

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

30+ years experience with fish habitat restoration projects

4. Project Title

Lewis River Mainstem Fish Habitat Restoration

5. Summary of Project proposal

The Forest Service proposes to restore approximately 1000 feet of Lewis River mainstem habitat on the Lewis River. This site was located during project planning for the 2014 funded alcove project. This section of the mainstem is currently wide and not confined by canyon walls (like other sections further downstream of this location, making it an ideal section of river to work in. In addition, side channels both upstream and downstream of the project location lessen high flow energy within this reach. Coho salmon will be the main species expected to benefit from this restoration however steelhead and Chinook juveniles out migrating from the Crab Creek acclimation pond can also use these structures. This project is in the same vicinity as the 2014 funded Alcove and Old Side Channel project, and proposed Lewis River Side Channel 5 project (see map).

Approximately 200 pieces of large woody material with rootwads will be placed along margins in the mainstem to improve rearing habitat. Woody material will be at least 60 feet long to provide stream bank anchoring. Woody material will be trucked down the 480 spur off Forest Road 90, and skidded to the river using heavy equipment. This spur road will be used and then returned to its current closed status. An excavator will anchor woody material into streambanks to create complex rearing habitat for juvenile fish. In addition, log structures will provide optimal holding/hiding areas during high flows.

Access for the excavator and skidder to the river will be the 480 spur off Forest Road 90. Large Woody Material for this project will come from USFS Lands and if available, Swift Reservoir cleaning operations.

This project addresses the following Aquatic Fund priorities.

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

Chinook and coho salmon along with steelhead trout are listed as a threatened species under the ESA. This project will directly benefit recovery of listed species by providing quality rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.

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

Creating quality rearing and overwintering habitat in the mainstem Lewis River will support reintroduction of anadromous fish in the Lewis River Watershed.

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. This project restores and creates slow water habitat in the mainstem Lewis River.

6. Project location

The project area is located approximately 1400 feet downstream of Spencer Creek. The project area can be accessed from the 480 spur off Forest Road 90.

7. Expected products and results

This project will result in a restored section of the mainstem Lewis River approximately 1000 feet in length. The creation of approximately 20 complex structures within the project area will provide quality rearing and overwintering habitat in the mainstem. . Each structure will create a pool providing overwintering and summer rearing habitat for a combination of juvenile coho salmon and steelhead trout, with some benefit to adult/juvenile Chinook salmon. The woody material would create high quality hiding cover and increase production in the mainstem. Structures will facilitate gravel sorting, increasing spawning opportunities for anadromous fish.

8. Benefits of proposed Project

Increased numbers of juvenile salmonids above background levels from reintroduction activities are expected to occur from this project. The project will benefit anadromous fish by increasing overwintering and summer rearing habitat for juvenile fish. These structures will act as refugia from high flows in the mainstem Lewis River. The quality of spawning habitat in the mainstem will increase because the large woody material will provide adult hiding cover and protection during spawning.

9. Project partners and roles.

Mount St. Helens Institute (MSHI). MSHI will provide monitoring of structures.

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 their urban youth outreach programs.

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, urban youth and a supervisor to perform monitoring work. They will perform most aspects of the monitoring with supervision and training from the Forest Service. The Forest Service will perform Snorkel Surveys.
- 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 in 2015
Project Implementation July 2016
Post project monitoring 2017

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

Total ACC Funds-\$57,000

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- **\$65,000** (IK) (Co)
Mt. St. Helens Institute- **\$3,000** (IK) (Co).

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

None Needed

Lewis River Mainstem Project

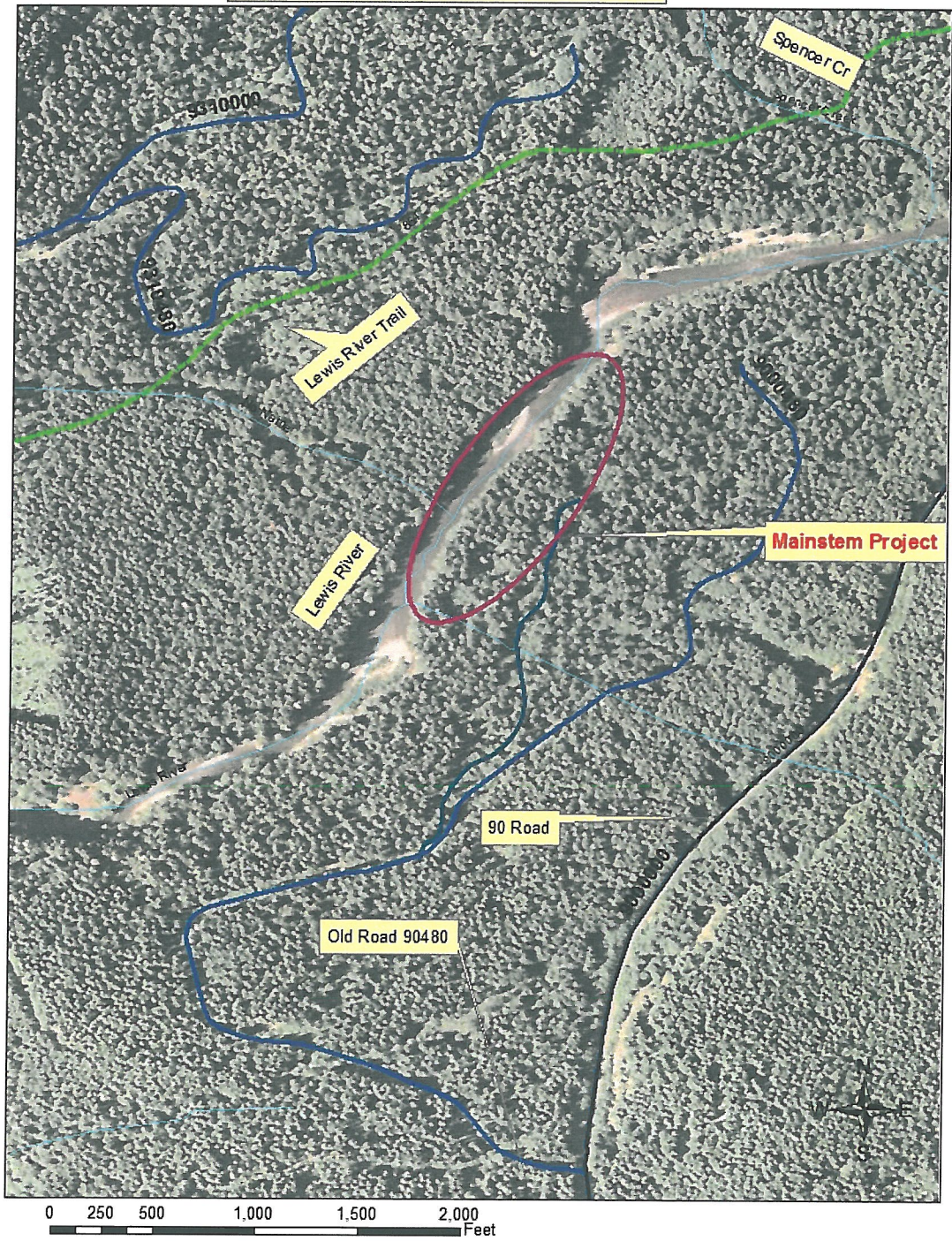


Figure 1. Map of Lewis River Mainstem, and road used to access the project

Lewis River Mainstem Project

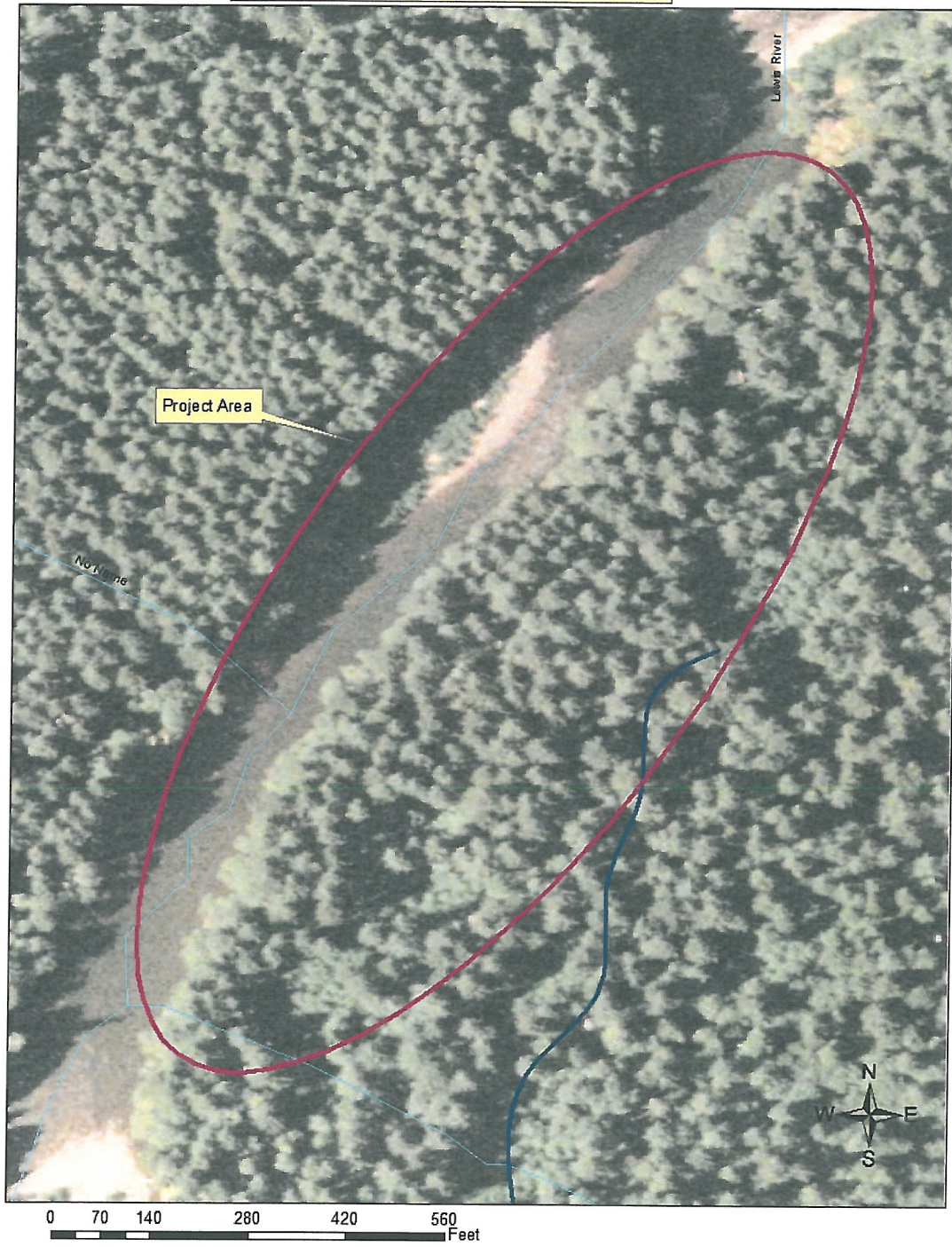


Figure 2. Enlarged view of Mainstem project

Lewis River side channel and mainstem project

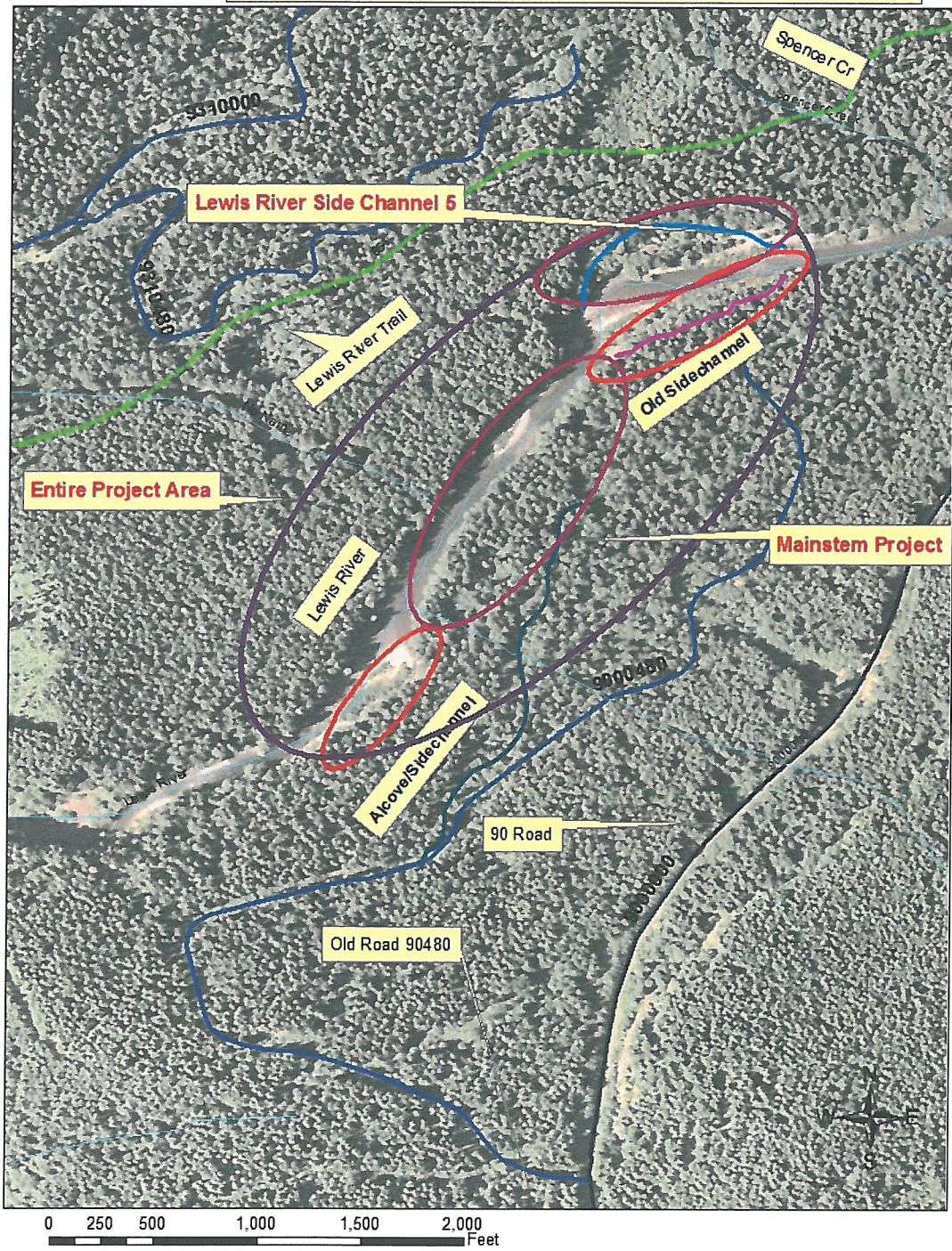


Figure 3. Mainstem project in relation to other projects proposed or already funded in the area.



Figure 4. Lewis River Mainstem project-facing upstream



Figure 5. Lewis River Mainstem project river right-facing upstream



Figure 6. Lewis River Mainstem project river left-facing upstream