



## **Columbia River Restoration Fund: Tribes of the Columbia River Basin and its Tributaries**

The Columbia River Restoration Fund (CRRF) was established to grant dollars to projects that will enhance, protect, and benefit the water quality and health of the Columbia River Basin and its tributaries, and the communities impacted by the river's ecology and economic activity. The Fund hopes to empower diverse communities to act on their collective responsibility to the river and its watershed, ensuring that those most impacted by pollution have the greatest voice in determining the solutions.

### **About the Fund**

The Columbia River Restoration Fund is funded by legal settlements to hold polluters accountable.

Seeding Justice's role is to facilitate a community-led grantmaking process and support a grantmaking committee composed of environmental justice activists and organizers. Our grantmakers come from the communities we aim to serve—including staff, volunteers, and board members of community-based organizations; they are residents of the communities most affected by injustice; and they represent those whose voices are not often at decision making tables.

### **Priorities of the Fund**

***Priority 1: Uphold Columbia River Basin Tribes' sovereignty and leadership in watershed restoration, protection and conservation efforts in the Basin.***

Project examples include:

- Efforts that uphold treaty rights and expand food sovereignty
- Legal or policy advocacy to uphold the right to protect fish, and use salmon and other sacred wildlife in cultural ceremonies.
- Advocacy for regulatory changes to strengthen water quality standards

***Priority 2: Strengthen advocacy, organizing, and coalition building efforts that empower and support all Basin communities to access, protect, and restore the River and its watershed.***

Project examples include:

- Initiatives that build collective action and expand power building efforts

rooted in equitable partnership among Tribal nations, nonprofits, and communities

- Communications and public education that elevate care and accountability for the River Basin and center marginalized communities.
- Arts and culture projects designed to amplify marginalized voices and narratives, engage the public, change systems, and support policy changes

***Priority 3: Expand culturally-rooted ways of caring for and engaging with the Basin through hands-on programs and experiences.***

Project examples include:

- Efforts that result in traditional/cultural uses of the Columbia River watershed and its tributaries for ceremonial, spiritual, subsistence, and recreational purposes.
- Art-based experiences and/or nurture, educate, and train the next generation of watershed stewards.
- Small-scale, community-centered ecosystem restoration and clean-up efforts that enhance cultural connections and build community, while also providing ecological benefits.

## **Eligibility**

The CRRF will support Tribes whose ancestral lands fall within the U.S. portion of the Columbia River Basin through a non-competitive process. For other applicants, projects must take place inside the territories now known as Oregon and Washington that fall within the Columbia River Basin.

The Fund currently has \$2.5 million to grant out, of which \$2 million has been allocated to go directly to Tribes working on projects in the Basin.

***To learn more about the Columbia River Restoration Fund, be notified when the Fund opens, or if you're interested in receiving a grant, please email [crrfgrants@seedingjustice.org](mailto:crrfgrants@seedingjustice.org).***

## **About our Community Fund Model**

Since March 2020, Seeding Justice's innovative Community Fund program has helped us move deeper into our values and mission, ***raising more than \$50 million to shift both wealth and power back to the communities closest to the pain of injustice across the Pacific Northwest.***

Community Funds have proven to be a tangible platform to elevate and amplify movements and the debilitating issues facing our communities. Through years of honing and creativity, they've become a tested model for funding initiatives in spaces where government has failed our communities.