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Counties awarded salmon recovery money

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YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

A state board has granted \$2.7 million for projects in three Central Washington counties to protect and restore habitat for salmon and steelhead.

Gov. Christine Gregoire announced the awards Wednesday by the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

More than \$26 million was awarded statewide.

The area projects include the top three priorities for the Yakima River Basin lead entity, a group that includes the Yakama Nation and county and city governments.

Since the five-member state recovery board began six years ago awarding state and federal funds to protect salmon habitat,

the Yakima River Basin has received \$5.8 million in grants.

Applicants have matched those grants with another \$5.9 million.

Paul Ward, a program manager for the Yakama Nation fisheries program and chairman of the local lead entity, said the awards indicate the quality of local projects.

"We definitely see the things that need to be done on the landscape and we want to make sure the best projects are proposed and funded," he said Thursday.

The awards include:

- \$1.3 million to the Yakama Nation for the purchase of 163 acres in the Easton reach of the Yakima River. The nation provided \$306,000 in matching funds, materials and labor.

- \$481,740 to the Kittitas Conservation Trust to buy four miles along the north fork of the Teanaway River and protect 100 acres of flood plain habitat between Dickey Creek and Jack Creek. A local match of \$83,000 is included.

- \$371,688 to the Kittitas Conservation Trust to remove fish-passage barriers in Currier Creek that will open rearing habitat for steelhead and salmon. The trust also will protect habitat and pipe irrigation water to landowners. A \$141,000 match is being provided.

- \$843,125 to the Columbia Land Trust to restore the flood plain in the lower Klickitat River that provides spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and salmon. There is a \$96,000

match.

- \$296,002 to the Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group to restore habitat from the mouth of the Klickitat River to Little Klickitat reach. There is a \$52,000 match.

- \$572,445 to the Yakama Nation to restore White Creek habitat, a tributary to the Klickitat River in Yakima County, and an important steelhead spawning area. The nation will contribute \$143,000 in matching funds and materials.

- \$243,045 to the Yakama Nation to restore habitat in Teepee Creek, a tributary to White Creek, that provides spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead. Matching funds amount to \$43,000.