



Prospectus of Proposed Project Opportunity

Submitted Sep 12, 2023

Opportunity Title

Upper Grande Ronde River Complex

Opportunity Lead

Allen Childs
Organization: CTUIR
Phone: 541-429-7940
Email: allenchilds@ctuir.org

Technical Contact

Allen Childs
Organization: CTUIR
Phone: 541-429-7940
Email: allenchilds@ctuir.org

Landowners

Contacted: Yes
Supportive: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, LaGrande Ranger District
Contribution: Project partner, technical assistance, funding

River

Name: Grand Ronde River, East Fk Grane Ronde, Muir Creek, Clear Creek
Mile: RM 148 to RM 150
Tributary: Snake

Restoration Atlas

BSR: UGR20
Tier: Tier 2

Initial Score: 86

Proposed Score:

Restoration Activities

2. Channel Reconstruction
4. Riffle Construction
7. Levee Modification: Removal, Setback, Breach
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
21. Dam removal or breaching
22. Barrier or culvert replacement/removal
27. LWD Placement
31. Improve Thermal Refugia (spring reconnect, other)
35. Road Decommissioning or abandonment
36. Road Grading - Drainage Improvements

Species Affected

Focal: Snake River spring-summer Chinook, summer steelhead, bull trout, Pacific lamprey

Other: Resident trout, freshwater mussels.

Description

Project goal is to address limiting factors affecting the productivity and resilience of aquatic resources with focus on Snake River spring-summer Chinook natural production. Maximize spawning and rearing habitat capacity.

Objectives

Project planning and design includes additional assessment and design of the following limiting factors and issues.

1. Passage: includes assessment of previous channel spanning large wood installations/beaver dams and existing culverts/bridges (East Fk Grande Ronde, Muir Creek, mainstem Grande Ronde upstream of Clear Creek, and Clear Creek tributary culvert. Objective is to promote volitional passage for all life stages of native fish.

2. Habitat Suitability: Increase habitat suitability and capacity (spawning and rearing habitat) along approximately 2.5 miles and over 40 floodplain acres of mainstem Grande Ronde River, East Fk Grande Ronde River, and

Clear Creek. Quantifiable metrics to be established through planning and design process that will address: Habitat suitability (open water habitat/weighted usable area/depth/velocity, complexity and cover.

3. Increase active floodplain acreage from approximately 40 acres to 50 acres through drawbottom road removal and relocation (5125 and 5130 roads).

Major Risks

Floodplain/habitat alternatives under consideration include valley reset and stage 8, removal of drawbottom road segments to further reconnect historic floodplain, removal/replacement of existing stream crossings, and evaluation of other fish passage impediments associated with previously installed wood structures.

Significant floodplain and habitat uplift has been realized from previous restoration efforts (e.g., wood and boulder additions, mine tailings removal, riparian planting, and ongoing beaver colonization.

Project planning and design will be closely coordinated with GRMW Technical Implementation Team to assess all aspects of current condition, limiting factors, and challenges associated with protecting and promoting assessible and high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Permits and Consultation

ESA Section 7 USFWS: Applicable
ESA Section 7 NMFS: Applicable
COE or DSL Permit:
Cultural Resources Section 106: Applicable
DEQ 401 Water Quality Permit: Applicable

Project Schedule

Year: 2025

Monitoring: TBD

Project Relations

Multi-phase Effort: Yes

Phase Description: Project schedule planning is underway. Estimated project sequencing includes: 1. 5125/5138 Road Relocation, 2024 (note existing roads remain in place for habitat construction access. Road base to be used for channel fill/riffle construction. 2. Muir Creek Culvert replacement, 2025 3. Clear Creek Valley Reset Demo Project, 2024 or 2025 (to be confirmed) 4. Mainstem Grande Ronde River Enhancements (2025-2026)

Could Phase 1 be a Stand Alone Project: False

Would the project lose value if future phases don't happen: All project elements are interconnected to overall goal of restoring and enhancing volitional fish passage and floodplain and fish habitat enhancement.

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Total: Unknown TBD

BPA Funding: Unknown, TBD

OWEB Funding:

Design Funding

Design Funds Requested: Yes

Design Option: Option 1

Type of Work:

River and stream data acquisition (hydrology, sediment, surveying, assessment, fisheries)

Hydrology, geomorphology, or river hydraulic modeling

Stream and fisheries habitat restoration construction quality assurance, management, and inspection

Specialties:

Stream restoration engineer