



## Natural Resource Investments (NRI)

This budget request enables conservation districts to help local landowners construct conservation projects that address pressing state and local priorities, such as salmon recovery, soil health, forest health, and livestock nutrient management.

**Funding requested: \$11,905,000**

### Why this request can't wait

- ▶ Most landowners want to do their part to care for our land, water, and air, but barriers — such as lack of access to expertise and funding for conservation projects — prevent them from taking action.
- ▶ For example, fencing to prevent livestock from accessing waterways costs an average of \$25,000 per mile and can take several months to plan and construct. That's a roadblock that many farmers who already work long hours on a thin profit margin can't afford.
- ▶ Since 2012, the Natural Resource Investments (NRI) program has overcome these barriers by administering capital funds to our state's 45 conservation districts (through the State Conservation Commission), who use it to help landowners pay for and construct conservation projects.
- ▶ NRI's cost-sharing model is working. The main limiting factor is state funding can't keep up with demand. Currently, 186 landowners are ready to invest in 356 projects on their properties to improve natural resources, and that number continues to grow.

### What to expect when you invest in NRI: Conservation and economic impacts

*Snapshot of impacts from \$4M invested in NRI over 2017-19 biennium:*



*Anticipated impacts of requested \$11.9M investment in NRI over 2021-23 biennium:*



\*Based on Washington Input-Output Models for Impact Analysis from the Office of Financial Management

## What does the Natural Resource Investment program look like on the ground?



Converting rill irrigation to sprinkler irrigation systems. This improves water quality, reduces soil erosion, and enables more efficient water use. (Kittitas County Conservation District)



Constructing watering facilities so livestock don't use fish-bearing streams as their water source. This improves water quality by reducing potential nutrients, pathogens, and sediment. (North Yakima Conservation District)



Before



After

Removing shoreline bulkheads to improve fish habitat. Native vegetation, wood structures, and other natural shoreline protection elements are installed to prevent erosion from wave action. (King Conservation District)



[Watch how North Yakima Conservation District voluntarily assisted a cattlemen with projects that are good for fish and farms, thanks in part to NRI funding. \(3:25\)](#)

### Contacts

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SCC-NRI-1120  
November 2020