



**WASHINGTON
WATER TRUST**

25 years restoring rivers



2023 Annual Report

Washington Water Trust acknowledges that we are on Indigenous land that is home to many Tribes who have stewarded Washington's waters since time immemorial. We are honored to collaborate with Tribes and support their work for healthy lands, waters, and communities.

WWT E-NEWSLETTER



Sign up for the e-newsletter to keep current on our work for healthy rivers.

DONATE FOR HEALTHY RIVERS



Make a tax-deductible gift to keep rivers and streams flowing for future generations.

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Dear Friends of Washington Water Trust,

Washington's anadromous salmon and steelhead start their lives in our rivers and streams, swim out to the ocean to feed and grow, and return to their home streams to spawn. Throughout their incredible life cycle, these fish travel hundreds, even thousands of miles, overcoming many challenges—both natural and man-made—along the way.

Their journey and persistence inspires and amazes me.

To start and finish their journeys, salmon and steelhead rely on abundant, cold water. Healthy flowing streams give them a better chance of success at the start and access to spawning habitat upon their return to create the next generation of fish.

The tributaries of our Pacific Northwest rivers, however, are not what they once were. Water overuse and climate change have left many of these streams with low flows, particularly in the summer and early fall, when runs of salmon are returning to spawn. It is heartbreaking that salmon and steelhead survive their long and arduous journeys only to find their home streams too dry or too warm.

This is where you come in. For more than 25 years, you have empowered Washington Water Trust to restore flows to rivers and streams from the San Juans to Walla Walla. Your support and partnership have helped us improve flows for threatened fish species in more than 1,000 river miles across nearly 20 watersheds.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the past 25 years that you have helped make possible. Washington's water challenges are complex and thorny, but you are helping us fix them drop by drop. Cheers to 25 years of hard work and restored flows, and here's to a sustainable freshwater future for our fish and communities!

Sincerely,



James Kraft
Executive Director

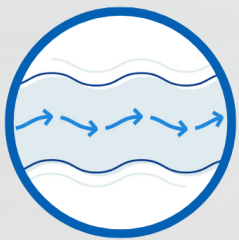


Our Mission

Washington Water Trust protects and restores healthy rivers and streams across Washington so that fish, farms, and communities can thrive for generations.

Our Approach

We work hand-in-hand with partners across the state to restore water to rivers and streams through:



Purchasing and leasing water rights with fair and voluntary transactions that keep water instream when and where needed most.



Working with communities to plan for future water use, finding the balance between water needs and flows for fish.



Developing alternative, sustainable water sources, including recycled water and off-stream storage.



Restoring and using natural connections between rivers, groundwater, forests, wetlands, and floodplains to increase late season streamflows.



5.7 BILLION
Gallons of restored
water flowing in
streams



1,000+
River miles of
protected and
restored flows



40
Active flow
restoration
projects



17
Watersheds
benefitting from
WWT projects



WASHINGTON WATER TRUST

Celebrating 25 years of restoring rivers

"For the past 25 years, WWT has played an essential conservation role in Washington—increasing stream flows when and where fish need it the most. Whether pioneering the concept of water banking in the Dungeness and Walla Walla, paying irrigators not to pump water, or upgrading an irrigation system, WWT always uses a voluntary, market-based approach grounded in science and community partnerships. As water management progresses across the state, WWT remains a crucial partner for restoring and protecting instream flows."

Amanda Cronin, WWT Staff 2006-2017 & Board 2021-Present



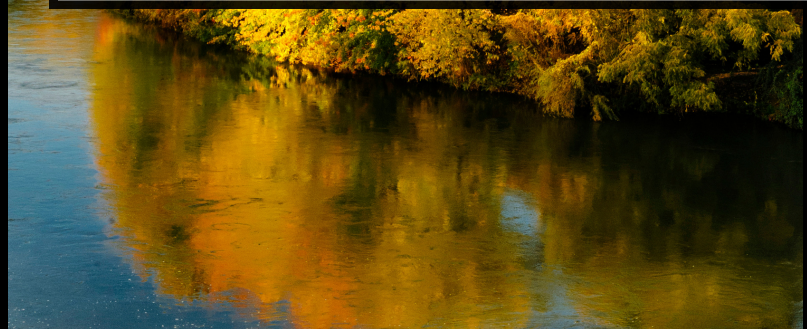
"Spring Chinook salmon were nearly extirpated in the Teanaway River for decades prior to WWT's arrival on the scene. WWT effectively worked with its many partners to acquire water that is now dedicated to instream flow use for fish and recreation. It's a wonderful success story that shows that a small, dedicated group of hard-working individuals can accomplish great things. I'm proud to be a continuing supporter of WWT."

Stan Isley, WA State Dept. of Ecology Environmental Specialist (retired) & WWT Donor



"From outreach and advocacy to skillful project implementation that moves water from out-of-stream uses to life-giving instream flows, Washington Water Trust is an invaluable partner in regional efforts to recover imperiled salmon populations. Many stream reaches that were once dry, or nearly so, today are much healthier thanks to WWT. I am so proud to have been part of their success."

Dale Bambrick, WWT Board Member 1998-2023



"Looking forward, we see an intensifying need for smart stewardship of our freshwater resources as demand grows and snowpack shrinks. Building upon 25 years of experience, WWT is utilizing new tools to help us innovate on how we collectively use—and reuse—our precious water resources, working with boots on the ground in partnerships that ensure a balance between people and fish. The need and opportunity is huge."

William Stelle, WWT Board President



2023 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Sammamish Recycled Water Project

A key strategy for restoring flows to salmon streams is the use of new sustainable water sources like recycled water, which is highly treated wastewater. Building on our initial research garden, WWT has established partnerships with local Sammamish Valley farms to test recycled water on-farm over the next two years as a sustainable alternative to Sammamish River water for irrigation.



Squaxin Island Collaboration

We partnered with the Squaxin Island Tribe to look at water use impacts and flow restoration opportunities in a stream system on the Arcadia Peninsula. While water use may be disbursed in a watershed through wells and small water systems, the impact can be significant on streams that salmon depend on.

Chehalis Land + Water

WWT completed a long-term project with Capitol Land Trust ensuring that the water right associated with a 37.5-acre parcel of land that CLT acquired is permanently protected instream in Stillman Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Chehalis River that supports Chinook, coho, and steelhead.



Renewed Lease in Methow

WWT completed a 10-year extension of a water lease in the Methow Basin that protects 37 acre-feet of water instream in Libby Creek from April-November each year benefitting steelhead.



Icicle Creek Approval

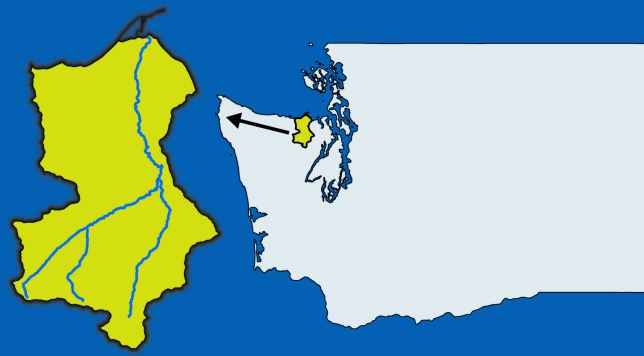
We received final state approval for the Icicle Creek Irrigation Efficiency and Pump Exchange Project with Cascade Orchards Irrigation District. This major project, to be implemented in 2024 and 2025, will add 11.9 cubic feet per second and over 4,000 acre-feet of permanent flow to the most de-watered reach of Icicle Creek.

Big News for the Little Klickitat River

Private landowners are key partners in our flow restoration efforts. WWT secured a commitment from a land owner in the Klickitat Basin to protect their water right instream permanently, which will help restore up to 30% of flow in the Little Klickitat River for Chinook, coho, and steelhead.



Dungeness Watershed



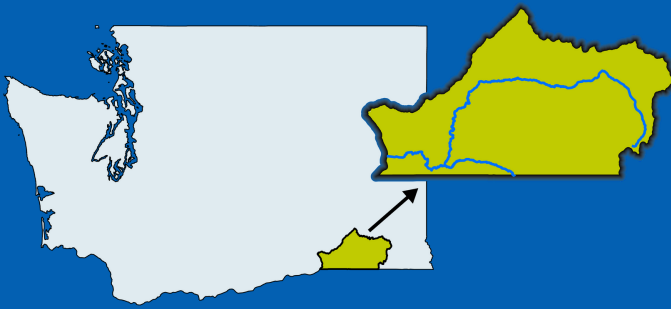
Helping Salmon During Drought Emergency

In 2023, a drought emergency was declared for the Dungeness watershed. WWT partnered with Amazon Web Services, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the WA State Department of Ecology, WDFW, and local irrigators to enhance stream flows for Chinook and pink salmon in the Dungeness River. We established emergency agreements with 18 farmers to not irrigate lands for one month and coordinated four 13-hour "pulse flows," bursts of water from turning down all five irrigation diversions on the river that helped fish swim upstream. Fish successfully made it to the upper Dungeness and Gray Wolf River in numbers stronger than expected with the drought conditions.

Dungeness Water Exchange Celebrates 10 Years



2023 marked the 10-year anniversary of the WWT-managed Dungeness Water Exchange, a water mitigation bank that ensures more water is kept in the Dungeness watershed than is taken out by new uses. DWE has mitigated more than 700 new water uses in the watershed through aquifer recharge sites that infiltrate water into the ground so that it makes its way back into the Dungeness River and other local streams and boosts flows for fish.



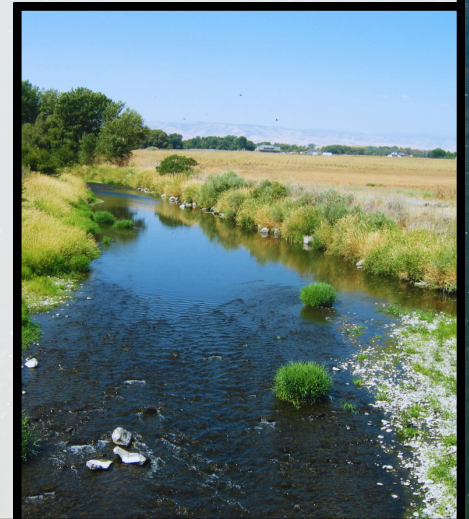
Walla Walla Watershed

Local Water Right Permanently Protected

After years of working closely with a local landowner, WWT acquired two water rights that were allowing the use of Walla Walla River water to irrigate 55 acres of land. These water rights were purchased with support from the WA State Department of Ecology and placed in the state's Trust Water Rights Program. This water will be permanently protected instream and benefit the lower 35 miles of the Walla Walla River, which supports steelhead, bull trout, reintroduced spring Chinook, and other species. Every drop protected instream in the Walla Walla watershed is important as it is a river system facing many demands on its water.

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Strategy

Governor Inslee signed into law legislation that supports the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan in May 2023. The Strategic Plan is a framework for ensuring sustainably managed water for people, agriculture, and instream flows for fish and wildlife in the watershed over the next 30 years. WWT is an active participant in the strategic planning process, advocating for and leading stream flow restoration projects in the watershed.



Thank you to our Healthy Rivers Partners!

Chinook Level (\$10,000+)



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks



WILDHORSE FOUNDATION

Coho Level (\$5,000-\$10,000)



www.newground.net

Jacobs



Sockeye Level (\$1,000-\$5,000)

Anchor QEA
Beneficial State Bank
BNSF Railway Foundation
Confluence Law
Environmental Science Associates
HDR
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

K&L Gates
Natural Systems Design
Pacific Power Foundation
Parametrix
Puget Sound Energy
Squaxin Island Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Van Ness Feldman LLP

Community Partners

These businesses and organizations support healthy rivers through providing monetary donations, in-kind donations, and event assistance to WWT.

AMP Insights	LendingTree	Pagliacci Pizza
Cascadia Law Group	Medosweet Farms	Red's Fly Shop
Diecutstickers.com	Methodworks	Wells Fargo
Gesa Power House Theatre	Microsoft	Werner Paddles
Iron Horse Brewery	Nordstrom	Weyerhaeuser

Thank you to our supporters!

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Mikio Yap

Organizations and Foundations

Amazon Web Services
BNSF Railway Foundation
Dentler LeClaire Family
Foundation
The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
Horizons Foundation
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
P.Wayne & Jane B. Goode
Foundation
Pine River Foundation
The Russell Family Foundation
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Satterberg Foundation
Sustainable Path Foundation
Washington State Dept. of Ecology

Thank you to our project partners!

21 Acres
Amazon Web Services
American Farmland Trust
Anchor QEA
Aspect Consulting
AWRA-Washington Chapter
Blue Mountain Land Trust
Bluewater GIS
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bonneville Power Administration
Capitol Land Trust
Cascade Orchards Irrigation Company
Cascadia Conservation District
Cascadia Law Group
Chehalis Basin Partnership
Chelan County DNR
City of Bothell
City of Dayton
City of Sequim
City of Walla Walla
Clallam Conservation District
Clallam County
Clallam County Clallam PUD No. 1
Columbia County
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Cowiche Canyon Conservancy
Dungeness Water Users Association
Forterra
Greys Harbor Conservation District
Helensdale Reclamation District
Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation District
Intertox, Inc.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
JB Instant Lawn & Nursery
King County Recycled Water
King County Waste Services - WaterWorks
Kittitas Conservation District
Kittitas Conservation Trust
Kittitas Reclamation District
Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery
Lewis Conservation District
Mason County Conservation District
McCormick Water Strategies
Methow Conservancy
Methow Watershed Council
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Middle Klickitat Conservation District
Mott MacDonald
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Natural Systems Design
Nisqually Land Trust
NOAA Fisheries
Nooksack Indian Tribe
North Yakima Conservation District
Office of Chehalis Basin
Office of the Columbia River
Oregon Water Resources Department
Priest Rapids Coordination Committee
RCO-Salmon Recovery Funding Board
San Juan County
San Juan Land Bank
Skagit Watershed Council
Squaxin Island Tribe
Taneum Canal Company

Thurston Conservation District
Thurston County
Tonnemaker Valley Farm
Touchet Westside Irrigation District
Tributary Committee
Tri-State Steelheaders
University of Washington
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Underwood Conservation District
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Viva Farms
Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Walla Walla 2050 Planning Initiative
Walla Walla County
Walla Walla County Conservation District
Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council: Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program
Washington State Conservation Commission - Irrigation Efficiency Grants Program
Washington State University
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project



Unaudited 2023 Financials

REVENUES

Individuals.....	\$117,112
Businesses.....	\$62,487
Foundations & Private.....	\$211,259
Tribes.....	\$128,887
Government.....	\$715,016
In-Kind.....	\$6,223
Consulting Services.....	\$188,266
Total revenues & support.....	\$1,429,250

EXPENSES

Consulting & Contractors.....	\$90,737
Fundraising.....	\$7,270
Compensation.....	\$1,235,757
Recruiting & training.....	\$9,510
Building & property.....	\$60,615
Supplies, Equipment, & Postage.....	\$112,516
Computing & software.....	\$31,853
Meals, travel & entertainment.....	\$30,652
Outside services.....	\$84,329
Insurance.....	\$15,285
Taxes & licenses.....	\$2,259
Total operating expenses.....	\$1,680,783

OTHER INCOME

Interest.....	\$8,389
Depreciation & Amortization.....	(\$5,700)
Water Acquisition Income.....	\$1,676,587
Water Acquisition Expense.....	(\$1,666,066)
Pending Invoicing.....	\$61,700
Total Other Income.....	\$74,910

ASSETS

CASH

Unrestricted.....	\$366,508
Restricted.....	\$1,711,855
Total Cash.....	\$2,078,363

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Unrestricted.....	\$178,009
Restricted.....	\$635,000
Total Accounts Receivable.....	\$813,009

Deposits.....	\$3,588
Property & Equipment.....	\$26,858

TOTAL ASSETS.....\$2,921,818

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable.....	\$229,641
Accrued expenses.....	\$72,443
Lease liabilities.....	\$9,895
Total Liabilities.....	\$311,979

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions.....	\$576,308
With donor restrictions.....	\$2,271,855
Change in net assets.....	(\$176,623)
Total Net Assets.....	\$2,671,540

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$2,983,519

WWT Offices

Seattle Office

1500 Westlake Ave N
Suite 202
Seattle, WA 98109

Ellensburg Office

103 E 4th Ave
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Ellensburg, WA 98926



Washington Water Trust protects and restores rivers and streams so that fish, farms, and communities can thrive for generations.

[washingtonwatertrust.org](http://www.washingtonwatertrust.org)