



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Conservation Northwest

Address:
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Seattle, WA 98119

Contact:
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<https://conservationnw.org>

Organization's General Goals:
Keeping the Northwest Wild since 1989, we protect old-growth forests and other wildlands, connect large landscapes and vital habitats, and restore native wildlife.

Date of Award:	Level:
2017 Q3	\$500 to \$2,500

Specific Use for This Award:
This award was used for administrative and program expenses. For more information, please read the attached report from Conservation Northwest.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulip, WA 98271

TulipCares.org

Officers

Board President
Board Vice President
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Conservation Northwest Progress Report – Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions

2018 Pacific Fisher Reintroduction Project

Report Number: Q3 2017 14.2

Number of People Impacted: 71,200

Thank you for your generous support of our Pacific Fisher Reintroduction Project! Your grant has allowed us to reintroduce a dozen fishers to the North Cascades in December 2018 and to reach over 70,000 people through our communications about the fisher releases. We expect to reintroduce an additional 25 to 30 fishers to the North Cascades by the end of February 2019. Details below.

Overview

Fishers were extirpated from Washington’s Cascade Mountains over 70 years ago, primarily due to overtrapping for their thick fur. We are working with the National Park Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other partners to reestablish a self-sustaining population of Pacific fishers in the North Cascades, and to bolster public understanding of, and pride in, Washington’s natural heritage, to help protect these species into the future. Objectives include:

- Safely capture, transport, and release 40 Pacific fishers into North Cascades National Park and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.
- Monitor post-release movements, survival, home range establishment, and reproduction.
- Reach at least 25,000 people through the release events and communications on our website and social media.
- Coordinate with reporters to ensure 3 to 7 news articles are published on the fisher releases, consistent with media coverage in previous years.

Progress

In 2017, severe wildfires occurred in British Columbia, the source of our fishers. Due to concerns that the wildfires had reduced fisher populations in BC, we cancelled our efforts to trap fishers there in early 2018. Instead, we focused on finding a new, stable source of fishers. Fortunately, it wasn’t long before we identified a large, healthy population of fishers in Alberta, Canada. Together with partners Calgary Zoo and Alberta Trappers Association, we recruited and trained trappers to safely catch the fishers, and we engaged zoo personnel to house the fishers until transport to the North Cascades.



Volunteers carry a fisher box to the release site.   K. Betcher, Conservation Northwest

Web and email

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Everything came together in early December 2018, when we released the first 6 fishers (5 females and 1 male) into North Cascades National Park. A crowd of about 120 people gathered to watch the fishers bound away into

their new home. Representatives from the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Lummi Indian Nation, and Nooksack Indian Tribe were in attendance, as were staff from the offices of Senator Cantwell and Representative DelBene. We have since released 7 more fishers in the North Cascades and plan to release an additional 25 to 30 by the end of February 2019. It is exciting that fishers have rejoined the natural community where they thrived for thousands of years.

Although it is too early to obtain monitoring data on the fishers that we just released in the North Cascades, monitoring data by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife indicate that the fishers we released in the South Cascades between 2015 and 2017 are adapting well to their new home. At least two fishers have been born in the South Cascades, and experts suspect there are more offspring that haven't been spotted. Survival rates are also good, ranging between 50 and 90 percent.

The North Cascades fisher releases have been an excellent opportunity to communicate with the public about the importance of fishers and other native wildlife for ecosystem health and quality of life. In this regard, we exceeded our outreach goals for this project. We reached 71,200 people about the fisher releases on our website and social media, including over 10,000 people who viewed our videos about the fisher releases on Facebook and YouTube. In addition, more than a dozen articles in regional, national and Canadian media outlets and blogs have been published about the fisher releases. We have pasted links to a few of these articles below.

Fishers reintroduced to North Cascades

DECEMBER 19, 2018 – METHOW VALLEY NEWS

Six rare fishers released in North Cascades

DECEMBER 8, 2018 – THE SPOKESMAN REVIEW

Wildlife Officials Release 6 Fishers in North Cascades

DECEMBER 6, 2018 – ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meet Whatcom's newest neighbor, who's pretty darned cute ... until it shows its teeth

DECEMBER 4, 2018 – THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Thanks again for your generous grant! This work could not have occurred without your thoughtful support. We will keep you posted about the remaining fisher releases that are scheduled to occur until February 2019. Because of people like you, these wild creatures should have a bright future in our state.

Natalie Doerr
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Welcome home! A fisher scampers off into the North Cascades. © P. Bannick, Conservation Northwest