



## Contact Information

# 2026 Upper Columbia Regional Project Pre-Application

\* Pre-applications due March 11, 2026 (COB)

\*Complete SRFB applications due in PRISM April 17, 2026 (COB)

\*Revised SRFB proposals due in PRISM May 27, 2026 (COB)

\*Final revised applications due in PRISM June 22, 2026 (noon)

<b>Project Title</b>	Little Siberia Floodplain Connectivity Preliminary Design
<b>Sponsor</b>	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
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## Project Summary

**Please provide a description or summary of the proposed project, including project goals. The goal of the project should be to solve identified problems by addressing the root causes. Then clearly state the desired future condition.**

The Project will produce a conceptual and preliminary design for the development of a floodplain reconnection project that increases biological benefit at low to moderate flows on property acquired in 2025 by Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) on the lower Twisp River. The project site is located in Reach 2 of the lower Twisp River Assessment Unit and within Reach T2a identified in the Lower Twisp River Reach Assessment (Yakama Nation Fisheries Program 2010, pp.29-45) between river miles 1.0-1.5. The site is located at MSRF's Twisp Ponds restoration site, an off-channel system consisting of five ponds and channels, which provides high quality spawning and rearing habitat for UCR Spring Chinook, UCR Steelhead, and other species.

The project builds on the Priest Rapids Tributary Committee sponsored Bartsch property Acquisition completed in 2025, a 7.86 acre parcel which includes the upper pond, channel, and headgate that feeds the Twisp Ponds complex, as well as a house that lies within the floodplain and a levee set back from the river. The recently purchased property is the final parcel that MSRF has been seeking since beginning acquisition and the subsequent restoration of the Twisp Ponds complex beginning in the early 2000s.

Preliminary 2D hydraulic modeling results suggest that partial or full levee removal does not have significant direct effects below the five year flood. However, the preliminary modeling suggests that a more complete levee removal project could be meaningful throughout the entire site if paired with

additional instream actions and riparian restoration to engage the floodplain during low to moderate flows.

The Project will produce conceptual and preliminary design for habitat restoration actions to benefit ESA-listed Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon, UCR Steelhead, and other species including the removal of the house and levee and reconnection of the floodplain with the Twisp Ponds Complex. Habitat actions will show biological benefit at the annual flow without increasing flood risk to downstream or upstream private properties.

**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].**

Within two years the Project will produce a conceptual and preliminary design for a floodplain reconnection project which will include a suite of project actions to support meaningful habitat uplift for ESA spring Chinook and UCR steelhead at flows that support juvenile salmonids in the T2A reach of the lower Twisp River at Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation's (MSRF) Twisp Ponds restoration site.

The floodplain reconnection project will be designed to increase floodplain inundation and biological benefit to ESA listed fish species on MSRF owned parcels below the two year flow, without increasing flood risk to upstream or downstream private properties.

The project will evaluate opportunities to floodplain reconnection design that include:

- Instream actions to bring the river up onto the floodplain
- Removal of an earthen berm levee at the upstream end of the property
- Removal of a 2500 square foot house and associated infrastructure from the floodplain
- Riparian Restoration

## Budget Request

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

**Anticipated Request - SRFB** \$180,000

**Anticipated TOTAL Budget** \$180,000

## Project Location

**Briefly describe the location of the project** This project is located in the Twisp River Lower 02 reach and within Reach T2A of the 2010 Twisp River Reach Assessment between approximately RM 1.0-1.5.

**Latitude (decimal degrees)** 48.3689

**Longitude (decimal degrees)** -120.14204

**Project subbasin** Methow

**Methow Assessment Unit(s)** Lower Twisp River

Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units?

No

Reach(es) Name

Twisp River Lower 02

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 species will the project benefit?

Spring Chinook

Steelhead

Bull Trout

Coho, Pacific Lamprey

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

Design, Monitoring or Assessment

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

No

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

No

6. What category is the project?

Design

If applicable, what is the secondary project category?

N/A

## Design and Restoration Proposals

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

Conceptual Design

Preliminary Design

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)?

Yes. Lower Twisp River Reach Assessment, June 2010. Prepared by Interfluve for Yakama Nation Fisheries Program

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

Cover - Wood

Off-Channel - Floodplain

Off-Channel - Side-Channels

Riparian

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 will provide conceptual and preliminary design for a series of developed project actions designed to improve floodplain and side channel connectivity by removing a levee and house from the floodplain, and reconnecting natural flow paths between the Twisp River and channels and ponds within the Twisp Ponds complex. By increasing off-channel connectivity during annual flow levels, this project will increase the quantity and quality of available habitat in the Lower Twisp River reach, allowing more fish to access floodplain habitat and benefiting ESA listed species. We anticipate the project will increase the capacity and distribution of the project reach to support rearing juvenile fish.

**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 project will be designed to be consistent with natural processes and site and reach scale geomorphology. The project elements may include the removal of a house and levee from the floodplain and establishing instream and riparian restoration to reconnect former floodplain flow paths that were disconnected and filled in during flood-fight and development efforts over the last half century. MSRF owns property on the river bank opposite the project location, allowing opportunity for instream elements to be constructed that will initiate floodplain process.

Two current RCO and tributary funded projects are taking place in the Twisp Ponds complex, both designed to promote natural stream process and to support increases in future floodplain connection.

- The Habitat Connectivity project includes culvert removal from the primary channel, ensuring resiliency in flow through the ponds system.
- The Riparian Restoration project will improve water quality to the ponds through bench construction designed to capture runoff from Twisp River Road, increase habitat complexity through wood placement, and decrease pond temperatures through riparian plantings. Both of these projects will benefit from additional actions of a future floodplain connection project.

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

1-10 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?**

The project will produce conceptual and preliminary designs for restoration actions that would increase floodplain connectivity by removing a levee and a house from the floodplain, and reconnecting former channel flow paths. Because the entirety of the project is on property owned by Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, access for maintenance is assured.

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

The project team will identify opportunities to design multiple features to increase floodplain connectivity and process development, including levee and house removal, engineered mainstem and side channel complexity features, riparian restoration, and/or channel cuts designed to increase floodplain connectivity at the annual flood level. Risks to upstream and downstream properties as well as sediment transport dynamics will be assessed through modeling.

**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

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation owns all of the parcels on the right bank where the restoration actions will take place as well as all parcels on the left (opposite) bank, up to the boundary of the any owned SOAL land.

#### 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

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation owns all of the parcels where the restoration actions will take place, including all parcels landward of the established ordinary high water mark on both sides of the Twisp River. Actions proposed within the active river channel will be developed in consultation with DNR as the SOAL owner. A comprehensive risk assessment to upstream and downstream landowners will take place as a part of the design process. Actions will be designed to decrease risk to the existing infrastructure within the site. Planting benches in ponds 2-4 done as part of the RCO sponsored Riparian Restoration project will increase the buffer between the county road and the ponds.

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

Actions will be designed to decrease risk to upstream and downstream landowners. WDFW currently uses an access road through the property to maintain a rotary screw trap and PIT antenna system on the adjacent mainstem Twisp River. Site access for WDFW employees and infrastructure will be maintained in project design. MSRF maintains a trail system open to the public on the downstream end of the property, which will not be impacted by project design. The project will be designed in compliance with adopted recreational risk guidelines (Reclamation) to not increase recreational risk over existing conditions or alter public access to existing recreational opportunities.

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

The project will be designed to minimize long-term maintenance requirements. The project is designed to function within the range of anticipated flows to mimic natural process development - i.e. channel and bank development and evolution - and is not expected to require active project maintenance. MSRF will maintain the project elements where evolution raises potential risks to the public.

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

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

The project carries a low risk of failure. Preliminary modeling suggests there is potential to design a project that engages additional floodplain throughout the site without increasing risk to existing infrastructure or downstream landowners. MSRF has successfully maintained the ponds site for more than 20 years. By owning all of the underlying property, much of the risk associated with changing landowner requirements is mitigated.

Ensuring that project elements are designed to lower risks to upstream and downstream landowners will be a primary objective during the design process.

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

Yes, this project will require outreach to neighboring landowners. Project activities will include posting signage explaining the purpose of the project and the construction phases. The Twisp Ponds site is viewed as a valuable community asset and is used by a large number of individuals and groups as a destination for walking, bird watching, and gatherings. Signage and art installations currently engage visitors and highlight salmon recovery projects throughout the Methow Valley and serve to increase community support for salmon recovery efforts. MSRF plans to present project findings to the Town of Twisp at a public meeting to address any potential public concerns over the project.

Yakama Nation is planning to update their 2010 Reach Assessment and may propose projects upstream or downstream of the reach. MSRF is coordinating directly with the Yakama Nation.

**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 prioritizes 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 will hire a design engineer with expertise in restoration design and hydraulic engineering. 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 (SRFB applications only)**

The following questions are identical to the questions RCO requires in the PRISM application for SRFB projects. If desired, sponsors can complete associated questions early and copy responses into PRISM during the "Complete Application" phase due on April x, 2026

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

No

## Supporting Documents

[Upper Columbia Process Guide 2026](#)

[SRFB Manual 18 \(2026\)](#)

[RCO Application Resources](#)