding and state PCSRF match.

Beginning in 2015, the Klickitat Lead Entity may request use of Mid-Columbia Region funds for use on projects in the White Salmon. The Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board is genuinely excited to see important fisheries restoration projects occurring in the White Salmon Basin, and believe that they can help all of us meet delisting goals for Middle Columbia Steelhead. However, in 2023 no funding will be transferred from the Mid-Columbia allocation to the Lower Columbia allocation. All funding proposed by the Klickitat Lead Entity for use in the White Salmon watershed is from the Lower Columbia allocation.

The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and the Klickitat Lead Entity submit separate lead entity lists and divide funding between the two lists based on the agreed upon allocation.

This year, a portion of the NOAA funding for SRFB projects was authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and these funds are to be allocated based on their own criteria. In our Request for Proposals, we asked sponsors to highlight features of their projects that meet these criteria. The Yakima Lead Entity TAG (Technical Advisory Group) designated projects ranked one through four as meeting these criteria and the Citizen Committee concurred.

**Table 1: Funding and Requests**

<b>Funding and Requests</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Allocation	\$2,157,400	100%
Yakima Basin Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$2,106,471	97.6%
Klickitat Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$50,929	2.4%
Klickitat Lead Entity List – Carryover to 2023	\$382,613	-
Remaining Balance	(\$0)	0%

### **B. Explain if the projects list(s) submitted in the region funds the highest priority projects.**

Our project list submitted for the 2023 SRFB grant round funds the highest priority projects and actions that are eligible for funding by the SRFB that have been proposed by sponsors in the lead entity area in the current grant year and address the strategies in our Salmon Recovery

Plan. For more information on how projects are prioritized see the [Yakima Lead Entity Manual](#) and the [Klickitat Lead Entity Strategy](#).

**C. If the highest priority projects were not funded, explain the barriers to implementing the highest priority projects in the region.**

The majority of high priority projects in the Yakima Basin are being funded. Some of our recovery plan priorities are not necessarily best addressed through the SRFB program. We have successfully advocated for many of our priorities through other funding sources and continue to fund high priority projects. Some priorities require challenging political commitments and/or are impacted by landowner willingness.

**D. Do suballocations to lead entities limit your region from getting to the highest priority projects?**

No, suballocations do not limit our region from getting to the highest priority projects.

## 2. Regional Technical Review Process

**A. Explain how the regional technical review was conducted.**

The existing Yakima lead entity technical review group was used as the regional technical review team. Given that 1) the area covered by the lead entity and the regional organization is identical, and 2) most potential candidates for serving on a regional technical review team already were serving on the lead entity review team, the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board saw no reason to convene a separate review team. If in the future, there is agreement among all parties that we should develop a regional review that involves multiple lead entities, we would work with other parties to develop a separate regional technical review process.

**B. What criteria were used for the regional technical review?**

The Yakima Technical Advisory Group evaluated Yakima basin projects using three sets of criteria:

[Salmon Recovery Matrix](#) assesses:

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- Species benefited by project.
- Project benefits to in-stream flow and the hydrograph.
- Project benefits to water quality.
- Project benefits to in-channel habitat.
- Protection of functional spawning and/or rearing habitat.
- Improves or creates spawning and/or rearing habitat (cover, etc.).
- Assesses/designs spawning and/or rearing habitat conditions and needs.
- Project benefits to habitat access.
- Improvement of access for juvenile or adult to high quality habitat.
- Improvement of access for juvenile or adult to functional habitat.
- Assesses/designs habitat access.
- Project benefits to diversion screening.
- Project benefits to floodplain connectivity and riparian condition.

Matrix scores are adjusted using weighting factors for:

- Quality and quantity.
- Certainty of success.
- Benefit to cost.
- Longevity of benefit.

Yakima Basin Technical Advisory Group [Evaluation Form](#). This form is used to provide consistency in evaluating projects. It is used to generate discussion and provide additional guidance to Technical Advisory Group members for how to rank projects. These also are provided to the Citizen Committee so members are aware of how the Technical Advisory Group evaluated the proposals. This form evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in regard to:

- Biological Benefit
- Landowner Commitment
- Sequencing
- Budget
- Design
- Future Stewardship
- Strengths, Uncertainties and Constraints

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's [Focus Project List](#): The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's Focus Project List is a tool developed by the Technical Advisory Group

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to help identify high priority SRFB projects and apply those funding resources to projects that represent the most immediate needs of priority species. The list is used to:

- Give the Technical Advisory Group a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority actions.
- Provide guidance to sponsors deciding what types of projects to pursue and propose.
- Strengthen the link between the SRFB project review criteria and recovery plan priorities.

Projects that clearly implement priority actions identified in the list receive 10 bonus points in the matrix. If a proposal does not address a next step related to a priority action, zero bonus points are awarded. It is important to emphasize that the Technical Advisory Group uses this approach as a way to recognize and reward proposals that implement identified priorities, but not as a way to exclude other SRFB proposals. The matrices and evaluation forms from the 2023 Technical Advisory Group evaluation meeting are included as a separate document with this appendix.

The Yakima Citizen Committee evaluated and ranked projects based on the following [criteria, with the most recent significant updates completed in the winter of 2018:](#)

- Cultural and Social Considerations:
  - How does the project affect the Yakima Nation and its members?
  - How does the project affect agricultural interests?
  - How does the project affect recreational opportunities within the Basin?
  - How will the project change ESA liabilities for community members?
  - Does the project include a substantive benefit for wildlife or other habitat?
  - Does the project include substantive and compelling education and outreach components?
- Economic Considerations:
  - Are there economic effects associated with this project?
  - Are there specific elements of the project budget that either raise concerns or are particularly cost-effective?
- Project Context and Organization:
  - How is the project coordinated with other past, present, and future actions?



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- Partnerships and Community Support:
  - Are the right partners involved to make the project succeed?
  - Are the landowners who are directly affected by the proposed project in strong support of this proposal?
  - At the current stage of the proposed project, is the project sponsor using SRFB funding to leverage other funding sources?

The matrices and evaluation forms from the 2023 citizen committee evaluation meeting are included as a separate document with this appendix.

### C. Who completed the regional review (name, affiliation and expertise) and are they part of the regional organization or independent?

Participants in the 2023 Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group are listed below. Participants were chosen to assure 1) a broad range of knowledge about fisheries and habitat restoration in the Yakima basin, 2) inclusion of participants from all parts of the basin (upper, mid and lower), and 3) representation of the full range of organizations active in fisheries and watershed management in the basin. The Technical Advisory Group is a long-standing committee that the lead entity has used in past SRFB project reviews and other processes. All of the voting members are independent of the regional organization in that they work with the lead entity as representatives of their individual organizations and are not otherwise directly affiliated with the regional organization.

**Table 2: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group**

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Shannon Adams	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Habitat Coordinator
Sean Gross	NOAA-Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist
Craig Haskell	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fisheries Biologist
Jeff Hosman	Bureau of Reclamation	Fisheries Biologist
Trevor Hutton	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife	Region 3 Fish Program Manager
Anna Lael	Kittitas County Conservation District	District Manager
Jennifer Nelson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Katy Pfannenstien	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish Biologist
Luke Stilwater	Yakima County Public Services	Natural Resource Specialist



**D. Were there any projects submitted to the SRFB that the regional implementation or Salmon Recovery Portal (formerly Habitat Work Schedule) did not specifically identify? If so, please provide justification for including these projects in the list of projects recommended to the SRFB for funding. If the projects were identified in the regional implementation plan or strategy but considered a low priority or in a low-priority area please provide justification.**

All but one of the projects submitted for this grant round are identified in the [Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan](#) (2009) or the [Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan](#) (2012, last updated in 2017). The actions database included in the plans are recognized as our implementation schedule of actions as per correspondence dated October 20, 2008 from the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office.

The Tieton River Restoration Site #4 proposal is in response to recent studies by the Yakama Nation of Mid-Columbia steelhead use in the Tieton River that indicates it has a surprisingly large population. This has prompted increased interest in the importance of restoration of the lower Tieton River for recovery of ESA-listed steelhead. The *Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan* will be updated to reflect this.

3. Criteria the SRFB considers in funding regional project lists:

**How did the regional review consider whether a project met the following criteria?**

**A. Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability. In addition to limiting factors analysis, SaSI, and SSHIAP<sup>1</sup>, provide stock assessment work completed to date to characterize the status of salmonid species in the region. Briefly describe.**

Steelhead and bull trout are the Endangered Species Act listed species in the Yakima basin, and all stocks are high priority for recovery actions. The [Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan](#) contains the most current data and local knowledge of the status of steelhead populations. The plan incorporates the Internal Columbia Technical Review Team population designations and stock status reports, assesses limiting factors, sets

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<sup>1</sup> SaSI = Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory; SSHIAP=Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program

specific recovery goals and identifies the actions needed to meet them. The [Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan](#) was completed in 2012 in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an update to the board's *2005 Salmon Recovery Plan*. An update was finalized in 2017. The Technical Advisory Group assesses the fit of proposed projects to the priority actions identified in these plans, and uses a matrix that is designed to prioritize projects based on their specific contributions to recovery goals. The matrix also gives projects credit for parallel benefits to non-listed focal species.

**B. Addresses cost-effectiveness. Provide a description of cost-effectiveness considered.**

Both the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee evaluated project budgets as a part of the ranking process. The Technical Advisory Group assigned each project a high, medium, or low certainty of success score based on:

- The completeness of project budgets.
- How reasonable the costs are relative to similar projects.
- The proposed return for the dollars invested;

The Technical Advisory Group also considers a benefit-to-cost weighting factor. This weighting factor asks TAG members to consider if the proposed cost of the project is reasonable with respect to the expected biological outcomes. This weighting factor is a qualitative evaluation of the biological benefit of the project compared to the cost to SRFB and is not intended to require quantification of biological benefits.

The Citizen Committee also scores a project based on its assessment of whether a budget raises concerns or is particularly cost-effective.

**C. Preserves high-quality habitat. Describe projects on the list that will preserve high-quality habitat.**

Our first ranked project, Teanaway River – Trust Water Rights Acquisition (23-1197), protects instream water rights in the Teanaway through voluntary transactions to increase the usable area for all life stages of target species including ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout as well as Chinook. It will increase instream flow to allow access to a large watershed above the lower river, which suffers from annual late summer low flow conditions. Since 2000, our Lead Entity has received 28 acquisition proposals and funded

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22, or 79% of those requests. However, SRFB funding represents a relatively small portion of overall acquisition spending in the Yakima Basin.

- D. Sponsored by an organization with a successful record of project implementation. For example, identify the number of previous SRFB projects funded and completed.**

**Table 3: History of SRFB Projects**

Rank	Project	Sponsor	Number of projects previously funded	Number of projects previously completed	Number of active projects
1	Teaway River – Trust Water Rights Acq	Washington Water Trust	5	4	0
2	Yakima River Corridor Plan Ph IIB: Design+Riparian	Kittitas County Public Works	5	2	1
3	Gold Creek Restoration RM 2 - 3	Kittitas Conservation Trust	19	11	4
4	Amon Creek, Thermal Refuge Habitat Enhancement	Benton Conservation District	4	3	1
5	Upper Toppenish Wood Supplementation Design II	Yakama Nation	49	33	7
6	Cooke Creek RM 4.25 & RM 3.86 Passage & Screening	Kittitas County Conservation District	21	19	2
7	Cold Creek Passage Design (at Keechelus Lk)	Trout Unlimited	23	11	10
8	Little Naches Tributaries Large Wood-Design+Permit	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	54	35	13
9	Tieton River Restoration Site #4	Yakama Nation	49	33	7
10	Mid-Satus Creek Watershed Riparian Assessment	Yakama Nation	49	33	7

- E. Provides benefit to listed and non-listed fish species. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit listed fish. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit non-listed species.**

All projects on our 2023 list provide primary benefit to listed fish species. Please see the 2023 ranked project list, attached to this report, for full details.

**F. Implements a high-priority project or action in a region or watershed salmon recovery plan. Identify where and how the project is identified as a high-priority in the referenced plan.**

All but one project (including an alternate) implement priority recovery actions identified in the *Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan* and/or the *Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan*. The Tieton River Restoration Site #4 proposal is in response to recent studies by the Yakama Nation of Mid-Columbia steelhead use in the Tieton River that indicates it has a surprisingly large population. This has prompted increased interest in the importance of restoration of the lower Tieton River for recovery of ESA-listed steelhead. This information will be reflected in any update to the recovery plan but local reviewers feel the Tieton River Restoration Site #4 project is appropriate as an alternate for funding during the 2023 grant round. The Technical Advisory Group identified two of our projects as “High Priority Fund.” Three projects were identified as “Priority Fund.” Five projects were listed as “Fund.” One project was listed as “Deferred”, meaning both committees agree the project should not be funded in the 2023 grant round. Four of the projects aligned with the [TAG Focus Project List](#) (as described in response to [question 2B](#)). Please see the following summary table of funded projects for additional detail:

**Table 4: TAG Designations**

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
1	Teanaway River – Trust Water Rights Acq	High Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #17: Teanaway, Swauk & Tributaries Instream Flow.  Steelhead Recovery Plan:  Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.  Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds.
2	Yakima River Corridor Plan Ph IIB: Design+Riparian	High Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #21: Upper Yakima Floodplain & Side Channel Protection.  Steelhead Recovery Plan:  Upper Yakima Action #12: Reduce confinement of Upper Yakima River.

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Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
			<p>Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect &amp; restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches.</p> <p>Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods.</p> <p>Bull Trout Action Plan:</p> <p>Upper Yakima Action #2: Habitat restoration and protection.</p>
3	Gold Creek Restoration RM 2 - 3	Priority Fund	<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>Bull Trout Action Plan:</p> <p>Gold Action #2: Instream and floodplain habitat restoration.</p> <p>Gold Action #3: Restore groundwater hydrology.</p> <p>Gold Action #5: Monitor and improve passage conditions in Gold Creek.</p>
4	Amon Creek, Thermal Refuge Habitat Enhancement	Priority Fund	<p>TAG Focus Action #2: Lower Yakima River Projects.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan:</p> <p>Lower Mainstem Action #7: Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.</p>
5	Upper Toppenish Wood Supplementation Design II	Fund	<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan:</p> <p>Basinwide Action #11: Restore beaver populations.</p> <p>Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods.</p> <p>Basinwide Action #13: Address forest health issues.</p> <p>Toppenish Action #1: Rehabilitate alluvial fan and downstream floodplain of Toppenish Creek.</p>

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Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
6	Cooke Creek RM 4.25 & RM 3.86 Passage & Screening	Fund	<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan:</p> <p>Upper Yakima Action #11: Restore passage, separate irrigation conveyance, and screen diversions in Ellensburg-area tributaries.</p> <p>Upper Yakima Action #15: Restore tributary riparian areas.</p> <p>Upper Yakima Action #19: Coordinate water quality improvements in Reecer, Wilson, Naneum, Cherry, Coleman, and Dry creeks.</p>
7	Cold Creek Passage Design (at Keechelus Lk)	Priority Fund	<p>TAG Focus Action #25: Cold Creek Fish Passage Assessment.</p> <p>Bull Trout Action Plan:</p> <p>Gold Action #8: Implement passage &amp; habitat projects in Keechelus Lake tribs.</p>
8	Little Naches Tributaries Large Wood-Design+Permit	Fund	<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan:</p> <p>Naches Action #11: Restore side channels and floodplain of Little Naches River.</p>
9	Tieton River Restoration Site #4	Fund	<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>No Recovery Plan Alignment.</p>
10	Mid-Satus Creek Watershed Riparian Assessment	Fund	<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan:</p> <p>Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods.</p>
11	Big Creek Ensign Ranch Flow Enhancement	Defer	<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan:</p>

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Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
			Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.

**G. Provides for match above the minimum requirement percentage. Identify the project’s match percentage and the regional match total.**

The majority of projects submitted for funding include, where required, match at or just above 15%. Due to the administrative tasks that are involved with reporting on additional match, most of our sponsors prefer to keep their official SRFB match at 15%, but demonstrate additional project support, separate from the SRFB total, on the project budget forms attached in PRISM.

**Table 5: Project Budgets**

Project Name (in order of rank)	SRFB Request	Match in PRISM	Match (%)	PRISM Project Total	Funding not reported in PRISM	Funding not reported in PRISM (%)
<b>Teanaway River – Trust Water Rights Acq</b>	\$234,210	\$43,000	15.5%	\$277,210	\$170,000	38.0%
<b>Yakima River Corridor Plan Ph IIB: Design+Riparian</b>	\$672,426	\$119,000	15.0%	\$791,426	\$148,000	15.8%
<b>Gold Creek Restoration RM 2 - 3</b>	\$500,000	\$100,000	16.7%	\$600,000	\$2,700,000	81.8%
<b>Amon Creek, Thermal Refuge Habitat Enhancement</b>	\$648,638	\$114,470	15.0%	\$763,108	\$684,125	47.3%
<b>Upper Toppenish Wood Supplementation Design II</b>	\$136,000	\$24,000	15.0%	\$160,000	\$0	0.0%
<b>Cooke Creek RM 4.25 &amp; RM 3.86</b>	\$349,999	\$61,765	15.0%	\$411,764	\$78,542	16.0%



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<b>Passage &amp; Screening</b>						
<b>Cold Creek Passage Design (at Keechelus Lk)</b>	\$185,637	\$0	0.0%	\$185,637	\$0	0.0%
<b>Little Naches Tributaries Large Wood-Design+ Permit</b>	\$150,512	\$26,718	15.1%	\$177,230	\$0	0.0%
<b>Tieton River Restoration Site #4</b>	\$663,855	\$117,151	15.0%	\$781,006	\$0	0.0%
<b>Mid-Satus Creek Watershed Riparian Assessment</b>	\$200,000	\$50,000	20.0%	\$250,000	\$5,634	2.2%
<b>Big Creek Ensign Ranch Flow Enhancement</b>	\$82,010	\$15,000	15.5%	\$97,010	\$55,000	36.2%

### **H. Involves members of the Veterans Conservation Corps established in Revised Code of Washington 43.60A.150.**

To our knowledge, none of our recommended projects involve members of the veteran’s conservation corps.

## 4. Local Review Processes

### **A. Provide project evaluation criteria and documentation (local technical reviewer and citizen committee score sheet or comment forms) of the local citizens advisory group and technical advisory group ratings for each project, including explanations for differences between the two groups’ ratings.**

#### Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

The Technical Advisory Group and the Citizen Committee each have distinctive roles in the evaluation of projects. The Technical Advisory Group is responsible for determining the technical validity of a project, and how valuable the project is to salmonid populations. The Citizen Committee is responsible for evaluating how the project might affect the community, and how much community support the project garnered. The final rank is determined by the Citizen

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Committee and approved by the Board. The Technical Advisory Group develops a recommended ranking by considering the Salmon Recovery Model matrix score and ten different certainty of success criteria, which include items such as project sequencing, uncertainties and constraints, organizational capacity, and reasonable budget. The Technical Advisory Group then submits its recommended ranking to the Citizen Committee for review. The Citizen Committee evaluates the project based on its set of criteria, and adjusts the Technical Advisory Group's proposed ranking based on its evaluation. The Citizen Committee's proposed project ranking then is submitted to the Board for review. The Board can either approve the list as submitted or remand the list to the Citizen Committee for reconsideration but the Board cannot re-rank projects. This process is set up to meet the requirements of the state statute creating the SRFB and the Lead Entity Program and is designed to ensure that projects proposed for SRFB funding are technically solid, address priority issues, and are broadly supported by diverse community interests.

For the regional and local technical review, we used two sets of criteria to rank projects. The Citizen Committee used its own established set of criteria. The Technical Advisory Group met to evaluate and rank projects qualitatively and through the Salmon Recovery Model and rank projects on July 25. The group's proposed ranking and the notes of their meeting were then provided to the Citizen Committee, which met August 3 to rank the projects based on the Citizen Committee's criteria.

The Citizen Committee's final ranked list was presented to and approved by the Board on August 9.

### ***Technical Advisory Group Salmon Recovery Model***

The Technical Advisory Group used this tool to award projects a score based on its possible and intended biological benefit. The score is listed at the bottom of the form – projects can receive partial points. This score is adjusted based on four weighting factors; habitat quantity and quality, biological certainty of success, benefit to cost, and longevity of benefit.

### ***Technical Advisory Group Evaluation Form***

This worksheet lists several "certainty of success" categories, and Technical Advisory Group members use it as a guide to discuss factors not addressed in the matrix. The main intent of these forms is to maintain consistency in the project evaluations, and to help Lead Entity staff document the discussion.

The Citizen Committee used its community evaluation and scoring criteria, which focuses on cultural, social, educational, and economic considerations, sequencing in relation to other projects, partnerships, community support, and efficient and effective resource use.

A full description of the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity process can be found in our [Lead Entity Manual](#).

Please see question 5B and attached ranking forms for project specific details.

### Klickitat Lead Entity

In the Klickitat Lead Entity's portions of the Lower and Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Regions, the Klickitat Lead Entity process was followed. In the Klickitat Lead Entity, the Klickitat Citizens Review Committee guides decisions for the Klickitat Lead Entity, with support from the Klickitat Technical Committee.

A regional recovery plan has not been developed under Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.090 and 77.85.150 for any portion of the Klickitat Lead Entity's area. Projects were evaluated for fit to the Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy (April 2021), which is the adaptive management strategy developed pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 77.85.060(2)(e). The Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy references currently known stock assessment information and assessment work performed within the region, including the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment ESA Recovery Plan that was developed by NOAA-Fisheries. This recovery plan specifically addressed WRIA 30 in Appendix B: Recovery Plan for the Klickitat River Population of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment, and addresses WRIA 31 in Appendix C: Recovery Plan for the Rock Creek Population of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment. The Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy also cites stock assessment information in the salmon and steelhead recovery plan developed by NOAA-Fisheries for the White Salmon River (WRIA 29b) populations of Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and salmon. These recovery plans include stock assessments by the NOAA-Fisheries' lower and middle Columbia regional technical teams.

The Klickitat Lead Entity's project review process proceeded as follows. Prospective project sponsors initially met with the Klickitat Technical Committee and Klickitat Citizens Review Committee. Project sponsors presented their project idea and preliminary budgets and received technical and community feedback. Project sponsors updated their project proposal based on this local feedback as well as technical feedback from the SRFB Review Panel.

Project sponsors presented revised project proposals to the Klickitat Technical Committee, which evaluated the projects based on technical criteria. A project list with technical ranking

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recommendations was developed and provided to the Klickitat Citizens Review Committee along with a description of the considerations affecting the evaluation of each project.

Project sponsors then presented their projects to the Klickitat Citizens Review Committee for final prioritization. Klickitat Citizens Review Committee members evaluated the projects based on the same technical criteria utilized by the Klickitat Technical Committee plus two community interest criteria. Input received from the Klickitat Technical Committee was considered as part of this ranking process. A draft project ranking list was developed based on the evaluation criteria, and then the ranking list was discussed until the Citizens Review Committee came to a consensus.

The Klickitat Technical and Citizens Review Committees evaluated projects based on the following criteria:

- Habitat features and process
- Areas and actions (as identified in the Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy)
- Scientific
- Life History & Species
- Costs
- Project Scope
- Sequence
- Stewardship
- Landowner willingness
- Implementation readiness
- Community Issues and Support (Citizens Review Committee only)

For both committees, project scores were high and fairly close in scoring, demonstrating that all three 2023 projects were technically sound and had strong community support although the ranking for each committee was significantly different.

With carryover funding from 2022, Mid-, and Lower Columbia, all three presented projects were able to be fully funded.

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### B. Identify the local technical review team (include expertise, names, and affiliations of members).

**Table 6: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board**

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Shannon Adams	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Habitat Coordinator
Sean Gross	NOAA-Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist
Craig Haskell	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fisheries Biologist
Jeff Hosman	Bureau of Reclamation	Fisheries Biologist
Trevor Hutton	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife	Region 3 Fish Program Manager
Anna Lael	Kittitas County Conservation District	District Manager
Jennifer Nelson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Katy Pfannenstien	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish Biologist
Luke Stilwater	Yakima County Public Services	Natural Resource Specialist

**Table 7: Klickitat Lead Entity**

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Brady Allen	Bonneville Power Administration	Fisheries Biologist
Sharon Frazey	WA Department of Natural Resources	Ecologist and Forester
Adrienne Grimm	Yakama Nation Fisheries Program	Hydrologist and Ecologist
Sean Gross	NOAA Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist
Jill Hardiman	USGS-Columbia River Laboratory	Fisheries Biologist
Amber Johnson	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat Biologist
Gardner Johnston	Inter-Fluve	Hydrologist
Margaret Neuman	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon Recovery Project Management
Rashawn Tama	US Forest Service	Hydrologist
Tova Tillinghast	Underwood Conservation District	Natural Resource Restoration and Conservation
Nathan Ulrich	Columbia Land Trust	Conservation Acquisition
Joe Zendt	Yakama Nation Fisheries Program	Fish and Habitat Biologist

All voting members are independent of a regional organization as they work with the lead entity as representatives of their field of expertise.

**C. Explain how and when the SRFB Review Panel participated in the local process, if applicable.****Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board**

SRFB Review Panel members Jeanette Smith and Alex Uber attended in-person and virtual project site tours on May 10, in-person site tours on May 11, and virtual site tours followed by a site visit recap and discussion held May 12. Big Creek Ensign Ranch Flow Enhancement, Little Naches Tributaries Large Wood-Design+Permit, Mid-Satus Creek Watershed Riparian Assessment, and Teanaway River – Trust Water Rights Acquisition were presented virtually with visuals due to the difficulty in picking one site to visit that is representative of restorations projects of this size. Cold Creek Culverts and Gold Creek Restoration Phase I were presented virtually due to their remote location and difficulty in safely accessing them. Lead Entity staff provided a tour packet including project details, photos, cost estimates, and maps. Review panel members asked questions, provided feedback, and addressed their concerns with staff and applicants during the site tours.

Lead Entity staff summarized the on-site discussion and potential concerns expressed during the site tours and site visit recap meeting and requested edits and additions from the local committee and review panel members. These were sent to project sponsors soon after the site visits. The Board received review panel comments in late May. These comments were shared with applicants, the Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee members, and applicants were asked to respond to questions and address these issues to strengthen their proposals as they entered them into PRISM.

On June 6, project sponsors whose projects were listed as “Conditioned” or “Needs More Information” following site tours, had the opportunity to clarify feedback from the state review panel. Both representatives of the state review panel, RCO staff, Lead Entity staff, and project sponsors were present. Lead Entity staff worked with sponsors prior to the call to develop their clarifying questions. The Board is pleased with how well review panel involvement enhances their review process.

**Klickitat Lead Entity**

SRFB Review Panel Members Michelle Cramer and Jennifer O'Neal, and RCO Salmon Grants Manager Kay Caromile attended the Klickitat Lead Entity physical/virtual project site tour on May 10, 2023. The Howard Lake Road Restoration Project was presented virtually due to remote site location and difficult site access. Review Panel members were provided with project materials two weeks in advance of the site tour. During the tour of the Upper Rattlesnake Creek Habitat Enhancement Project and the Lower White Salmon Conservation Acquisition Project, the

Review Panel asked questions, provided feedback, and addressed their concerns with lead entity staff and applicants.

The Lead Entity summarized key Review Panel comments and takeaways from the site tour and provided this feedback to the project sponsors immediately. The Upper Rattlesnake Creek project sponsor also received questions requesting more information from the Review Panel on May 25.

Project sponsors reviewed and incorporated SRFB Review Panel feedback into their final applications. Project sponsors were required to submit written responses to SRFB Review Panel questions and concerns. SRFB Review Panel comments and project sponsor responses were made available to the Klickitat Lead Entity Technical Committee and Citizens Review Committee for their consideration in advance of project ranking. Review comments were also discussed at the committee ranking meetings.

## 5. Local evaluation process and project lists.

### **A. Explain how multi-year implementation plans or Salmon Recovery Portal helped to develop project lists**

#### Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

The *Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan* outlines a list of recommended recovery actions that will contribute to restoring steelhead to viable levels in the Yakima basin; the *Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan* identified specific priority actions that will contribute to recovering bull trout populations in the Yakima Basin. Project applicants were asked to identify the actions that pertained to their projects in their applications.

The YBFWRB Focus Project List was added to our Lead Entity process in 2013. In response to committee members request to improve the fit between SRFB proposals and the biological priorities that Technical Advisory Group participants feel need to be addressed, a Technical Advisory Group working group convened to develop a process to identify and describe focus actions. The result of this process was the YBFWRB [Focus Project List](#). It helps identify the most timely/urgent of the high priority Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects and apply those funding resources to projects that represent the most immediate needs of priority species. The list was last reviewed and updated in late 2022.

The list is used to:



- Give the Technical Advisory Group a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority actions.
- Provide guidance to sponsors deciding what types of projects to pursue and propose.
- Strengthen the link between the SRFB project review criteria and recovery plan priorities.

### Klickitat Lead Entity

The *Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy* is the basis for project prioritization and work schedule development. This strategy has a priority matrix that identifies priority sub-basins and reaches for salmon recovery work with associated salmonid species, life history significance, limiting habitat features, action priority ranking, specific habitat actions and rationale, habitat forming processes, and possible community interests and concerns. This strategy and matrix are updated annually, or as needed if not annually, to reflect project completion and new information and data. All projects submitted for the 2023 SRFB grant round address priority reaches and habitat issues identified in the *Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy*. Project evaluation criteria for each grant round include a specific question about whether or not the proposal addresses a high priority geographic area and action for salmon recovery; projects that do receive a higher score.

**B. Explain how finalized project lists address the comments of technical, citizen, and policy reviews. Were there any issues about projects on the list and how were those resolved?**

### Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

We provided each sponsor with a summary of comments and suggestions after site visits. In order to provide clear feedback to project sponsors, the Technical Advisory Group iteratively edited feedback after the site visits to identify disagreements and red flag issues. This allowed consensus to develop and the Technical Advisory Group was able to provide sponsors with written feedback. Each Project Sponsor is then provided a Comment Matrix form which includes one section with comments from the local TAG and CC members captured during site visits and sponsor presentation, and a second section that lists comments and questions from the state review panel members. Sponsors are asked to respond to concerns on the Comment Matrix and upload the document in PRISM with "Comment Matrix" as part of the tile. The goal of using the matrix is to let reviewers know how the Sponsor addressed the issue and direct them to where they can find the details. Sponsors are also reminded that completing this Matrix does not

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replace the need to respond to Review Panel comments in their application. As we moved through each evaluation feedback loop, sponsors considered the feedback received and modified their proposals as appropriate. All issues identified were to be addressed four weeks before the Technical Advisory Group review.

Upon completion of the Technical Advisory Group’s review and scoring, the lead entity’s Citizen Committee reviews and ranks the projects. Citizen Committee members may include individual citizens, local, state, federal, and tribal government representatives; community groups; environmental and fisheries groups; conservation districts; and industry. The Citizen Committee is critical to ensure that biological priorities and projects identified by the Technical Advisory Group have the necessary community support for success. Citizen Committee members are often the best judges of the community’s social, cultural, and economic values as they apply to salmon recovery, and they can assess how to increase community support over time through the implementation of habitat projects. The Citizen Committee reviews the Technical Advisory Group’s proposed project ranking and adjusts it based on the results of their evaluation of community values. Community values considered include: cultural, social, educational, and economic considerations, sequencing in relation to other projects, partnerships, community support, and efficient and effective resource use. The Citizen Committee develops the final recommended ranked project list. The committee takes the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group into consideration, but they are not obligated to maintain the same ranking given to projects by the Technical Advisory Group if they feel a project’s ranking needs to be adjusted based the Citizen Committee’s evaluation.

The Citizen Committee elevated the rank of the Cooke Creek RM 4.25 & RM 3.86 Passage & Screening project (23-1188) relative to the TAG’s rank. This is due to its supporting the completion of work on providing fish passage up to the preliminary goal of the City of Kittitas; this is the last of a number of similar projects that have are well-proven and successful. They also expressed a preference for emphasizing funding construction rather than when projects are otherwise equivalent. They moved the [Cold Creek Passage Design \(at Keechelus Lk\)](#) project (23-1200) below the TAG’s rank due its low Citizen Committee matrix score and a preference for funding construction rather than design work when projects are otherwise similar. As a result, the Upper Toppenish Wood Supplementation Design II (23-1209) project was ranked higher by the Citizen Committee than by the TAG. The Citizen Committee confirmed the TAG’s recommendation to defer the Big Creek Ensign Ranch Flow Enhancement project (23-1196).

On August 9, the Board met and reviewed the ranked lead entity list submitted by the Citizen Committee and approved the list unanimously.

## Klickitat Lead Entity

Sponsors are provided with comments from local review committees, the SRFB review panel, and the RCO grant manager at multiple stages in the application process. This feedback is used to strengthen proposals. Sponsors first receive written and verbal feedback from the Klickitat Technical and Citizens Review Committees prior to submitting their draft application in PRISM. This initial feedback is used as a first filter to make sure that projects align with Klickitat Lead Entity priorities and to identify local technical considerations and community perspectives that could strengthen the proposal. After submitting their draft applications, sponsors then receive another round of feedback from the SRFB Review Panel, the RCO grant manager, and local committees. Comments received on the draft application are used to refine the final project proposal, ensuring that the project meets both state and local technical criteria and reflects community considerations that will help build overall support for salmon recovery.

In 2023 there were no local issues with our project list – however, both committees had different rank orders for projects.

The Klickitat Lead Entity receives SRFB funding out of both the Lower Columbia Region allocation and the Middle Columbia Region allocation, 15.57% this year and 2.36% respectively with a carryover from 2022 of \$382,613. Typically, Middle Columbia Region allocation dollars are used to fund projects in WRIA 30 (Klickitat Basin) and 31 (Rock Creek Basin). Occasionally, Middle Columbia Region allocation dollars are also used to fund projects in WRIA 29b (White Salmon Basin), when the project has a clear benefit to Middle Columbia steelhead. WRIA 29b is a transitional basin that has both Lower and Middle Columbia stocks. In 2023, there were two projects in the White Salmon Basin that requested use of Middle Columbia Region funds – a restoration project and an acquisition project.

## Project List Summary Table

Following is a project list summary table for the region. For the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region, there are five projects totaling \$2,106,471 submitted by the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board. The Middle Columbia Region also has five alternate projects totaling \$1,550,003. The remaining \$50,929 of the Mid-Columbia allocation will be used by the Klickitat Lead Entity along with \$382,613 carryover from 2023.

**Table 8: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Proposed Projects**

Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
1	23-1197	Teanaway River – Trust Water Rights Acq.*	Washington Water Trust	spring Chinook salmon; steelhead, bull trout; lamprey; rainbow & cutthroat trout	TAG Focus Action #17: Teanaway, Swauk & Tributaries Instream Flow.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.  Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds.
2	23-1053	Yakima River Corridor Plan Ph IIB: Design+Riparian*	Kittitas County Public Works	Chinook, coho, & sockeye salmon; steelhead, bull trout; lamprey; rainbow & cutthroat trout	TAG Focus Action #21: Upper Yakima Floodplain & Side Channel Protection.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Upper Yakima Action #12: Reduce confinement of Upper Yakima River. Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect & restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches. Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods.  Bull Trout Action Plan: Upper Yakima Action #2: Habitat restoration and protection.
3	23-1220	Gold Creek Restoration RM 2 – 3*	Kittitas Conservation Trust	bull trout; cutthroat and rainbow trout; kokanee	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.  Bull Trout Action Plan:

\* Designed as eligible for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding.

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Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
					Gold Action #2: Instream and floodplain habitat restoration. Gold Action #3: Restore groundwater hydrology. Gold Action #5: Monitor and improve passage conditions in Gold Creek.
4	23-1168	Amon Creek, Thermal Refuge Habitat Enhancement*	Benton County Conservation District	Chinook salmon; steelhead; lamprey	TAG Focus Action #2: Lower Yakima River Projects.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Lower Mainstem Action #7: Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.
5	23-1209	Upper Toppenish Wood Supplementation Design II	Yakama Nation	steelhead; lamprey	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Basinwide Action #11: Restore beaver populations. Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods. Basinwide Action #13: Address forest health issues. Toppenish Action #1: Rehabilitate alluvial fan and downstream floodplain of Toppenish Creek.
6 ALT	23-1188	Cooke Creek RM 4.25 & RM 3.86 Passage & Screening	Kittitas County Conservation District	spring Chinook & coho salmon; steelhead; lamprey; rainbow trout	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Upper Yakima Action #11: Restore passage, separate irrigation conveyance, and screen diversions in Ellensburg-area tributaries. Upper Yakima Action #15: Restore tributary riparian areas.

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Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
					Upper Yakima Action #19: Coordinate water quality improvements in Reecer, Wilson, Naneum, Cherry, Coleman, and Dry creeks.
7 ALT	23-1200	Cold Creek Passage Design (at Keechelus Lk)	Trout Unlimited	spring, summer, and fall Chinook; steelhead (once passage is restored at Keechelus Dam), bull trout; cutthroat trout	TAG Focus Action #25: Cold Creek Fish Passage Assessment.  Bull Trout Action Plan: Gold Action #8: Implement passage & habitat projects in Keechelus Lake tribs.
8 ALT	23-1190	Little Naches Tributaries Large Wood-Design+Permit	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	spring Chinook salmon; steelhead, bull trout; cutthroat and rainbow trout	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Naches Action #11: Restore side channels and floodplain of Little Naches River.
9 ALT	23-1150	Tieton River Restoration Site #4	Yakama Nation	steelhead; bull trout	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.  No Recovery Plan Alignment.
10 ALT	23-1210	Mid-Satus Creek Watershed Riparian Assessment	Yakama Nation	steelhead; lamprey	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods.
11 Defer	23-1197	Big Creek Ensign Ranch Flow Enhancement	Washington Water Trust	spring Chinook salmon; steelhead, bull trout; rainbow trout	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.  Steelhead Recovery Plan: Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.
<b>Klickitat Lead Entity Projects in the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region</b>					
1	23-1195	Howard Lake Road/Upper Klickitat	Yakama Nation Fisheries	steelhead	Priority A reach and Priority A action in the Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy

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<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Primary Fish Stock Benefited</b>	<b>Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy</b>
		Floodplain Restoration			