



WASHINGTON
WATER TRUST

Impact Report

2019



WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WATER?

Water is essential to life – and to the environment and communities we treasure in the Pacific Northwest. Every summer and fall, two-thirds of Washington's rivers and streams lack enough water to meet environmental and human needs.

Extinction looms for salmon and steelhead across the state as critical tributaries lack water for habitat. The decline of Chinook salmon, in turn, imperils the Southern Resident Killer Whales. Plants and wildlife suffer. Recreational use of streams is reduced. Farms cannot thrive.

Some of the causes of low flows are more than a century old such as over-allocation for out-of-stream uses and loss of natural landscape function due to development. More recently, climate change and rapid population growth pose new challenges for our rivers and streams. Simply stated, our water is not being used and managed in a way that balances the needs of humans and the environment. Without increased and accelerated action, the problems will only become worse.

AWAKEN YOUR INNER WATER WONK

With your support, Washington Water Trust is securing abundant and clean freshwater for Washington's people, communities and environment resulting in:

- Healthy aquatic systems that help restore salmon runs and other native fish populations
- Increased water flows in summer leading to better water quality (lower temperature and reduced pollution from runoff)
- Groundwater systems that are replenished and natural storage functions of watersheds restored
- Community water supplies that are more resilient to climate change & increased usage

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

The health of Washington's rivers and streams depends on all of us. THANK YOU to all of our partners, donors and supporters. Together we are protecting and restoring the water to our rivers and streams and ensuring a sustainable freshwater future for our home – Washington state.



WATERSHEDS YOU SUPPORTED IN 2019



- 1. Dungeness
- 2. Chehalis
- 3. Nooksack
- 4. Skagit
- 5. Snohomish
- 6. Sammamish
- 7. White Salmon
- 8. Klickitat
- 9. Methow
- 10. Okanogan
- 11. Wenatchee
- 12. Yakima
- 13. Walla Walla
- 14. Orcas Island


**IN 2019, YOU HELPED PROTECT MORE
THAN 12,500 ACRE FEET OF WATER
INSTREAM IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN**

How much water is that?

**MORE THAN 60% OF THE WATER IN
SEATTLE'S LAKE UNION**

or

**LIKE LEAVING A GARDEN HOSE RUNNING
FOR NEARLY 400 YEARS!**



HIGHLIGHT: DUNGENESS RIVER

YOU HELPED THE DUNGENESS RIVER WITHSTAND
THE PRESSURES OF DEVELOPMENT
AND DROUGHT

The Dungeness River, located in the rainshadow of the Olympic Mountains, is home to four Endangered Species Act-listed fish species and is the lifeblood for the growing City of Sequim and Clallam County. In 2019, your support and partnership helped:

- Ensure that domestic water for 62 new homes had no net impact on stream flows in the Dungeness River
- Keep water typically used by farmers to irrigate 1,350 acres in the Dungeness River instead to support fish during drought

HIGHLIGHT: SALMON CREEK

YOU HELPED SALMON CREEK STAY FLOWING
YEAR-ROUND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Thanks to your support in 2019, Salmon Creek – a primary tributary to the Okanogan River which flows into the Columbia River – stayed flowing year-round providing vital habitat for steelhead in a year when it was needed more than ever. For more than 100 years, Salmon Creek ran dry in the late summer and fall due to water diversions for irrigation. In 2019 however, WWT worked with the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Okanogan Irrigation District to ensure that extra water be released into the creek from upstream reservoirs to support fish throughout the entire year.



LOOKING FORWARD: PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

USING WATER STORAGE TO RESTORE UP TO 50% OF DUNGENESS STREAM FLOWS



A permanent solution to restore up to 50% of Dungeness stream flows, the Dungeness Flow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir will store water diverted from the river in the winter and spring when it is abundant and store it to be used for summer irrigation allowing water traditionally taken directly from the river to remain instream when fish need it most.

RESTORING WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO THE TOUCHET RIVER



In partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, WA Dept. of Ecology and the City of Dayton, we are exploring the potential of an innovative solution – Constructed Treatment Wetlands – to treat wastewater before it enters the Touchet River where it is vital to providing enough stream flow for salmon and steelhead.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Individuals

Shannon Armstrong
Dara Ayres
Maya Barlev
Oliver Bazinet
Brad Benke
F. Lorraine Bodi
Jacquelyn Brolsma
Jane Brolsma
Jeanette Burkhardt
Colin Butler
Bruce Cady
Emily Cady
Doug Collins
Lora Cox
Clyde Cramer Jr.
Rosalinda Cummings
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Lindsay and Chad Evans
Laura Farnitano
Christopher Forgy
Lara Fowler

Elena Good
Adam Gravely
Tom Green
Marie Harris
Annette Holland
Stan Isley
Willy and Marlene
Jenkins
Jordan Jobe
Janne Kaje
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