



Prospectus of Proposed Project Opportunity

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Opportunity Title

Lostine (Wolfe property) Wetland and Side Channel Project

Opportunity Lead

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Technical Contact

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Landowners

Contacted: Yes
Supportive: Woody Wolfe, landowner, is fully supportive of the project. The project has been a goal of the landowner for over a decade and ties together prior and on-going irrigation, and water and agricultural management goals and objectives.
Contribution: The landowner has secured two easements totaling over 400 acres prior to this project's development. This proposed project falls entirely within these easements and will be protected in perpetuity. Additionally the landowner will contribute in-kind match in the form of laboring and potentially materials.

River

Name: Lostine River
Mile:

Tributary: Wallowa River

Restoration Atlas

BSR: WLU-1

Tier: Tier 1

Initial Score: TBD - in process

Proposed Score: TBD - in process

Restoration Activities

1. Protect Land and Water (Easement, Acquisition, Management)
2. Channel Reconstruction
3. Pool Development
4. Riffle Construction
7. Levee Modification: Removal, Setback, Breach
8. Remove - Relocate Floodplain Infrastructure
9. Restoration of Floodplain Topography and Vegetation
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
20. Remove non-native plants
27. LWD Placement
28. Modification or Removal of Bank Armoring
31. Improve Thermal Refugia (spring reconnect, other)

Species Affected

Focal: Snake River Spring Chinook Salmon, Snake River Summer Steelhead, bull trout, lamprey, and Coho Salmon.

Other: Columbia spotted frog, Western curlew

Description

This proposed project is located on a private ranch adjacent to the Lostine River, approximately 3 miles east of the town of Wallowa. The property is currently under two separate permanent easements totaling over 450 acres encompassing the main stem Lostine River, adjacent floodplain, riparian corridor, and agricultural land. The landowner, and project partners seek to design a project which will restore stream and floodplain connectivity and function as well as create emergent wetland where appropriate within the project area. Old channel and meander scrolls exist throughout the proposed project area illuminating the historic Lostine River channel, side channel and wetland network. The previous landowner protected much of

the floodplain and dis-connected side channels from livestock and farming leaving old scrolls largely intact. This prior and current management allows for a more passive restoration approach including the removal or partial breach of existing levees. The current landowner maintains a long term commitment to restoration, protection and enhancement of resources. The NEOR Recovery Plan, the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan (GRSBP), the Wallowa Atlas restoration prioritization process (Wallowa Atlas), and the Wallowa County Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan (WCSHRP), all identify this reach of the Lostine River as deficient for habitat quantity and quality, water quality, stream complexity, and floodplain connectivity. Species which will benefit include ESA listed spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull Trout, Columbia Spotted Frog and others. With the collaboration of the landowner, the Wallowa Land Trust, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and the Nez Perce Tribe, this project seeks technical assistance monies to survey, permit and design a floodplain and side channel re-integration project that will create or re-inundate emergent wetland communities.

Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to obtain final designs and specifications to address the multiple habitat, water quality, and stream function deficiencies associated with this reach of the Lostine River. All design activities will be directed towards the following objectives :

- Conduct surveys to assess hydrologic and hydraulic function
- Complete 85-100% design
- Acquire all required permits
- Coordinate with stakeholders, regulators, funders, and partners for a fully vetted project design complete with specifications, ESA consultation, and all required permits .

Specific objectives for restoration or enhancement through this project include, but, are not limited to:

- Improve stream, riparian, wetland/meadow conditions and functions, including improved water quality and use of riparian and wetland areas for native plant, fish, and wildlife communities.
- Improve stream structure and channel complexity to increase juvenile salmonid rearing habitat
- Construct preferential flow paths to encourage floodplain interaction and connection
- Improve riparian vegetation species composition and distribution, reducing water temperature and increasing fine sediment retention

Major Risks

No anticipated risks have been identified by the the sponsor, landowner, or project partners. NPT staff are currently working with Wallowa Land Trust (WLT) staff to determine any restrictions within the easements regarding access, fencing, and implementation. None have been identified at this time.

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: 2020

Monitoring: WLT staff monitor the project area for fence maintenance as well as Curlew nesting and Columbia spotted frog breeding and rearing sites annually. Staff also document any new species present within both easement areas and treat noxious weeds annually. NPT staff conduct spawning ground, and telemetry surveys annually, and will continue to do so within the project area both prior and post implementation. Post implementation photo points and aerial imagery will be obtained and monitored by NPT and GRMW staff. NPT staff will seek to conduct additional monitoring once project implementation occurs.

Project Relations

Multi-phase Effort: No

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Total: \$102,090
BPA Funding: \$25,000
OWEB Funding: \$0

Design Funding

Design Funds Requested: Yes

Design Option: Option 2

Type of Work:

- Technical project management
- River and stream data acquisition (hydrology, sediment, surveying, assessment, fisheries)
- Hydrology, geomorphology, or river hydraulic modeling
- Stream and fisheries habitat design
- Stream and fisheries habitat restoration contract - construction plan and specification development
- Stream and fisheries habitat restoration construction quality assurance, management, and inspection

Specialties:

Stream restoration engineer
Riparian ecologist
Fisheries biologist
Suveryor