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)

Project Title	Nason Creek Floodplain Restoration: PUD Transmission Line Relocation Conceptual Design
Sponsor	CCNRD
Primary Contact	Mike Kane
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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 CC-SM project area follows a portion of the Chelan PUD Coles Corner to Summit Line 115kv transmission line corridor as it parallels and crosses Nason Creek, US Highway 2, BPA transmission line, the BNSF rail line, and numerous private and public properties. The primary goals for the project are to conduct a feasibility assessment and conceptual designs for relocation of the Chelan PUD Chelan PUD McKenzie to Beverly 115kV line (CC-SM) in a three-mile reach of Nason Creek to allow for floodplain restoration and connectivity, restoring habitat function in a critical Tier 1 salmon recovery area in the Wenatchee watershed. There are multiple floodplain restoration and reconnection opportunities identified in the project reach as identified by previous studies that could be implemented with the re-location of the transmission lines. The design project will include a review of existing geomorphic, hydraulic, and habitat assessments, limiting factors and updated floodplain restoration opportunities based on on-the-ground evaluations, and coordination with CCNRD, Chelan PUD, and transmission line engineers.
The CC-SM transmission line is located largely within the floodplain of Nason Creek and/or riparian areas in close proximity to Nason Creek and largely within regulatory land use buffer zones, so land use regulations would not allow for development within restored riparian and floodplain areas. Relocation of the transmission lines, even without floodplain restoration actions, would allow for restoration of the riparian areas and eliminate the current active management and vegetation removal in these areas by the PUD. There are multiple transmission poles in the active floodplain that have been fortified with bank

armoring or are at risk from actively eroding banks that will need bank stabilization for protection.

This project seeks to address temperature, habitat quality and quantity, and channel complexity for migrating, holding and spawning for ESA listed salmonids; spring and summer chinook, steelhead, and bull trout by relocating three miles of transmission line out of the floodplain of Nason Creek.

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].

Implementation of the project will include the following objectives: an estimated 1.5 miles of shading, 15-30 acres of restored riparian habitat, reconnection of up to 40 acres of floodplain, and re-meander 0.5 miles of channelized reaches of the creek.
The project goal is to conduct an alternatives analysis and conceptual designs for the relocation of a three-mile section of the Chelan PUD Mckenzie to Beverly 115kV line (Coles Corner to Summit line [CC-SM]) out of the floodplain of Nason Creek and an alternatives analysis for potential stream restoration work after transmission line removal. Conceptual designs will be developed for a portion of the 3 mile stream segment. Metrics will be refined as part of the design process.

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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	$276,250
Anticipated Request - Targeted Investment	0
Tributary Committee - Anticipated or Actual	$48,750
Anticipated or Actual Other Funding	0
Anticipated TOTAL Budget	$325,000

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

N/A

Project Location

Briefly describe the location of the project	This project is located between RM 9.5 – RM 13.3 (9.2-12.7 UCSRB) of Nason Creek roughly between the Cole's Corner Rest Area and the Ray Rock Knife Store, (US 2, MP 78.4-81.4).
Latitude (decimal degrees)	47 46'08.31" N
Longitude (decimal degrees)	120 48'05.35" W

Project subbasin

Wenatchee

Wenatchee Assessment Unit(s)

Lower Nason Creek

Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units?

No

Reach(es) Name

lower Nason 9-12

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/.

Multiple reaches (provide details below)

Please detail the reach-ranking of the reaches below

Reach: Nason Creek Lower 9 - Rank 1; Nason Creek Lower 10 - Rank 1; Nason Creek Lower 11 - Rank 1; Nason Creek Lower 12 - Rank 1.

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

Design, Monitoring or Assessment

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)?

Yes

Please explain which process(es) and how this proposal differs from the previous submission (e.g., different phase, modified scope, etc.)

Submitted to SRFB in 2023.
This proposal does is essentially the same except for cost increases.
It did exist in PRISM, but likely in wastebasket since it was not selected for funding.

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

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 & Middle Nason Creek Reach Assessment & Restoration Strategy Update Final Report. YN. 2026

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

Cover - Boulder | Cover - Wood | Off-Channel - Floodplain | Off-Channel - Side-Channels | Pool Quantity & Quality | Pools - Deep Pools | Riparian | Riparian - Canopy Cover | Riparian - Structure | Temperature - Adult Holding | Temperature - Adult Spawning | Temperature - Rearing

10. Which life stages will the proposed project address?

Adult Migration | Adult Non-Spawning (Bull Trout) | Natal Rearing (Bull Trout) | Subadult Rearing (Bull Trout) | Fry | Holding and Maturation | Spawning and Incubation | 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?

Nason Creek is critical to spawning and rearing salmonids and is identified in the Upper Columbia Salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout Recovery Plan as the highest priority tributary in the Wenatchee basin for habitat restoration of spring Chinook (ESA-listed, Endangered), steelhead (ESA-listed, Threatened), bull trout (ESA-listed, Threatened), summer chinook (SRKW priority species) and resident fish. Overwintering habitat is limited in Nason Creek because of reduced habitat quality from straightening and other significant modifications from the creek's historic alignment by construction and maintenance of the BNSF railroad, US 2, and the CC-SM transmission line. Additionally, the creek is currently listed on the 303(d) list for temperature. Portions of the three-mile reach being addressed under this proposal are subject to rapid heating during spring Chinook spawning in late July-August, due to of a lack of riparian shading and channel modifications (Roumasset 2020). Straightened reaches with a lack of riparian cover in the Wenatchee sub-basin often exhibit this pattern of rapid heating. Implementation of this project would result in increased riparian vegetation within the corridor, channel modifications to improve shading and floodplain connection, providing peripheral and transitional habitat in Nason Creek and improving overall habitat quality and overwintering use, addressing the highest priority ecological concerns within the Nason Creek watershed (UCRTT 2013).

Relocation of the transmission lines, even without floodplain restoration actions, would allow for restoration of the riparian areas and eliminate the current active management and vegetation removal in these areas by the CCPUD. CCNRD staff estimated that over 30 acres of riparian cover could be restored simply by re-planting in the transmission line corridor after relocation, which would greatly enhance the shade cover for this reach of Nason Creek. There are multiple transmission poles in the active floodplain that have been fortified with bank armoring or are at risk from actively eroding banks that will need additional bank stabilization for protection. Moving the alignment of a section of the CC-SM corridor out of the Nason Creek historic flood plain would reduce challenges associated with maintenance (discussed

more in the Economic Benefit question) and would allow for re-meandering of the simplified stream channel and rehabilitation of the stream corridor. This project will be designed to improve access to portions of the historic floodplain wetland, which in turn will provide high flow and winter rearing habitat, thermal and high flow refugia for spring Chinook and steelhead juveniles. Providing rearing habitat during winter and high flow conditions is important so that juvenile fry that emerge from redds are not prematurely flushed downstream. Additionally, the relocation of CC-SM would allow for other habitat improvement restoration activities to begin, further addressing the lack of shade, channel complexity, and floodplain access.

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?

The section of Nason Creek that will be addressed under this proposal has had the most significant impacts to its channel and floodplain connectivity as a result of construction and maintenance of the BNSF railroad, US-2, and the CC-SM transmission line. As a result, the creek was rerouted and channelized, and both banks of the creek were isolated from its floodplain because of the armoring that protects the railroad and power lines. All of which have contributed to the degradation of this section of Nason Creek. Wood recruitment potential is low because of ongoing transmission line vegetation maintenance, and because of the channelization wood is more likely to be transported downstream rather than retained, decreasing channel complexity. By relocating the CC-SM line out of the floodplain partial restoration of natural stream processes would be possible. The relocation alone would allow for 30 acres of riparian restoration in the former powerline corridor. Partially restoring this section of the creek to its natural geomorphic state.

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?

50+ years

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

Since this is an early design phase of the project, there is not yet a plan for anticipated maintenance. Full project implementation could include re-routing sections of the stream corridor and extensive riparian planting, so a detailed monitoring and maintenance plan would be developed at a later design stage and annual maintenance would be expected for 3-5 years post construction to address plantings and possible channel adjustments.

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

CCNRD will work with a consultant and project partners to complete the alternatives assessment and conceptual design process for rerouting the transmission line corridor. Simultaneously, CCNRD will work with a separate consultant to review of the Bureau of Reclamation and Yakama Nation reach assessments and other pertinent data (including a review of limiting factors for this reach), conduct site inventories, identify constraints and restoration opportunities based on rerouting transmission line, develop hydraulic models based on 2022 Bathymetric LiDAR and develop a habitat assessment and restoration strategy, including an outline of design opportunities.

Assessment Proposals

Protection Proposals

Monitoring Proposals

Project Risk and Economic Benefits

1. What is the landownership?

Property ownership in this reach is a combination of private and public (CCPUD, WSDOT, USFS, and CDLT).

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

Yes

Please explain

CCNRD has been meeting with CCPUD discussing this project. We have had recent meetings with CCPUD, WSDOT, USFS, CDLT and some private landowners to discuss the project and have support to move forward with the initial feasibility phase of the project. Landowner acknowledgement forms will be forthcoming for the large landowners. Part of the feasibility project will include outreach to private landowners as well.

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

Landowner requirements will be determined as part of the design process. Since this is a large scale utility corridor project, part of the feasibility will be focused on these issues. This is the initial design phase of the project, and CCNRD and CCPUD are working together to secure landowner access to the private parcels.

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

The project will raise potential concerns for local landowners as it includes moving a transmission line corridor that currently crosses around 40 private parcels. For most of these landowners it will probably be considered an opportunity more than an issue, but there will be other landowners who could have concerns based on changes associated with a preferred new location. Additionally, this project has the potential to contribute to the resilience of the power grid and as such could be seen as a benefit. The section of line being proposed for relocation is difficult to access during floods, storm events, and wildfires. Relocating the CC-SM along SR-2 would improve access for maintaining service for the long term. This is not a heavily used recreational corridor, so at this time, we do not anticipate any recreation issues or concerns.

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

Chelan County Natural Resources will be managing the development of the feasibility and design assessment and will continue to collaborate with partners. Since this phase of the project is a feasibility and conceptual design phase, there will be no required management and maintenance by current landowners. Post-implementation, CCPUD would be managing the transmission line corridor and CCNRD or other project sponsors would have short-term responsibility to maintain restoration sites.

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 little to no risk of failure for the first phase of this project, as we have broad support from landowners. The main risk for this project would be securing funding for implementation. It is a large-scale infrastructure project so there are inherent risks, but given warming temperatures for this reach during spring chinook spawning there are also risks in not addressing the issues associated with existing conditions.

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

Yes, CCNRD will host their watershed community outreach meetings during the design process and after implementation. The project does build on community support for salmon recovery efforts. There are multiple forums within which the partners on this project collaborate. There is a monthly Wenatchee Watershed Action Team for salmon recovery and river restoration practitioners to convene and discuss coordination, collaboration and implementation of initiatives and projects, including floodplain restoration, fish barrier removal, riparian restoration, instream flow improvements and education and community engagement. Additionally, across the Wenatchee watershed, project sponsors collaborate extensively on project opportunities. Multiple organizations meet regularly to discuss coordination, including Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Cascadia Conservation District, Yakama Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, Chelan County Natural Resource Department, Trout Unlimited, Washington Water Trust and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. The current proposal arose from these partnership meetings, recognizing that multiple opportunities exist for floodplain restoration with the relocation of the transmission line. Public outreach will be planned after this initial feasibility and conceptual design phase and may include, but not be limited to: a public scoping letter, an informational postcard mailer sent to nearby residents, and one-two Nason Creek community meetings.
A number of public documents identify and support the project, including the following:
a) Chelan County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2012)
The multi-jurisdiction plan adopted by Chelan County and the Cities of Cashmere, Chelan, Entiat, Leavenworth and Wenatchee through an extensive public process identifies Chelan PUD critical infrastructure in the Stevens Pass areas and notes concern about voltage capacity in the future, indicating the need to upgrade and expansion of the system. Relocating the transmission line out of the floodplain prior to an upgrade and/or expansion will assure that the relocation will occur. Additionally, the plan specifically recommends the identification of "feasible mitigation options or possible purchase and relocation opportunities" in flood-prone areas such as Nason Creek and identifies the history of flooding and flood-related damages in the upper Wenatchee basin.
b) Wenatchee Watershed (WRIA 45) Management Plan (2006)
The watershed plan adopted by the County Commission in 2006 identifies Nason Creek as the highest priority habitat restoration subbasin in the Wenatchee watershed and specifically identifies the high priority for restoration and floodplain reconnection in the project area. The plan was unanimously approved by the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit after two years of public review and extensive community outreach.
c) NOAA Fisheries Upper Columbia Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan (2008)

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

This proposal is a good investment of public funds because it not only supports salmon recovery, but would add climate resiliency to the power grid. The project addresses critical long-term changes such as, increased wildfire risk and storm severity, warming stream temperatures, and increased sediment loading. First, the Nason Creek watershed is a dry-side site and will be subject to increasing wildfire risk and "mega-fires," which will increase the risk of infrastructure damage and total loss. Relocation of the powerlines to another corridor (along SR-2) will include upgrading the CC-SM power poles from wood to a more fire-resistant material, steel. The new location would be easily accessible from USFS White Pine Road and SR-2 compared to the existing location in the floodplain of Nason Creek, where staff have reported having trouble accessing the powerlines because of flooding, storms, and wildfires. Second, modeling by the UW Climate Impacts Group shows that warming water temperatures in this area may reach critical levels. Floodplain restoration can improve groundwater connectivity, increasing hyporheic exchange and thus keeping the water cooler for longer. Maintaining cooler temperatures is critical for salmonid habitat. Third, we expect climate change to increase the severity of flooding and thus erosion and sedimentation will also increase. By reconnecting historic floodplains, the impacts of intense flood events and sedimentation would be reduced, enhancing salmonid habitat and reducing erosion damage to infrastructure. Increased flood storage capacity decreases potential flood damage to the BNSF railroad, SR-2, and SR-207. Reducing hazards to roads and railroads saves costs associated with disruptions to interstate commerce and infrastructure protection, and increases reliability of these systems. In summary, the relocation of the CC-SM transmission line will save future operation and maintenance costs, increases accessibility, and enhance emergency response times for repairs to this section of line.

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

This effort builds on the Upper White Pine Floodplain Restoration Project. The Upper White Pine project successfully relocated an upstream section of the transmission line out of the floodplain and included levee removal, stream sinuosity and significant riparian restoration. Perhaps most importantly, the relationships and trust built during that project between CCNRD, CCPUD, USFS, and WSDOT now allow for this partnership to explore additional transmission line relocation opportunities. Similarly, there were multiple funders of the Upper White Pine Project who would be interested in investing in this project.

This project will work at the reach level and include collaboration between many organizations including: CCNRD, WSDOT, CCPUD, Yakama Nation (YN), USFS, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), Cascade Fisheries, US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), private landowners, BNSF, BPA and funders, including SRFB, CCPUD, Tributary Committee, Grant PUD Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee, and others. However, the main contributors for this initial design phase are CCNRD, CCPUD, and WSDOT. Specific roles and contributions from key partners will be defined by the final application deadline.

Some of these partners have already implemented projects in this reach and removal of the Transmission line corridor would allow for further improvements to existing investments in salmon habitat.

CCNRD has been at the forefront of the development and implementation of habitat improvement projects for listed salmonids in the Wenatchee since the adoption of the Wenatchee Watershed Management and Implementation Plans in 2008. CCNRD has successfully planned, developed, designed, permitted, coordinated, and constructed over 75 salmon habitat improvement projects, including the Upper White Pine Floodplain Restoration Project described above. Additionally, CCNRD has demonstrated the ability to implement floodplain re-connection projects while working with nearby infrastructure in Nason Creek. This includes two oxbow re-connections under SR 207 and the BNSF bridge that re-connects the Coulter and Roaring drainages. Through these experiences CCNRD has seen how floodplain reconnection projects result in improved streamflow, habitat complexity, and overall improved stream quality. CCNRD staff have extensive experience in project management, landowner coordination, and contractor management.

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