

# PRE- PROPOSAL FORM -

## 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

**Little Creek fish Habitat Restoration**

## 5. Summary of Project proposal

The Forest Service proposes to enhance 2,200' of Little Creek with instream large wood structures. A tracked excavator will place approximately 20 structures constructed from about 200 pieces of large wood imported by helicopter. Structures will be keyed into the stream bank by trench-excavating and backfilling over 2/3 of each log length. Little Creek meanders through a meadow reach before flowing into the Lewis River, providing excellent potential rearing and refugia habitats. The Forest Service will collect water temperature readings to establish likelihood of bull trout use. Wood for this project would come from USFS lands Pepper Cat unit 21. The Forest Service will spot-treat noxious weeds during de-mobilization and rehabilitation.

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

Little Creek provides an important opportunity to improve the quality of off-channel habitat in the Lewis River. Coho, spring Chinook, and steelhead (all ESA-listed as threatened) rely on off-channel habitat for winter refuge and summer rearing. Wood additions to the low gradient, cold stream will improve off-channel active rearing habitat and refuge from high winter flows.

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

Reintroduced coho, steelhead, and spring Chinook will benefit from increased quality of off-channel rearing habitat in Little Creek. The stream will be particularly attractive to coho, which rely on lower gradient, sheltered rearing habitats in short supply in the upper North Fork Lewis.

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

Improved rearing habitat in the lowest reach of Little Creek will directly enhance fish habitat for North Fork Lewis River re-introduced anadromous fish.

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

Little Creek from its confluence with the Lewis River to River Mile 0.4, Lat 46.079300° N, Long -121.926700° W.

**7. Expected products and results**

This project will result in approximately 20 complex structures. Each structure will have an excavated pool and 8-10 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. In swifter sections, structures will promote gravel sorting, improving spawning habitat for coho and steelhead.

**8. Benefits of proposed Project**

The project will benefit anadromous fish by increasing overwintering and summer rearing habitat for juvenile fish. Little Creek provides refuge from high flows in the mainstem Lewis River, and will serve as high quality, low gradient coho rearing habitat in the summer. Spawning areas in the tributary are protected from high winter flows in the mainstem.

**9. Project partners and roles.** Partners include: 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. Monitoring activities will include partnering with the Mt. St. Helens institute and youth from their urban outreach programs.

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

This project will be monitored by taking pre and post project cross sections, pebble counts, snorkel counts, spawning surveys and photo points. Monitoring will be performed in partnership with the Mt. St. Helens Institute.

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

The NEPA for this project not been started yet.

NEPA- Summer 2013/Winter 2014  
Project implementation July 2014 or 2015  
Pre-project monitoring 2013 and/or 2014  
Post project monitoring 2014 and beyond.

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

Requesting a total of \$69,000 as a cost share portion for project implementation and monitoring. Budget estimates include efficiencies gained through simultaneous implementation with the Lewis River Side channel near Little Creek proposal.

NEPA cost- \$8,000  
Project Implementation-\$61,000

**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	\$8,000 (IK)	(Co)
Materials from USFS	\$20,000 (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

