



## 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)

<b>Project Title</b>	Sugar Reach Riparian Restoration
<b>Sponsor</b>	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
<b>Primary Contact</b>	Brian Fisher
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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.**

This project will plant and maintain riparian plantings at four sites in the Sugar Reach.

**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].**

This project will plant riparian and wetland parts of the project zone at three sites in the Sugar Project Reach, and maintain plantings at an additional site. The sites include Sugar Left (0.2 acres), Sugar Right (7 acres) and WDFW Floodplain Phase 2 (0.8 acres), and maintain riparian plantings installed fall 2024 at the Eagle Rocks site (1.2 acres).

# Budget Request

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

**Anticipated Request - SRFB Riparian Funding** 360000

**Anticipated TOTAL Budget** 360000

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

This project will support installation and maintenance of riparian plantings connected with instream complexity projects built with secured funding through SRFB, HCP Tributary Committees, Washington Department of Ecology Floodplains by Design, PRCC, BPA and Bureau of Reclamation.

# Project Location

**Briefly describe the location of the project** Methow River between RM 41 and RM 46

**Latitude (decimal degrees)** 48.380

**Longitude (decimal degrees)** -120.127

**Project subbasin** Methow

**Methow Assessment Unit(s)** Methow River-Thompson Creek

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

**Reach(es) Name** Methow Thompson 1-4

**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

- Methow Thompson Reach Rank 1
- Methow Thompson Reach Rank 3
- Methow Thompson Reach Rank 3
- Methow Thompson Reach Rank 1

# Project Information

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

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

Riparian Habitat

**Riparian Habitat: Reporting Code**

Total riparian miles streambank treated

Total riparian acres treated

**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.)**

Acquisitions, Design and Instream Restoration portions of this project have received funding from SRFB, Floodplains by Design, BPA, PRCC, and Tributary Committee processes.

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

Restoration

**If applicable, what is the secondary project category?**

N/A

**Is the project eligible for Riparian Funding?**

Yes

## Design and Restoration Proposals

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

Construction

**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)?**

Middle Methow Reach Assessment August 2010

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

Riparian

Riparian - Canopy Cover

Riparian - Structure

**10. Which life stages will the proposed project address?**

Adult Migration

Adult Non-Spawning (Bull Trout)

Fry

Holding and Maturation

Smolt Outmigration

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?**

This project will plant 8.0 acres of riparian areas along priority areas of the Methow River in connection with a set of instream and floodplain habitat restoration projects. Riparian stands are critical for supporting aquatic food webs and supply nutrients and materials that build and maintain aquatic habitat. Riparian forests support nutrient cycling, support sediment budgets, buffer overland flows and contribute coarse organic matter. Salmon productivity and capacity is tied to the riparian food webs supported by riparian forests.

**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?**

Riparian forests play a key role in supporting natural stream and watershed processes. Plantings will be designed to mimic surrounding naturalized forest stands and are expected to naturalize.

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

10-25 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?**

This project will maintain 9.2 acres of riparian plantings for 5 years. In our experience, riparian plantings generally require 3-5 years of maintenance, including supplemental water, mulch, weed control, and browse protection to become self-sufficient. Once they are self-sufficient, plantings will become the responsibility of the underlying landowner.

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

Plantings include a combination of willow trenches, streamside, and riparian floodplain plantings. Willow trenches and streamside plantings are proposed in areas where the plants are expected to quickly establish connection with groundwater so are not expected to need maintenance once installed. Native riparian trees and shrubs, including 40% black cottonwood trees and flowering riparian shrubs, will be planted on minimum 10 foot centers in the floodplain riparian plantings. These plantings will be mulched with woodchips to conserve moisture, and will receive supplemental irrigation for up to 5 years. Browse protection will be accomplished through a combination of individual cages and planting enclosure fences.

**17. If the project is eligible and applying for Riparian Funding, does the project have in-stream components? If so, briefly describe those components, how they support riparian plant survival and/or natural regeneration, and why they are necessary for the success of the riparian habitat elements of the project.**

While this project does not include in-stream components, it is tied to a larger project (with separate funding) that does include in-stream components. In-stream portions of the larger project include wood habitat structures, side channel connections and levee removal.

## Assessment Proposals

## Protection Proposals

## Monitoring Proposals

# Project Risk and Economic Benefits

**1. What is the landownership?**

Private, WDFW, MSRF

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

Yes

**Please explain**

MSRF has been working with the landowners in the project area to develop this project over the past 5 years, and has secured landowner acknowledgements or agreements with the landowners.

**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 have had significant effects on project design, including what areas are included in this project request. No significant limitations are in place that cover the riparian planting zones included as part of the project.

**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 riparian plantings are not expected to raise concerns with any interest group.

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

MSRF will have responsibility to manage and maintain the project through the monitoring and maintenance phase. Once the plantings are established and self-sufficient, they will be the responsibility of the underlying landowners.

**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 largest risk of the riparian project is the potential failure of plantings to become self-sufficient. This will be mitigated by securing 5 years of maintenance and using native plants adapted to our climate and landscape conditions.

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

No outreach is proposed as part of the riparian project. However, the associated implementation projects have an outreach component, including public access in specific locations. Establishing riparian forest stands at the Sugar Right project site is expected to increase recreational use of the floodplain at this site.

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

This project will use locally grown and sourced plant material and local labor. Using local materials and labor supports the local economy as the money will be spent within the local economy.

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

MSRF has collaborated with numerous partners in designing, developing and implementing the larger projects, including the Bureau of Reclamation, design firms (Wolf Water Resources, Lichen Land and Water, InterFluve Inc), Floodplains by Design, Tributary Committees, PRCC, USFWS, and BPA. We will be working with native planting contractors (Methow Natives and Plantas Nativas) to plant and maintain the

riparian project.

## **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?**

No

## **Supporting Documents**

[Upper Columbia Process Guide 2025](#)

[SRFB Manual 18 \(2025\)](#)

[RCO Application Resources \(2025\)](#)