

Overview Information

Project Name: Bear Creek Floodplain Restoration Project

Sponsor Name: USFS

Technical contact name, phone # & email:

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Project Objectives (bullets, 1 to 2 sentence description):

Project objectives include: (1) Improved floodplain connectivity; (2) increased habitat complexity; (3) improved riparian diversity, stream shade, and future large woody debris recruitment; (4) optimum habitat with limited anthropogenic effects to contribute to healthy populations of Snake River steelhead and downstream Snake River spring chinook salmon.

Stream Name: Bear Creek

Tributary to: Meadow Creek – Upper Grande Ronde River

Species benefited: Snake River Steelhead and downstream Snake River spring Chinook salmon

Miles/acres/feet to be restored by this project: 4.0 miles

Estimated total cost: \$265,000 GRMW BiOp funding request*: \$265,000

Anticipated project start & end date: 9/1/2010 – 6/1/2011

* Cost share is not required, but may affect project ranking with relation to cost/benefit of project actions.

Project Characteristics

Brief Project Description (What are you proposing to do? 1- 3 paragraphs, a more detailed description will be submitted under the proposal process):

The Bear Creek Floodplain Restoration Project would involve the following:

- (1) Place large wood into Bear Creek via helicopter and excavator to increase habitat complexity within 4.0 stream miles.
- (2) Remove the railroad grade located in the floodplain for approximately 1.5 stream miles. Targeted areas will be where the floodplain and stream are being constricted by the railroad grade.
- (3) Plant deciduous shrubs, conifers, seed and mulch after wood placement and railroad grade removal is completed. This will occur throughout the 4.0 stream miles.

Limiting Factors from Recovery Plan or Subbasin Plan addressed by project:
Sediment, flow, temperature, key habitat quantity.
Relation of Project to Other Planned, Ongoing, or Completed Restoration Projects (1-2 sentences. Is the project part of a multi-phase effort, is this work tying to previous work in the watershed/stream):
<p>Approximately 1 mile of streambottom road was obliterated and recontoured in Upper Bear Creek in 2007 and 1 mile of stream had large wood debris placed to improve habitat complexity.</p> <p>ODFW and CTUIR have completed numerous restoration projects in the Meadow Creek watershed on private land.</p> <p>The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation has expressed interest in partnering on this project.</p>
List permits needed to implement project and at what phase you are at in obtaining the permits:
<p>The project will need NEPA, consultation with NMFS and USFWS, and the Army Corps and Department of State Lands permits. Programmatic consultation will be used for this project.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the ACOE RGP will be used for this project (available June 2009?)</p>
Landowner Participation (Has the landowner been contacted and supportive of project, are they contributing to the project):
This project is located on USFS administered lands.
Identify any major issues to implementation and approach to issue resolution:
No major issues.

