Contact Information

2025 Upper Columbia Regional Project Pre-Application

* Pre-applications (SRFB & Monitoring) due March 12, 2025 (COB)

*Complete SRFB applications due in PRISM April 18, 2025 (COB)

*Complete Monitoring applications due in PRISM May 1, 2025 (COB)

*Revised SRFB proposals due in PRISM May 27, 2025 (COB)

*Final revised SRFB & Monitoring applications due in PRISM June 23, 2025 (noon)

Project Title	Fulton Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Project Phase 2
Sponsor	Trout Unlimited
Primary Contact	Brent Paul
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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.

Trout Unlimited is partnering with the Fulton Ditch Company to upgrade its open-air irrigation system to a more efficient piped alternative. The current diversion withdraws about 15 CFS from the Chewuch River to supply 9 CFS to shareholders, sometimes diverting up to 22 CFS. During low-flow periods, this accounts for nearly half of the river's flow, which exacerbates the already warming river and can cause a thermal fish barrier.

The recommended alternative moves the diversion four miles downstream to the Methow river, and pumping the water to the shareholders. This will move 15 CFS of water 4 miles downstream and permanently add 6 CFS of instream flow.

By implementing the proposed piping and pump station system, the Fulton Ditch will operate with minimal environmental impact, delivering the required water to shareholders while significantly enhancing streamflow in the Chewuch and Methow Rivers. This project will contribute to regional salmon recovery efforts, support sustainable irrigation practices, and create a more resilient water management system for the Methow Valley.

We are currently seeking funding to get us through 60% design and permitting.

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 seeks to address low instream flow as a limiting factor for juvenile and adult salmonid rearing and migration by relocating the Fulton Ditch diversion from the Chewuch River to the Methow River and installing a piped irrigation system with a pump station. This action will move 15 CFS of water 4 miles downstream and permanently restore 6 CFS of flow to the Chewuch and Methow River, improving aquatic habitat for ESA-listed salmonids while maintaining reliable water delivery to shareholders.

Budget Request

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

Anticipated Request - SRFB (standard round)	225000
Anticipated Request - SRFB Riparian Funding	0
Anticipated Request - Monitoring Grant Funding	0
Tributary Committee - Anticipated or Actual	225000
Anticipated TOTAL Budget	600000

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

Actual, received $237,417 from SRFB in 2023
Actual, received $25,000 from the Colville Tribe
Anticipated $200,000 funding from the Columbia basin water transaction program

Project Location

Briefly describe the location of the project	This project will occur in the Chewuch and Methow River
Latitude (decimal degrees)	48.4836
Longitude (decimal degrees)	-120.1832
Project subbasin	Methow
Methow Assessment Unit(s)	Chewuch River-Pearrygin Creek
Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units?	Yes
List the additional assessment units directly impacted by this proposal.	Methow River-Thompson Creek

Reach(es) Name

Chewuch River Pearrygin 01, Methow River Thompson 07, Methow River Thompson 06, Methow River Thompson 05

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

Chewuch River Pearrygin 01 - Rank 3
Methow River Thompson 07 - Rank 2
Methow River Thompson 06 - Rank 1
Methow River Thompson 05 - Rank 2

Project Information

1. What species will the project benefit?

Spring Chinook | Steelhead | Bull Trout | Summer Chinook | Lamprey

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

Design, Monitoring or Assessment | Instream Flow

Instream Flow: Reporting Code

Miles of stream 'Protected' for adequate flow

Cfs (Cubic feet per second) of water conserved per year

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

Yes

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.)

This proposal is a different phase of the project. The previous submission was to get us to 30% design, which we are about to achieve in a month or two. This current submission is to get us through 60% design and permitting

6. What category is the project?

Design

If applicable, what is the secondary project category?

Restoration

Is the project eligible for Riparian Funding?

No

Design and Restoration Proposals

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

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)?

Within completed reach assessment

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

Flow - Summer Base Flow

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

Smolt Outmigration

Spawning and Incubation

Summer Rearing

11. Freshwater Benefits - Describe how your project will improve survival, capacity and/or distribution for target species at the reach scale?

Increased flow will increase habitat quality and quantity and improve water temperatures during low flow high temperature events increasing survival of juvenile fish. This project addresses an instream structure intended to divert water into the current diversion and help proactively address thermal barriers caused by climate change and warming streams. This is a flow limited reach of the Methow, so restoring stream flows will directly address that limiting factor.

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?

affects of this project are permanent and should be achieved in less than a year. Restoring instream flow is going to result in in improved watershed processes by restoring streamflow necessary for geomorphic process.

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

Less than or equal to 1 year

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?

The pumphouse will eventually need to be maintained but that is the responsibility of the ditch company

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

add 15 CFS of cold water for 4 miles of stream and permanently add 6 CFS of instream flow

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

The ditch board has accepted this project and would like to move forward with the design.

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 requirements for this design

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

There is a possibility that there are member of the community that might be against removing the open air ditch. The ditch board however would like to move forward with the project and there has been landowner participation.

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

Once implemented the system would be the Ditch Companies responsibility to maintain and operate.

6. Are other projects being proposed immediately upstream or downstream of worksite? No

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

There is not much risk in this phase of the project. It is possible that the ditch company changes their mind and does not wish to continue moving forward with this project, however they have worked closely with us throughout this alternative assessment design phase and we have support to move forward 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?

The Ditch company, shareholders, and landowners have been engaged throughout this process and will continue to be engaged throughout the process. The stakeholders of this project has had support with this project not only upgrading and improving their irrigation system but also improving fish habitat and quality.

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

This project bring money into the community through construction, contracting, and jobs. This project presents the opportunity to restore 15 CFS of flow for four miles of river in perpetuity, making this a significant and permanent benefit for the dollars invested.

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

The Ditch company has been an engaged partner and forthcoming with sharing information and helping us gather the information we need to help with our assessments and design and we expect this continued support.

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 18, 2025.
*please note, this section is not applicable for Monitoring proposals

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

Supporting Documents

Upper Columbia Process Guide 2025

SRFB Manual 18 (2025)

RCO Application Resources (2025)