



Contact Information

2024 Upper Columbia Regional Project Pre-Application

* Pre-applications due March 11, 2024 (COB)

*Complete applications due in PRISM April 19, 2024 (COB)

*Revised proposals due in PRISM May 24, 2024 (COB)

*Final revised applications due in PRISM June 24, 2024 (noon)

Project Title	Riparian Restoration @ M23R
Sponsor	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Primary Contact	Jessica Goldberg
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Budget Request

Values MAY be duplicative and do not have to equal TOTAL anticipated budget in pre-application.

Anticipated Request - SRFB Riparian Funding	\$199,468
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Anticipated TOTAL Budget	\$199,468
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Project Location

Briefly describe the location of the project	The project is located on the Methow River between Winthrop and Twisp, Okanogan County from river mile 46 to 47.25
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Latitude (decimal degrees)	48.4377
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Longitude (decimal degrees)	-120.1563
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Project subbasin	Methow
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Methow Assessment Unit(s)	Methow River-Thompson Creek
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Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units?

No

Reach(es) Name

Methow River Thompson 05

Identify the reach(es) priority/ reach ranking. Note: If the project involves work in multiple reaches, select "Multiple" and include details in the text box that will appear below. Please reference the Prioritization Web Map: <https://prioritization.ucsrb.org/>.

Rank 2

Project Information

1. What are the project objectives? Objectives support and refine biological goals, breaking them down into small steps. Objectives are specific, quantifiable actions the project will complete to achieve the stated goal. Each objective should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound). Note: This exact question is included in the PRISM application. Example format: The project seeks to address [specify limiting factor(s)] for [limiting life stage(s)] by [specific actions proposed] to create an estimated [include specific target metrics, as described below] upon implementation in [estimated year].

The M23R Implementation is part of the larger 3R project designed to improve conditions through the 1.25 mile reach. This project seeks to improve riparian conditions, connect and improve side channel conditions, and add complex cover in the main channel to improve habitat for UCR Spring Chinook and Steelhead. The project will plant 4.3 acres with native trees and shrubs in 2026 to improve riparian condition and canopy cover (unacceptable limiting factors).

Riparian plantings are proposed to expand the riparian buffers into previously cleared areas. Riparian plantings will be designed using a reference approach to establish stands that will develop to be similar to existing self-sustaining stands. Plantings will be maintained for 3-5 years until established and self-sufficient.

2. What species will the project benefit?

Spring Chinook

Steelhead

Bull Trout

Summer Chinook

Pacific Lamprey, Westslope Cutthroat, Coho

3. Select the project's objectives and the associated tracking metrics

Riparian Habitat

Riparian Habitat: Reporting Code

Total riparian miles streambank treated

Total riparian acres treated

4. Does this project already exist in Salmon Recovery Portal or PRISM?

Don't Know

5. Has this project been submitted previously for funding through the SRFB and/or other process(es)?

No

6. What category is the project?

Restoration

If applicable, what is the secondary project category?

N/A

Is the project eligible for Riparian Funding?

Yes

Design and Restoration Proposals

7. What project phase(s) are proposed for completion?

Construction

8. Is your project within a completed (or soon-to-be completed) Reach Assessment or other type of assessment (e.g., Rapid Site Assessment, other)?

Middle Methow Reach Assessment (Reclamation 2010)

9. Which limiting factors does the project propose to address?

Off-Channel - Side-Channels

Riparian

Riparian - Canopy Cover

Riparian - Disturbance

Riparian - Structure

10. Which life stages will the proposed project address?

Subadult Rearing (Bull Trout)

Fry

Summer Rearing

Winter Rearing

11. Freshwater Benefits - Describe how your project will improve survival, capacity and/or distribution for target species at the reach scale?

The project is designed to capitalize on the concentration of groundwater-fed thermal refugia within the project area. Three (3) of the 5 cold-water areas found between Twisp and Winthrop in the 2009 FLIR imagery are within this project area. Site visits and temperature data confirm that all three of these locations are still present, but access and condition can be improved. The project seeks to expand the extent and connectivity of these three thermal refugia, as well as to provide complex cover in and adjacent to this thermal refuge.

Riparian plantings are intended to support nutrient cycling, provide inputs important to building and maintaining habitat, and contribute stable support to the aquatic-terrestrial food web over time. The project will plant 4.3 acres to expand and restore riparian buffers. Riparian plantings will be designed based on a reference approach using the nearby existing healthy riparian stands. Riparian buffers support nutrient cycling, help maintain water quality, and provide a number of key materials that support salmonid populations.

12. Temporal Effect - Briefly describe how and to what extent the project would promote natural stream/watershed process consistent with the geomorphology of the stream?

Riparian plantings will be designed based on a reference approach to develop towards existing riparian

stands in

the project reach. Riparian plantings support nutrient cycling, food web dynamics, provide wood and other materials, and more natural rates of bank erosion.

13. Temporal Effect - How long will it take for the project to achieve its intended response?

1-10 years

10-25 years

14. Temporal Effect - How long will the restoration action and its benefits persist?

10-50 years

50+ years

15. Temporal Effect - What level and/or interval of maintenance is anticipated? What is the plan for any anticipated maintenance?

Riparian plantings will require up to 5 years of regular maintenance to ensure survival of trees, shrubs and seedlings. To ensure good survival past this grant opportunity we would secure funding through alternate grant opportunities.

16. Methods - Briefly describe the potential (for design) or proposed restoration methods and how they will achieve project objectives.

Riparian plantings will be designed using a reference stand approach based on adjacent riparian stands. Plantings will be watered, weeded and mulched for 3-5 years until established. Once trees are established and self-sufficient, water will be withdrawn and browse protection will be removed.

17. If the project is eligible and applying for Riparian Funding, does the project have in-stream components? If so, briefly describe those components, how they support riparian plant survival and/or natural regeneration, and why they are necessary for the success of the riparian habitat elements of the project.

We are seeking riparian funding for the 4.3 acres of riparian plantings. Instream elements are included in the complementary SRFB application.

Assessment Proposals

Protection Proposals

Monitoring Proposals

Project Risk and Economic Benefits

1. What is the landownership?

Private

2. Have you secured landowner participation in or acceptance for this project?

Yes

Please explain

The landowners have been actively involved in project development and support implementation of the project design.

3. Describe any land owner requirements (e.g., design elements, right-of-ways, access agreements, liability waivers, etc.) and if/how they could affect the project

Four of the five properties have Conservation Easements held by the Methow Conservancy. The Methow

Conservancy requires a restoration project checklist to be filled out by the sponsor, and we will need to show evidence and results of project monitoring for three years post-construction.

4. Will the project raise potential concerns for interest groups (e.g., recreational users) or the community at large (including upstream/ downstream/ adjacent landowners)?

No, this project is not expected to raise concerns for interest groups or the community at large.

5. Who will have the responsibility to manage and maintain the project? What is the responsibility of current or future landowners?

Riparian components of the project will be managed and maintained by MSRF until the plantings are established and self-sufficient. Once they are established on-going maintenance is not expected to be needed for riparian components.

6. Are other projects being proposed immediately upstream or downstream of worksite?

Don't know

7. Please describe the risk of failure associated with this project.

This project carries a low to moderate risk of failure. The landowners are supportive of the proposed project and have participated and approved of the design process to date.

Riparian components inherently carry a very low risk of adverse consequences, but can be challenging to establish. Proposed planting areas have access to irrigation water, which significantly improves the probability of successfully establishing riparian stands where desired.

8. Is there any public outreach planned during and/or after implementation? Does the project build community support for salmon recovery efforts?

This project requires ongoing outreach and coordination with landowners and the Methow Conservancy to maintain support. Several of the project parcels are owned by people active in the community; consequently, working with them has the potential to help build and maintain community support.

9. Does the project represent an opportunity for economic benefit? How much benefit does the project create for the dollars invested?

Yes, this project will directly employ local and regional contractors to complete most aspects of the project assessment, design, and future management. MSRF has built an approved roster of qualified local and regional contractors and weights bidding review to prioritize local contractor preference when possible. MSRF has implemented restoration actions in the Methow Valley for more than 20 years and the majority of our awarded contracts have been directed to local and regional contractors with consistently high-quality results. Our findings are supported by an economic analysis completed by UCSRB that showed that funds spent on restoration projects cycle through the local community 4 to 7 times, significantly multiplying the local economic benefit.

10. Describe any partnerships, their experience, and types of contributions supporting the project.

This project will be led by MSRF staff who bring a breadth and depth of strengths to the project, including expertise in restoration ecology, community outreach, and engagement, permitting, and project management. MSRF has been actively engaged in habitat restoration in the Methow Valley since 2001 and has successfully served as a project sponsor for many restoration projects in the watershed.

Optional Section - Preparation for PRISM

The following questions are identical to the questions RCO requires in the PRISM application. If desired, sponsors can complete associated questions early and copy responses into PRISM during the "Complete Application" phase due on April 19, 2024.

Do you want to review and/or pre-populate PRISM questions?

No

Supporting Documents

[Upper Columbia Process Guide 2024](#)

[SRFB Manual 18 \(2024\)](#)

[RCO Application Resources \(2024\)](#)