

# **PRE- PROPOSAL FORM -**

## ***Lewis River Aquatic Fund***

### **1. Applicant organization.**

USDA Forest Service  
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

### **2. Organization purpose**

Resource management agency

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

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Fishery Biologist

25+ years experience with fish habitat restoration projects

### **4. Project Title**

**Muddy River Tributary near Hoo Hoo Bridge**

### **5. Summary of Project proposal**

**This pre-proposal is a resubmittal of the project from last year. We were asked to provide more information about coho in this tributary. A survey conducted on September 27 2013 revealed 2 coho redds from landlocked coho. A government shutdown occurred before any subsequent surveys could be conducted.**

The Forest Service proposes to restore one mile of fish habitat on a tributary of the Muddy River that crosses the 8322 road at Hoo Hoo Bridge. The project is just upstream on the same tributary as the previous project completed in 2012, where large wood complexes were placed to enhance juvenile salmonid rearing habitat. Similarly, this upstream project will provide rearing pools to enhance juvenile salmonid rearing habitat. In addition these pools will be used for cover by spawning adult salmonids. Coho salmon will be the main species to benefit from these actions; however steelhead may also use this tributary to escape high winter flows in the mainstem Muddy River.

Approximately 200 pieces of large woody material with rootwads will be placed in the tributary to create 15 structures using a small 16,000lb- 28,000 lb. excavator. Adult landlocked coho were observed spawning in this tributary in October 2011. Prior projects in this tributary included replacing a migration barrier culvert with a bridge (included partial ACC funding) and enhancing fish habitat in the lower tributary section.

The Muddy River was probably the top coho producing stream in the Upper North Fork Lewis River sub-basin prior to dam construction.

This project address the following Aquatic Fund priorities.

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

Coho salmon and steelhead trout are listed as a threatened species under the ESA. This project will directly benefit recovery of listed species by providing quality side channel habitat for rearing of juvenile salmonids. Spawning habitat will also be restored in the side channel for adult salmonids. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Boards Salmon Recovery Plan specifically cites high priority restoration needs for side channel habitat and stream channel habitat structure.

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

Creating quality rearing habitat in side channels will support reintroduction of anadromous fish in the Muddy River Watershed, of the Lewis River Basin. The ACC Synthesis Matrix rated this section of the river as having medium/high restoration potential and as a Primary coho population area.

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

This project is located in the North Fork Lewis River Basin. It is well documented that coho salmon juveniles prefer slow water habitats with large wood components.

## **6. Project location**

The project area for the fish habitat improvement in this project is located west of the 8322 road on the tributary flowing under the Hoo Hoo Bridge. This is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile upstream from Clearwater Creek confluence with the Muddy River. The invasive treatment areas are on the Muddy River floodplain near this tributary.

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

This project will result in approximately 15 complex structures. Each structure will have an excavated pool and 10-15 pieces of large wood for cover. In slow water pockets of the tributary, additional pieces of large wood will be placed in random fashion to provide varied habitat niches.

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

Increased numbers of juvenile salmonids above background levels from reintroduction activities are expected to occur from this project. Increased amount and quality of rearing pools in the Muddy River side channel and spawning habitat will be created in association with the log complexes.

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

Mount St. Helens Institute.

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

The Forest Service 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.**

- 1) Perform baseline monitoring. This monitoring will occur prior to project implementation and include a longitudinal profile, cross-sections, pebble counts, photo-documentation and snorkel surveys. MSHI will provide two interns, five volunteer urban youth and a supervisor to perform monitoring work. They will perform all aspects of the monitoring with supervision and training from the Forest Service.
- 2) Perform after project monitoring. This monitoring will occur following project implementation and will continue on an annual basis for several years following project completion. MSHI will provide two interns for this portion of the work supervised by the Forest Service.
- 3) Monitoring Report. A monitoring report will be written each year following project implementation. MSHI will provide raw data in excel format, the Forest Service will provide analysis of data and report.

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

NEPA – Complete  
Project Implementation July 2015  
Post project monitoring 2016

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

**Total ACC Funds-\$38,000**

**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- **\$29,000** (IK) (Co)  
Mt. St. Helens Institute- **\$2,000** (IK)(Co).

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

None Needed

# 2013 Muddy River Tributary Proposal

