

WASHINGTON WATER TRUST

2020
ANNUAL
REPORT

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of Washington Water Trust,

As I look back at 2020 and look forward to 2021 and beyond, the words “resilience” and “impact” come to mind. I’m pleased to report that, thanks to your help, Washington Water Trust proved to be resilient over the course of a difficult year.

Your support helped us to weather the economic downturn caused by the pandemic and to integrate new staff, but most importantly helped 41 rivers and streams across Washington to flow more abundantly with cool clean water for our salmon, steelhead, and trout.

Making a positive impact on our rivers and streams is more important than ever. Between historic overuse of water and the alarming trends in our climate, action now is vital. We need to fix the errors of the past while creating resiliency for the future. With your help we can restore the fish populations that we cherish while providing the water we need to grow our food and support our diverse communities around the state.

Despite the challenges, I remain hopeful. Together, we can increase our impact, build resilience and make a difference for our fish, farms and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "James Kraft".

James Kraft
WWT Executive Director

WASHINGTON'S RIVERS & STREAMS NEED HELP

Like much of the western US, 150+ years of excessive out-of-stream water use, landscape degradation, and climate change has left many of Washington's rivers and streams suffering from low flows, particularly during late summer. Some streams have even run completely dry. Salmon and steelhead populations are suffering as critical tributaries lack sufficient cool water for quality habitat.

Without increased and accelerated action to restore our freshwater, the consequences may become irreversible.



Salmon Creek in the Okanogan
Photo credit: Jeff Gersh

WHAT WE'RE DOING



Water Rights Transactions

fair and voluntary transactions to protect water instream when and where needed most for fish and the environment.



Planning for Future Water Use

to meet the long-term water needs of growing communities while ensuring enough water stays instream for fish.



Reconnecting Water in the Landscape

by restoring the natural hydrological connections between our rivers, groundwater, forests, wetlands and floodplains.

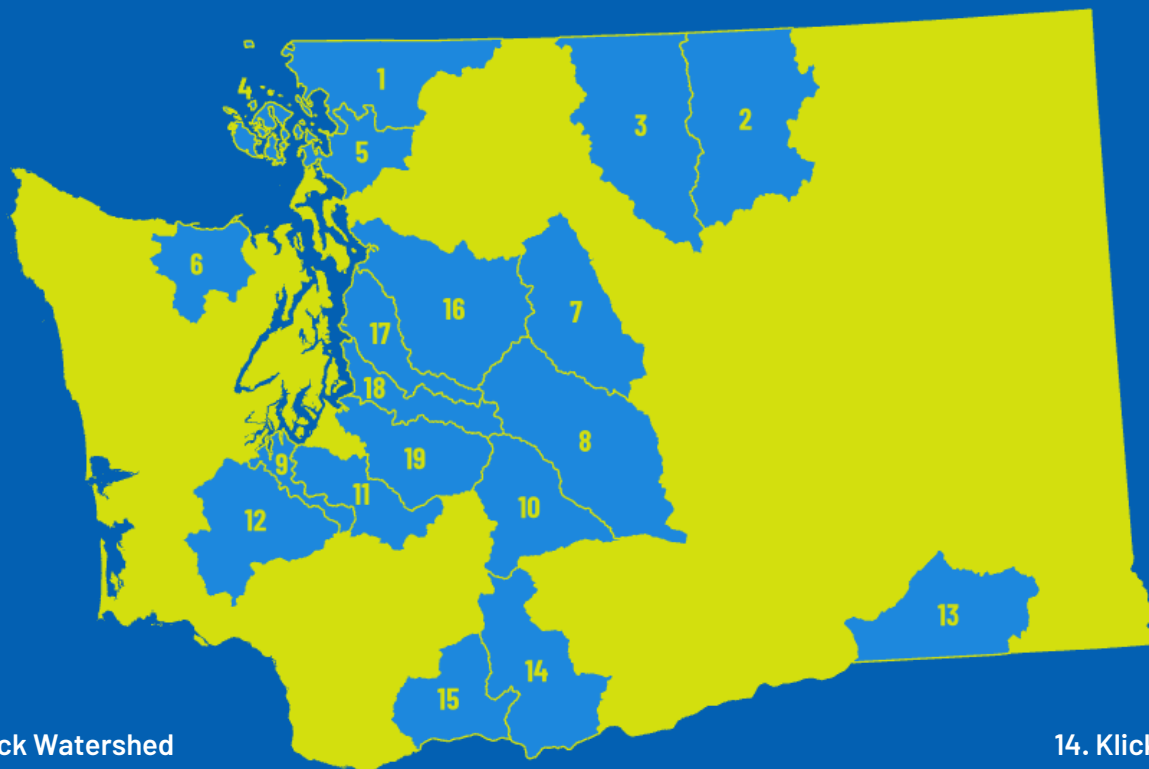


Developing Alternative Water Sources

to reduce impacts on our rivers and streams, particularly during late summer.

THE WATERSHEDS YOU HELPED IN 2020

In 2020, you helped us work in 19 watersheds across Washington, and increase flows and improve habitat in 41 rivers & streams



1. Nooksack Watershed

South Fork Nooksack River

2. Okanogan Watershed

Loup Loup Creek
Okanogan River

3. Methow Watershed

Beaver Creek
Frazer Creek
Libby Creek
Methow River
Twisp River

4. San Juan Watershed

Cascade Creek

5. Lower Skagit-Samish Watershed

6. Dungeness Watershed

Bell Creek
Cassalery Creek
Dungeness River
MacDonald Creek
Meadow Creek
Matriotti Creek

7. Wenatchee Watershed

8. Upper Yakima Watershed

Big Creek
First Creek
Naneum Creek
Swauk Creek
Taneum Creek
Teaway River
Wenas Creek
Wilson Creek
Yakima River

9. Deschutes Watershed

Deschutes River

10. Naches Watershed

Ahtanum Creek
Cowiche Creek
Naches River
Nile Creek
North Fork Cowiche Creek

11. Nisqually Watershed

12. Upper Chehalis Watershed

Scatter Creek
South Fork Chehalis River

13. Walla Walla Watershed

Mill Creek
Touchet River
Walla Walla River

14. Klickitat Watershed

Blockhouse Creek
Klickitat River
Little Klickitat River
Spring Creek

15. Wind-White Salmon Watershed

Rattlesnake Creek

16. Snohomish Watershed

17. Cedar-Sammamish Watershed

Sammamish River

18. Duwamish-Green Watershed

19. Puyallup-White Watershed



**IN 2020, YOU HELPED PROTECT MORE THAN
15,000 ACRE FEET OF WATER INSTREAM IN
COLUMBIA RIVER TRIBUTARIES TO IMPROVE
FISH HABITAT...THAT'S NEARLY FIVE BILLION
GALLONS OF WATER.**

WALLA WALLA



Over-appropriated for more than 100 years and regularly running dry in the 1990s, the Walla Walla River and its tributaries are being brought back from the brink through collaboration and teamwork.



Partnering with the City of Walla Walla to restore Mill Creek

In 2020, we worked with the City of Walla Walla to switch part of its water diversion from Mill Creek to a refillable aquifer which will help restore 12% of flows to this struggling creek and improve fish passage and habitat for steelhead, bull trout, and reintroduced Spring Chinook.



Walla Walla Water 2050: Working together for a better future

In 2020, we served as an Environmental Representative Member of the state's Walla Walla Water 2050 effort - a two-year planning effort to guide water resource decisions for the next 30 years in the Walla Walla Basin.



Improving flows in 52 miles of the Touchet River with CTUIR

In 2020, WWT and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) made sure the water associated with a new conservation easement along the Touchet River will be protected instream. Beginning in 2021, the additional flow will benefit 52 river miles home to steelhead, bull trout, and reintroduced Spring Chinook.

SAMMAMISH

Recycled water has become an invaluable food crop irrigation source in California. Could it work in Washington? Our demonstration garden in the Sammamish Valley seeks to find out.

In the Sammamish Valley, freshwater use for irrigation has reached its limit. Sammamish River salmon and steelhead are under stress, and the basin has been closed to new water rights so farmers can no longer obtain new water for irrigation. In order for the area's strong agricultural tradition to continue, and for salmon and steelhead to thrive, there is a need to find new reliable and sustainable water sources. Recycled water could be the answer.

Producers in other parts of the US already use recycled water to grow food crops. In California's Salinas Valley, recycled water has been used for more than 20 years to irrigate thousands of acres of fruits and vegetables. However, recycled water is not widely being used to irrigate food crops in Washington.

In 2020, in partnership with Washington State University Puyallup Extension and King County Wastewater Treatment Division, WWT started a demonstration garden along the Sammamish River to compare Sammamish River water with recycled water. Sixteen garden boxes were installed and planted with carrots and kale. Half were irrigated with Sammamish River water and half were irrigated using recycled water from the Brightwater Treatment Plant. The soil, water, and produce grown will be analyzed and compared for the two irrigation sources. Along with the results of the study, outreach to producers and consumers will be used to help gauge recycled water's viability as a food crop irrigation source in the Sammamish Valley and beyond. Ultimately, using recycled water for irrigation would allow more water to stay instream by reducing river diversions, protecting the fish that depend on cool clean freshwater.



AROUND THE STATE



Icicle Creek

You helped us move one step closer to finalizing a major project that will restore 1.3 billion gallons of water per year to the most dewatered stretch of iconic Icicle Creek.



Dungeness River

You helped ensure that water used by 405 homes near the Dungeness River - the driest area in western WA - had no negative impact on stream flows and the four ESA-listed fish species that call the river home.



Puget Sound Region

You helped us identify a 20-year supply of water to offset new rural wells in five Puget Sound watersheds: the Snohomish, Cedar-Sammamish, Green-Duwamish, Puyallup-White, and Nisqually.



Klickitat River

You helped us add our first ever project in the Klickitat basin - a five-year agreement with a 5th generation cattle ranch to deliver 260 million gallons of water per year back to the Little Klickitat River to help keep the river cool for juvenile steelhead.



2020 SUMMARY FINANCIALS

Revenues and Support

Contributions from Individuals.....	\$56,507
Grants - State.....	\$464,454
Grants - Federal.....	\$201,082
Grants - Private.....	\$276,624
Grants - Local.....	\$110,478
Consulting Services.....	\$12,987
Water Acquisition Income.....	\$91,795
Special Events - Sales.....	\$6,443
Special Events - Contributions.....	\$3,000
Miscellaneous Income.....	\$33,166
Total revenues and support.....	\$1,256,536
PPP Loan.....	\$152,000
Total.....	\$1,408,536

Operating Expenses

Direct program expenses	
Consulting Services.....	\$50,752
Program-related Contractors.....	\$50,495
GIS and Project Contractors.....	\$158,086
Water Acquisition Expense.....	\$91,795
Fundraising.....	\$43,726
Compensation.....	\$867,536
Recruiting and training.....	\$28,112
Building and property.....	\$58,368
Administration.....	\$97,542
Computing and software.....	\$22,525
Meals, travel and entertainment.....	\$17,415
Outside services.....	\$48,834
Insurance.....	\$7,373
Taxes and licenses.....	\$475
Total operating expenses.....	\$1,543,034

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 PARTNERS

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Bullitt Foundation
Capitol Land Trust
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Cascadia Conservation District
Chelan County - Department of Natural Resources
City of Bothell
City of Dayton
City of Sequim
City of Walla Walla
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Clallam County
Clallam PUD No. 1
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Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
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King County Waste Services - WaterWorks
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Methow Watershed Council
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Office of the Columbia River
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RCO-Salmon Recovery Funding Board
San Juan County
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Skagit Watershed Council
Taneum Canal Company
Touchet Westside Irrigation District
Tri-State Steelheaders
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
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WA Dept. of Ecology
WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Walla Walla County
Walla Walla County Conservation District
Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership
Washington State Conservation Commission -
Irrigation Efficiency Grants Program
Washington State University
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 DONORS

Individuals

Susan Adams
Kathryn Anderson
Steven & Michelle Avolio
Dale Bambrick
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Satterberg Foundation
WA Dept. of Ecology

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*Thank you also to everyone who purchased an event ticket in 2020.



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