



## **Columbia River Restoration Fund Information for Tribal Governments**

### **Introduction**

The Columbia River Restoration Fund (CRRF, or the Fund) was established by [Columbia Riverkeeper](#), an environmental justice organization and long-time partner of Seeding Justice.

The funds for CRRF come from settlements obtained through litigation against polluters. CRRF's grant making is therefore destined for projects and environmental justice organizations working to restore, protect, and maintain the Columbia River Basin and the Columbia River's tributaries.

While the Columbia River Basin spans the U.S. and Canada, these funds are from Clean Water Act (CWA) settlement agreements; since CWA is a U.S. law, funding will benefit projects and organizations within the U.S.

### **Acknowledging Tensions**

We acknowledge that the dominant paradigm in American philanthropy is built on wealth that has been extracted from communities and natural systems, and hoarded and controlled by a wealthy and powerful few. We have a responsibility to unleash this wealth back to the community.

We also acknowledge that there is tension in managing a fund that is built on the proceeds from pollution and its harms. More pollution and lawsuits = more grant funding.

### **Purpose of the CRRF**

The CRRF supports initiatives that restore and protect the beneficial and cultural uses of the Columbia River Basin by empowering diverse communities to act on their collective responsibility to the river and its watershed, and ensuring that those most impacted by the pollution of the river have the greatest voice in determining the solutions.

## Values of the CRRF

**ABUNDANCE:** We believe in abundance and have a sense of optimism that through collaboration, generosity and openness, the future holds great possibilities for change.

**EMPOWERMENT:** We are dedicated to the empowerment of all communities to exercise their rights and create the community conditions needed to thrive, prioritizing Tribal sovereignty and centering the voices of those most harmed by water pollution.

**JOY:** We foster joy by celebrating our love of nature and the River community, honoring the Basin's beauty and bounty, and nurturing a community of care.

**JUSTICE:** We seek justice through healing past, and preventing future harms to the River and the diverse cultures of the Columbia Basin community.

**RECIPROCITY:** We prioritize reciprocity because we recognize our collective responsibility to foster connection, harmony, and balance among current and future generations, all species, and the waters of the Columbia Basin.

**TRANSFORMATION:** We believe in transformation and foster regenerative capabilities so that systems and communities in and beyond the Basin can continuously evolve toward health and resilience.

**WISDOM:** We rely on the wisdom of communities and nature to provide guidance and perspective in seeking and arriving at the best possible decisions and outcomes.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Acknowledging the relation of the Clean Water Act to the colonial context of the U.S., the Columbia River Restoration Fund seeks to uphold Tribal sovereignty and support the original stewards of the Basin's ecosystems in non-extractive ways.

To this end, CRRF will resource Tribal nations whose ancestral lands fall within the U.S. portion of the Columbia River Basin ***through a directed, non-competitive process.***

## Priorities of the Fund and Examples of Projects We Want to Support

The steering committee has identified three priorities for the CRRF, listed below.

For each priority, we are sharing a non-exhaustive list of projects and activities that align with them. Projects do not have to cover or aim to accomplish all of the activities or goals listed. In fact, we ask that proposals focus on just one of the priorities.

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

*Examples of projects/organizations we might fund under this priority:*

- Tribes' efforts to uphold treaty rights and expand food sovereignty in the Basin, as well as cultural uses of the River.
- Tribes' legal or policy advocacy efforts to uphold their right to protect fish, and use salmon and other sacred wildlife in cultural ceremonies or subsistence activities.
- Tribes' advocacy for regulatory changes that would strengthen water quality standards in the Columbia River Basin.
- Tribes' use and expansion of traditional ecological knowledge, including to educate landholders and managers in the watershed, and improve their land management practices.

### **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.**

*Examples of projects/organizations we might fund under this priority:*

- Initiatives that build collective action and collaboration and expand power building efforts rooted in equitable partnership among Tribal nations, nonprofits, and communities.
- Policy, communications, education, or other campaigns that aim to achieve long-term solutions to protect and improve river health in the Basin.
- Communications and public education efforts that elevate a culture of respect, care, and accountability toward the Columbia River Basin and that center the voices of marginalized communities.
- Arts and culture projects designed to amplify marginalized voices and narratives, engage the public, change systems, and support policy changes that improve watershed health.

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

*Examples of projects/organizations we might fund under this priority:*

- Organizations and efforts for and led by culturally specific communities

that result in traditional/cultural uses of the Columbia River watershed and its tributaries for ceremonial, spiritual, subsistence, and recreational purposes.

- Efforts that provide 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.

### What we cannot fund

- Individuals.
- Projects that do not primarily benefit the Columbia River Watershed.
- Electoral or political work.
- Lobbying.
- Large-scale restoration or clean-up projects.

### Who is Eligible to Receive Funding

The CRRF will support Tribes whose ancestral lands fall within the U.S. portion of the Columbia River Basin through a non-competitive process, including (but not limited to):

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Confederated Tribes of Salish and Kootenai
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Shoshone Paiute Tribes
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
- Spokane Confederated Tribes

## Types and Amount of Support

If you are one of the Tribes listed above, or a Tribe located within the Columbia River Basin, you can request:

- Project Support for a project you are currently working on that has an impact on the health of the Columbia River and its communities; or
- Planning Grant if you need resources to start a project that can have an impact on the health of the Columbia River.

For the initial round of funding, the Columbia River Restoration Fund will award \$2 million to Tribal nations through a non-competitive process.

Tribes must submit their request for funding before **December 31, 2024** to be considered for the first round of funding.

To request funds, Tribes can fill out a [form in Submittable](#), our grantmaking platform. They can also complete the form that follows this page and email it to Chas at [chas@picea.group](mailto:chas@picea.group).

## Questions?

- [Visit our FAQ page](#)
- Please contact our Tribal Liaison, Chas Jones at [chas@picea.group](mailto:chas@picea.group).
- To sign up to receive CRRF updates, [please click here](#).

# Columbia River Restoration Fund

## Tribal Grant Form

[You can also complete this form online](#)

1. **Tribe Name (required)**
2. **Tribal Department or Office, if any**
3. **Website, if any**
4. **Mailing Address (required)**
5. **Who is the Finance contact for this project? (required)**
6. **What's their email address? (required)**
7. **Is the person submitting this form the same as the main contact for the project?**
  - Yes
  - No

If No, who will be the primary contact for this project? (required)

If No, what's their email address? (required)
8. **What's your Employer Identification Number (EIN)? (required)**
9. **What type of grant are you requesting? (required)**
  - Project Support Grant (for projects that are underway)
  - Planning Grant (for projects that have not started yet)
10. **Where is or will be the location of your project? (required)**
  - This project impacts the entire U.S. portion of the Columbia River Basin
  - This project focuses on one or more tributaries or watersheds within the Columbia River Basin

Which part(s) of the Columbia River Basin does your project focus on? (Select all that apply) (required)

  - Lower Columbia Basin (mouth to Bonneville Dam)
    - Youngs  Grays  Elochoman  Clatskanie  Cowlitz
    - Kalama  Lewis  Lake  Willamette  Washougal
    - Sandy
  - Middle Columbia Basin (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam)

- Wind  Little White Salmon  White Salmon  Hood
- Klickitat  Fifteenmile Creek  Deschutes  John Day
- Willow Creek  Umatilla
- Upper Columbia Basin (McNary Dam to Canada - U.S. border)
  - Walla Walla  Snake  Yakima  Crab Creek
  - Wenatchee  Entiat  Chelan  Methow  Okanogan
  - Nespelem  Sanpoil  Spokane  Colville  Kettle
  - Pend Oreille  Kootenai  Flathead  Blackfoot  Clark Fork  Bitterroot

**11. The following are the Fund’s priorities. In doing your work, which one will you help us accomplish? (required)** *We know you may be doing work that supports all priorities but are encouraging you to pick one to focus on. For a full list of priorities and examples of work we'd like to fund, [please check out our website.](#)*

- Uphold Columbia River Basin Tribes’ sovereignty and leadership in watershed restoration, protection and conservation efforts in the Basin.
- Strengthen advocacy, organizing, and coalition building efforts that empower and support all Basin communities to access, protect, and restore the River and its watershed.
- Expand culturally-rooted ways of caring for and engaging with the Basin through hands-on programs and experiences that protect or improve water quality.

**12. Please tell us about the work you’d like this grant to support. Please include your key goals, activities, and a rough timeline (required)** *Limit: 500 words*

**13. How much are you requesting? (required)** *There is up to \$117,000 available for each Tribe. You can request the total or a lesser amount.*

**14. Please upload/attach your project budget. (required)** *If you need a template, you may [download one here.](#)*

**15. Optional: Please upload/attach any additional materials about the project.**