Prospectus Template
For
GRMW BiOp Projects

Overview Information

Project Name: Camp Creek Diversion Fish Passage Improvement

Sponsor Name: Nez Perce Tribe, The Nature Conservancy and Oregon Water Trust

Technical contact name, phone # & email:

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Project Objectives (bullets, 1 to 2 sentence description):

- Provide year round fish passage to all species and life stages
- Reduce sedimentation
- Improve water efficiency

Stream Name: Camp Creek

Tributary to: Big Sheep Creek

Species benefited: ESA-listed Snake River steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (spawning and rearing) & Spring/summer Chinook salmon (O*ncorhynchus tshawytscha*) (rearing)

Miles/acres/feet to be restored by this project: 16.4 miles of steelhead distribution Camp and Trail Creeks (StreamNet)

Estimated total cost: TBD pending design (~$175,000) GRMW BiOp funding request*: (~$125,000)

Anticipated project start & end date: July 15- Aug 15, 2010

* Cost share is not required, but may affect project ranking with relation to cost/benefit of project actions.

Project Characteristics

Brief Project Description (What are you proposing to do? 1- 3 paragraphs, a more detailed description will be submitted under the proposal process):

Implement the preferred alternative, which would result from the currently on-going feasibility study, to accomplish goals listed above. The resulting restoration project would address a passage barrier in Camp Creek. It would create a new irrigation diversion in Camp Creek or move the point of diversion to Big Sheep Creek, providing year-round fish passage for all aquatic species and life stages, as well as irrigation water for the landowners. It would reduce the sedimentation that results from building and removing a gravel push-up dam completely across Camp Creek every year, improve fish passage and improve irrigation efficiency by reducing leaks and evaporative losses, resulting in increased water quantity and quality in Camp Creek. In the end, more steelhead and Chinook will have access to this important creek at all life stages; the eggs will have a better chance of survival given less sedimentation and increased flows; and juvenile fish will be able to move ad libitum past the diversion. If necessary, implementation of the project may be phased; for example, the new diversion would be constructed first, and the pipeline could potentially be constructed later (if that alternative were to be chosen).

Limiting Factors from Recovery Plan or Subbasin Plan addressed by project:

- Imnaha Subbasin Plan mentions Camp Creek several times as an area with the potential for reduced sedimentation and barrier removal. Specifically, the plan identifies lower Camp Creek as a high priority for sediment restoration to benefit steelhead (Imnaha Management Plan p. 33-34). The plan also notes

that irrigation diversions on lower Camp Creek obstruct steelhead migration. In addition, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Plan -- a watershed assessment -- notes that sedimentation is a problem in the Big Sheep Creek watershed, along with irrigation diversions (p. 53).

- Wallowa County Salmon Plan highlights irrigation diversions as reducing flows in the Big Sheep Creek watershed (p. 35-40). In addition, the recent Nez Perce Tribe assessment of fish passage sites in Wallowa County ranked this barrier as a high priority for restoration.

Relation of Project to Other Planned, Ongoing, or Completed Restoration Projects (1-2 sentences. Is the project part of a multi-phase effort, is this work tying to previous work in the watershed/stream):

The Nature Conservancy habitat restoration and stewardship; Wallowa County Fish Passage assessment and prioritization

List permits needed to implement project and at what phase you are at in obtaining the permits:

Upon final design necessary permitting (DSL Fill removal / COE) will be determined by all participating partners and obtained by NPT

Landowner Participation (Has the landowner been contacted and supportive of project, are they contributing to the project):

The landowners are interested in this project (see letters of support). They recognize the difficulties with the current irrigation system and would like to improve the situation. The irrigator has offered to help with project implementation. The Nature Conversancy owns a significant amount of land upstream and is a partner on this project.

Identify any major issues to implementation and approach to issue resolution: