

PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Lewis River Aquatic Fund

1. Applicant organization. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2. Organization purpose. To: Manage commercial and recreational fisheries in the State of Washington
3. Project manager (name, address, telephone, email, fax).

Jim Byrne
Area Fish Biologist
WDFW
2108 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661
byrnejbb@dfw.wa.gov
(360) 601-1016
(360) 906-6776

4. Project Title. **Upper Lewis River Bull Trout Spawning Habitat Inventory**

5. Summary of Project proposal.

Listed Upper Lewis River bull trout only spawn in 2.74 km of Rush Creek, 12.9 km of Pine Creek and 4 km of the unnamed tributary of Pine Creek (P-8). Main spawning concentrations have not been identified at this time. This project will implement a series of weekly spawning ground surveys to GPS redd locations, flag redds, and document redd persistence for the purposes of identifying redd locations and indicating which redds in the upper Lewis Basin are most at risk and require protection. It will provide a baseline of bull trout spawning prior to anadromous reintroduction

This project will benefit listed bull trout (Priority 1) by prioritizing spawning habitat and also identify those habitats that may also be successful utilized by reintroduced anadromous species (Priority 2). Depending when coho are placed during 2012, this may be the last opportunity to collect baseline spawning data before full reintroduction commences. This project will develop a prioritized list of spawning areas for protection and rehabilitation (Priority 3). Hydro licensing actions have created an aquatic habitat restoration fund (\$300,000 annually) with a portion devoted to bull trout recovery projects. Thus, a substantial pool of dollars exists to fund habitat activities, but no complete spawning habitat index exists within the basin to guide the investment of these funds to benefit bull trout recovery. This project would identify spawning reaches,

thereby providing data necessary to prioritize funding of recovery projects under consideration by the Lewis River Aquatic Coordination Committee, the steering group that recommends projects to receive funding from the aforementioned habitat restoration fund.

6. Project location.

A full census of available spawning habitat in Rush, P-8, and Pine Creeks will be conducted. Generally, occurring at Lat: 46° 06' 00" ; Long: 122° 04' 00"

7. Expected products and results (Please attach any drawings).

We plan to conduct weekly walking surveys on 2.7 km of Rush Ck., 4 km of the unnamed tributary to Pine Creek (P-8) and 12.9 km of Pine Ck. to document bull trout adult presence and redd construction. Surveys will occur from mid- September, through mid-October 2012. WDFW staff will locate, GPS, and flag bull trout redds in all three streams (Rush Creek, Pine Creek and P-8); collect standardized redd parameters (size, depth and flow) and monitor redd persistence. Characteristics associated with good habitats will be noted, measured and documented. A written report will be produced and delivered by the end of the survey year.

8. Benefits of proposed Project.

This project will provide a prioritized list of areas that are worthy of habitat preservation or restoration efforts. It will drive decision making as to where on habitat investments should occur. It should expedite decision making for the ACC.

9. Project partners and roles.

WDFW -	Organize and conduct spawning ground surveys.
U. S. Forest Service -	Provide land access

10. Community involvement (to date and planned).

We are not planning for additional assistance at this time. We will provide extensive outreach of the results to regulatory agencies and the public at large.

11. Procedure for monitoring and reporting on results.

We will use established criteria (WDFW and PacifiCorp) for monitoring redd construction and persistence. We will develop a prioritized list of habitat locations for potential ACC funding. A written report will be produced and delivered by the end of the survey year. We will also present findings at the annual *Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society meeting. Potentially, a manuscript would be produced for submission to a scientific peer reviewed journal.

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

This project should begin in mid-September 2012, just prior to bull trout spawning. Weekly surveys of basin streams will continue for one month, until spawning is complete. The written report would be produced by the end of the year, December 31.

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

We are requesting \$26,000. This will pay for primarily for travel, salaries, and benefits for four Sci. Techs., to conduct one month of weekly stream surveys. We also request \$6,000 for administrative overhead, for a total of \$32,000.

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

WDFW will provide \$6,525 in kind funds for 1.5 months of Bio 3 salary and benefits to: manage this project; analyze results; and produce a final written report.

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

We do not anticipate needing technical assistance for this project; apart from coordinating with PacifiCorp's crew of experienced redd surveyors.