



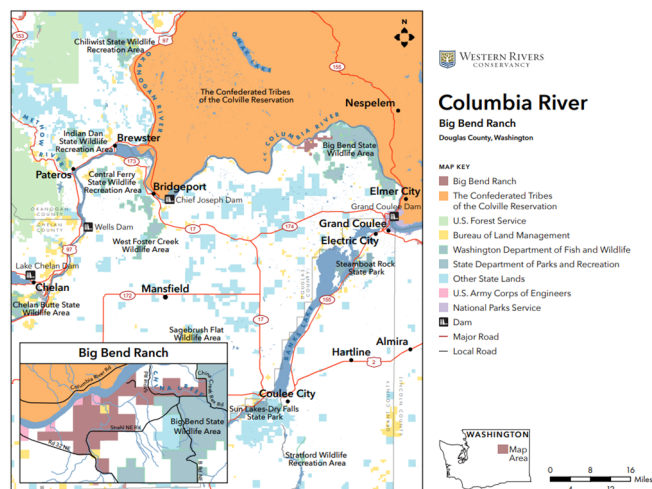
# WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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Global Giving  
Project Report Photos  
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## Washington's Upper Columbia River: Expanding grouse habitat and public access

In November 2025, WRC successfully conveyed the 2,135-acre Big Bend Ranch to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), permanently conserving a beautiful sweep of sagebrush-steppe along the Upper Columbia River. The transfer protects 1.5 miles of Columbia River shoreline, expands WDFW's Big Bend Wildlife Area, and increases habitat protections for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse—all in an area that is experiencing increased riverfront development. WRC purchased the ranch in early 2024 and then worked with WDFW for nearly two years to secure funding to add the property to the state wildlife area. With the conveyance now complete, a key piece of the river's natural heritage has been safeguarded for fish, wildlife and people. The project is a meaningful win for conservation in a landscape long shaped by dams—proof that even along the most engineered rivers, we can still protect wild places and restore ecological resilience for generations to come. *Tyler Roemer photo*



## California's Fall River: Conserving the Spring-Fed Jewel of the Golden State

At the heart of California's Fall River Valley, WRC successfully conserved the 270-acre Pope Jensen Ranch by purchasing and then immediately conveying it to the Pit River Tribe. The effort protects three miles of the Fall River, including excellent habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife, while placing ancestral lands back into the hands of their original stewards. The Tribe can now begin critically needed restoration on nearly 135 acres of freshwater wetlands. Given its water quality and flows, the Fall River is uniquely important. In midsummer, when rivers throughout the state grow exceedingly low and warm, and sometimes even lethal for fish, the Fall flows steady and cold, with temperatures rarely rising above the low fifties. This effort is not only a win for fish and wildlife, but a win for tribes who have inhabited this area since time immemorial. The result will be a healthier river system, restored cultural practices and protected habitat for the species that depend on the Fall River's cold, clear waters. *Val Atkinson photo*

