



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	Little Siberia Floodplain Connectivity Preliminary Design
Sponsor	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Primary Contact	Grace Watson
E-Mail Address	grace@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 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 \$182,640

Anticipated TOTAL Budget \$182,640

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](#)

PROJECT: 26-1638 PLAN, LITTLE SIBERIA FLOODPLAIN CONNECTIVITY PRELIM DES

Sponsor: Methow Salmon Recovery Found Program: Salmon State Projects Status: Application Submitted

Parties to the Agreement

PRIMARY SPONSOR

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation

Address PO Box 755

City Twisp **State** WA **Zip** 98856-0755

Org Type Non-Gov-Nonprofit

Vendor # SWV0091539-00

UBI 602134958

Date Org created

Org Notes

[link to Organization profile](#)

Org data updated

QUESTIONS - PRIMARY SPONSOR

#1: What date was your organization created?

#2: Is your organization registered as a non-profit with the Washington Secretary of State?

Yes

#2a: Please confirm the Unified Business Identifier (UBI) shown above is correct or provide if blank.

#3: How long has your organization been involved in salmon and habitat conservation?

#4: Do your organizational documents (charter, bylaws, or articles of incorporation) include the authority for the protection or enhancement of natural resources or related activities?

Yes

#5: Do your organizational documents (charter, bylaws, or articles of incorporation) provide for an equivalent successor organization in case the nonprofit dissolves?

No

SECONDARY SPONSORS

No records to display

MANAGING AGENCY

Recreation and Conservation Office

LEAD ENTITY

Upper Columbia Salmon Rcy Bd L

QUESTIONS

Project Application Report - 26-1638

#1: List project partners and their role and contribution to the project.

MSRF has developed the Twisp Ponds site with funding and technical support from WA RCO, WDFW, The HCP Tributary Committees, Reclamation, BPA, and the Yakama Nation. MSRF maintains an active partnership with the Yakama Nation coho program, WDFW Science Division, and with the adjacent landowners. This project will increase resilience to partner projects.

External Systems

SPONSOR ASSIGNED INFO

Sponsor-Assigned Project Number

Sponsor-Assigned Regions

LINK AN EXISTING SRP PROJECT

Unlink

26-1638, Little Siberia Floodplain Connectivity Prelim Des,

Project Contacts

Contact Name Primary Org	Project Role	Work Phone	Work Email
Amee Bahr Rec. and Conserv. Office	Project Manager	(360) 867-8585	Amee.Bahr@rco.wa.gov
Grace Watson Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Project Contact	(509) 341-4551	grace@methowsalmon.org
Brian Fisher Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Alt Project Contact	(509) 429-4928	brian@methowsalmon.org
Jessica Goldberg Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Alt Project Contact	(360) 624-3592	jessica@methowsalmon.org
Chris Johnson Okanogan City of	Agreement	(509) 429-1232	ChrisJ@methowsalmon.org
Ariel Edwards Upper Columbia Salmon Rcy Bd L	Lead Entity Contact	(208) 540-2691	ariel.edwards@ucsr.org
Katy Williams Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Billing	(509) 433-8880	katy@methowsalmon.org
Marlene Fuchs Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Billing	(541) 231-0813	marlene@methowsalmon.org

Worksites & Properties

Worksite Name

#1 SRP Import Little Siberia Floodplain

Planning	Property Name
✓	MSRF Twisp Ponds

Project Application Report - 26-1638

Worksite Map & Description

Worksite #1: SRP Import Little Siberia Floodplain

WORKSITE ADDRESS

Street Address 96 Twisp River Rd

City, State, Zip Twisp WA 98856

Worksite Details

Worksite #1: SRP Import Little Siberia Floodplain

SITE ACCESS DIRECTIONS

From Twisp drive approximately 0.96 miles West up Twisp River Road. Turn right into the driveway at 96 Twisp River Road to access the upper section of the project area. The project area continues downstream from the site access location for approximately 0.5 miles.

TARGETED ESU SPECIES

Species by ESU	Egg Present	Juvenile Present	Adult Present	Population Trend
Chinook-Upper Columbia River Spring, Methow River, Endangered		✓		Declining
Steelhead-Upper Columbia River, Methow River, Threatened	✓	✓	✓	Declining

Reference or source used

NMFS 2022 5-year Review

TARGETED NON-ESU SPECIES

Species by Non-ESU

Notes

Bull Trout

Migratory adults and potentially sub-adults in the mainstem adjacent to the project area. Population trend declining. Mapped FMO habitat.

Lamprey

Cutthroat

Rainbow

Questions

#1: Give street address or road name and mile post for this worksite if available.

96 Twisp River Road

Project Location

RELATED PROJECTS

Project Application Report - 26-1638

Projects in PRISM

PRISM Number	Project Name	Program Name	Current Status	Relationship Type	Notes
00-1676 C	Lower Twisp River Side Channel Acq.	Salmon State Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	Conservation acquisition that contributed to the development of the Twisp Ponds site.
05-1469 A	Twisp River Conservation Acquisition	Salmon Federal Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	Conservation acquisition that contributed to the development of the Twisp Ponds site.
08-1986 A	Twisp River Conservation Acquisition 2	Salmon Federal Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	Conservation acquisition that contributed to the development of the Twisp Ponds site.
24-1819 R	Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	Salmon State Riparian	Active	Related	The Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds project improves water quality in the ponds system through construction of riparian benches between three ponds and Twisp River road. Road run-off into the ponds will be reduced and riparian plantings will reduce in
24-1820 R	Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	Salmon Federal Projects	Active	Related	The Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds project will remove three culverts from the upper channel feeding the ponds system, reducing barriers, and increasing flow resiliency throughout the ponds and channels system.

Projects not in PRISM

Project Number	Project Name	Current Status	Relationship Type	Project Funder
430-HFA 602-	Bartsch Acquisition	Completed	Earlier Phase	Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Habitat Subcommittee

Related Project Notes

The Bartsch Acquisition was completed in 2025 and included a 7.86 acre parcel at the upstream end of the Twisp Ponds side channel complex. The parcel includes the upper pond, upper channel and headgate that feeds the ponds complex, as well as a house that lies within the floodplain and a levee set back from the river.

Questions

#1: Did this project originate from the Shore Friendly program?

No

#2: Project location. Describe the geographic location, water bodies or habitat types, and the location of the project in the watershed, i.e. nearshore, tributary, main-stem, off-channel, etc.

This project is located in the lower Twisp River, a tributary to the Methow River, and extends from approximately RM 0.8 - 1.5. The project includes approximately 43 acres of off-channel adjacent riparian and floodplain habitat and a series of ponds and channels that have been the site of on-going restoration since 2002.

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#3: How does this project fit within your regional recovery plan and/or local lead entity's strategy to restore or protect salmonid habitat? Cite section and page number.

The Biological Strategy for restoring habitat for Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead (last updated 2017), prioritizes actions that address identified limiting factors and prioritized ecological concerns in high priority reaches.

This project is located in Reach 2 of the Twisp River Lower Assessment Unit and within Reach T2a identified in the Lower Twisp River Reach Assessment (Yakama Nation Fisheries Program 2010, pp. 29-45).

The Assessment Unit is prioritized as Tier 1 for restoration of both Spring Chinook and Steelhead and Tier 2 for Bull Trout according to the Prioritization Framework. Reach 2 is identified as Rank 2 for restoring reach function within the assessment unit.

This Assessment Unit ranks summer and winter rearing as high priority for Spring Chinook and Steelhead and ranks adult migration and subadult rearing as medium priority for Bull Trout.

The project will address limiting factors identified as unacceptable or at risk by the Prioritization Framework. This reach is utilized by rearing juvenile spring Chinook, steelhead, and coho; however, the reach is categorized as having a limited amount of accessible off-channel rearing habitat.

The reach assessment highlights floodplain connectivity, off-channel rearing habitat, and riparian restoration as important restoration strategies within this reach. This reach is considered to be a priority for restoration – it is ranked #2/14, ranking water quality (temperature) as the second highest priority ecological concern within the Assessment Unit and peripheral and transitional habitat as the fourth highest priority (Revised Upper Columbia Biological Strategy 2017, pp. 36).

This project will design features intended to increase floodplain connectivity and off-channel rearing habitat.

#4: Is this project part of a larger overall project?

Yes

#4a: How does this project fit into the sequencing of the larger project?

Two current (implementation scheduled for 2026) RCO and Tributary funded projects taking place in the Twisp Ponds complex are 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 and add resiliency to a future floodplain connection project.

The project also builds on the PRCC sponsored 2025 Bartsch property Acquisition, an 8 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.

#5: Is the project on State Owned Aquatic Lands? Please contact the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to make a determination. [Aquatic Districts and Managers](#)

Yes

The project will include actions both above the OHWL (MSRF Lands) and below (DNR SOAL).

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Property Details

Property: MSRF Twisp Ponds (Worksite #1: SRP Import Little Siberia Floodplain)

✓ Planning

LANDOWNER

Name Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Address PO Box 755
City Twisp
State WA Zip 98856-0755
Type Private

CONTROL & TENURE

Instrument Type Sponsor owned property (deed)
Timing Existing
Term Length Perpetuity
Yrs
Expiration Date
Note

Project Proposal

Project Description

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 owned by Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF), including a parcel acquired in 2025, 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 0.8-1.5. 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.

Project Questions

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#1: Problem statement. What are the problems your project seeks to address? Include the source and scale of each problem. Describe the site, reach, and watershed conditions. Describe how those conditions impact salmon populations. Include current and historic factors important to understand the problems.

The Twisp Ponds properties were acquired by MSRF between 2002-2025 to prevent proposed residential development. The site includes a series of ponds that were originally part of the active channel of the Twisp River that were isolated by flood fight actions in the 1970's. Over the past 2 decades MSRF has developed the ponds to provide off-channel rearing habitat in an otherwise constrained reach of the lower Twisp River. Target fish species, including Spring Chinook, Steelhead, and coho rear in the network of connected side channels and pond habitats. MSRF has completed a series of restoration activities that have improved connectivity between the Twisp River and the series of five ponds and channels that make up the site, including two current RCO and tributary funded projects aimed at improving flow resiliency, improving water quality, increasing riparian growth and instream complexity, and decreasing instream temperatures. However, the inlet to the ponds system is confined to a single inlet channel, and floodplain connectivity throughout the project site is limited.

The surface water supply to the ponds and channels is provided by a surface water diversion at RM 1.5. Surface water flows are currently routed through a narrow single thread channel from the diversion to the uppermost pond. Connections between each of the remaining ponds, and to the Twisp River, are provided through meandering channels, which have been documented to support steelhead spawning. There are currently two outflow channels to the mainstem Twisp River at the downstream end of the project site.

A 600-foot constructed levee set back from the river, a 2500 square foot house, and related infrastructure lie within the floodplain, just below the inlet to the ponds system, on the upstream MSRF-owned parcel of the project area, limiting floodplain connection and riparian growth. Removal or modification of the levee has been identified as a potential project action following acquisition.

Preliminary 2D hydraulic modeling results suggest that partial or full levee removal as a stand-alone action 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.

Project elements that will be considered for floodplain engagement include:

- Instream wood placements designed to promote deposition and positioned just below floodplain channels areas.
- Constructed riffles to raise surface water elevation, bringing water onto the floodplain.
- Channel grading in select areas to increase floodplain connectivity.
- Riparian plantings will be incorporated into project areas, benefiting from increased floodplain inundation, and providing habitat uplift.

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#2: Describe the limiting factors, and/or ecological concerns, and limiting life stages (by fish species) that your project expects to address.

Limiting factors which the project expects to address in the reach, Twisp River Lower 02, include Floodplain Connectivity (unacceptable), Riparian canopy cover (unacceptable), Off-channel, side channel (at risk), and Cover-wood (at risk) as identified in the Upper Columbia Prioritization Strategy.

This project seeks to evaluate opportunities to increase floodplain connectivity at low to moderate flows, benefitting UCR Spring Chinook and UCR Steelhead at the limited life stages of summer and winter rearing.

MSRF acquired funding to purchase the upstream parcel of the project area in 2025, providing a critical connection to the rest of the downstream floodplain and ponds system. This purchase allows for the development of a larger infrastructure removal and floodplain connectivity project. However, preliminary modeling suggests that levee removal must be paired with instream actions in order for floodplain connectivity to occur at biologically beneficial levels.

Therefore, project designs will be developed to increase floodplain connectivity and habitat improvement through a combination of actions including:

- Removal of an earthen berm levee from the upstream end of the project reach.
- Instream actions designed to raise the river onto the floodplain at the annual flow level, providing off-channel refugia to rearing juvenile UCR Spring Chinook and UCR Steelhead at critical low flow summer and winter periods. These actions may include instream wood placements, constructed riffles, and channel grading.
- Increase instream complexity and wood to provide cover to rearing juvenile salmonids.
- Removal of a 2500 square foot house and associated infrastructure from the floodplain, allowing for increased floodplain inundation.
- Plantings to increase riparian canopy cover.

#3: **Project Goals.** What are the 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. Include which species and life stages will benefit from the outcome, and the time of year the benefits will be realized. **Example Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the project is to produce a permit ready conceptual and preliminary design incorporating multiple features for the development of a floodplain reconnection and process development project on MSRF owned properties on the right and left banks of the lower Twisp River. Floodplain reconnection will be designed to increase off-channel rearing habitat, with connection at the annual flood level, benefitting juvenile ESA listed UCR spring Chinook, UCR Steelhead, and other species. A comprehensive risk assessment will be completed to ensure the project will not increase flood risk to downstream, upstream, and adjacent private properties.

This project builds on the opportunity of a recent land acquisition, linking the intake and upper channel with the downstream ponds complex, maximizing potential for floodplain reconnection and process opportunities.

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#4: **Project Objectives.** What are the project objectives? Objectives support and refine biological goals, breaking them down into smaller 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). **Example Goals and Objectives**

The objective is to develop permit ready conceptual and preliminary designs within two years of funding for a floodplain reconnection project which will include a suite of actions to support meaningful habitat uplift for UCR Spring Chinook and UCR Steelhead at flows that support juvenile salmonids in the T2A reach of the Lower Twisp River at MSRF's Twisp Ponds restoration site.

The design will include the following primary project objectives:

- Increase floodplain inundation at the annual reoccurrence flow within the 43-acre project reach on the right and left banks to increase off-channel low flow summer refugia habitat.
- Construct instream complexity features to raise the river to reconnect former floodplain flow paths.
- Removal of a 600-foot earthen berm levee at the upstream portion of the project site on the right bank to allow for increased floodplain connectivity.
- Removal of a 2500 square foot house and associated infrastructure from the upstream portion of the right bank floodplain.
- Implementation of plantings to increase riparian growth and canopy cover on the right bank floodplain.

The conceptual design will provide design element alternatives and be completed within 18-24 months from funding. The design will include a comprehensive risk assessment and flood analysis, as well as a sediment transport analysis. Preferred alternatives will be chosen and further developed into permit ready preliminary designs within two years of funding.

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#5: **Scope of work and deliverables.** Provide a detailed description of each project task/element. With each task/element, identify who will be responsible for each, what the deliverables will be, and the schedule for completion.

1. Assemble project team: MSRF will solicit and award to a qualified design consultant with qualified stream engineering and geomorphology specialists who have relevant experience in the Upper Columbia. MSRF staff with expertise in project management, permitting, GIS mapping, field data collection, fisheries biology, and riparian restoration will form the core project team with the design consultant. Project partners with subject matter expertise may also participate on the project team. **Target date: December 2026**
2. Identify alternatives: Project team will identify and describe design alternatives and meet with RTT and Tributary Committee for a check-in and discussion about alternatives. **Target date: December 2027**
3. Data Collection Plan: Project engineer will outline and assign responsibility for data collection. **Target date: March 2027**
4. Data Collection: MSRF and engineering staff will collect data to support design and feasibility analysis. **Target date: October 2027**
5. Description of restoration alternatives: Project engineer will complete conceptual designs of identified alternatives. **Target date: December 2027**
6. Hydraulic modeling: Project engineer will provide hydraulic model results. **Target date: February 2028**
7. Alternative evaluation: Design consultant will provide a summary of alternative outcomes. **Target date: February 2028**
8. Select Alternative: Project team will select preferred alternative. **Target date: March 2028**
9. Draft preliminary design: Design consultant will develop preliminary design of preferred alternative. **Target date: June 2028**
10. Design Review: Project team will provide review and feedback on draft preliminary designs. MSRF will seek review and comment from landowners, stakeholders, and permitting and funding agencies on draft preliminary designs. MSRF will follow-up with another check-in and discussion with RTT and Tributary. **Target date: July 2028**
11. Final preliminary design: Design consultant will incorporate feedback and develop and submit final preliminary designs. **Target date: September 2028**
12. Project complete: Final preliminary designs completed and submitted to stakeholders and funders. Target date: **September 2028**
13. Final report and invoices to RCO leading to final approval and payment. **Target date: September 2028**

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#6: Assumptions and Constraints. What are the assumptions and physical constraints that could impact whether you achieve your objectives? Assumptions and constraints are external conditions that are not under the direct control of the project, but directly impact the outcome of the project. These may include ecological and geomorphic factors, land use constraints, public acceptance of the project, delays, or other factors. How will you address these issues if they arise?

MSRF has owned and developed the ponds complex for more than 20 years to increase access to side-channel and off-channel habitat and owns all of the parcels where the project will take place. Community support for the initial purchase and subsequent restoration efforts has received broad community support. The ponds complex receives regular community use by a wide cross section of the local population and enjoys broad public support.

The proposed project builds on more than two decades of land management and project implementation at the Twisp Ponds site by MSRF and will include additional opportunities for public involvement to ensure continued support. MSRF has developed a maintained trail system that is open to the public throughout the MSRF owned portions of the property, which will provide an opportunity for additional interactive outreach signage highlighting the benefits of the proposed restoration actions. The trail system is malleable and can be rerouted to incorporate potential new floodplain flow paths.

MSRF currently partners with WDFW to provide access to the ponds property to maintain a rotary screw trap and PIT antenna system on the mainstem Twisp River and with the Yakama Nation Coho Program for use of the lowest pond for acclimation releases each spring. MSRF will work with WDFW and the Yakama Nation throughout the design process to ensure that alternative suitable locations can be located or developed if project actions impact the operational capacity of the screw trap, or the suitability of the acclimation pond.

A comprehensive flood risk analysis will be a critical part of the design process to ensure there are no flooding concerns to private and public property and infrastructure.

Sediment accumulation and/or increased velocities could shift the pond habitat towards stream-like habitat; however this is not necessarily a constraint as Chinook and Steelhead tend to prefer stream habitat.

#7: Previous Lessons Learned. How have lessons learned from completed projects or monitoring studies informed this project?

MSRF worked for the first decade following acquisition to reestablish a resilient intake connection to support uninterrupted connectivity between the ponds and the Twisp River. Through this process, MSRF has addressed limitations that previously resulted in site disconnection, including construction of a channel spanning action to raise the bed of the Twisp River to direct additional water into the headgate that feeds the Twisp Ponds system.

Ownership of the site for two decades has afforded MSRF the unique opportunity to observe the flow dynamics of the Twisp River and floodplain channels at varying flow levels over time, providing a hands-on perspective of existing natural processes and limitations.

Snorkel surveys completed by MSRF over the course of the past decade provide valuable information of current fish use, diversity, and distribution, and will help to guide the design process.

The current Habitat Connectivity Improvement project at Twisp Ponds project will increase flow resiliency through the existing ponds system by removing three culverts in the upper channel and creating an overflow channel. Plant growth on the benches created through the Riparian Restoration project at Twisp Ponds project will benefit from the increased flow resiliency, and both projects will build on the resiliency of the entire ponds system, providing support to future floodplain connectivity actions.

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#8: **Project Alternatives.** Describe the alternatives considered and why the preferred was chosen.

The 2025 PRCC supported Bartsch Acquisition enabled MSRF to take ownership of the entire ponds and channel system, opening opportunities for levee removal and floodplain reconnection restoration actions. However, after acquisition, a preliminary 2D hydraulic modeling effort conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation showed that levee removal as a standalone action did not engage the floodplain at flows low enough to be biologically meaningful. However, modeled results did show that when levee removal was paired with instream complexity actions, floodplain inundation at the 1–2-year reoccurrence level is possible. The preferred alternative to develop preliminary designs utilizing more extensive hydraulic analysis will provide the most extensive and meaningful floodplain engagement design alternatives.

#9: How were stakeholders consulted in the development of this project? Identify the stakeholders, their concerns or feedback, and how those concerns were addressed.

MSRF owns the property where the restoration actions will take place. A comprehensive risk analysis will be conducted to ensure there is no risk to private or public properties downstream, upstream, or adjacent to the project site.

Restoration actions will be designed as much as possible to reduce risk to the WDFW rotary screw trap site and to the pond utilized by the Yakama Nation as a coho acclimation site. Throughout the design process however, WDFW and YN will be consulted as to the potential for alternative and suitable trap and acclimation pond locations.

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. These activities engage visitors and highlight salmon recovery projects throughout the Methow Valley and serve to increase community support for salmon recovery efforts. The existing public parking area, kiosk, and education gazebo are all above the floodplain and will not be impacted by floodplain reengagement efforts. The trail system is malleable and can be rerouted to incorporate new flow paths.

#10: **Climate Change.** Does your project address or accommodate the anticipated effects of climate change?

Yes

#10a: How will your project be climate resilient given future conditions?

This project will be designed to provide increased resilience to off-channel habitat and instream features in the face of changing environmental conditions. Increased floodplain connection will increase access to off-channel habitat in well developed riparian forest stands, and access to the cool, deep water hyporheic inputs provided by the ponds. Increasing riparian canopy cover will provide stream shading, mitigating rising stream temperatures.

#10b: How will your project increase habitat and species adaptability?

This project will increase habitat and species adaptability by improving access to diverse off-channel floodplain habitats and by increasing instream complexity and riparian diversity and abundance. Project features will be designed to encourage robust riparian growth and ensure long-term resiliency. Increasing floodplain connectivity will ensure that the Twisp Ponds habitat provides juvenile steelhead and salmon with optimal summer and winter off-channel rearing opportunities in a reach of the Twisp River that has limited off-channel habitat.

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#11: **Project Team Experience.** Describe the project management team's experience managing this type of project. Describe other projects where they have successfully used a similar approach.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation has worked closely with local and regional recovery processes to assist in prioritizing, selecting, and securing resources to implement a wide array of restoration projects for more than 20 years. MSRF has actively engaged in planning, developing, implementing, maintaining, and evaluating complex habitat restoration projects. 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 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. The Methow Okanogan Beaver Project (MOBP) was founded in 2008 and became a program of MSRF in 2014. They bring a wealth of beaver coexistence experience and strategies required to manage beavers in modified systems like the Twisp Ponds site

#12: **Veteran Involvement.** Will veterans (including the veterans conservation corps) be involved in the project? If yes, please describe.

No

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Planning Supplemental

#1: Is the project an assessment / inventory?

No

#2: Is your project a Barrier / Screening Diversion Inventory Project?

No

#3: Is this a fish passage design / screening design project?

No

#4: Will the project develop a design?

Yes

#4a: Will a licensed professional engineer design of the project?

Yes

#4b: Will you apply for permits as part of the project scope?

No, however initial coordination with permitting agencies will be a component of the design development process.

Planning Metrics

Worksite: SRP Import Little Siberia Floodplain (#1)

Area Encompassed (acres) (B.0.b.1)	43.0
Miles of Stream and/or Shoreline Affected (B.0.b.2)	0.58

DESIGN FOR SALMON RESTORATION

Conceptual Design (B.1.b.11.a RCO)

Total cost for Conceptual design	\$91,320
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Project Identified in a Plan or Watershed Assessment. (2457) (B.1.b.11.a)	Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team, 2021. A Biological Strategy to Protect and Restore Salmonid Habitat within the Upper Columbia River Basin.
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Priority in Recovery Plan (2458) (B.1.b.11.b)	Occurs in Priority area: Tier 1 Assessment Unit (page 21). Address unacceptable limiting factors (page 22). Reach is priority Rank 2 for restoration.
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Preliminary design (B.1.b.11.a RCO)

Total cost for Preliminary design	\$91,320
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Project Identified in a Plan or Watershed Assessment. (1220) (B.1.b.11.a)	Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team, 2021. A Biological Strategy to Protect and Restore Salmonid Habitat within the Upper Columbia River Basin.
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Priority in Recovery Plan (1222) (B.1.b.11.b)	Occurs in Priority area: Tier 1 Assessment Unit (page 21). Address unacceptable limiting factors (page 22). Reach is priority Rank 2 for restoration.
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Overall Project Metrics

COMPLETION DATE

Projected date of completion	09/30/2028
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Planning Cost Estimates

Worksite #1: SRP Import Little Siberia Floodplain

Category	Work Type	Estimated Cost	Note
Design for Salmon restoration	Conceptual Design (B.1.b.11.a RCO)	\$91,320	
	Preliminary design (B.1.b.11.a RCO)	\$91,320	
	Subtotal:	\$182,640	
	Total Estimate For Worksite:	\$182,640	

Summary

Total Estimated Costs:	\$182,640
Total Estimated Planning Costs:	\$182,640

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Cost Summary

	Estimated Cost	Project %	Admin/AA&E %
<u>Planning Costs</u>			
Planning	\$182,640		
SUBTOTAL	\$182,640	100.00 %	
Total Cost Estimate	\$182,640	100.00 %	

Funding Request and Match

FUNDING PROGRAM

Salmon State Projects	\$182,640	100.000000
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SPONSOR MATCH

Questions

#1: Explain how you determined the cost estimates

Cost estimates are based on our experience with recently completed and in-process design projects including the Upper Methow Design, Lower Methow, and M2 3R projects projects. The design costs were scaled with the project complexity and scope.

Other Funding

OTHER FUNDING DETAILS

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resource Areas

Worksite #1: SRP Import Little Siberia Floodplain

Area: Uploaded APE

#1: Describe any planned ground disturbing pre-construction/restoration work. This includes geo-technical investigation, fencing, demolition, decommissioning roads, etc.

n/a No ground disturbance proposed.

#2: Describe the existing project area conditions. The description should include existing conditions, current and historic land uses and previous excavation/fill (if depths and extent is known, please describe).

The MSRF ponds properties were historically a part of the active channel and floodplain of the Twisp River that were isolated by past flood fight efforts in the 1970's. MSRF acquired the properties in 2002-2004 to prevent a proposed housing project. The site had previously been cleared and graded to support housing development. MSRF has spent the past 2 decades restoring in-water and riparian habitat to support salmon recovery efforts.

#3: Will a federal permit be required to complete the scope of work on the project areas located within this worksite?
No

#4: Are you utilizing Federal Funding to complete the scope of work? This includes funds that are being shown as match or not.

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No

#5: Do you have knowledge of any previous cultural resource review within the project boundaries during the past 10 years?

Unknown

Previous known cultural resource surveys were prior to 2014.

#6: Are there any structures over 45 years of age within this worksite? This includes structures such as buildings, tidegates, dikes, residential structures, bridges, rail grades, park infrastructure, etc.

No

Project Permits

Permits and Reviews

None - No permits Required

Issuing Organization

Applied Date

Received Date

Expiration Date

Permit #

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Attachments

Required Attachments	7 out of 7 done
Applicant Resolution/Authorizations	✓
CCA Tribal Notification	✓
Cost Estimate	✓
Landowner Acknowledgement	✓
Map: Planning Area	✓
Photo	✓
RCO Fiscal Data Collection Sheet	✓

PHOTOS (JPG, GIF)

Photos (JPG, GIF)



707940 # 707946

PROJECT DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOS

Project Documents and Photos

File Type	Attach Date	Attachment Type	Title	Person	File Name, Number Associations	Shared
	04/17/2026	Map: Planning Area	Little Siberia Planning Area Map.pdf	BrianF	Little Siberia Planning Area Map.pdf, 708130	✓
	04/17/2026	Map	Little Siberia Relative Elevation 2015.pdf	BrianF	Little Siberia Relative Elevation 2015.pdf, 708129	✓
	04/17/2026	Map	Levee Removal Plus Reconnection Target areas.pdf	BrianF	Levee Removal Plus Reconnection Target areas.pdf, 708100	✓
	04/17/2026	Cost Estimate	26-1638 Little Siberia SAL-CostEstimate.xlsx	GraceW	26-1638 Little Siberia SAL-CostEstimate.xlsx, 707994	✓
	04/17/2026	Photo	Top of dry floodplain channel looking downstream.jpg	GraceW	Top of dry floodplain channel downstream.jpg, 707946	✓
	04/17/2026	Photo	Bottom of Levee looking upstream.jpg	GraceW	Bottom of Levee.jpg, 707940	✓
	04/16/2026	Landowner Acknowledgement	Signed MSRF SAL-LandownerAckForm (2026).pdf	JessicaG	Signed MSRF SAL-LandownerAckForm (2026).pdf, 707742	
	04/15/2026	Applicant Resolution/Authorizations	ApplicantAuthorizationResolution 26-1638.pdf	MarleneF	ApplicantAuthorizationResolution 26-1638.pdf, 707189	✓
	04/14/2026	RCO Fiscal Data Collection Sheet	Fiscal Data Collection & NICRA for 2026 Apps.pdf	MarleneF	Fiscal Data Collection & NICRA for 2026 Apps.pdf, 706964	
	04/13/2026	CCA Tribal Notification	MSRF Placeholder CCA Tribal Notification.docx	JessicaG	MSRF Placeholder CCA Tribal Notification.docx, 706783	✓

Application Status

Application Due Date: 06/22/2026

Status Name	Status Date	Submitted By	Submission Notes
Application Submitted	04/17/2026	Jessica Goldberg	
Preapplication	03/26/2026		

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information in this application is true and complete, and if artificial intelligence (AI) was used to prepare this application, I accept full responsibility for ensuring its accuracy and compliance. I understand incomplete applications will be rejected by RCO and that I may be asked to submit additional documentation before evaluation or approval of this project. I understand that if a grant is awarded to my project, I will be bound by all representations and commitments in this application, which RCO may enforce to the fullest extent permitted by law. (Jessica Goldberg, 04/17/2026)

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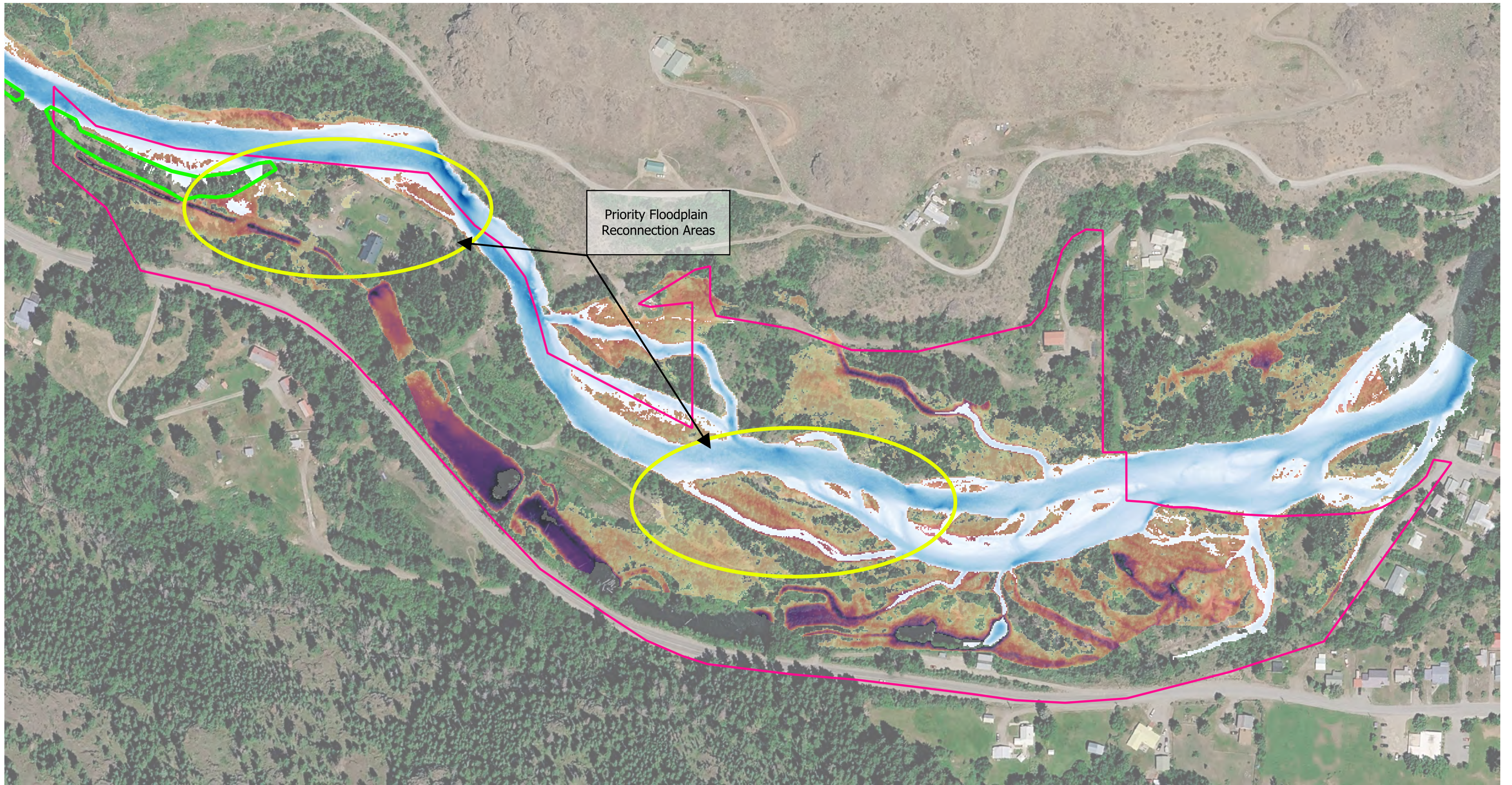
Date of last change: 04/17/2026

CUMULATIVE TOTALS

This sheet contains automatic calculations

Project Name	enter
SRFB #	enter
Sponsor	enter

	OVERALL PROJECT Cost	GRANT REQUEST Amount	PRISM MATCH Amount	OTHER FUNDING NOT REPORTED AS MATCH IN PRISM Amount	Budget Check
<u>Sheet #1 Acquisition</u>					
Property Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Incidental Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Administrative Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
STotal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
<u>Sheet #2 Design</u>					
Design Costs	\$ 182,640	\$ 182,640	\$ -	\$ -	
Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
STotal	\$ 182,640	\$ 182,640	\$ -	\$ -	(0)
<u>Sheet #3 Restoration</u>					
Construction Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
AA&E	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
STotal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0
Totals	\$ 182,640	\$ 182,640	\$ -	\$ -	(0)



Little Siberia Potential Floodplain Reconnection Targets

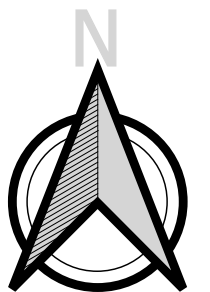


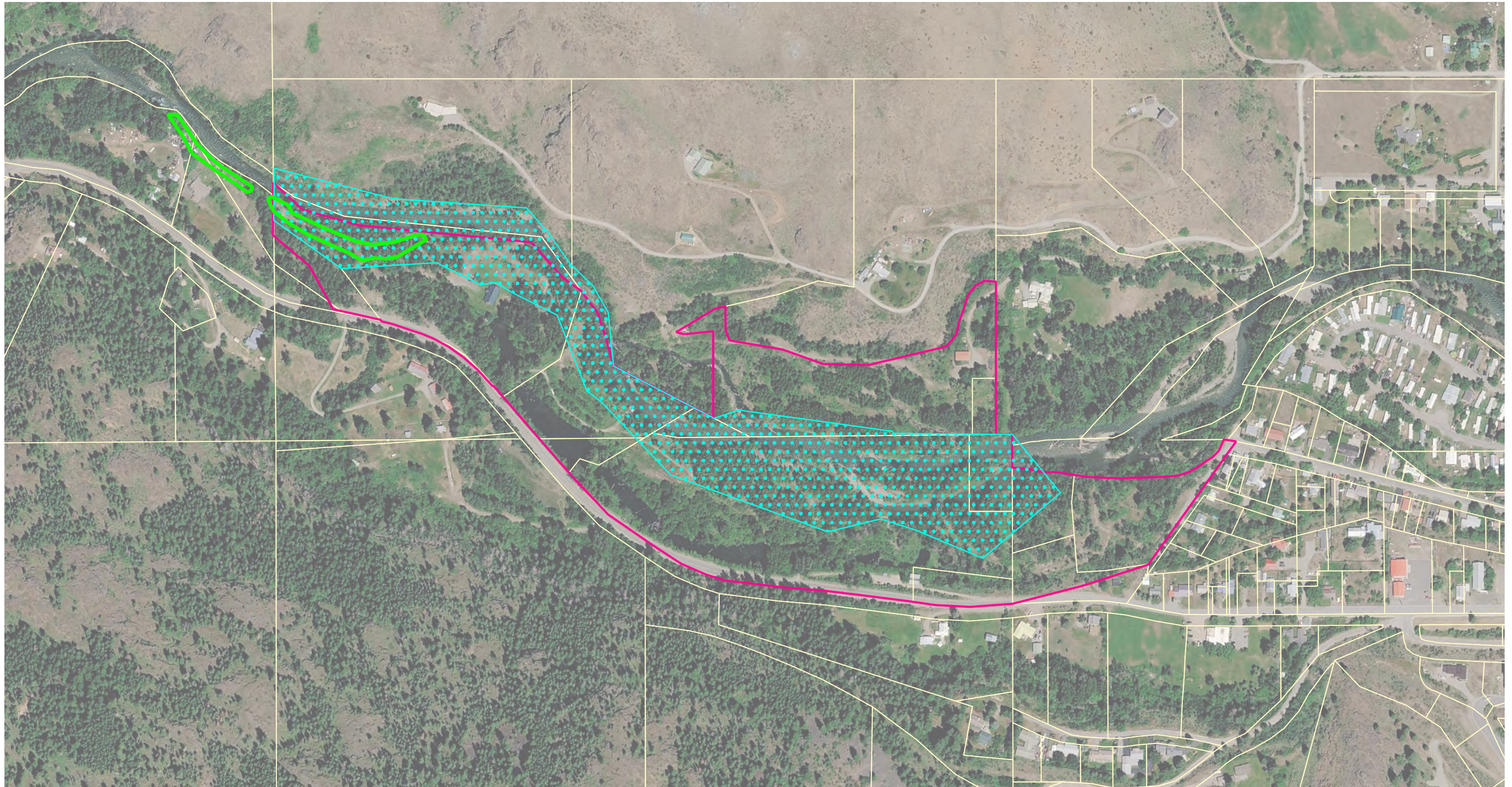
 Levee Footprint

Hydraulic Modeling
Full Levee Removal
Q2 - Depth (ft)

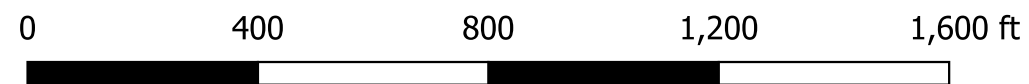


Potential Floodplain
Reconnection Areas
Relative to Q2 Surface



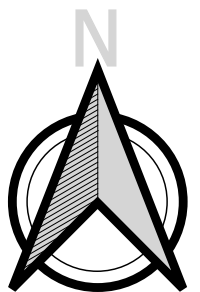


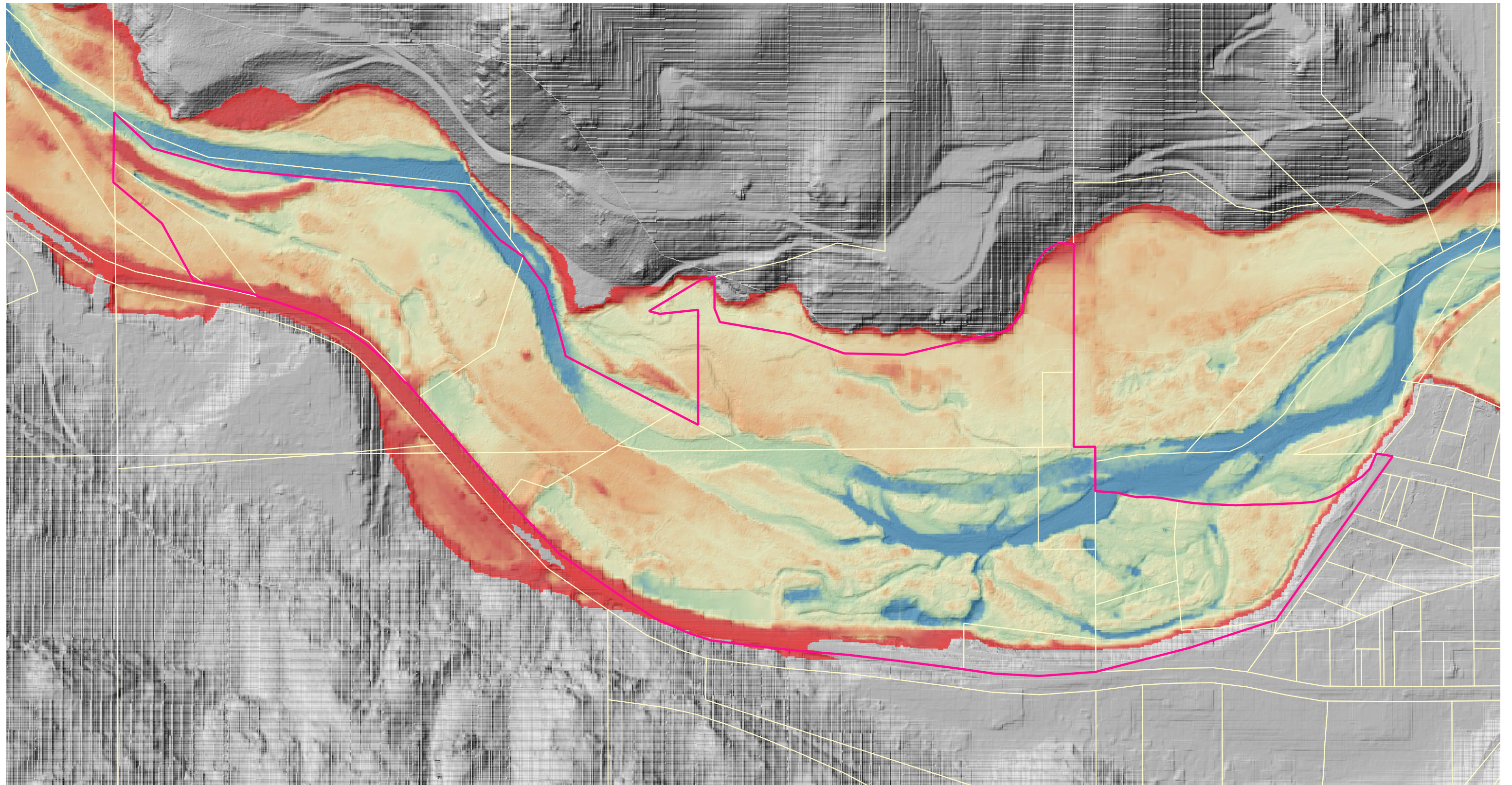
Little Siberia Planning Area Map



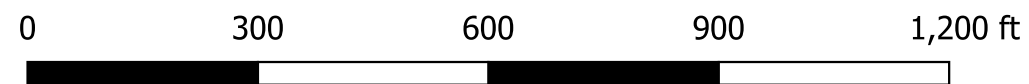
Legend

-  Ok. Co. Parcel Boundaries
-  MSRF Twisp Ponds Property Boundary
-  Levee Footprint
-  Area of Potential Effect (APE)





Little Siberia Relative Elevation Map



Legend

- Ok. Co. Parcel Boundaries
- MSRF Twisp Ponds Property Boundary

