



Prospectus of Proposed Project Opportunity

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Opportunity Title

Wilson-Haun Wallowa River Project Construction Implementation

Opportunity Lead

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Technical Contact

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Landowners

Contacted: Yes
Supportive: Yes
Contribution: Project coordination, signing permits, landowner agreements, wood sourcing (juniper on site), access, neighbor contacts and more.

River

Name: Wallowa River
Mile: 31 - 31.7
Tributary: Grande Ronde River

Restoration Atlas

BSR:

Tier: Tier 1

Initial Score: 78

Proposed Score: 78

Restoration Activities

2. Channel Reconstruction
3. Pool Development
5. Meander (Oxbow) Re-connect - Reconstruction
6. Spawning Gravel Cleaning and Placement
9. Restoration of Floodplain Topography and Vegetation
10. Floodplain Construction
11. Perennial Side Channel
12. Secondary (non-perennial) Channel
13. Floodplain Pond - Wetland
14. Alcove
15. Hyporheic Off-Channel Habitat (Groundwater)
16. Beaver Restoration Management
17. Riparian Fencing
18. Riparian Buffer Strip, Planting
19. Thinning or removal of understory
20. Remove non-native plants
24. Addition of organic and inorganic nutrients
26. Boulder Placement
27. LWD Placement
28. Modification or Removal of Bank Armoring
29. Restore banklines with LWD - Bioengineering
30. Acquire Instream Flow (Lease- Purchase)
31. Improve Thermal Refugia (spring reconnect, other)
34. Upland Vegetation Treatment - Management

Species Affected

Focal: Snake River Spring Chinook, Snake River Steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, Mountain Whitefish, Bull Trout.

Other: All flora and fauna will benefit from this large floodplain reconnection and rehabilitation project. This includes cougar, deer, elk, mink, river otter, neo-tropical migrants, eagles, osprey, cottonwood plant assemblages and numerous other important species.

Description

The Wilson-Haun Wallowa River Project: Restoring Natural Processes for Salmon and Steelhead Habitat will take place in a high priority salmon and steelhead stream - Grande Ronde Basin. The restoration effort will occur on the mainstem Wallowa River (RM 31.1-31.7). This reach includes critical spawning and rearing habitat for ESA Threatened Snake River Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), ESA-Threatened Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*),

and ESA-Threatened Snake River spring Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

The river's floodplain habitats are not in proper functioning geophysical and ecological condition (hydrologic, geomorphic, and vegetative composition), due to historic anthropogenic influences including beaver trapping, overgrazing, logging (floodplain clearing and headwater), dams, altered vegetative regime, and dewatering for irrigation. The overall project goal is to set the system on a trajectory towards achieving proper geophysical and ecological form and function, and thereby improve spawning and rearing habitat for several listed fish populations, and ecosystem function for other focal aquatic and terrestrial species.

For this restoration implementation request, the project team would like to secure funding to support the construction components of the project. The project team worked with Wolfe Water Resources and other partners to develop the project design over the past year. The project will use a mix of conventional and new restoration approaches backed by scientific and expert knowledge. This includes floodplain grading, channel fill, large wood placement, low-tech process based restoration, riparian planting, and other techniques.

Trout Unlimited (TU) in partnership with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Council (GRMW), the landowners, funders, the design firm, and local partners (Nez Perce, ODFW) will implement the project.

Objectives

Objective #1: Floodplain Connectivity and In-stream Complexity: Place large wood structures, grade floodplains and place channel fill, reconnect historic channels, and build beaver dam analogues and post assisted structures to: Maximize floodplain engagement and improve floodplain form and function while avoiding risks to people/infrastructure and Reestablish a channel-floodplain system with greater complexity, reduced stream power, and active natural processes that promote dynamic habitat formation.

Objective #2: To enhance and restore floodplain and wetland riparian vegetation the project team will implement a large seeding and planting plan.

Major Risks

The design team has worked through a risk analysis and the design is at 100% completion. This included HIP IV review from BPA.

Permits and Consultation

ESA Section 7 USFWS: Applicable
ESA Section 7 NMFS: Applicable

COE or DSL Permit: Applicable
Cultural Resources Section 106: Applicable
DEQ 401 Water Quality Permit: Applicable

Project Schedule

Year: 2022

Monitoring: The project team developed a MAMP and plans to use it for monitoring purposes. Generally, the project team is planning a rapid and streamlined monitoring process to observe project outcomes.

Project Relations

Multi-phase Effort: No

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Total: 1244464
BPA Funding: 1244464
OWEB Funding: 0

Design Funding

Design Funds Requested: No