Funds Distribution Report

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

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TulalipCares.org

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NW Energy Coalition

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Organization's General Goals:
The NW Energy Coalition advances clean, equitable, and affordable energy policies by leveraging our analytic expertise and convening a broad alliance of people and organizations.

Date of Award:
2025 Q2

Level:
$2,501 to $5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from NW Energy Coalition.

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NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund — September 1, 2026
Grant Reporting Period: 2025–2026

At a Glance

- Helped shape the region's draft 9th Northwest Power Plan to align new electricity resource decisions with Columbia Basin salmon recovery and Tribal treaty rights.
- Advanced replacement-power planning for the four Lower Snake River dams through the Six Sovereigns process and the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative.
- Supported litigation and regulatory challenges holding federal agencies accountable for salmon recovery commitments.
- Partnered with CRITFC, ATNI, Save Our Wild Salmon, and other Tribal and regional organizations on shared energy and salmon-recovery priorities.
- Reached policymakers and the public through technical comments, webinars, and educational materials on the region's energy future.

NW Energy Coalition (NWEC) is deeply grateful for the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund's support of our work to advance salmon recovery and clean energy together in the Pacific Northwest. This grant helped make possible the policy and technical work summarized below.

NWEC's Columbia Basin salmon recovery work centers on a different watershed than Tulalip's own treaty waters, but it rests on principles that Northwest Tribes share broadly: that treaty-reserved rights and salmon, as a foundational cultural and ecological resource, must guide how the region plans its energy future, and that Tribal sovereignty deserves a seat at the table as those decisions are made. We are grateful for Tulalip's support for that broader, shared work.

This work has become more urgent. The Northwest faces rising electricity demand from data centers, electrification, and population growth, while climate change is increasing pressure on rivers, salmon, and the electric system. Decisions made now about the region's energy resources will shape outcomes for decades.

During this grant period, NWEC worked to advance regional energy planning that supports salmon recovery, hold federal energy agencies accountable, strengthen partnerships with Tribal governments and organizations, and build public understanding that reliable, affordable clean energy and abundant salmon can coexist.

Project Outcomes

1. Advancing Salmon Recovery Through Regional Energy Planning

NWEC remained a leading voice in aligning salmon recovery with energy system planning, focusing primarily on the 9th Northwest Regional Power Plan, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 20-year roadmap for meeting the region's electricity needs. The Council is charged not only with

ensuring an adequate, reliable power supply, but with mitigating the hydropower system's impacts on fish and wildlife, making the plan directly consequential for salmon recovery.

NWEC advocated throughout the plan's development for a strategy that prioritizes energy efficiency, demand response, renewables, storage, affordability, and reliability while protecting fish and wildlife. On August 11, 2026, the Council unanimously voted to release the draft 9th Power Plan for public review; NWEC joined Save Our Wild Salmon, Earthjustice, and other partners in calling for a plan that meets growing electricity needs while protecting and restoring Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead and upholding commitments to Northwest Tribes. NWEC also hosted public webinars explaining the planning process and how to participate in the comment period.

Other regional planning work included:

- Continued participation in the Six Sovereigns energy planning process on replacing the energy services of the Lower Snake River dams.
- A Six Sovereigns workgroup developing recommendations for Washington State funding of a Lower Snake River dam replacement study.
- Active engagement in the Columbia Snake River Campaign Energy Workgroup, coordinating regional advocacy and technical analysis.
- Technical comments on the Council's 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program amendment process, advocating for strong salmon protections and continued federal accountability.

2. **Advancing the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative and Tribal Priorities**

NWEC continued its participation in the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI) and the Six Sovereigns process, focused on the energy component of salmon restoration: evaluating how the Lower Snake River dams' energy services can be responsibly replaced while maintaining affordability and reliability and advancing Tribal treaty rights and salmon recovery.

NWEC worked with Tribal representatives and regional partners on replacement-power strategies, including the Six Sovereigns workgroup on Washington State-funded studies, building the technical foundation to demonstrate that restoring the Lower Snake River and maintaining a reliable, affordable electricity system are compatible goals, and helping ensure future energy planning reflects Tribal priorities rather than treating salmon recovery as secondary to electricity-system needs.

3. **Protecting Public Accountability and Science-Based Decision-Making**

NWEC continued to provide technical expertise and public oversight of federal energy decisions affecting salmon recovery. During the reporting period, NWEC:

- Supported the resumption of litigation in National Wildlife Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service, helping re-establish federal accountability for salmon recovery under the Endangered Species Act.
- Worked with Earthjustice and other partners to challenge Bonneville Power Administration decisions that could undermine clean energy development and long-term salmon recovery goals.
- Co-filed a Petition for Review in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals challenging BPA's decision to join the Southwest Power Pool's Markets+ market rather than the Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM).

- Participated in regional advocacy on BPA rate-setting and other agency decisions to encourage outcomes that better reflect affordability, clean energy development, and salmon recovery commitments.

4. **Strengthening Tribal and Community Partnerships**

Partnership with Tribal governments and organizations remains central to NWEC's salmon and energy work. NWEC continued collaboration with Tribal leaders engaged in Columbia Basin restoration, including through the Six Sovereigns process and CBRI, and coordinated with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), Save Our Wild Salmon, and other regional partners working at the intersection of energy policy, Tribal sovereignty, and salmon recovery.

NWEC participated in Save Our Wild Salmon leadership meetings and educational forums on energy policy and salmon recovery, including emerging challenges from rapidly growing electricity demand, and contributed to the Water Foundation's Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative work-planning efforts, helping coordinate strategy among funders, Tribal partners, and advocacy organizations.

5. **Public Education and Outreach**

NWEC continued educating policymakers, advocates, and the public about the feasibility of replacing the Lower Snake River dams' energy services without sacrificing affordability or reliability, including:

- Presentations, technical briefings, and educational materials on clean energy replacement pathways.
- Outreach to policymakers and stakeholders on transmission, energy markets, and resource adequacy.
- Fact-based materials addressing misconceptions about dam removal, energy reliability, and affordability.
- Public education and webinars on the Ninth Power Plan encouraging participation in the public comment period.

Use of Grant Funds

Tulalip's [redacted] grant supported approximately 6% of NWEC's salmon and energy program work during the reporting period, including staff and contractor time for regional energy planning and replacement-power analysis, participation in the 9th Power Plan and Fish & Wildlife Program processes, and the development of the technical comments, educational materials, and advocacy resources described above. This grant, together with support from the Harder and Water Foundations and the Oregon Community Foundation, helped sustain NWEC's salmon and energy work this year.

This sustained capacity allows NWEC to participate in complex, multi-year regional proceedings while keeping salmon recovery and Tribal priorities at the center of our work.

Impact

NWEC's work builds toward a Northwest energy system that is cleaner, more affordable, more resilient, and more consistent with salmon recovery goals, with implications for Tribal and non-Tribal communities across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

Key impacts during the reporting period include:

- Continued advancement of credible planning to replace the Lower Snake River dams' energy services.
- Stronger integration of salmon recovery into major regional energy-planning processes, including the draft 9th Power Plan.
- Continued advocacy for Tribal priorities and treaty rights in regional energy decisions.
- Greater public and policymaker understanding of clean energy alternatives that support salmon recovery.
- Increased public participation in decisions about the region's long-term energy future.
- Stronger accountability for federal agencies whose decisions affect salmon populations and Columbia Basin ecosystems.

Looking Ahead

The coming year will be consequential for the Northwest's energy future and for salmon recovery. The Council will adopt a final 9th Power Plan recommending a suite of actions for the region to pursue over the next five years, including ambitious conservation goals, new clean energy resources, storage, and expanded transmission, a strategy that can support an affordable, reliable future while reducing strain on the river system so salmon have more opportunity to thrive.

NWEC will remain deeply engaged as the Council considers public input and finalizes the plan, advocating for an outcome that responds responsibly to electricity-demand growth while prioritizing clean resources, affordability, reliability, and fish and wildlife protection. We will continue working with Tribal partners, the Six Sovereigns, and other regional stakeholders to advance credible replacement-power planning for the four Lower Snake River dams.

NWEC remains committed to a future in which abundant salmon populations, Tribal treaty rights, healthy rivers, and clean, affordable energy coexist and thrive together. We deeply appreciate the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund's investment in this work and its continued leadership in protecting the people, cultures, and natural resources of the Northwest.

Thank you for your partnership and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Brooks
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