



Monday, March 11, 2024

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	Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)
Sponsor	Trout Unlimited
Primary Contact	Alli Pardis
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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	137,000
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Anticipated TOTAL Budget	137000
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Project Location

Briefly describe the location of the project	The project will occur in the Goat Creek Watershed, Eight Mile Creek Watershed and Chewuch RM from 8.6 to 18.4, called the Cub Allotment.
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Latitude (decimal degrees)	48.648914
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Longitude (decimal degrees)	-120.271617
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Project subbasin	Methow
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Methow Assessment Unit(s)	Eight Mile Creek
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Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units?

List the additional assessment units directly impacted by this proposal. Goat Creek, Chewuch River - Doe Creek

Reach(es) Name Chewuch River Pearrygin 09, 10, 11; Doe 01, 02, 03; Eight Mile Creek 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09

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.ucsr.org/>.

Please detail the reach-ranking of the reaches below

Chewuch River Pearrygin 09 - Rank 3, Chewuch River Pearrygin 10 - Rank 1, Chewuch River Pearrygin 11 - Rank 1, Chewuch River Doe 01 - Rank 2, Chewuch River Doe 02 - Rank 1, Chewuch River Doe 03 - Rank 1, Eight Mile Creek 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09 - Unranked.

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 project seeks to address bank stability, riparian canopy cover and riparian disturbance for spawning steelhead and bull trout by excluding cattle from the riparian area and increasing riparian function and cover through planting up to 5 sites excluded to cattle from invisible fencing to create an estimated 32 river miles of protected riparian area from cattle grazing through 2029 and identify up to 5 sites in need of riparian cover and planting to be implemented by 2029.

2. What species will the project benefit?

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

Riparian Habitat: Reporting Code

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

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?

Design

Is the project eligible for Riparian Funding?

Yes

Design and Restoration Proposals

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

Conceptual Design

Preliminary Design

Final Design

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)?

Chewuch Reach Assessment 2010

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

Bank Stability

Riparian

Riparian - Disturbance

10. Which life stages will the proposed project address?

Adult Non-Spawning (Bull Trout)

Spawning and Incubation

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

The project will exclude cattle from accessing riparian areas and stream banks in critical habitat during spawning by utilizing novel invisible fencing technology that allows managers to set a perimeter that excludes cattle from critical habitat areas. This technology allows for the protection of a 6-7 mile radius from the base station, this particular allotment, the Cub Allotment, is 65,750 acres and includes Goat Creek, Eight Mile Creek and perimeters the Chewuch River. Reducing disruption and bank stability will improve survival of offspring of spawning steelhead and bull trout by keeping cows out of redds and reducing water quality issues that can lead to mortality of eggs and sac-fry. Further, reducing cows in the riparian and stream area reduces disturbance of spawning fish. Virtual fencing allows real-time tracking of cattle, unlike traditional fence which can get damaged, allowing cattle into excluded zones without knowing, virtual fencing allows quick response to these situations.

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?

This grazing allotment was burned in 2021 and much of the riparian area is recovering from fire. Keeping cows out of the riparian area will allow these riparian areas to recover without increased disturbance from cattle. Recovery and planting of these areas will stabilize the stream banks and reduce excess erosion.

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

Less than or equal to 1 year

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

Less than 10 years

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?

Virtual fencing requires very little maintenance. Collars can be monitored in real-time and batteries replaced as necessary during the off season, if a cow damages . Up to five riparian planting sites will be identified in this project, minimal maintenance is expected, because virtual fencing requires so little maintenance, this will help reduce maintenance of planting sites. Through partnership with the Forest Service we will develop monitoring locations to inform adaptive management as necessary.

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

Fence (virtually) up to 32 river miles of riparian area within the cub allotment and pastures in critical habitats for spawning steelhead, bull trout and spring chinook.

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.

There are no in-stream components.

Assessment Proposals

Protection Proposals

7. What type of protection are you proposing?

Other

Monitoring Proposals

Project Risk and Economic Benefits

1. What is the landownership?

Forest Service

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

Yes

Please explain

The Forest Service purchased the base station to support virtual fencing. The cattle owner is excited to support a project that supports healthy riparian areas and fish habitat. Without the virtual fencing, the cattle owner and Forest Service would have to rely on herding methods to exclude cattle from these areas, which is not very effective.

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

There are no landowner requirements that could affect the project.

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

This project should not raise any concern for interest groups. It keeps cattle out of the stream without

putting miles of barbed wire on the landscape.

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

The landowner is responsible for applying the collars and maintaining the collars. Trout Unlimited and the landowner will enter into agreement to maintain the equipment and adhere to the exclusion areas. This project in part, seeks funding to pay for the annual fees of the collar for the remainder of the 5 year permit held by the cattle owner.

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.

Risk is very low. This method of cattle exclusion is effective and was successful in 2023 and has been successful in many other state on Forest Service land.

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

There is no public outreach planned. This project does build community support from the ranching community as an effective method to support cattle production and salmon and steelhead restoration.

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

The project represents several opportunities for economic benefit. Virtual fencing is cheaper and often more effective than traditional fencing methods, requiring less maintenance and materials. The project also supports the profit realized through cattle production and leasing on Forest Service land.

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

The Forest Service has utilized this virtual fencing before, they also purchased the base station needed to support virtual fencing and are supporting the project through monitoring and technical support.

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?

Yes

Supporting Documents

[Upper Columbia Process Guide 2024](#)

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

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