



# FY 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

## New Watershed Groups

### Alaska

#### **Chugach Regional Resource Commission, Kachemak Bay Watershed Collaborative Establishment**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,985**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,985**

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission, a tribal consortium, will establish the Kachemak Bay Watershed Collaborative in Kachemak Bay on the Kenai Peninsula of southcentral Alaska. The Collaborative will complete outreach activities to build a diverse stakeholder membership, gather information on current conditions of the watershed through literature research and partnerships with Federal agencies, and outline a restoration plan. Planning activities will focus on strategies for creating green corridors along 20 interjurisdictional anadromous streams, many of which originate in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and on the impacts of habitat connectivity and climate change on salmon habitat. Watershed concerns include extreme drought, elevated stream temperatures, reduced snowpack, and poor land management practices. The Collaborative will include tribal entities, including the Seldovia Village Tribe, Nanwalek IRA Council, and Native Village of Port Graham, state and Federal agencies, livestock grazing interests, individual citizens, and conservation organizations, including the Cook Inletkeeper.

#### **Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, A Watershed Restoration Plan for the Metlakatla Watershed**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,978**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,978**

The Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition and Metlakatla Indian Community Department of Fish and Wildlife will establish the Metlakatla Watershed Advisory Group for Annette Island in Southeast Alaska. They will complete stakeholder outreach and engagement; develop a restoration plan for the Metlakatla watershed, including mapping existing geospatial data, hydrologic modelling to understand impacts of climate change on streamflow and temperature, and completion of a stream habitat assessment; and complete design plans for restoration of Lower Nadzaheen Creek. Past timber harvesting, road building, and development in the watershed have left degraded salmon habitat and riparian areas that negatively impact commercial and subsistence harvest of salmon. Further, climate change threatens the availability of water for hydropower production, domestic water, and salmon hatchery operations on the Annette Islands Reserve. The Metlakatla Watershed Advisory Group will directly engage stakeholders, community members, tribal leaders, fishermen, agencies, and others in the development of a collaborative watershed restoration plan.

## Arizona

### **Aravaipa Watershed Conservation Alliance, Cooperative Watershed Organizational and Management Plan**

**Reclamation Funding: \$89,938**

**Total Project Cost: \$89,938**

The Aravaipa Watershed Conservation Alliance will expand their capacity and diversity and develop a watershed restoration plan for Aravaipa Canyon in southeastern Arizona. Aravaipa Creek is a tributary to the San Pedro River and in turn, the Gila River. The Aravaipa Creek's 20-mile perennial-flow stretch has some of the best remaining habitat for desert fishes in Arizona, with seven native species, including the endangered spikedace and loach minnow. The Alliance will build participation by interested landowners, including cattle ranchers and other private landowners, through stakeholder outreach and partner meetings. The Alliance will also begin developing a restoration plan using data and research gathered through a decision support tool developed through Reclamation's internal Applied Science Program. Through the planning process, the Alliance will identify and prioritize projects for erosion and flood control, mitigation of land fragmentation, and other range improvements, including water storage and delivery to support improved distribution of livestock for better rangeland health.

## California

### **El Dorado County Water Agency, Upper American River Watershed Management Program**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,800**

**Total Project Cost: \$113,082**

El Dorado County Water Agency will establish a new watershed group in the Upper American River watershed, located in northern California approximately 20 miles northeast of Sacramento. The Upper American River watershed provides water to Folsom Reservoir, a critical piece of the Reclamation's Central Valley Project. Municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users in the greater Sacramento region and throughout California rely on the Upper American River Watershed for water supplies and hydroelectricity, as well as abundant wilderness and recreation opportunities. Variables such as population growth, climate change, and reduced snowpack threaten the reliable water supplies to support human consumption and environmental needs. Recent devastating wildfires with increasing frequency and severity, exposed the weaknesses of current passive forest management and overall headwater management that are critical to public safety and climate resiliency. The group will bring together diverse stakeholders, including local land-use authorities, water purveyors, resource conservation districts, non-governmental organizations, tribal governments, and Federal agencies, to develop a watershed approach to address threats to the watershed. Activities conducted under this grant will include forming a new watershed group, assessing baseline watershed conditions, and identifying and prioritizing watershed management projects.

## **Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Development of the Gualala River Watershed and Associated Tributaries Coalition**

**Reclamation Funding: \$97,844**

**Total Project Cost: \$97,844**

Sonoma Resource Conservation District will facilitate the formation of a collaborative watershed group for the Gualala River watershed and associated coastal tributaries on the northern California Coast. The Gualala River watershed has a long history of industrial use compared to most north coast watersheds in California. Historic logging practices and road development have negatively impacted water quality in the watershed, which was listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for excessive sediment loads and temperature in 2001. The group will bring together a diverse set of stakeholders, including state and county parks departments, private industrial timber companies, non-industrial private forest landowners, agricultural producers, the Kashia Pomo tribe, and scientific and environmental advocacy groups. The project will develop the watershed group, create a watershed management plan, and develop an action plan that identifies and ranks priority restoration projects.

## **Kansas**

### **Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 3, Creation of a Watershed Management Group to Address Concerns in the Upper Arkansas River Basin**

**Reclamation Funding: \$100,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$100,000**

The Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 3 in western Kansas, will establish a local watershed group in the Kansas portion of the Middle Arkansas-Lake McKinney watershed. The watershed group boundary will encompass a portion of the Arkansas River basin that has diminished and degraded flows and impaired water quality. High saline levels and surface water shortages have forced irrigators to rely heavily on the Ogallala Aquifer to meet water demands and mitigate water quality. However, ground water levels are declining, and the Ogallala Aquifer has previously been contaminated by impaired surface water recharge. The District will facilitate stakeholder outreach and coalition building, gather information on watershed health and outline a watershed restoration plan.

## **Oregon**

### **Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, Indian Ford Watershed Group Development and Restoration Planning**

**Reclamation Funding: \$56,813**

**Total Project Cost: \$59,377**

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, located in central Oregon, will establish the Indian Ford Watershed Group to promote the sustainable use of water resources within the Indian Ford Watershed. Indian Ford Creek historically provided critical habitat for steelhead, beavers, and other wildlife. Wildlife is experiencing the impacts of the changing system through an increase in water temperatures, diminished riparian vegetation and shade, invasion of noxious weeds, reduced water quality, and diminished summer flows. The project will develop a new watershed group and specific restoration planning activities along the creek. This project will also conduct a baseline assessment for the stream within U.S. Forest Service land and develop a geographic and biological assessment that will include restoration recommendations for future implementation for private land along Indian Ford Creek. The watershed group will collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service, Deschutes Land Trust, Black Butte Ranch, and private landowners.

## Texas

### **Devils River Conservancy, Lower Devils River Watershed Restoration and Conservation Planning**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,805**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,805**

The Devils River Conservancy, located in southwest Texas near the U.S.-Mexico border, will establish a new watershed group comprised of stakeholders in the Lower Devils River Watershed. The Conservancy will recruit stakeholders, develop goals, gather data to create a watershed inventory, identify and prioritize data gaps and needs and develop a GIS database cumulating in a Restoration and Conservation Management Plan. The Devils River's baseflows are entirely supported by groundwater and provide critical freshwater flows to Amistad Reservoir and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Unregulated groundwater pumping, climate change effects, and drought threaten water supplies for people, agriculture, and fish and wildlife dependent on the Devils River. The Conservancy will bring stakeholders together to resolve longstanding disagreement, strengthen relationships, build trust and a unified vision amongst the community, and develop strategies to ensure the sustainability of the region's water supply. Stakeholders in the watershed include the International Boundary and Water Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the agriculture and ranching community, energy transportation and production, universities, and environmental entities.

## Washington

### **Lincoln County Conservation District, Establishment of the Columbia Basin Sustainable Groundwater Coalition**

**Reclamation Funding: \$100,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$100,000**

The Lincoln County Conservation District, located in eastern Washington, will formally establish the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition. The Coalition will unite a diverse set of stakeholders and promote sustainable water use in the Mid-Columbia Basin, an area in eastern Washington that has experienced significant groundwater level declines over the past several decades. The Coalition is currently a loosely organized partnership that includes local conservation districts, counties, municipalities, utility districts, irrigators, state and Federal agency staff, and elected officials. The project will allow the Coalition to formalize its organizational charter and bylaws, hold and facilitate regular planning meetings, and generate a watershed management plan.

## Wyoming

### **Trout Unlimited, Establishment of a New Watershed Group in the Salt River Watershed in Northwest Wyoming and Southeast Idaho**

**Reclamation Funding: \$98,132**

**Total Project Cost: \$112,287**

Trout Unlimited will establish the Salt River Watershed Group in northwest Wyoming and southeast Idaho. The watershed includes Star Valley, the fastest-growing area in Wyoming. In recent years, the valley has experienced rapid growth, rapidly increasing development pressure, and changing land use as a desirable location for retirees and workers commuting to nearby Jackson, Wyoming. Trout Unlimited will engage a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in the newly established group, including Federal and state land managers; fish and wildlife, and water management agencies; conservation districts; local governments; irrigation districts; mining companies; nonprofit organizations; utilities, and community groups and members. The watershed group will identify and prioritize major watershed concerns, including degraded water quality; impacts of development; aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitat degradation and loss; loss of stream function; bank and channel instability; and water quantity, dewatering, and lowered water tables. The project will support organizational development, stakeholder and community outreach, background research, and pre-planning for a future stakeholder-driven watershed restoration plan.

## Existing Watershed Groups

### Alaska

#### **Kenai Watershed Forum, Kenai River Water Quality Action Framework Development**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,172**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,172**

Kenai Watershed Forum, located on the Kenai Peninsula of southcentral Alaska, will identify ongoing and emerging critical water quality issues, determine high-priority challenges at the community level, and provide a roadmap for future management solutions. The Kenai watershed is uniquely productive of multiple salmon species, arctic lamprey, dolly varden, and hooligan or eulachon. The watershed supports commercial, recreational, personal use, and subsistence fisheries. Much of the watershed is federally managed, and oil and gas extraction occurs within the watershed. Watershed health and resilience concerns include development in the riparian zone, climate change impacts, aquatic invasive species, and intensive recreational use. The Forum has identified decline in return of adult salmon to the watershed for spawning; decline in mean body size of adult salmon; and increased levels of zinc, copper, fecal coliform, and petroleum-associated compounds in the watershed. The Forum will analyze a 20-year baseline water quality dataset and develop a plan to mitigate water quality concerns in the watershed.

## Arizona

### **Friends of the Verde River, Developing a Collaborative Water Quality Monitoring Program**

**Reclamation Funding: \$97,227**

**Total Project Cost: \$97,227**

Friends of the Verde River and the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition, located in central Arizona, will address water quality concerns in the Verde River watershed. Friends and the Coalition will assess current water quality monitoring in the watershed and develop a collaborative water quality monitoring plan with the goal of attaining state clean water standards for healthy fish and wildlife and sustainable recreation. Addressing water quality monitoring and concerns are included as a conservation objective within the Coalitions' 2019 strategic plan. The watershed contains multiple 303(d) impaired reaches and less than 10% of all stream reaches in the watershed had adequate water quality sampling in the last five years to be considered scorable by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Index. The Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition includes 23 public and private stakeholder organizations, including local community governments, and over 235 private landowners. The Yavapai-Apache Nation is a member of the Coalition and Friends will reach out to other indigenous groups within the project area to expand their involvement.

### **Sonora Institute, Assessment, Prioritization, and Design of Riparian Restoration Opportunities in the Middle Santa Cruz River**

**Reclamation Funding: \$98,792**

**Total Project Cost: \$98,792**

Sonoran Institute and the Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative, near Tucson Arizona, will identify, design, and plan for restoration opportunities in the middle basin of the Santa Cruz River watershed. The project will include a conservation opportunity assessment within the watershed, focusing on identifying areas of the river corridor where restoration is possible, then narrowing the scope through a prioritization evaluation. The project will also create a water budgets and conceptual designs for a prioritized subset of restoration projects identified. Although frequently intermittent, the middle Santa Cruz River historically flowed seasonally and supported a large mesquite forest. Due to climate change, development pressures, and decline in groundwater levels, flows in the middle Santa Cruz River have decreased and the mesquite forests have disappeared. The Sonoran Institute and Collaborative's goal is to restore flows in the middle Santa Cruz River and restore riparian areas to improve riparian habitat and increase aquifer recharge. The middle basin of the Santa Cruz River watershed encompasses a complex mix of urban communities, agricultural lands, native nations, and Federal, state, and local public lands.

## California

### **Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, Coordination of Planning through the Arroyo Grande Creek Memorandum of Understanding Group**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,927**

**Total Project Cost: \$134,171**

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District in southern California will strengthen the coordination of land and water planning in the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed by revitalizing the Arroyo Grande Creek Memorandum of Understanding Group. The Arroyo Grande Creek watershed, a coastal watershed that ultimately drains into the Pacific Ocean, is highly impacted by agricultural and urban modifications, including flood control infrastructure and water diversions. The District will engage a diverse group of stakeholders including the newly forming Arroyo Grande Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Surfrider Blue Water Task Force, Meadow Creek Restoration Project Science Panel, and the U.S. Forest Service. The group will update watershed goals, inventory watershed information resources, and update an existing watershed management plan. The effort will increase coordination and planning between local stakeholder groups, resulting in more sustainable and comprehensive water and land planning in the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed.

### **Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, South Lassen Watersheds Group Collaborative Restoration Planning**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,894**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,894**

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment will further develop the South Lassen Watersheds Group and finalize a strategic plan for the Upper Feather River, Upper Mill, Upper Battle, and Upper Deer Creek watersheds. These watersheds are classified as the highest priority for protection and restoration due to their ability to support anadromous fish populations during periods of unfavorable climatic conditions. The group represents a diversity of interests including landowners, industrial timber companies, state and Federal agencies, and community based and environmental groups, which are interested in pursuing high-priority, large-scale, multi-jurisdictional projects to improve forest and watershed health, reduce wildfire risk, protect habitat, and support local industry and communities. The group will advance stakeholder engagement, coordinate adaptive restoration planning efforts, and complete site-specific restoration design.

## **South Yuba River Citizens League, Yuba River Watershed Outreach, Partnership Development, and Restoration Project Prioritization**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,852**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,852**

The South Yuba River Citizens League, located on the west side of Tahoe National Forest in California, will initiate stakeholder outreach and partnership building and update the 2011 Yuba River Watershed Assessment. The updated watershed assessment will include a prioritization matrix of restoration projects and a critical review of the existing river monitoring program for the Yuba River. The resilience of the Yuba River watershed has been impacted by land use practices, including historic gold mining, diversion of water, timber extraction, grazing, fire suppression, and the introduction of invasive plant species. The League works closely with the Yuba County Water Agency, Nevada Irrigation District, state and Federal agencies, and tribal partners. As part of this project the League will further develop partnerships with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management and focus on establishing trust with farmers and irrigators in the community. The project will result in a set of near and long-term restoration priorities to enhance watershed health, climate resiliency, adaptation, and prevent conflicts between water users.

## **The Watershed Research and Training Center, Upper Trinity River Watershed Planning**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,685**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,685**

The Watershed Research and Training Center, in partnership with the Trinity River Watershed Council, will conduct landscape-scale watershed restoration planning in the upper Trinity River watershed, upstream of the Trinity and Lewiston Dams, in northwestern California. The group will prioritize and design watershed restoration projects that will improve forest health and protect the quality and reliability of water supplies across private and Federal forest lands. The Council and Center will facilitate local community involvement and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders to help identify critical watershed needs, potential solutions and prioritize watershed restoration projects relating to water resources. This project will contribute significantly toward meeting established watershed goals expressed in multiple local, regional, and statewide plans. This group will utilize current science and technology, such as LiDAR datasets, to identify and prioritize watershed restoration needs, and develop site-specific watershed restoration projects to meet water supply and natural resource objectives.



## **Upper Merced River Watershed Council, Developing the Upper Merced River Watershed Council and Facilitating a Restoration Plan for the Upper Merced Wild and Scenic River**

**Reclamation Funding: \$71,500**

**Total Project Cost: \$289,947**

The Upper Merced River Watershed Council in central California will engage stakeholders to rejuvenate and reconfigure the organization, which struggled to recover after a fire destroyed the Council's office in 2012. The Council will position itself as a convener and coordinator of restoration activities in support of the Wild and Scenic Merced River. The Council will engage a diverse array of stakeholders, including Yosemite National Park, Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, local groups like the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Mariposa Trails, University of California Merced, Mariposa Biomass, and state agencies like CalFire, to articulate a cohesive vision, identify common goals, and specify restoration and management actions. Forest health has been negatively impacted by pine bark beetle infestation and repeated catastrophic wildfires and associated erosion and sedimentation. These conditions have stressed habitat for several key species, including chinook salmon, American beaver, and endemic limestone salamander. The Council will produce a strategic work plan for implementing prioritized projects that will alleviate adverse watershed conditions identified by the collaborative watershed group.

## **Colorado**

### **Blue River Watershed Group, Watershed Group Development, and Watershed Restoration Planning for the Blue River Watershed**

**Reclamation Funding: \$90,231**

**Total Project Cost: \$294,978**

The Blue River Watershed Group, located in Summit County, Colorado, will complete their Integrated Water Management Plan for the Blue River Watershed. The watershed has been impacted by historic mining practices, the mountain pine beetle epidemic and wildfire risk, sedimentation loading from roads, invasive and nuisance aquatic species, and diversion of water to Front Range communities. In 2016, a 19-mile stretch of the Blue River lost its Gold Medal fishery designation due to increasing temperatures and reduced trout growth. The group will focus on gathering and analyzing additional data that will better inform recommendations for solutions to some of the larger issues of concern such as the declining the trout fishery in the Blue River. The Plan will provide a comprehensive picture of the health of the watershed and provide a detailed roadmap for future restoration projects. The group represents a diverse set of stakeholders, including real estate development, recreation, water resource managers, municipal water users, trans basin diverters, and environmental and conservation organizations.

## **Friends of the Yampa, Yampa River Scorecard Project, and Middle and Lower Yampa River Watershed Management**

**Reclamation Funding: \$97,827**

**Total Project Cost: \$97,827**

Friends of the Yampa (FOTY), an existing watershed group, will increase stakeholder engagement and expand planning efforts in the middle and lower segments of the Yampa River Basin in Northwest Colorado. The group will develop a River Health Scorecard, combining planning and data collection to provide a comprehensive report on overall river health to guide the direction of future river projects. FOTY will engage additional stakeholders in the lower and middle segments of the Yampa River, adding their diverse group of existing stakeholders, including representatives across sectors, including power generation, agriculture, environmental, municipal, state and Federal governments, and landowners. The Yampa River is an important watershed in the greater Colorado River Basin and it has been relatively untouched by major water diversions or impoundments. However, negative effects from cumulative and small-scale river management and diversions include impacts to water temperature, nutrient loading, sediment deposition, and noxious plants. FOTY will lead stakeholders in collaborative planning to identify challenges and opportunities to help the Yampa River continue to function as a healthy river.

## **Hawaii**

### **State of Hawaii DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Planning for the Protection of Watershed Forests in West Maui**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,895**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,895**

The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Muana Kahalawai Watershed Partnership will develop a detailed native forest protection plan focused on fencing across approximately 20,000 acres on the eastern half of the West Maui Mountains, located on the island of Maui, Hawaii. The water from the eastern slopes of the mountain provides a majority of the municipal water supply for the island of Maui; however, multiple trends indicate that the aquifer is being depleted, including lowering water levels in wells, increasing chloride contents, and reduced streamflow. Studies indicate that native forests in Hawaii significantly increase water recharge compared to non-native vegetation; the complex forest canopy structure enables the forest to capture fog. Maui's forests are threatened by non-native feral pigs, deer, and goats, which roam wild and trample and devour vegetation, and spread weeds. The detailed fencing plan will prioritize which tracts of forest are most important to protect from these animals, determine the exact location and feasibility of fence alignments, and gain landowner approval compliance to prepare these fences for eventual implementation. This project will benefit from the existing long-standing relationships across multiple landowners, agencies, and the Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership.

## Montana

### **Big Hole Watershed Committee, Elkhorn Creek Restoration Planning in a Degraded Headwater Stream**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,991**

**Total Project Cost: \$114,991**

The Big Hole Watershed Committee, an existing watershed group located in Divide, Montana, will design watershed management activities that will restore the abandoned Elkhorn Mine and Mill site and mitigate downstream contamination. The mine has a documented history of being a point and non-point source for pollution that is an ongoing risk to the aquatic ecosystem and downstream public drinking water supplies. The Committee is currently composed of a 22-member governing board that represents diverse interests including: ranching, utilities, local government, sportsmen, conservationists, tourism, and outfitters. Federal and state agencies participate in an advisory role. The watershed group works in the entire Big Hole watershed and this project will focus on Elkhorn Creek, a headwater tributary entirely within the National Forest. The group will focus on stakeholder coordination, cultural resource assessments, water and soil contamination characterization studies, and preliminary engineering designs for water resource restoration through the removal of contamination.

### **Granite Conservation District, Building Capacity for Community Engagement in Watershed Restoration Planning in the Flint-Rock Watershed**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,985**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,985**

Granite Conservation District and the Granite Headwaters Watershed Group, located in western Montana, will complete watershed restoration planning and project design in the Flint Rock watershed. Many of the diversion structures and associated water delivery infrastructure in the watershed are outdated. High demand for water combined with inefficient water withdrawals causes periods of dewatering portions of the watershed. These events negatively impact agricultural producers and create conflict between water users and fisheries. The group will foster community engagement in efforts to find local solutions to water quantity, water quality, and fisheries issues in the Flint Rock watershed. They will engage a diverse network of stakeholders, improve upon existing watershed plans, and, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, develop priority projects necessary to improve the health of the watershed. The group will advance local solutions to critical watershed issues by identifying community-supported project priorities. With technical expertise from Trout Unlimited, they will develop these multi-benefit priority projects into shovel-ready projects for implementation.

## New Mexico

### **National Audubon Society, Isleta Reach Stewardship Association, and Plan Development for the Middle Rio Grande**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,964**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,964**

Audubon Southwest, a regional office of the National Audubon Society, will build on a previous Phase I project to further develop the recently created Isleta Reach Stewardship Association. The Association is focused on improving the watershed health and habitat within the Isleta reach of the Middle Rio Grande River, a 48-mile span of the Rio Grande River in north central New Mexico. Irrigation diversions, groundwater pumping and flood control efforts within and around the Isleta reach, as well as extreme drought events, have resulted in channelization, changes to the magnitude and duration of high and low flow events, and fragmentation of ecosystems within the Isleta reach. The Association will develop approaches to address these issues by creating a formal steering committee and drafting an operating plan for the committee, holding resource subject matter meetings to build on their initial restoration planning efforts, and identifying potential restoration projects and developing the design for those projects. The Association includes representation by community members, irrigation and water districts, Federal and state agencies, multiple non-profit conservation organizations, and Pueblo of Isleta.

## Oregon

### **Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Upper Chewaucan Watershed Assessment**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,626**

**Total Project Cost: \$118,066**

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, located in south-central Oregon, will work with the Upper Chewaucan Strategic Implementation Area Partnership to update the watershed assessment for the Upper Chewaucan Watershed. The watershed is experiencing water quality concerns from an increase in sediment, higher water temperatures, and declining health of the riparian vegetation due to timber management, wildfires, and livestock. An updated watershed assessment will provide the information necessary to understand the current watershed conditions, document completed restoration projects, and help better identify restoration opportunities. Focused efforts regarding the Upper Chewaucan Watershed Assessment opportunities, will be placed on landowner outreach and engagement. The Council and Partnership members represent the Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fremont-Winema National Forest, and private landowners.

## Texas

### **Llano River Watershed Alliance, Catchment-Based Landowner Restoration Planning for the Llano River Watershed**

**Reclamation Funding: \$99,911**

**Total Project Cost: \$99,911**

The Llano River Watershed Alliance, located in central Texas, will develop catchment-based landowner restoration plans with input from local resource agencies such as U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Texas Wildlife Association. The Alliance includes ranchers, irrigators, fishing guides, conservation groups, elected officials, journalists, real-estate land developers, restaurant and B&B owners, and landowners across the watershed. Historically, effective implementation of full-scale watershed management plans has been challenging in west-central Texas, given the vast expanse of individual watersheds and the large percentage of private land ownership. This project will use a GIS database with online interaction to develop watershed management plans at the local catchment level (HUC-14). The project will increase resiliencies to droughts and floods resulting and affect positive changes to water supply, water quality, aquatic habitat, and recreation in the Llano River Watershed.

## Washington

### **Grant County Conservation District, Council Development and Restoration Planning for the Moses Lake Watershed**

**Reclamation Funding: \$100,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$150,000**

The Grant County Conservation District and the Moses Lake Watershed Council, located in central, Washington, will expand its efforts to include the interconnectedness between surface and groundwater quality and quantity and restoration efforts more holistically to address the primary objectives of improving water quality in Moses Lake. Persistent harmful algal blooms from agricultural and urban phosphorous pollution impair the public's use of Moses Lake and pose a risk to public health. The project will conduct outreach to new stakeholders, identify water quality concerns and opportunities, set water quality objectives, and develop a watershed restoration plan.