Project Proposal

1. **Project Name:** ***North Fork Catherine Creek Ford/Bridge Replacement Project***, US Forest Service: LaGrande Ranger District, Fish Passage: ford removal and bridge installation

2. **Applicant:** USFS; Attn: Joe Platz; 3502 HWY 30, LaGrande, OR 97850; (541) 962-8571; Fax: (541) 962-8580

3. **Participating Landowner(s) and Agencies:**

   (1) USFS; Attn: Joe Platz; 3502 HWY 30, LaGrande, OR 97850; (541) 962-8571; Fax: (541) 962-8580
   (2) Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Lyle Kuchenbecker; 1114 J Ave., La Grande, OR 97850; 541-663-0570; Fax: 541-962-1585
   (3) Bonneville Power Administration, Timmie Mandish; P.O. Box 3621; Portland, OR 97208; PH 503-230-3983; FAX 503-230-4564

4. **Project Contact(s):**

   Technical contact(s):
   Joe Platz: 3502 HWY 30, LaGrande, OR 97850; jplatz@fs.fed.us; (541) 962-8571

   Administrative contact(s):
   Bill Gamble: 3502 HWY 30, LaGrande, OR 97850; bgamble@fs.fed.us; (541) 962-8582

5. **Project Location:** The project is located in T 5S, R 42E, S 6; Upper Catherine Creek Watershed (HUC 1706010405); North Fork Catherine Creek Subwatershed (HUC 170601040501); Union County.

6. **Project Objectives:**

   - Improve passage for spring/summer chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and bull trout.
   - Improve natural flow pattern: Natural stream flow patterns will be improved due to ford removal and bridge construction.

7. **Project Description**

   Introduction – North Fork Catherine Creek is spawning and rearing habitat for spring/summer chinook, summer steehead, and bull trout. Redband trout also exist within the above streams. There are approximately 2 miles of rearing and migration spring/summer chinook habitat, 6 miles of spawning and rearing summer steelhead habitat, and 9 miles of spawning and rearing bull trout habitat upstream of the North Fork Catherine Creek Ford.

Existing condition – The North Fork Catherine Creek Ford is currently a partial fish passage barrier during low flows for all of the above fish species. The ford is a concrete structure, causing a shallow channel with increased velocity. Erosion has occurred just downstream of the ford, which has increased jump height and increased the risk of failure.

Specific Actions –

(A) Ford Removal and Bridge Construction: This project would remove the ford and replace it with a full channel spanning bridge. This action was selected based on the provision for appropriate fish passage at all life stages, improved natural flow patterns, and reduced risk of ford failure. Specific actions include (Refer to the attached design and cost estimate):

(1) Remove ford.
(2) Construct full channel spanning bridge.
(3) Rehabilitate the site.

Benefits - Benefits include: (1) Improved fish passage. (2) Improved natural flow pattern of the stream channel. (3) Reduced risk of structure failure.

Project Maintenance - Maintenance of the bridge would be completed by the USFS (Mark Gomez). Maintenance would involve assessing the bridge stability, erosion concerns, associated damage on an every other year basis. Maintenance will occur, as needed, to address any of the concerns identified in the bi-yearly assessment. Maintenance may include: cleaning debris, stabilizing slopes and streambank on the upstream and downstream ends of the bridge, and stabilizing the road prism.

Permits – NEPA, ESA consultation, US Army Corps of Engineers and Department of State Lands will be completed by Joe Platz in the winter of 2012/2013.

Monitoring Plan -

- Photo points: Monitoring will involve photo points of before and after operations occur. Follow up photo points will occur at year 1 and year 3 after project completion**.** This monitoring will occur by Joe Platz.

- Bridge Assessment: An assessment of bridge stability, erosion concerns, and associated damage will occur on an every other year basis. This monitoring will be conducted by Mark Gomez.

- Reports: A final report that describes the actual implementation will be completed in January of 2014. Subsequent monitoring and assessment reports will all be completed in January of the year they reside in. Reports will be completed by Joe Platz.

Work Dates – The design will be completed in 2013. The work will begin in June of 2013 and end in November of 2013. All instream work will be completed within the instream work window, which is July 1 – August 15.

8. Project Budget

The budget is attached.

Attachments: (1) Project Budget, (2) Vicinity Map, (3) Project Description Maps, (4) Project Design and (5) Photos.

North Fork Catherine Creek Ford

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