



# FLY PAPER

December 2024

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## Looking Upstream

**Dec. 19**

**Very Important General Meeting**

***Free Dinner One Free Bar Drink***

For Members in Good Standing Eagles 6:00 - 9:00 pm

**January 18**

**Banquet Meeting** Wenatchee Valley College

Van Tassell Hall Social Hour 5:00 pm Dinner 6:00 pm

## Presidents Message

All,

Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers is considering an exciting change at our next club meeting, and I hope you will all join the Board at Eagles for a free meal and drink as we seek your input and approval. The Board is proposing a change in how we organize and gather to increase our focus on why we are all here: the joy of fly fishing, wisdom and local knowledge of club members, and conservation of the lakes and rivers where we all love to spend time. A more nimble club means more engagement in the technique and practice of fishing itself.

The summary of Board proposed changes in ByLaws will secure WVFFs continued status as a nonprofit so that we can consistently contribute to local conservation, but the Board will reduce to four essential members (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President) with only a few business meetings per year. Club outings, guest speakers, fly-tying, conservation activities will remain opportunities to gather and grow in the sport itself!

The Board is also eager to celebrate two pivotal Board members who have given of their time and talent. Gary Anderson is a founding Board member, famous for his flies and a remarkable gift for teaching about fly fishing that brought many of us into the sport. Gary has ensured that WVFF enjoys the best expertise around in our speakers' series. Bruce Merighi has been the editor of the Fly Paper and lead our highly successful conservation partnerships! Thank you both for your service and passion!

Remember, it's not about us...it's about the fish! -Tod

*"He held the trout, never still, with his moist right hand, while he unhooked the barb from his mouth, then dropped him back into the stream. He hung unsteadily in the current, then settled to the bottom beside a stone. ...The trout was steady in the moving stream, resting on the gravel. As Nick's fingers touched him, touched his smooth, cool underwater feeling, he was gone, gone in a shadow across the bottom of the stream." Ernest Hemingway, Big Two Hearted River*

# WVFF Banquet January 18<sup>th</sup> 2025

Wenatchee Valley College Van Tassell Hall # 5015

5:00 – 9:00pm No Host Beer & Wine Bar \* Raffle \* Free Parking \* Silent Auction \* Short Live Auction

**Order by January 10<sup>th</sup> = 10 Free Raffle Tickets**

Wet Fly Time 5:00 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM

## Dinner Tickets

Italian Seasoned Pork Tenderloin  
Chicken Marsala  
Caesar Salad  
Roasted Potatoes & Stuffing  
Vegetable Sautee & Rolls  
Pies & Cheesecake

\$35 Per Person

*No tickets sold at the event.*

Advance Sales Only

\$1 each / 1-11 tickets

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Raffle Tickets

12 pk. for \$10  
or  
25 pk. for \$20

*Special Situation Ticket  
Sales sold at the event via  
Check Only*

\_\_\_\_\_ 12 Packs = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 25 Packs = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Drink Tickets

\$7 a drink

\_\_\_\_\_ Drinks @ \$7 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 2025 Dues

\$35 per family

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total**

**Enclosed**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure an accurate headcount for meal service **PLEASE ORDER YOUR TICKETS EARLY**

**Online:** [wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com/members/purchase](http://wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com/members/purchase) **In Person** at the Dec. Meeting  
**Mail** the form & a check to: WVFF Box 3687 Wenatchee WA 98807-3687

# 2024 Fisheries Conservation Grant Requests

\$ 7K + \* Available  
 Membership To Vote  
 Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting at the Eagles

## Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Mike Bosko

As a component of their '**Upper Teanaway Valley Project**', they are requesting assorted equipment that will improve their ability to:

- Improve the in-channel wood contact
- Reduce conifer encroachment in the meadow and use woody material to improve the stream channel restoration
- Improve BDAs function by filling gaps
- Install monitoring measures for tracking BDA functions

Requested items for the **wood placement component** of their project:

•	Lewis Winch	\$ 1,100	
•	Snatch Block	\$ 130	
•	Stihl 40B C-M Chainsaw	\$1,050	
•	Peavey Hook	\$ 130	
•	Choker Cable	\$ 86	
	Sub Total .....		\$ 2,496

Requested items for the **sedimentation monitoring component** of their project:

•	Laser Level	\$ <u>675</u>	
	<b>Total .....</b>		<b>\$ 3,171</b>

## Cascadia Conservation District

Mark Ingram

Item #1 Financial assistance to support the continuation of their successful '**Beaver Relocation Program**'. In conjunction with support from the Unitarian Church \* The organization hopes we can set up a line of credit at Valley Saw Shop so they can get a lot of their equipment serviced this winter.

If not a check will also work. .... **\$ 804**

Item #2 **Felling and Field Safety Equipment**

- Battery Chain Saw with Battery and Charger
- High Quality First Aid Kit, Chaps and Helmet
- Wedges, Filing Kit and Short Axe

Total Item # 2 ..... **\$ 1,510**

<b>Cascade Fisheries</b>	Jason Lundgren
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To Create and Install an **Interpretive Kiosk** at the WDFW Public  
 Access Site on **Lower Peshastin Creek** ..... **\$ 858**

<b>Wenatchee Trout Unlimited</b>	Ryan Lefler
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Requested items for their 'Beaver Relocation Program'

- **Emergency Satellite Phone Unit** ..... \$300
  - Inter Reader M.R.H.
- **One - Six Foot Stock Tank** .....\$380
  - To hold beavers in transit or when there is no running water at the hatchery.
- **Electric Power Generator** ..... \$800
  - For use at the Beaver Relocation Shed at the Leavenworth Hatchery
  - Also to charge saws and other equipment in the field.

Total Amount ..... **\$ 1,480**



# State Awards \$50.3 Million in Grants to Recover Salmon

The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board awarded \$50.3 million in grants for 145 projects across the state to improve habitat for salmon, steelhead and bull trout.

Almost half (\$21.6 million) was funded through the Climate Commitment Act and targeted restoration of shorelines and riverbanks, known as riparian areas, which are essential to salmon. Forested riparian areas shade the water thus keeping it cool for fish. Tree roots hold back sediment, and the trees drop leaves into the water, providing food for the insects that fish eat. The trees also can fall into the water or drop branches, which can slow the water and create pools and other diverse types of habitat for fish. Finally, the forests filter out stormwater pollution and slow the flow of rain and stormwater before it enters the waterways.

The remaining \$28.7 million in grants approved were funded by the state Legislature and the federal government through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

“These grants are crucial to salmon recovery work in Washington,” said Gov. Jay Inslee. “Without this funding, we’d have no chance of returning salmon to healthy, harvestable levels. The Climate Commitment Act is helping us go bigger and faster all across the state. It will take all of us pulling together to change the fate of salmon, which is inextricably linked to Washington’s economy and quality of life.”

## **Unprecedented \$216.3 Million Funding Request**

In addition to the \$50.3 million in grants awarded, the salmon board approved another \$23.8 million in projects that could be funded if the Climate Commitment Act remains intact after a new federal government takes control and \$142.1 million in projects that will be submitted to the state Legislature for funding consideration next year. When combined, the board approved an unprecedented \$216.3 million in salmon recovery projects.

“This is a large amount of funding, and if it is all approved, we’ll be able to take some big steps forward in our recovery efforts,” said Jeff Breckel, chair of the salmon recovery board. “When we restore salmon habitat, we also are restoring our waters, forests and shorelines - multiplying the benefits of salmon recovery many times over. We end up with more resilient land and water, reduced flooding, more salmon for tourism and the fishing industry and more jobs in local and rural communities. It’s a win for all of us.”

The following is a list of grants recently awarded to conservation organizations in Chelan County to improve survival rates for Chinook salmon and steelhead.

## **Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group**

### **Restoring Fish Passage in Pole Creek                    \$150,000**

To correct an existing barrier to fish passage, opening access to more than one mile of cold-water habitat. The barrier is an undersized culvert in Pole Creek, in the Chiwawa River watershed, that limits flow and restricts fish access to cold-water habitat upstream. The creek is also used by bull trout.

### **Restoring Peshastin Creek    \$754,500**

To restore a lower section of Peshastin Creek. The fisheries enhancement group will place large wood structures in the creek, excavate multiple side channels to reconnect the floodplain area, and plant vegetation along the creek.

### **Restoring the Lower Wenatchee Riverbanks at the Lower Sleepy Hollow Preserve    \$130,000**

To restore forty acres of floodplain on the left bank of the lower Wenatchee River. They will plant two acres of floodplain with willows, cottonwoods, and other native trees and shrubs. Additionally the group will maintain three acres of previously installed floodplain plantings, including irrigating, cutting brush, mulching, replacing dead plants, and protecting plants from wildlife grazing. The fisheries enhancement group will also control noxious weeds on the entire forty acres.



## **Chelan County Natural Resources Department**

### **Assessing Colockum Creek    \$125,000**

They will use this grant to assess Colockum Creek because there are significant data gaps, including habitat availability, hydrology, fish passage barriers, fish distribution and use, irrigation use, watershed condition and function, potential sources of degradation, and feasible restoration opportunities. The assessment will fill in the data gaps, identify restoration strategies, and create a pathway for watershed recovery.





## **Designing Restoration of the White River Floodplain**

**\$149,926**

To monitor the flow of the White River into a wetland ditch network, complete a comprehensive wetland restoration plan, and develop conceptual designs for replacement of the Little Wenatchee Road.

This project will work in conjunction with a larger project led by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation aiming to address the loss of habitat-forming processes, floodplain disconnection, and high temperatures of the lower White River caused by the Little Wenatchee Road and bridge and the complicated network of wetland ditches in the wide floodplain. The road bisects the White River and its floodplain and blocks the movement of trees and logs and hinders fish passage.

Additionally, the wetland ditches have been known to drain the wetland and create hazardous low flows for fish. The river is used by the above listed fish species as well as bull trout and sockeye salmon.

## **Planting the Entiat River Floodplain**

**\$272,698**

The grant funding will be used to plant 3.2 acres of degraded banks along the Entiat River. The work will re-establish a diverse assemblage of native plants on the expansive floodplains at the Bremmer and Stormy Preserve restoration sites. Historic grazing, clearing, and agricultural activities have left the area with compacted soil, sparse native vegetation, and invasive plants, mostly reed canary grass.





## **Restoring the Lower Chiwawa River**

**\$273,038**

The Chelan County Natural Resources Dept. will use this grant to complete preliminary designs and draft applications for four projects on the lower Chiwawa River. The designs will identify restoration actions that will increase the number of trees along 1.3 miles of the river, create up to 1.1 miles of side-channel habitat, and better connect about 33.5 acres of floodplain.

In addition, they will complete some surveying, wetland delineations, a recreational use study to assess boating and boater safety in the river, and an evaluation of where to move the Big Meadow Campground.

The Chiwawa River is also used by bull trout.

## **Studying the Entiat River Food Chain**

**\$80,130**

A detailed study of the river's food, both its availability and complexity, for salmon and steelhead.

- Collect samples in different habitat types in both restored and unrestored floodplain reaches.
- Compare the samples with samples from salmon captured in the same habitats.
- Fish density and the average growth rates of young salmon in these habitats will be measured to understand how growth relates to food availability.
- Measure water temperature, flow, and depth to better understand what habitat types and environmental conditions in each reach are most productive and can provide for the highest number of fish.
- Apply modeling to predict growth, habitat selection by fish, and population carrying capacity, and then compare actual fish data to these predictions.

## **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust**

### **Conserving the Entiat River**

**\$205,400**

The land trust will use this grant to buy 16.5 acres along the Entiat River, which is a valuable spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead. Acquisition and conservation of the land will facilitate future restoration projects to improve habitat for these fish.

### **Conserving the White River Oxbow \$360,100**

To buy 34.6 acres near the lower White River, including a half mile of riverfront. The purchase would protect valuable spawning and rearing habitat, including an important oxbow that has the potential to be reconnected to the river. The river is used by Chinook, steelhead, bull trout and sockeye.

## **Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation**

### **Moving State Route 207 Near Nason Creek \$600,000**

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to remove a problematic segment of State Route 207 near Lake Wenatchee from the Nason Creek floodplain. The segment is eroding into Nason Creek, degrading the habitat and disrupting traffic. Removing the 0.6-mile-long segment of highway will reconnect more than fourteen acres of historic side channel and floodplain habitat. The Tribe is seeking additional funding from the Legislature for this project.

# **WVFF Virtual Board Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2024**

### **Attendance:**

Present: Derek Corder, Dan Hammond, Bruce Merighi, John Richmond, Tod Treat,  
Allen Warman, Mike Wyant

Absent: Gary Anderson, Fred Kunzman

**Call to order:** 7:05 p.m.

**Board Meeting Minutes** (October 3, 2024 recorded by Mike Wyant)

Motion to Approve: Bruce Second: Dan Vote: unanimous

### **President's Report:**

Discussion regarding officer slate and paring down Board of Directors: By-laws call for a slate of officers to be presented to the membership at the December meeting. Paring down the size of the Board requires a change to the by-laws which requires a vote of the membership. John strongly recommended paring the board to three people. At the end of discussion Tod suggested taking a proposed by-law change and a pared down slate of officers to the membership at the December meeting. The Board agreed. The Board also agreed to Tod's recommendation that members be offered a complimentary meal and one complimentary beverage at the December meeting as a strategy to attract as many members as possible to the meeting. The meeting will be at the Eagles, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and concluding by 9:00 p.m.

Tod provided Board members the opportunity to ask questions about the recent articles in the Wenatchee World regarding personnel and campus culture matters at Wenatchee Valley College.

Tod will miss the November and December meetings due to travel and vacation. Derek will conduct those meetings.

### **Education Report:**

No report

### **Conservation Report:**

Bruce reported that Mid-Columbia Fisheries, Cascadia Conservation District, and Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project will present short programs on what they have been able to do with the grant money awarded to them by the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers last year.

Bruce also reported that he hasn't heard anything from the people conducting the Methow River watershed cutthroat study. He recommends that the club not award any more money toward that study process until a report on the use of previous funds is provided.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Tod asked John to contact the club's insurance provider for a proof of insurance waiver document to be provided to Wenatchee Valley College at their request for the upcoming banquet. John said he would obtain one.

### **Outings Report:**

Derek reviewed the tentative list of outings for spring. No outings are planned for the remainder of the year. Derek is waiting to contact the folks at Twin Lakes when their window for scheduling for the spring opens.

### **Membership Report:**

Allen distributed a list of individuals who did not pay dues for the current year to selected board members. There has been no change in the membership status since Allen last reported.

### **Program Chair Report:**

No report. Gary wasn't present for the meeting.

### **Old business:**

Update on Eagles hosting:

The Eagles seem eager to continue to host the club under their new management. Tipping: Dan suggested adding a tip into the cost of the meal at the Eagles in order to avoid having members have to figure out how much to tip and where to do it.

**Donations:**

Dan is not certain that the club needs the number of donations as in past years. He said he is willing to seek them but he reminded the board that there was too much stuff to auction last year and that attendees lost interest and motivation and that there were some awkward situations where very nice donated auction items were sold very inexpensively. After additional discussion about the banquet, John suggested less focus on raising money and more focus on socializing. John pointed out that the club is in good financial shape and probably does not need to raise a lot of money. This conversation led to additional discussion about the future of the club but no decisions were made except to discuss the topic with the membership at the December meeting.

**Storage unit:**

The storage unit is full again after about 100 books were removed from Fred's house. Fred is moving to Ellensburg.

**New business:**

None

**Adjournment Time:** 8:20 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Bruce Second: John

Vote: Unanimous

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