

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement



Through 2017, WDFW had sold nearly 1.6 million endorsements, generating more than \$12.1 million to maintain and improve sport fisheries in the Columbia Basin.

For more information

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Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE)

Problem:

Since 2010, revenue from the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) has been essential in helping the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) maintain and improve recreational fishing opportunities throughout the Columbia River Basin.

The \$8.75 annual fee, which is required for anglers who fish for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and its tributaries, was authorized by the state Legislature after anglers urged state lawmakers to create the endorsement in an effort to help offset significant funding cuts to WDFW.

This program is scheduled to expire June 30, 2019, which would threaten a variety of popular fishing opportunities made possible by the endorsement fee.

In recent years, revenue generated from the fee has supported the costly activities necessary for managing fisheries while minimizing impacts to several wild fish populations in the basin that are federally protected. These management activities include enhancing fishing access, conducting research, and monitoring and enforcing fisheries.

Examples of projects funded by the endorsement fee include:

- Monitoring of salmon and steelhead fisheries in the Columbia and Snake rivers and several tributaries to ensure WDFW remains within conservation and allocation guidelines.
- Increasing enforcement of salmon and steelhead regulations in designated areas.

- Conducting research that allows fishery managers to more accurately estimate angling impacts to listed fish populations in the Cowlitz and Yakima rivers.
- Improving fishing access on the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries.

If the endorsement fee is allowed to expire, many popular recreational salmon and steelhead fisheries will be extremely limited or eliminated, and the considerable economic benefits these opportunities provide to communities along the Columbia River will be lost.

Proposed solution and potential benefits:

WDFW requests that the state Legislature extend the expiration date through June 30, 2023 to continue the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement program.

Continuing the program would benefit:

- Recreational anglers by maintaining and expanding fishing opportunities for salmon and steelhead throughout the Columbia River basin.
- Recovery efforts for salmon and steelhead populations listed for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act by removing a significant number of hatchery-reared fish from the basin. Studies have shown that hatchery fish can compete with wild fish for spawning partners, and that interbreeding can reduce survival rates for wild fish.
- Communities in the Columbia River Basin – especially those in rural areas – that provide services, such as food, lodging and fuel, to recreational anglers participating in the many fishing opportunities.



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Project proposal list for 2018-19

	Project Title	Funding
1	Salmon and steelhead fishery monitoring in southeast Washington	\$190,000
2	Upper Columbia River (ESA) biologist	\$40,568
3	Upper Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery monitoring	\$400,000
4	Hanford Reach fishery monitoring	\$52,529
5	McNary Reservoir steelhead fishery monitoring	\$32,996
6	Monitoring hatchery spring chinook fishery on the Yakima River	\$19,850
7	Columbia River salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board administrative assistant	\$34,895
8	Region 5 hooking mortality study – modelling	\$172,499
9	Region 5 Columbia River summer/fall chinook mark selective fishery creel	\$47,974
10	Cowlitz River steelhead weir boards (Region 5)	\$114,210
11	Lower Columbia River steelhead fishery creel (Region 5)	\$318,621
12	Public fishing access site viability study on mainstem Columbia River and tributaries	\$42,080
	Total	\$1,466,222

Select Project Summary Since 2010

