



Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Success Stories from the 2020 Grant Projects



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Congress amended the Clean Water Act in 2016, which required EPA to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program. EPA was directed to develop a voluntary, competitive grant program for eligible entities to fund environmental protection and restoration programs throughout the Basin. Eligible entities include state, Tribal, and local governments; regional water pollution control organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and soil and water conservation districts. Funded work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin; and may include programs, projects, and studies. EPA funded 14 projects in the 2020, inaugural round of grants that address the following four priorities:

1. Increase monitoring and access data from monitoring.
2. Reduce stormwater and agricultural runoff.
3. Reduce toxics through small scale cleanup of non-CERCLA (also known as Superfund) contaminated sites.
4. Promote citizen engagement, education, and involvement to increase pollution prevention actions.

In September of 2020, EPA was able to provide the full amount requested by successful grantees for a total of \$2,053,903 in FY19 and FY20 grant funding. These are their stories of progress made to date.

ACCELERATING WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PRACTICES ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE INTERIOR COLUMBIA BASIN (ID, OR, WA)

EPA awarded \$190,000 to **Salmon-Safe**, an Oregon-based non-profit that works with the agricultural community, developers, and other landowners to reduce pollution from runoff, restore habitat, and protect salmon along the west coast. This project is aimed at reducing toxics in the Columbia River Basin by inspiring the transition of 30,000 acres of large-scale and diversified farms across the interior Basin to practices that protect water quality and wildlife habitat.



Salmon-Safe certifies farms that agree to follow agricultural practices that protect land and water quality. In this project, Salmon-Safe plans to partner with 60 new agricultural producers from multiple crop sectors in the interior Columbia River Basin. Salmon-Safe is focusing its efforts to engage with farmers in Oregon, north, central, and eastern Washington, and eastern Idaho to reduce pesticide use, prevent erosion, improve irrigation efficiency, protect habitat, and enhance biodiversity.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

To date, Salmon-Safe has:

- Formalized the certification commitment regarding pesticide reduction with an initial group of 19 new farms and vineyards in the project target area, with notable sites including the 7,700-acre Clearwater Farms on Idaho's Clearwater River.

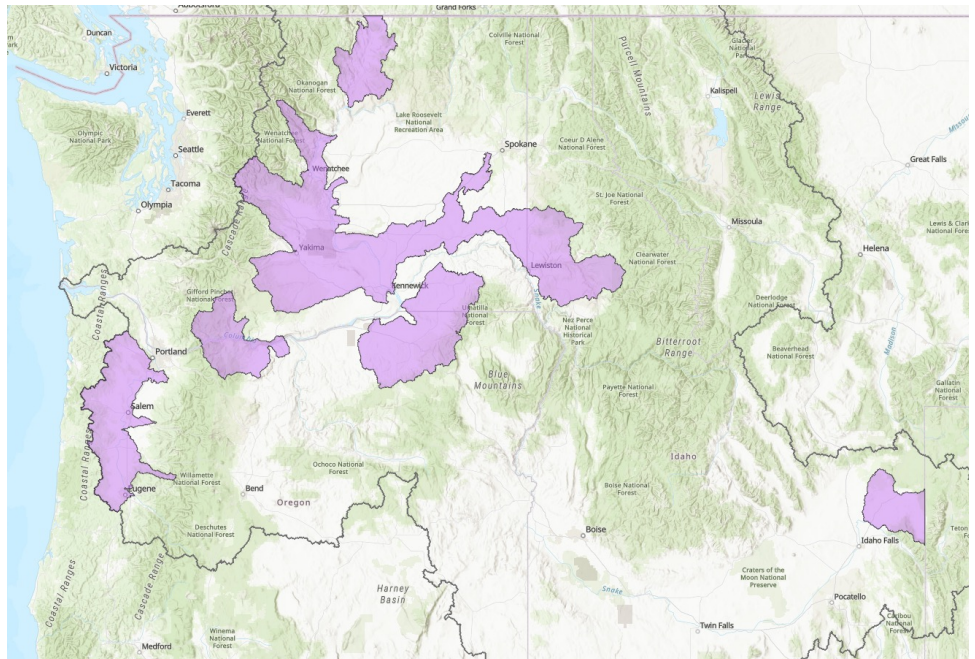


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“Key goal for project launch has been to extend Salmon-Safe from the mid-Columbia to the inland Northwest including the Palouse and northern Idaho and the upper Snake River and that goal has been reached with new partners fully on board, multiple Palouse and Idaho farms and vineyards assessed, and further grower outreach efforts underway.”

*– Kevin Scribner,
Salmon-Safe*



Salmon-Safe Project Area

- Formalized 3 partnerships with Idaho partners (**Henry’s Fork Foundation, Friends of the Teton River, Okanogan Conservation District**). Ongoing partnership outreach is underway to the Palouse Conservation District, Underwood Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, and VINEA sustainable trust of Walla Walla wine grape growers.
- Worked with pea and wheat growers in the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington to adopt Integrated Pest Management practices and other pesticide reduction measures.



WHAT’S NEXT? WHERE DO THEY GO FROM HERE?

- Gain additional Salmon-Safe commitment from area farms (the project goal is to reach a total of 60 new farms).
- Continue efforts to conduct comprehensive pesticide reduction site visits (the project goal is to visit more than 70 sites).
- Conduct 3 more workshops/field tours to provide technical assistance to landowners.

To learn more, visit Salmon-Safe’s website: <https://salmonsafe.org/>