

Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA)

Summary

The Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (Public Law 106-502) establishes a voluntary federal cost-share program to fund fish screens and fish passage devices in areas that drain into the Pacific Ocean in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and western Montana. The central goal of the program is to screen water withdrawals and build upstream fish passage devices while maintaining a reliable supply of water for various human uses. The program is administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with state agencies that manage fish and wildlife.

FRIMA was signed into law in 2000, and was last reauthorized through 2015 back in 2008. This proposed reauthorization would extend the program from 2017 to 2024 at an authorized funding level of \$25,000,000, shared equally among the four states. The program is centered on multi-sectoral collaboration and is supported by a number of different interests, including farmers, fisheries managers, water users and conservation organizations.

History of Success

FRIMA has a history of demonstrated success throughout the Pacific Northwest. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to date, 127 projects have been funded through FRIMA. These projects have re-opened more than 1,130 miles of habitat to fish passage. In total, 56 barriers to fish passage have been removed, 130 water diversion sites have been screened, and 18 fish passage evaluations have been completed, all while maintaining and improving agriculture irrigation systems.