

PRE- PROPOSAL FORM -

1. Applicant organization.

USDA Forest Service
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
&
WDFW Region 5

2. Organization purpose

USFS-Resource management agency
WDFW-Fish and Wildlife management Agency

3. Project manager (name, address, telephone, email, fax).

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Fishery Biologist
20+ years experience with fish habitat restoration projects

Jim Byrne
WDFW
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Fishery Biologist
Regional bull trout expert with 15 years experience in Rush Creek basin.

4. Project Title

Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration

5. Summary of Project proposal

This is an integrated and co-sponsored project by the USFS and WDFW.

1. Approximately 0.25 miles of side channel habitat in Rush Creek is proposed to be enhanced through spawning gravel augmentation with 20-40 cubic yards of spawning gravel placed in strategic locations using a helicopter to restore bull trout spawning opportunities. Onsite boulders will be manipulated by hand using pry bars and winches to stabilize gravel additions. Small diameter logs will be

- flown in by helicopter and anchored to boulders to add stability and future habitat forming features to some of the sites.
2. Currently, natural gravel upstream of the existing log jam is highly embedded and un-useable for spawning. In addition to gravel augmentation, a pump with high pressure wands will be used to clean the currently embedded gravels and sediments from the gravel to make it useable material.
 3. An additional 20 cubic yards of spawning gravel will be added to Rush Creek from the bridge on Forest Road 90 using a dump truck and backhoe.

Project Background.

WDFW personnel (with assistance from USFS and PacifiCorp) perform spawning surveys for bull trout frequently in the Rush Creek system during summer and fall months. They have noted that over time gravel depositions in Rush Creek are being depleted due to naturally occurring streamflow events. Spawning gravel is very limited in this system and is not recruited from upstream sources during scour events. If this trend continues, the little gravel that remains for spawning will disappear.

Bull trout are the target species for this project, but steelhead will also benefit from project activities.

Priority 1: *Benefit fish recovery throughout the North Fork Lewis River, with priority to federal ESA-listed species.*

Bull trout are listed as a threatened species under the ESA

Steelhead trout are listed as a threatened species under the ESA

Priority 2: *Support the reintroduction of anadromous fish throughout the basin.*

Increased and enhanced spawning opportunities in Rush Creek will enhance the production and recovery of anadromous fish in the basin.

Priority 3: *Enhance fish habitat in the Lewis River Basin-, with priority given to the North Fork Lewis River.*

This project would increase the amount and quality of suitably sized spawning gravel available. Increased spawning gravel will enhance fish habitat and production in Rush Creek.

6. Project location (including River/Stream and Lat/Long coordinates if available).

This project would start near the mouth of Rush Creek and continue upstream, ending at the Forest Road 90 bridge.

7. Expected products and results

This project will result in an increased amount and quality of spawning gravel available to listed fish in Rush Creek.

8. Benefits of proposed Project

The project will benefit Bull Trout and anadromous fish by increasing spawning opportunities. This will help avoid redd superimposition. The end result is that more eggs will survive and hatch into fry.

9. Project partners and roles.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife-Project design and implementation, project monitoring.

US Forest Service-Project design and implementation, contract preparation and administration, project monitoring.

10. Community involvement (to date and planned).

The Forest Service and WDFW maintains active community involvement by scheduling regular events with legislators, scientists, members, and key individuals for continual program and project development along with cultivating strong ties with agencies, academia, and local citizen groups.

11. Procedure for monitoring and reporting on results.

This project will be monitored by taking pre and post project reach cross sections, pebble counts, snorkel counts, spawning surveys and photo points.

12. Project schedule (anticipated start date, major milestones, completion date).

The NEPA for this project was completed in 2007 but will need to be updated for this project.

NEPA- Summer 2011/Winter 2012

Project implementation July 2012

Pre-project monitoring 2011 and/or 2012

Post project monitoring 2012 and beyond.

13. Funding requested (estimated cost for project design, permitting (including necessary resource surveys), construction, and monitoring).

Requesting a total of \$25,000 as a cost share portion for project implementation and monitoring. Approximately 20K for implementation and monitoring, and 5K for NEPA revision.

14. Type and source of other contributions (Identify cash (C) and/or in-kind (IK), and status, pending (P) or confirmed (Co)).

Gifford Pinchot National Forest	\$10,000 (IK)	(Co)
WDFW	\$5,000 (IK)	(Co)

15. If you have technical assistance needs for this project, please briefly describe such needs.

None Needed

Rush Creek 2011



0 187.5 375 750 1,125 1,500 Feet



