

Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund Grant Recipients

2022

- Kern River Conservancy—\$25,000: Access to wild and native Kern River Rainbows has been closed due to a collapsed staircase at the Johnsondale Bridge. The staircase allows anglers and forest visitors to access the river trail along the Wild & Scenic section of the Kern River.

2021

- Plumas Corporation—\$87,074 (multi-year project to be funded at approximately \$34K, \$34K, \$19K over the course of the work) - Dry Meadow Restoration and Monitoring with funds aiming to supplement Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) funds to complete three years of post-project monitoring of meadow hydrology, water quality and aquatic habitat.
- California Trout—\$53,598: This project is the third phase of funding from the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund to improve important habitat for native trout and other native species in the Kern River Watershed by completing restoration design for Horse Meadow in the Sequoia National Forest.
- Kern River Conservancy—\$6,000: To create a virtual platform, working with community partners, to deliver a “Trout in the Classroom” virtual learning program for school children and anglers.
- Trout Unlimited—\$25,000: To restore aquatic connectivity for CA Golden Trout in Jackass Creek and improve instream and adjacent contributing habitat in Jackass Creek Watershed, a primary tributary to Fish Creek & South Fork Kern River.

2020

- California Trout—\$52,895: To purchase state-of-the-art equipment to help in data collection on the condition of meadows targeted for restoration, resulting in “modernizing mountain meadow monitoring” at reduced monitoring costs.
- Plumas Corporation—\$34,287: To launch the design a conceptual restoration project for the Cannell Meadow based on data collection and analysis, and to engage a stakeholder group to help inform the project.

2019

- California Trout--\$66,000: Building on the 2018 awarded grant to establish a useful plan for monitoring restored meadow areas in the upper Kern River, this project’s aim is to further develop restoration designs for Horse Meadow and complete necessary studies to support anticipated requirements per the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) process.

- Plumas Corporation—\$32,445: To protect and improve habitat for trout fishery in key tributaries of the Kern River, with a focus on the degraded Redwood Meadow and other downstream meadows.
- Trout Unlimited—\$50,000: To restore three degraded meadows in the South Creek Watershed, a Sequoia National Forest priority watershed, to improve habitat quality and water availability and quality for Kern River Rainbow Trout.

2018

- Friends of the Hatchery--\$20,000: To install an enclosed pipe connecting the incoming flow of water from the river and wells to Hatchery ponds and raceways, in order to prevent rodents from burrowing through and around the open-ditch canal that currently exists, improve the quality of water that would be free of debris like falling leaves, twigs, etc., and help control water temperature. (Due to a restructuring of Friends of the Hatchery, this project could not be carried out. All granted funds were returned to the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund at Kern Community Foundation at year-end 2019.)
- California Trout--\$65,434: To establish a useful plan for monitoring restored meadow areas in the Upper Kern River that can be later implemented as a uniform template for collecting useful data on meadows throughout the area as they are restored.
- Kern River Conservancy--\$17,100: To raise awareness among visitors about conservation practices for native trout species, using illustrated signage at camp sites/day use areas along the Upper Kern River, as well as social media, digital media, community workshops, and multilingual volunteers; and also to deploy volunteers and college interns to conduct water quality testing and monitoring of stream habitat to determine native Kern River rainbow trout ecosystem health.
- U.S. Forest Service--\$152,220: To install three vented vault toilets to decrease human waste in the floodplain of the Wild and Scenic Upper Kern River. Installation locations are in dispersed camping areas at Chico Flat, Corral Creek and Calkins Flat, spread out over about 10 miles of the river.
- Friends of the Hatchery—\$10,000: To purchase and install an aerator kit and railings around fish ponds and to uproot some trees to optimize the water environment for Kern River Rainbow Trout at the Kern River Hatchery. (Due to a restructuring of Friends of the Hatchery, this project was only partially carried out, and \$6,700 of granted funds were returned to the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund at Kern Community Foundation at year-end 2019.)

2017

- Friends of the Hatchery—\$13,400: To resurface the northern trout runs at the Hatchery (currently chipped and crumbling) to create a clean, healthy environment for the trout while they're waiting to be released in the river.
- California Trout—\$10,320: To offset unanticipated additional costs associated with overhead and administration of contracts with project partners on the \$47,826 grant approved in the spring (see below), as the project is delayed due to natural (high precipitation, fires) and human (collaborative nature of the project) factors.

- Plumas Corporation—\$39,770: To replace the arch culvert at the Fish Creek crossing with a bridge.
- California Trout—\$47,826: To assess and prioritize restoration of approximately 10 meadows in supporting the recovery of Kern River rainbow trout habitats.

2016

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife—\$45,000: To collect genetically pure Kern River Rainbow Trout from Sequoia National Park waters.
- Trout Unlimited—\$50,000: To restore meadow ecosystem function and services across the Sequoia National Forest, including restoration of the Kern River rainbow trout habitat.
- California Trout—\$80,000 (Actual expenditure: \$63,787): For the Osa Meadow Restoration project, which will provide watershed improvements benefiting multiple ecosystems, including restoration of the Kern River rainbow trout habitat.

2015

- Friends of the Hatchery—\$80,000 (Actual expenditure: \$75,555): To purchase and install a self-cleaning debris screen for the water ditch that feeds the hatchery ponds.

2014

- Kern Community Foundation—\$10,000: To facilitate a Community Convening regarding Rainbow Trout Conservation Strategies.

2013

- Southern Sierra Fly Fishers—\$45,000: For a backup generator at the Kernville Fish Hatchery.
- Southern Sierra Fly Fishers—\$17,000: For the continued work on the Hatchery Wells at the Kernville Fish Hatchery.
- Southern Sierra Fly Fishers—\$10,000: For the continued work on the Hatchery Wells at the Kernville Fish Hatchery

2011

- The Regents of the University of California—\$89,045: To develop a hatchery and genetic management plan for the Kern River Rainbow Trout.

2009

- Southern Sierra Fly Fishers—\$120,000: To drill four wells and provide improvements for rearing Kern River Rainbow Trout.

2008

- The Regents of the University of California—\$83,907: To assess selected fish populations within and outside the Kern River drainage to determine the existence and distribution of remaining "pure" Kern River Rainbow Trout.

- California Department of Fish and Game—\$31,113.20: To provide back country horse patrols into the Upper Kern Basin so as to enhance the protection of the Kern River Rainbow Trout and to help insure its continued recovery.
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)—\$7,802: To collect trout samples and inventory zooplankton assemblages in lakes and streams identified for restoration in the Upper Kern River Sequoia National Park.
- University of California, Davis—\$54,075: To inventory lake benthic macro invertebrate assemblages; visually identify lake benthic macro invertebrate and zooplankton assemblages; and genetically analyze lake and stream benthic macro invertebrate assemblages, zooplankton assemblages, and trout populations in lakes and streams identified for restoration in the Upper Kern River of Sequoia National Park.
- University of California, Santa Barbara—\$17,794.51: To inventory and visually identify benthic invertebrate assemblages in streams identified for restoration in the Upper Kern River of Sequoia National Park, in order to evaluate recovery of benthic macro invertebrate assemblages in Upper Kern River restoration sites.
- Sequoia National Forest—\$15,466: To provide baseline assessment of fisheries resources in areas not normally covered by project based stream surveys to help identify streams with potential for stocking with Kern River Rainbow Trout, degraded streams in need of remedial work and provide trends with repeated inventory for tracking recovery from the McNally fire.
- Inyo National Forest—\$62,209.69: For the restoration and improvement of trout habitat in the Upper Kern Basin, and to the improvement of the quality of the Upper Kern Basin water including the attainment and maintenance of water quality regulatory standards such as fecal coliform levels.

2007

- California Department of Fish and Game—\$23,403.35: To provide back country horse patrols into the Upper Kern Basin so as to enhance the protection of the Kern River Rainbow Trout and to help insure its continued recovery.
- The Regents of the University of California—\$81,903: To assess selected fish populations within and outside of the Kern River drainage to determine the existence and distribution of remaining "pure" Kern River Rainbow Trout.

(Updated 1-19-23)