



# GIFFORD PINCHOT TASK FORCE

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Frank Shrier  
PacifiCorp-LCT 1500  
825 NE Multnomah  
Portland, OR 97232

October 17, 2011


Dear Frank Shrier:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a pre-proposal for the Aquatic Funds related to the Lewis River Basin. Our Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration Pilot Project aligns well with the project funding and focuses on enhancement of bull trout and salmonid habitat and will benefit ESA-listed species in Rush Creek.

The Gifford Pinchot Task Force has been working since 1985 to support the biological diversity and communities of the Northwest through conservation and restoration of forests, rivers, fish, and wildlife. We represent over 6,000 people who share our vision of restored Northwest ecosystems and thriving fish and wildlife populations. This Project will be conducted in close partnership with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Thank you for considering our proposal. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
Lisa Moscinski

# PRE- PROPOSAL FORM -

## 1. Applicant organization

Gifford Pinchot Task Force

## 2. Organization purpose

The Gifford Pinchot Task Force supports the biological diversity and communities of the Northwest through conservation and restoration of forests, rivers, fish, and wildlife. We are local non-profit organization that has been working in southwest Washington for 26 years and has over 6,000 members.

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

Lisa Moscinski

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## 4. Project Title

Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration Pilot Project

## 5. Summary of Project proposal

The Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration Pilot Project will be implemented in collaboration with the USFS and WDFW. The goal of the Project is to increase bull trout spawning and juvenile rearing opportunities and success. We have identified this as a Pilot Project to determine the benefit of installing log structures with gravel in a side channel of Rush Creek and how it meets our identified goal. Approximately 750 feet of side channel habitat in Rush Creek would have four log weirs with spawning gravel placed in strategic locations using a small 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 to some of the sites. Gravel will be added to the stream upstream of the log weirs with a helicopter.

## Project Background

On September 2011, USFS, WDFW and USFWS personnel performed a field reconnaissance in Rush Creek to determine potential habitat limitations for bull trout. It was noted that few spawning opportunities for bull trout currently exist because of high water velocity and minimal deposits of useable spawning gravel. It was observed that bull trout spawn primarily on stream margins and occasionally in side channels. Side channels in Rush Creek are more stable than the Rush Creek mainstem and water velocity is reduced. It was also noted that gravel recruitment into these side channels is limited and that it appears substrate is exposed through down cutting rather than recruitment.

Jim Byrne from WDFW also noted that in the past bull trout were observed in the side channel include some limited spawning, and that during a 2010 genetic sampling a majority of juvenile bull trout were captured from this side channel. Few juveniles in the main stem were observed or captured. He also noted that when the smolt trap was run in

2005 and 2006 many of the bull trout captured were leaving the system as button up fry (and many were not fully buttoned up). The probability of juvenile bull trout existing in the system was not correlated with high water events.

The idea of a Pilot Project developed to determine if adding logs and gravel to the side channel would increase bull trout spawning and juvenile rearing opportunities and success. Bull trout are the target species for this project.

**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.

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

Increased spawning and juvenile rearing opportunities in Rush Creek will enhance the production of anadromous fish in the basin. Steelhead will be the reintroduced salmonid that benefits the most from restoration efforts in Rush Creek.

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

Increased woody material and spawning gravel will enhance fish habitat in Rush Creek by providing additional spawning substrates and creating areas of reduced flow to support juvenile rearing.

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

This project would start in a side channel near the mouth of Rush Creek and continue upstream for approximately 750 feet.

#### **7. Expected products and results**

Our main goal is to increase spawning gravel and rearing habitat in Rush Creek. We also hope to provide increased knowledge on restoration activities that could benefit bull trout.

#### **8. Benefits of proposed Project**

The project will benefit bull trout by increasing spawning and rearing opportunities. The end result is that more eggs will survive and hatch into fry, and juveniles will have a more stable environment to rear in.

#### **9. Project partners and roles**

Our Rush Creek Side Channel Restoration Pilot Project is a collaborative project between the Gifford Pinchot Task Force, WDFW, and USFS.

*Gifford Pinchot Task Force:* provide project administration, development of a monitoring plan, volunteers to help monitor project, and outreach to share benefits of project.

*Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:* provide project design and implementation, and help with project monitoring.

*US Forest Service:* conduct project design and implementation, contract preparation and administration, and project monitoring.

**10. Community involvement (to date and planned)**

The Gifford Pinchot Task Force has over 6,000 members and works closely with other organizations and agencies to share the benefits of restoration and importance of bull trout. The Gifford Pinchot Task Force, US 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. We plan to work together to share the goals and outcomes of this Pilot Project.

**11. Procedure for monitoring and reporting on results**

This project will be monitored by taking pre and post project cross sections, pebble counts, sediment, snorkel counts, spawning surveys, streambed photography, and photos at established photo points. This is an adaptive management project and criteria will be established related to monitoring results, which will determine if the project is successful and what future work may be necessary.

**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 2012/Winter 2013

Project implementation July 2013

Pre-project monitoring 2012 and/or 2013

Post project monitoring 2013 and beyond as needed.

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

We are requesting \$24,000 as a cost share portion for project implementation and monitoring.

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

Gifford Pinchot Task Force	\$7,500 (IK)	(Co)
Gifford Pinchot National Forest	\$5,000 (IK)	(Co)
WDFW	\$2,000 (IK)	(Co)

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

None Needed



