

Attachment A

PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Lewis River Aquatic Fund

Form Intent:

To provide a venue for an applicant to clearly indicate the technical basis and support for proposed project. Specifically the project's consistency with recovery plans, Settlement Agreement Fund objectives, technical studies and assessments which support the proposed action and approach.

Pre-Proposal format:

Please complete the following form for each Pre-Proposal. Maps, design drawings and other supporting materials may be attached. The request is to be brief in response with a total completed form length of no more than 5 pages of text, excluding attached supporting materials.

The deadline for Pre-Proposal Form submission is **September 27, 2019**. Please submit materials to:

Erik Lesko
PacifiCorp – LCT 1800
825 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, OR 97232
Erik.lesko@pacificorp.com

1. Applicant organization.

USDA Forest Service
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

2. Organization purpose

Resource management agency

3. Project manager (name, address, telephone, email, facsimile)

Greg Robertson
Fisheries Habitat Restoration Biologist
Mount Adams Ranger District
42218 NE Yale Bridge Road
Amboy, WA 98601
360-449-7833
greg.robertson2@usda.gov

Note: Please attach a resume or other description of the education and experience of the persons responsible for project implementation.

4. Project Title

Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation

5. Summary of Project Pre-Proposal

Note: Please include description of how project addresses Lewis River Aquatic Fund priorities and identify any impacts to other resource areas (e.g. wildlife, recreation, etc.).

The Aquatics Fund Subgroup to the ACC has completed a Lewis River Aquatic Fund Priority Reaches (Priority Reaches) document which provides priority rankings for stream reaches within the Lewis River watershed. The Priority Reaches document is aligned with the LCFRB Interactive map which is found on their website at www.lowercolumbiasalmonrecovery.org/mappage. The interactive maps provide a wealth of information that should help project proponents in selecting areas to focus their habitat improvement efforts. For consideration of funding the proponent must demonstrate that they have reviewed both the Priority Reaches and the LCFRB Interactive map and selected appropriate projects/reaches from those two tools. Additionally, proponent must show how proposed project is consistent with fund objectives and priorities. Projects proposed in reaches other than those identified in the Priority Reaches document or high priority reaches in the LCFRB habitat strategy (Tier 1 and Tier 2) need a clear explanation of why they still support Lewis River Aquatic Fund goals.

The Rush Creek Side Channel Reactivation proposes to reactivate 3,145 feet of two side channels blocked by legacy road construction and timber harvest activities of the early 1970's. The project will include removing a timber harvest landing, two remnant roads and a stream adjacent berm. One channel near the confluence of the N.F. Lewis River (northern side channel) would require approximately 225 feet of channel reconstruction through an old landing to reactivate the flow to the side channel. The side channel further upstream (southern side channel) would require berm removal and boulder and substrate material placement to reactivate the flow to the blocked channel. Both side channels would require moving approximately 400 cubic yards of material to achieve the objective of perennial flow.

The proposed northern side channel reconstruction would be augmented with large wood (about 50 trees) obtained from the access route in the project area. The proposed southern side channel would be augmented with large wood by tipping 50% of the trees from within the blocked channel.

Both side channel entrances would be temporarily blocked with erodible material in a manner 'set to fail' when the hydrograph rises in the fall, presumably in November. This

will help prevent adults from staging in the channel until after higher flows breach the berm and limit turbidity during spawning.

A user made vehicle ford will be closed and is located in the headwaters of Rush Creek on Forest Road 65. On either side of the ford crossing, the 65 road is currently in a NEPA proposal to be decommissioned 400 feet on either side of the ford crossing to restrict access and to hydrologically disconnect the road from Rush Creek. Whether the road is decommissioned or not, the ford crossing will still be closed to vehicle traffic.

6. Project location (include location map, River/Stream and Lat/Long coordinates if available).

Note: Map must include project area boundaries, watershed context (i.e. project area within the NF Lewis basin), scale bar, and north arrow.

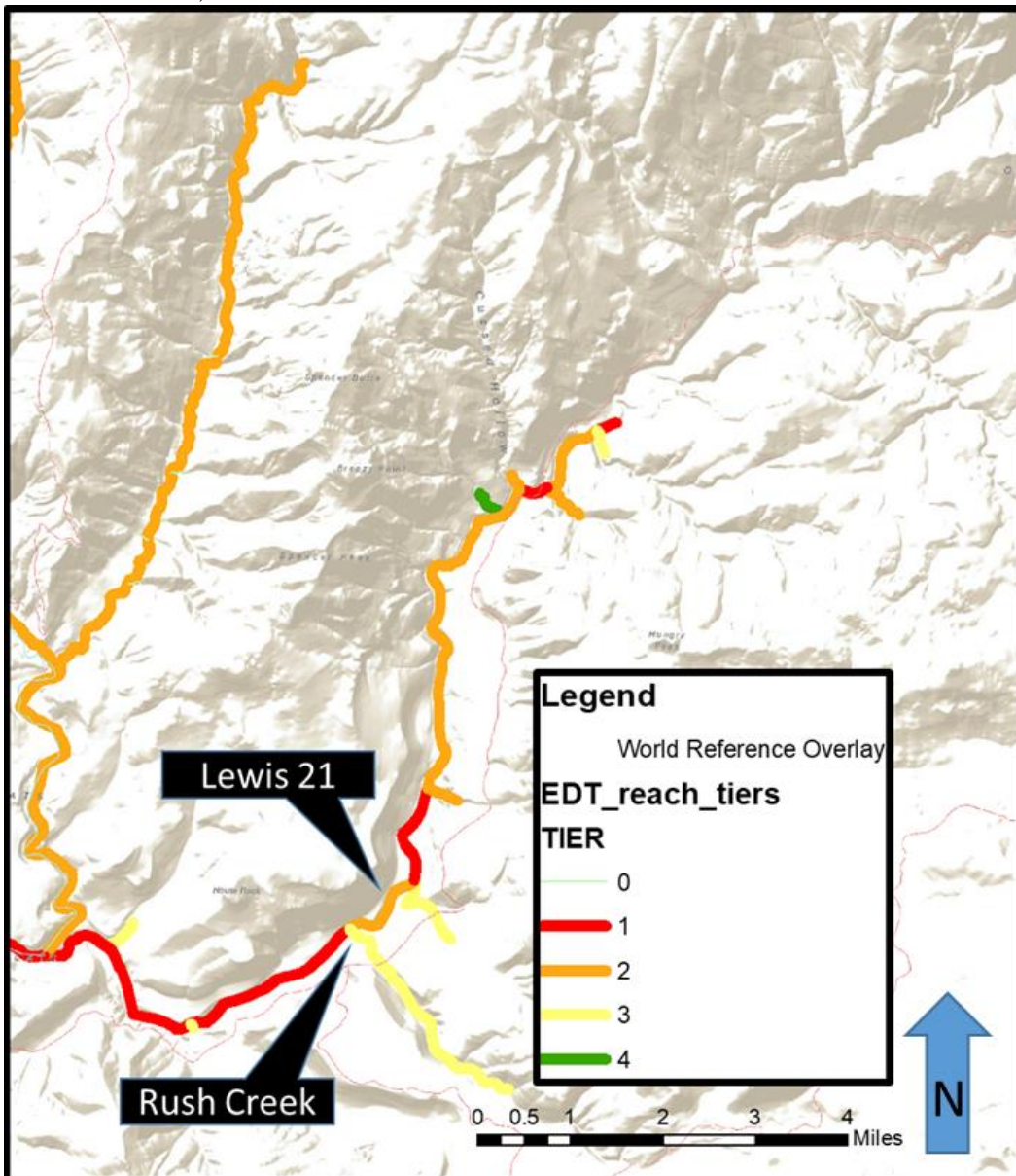


Figure 1. Location of the Rush Creek project area in relation to the upper N.F. Lewis River.

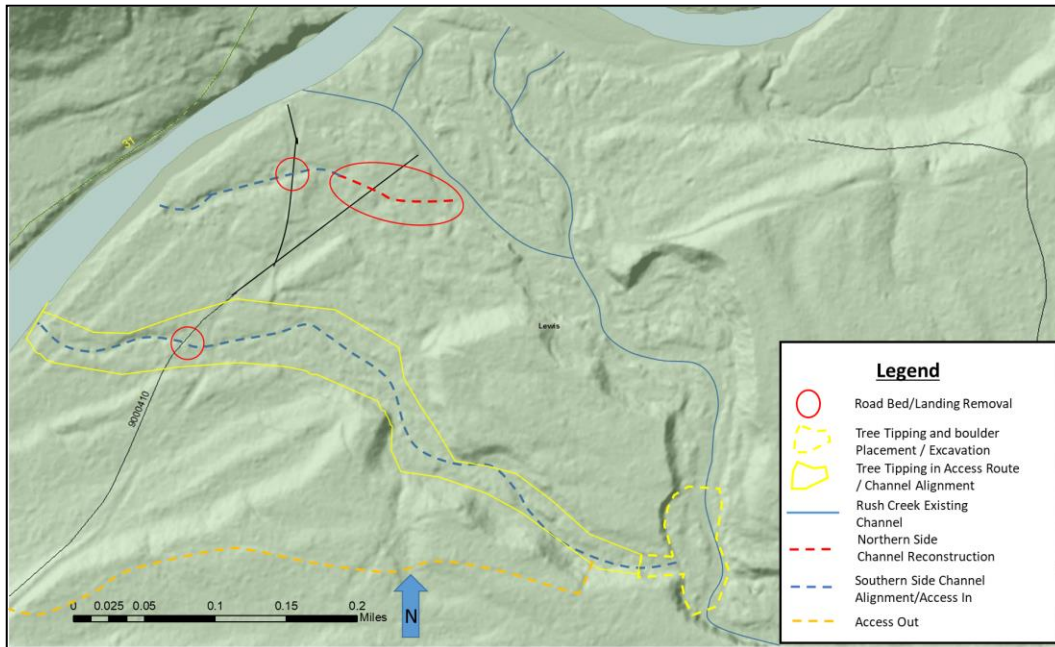


Figure 2. Proposed Rush Creek project area showing the proposed southern side channel in the yellow polygon with the blue dotted line. The northern side channel reconstruction area is in the red polygon and dotted line.

7. Objectives and conceptual design (Please attach drawings). Provide 1) a brief description of the site and the site problems contributing to limiting factors, 2) Specific goals and objectives for addressing the problems and 3) conceptual project design with a description of the design and plan view drawing on scaled site plans including an indication of bankfull width and approximate dimensions of proposed project elements, and a brief description of short term and long term benefits.

The project area lies within the Rush Creek alluvial fan which consists of multiple channels upstream of the confluence with the N.F. Lewis River. Past road construction and logging activities altered a couple of flow paths within the alluvial fan in the early 1970's. The blocking of those two flow paths by the road and landing construction disconnected the previously active channel migration of Rush Creek and confined the channels to the present locations.

The project objectives to address the problems are:

- Reconnect two disconnected channels, the northern side channel and the southern side channel to reactivate 870 and 2,275 feet of channel, respectively.
- Reconstruct 225 feet of the filled in channel previously used as a timber harvest landing.
- Remove two road crossings within the northern and southern side channel flow paths.
- Restrict vehicle access to Rush Creek headwaters of at Forest Road 65 road crossing.

The side channel dimensions will replicate the existing relict channels. The average dimensions are a 16 foot bankfull channel, 25 foot flood prone channel width over a

distance of 225 feet on the northern side channel and an existing 20 foot bankfull and 40 foot flood prone channel over and distance of 2,275 feet on the southern side channel.

About 20 feet of material along with the culvert would be removed at each remnant road crossing.

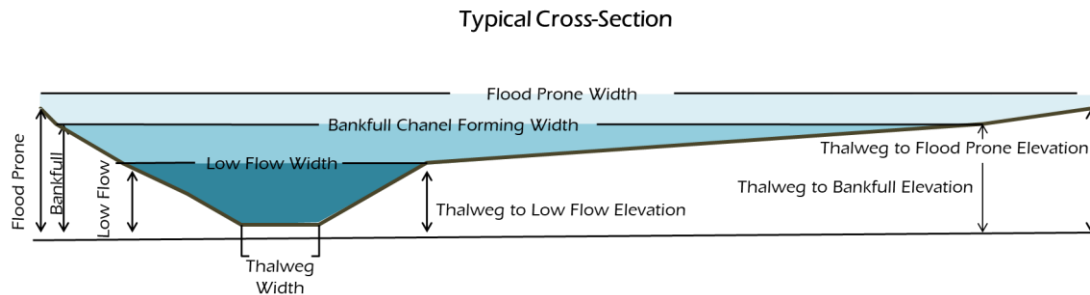


Figure 3. Typical cross-section of a pool with low, bankfull, and floodprone elevations.

8. Benefits of proposed Project to: 1) Focal Reintroduction Species with Emphasis on Spring Chinook OR 2) bull trout.

The proposed projects intent is to benefit bull trout. The LCFRB reach information for Rush Creek from the mouth to river mile 2.5 listed restoration needs for floodplain function and off channel and side channel habitat both of which would be addressed by the proposed project. The Bull Trout Recovery Plan listed roads and habitat isolation fragmentation as limiting factors for bull trout and the proposed project would address those limiting factors.

9. Project partners and roles.

The Skamania County noxious weed program and the Forest Youth Success Program has been actively working with the USFS within the project area to eradicate invasive plants.

10. Attach signed landowner(s) acknowledgment form(s), if applicable (**Attachment C**).

Not applicable.

11. 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.

12. Procedure for monitoring and reporting on results.

Baseline monitoring will occur prior to project implementation and include a longitudinal profile, cross-sections, pebble counts, photo-documentation. Similarly, post project

monitoring will occur one year after project implementation and a monitoring report will be provided to PacifiCorp.

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

2020 – Project implementation July 16th -August 15th

2020 – Pre project monitoring July

2021 – Post project monitoring July/August

14. Funding requested (estimated cost for project design, permitting (including necessary resource surveys), construction, signage, monitoring and administrative/insurance. Insurance limits to be determined based upon PacifiCorp's evaluation of the project risks.

The Rush Creek Side Channel project is requesting \$130,000 from the ACC.

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

The project has \$65,000 (C) in hand to contribute to a contract.

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

Under the USFS ARBO II programmatic consultation with the USFWS and NMFS, a level I review is required for channel reconstruction projects. Representatives from NMFS and the USFWS will be involved in a site visit to review the proposed action along with other interested stakeholders.

17. If any boating hazards/public safety are an issue please note if any signage requirements.

There are no public safety or boating issues with this project that have been identified to date.