



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



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

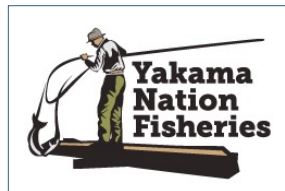
Congress amended the Clean Water Act in 2016, which required EPA to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program. EPA was directed to develop a voluntary, competitive grant program for eligible entities to fund environmental protection and restoration programs throughout the Basin. Eligible entities 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.

COLUMBIA RIVER MAINSTEM FISH TISSUE AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING FRAMEWORK (OR, WA)

EPA awarded \$188,378 to the **Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation**, who have partnered with the **U.S. Geological Survey, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission**, and **Washington State Department of Ecology** to develop a fish tissue and water quality monitoring framework aimed at tracking the status and trends of toxics in the Columbia River.



This multi-phase, multi-year project will develop a monitoring framework and community engagement and outreach plan to establish a long-term monitoring program aimed at tracking the status and trends of toxics

in fish, water, sediments, and invertebrates in the Middle and Upper Columbia River mainstem. This project tracks toxics, including mercury, DDT, PCBs, PBDEs, and PAHs, along the approximately 600-mile length of the mainstem Columbia River from the Canadian border to the Bonneville Dam. The outreach effort and monitoring framework is expected to easily generate sampling and monitoring plans in a subsequent phase, and support the formation of a larger, multi-stakeholder Columbia River monitoring program. This project supports both Priority 1—Increase monitoring and access data from monitoring, and 4—Promote citizen engagement, education, and involvement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- The partnership has drafted the vision, mission, goals and objectives of this project and team. Work on developing the Framework for Long-Term Fish and Water Quality Monitoring has begun.
- The project team has presented to and engaged with many stakeholders such as the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), and the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Working Group.

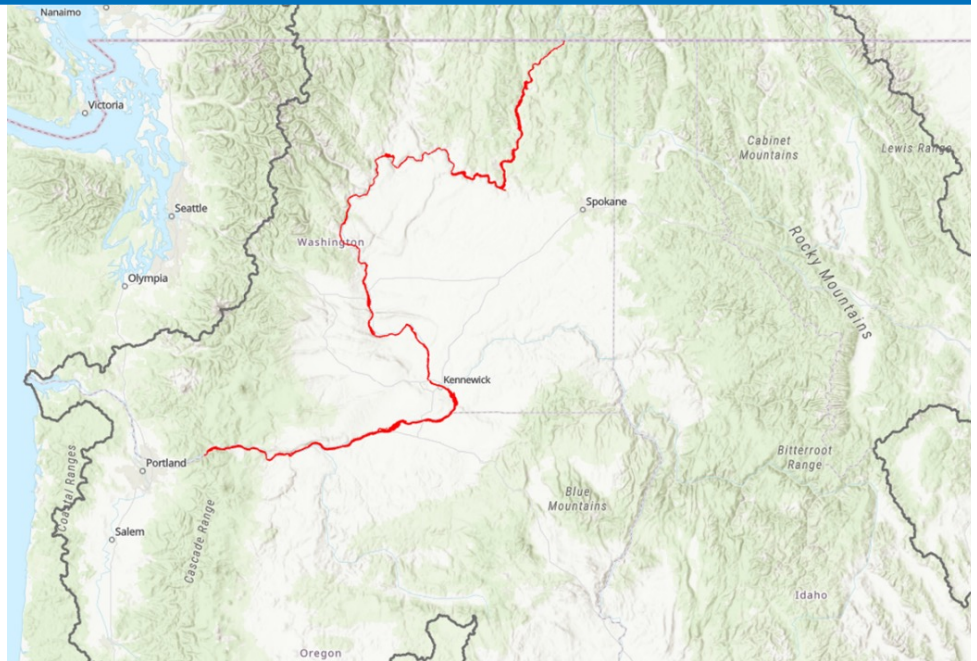


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“We are now underway and quickly becoming an efficient and cohesive team. We have participated in several Columbia River Basin workshops including ATNI [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians], CRITFC Commissioners Meeting, and a Columbia River work group.”

– Laura Shira



Yakama Nation Project Area

- Work has begun on the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan with input from stakeholders.

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

- Existing data, gaps, and needs will be analyzed and reported out in the coming year in preparation for creating a long-term monitoring effort.



- The Framework for Long-Term Fish and Water Quality Monitoring will be finalized in preparation for Phases 2 and 3 of this project. Phase 2 (*Implement Monitoring Framework and Long-term Funding and Administration Planning*) and Phase 3 (*Implement Monitoring Program and Adaptive Management*) are beyond the scope of the current grant project.

To learn more, visit the Yakama Nation Fisheries website: <https://yakamafish-nsn.gov/>. Yakama Nation Fisheries is a program of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.