



## 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>	Lower Icicle Conservation Easements
<b>Sponsor</b>	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
<b>Primary Contact</b>	Mickey Fleming
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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 goal is to permanently protect approximately 75 acres of floodplain along the lower Icicle River near Leavenworth, WA. There will be two conservation easements over two adjacent parcels owned by related but distinct landowners. Acquiring these conservation easements will ensure these sensitive riparian zones will not be filled and developed, and facilitate future restoration activities.

**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 will accomplish protection of valuable riparian habitat in the Lower Icicle Assessment Unit by placing two conservation easements over 75 acres of floodplain, including .92 river miles by the end of 2028. The Lower Icicle is Rank 1 for protection of Steelhead, and Rank 3 for protection of Spring Chinook and Bull Trout. The Lower Icicle is Rank 1 for restoration of Steelhead and Bull Trout, and Rank 2 for

restoration of Spring Chinook.

## Budget Request

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

<b>Anticipated Request - SRFB</b>	600,000
<b>Tributary Committee - Anticipated or Actual</b>	600,000
<b>Anticipated or Actual Other Funding</b>	1,400,000
<b>Anticipated TOTAL Budget</b>	2,600,000

### Other Funding Source(s), please note if funding is anticipated or actual.

Anticipated Other Funding would be from the RCO WWRP Riparian Protection grant program.

## Project Location

<b>Briefly describe the location of the project</b>	The properties are located between RM 0 and RM 1.5 of Icicle Creek.
<b>Latitude (decimal degrees)</b>	47.573815
<b>Longitude (decimal degrees)</b>	-120.661968
<b>Project subbasin</b>	Wenatchee
<b>Wenatchee Assessment Unit(s)</b>	Lower Icicle Creek
<b>Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units?</b>	No
<b>Reach(es) Name</b>	Icicle Creek Lower 01
<b>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: <a href="https://prioritization.ucsrb.org/">https://prioritization.ucsrb.org/</a>.</b>	Rank 1

## Project Information

<b>1. What species will the project benefit?</b>	Spring Chinook	Steelhead	Bull Trout
<b>2. Select the project's objectives and the associated tracking metrics</b>	Acquisition, Easements, Leases		
<b>Acquisition, Easements, Leases: Reporting Code</b>	Acres by Acreage Type (easement) and/or Acres by		

Acreage Type (fee simple)

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)?

Yes

6. What category is the project?

Protection

## Design and Restoration Proposals

### Assessment Proposals

### Protection Proposals

7. What type of protection are you proposing?

Conservation Easement

8. Is this protection project associated with a current or future restoration project?

No

9. Placement - Does the project protect important high quality habitat and/or watershed processes and to what degree

Yes, the project protects two of the few remaining large undeveloped sections of Lower Icicle Creek, including nearly a mile of stream frontage. The conservation easements will ensure that landowners can only use the conserved properties in accordance with the conservation values of the easement and will forbid residential development, harmful agricultural practices (runoff), and will explicitly provide for restoration of the riparian zones.

10. Freshwater Benefit - What would be the anticipated loss in survival, capacity or distribution for target species at the reach scale if the proposed area is not protected?

If the property is developed, farmed, or grazed, there could be significant harm to the target species, including loss of riparian vegetation, contaminated runoff, destruction of streambanks and shaded pools, and increased recreation impacts to the river and riverbanks.

11. Threat - How imminent is the threat of habitat degradation to the proposed land if the project is not implemented?

The largest parcel of land is currently owned in an LLC controlled by 5 older family members. If the property is not protected, the land will pass to the next generation with dozens of members, many of whom have less interest in conservation. The current owners believe that if the land is not protected, the next generation will either chop up the parcel into lots for individual ownership or sell the property for development. The property is zoned for 10-acre parcels and Chelan County has a fill ordinance that would allow a developer to fill and raise the floodplain for development..

12. Conditions - Briefly describe if there are any conditions regarding the protection of the property that could limit the protection benefits

CDLT will need to thoroughly negotiate the terms of the conservation easement to ensure that retained rights (allowed uses) are limited as much as possible, and that any retained rights are not in conflict the conservation values of the property.

13. Will there be public access?

No

## Monitoring Proposals

### Project Risk and Economic Benefits

1. What is the landownership?

Private (one lot by a married couple, one lot by a family LLC)

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

Yes

#### Please explain

Landowners have agreed to sign landowner acknowledgement forms.

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

Landowners have from time-to-time leased a portion of the property during wildfires for a helicopter base of the large firefighting helicopters, a service that benefits the community. If the landowners want to retain the ability to lease the property for such a purpose, that will need to be addressed in the conservation easement, and limited to areas outside of the riparian corridors.

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

None known.

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

CDLT will be responsible for monitoring the property and enforcing the terms of the conservation easements. The landowners will be bound by the terms of the conservation and will be responsible for managing and maintaining the property.

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.

The LLC Members will need to vote to accept the appraisal value as the purchase price for the conservation easement. If the vote does not pass, the project cannot move forward.

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

Acquisition generally projects must stay confidential until closing, but CDLT regularly participates in regular watershed meetings regarding protection of Icicle Creek. Placing a conservation easement over these properties will make future salmon recovery projects more likely.

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

This property has been farmed and grazed in the past, at a cost to Icicle Creek. Those costs include loss of instream flow, channelization of the creek, loss of riparian vegetation, channel migration, agricultural runoff, and habitat degradation from cattle in the creek and on the banks. There is a benefit in the removal of all these negative influences. This project demonstrates how landowners with former agricultural lands near salmon streams can permanently protect that land and facilitate restoration. Without conservation, the only economic alternative is to sell the land for riverfront development.

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

CDLT will work with the landowners and our salmon restoration partners to carry out future stream and riparian restoration projects.

**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](#)