

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).

Adam Haspiel
Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument
42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
360-449-7833
360-449-7801-FAX
ahaspiel@fs.fed.us e-mail

Fishery Biologist

25+ years experience with fish habitat restoration projects

4. Project Title

Survey of Bull Trout Stream habitat features to develop future habitat restoration projects

5. Summary of Project proposal

The Forest Service and partners propose to survey Rush Creek, Pine Creek, Little Creek, and other cold North Fork Lewis tributaries to locate functional bull trout habitat features, identify degraded reaches, and prioritize habitat restoration and improvement opportunities. The team will work closely with members of the ACC bull trout subgroup to gather and synthesize existing information, refine survey methodology, develop a project list, and prioritize on-the-ground projects. The resulting report will form the basis of a strategy for bull trout habitat restoration in the Lewis River.

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.*

Bull trout are a listed species under the Endangered Species Act. Project proponents have been generally unsuccessful in securing funds for bull trout restoration, in part because no vetted habitat strategy is available. This project will result in a prioritized list of actions to benefit bull trout recovery in the Lewis River.

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

This project is geared to bull trout, however information gathered can be used to support reintroduction efforts of anadromous fish throughout the basin. Most stream reaches that serve bull trout also provide spawning and rearing habitat for coho and steelhead, both of which are being reintroduced. Habitat restoration efforts will benefit these reintroduced species.

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

Identifying and prioritizing habitat restoration opportunities is the first concrete step to enhancing bull trout habitat. The report and collaborative process that will result from this project will form the foundation for bull trout habitat restoration efforts in the North Fork Lewis River. If this project is not funded, bull trout funds will continue to languish, rather than supporting recovery of the population.

6. Project location

Based on existing research and bull trout sub-group advice, project partners will survey known bull trout habitat in Rush Creek, Pine Creek and tributaries, Little Creek, Range Creek, and Drift Creek. Other streams will be spot-checked for temperature, and if found suitable, will be included in the project.

7. Expected products and results

The project will produce a written report that includes a general literature review, site information, survey methodology and results, and a prioritized list of habitat restoration actions. This report will provide guidance to project sponsors seeking to restore bull trout habitat. In addition to the paper-bound product, this project will increase momentum with the project partners and stakeholders toward a unified effort to restore bull trout habitat in the Lewis River.

8. Benefits of proposed Project

This project will build upon knowledge gained by PacifiCorp, WDFW, and USFWS to identify specific on-the-ground actions to rebuild the bull trout population in the Lewis River.

9. Project partners and roles.

This project will be a collaborative effort between multiple stakeholders. The Forest Service will manage the project, provide existing stream survey information, and guide on-the-ground access. The Mount St. Helens Institute will survey the stream reaches and participate in report writing, literature searching, project prioritization and development. WDFW will provide technical assistance in developing and refining the survey design and habitat suitability criteria, and will provide support to surveyors. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will participate in surveying and will lead project prioritization, report writing, literature searching, and communication with the ACC bull trout subcommittee.

10. Community involvement (to date and planned).

This project relies on a wide variety of stakeholders and communities for success. The Forest Service maintains active community involvement programs, the MSHI is a volunteer-based non-profit with strong community ties, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe maintains active volunteer bases for a variety of nutrient enhancement and habitat restoration efforts.

11. Procedure for monitoring and reporting on results.

Results of this project will be brought forward to the ACC subcommittee on bull trout. Results include a document identifying key habitat features used by bull trout. It will include pictures, a list of key habitat features in order of importance, and a comparison to literature focused on bull trout habitat in other River basins.

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

2013

- Complete final project preparation for surveys to begin. Compile maps, past stream survey information and other useful information from various agencies including PacifiCorp, WDFW, USFS and USFWS
- Survey selected streams
- Develop document that provides in depth analyses of information gathered and literature from other bull trout basins. Develop recommendations of key habitat features required by bull trout to thrive.

2014

- Provide information to ACC subcommittee on bull trout.
- Work with ACC subcommittee to develop a prioritized list of potential habitat restoration projects for bull trout in the Lewis River basin
- Complete report and provide to PacifiCorp and stakeholders

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

Total ACC Funds-\$50,000

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

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

USFS- \$5,000 Personnel, (IK) (Co)

WDFW- \$5,000 Personnel, (IK) (Co)

Cowlitz Indian Tribe- \$2,000 Personnel, (IK) (Co).

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

This project's success will be depend on participation from the ACC bull trout subgroup, including technical review of the survey methodology, habitats identified, and project list.