

Quarterly Funded Projects Report

September 2025



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

#	Project	Sponsor	Updates
24-1816 P	Rattlesnake Creek Streamflow Improvements Design	Trout Unlimited	Project is contracted with RCO. As of last progress report (May 2025), Trout Unlimited has begun coordination with landowners/water rights holders, released an RFP, and begun completing other preliminary steps before data collection.
24-1810 P	Yakima River RM 156 Riparian Buffer Design	Mid-Columbia Fisheries	Project is contracted with RCO.
24-1744 R	Lower Cowiche RM 1 - Stewardship 2025-2027	Mid-Columbia Fisheries	Project is contracted with RCO. MCF has uploaded cultural resources documentation, confirmed permit acquisition, and finalized the riparian enhancement plan.
24-1719 R	Pond 5 Reach Active Channel Planting	Yakama Nation	Project is contracted with RCO.
24-1718 P	Middle Fork Teanaway RM 3.2 – 5.4 Design	Mid-Columbia Fisheries	<p>MCF selected RivHab and Revive as consultants. The professional engineers at RivHab will work with the Stage 0 experts at Revive and the Forest Service Stage 0 Enterprise Team to complete the preliminary engineering and flood modeling for the project reach.</p> <p>Upon feedback from DNR, the design team has removed road relocation elements from the design. DNR anticipates changes to the road past Indian Camp in the next five years.</p> <p>There is significant uncertainty with the federal workforce, and there is a chance that the FS staff support for this project will be removed. If this occurs, MCF will seek a cost change to expand the scope of work for the consulting engineer.</p>
24-1717 R	West Fork Teanaway RM 6.85 - 8 Implementation	Mid-Columbia Fisheries	As this project was going through the SRFB grant round, alternative preliminary designs were still being completed. After visiting the site in fall 2024, some of the members of the project steering committee encouraged the project's WDFW engineers to explore a "Stage 0", aka "Valley Reset", design approach. In early 2025, the engineers presented a Stage 0 design. The committee is moving forward with that design and seeking a scope change for it. 80% designs have been completed and will be presented to the Recovery Board TAG/CC and State Review Panel in September 2025.
24-1715 R	Gold Creek Restoration RM 0.5-2	Kittitas Conservation Trust	<p>This project received partial funding of its Targeted Investments request, but with other funding sources is able to complete all the deliverables in RM 0.5-2 as scoped.</p> <p>As of last progress report (April 2025), KCT has been communicating with landowners to secure agreements, working with permittees, developing an RFB, locating construction materials, and coordinating with partners on fish exclusion.</p>
24-1714 A	Frog's Home Acquisition SRFB	Yakama Nation	Forterra paid the loans in full and transferred the property to the Yakama Nation in June 2025. YN will begin preparing the stewardship plan and conducting weed management activities. They will coordinate trail design with habitat restoration. There was \$225k that could not be spent on the acquisition (the amount above market value for the property), so YN is determining how to use the remaining \$225k.
			After the SRFB grant application was submitted and before the funding was awarded, there was a significant fire that moved through the restoration area. The SRFB was informed of the fire at the September 2025 funding meeting and understood there may be need for more extensive riparian restoration in conjunction with this floodplain reconnection earth work.

24-1713 R	Toppenish Creek RM 40 at Pom Pom Road (Ph II)	Yakama Nation	Yakama Nation has requested the scope of work be amended to include riparian restoration. The following will be added to the project description: "After the earthwork is complete, the riparian and floodplain will be planted with native trees, shrubs, and bunch grasses. Revegetation floodplain roughness treatments are proposed to replace the roughness features burned in the fire reducing significant erosion in the short term, and allowing riparian plantings to become established. These treatments include the placement of straw bales in off-set rows, and live cuttings (Willow/Cottonwood) placed between rows of straw bales." 2.3 miles of streambank and 66.7 acres planted. Restoration construction is contingent on the completion of the bridge construction (expected completion June 2026). Restoration construction is anticipated to be initiated June 2026.
24-1247 P	Cold Creek Passage (at Keechelus Lk) Design	Trout Unlimited	Trout Unlimited is working on permitting with state parks. As of last progress report (May 2025), planned work included the award for engineering designs, site visits for data gathering and the determination of cultural resource needs.
23-1824 R	Whiskey Creek Barriers RM 1.5- 1.7, Ellensburg	Mid- Columbia Fisheries	The SRFB-funded design work for this project is complete. The project has been closed complete and remaining funding merged with the newer FBRB grant that will fund completion of designs and construction.
23-1220 R	Gold Creek Restoration RM 2 - 3	Kittitas Conservation Trust	KCT applied for BOR's Water Smart Grant and received \$2.3M in 2023. Final designs were completed in early 2025. Also in early 2025, the BOR grant was federally frozen, and KCT applied for a cost increase in the 2025 SRFB grant round with plans to break the project into phases if the BOR grant isn't unfrozen. If unfrozen, construction remains planned for 2026. KCT is meeting regularly with landowners to secure landowner agreements, investigating wood sources for the project at the nearby Swamp Lake property, and working to develop the RFB.
23-1210 P	Mid-Satus Creek Watershed Riparian Assessment	Yakama Nation	Bids were solicited for consultants and Cramer Fish Sciences was selected. The Satus Riparian Contract has been legally reviewed by YN legal team and is being processed for Executive Signature. The sponsor anticipates having leftover funding and plans to use it on a riparian enhancement plan. They anticipate requesting a scope change accordingly in spring 2026.
23-1209 P	Upper Toppenish Wood Supplementation Design II	Yakama Nation	Natural Systems Designs was selected as the design contractor to complete an assessment, design wood structures, and determine placement. Field surveys were completed and alternatives analysis completed. As of June 2025, project was on track to complete final designs before the end of 2025 as scheduled.
23-1197 R	Teanaway River – Trust Water Rights Acq	Washington Water Trust	The original goal of project 23-1197 was to identify and bunch smaller water rights into an acquisition program that could collectively impact flow in the Teanaway River. As of May 2025, recent interactions with Teanaway water rights owners revealed some interest in the sale of water, but either at much higher prices or with a different landowner than what was provided in the original grant application. WWT is in touch with two priority project landowners and is seeking interest in permanent transactions at the price points provided in the valuation report. WWT also anticipates a scope change to add water rights transactions at another property, the Walker Ranch (Suncadia), to the project agreement.
23-1168 R	Amon Creek, Thermal Refuge Habitat Enhancement	Benton Conservation District	Final designs were completed in August 2024. Permits are in progress—USACE federal permits are completed and Benton CD and stakeholders are working with DNR on the right of entry as the final permit necessary for the project. BCD is working on completing their RFP and finalizing their contracting agreement with YN.

22-1961 + 23- 1053	Yakima River Corridor Plan Implementation Phase II	Kittitas County Public Works	<p>The partners completed the purchase of the Yakima River RV Park in fall 2023 and began demolition at worksite 1. Technical advisory group and landowner meetings were held to review conceptual design revisions for the floodplain reconnection project, and Interfluve was hired as design contractor and has begun developing designs for worksite 2. Partner Mid-Columbia Fisheries (MCF) is conducting riparian restoration and weed treatment at worksite 3, and cottonwood pilot project planning at worksite 4, with the pilot project beginning this year.</p> <p>Match funding provided in part by BLM funds routed through the Recovery Board.</p>
22-1631 P	Whiskey Creek Barriers Design	Mid- Columbia Fisheries	<p>This project was completed in June 2025. MCF, with WDFW, completed preliminary (60%) designs to improve fish passage at all three barriers that met both ecological and adjacent landowner objectives. This project was used as match for the FBRB project 21-1530 to complete final designs, permitting, and construction. The unspent SRFB funds were transferred to that project as well. Looking forward, there are still full passage barriers upstream of the project site; Kittitas County Public Works is aiming to address one in 2025 26.</p>
22-1579 R	Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Construction	Yakima County	<p>Phase 1 construction (reestablishing side channels on the Sportsman's State Park Island, placing spoils in Newland Pits) was mostly completed in 2024. The Sportsman Park channels were opened in mid-Dec and flowing water was present within a week. Phase 2 (construction of the new Blue Slough headgate) began in April 2025. Phase 3 (regrading Newland Pits as floodplain) is in the works.</p>
22-1576 PR	Whatum Cr Bridge (Des/Bld) + Simcoe & Agency Cree	Yakama Nation	<p>The Wahtum Creek culvert construction was completed in 2023, and came in ~\$73k under budget. The sponsor received a scope change and time extension to use the remaining \$73k to complete preliminary designs for two similar fish passage projects on nearby Agency Creek and Simcoe Creek. The sponsor conducted surveys with Fisheries Engineers staff at both worksites to inform the crossing designs. Fisheries Engineers produced and submitted preliminary bridge design plan sets. NEXT STEPS: Yakama Nation will work with the design consultant to complete the final design report. The project is on track to close out by the end of the year as scheduled.</p>
22-1571 R	River Mile 89.5 Project – Phase 2	Yakama Nation	<p>Final designs were submitted in fall 2024. The sponsor has selected a contractor and is going to construction in the next couple weeks (~ Sept 2025).</p>
22-1523 P	Hanson Ponds 30% Design	Kittitas Conservation Trust	<p>This project is complete. KCT met with many stakeholders and worked closely with the City of Cle Elum. The City was initially interested in relocating the sewer outfall, and KCT developed complete 30% designs with that in mind, but ultimately, the City decided the liability of moving the outfall was too risky. KCT returned to the design option they originally expected to pursue (full levee setback but maintaining the outfall in place). KCT plans to use outside funding to complete 30% designs for this option.</p>
22-1246 A	Thorp Reach Acquisition	Kittitas Conservation Trust	<p>KCT collaborated with its legal counsel and landowners to finalize the acquisition in early 2025. KCT and its partners are also assessing the property's restoration potential--they completed environmental and cultural assessments and met with adjacent landowners to discuss conservation plans. They found cost savings of over \$200k and planned to use the remaining funds to demolish derelict buildings, remove debris, install a new gate, complete weed treatment, and assist with relocation fees for the ag lease.</p> <p>KCT is requesting a time extension. The former tenant, who grew alfalfa in the pivot field, decided to stop his operations, as the market rate to lease the property for production was much higher than what he was paying his family before KCT acquired the property. This was unexpected and presents a weed management issue in the unfarmed field. KCT would like to use some of the remaining funding to initiate noxious weed management with chemical and mechanical control, along with bunch grass seeding to prevent new weeds from taking hold, and needs a time extension to do this in Spring 2026.</p>

21-1530 R	Whiskey Creek Barriers, Ellensburg	Mid-Columbia Fisheries	This FBRB project applied for a cost increase in Jan 2025 due to 1) inflation and supply chain challenges, 2) increased project management needs, and 3) emergent project complexities including maintaining gradient continuity for long-term stream stability, supporting landowners with differing objectives without compromising ecological goals, and designing a bypass for an existing weir. The cost increase request was granted in May 2025.
21-1195 P	Toppenish Passage and Screening Assessment	Yakama Nation	The project is complete. The Yakama Nation documented and assessed juvenile and adult fish passage barriers in 76 miles of lower Toppenish Creek and Simcoe Creek and tributaries (including lower Agency Creek). The Toppenish Passage and Screening Assessment included diversion dams, unscreened diversions including pumps, stream reaches that are used by migrating fish but offer poor habitat and survival, wetland reaches with poor hydraulic conditions for fish passage, and other types of barriers. The goal was to compile a comprehensive database of all passage barriers in the project stream reaches. The initial task was to review, organize, and map existing data, followed by a remote sensing based desktop scoping exercise. Ground crews then visited and assessed identified sites, collecting necessary field data and photographs. Data was entered into a database format similar to that of WDFW; however, data remains proprietary to the Yakama Nation except for specific approved purposes (see RCO policy waiver letter attached in PRISM). The database was used to create a prioritized action plan leading to removal or mitigation actions for barriers. To aid in this action plan a prioritization model currently being used by the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board was utilized to analyze identified sites in the context of distance to the next barrier, amount of upstream habitat, and habitat quality of upstream reaches. Project staff developed a final report describing the projects findings and identifying priority actions. The report and database is used by Yakama Nation staff to develop barrier removal projects and secure funding for implementation. Currently nine barrier removal projects are being designed, with one going to construction later this year. Yakama Nation staff will continue to utilize the information uncovered through this project for the next 10-15 years to further enhance fish access along Toppenish Creek.
21-1077 R	Kachess River Restoration - Phases I + 2	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Phase 1, which included all of the habitat work, was completed in 2023; the contractor installed 21 large wood structures, excavated 900 ft of new side channel to provide fish refuge during high-flow events, installed floodplain structures to connect Magic and Gold creeks, de-compacted the road, rehabilitated the forest, and completed revegetation. As part of Phase 2 (moving Mineral Creek Trailhead out of the floodplain), KCT identified that fully decommissioning a forest service road was achievable and preferred, which required a new environmental assessment. KCT received final designs from Interfluve in early Sept 2025 and is going out to bid asap with the hope of having a contractor on board by the second half of September, and construction to start the beginning of October. Their engineers estimate that construction will take anywhere from 2-4 weeks, so construction should be complete by the end of October or the first part of November.
20-1693 P	EWC at Naneum Creek Fish Passage	Kittitas County Conservation District	FBRB Project. As of last progress report (Feb 2025), sponsor planned to submit a scope change request to convert the project from construction to design only. Construction will not be possible this year (cost estimates came in at double the current amount of secured construction funding), but designs can be completed and additional construction funding sought through SRFB and FBRB solicitations.
20-1398 PR	Tjossem Ditch Headworks Removal and Restoration	Trout Unlimited	BOR layoffs created delays, but the sponsor is now in touch with a BOR employee who is taking over the Schaake property to assist in the completion of the project. The designs are with BOR for review and Trout Unlimited is just waiting on the comments. However, another time extension request is looking likely due to missing the construction window for 2025. The sponsor is in touch with the RCO grants manager to pursue this extension.