

Local salmon recovery groups receive funds

**\$44.3 million
awarded statewide
thanks to a grant**

The Chronicle

OLYMPIA — Two Okanogan County groups have been granted nearly \$400,000 in salmon recovery grants.

The Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Puget Sound Partnership last week announced the award of \$44.3 million in grants statewide to restore salmon habitat and conserve pristine areas.

"Salmon recovery is an important priority in Washington," said Gov. Jay Inslee. "These efforts help ensure that our grandchildren will be

able to see this iconic species return home every year."

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will use \$104,465 to buy 12 acres in the middle Methow River reach, between Twisp and Winthrop, including nearly three-quarter mile of river and side channel frontage.

The land is in the "Sugar Dike" area and the purchase will expand the land already protected and create an opportunity for further restoration, the group's proposal said.

The Methow River provides significant spawning and rearing areas for endangered upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon and for steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Columbia River bull trout, Pacific lamprey, cutthroat trout and coho salmon also use the river.

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will contribute \$18,435 in a local grant and donations of labor. This grant is from the state salmon recovery grant program.

The Methow Conservancy will get \$294,350 to buy a voluntary land preservation agreements for 29 acres, including a half-mile of riverfront, and high-quality shoreline and floodplain habitat along the lower Twisp River.

The site is near the mouth of Poorman Creek, about 5 miles upstream from Twisp, and is one of the highest priority areas for salmon and steelhead in the Methow Valley, the group's proposal said.

The preservation agreement will prevent the land from being developed for homes and protect the shoreline from removal of trees and bushes, armoring and other activities that might damage the fish habitat.

By permanently protecting existing high-quality shoreline and floodplain habitat, the area can continue to provide important salmon habitat functions in perpetuity, the group said.

The Twisp River is used by spring Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout.

The Methow Conservancy will contribute \$52,000 in donation of property interest.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board awarded grants to organizations in 28 counties for 141 projects.
