



## 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>	MacPherson Flats Acquisition
<b>Sponsor</b>	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
<b>Primary Contact</b>	Camden Shaw
<b>E-Mail Address</b>	camden@methowsalmon.org

## 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 proposed acquisition of the MacPherson Flats property would allow for a substantially developed floodplain to be restored to its natural condition allowing for side channel and floodplain restoration, including removal of an existing flood levee, buildings and roads, adjacent protected public land.

**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 objective is to remove the existing private development that prevents the MacPherson side channel from functioning as a perennial floodplain and side channel. This project seeks to acquire and protect an 8.7 acre parcel adjacent public land along the Chewuch River. The parcel includes an existing home site and commercial excavation and trucking yard and shop adjacent to WDFW land and Okanogan National Forest. The property includes approximately 680 feet of the 3,500' long MacPherson side channel

that is fed by the Skyline diversion intake from the Chewuch River as a year-round side channel. The acquisition would remove all buildings and provide permanent protection necessary to restore and maintain this section of the MacPherson side channel and connected floodplain for anadromous fish use.

## Budget Request

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

**Anticipated Request - SRFB** 597,000

**Anticipated or Actual Other Funding** 199,000

**Anticipated TOTAL Budget** 796,000

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

MSRF is planning to request the other funding from PRCC

## Project Location

**Briefly describe the location of the project** This proposed acquisition is located at Chewuch RM 7.7 within Chewuch River Pearrygin 08

**Latitude (decimal degrees)** 48.56811

**Longitude (decimal degrees)** 120.17680

**Project subbasin** Methow

**Methow Assessment Unit(s)** Chewuch River-Pearrygin Creek

**Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units?** No

**Reach(es) Name** Chewuch River Pearrygin 08

**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 3

## Project Information

**1. What species will the project benefit?** Spring Chinook Steelhead Bull Trout

**2. Select the project's objectives and the associated tracking metrics** Acquisition, Easements, Leases

**Acquisition, Easements, Leases:  
Reporting Code**

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)?**

No

**6. What category is the project?**

Protection

**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

**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)?**

Lower Chewuch Reach Assessment

## Assessment Proposals

### Protection Proposals

**7. What type of protection are you proposing?**

Fee Simple

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

Yes

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

Yes, this project would permanently protect approximately 680 feet of perennial side channel along the Chewuch River. The project protects floodplain reconnection, riparian restoration and side channel and off-channel habitat, which are all actions identified in the 2025 Lower Chewuch Reach Assessment to address unacceptable and at-risk conditions.

The project is located downstream of an upgraded irrigation delivery project (Skyline) that was completed in 2025. That project eliminated the risk of fish stranding in past irrigation infrastructure ensuring safe passage to and from the Chewuch River year round in the MacPherson side channel that crosses the MacPherson Flats property. Removing the home and infrastructure along the side channel will allow for significant riparian planting and encourage natural regeneration of cottonwood, pine and riparian shrub species on 20% of the side channel length and on the 8.7 acre floodplain.

**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?**

This project would result in permanent protection of approximately 680 feet of a Chewuch River perennial side channel controlled by a flood levee that also burned in the Cub Creek fire (2021). By not protecting this area and removing the infrastructure, natural riparian regeneration and future restoration opportunities along the side channel and floodplain would be restricted. Reduced survival of target species on the MacPherson Flats property could be high due to reduced side channel health for summer and winter rearing specifically. Spring Chinook, Summer Steelhead and Bull Trout all use the Lower Chewuch river year round. Spring Chinook summer and winter rearing rank high in the life stage ranking in the 2025 Lower Chewuch Reach Assessment. The reach also supports a diverse aquatic food web that supports ESA listed species.

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

The floodplain property, including the side channel, is managed by the landowners for access and human use including a commercial shop, equipment yard and landscaping. The site use has resulted in on-going degradation based on the required flood levee and the heavy commercial use. After the Cub Creek fire in 2021, many of the mature pine and cottonwood trees along the side channel and throughout the floodplain were burned and are subsequently falling over. Without removing the home and commercial business infrastructure, the riparian trees and shrubs will not be able to fully revegetate the property and maintain a functioning riparian along the side channel and on the floodplain.

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

The only condition that would limit the protection of the property would be the cost to remove the home and infrastructure necessary to revegetate and allow for natural regeneration of the floodplain. The property is surrounded by state and federal land, ensuring its long term protection. Restoration is limited to site clean up, home removal and targeted planting where natural regeneration is compromised from years of human impacts.

**13. Will there be public access?**

Yes

## 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**

Chris Johnson was contacted by the landowner to ask if the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation would be interested in acquiring the property for protection.

**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 to the acquisition.

**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 unlikely to raise potential concerns with any interest group of the community at large. This project compliments two decades of work accomplished by the Skyline ditch company, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, WDFW, USFWS and BOR to protect side channel habitat for endangered

species on the Chewuch River.

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

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will be responsible for land management.

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

Yes

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

There is no risk of failure associated with this project.

**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 during acquisition. After the property is acquired the restoration efforts and clean up of the property would be a significant opportunity to show the public the ecological and community benefits to floodplain restoration and protection.

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

It is anticipated that future restoration will be developed following acquisition to take advantage of the opportunities identified in the reach assessment. All future restoration actions, including removal of the infrastructure, will use local sub contractors to increase economic benefits from state and federal restoration dollars circulation within the local and regional economy. The project also allows for public access to the Chewuch River from the county road giving recreational users access to the riparian forest.

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

Chris Johnson, the executive director of MSRF, has had a personal relationship with the MacPherson Flats property owners for two decades. The Skyline ditch company, which diverts irrigation water just upstream, is working with MSRF to secure funding for more upgrades to their irrigation delivery infrastructure and is currently completing an upgrade of 6,000 feet of new pipe and replacing a wooden trestle with a new bridge across Cub Creek with funding from USFWS and PRCC. In 2025, WDFW, BPA, and PRCC funded a project that successfully improved the fish screen and 600' of irrigation delivery, eliminating the risk of stranding salmonids after ditch shutdown.

**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](#)