

## Lostine Wetland and Side Channel Complex

### Atlas Tier 1, WLL-3 Subwatershed

**IMPLEMENTER:** Nez Perce Tribe

**Location:** Lostine River near Wallowa, Oregon

**Implementation:** 2022; Contract #: 86183

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:** Within this lower section of the Lostine River, the river has been largely channelized and the floodplain graded, cleared of vegetation, and disconnected. Overall, the channel lacks complexity and off-channel habitat necessary for all life stages of ESA listed fish that utilize this reach. Specific to the project reach, a “light touch” approach was implemented to preserve the robust mature existing vegetative buffer and connect intact swales and historic side channel features.

**ESA ESU or DPS:** Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon ESU, Wallowa-Lostine River spring Chinook salmon population. Snake River steelhead ESU, Wallowa River summer steelhead population.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS:**

- 3 pilot channel inlets/outlets graded, and 250 feet dike removal
- 1 large alcove excavated
- LWD installation included: 3 large apex mainstem jams, 4 small apex inlet/outlet jams, 19 vertical post arrays, and 7 habitat wood whole trees
- >1,000 willow cuttings
- >200 wetland 10 C.I. plugs
- >6 acres riparian and upland seeded and mulched
- ~10 acres reconnected floodplain at 1-year flows

**HABITAT RESPONSE:** The following habitat features are expected to significantly improved within the project reach: floodplain connectivity; floodplain and wetland vegetation; large wood densities; increased pool and zero velocity habitat.

**FISH RESPONSE:** This project has improved adult holding, spawning, and summer and winter rearing habitat for juvenile salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey.



**Above: River Left Floodplain,  
Pre-Construction**

**Right: Pilot Channel 1-Outlet,**

**Post-Construction**

*(Note: hill feature in background)*



**Above: Lower Project Reach, Lostine  
Pre-Construction**

