



Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

2024

**FUNDING
PROCESS
SUMMARY**

**For the Recreation and Conservation Office
and Salmon Recovery Funding Board**

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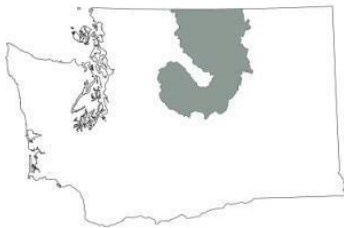
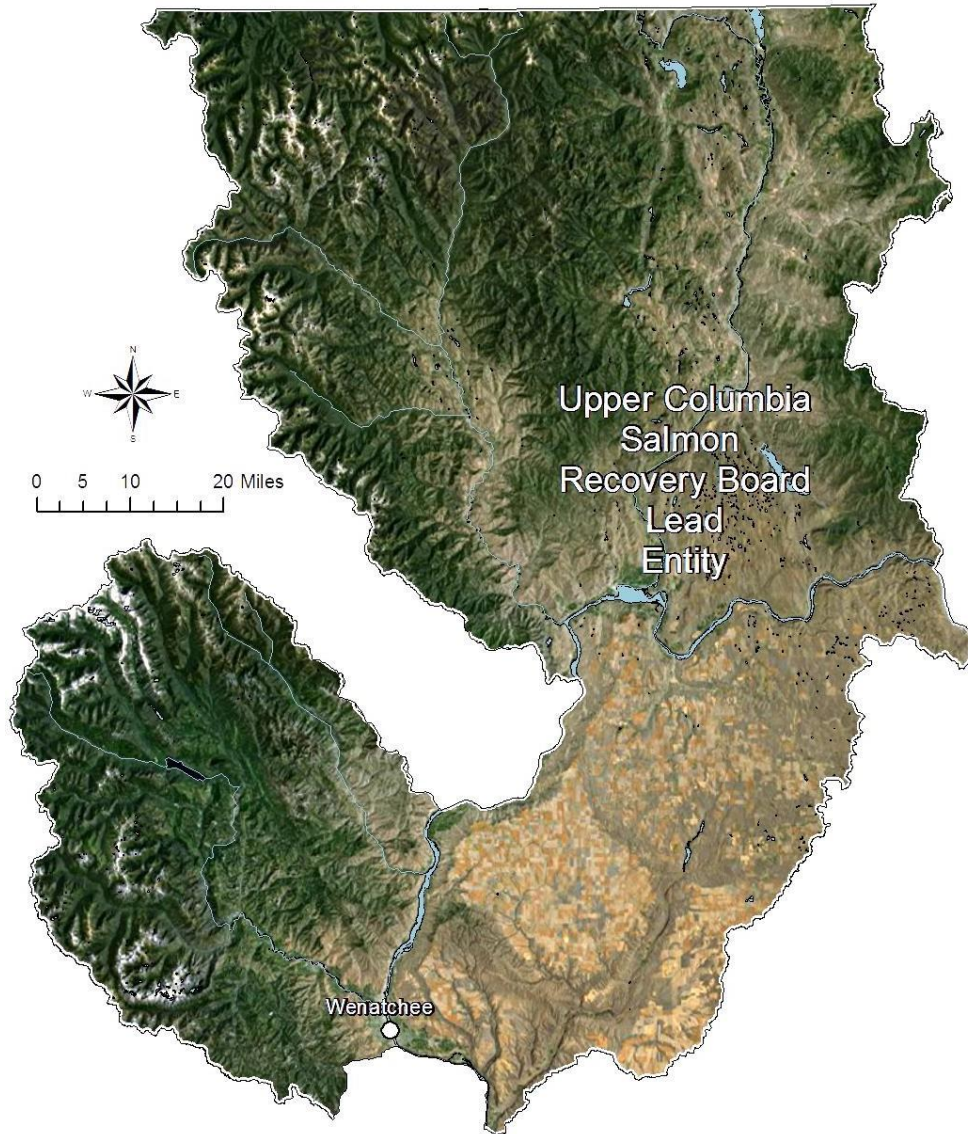
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Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region



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Overview

Geography

The Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region is a 10,000 square mile area encompassing Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties from the base of Chief Joseph Dam to the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA)

Moses Coulee (44), Wenatchee (45), Entiat (46), Methow (48), Okanogan (49), and Foster Creek (50)

Federally Recognized Tribes

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Endangered Species Act Listings

Table 1: Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

Species Listed	Listed As	Date Listed
Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook	Endangered	March 24, 1999
Upper Columbia River Steelhead	Threatened	August 18, 1997

Salmon Recovery Plan

Table 2: Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan

Recovery Plan	
Regional Organization	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Plan Timeframe	10-30 Years
Actions Identified to Implement Plan	315
Estimated Cost	\$743 million over 10 years
Status	The federal government adopted the recovery plan for Upper Columbia River spring Chinook and steelhead in October 2007.
Implementation Schedule Status	An implementation schedule with timeframes of 3 years, 6 years, 10 years, and beyond, and with more detailed information on recovery plan actions and costs is being used by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and its plan implementation partners.
Web Information	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Website

Region and Lead Entities

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) serves as the regional organization and the Lead Entity.

Regional Area Summary Questions and Responses

Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across lead entities or watersheds within the region.

In general, the Lead Entity facilitates a process that allocates funds within the Upper Columbia based on the regional biological priorities established in the [Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan](#) (Recovery Plan) (UCSRB 2007) [Appendix H: A Biological Strategy to Protect and Restore Salmonid Habitat in the Upper Columbia Region](#) (Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team [RTT] 2017). Since previous SRFB grants have matched the regional priorities in recent grant cycles, the Lead Entity considers these criteria to be an appropriate guideline for funding allocation. Moreover, the biological priorities in the *Biological Strategy* closely match those in the *Recovery Plan*.

The process the UCSRB Lead Entity used to develop a final regional list in 2024 followed the shortened schedule adopted in 2020 because of changes to [Manual 18](#) and state guidelines along with regional changes. In 2024, project sponsors completed their project applications in June. Project sponsors gave technical presentations to the Regional Technical Team (RTT) and received feedback early in the process. This enabled them to modify proposals prior to June based on technical feedback within the region. On-site tours were conducted at the majority of the SRFB proposal sites. Due to accessibility limitations, a small number of project tours were held as in-person presentations that utilized photos and drone imagery.

The criteria the Regional Technical Team (RTT) used to score habitat restoration projects incorporated the updated [Habitat Action Prioritization Strategy](#). The Citizens Advisory Committees (CACs) used existing criteria to score projects based on biological, social, economic, and community considerations to generate a final ranked list.

The [UCSRB Lead Entity Process Guide 2024](#), [2024 UC SRFB TRIB Funding Schedule](#) and the [2024 Regional Application Questions \(JotForm\)](#) (Attachment A), document the steps in our funding process in detail.

Explain if the projects list(s) submitted in the region funds the highest priority projects.

The project list from the Upper Columbia region funds the highest priority projects. The Regional Technical Team scored proposals based on the updated Prioritization process, as described in the regional [Habitat Action Prioritization Strategy](#), which includes a well-vetted process through which HUC12 watersheds, or assessment units, and reaches are ranked according to their importance for habitat restoration and protection. Further, the prioritization framework identifies limiting factors and habitat action types that will have the greatest biological benefit for a given stream reach. These criteria are used to determine the relative biological priority when scoring projects for funding and implementation. The Citizens' Advisory Committee considers biological benefit as the single most important criteria in their ranking process but ranking by the committee also includes considerations such as social and economic factors. Hence, the final list is largely weighted by biological priority but also includes economic and social priorities of the region.

If the highest priority projects were not funded, explain the barriers to implementing the highest priority projects in the region.

N/A

Do suballocations to lead entities limit the region from getting to the highest priority projects?

N/A – The UCSRB is the Lead Entity and Regional Organization in the Upper Columbia region.

Regional Technical Review Process

Explain how the regional technical review was conducted.

The RTT used a formal process and review criteria to rate projects based on the technical merits of each project and consistency with regional biological priorities. The Upper Columbia RTT was the first technical team in the state to establish biological priorities at an Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) scale.

The RTT scoring is guided by the [Habitat Action Prioritization](#), which includes the following considerations for ranking projects in the Upper Columbia: 1) HUC12 watersheds or assessment units (AUs), are ranked by level of importance for restoration and protection; 2) limiting life stages at the population and assessment unit scale; 3) limiting factors and threats that cause certain life stages to be limiting are identified and ranked in order of importance for recovery 4) stream reaches within AUs are identified and ranked in order of biological benefit for restoration and protection; and 5) habitat action types to address limiting factors are identified and prioritized within each stream reach.

What criteria were used for the regional technical review?

RTT Project Scoring

The *RTT Scoring Criteria for SRFB Proposals* (both pre-proposals and full proposals) can be found in Attachment B. The *RTT Comments on 2024 SRFB Pre-Proposals and Full Proposals* and results from the RTT's June 12th scoring meeting are also included in Attachment B.

Monitoring Project Type

In the region, monitoring projects are to address data gaps identified in the *Recovery Plan, Appendix F of the Biological Strategy*, or more recent analyses by the RTT's Monitoring and Data Management Committee (MaDMC). To clearly differentiate monitoring projects from other project types when comparing scores, the RTT scores monitoring projects out of 30 total points versus 100 points used for other project types.

RTT scoring criteria for monitoring proposals are articulated in the *RTT Scoring Criteria for SRFB Full Proposals* and are included in Attachment B.

Who completed the review (name, affiliation, and expertise) and are they part of the regional organization or independent?

Nine members of the RTT participated in the final proposal review. The RTT is an independent group of natural resource professionals with a broad range of expertise relevant to fish biology, engineering, and habitat restoration. These individuals volunteer their time on behalf of various agencies or organizations. The RTT's chair is Tracy Hillman, PhD, CEO of BioAnalysts, Inc, Boise, ID. Tables 3 and 4 identify the RTT and CAC members who reviewed, scored, and ranked projects this year.

Regional Area Summary

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

Table 3. 2024 Regional Technical Reviewers (Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team).

Regional Technical Team Project Review			
Name	Affiliation	Expertise	Scored in 2024
John Arterburn	Colville Confederated Tribes	Habitat and fish population status and trends monitoring, Habitat RM&E reporting; salmon ecology; habitat restoration evaluation and planning; project management.	X
Steve Fortney	NOAA-NWFSC	Fluvial geomorphology; salmonid ecology; habitat restoration evaluation and planning; habitat status and trend monitoring.	X
Tracy Hillman, PhD (Chair)	BioAnalysts, Inc.	Certified ecologist; habitat restoration evaluation and planning; hatchery and habitat RM&E; fish ecology and population dynamics; subbasin planning and salmon recovery writing; modeling and statistical analysis.	X
Tom Kahler	Douglas County PUD	Salmon ecology; habitat restoration evaluation and planning; hatchery planning and RM&E; juvenile bypass development at hydro projects; RM&E at hydro projects.	X
Carlos Polivka, PhD	USFS PNW Research Station	Salmon ecology; habitat restoration evaluation.	X
Justin Yeager	NOAA Fisheries	Habitat restoration evaluation and planning; ESA regulatory review; Forest/riparian ecology.	
Catherine Willard	Chelan County PUD	Hatchery programs, habitat restoration; and fish population and habitat data.	X
Jeremy Cram, PhD	WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Life cycle modeling; salmon recovery planning and implementation; habitat restoration evaluation and planning.	
Kate Terrell	US Fish & Wildlife	Salmon ecology; habitat restoration evaluation and planning.	
Brandon Rogers (Vice-Chair)	Yakama Nation	Habitat restoration evaluation, planning, and implementation; project management.	
Patrick (Shelby) Fowler	USFWS	Fish passage engineering, hydrology and hydraulic analysis, flood risk mapping and management, fish passage, culvert and bridge replacement design, habitat restoration and green stormwater infrastructure	X
John Crandall	Methow Restoration Council	Aquatic ecology; water quality monitoring; habitat restoration and evaluation; fish population monitoring	X
Amanda Barg	WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat restoration evaluation and planning	X

Table 4. 2024 Citizens' Advisory Committees

Chelan Citizen Advisory Committee Members	Representation from Statute	Geographic Area	Scored in 2024
Keith Truscott (Chair) (Interested Citizen)	City	Leavenworth	X
Mike Deason (City of Leavenworth)	Other Habitat Interests	Wenatchee	X
Jim Johnson (Orchardist)	Agriculture	Cashmere	X
Bruce Merighi (Interested citizen)	Landowner	Leavenworth	X
Matt Collins (Interested citizen)	Other Habitat Interests	Peshastin	X
Alan Schmidt (Retired Project Manager)	Landowner	Entiat	X
Leah Hemberry (Interested Citizen)	Other Habitat Interests	Leavenworth	X

Okanogan Citizen Advisory Committee Members	Representation from Statute	Geographic Area	Scored in 2024
Larry Hill (Interested citizen)	Other Habitat Interests	Twisp	X
Bob Monetta (Business Realtor)	Business Interest	Methow	X
Craig Nelson (Okanogan CD)	Conservation District (CD)	Okanogan	X
Gertrude Webster (Interested citizen)	Other Habitat Interest	Okanogan	
Louis Sukovaty (Farmer)	Business Interest	Winthrop	X
Sam Israel (Interested Citizen)	Environmental Group	Twisp	X
Will Keller (Chair) (Interested Citizen)	Other Habitat Interests	Okanogan	X

Were there any projects submitted to the SRFB that the regional implementation or Salmon Recovery Portal did not specifically identify?

If so, please provide justification for including these projects in the list of projects recommended to the SRFB for funding. If the projects were identified in the regional implementation plan or strategy but considered a low priority or in a low-priority area please provide justification.

No

How did your regional review consider whether a project met the following criteria?

Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability.

In addition to limiting factors analysis, Salmonid Stock Inventory, and Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program, what stock assessment work has been done to date to further characterize the status of salmonid species in the region? Briefly describe.

Restoring the productivity of salmon and steelhead habitat in the Upper Columbia requires a prioritization of habitat actions to maximize the benefit derived from limited funding. The [Biological Strategy \(Recovery Plan Appendix H\)](#) identifies actions to consider in implementing projects with high biological benefit. The RTT rated actions and developed quartiles to compare actions across the entire ESU. The *Biological Strategy* provides guidance on habitat actions that are expected to contribute to the improved status of the VSP parameters. Priority areas and ecological concerns have been identified for each AU within the region (see the [Okanogan and Chelan County Project Fact Sheets](#) in Attachment C).

Building on the *Biological Strategy*, the region uses a river reach-based approach to ensure priority habitat projects are developed and implemented with a clear understanding of existing physical processes. This approach relies on incorporating information from tributary-scale and reach-scale hydro-geomorphic assessments and monitoring, to develop actions that are appropriate for channel processes and habitat impairments. As reach-level degradations and processes are defined, alternatives are produced to identify, sequence, and prioritize specific actions to protect and/or restore channel and floodplain connectivity and complexity.

Addresses cost-effectiveness. Provide a description of how cost-effectiveness was considered.

Cost effectiveness of proposals was determined using the methods described in the RTT's *Biological Strategy* and was calculated using the "total project request" and the RTT biological benefit score. This cost effectiveness score is 5% of a project's total score (see [RTT Scoring Criteria for Full Proposals](#) in Attachment B).

The CACs include a detailed cost-effectiveness review through three separate criteria: project longevity, project scope, and economics. See [CAC Project Proposal Ranking Criteria 2024](#) in Attachment D.

Preserves high quality habitat. Describe projects on the list that will preserve high quality habitat.

See Attachment C: Okanogan and Chelan County Project Fact Sheet(s) 2024.

Sponsored by an organization that has a successful record of project implementation. For example, identify the number of previous SRFB projects funded and completed.

Table 5. UC Sponsors and their Total SRFB Funded and Completed Projects

Sponsor	Funded	Completed
Cascade Fisheries (CCFEG)	29	22
Chelan County Natural Resource Dep.	58	43
Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation	32	27
Yakama Nation	41	33
Chelan Douglas Land Trust	17	16
Trout Unlimited	24	11

Provides benefit to listed and non-listed fish species. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit listed fish. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit non-listed species.

See Attachment C: Okanogan and Chelan County Project Fact Sheet(s) 2024.

Implements a high priority project or action in a region or watershed salmon recovery plan. Identify where and how the project is identified as a high priority in the referenced plan.

See Attachment C: Okanogan and Chelan County Project Fact Sheet(s) 2024.

Provides for match above the minimum requirement percentage. Identify the project's match percentage and the regional match total.

See Attachment E: Final 2024 UC SRFB Ranked Project List for match provided.

Involves members of the veteran's conservation corps established in Revised Code of Washington 43.60A.150.

None

Local review processes. (Lead Entity provide response.)

Provide project evaluation criteria and documentation (local technical reviewer and citizen committee score sheet or comment forms) of your local citizen's advisory group and technical advisory group ratings for each project, including explanations for differences between the two groups' ratings.

RTT project scores are distributed to the local CACs to assist in the development of their rankings (see Attachment B for the *RTT Comments on 2024 SRFB Pre and Full Proposals*). Okanogan and Chelan CACs each held separate ranking meetings and then met jointly to finalize the regional list (attachment D). See Table 6. and associated attachments for the 2024 project scoring and ranking documentation.

Table 6. 2024 Project Proposal Reviewer's Documentation.

Technical Scoring	
RTT Scoring Criteria for SRFB Pre-Proposals	Attachment B
RTT Scoring Criteria for SRFB Full Proposals	Attachment B
RTT Comments on 2023 SRFB Pre-Proposals	Attachment B
RTT Comments on 2023 SRFB Full Proposals	Attachment B
CAC Ranking	
CAC Project Proposal Ranking Criteria 2024	Attachment D
Chelan CAC Ranking Meeting Final Summary 2024	Attachment D
Okanogan CAC Ranking Meeting Final Summary 2024	Attachment D
UC Joint CAC Meeting Final Summary 2024	Attachment D
Final List	
Final 2024 UC SRFB Ranked Project List	Attachment E

Identify your local technical review team (include expertise, names, and affiliations of members).

See Table 3 above.

Explain how and when the SRFB Review Panel participated in your local process, if applicable.

Two members of the SRFB Review Panel, Steve Toth and Michelle Cramer, participated in the Upper Columbia process for the 2024 round as follows:

Review Draft Proposals

SRFB Review Panel members had the opportunity to review draft proposals prior to site tours.

Project Tours

Members of the Lead Entity, CACs, RTT, Habitat Conservation Plan Tributary Committees, and SRFB Review Panel participated in site tours on May 6, 7, and 8, 2024. The purpose of each tour was to evaluate and ask questions about each project, achieved by an on-site visit or in-person presentation. In-person presentations used drone or other video footage, Google Earth, photographs, site diagrams, and other relevant visual aids to provide additional understanding for reviewers. On-site tours were largely divided by subbasin each day, while several project tours were conducted as in-person presentations due to access limitations. On-site tour locations included:

1. Lower Wenatchee and Entiat sites on May 6
2. Upper Wenatchee sites on May 7
3. Methow subbasin on May 8

These tours also allowed reviewers to ask questions and provide comments to the sponsors on ways to improve the technical merit of each project and fostered productive discussions among all participants on local priorities for project development.

SRFB Review Panel Comment Process

SRFB Review Panel comments and feedback were distributed to individual sponsors via email and remain available in PRISM. After project sponsors received their comments, a 1½-hour call was scheduled for the Lead Entity and project sponsors to ask clarifying questions about the SRFB Review Panel comments. Project sponsors then addressed comments or provided additional information within their PRISM application either by providing supplemental attachments, or by responding directly to the SRFB Review Panel in the applicant comment fields.

Local evaluation process and project lists. (Lead Entity provide response.)

Explain how multi-year implementation plans or Salmon Recovery Portal helped to develop project lists.

The principal guiding document for identifying appropriate projects for implementation in the region is the [Recovery Plan](#), a federally approved recovery plan for Upper Columbia spring Chinook salmon evolutionary significant units (ESU) and steelhead distinct population segment (DPS) in Washington State. [Appendix H: Biological Strategy](#) outlines priorities, which sponsors can use to identify priority projects. The UCSRB staff works with project sponsors to populate the Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP), which serves as the on-line database for the UCSRB Implementation Schedule.

Explain how finalized project lists address the comments of technical, citizen, and policy reviews. Were there any issues about projects on the list and how were those resolved?

RTT Reviews & Scoring

On March 27 and 28, 2024, project sponsors presented their project ideas to the RTT and CACs for early feedback on relative competitiveness and for suggestions on project improvements. The RTT also reviewed draft proposals and provided input to project sponsors during the site visits on May 6, 7, and 8. Lastly, the RTT reviewed and scored final proposals at its June 12 meeting. An RTT representative then provided an overview of the biological scores and answered questions at the June 17 and 18 CAC meetings.

Citizen's Reviews & Ranking

The CAC [Committee Ranking Criteria](#) can be found in Attachment D. The Chelan CAC heard presentations from project sponsors on June 17 and the Okanogan CAC met to hear presentations on June 18. Each CAC then met again on June 20 to formally rank the projects. See the [Okanogan CAC Ranking Meeting Final Summary 2024](#) and [Chelan CAC Ranking Meeting Final Summary 2024](#) in Attachment D.

Joint Committee Approval of the Final Project List

Immediately following the individual CAC meetings on June 20, the UCSRB staff facilitated the joint CAC meeting to combine the Chelan and Okanogan project lists into one ranked list for the Upper Columbia Region. During the joint CAC meeting, committee members adopted a working list that combined the individual Chelan and Okanogan lists by using the 1-1 approach (the top-ranked project from each County was placed at the top of the list). This approach honors the sequence of the individual committee lists and ensures equal representation of projects from both counties. The primary determinant in breaking any tie between projects from both counties was the RTT biological benefit score when, for each equal CAC ranking, the project with the higher RTT score was ranked above a lower RTT scored project. Once the working list was adopted, members had the opportunity to move projects up or down the list by utilizing the following ground rules before approving a final list.

Joint Committee ground rules for decision-making:

1. A Citizen Advisory Committee member may, at any time, make a motion to move a particular project up or down on the list.
2. The Citizen Advisory Committee member making such a request must include rationale based on the citizens' review criteria.
3. The Joint Citizen Advisory Committee will then engage in discussion regarding the motion to move a project on the list.
4. After discussion, the Joint Citizen Advisory Committee will vote – approve, oppose, abstain – on the motion to move the project on the list.
5. The motion will carry upon unanimous approval by all Joint Citizen Advisory Committee Members (excluding “abstain” votes).

For details on how the decisions were carried out during the meetings, see the details in the *Joint CAC Meeting Final Summary 2024* in Attachment D and the *Final 2024 UC SRFB Ranked List* in Attachment E.

References

Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team (UCRTT). 2017. A Biological Strategy to Protect and Restore Salmonid Habitat in the Upper Columbia Region.

UCSRB. 2007. Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan. August 2007. Available online at <https://www.ucsrb.org/mdocuments-library/plans/>.

Attachment A: Lead Entity Documents

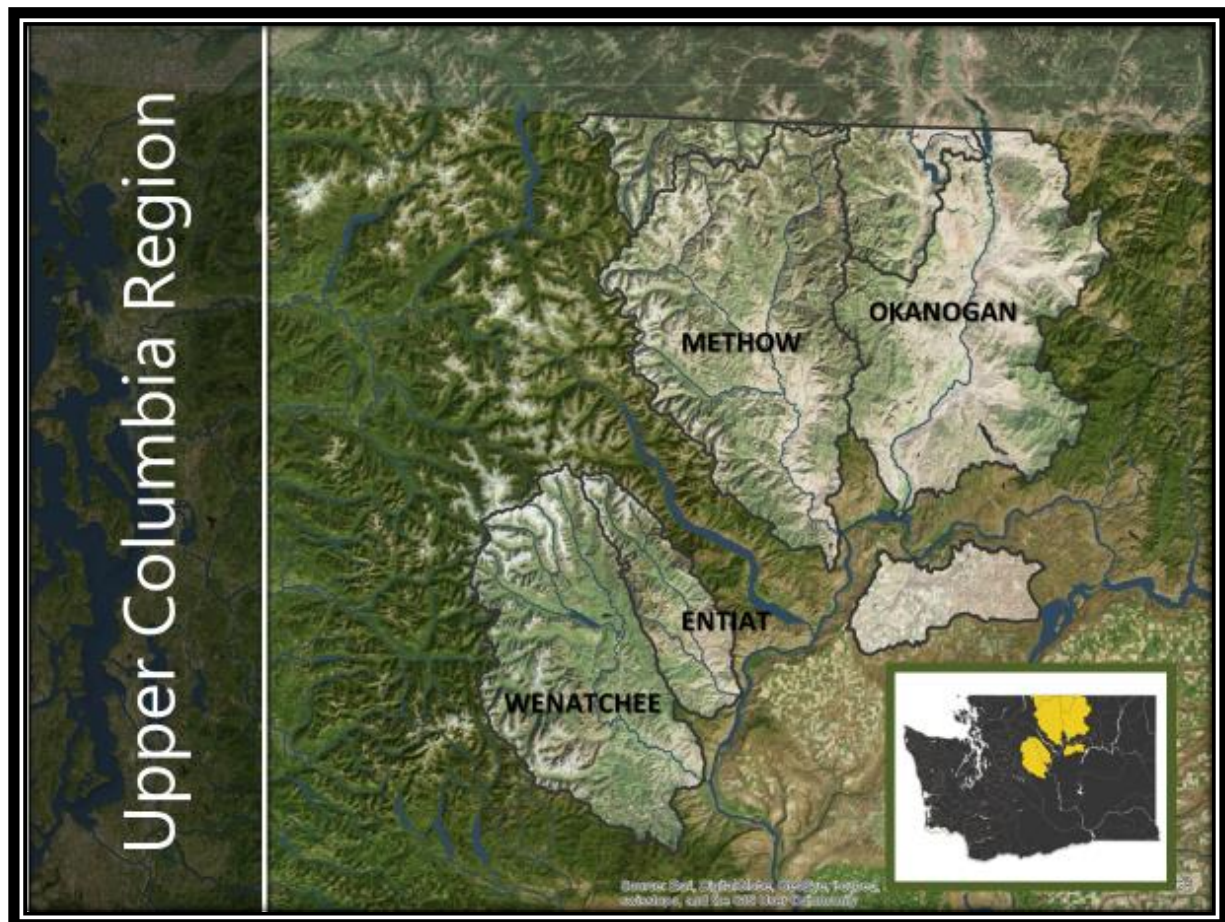
UCSRB Lead Entity Process Guide 2024

2024 UC SRFB TRIB (Regional) Funding Schedule

2024 Regional Application Questions (JotForm)



Upper Columbia Lead Entity Process Guide January 2024



FOR DEVELOPING AND SUBMITTING SALMON HABITAT
RESTORATION PROJECTS IN THE UPPER COLUMBIA REGION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE
SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD AND OTHER SOURCES

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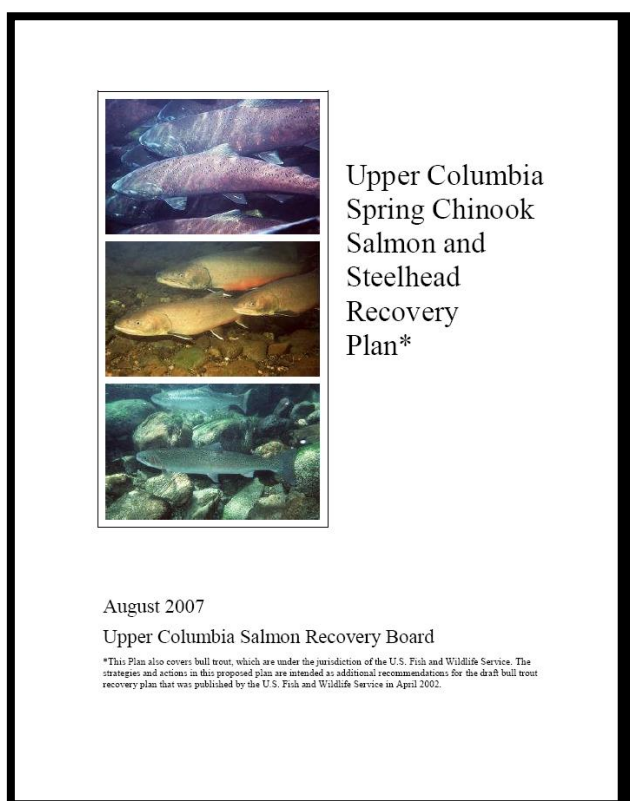
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Process Guide is intended to document the steps through which a potential habitat restoration project proponent, technical reviewer, or citizen will participate when pursuing funds through the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) in the Upper Columbia recovery region (UC). This guide represents the consensus decision of participants in the UC on the process to develop and submit projects for funding to the SRFB. The Rock Island, Rocky Reach, and Wells Dam Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Tributary Committees (TRIB) have agreed to use this process and timeline for funding consideration.

The guiding document for identifying appropriate projects for implementation in the region is the [Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan](#) (UCSRB 2007), a federally approved recovery plan for this Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) in Washington State.



The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) is the Lead Entity (LE) for the UC. “Lead Entity” is a term used by the state to define a county, city, conservation district, special district, tribal government, regional recovery organization, or other entity that is responsible for submitting a project list to the SRFB for funding consideration.¹

The UCSRB is also the state-designated regional recovery organization² and the LE is responsible for facilitating the process of compiling one project list and submitting that list to Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for funding consideration to the SRFB.

The UC regional approach to pursuing both mitigation and recovery funds from all available sources is the result of years of collaborative work on the part of all interested parties to establish an effective

and efficient process. Regional project and funding coordination is an ongoing and iterative process. The details are identified from the Recovery Plan’s Implementation Schedule and developed through the Lead Entity’s outreach and annual request to sponsors for updated planned project data. The UCSRB currently facilitates two approaches to funding projects in the region: (1) Habitat Programmatic (administered by the Bonneville Power Administration, BPA);

¹ RCW 77.85.050 – *Note:* On January 1, 2013 the two active Lead Entities in the Upper Columbia consolidated into one Lead Entity under the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board.

² RCW 77.85.010

and (2) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). While the following guidance document focuses on the Upper Columbia Region's SRFB grant application process, (referred to in this document as the "Open 6-Step Funding Process"), the Regional Project Pre-application is also the first step in pursuing BPA habitat programmatic funds. See "Funding Opportunities" at: <https://www.ucsrb.org/what-we-do/funding/>.

OPEN 6-STEP FUNDING PROCESS

The LE Coordinator will help facilitate the movement of proposals through the review process. This includes assuring that the Regional Technical Team (RTT), BPA, TRIB, and Citizens' Advisory Committees (CAC) receive review copies at appropriate times. Project sponsors should begin working with the LE early in the process to engage available services that will assist in developing competitive proposals for SRFB, BPA and TRIB. See contact below:

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Funding Schedule

The funding schedule for the regional process is included on the UCSRB website and updated as necessary. The funding cycle generally runs from February through September each year.

Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible for SRFB funding:

- Cities
- Counties
- Conservation Districts
- Native American tribes
- Non-profit organizations
- Private landowners
 - Private landowners are eligible applicants for restoration projects when the project takes place on their own land.
 - Private individuals may not acquire land using these funds.
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
- Special Purpose Districts
- State agencies (state agencies must have a local partner that is independently eligible to be a grant applicant)
- Federal agencies may not apply directly but may partner with eligible applicants.
 - Projects may occur on federal lands.

Applicants should consider federal restrictions on using federal money for a qualifying match when applying for a grant. Anyone may apply for Tributary Committee funds.

Roles

- *Lead Entity*- coordinates and facilitates the Upper Columbia SRFB grant process.
- *RCO Grant Manager*- help applicants navigate the RCO-SRFB grant application process, and if successful, then steer sponsors through the agreement and billing process.
- *Regional Technical Team (RTT)*- the regional technical body who reviews, evaluates, scores, and ranks projects based on their biological benefit as outlined in the Biological Strategy.
- *Citizens Advisory Committee*- a locally led group representing diverse interests who “provide a citizen-based evaluation of the projects proposed to promote salmon habitat” and is charged with developing and submitting for funding consideration a habitat project list.³
- *SRFB Review Panel*- the SRFB’s technical review body that evaluates proposals to ensure they have high benefit to salmon, a high likelihood of success, and costs do not outweigh benefits.⁴
- *Monitoring Review Panel*- SRFB panel that “coordinates and prioritizes the ongoing assessment of habitat restoration efforts.”⁵
- *Salmon Recovery Funding Board*- a ten-person board with five governor-appointed members and five agency members that makes grants, develops procedures and guidance, approves funding, and tracks recovery progress.⁶
- *Tributary Committees (TRIB)*- review, evaluate and make funding determination for projects seeking their funding.

Step One: REGIONAL PROJECT PRE-APPLICATION

The first step in the process to seek funding from the SRFB (including Riparian Funding and Targeted Investment in 2024), TRIB, or BPA Programmatic is to submit the first series of questions through the online Regional Project Pre-application (accessed online via ‘JotForm’). The Lead Entity will use this information to ensure project eligibility and to plan for site tours and other milestones. The RTT will evaluate the pre-application based on a subset of their scoring criteria ([RTT Scoring Criteria for SRFB Pre-proposals](#)). It is important for project sponsors to understand the scoring criteria and ask either the LE or RTT for clarification if needed.

Completion of the pre-application is required from each project proponent wishing to pursue funds from the SRFB, TRIB, or BPA Programmatic. The pre-application includes questions that are not included in the complete PRISM application yet address the RTT scoring criteria ([RTT Scoring Criteria for SRFB Proposals](#)) and the CAC ranking criteria ([Citizens’ Advisory Committee \(CAC\) Ranking Criteria](#)). Therefore, it is important to answer all required pre-application questions thoroughly. The Pre-application includes an optional section that includes the exact questions RCO requires in PRISM to allow applicants to complete these questions early and copy responses into PRISM at later stages of the grant round, if desired.

³ See RCW 77.85.050 for further explanation.

⁴ <https://rco.wa.gov/boards/salmon-recovery-funding-board/salmon-recovery-funding-board-review-panel/>

⁵ <https://rco.wa.gov/boards/salmon-recovery-funding-board/monitoring-panel/>

⁶ See RCW 77.85.110- RCW 77.85.140

The LE is here to help project sponsors through the process. If project sponsors need help developing the necessary forms throughout the application process and/or accessing data that may be available for use in the project proposal, they should reach out as early as possible.

The pre-application requirement helps project sponsors in several ways. First, it is an opportunity for the project sponsors to think through the details of a potential project early in the funding process. It is also an opportunity for the sponsors to identify areas where technical assistance may be needed to ultimately develop the strongest possible proposal. The pre-application provides an indication of how close the region is to meeting the targeted allocation of funds from the SRFB and other funding sources. It is also an early opportunity to identify additional cost-share programs that most effectively leverage the resources needed to implement projects. It is important that project sponsors think through enough of the details of a project to submit a sound pre-application. The RTT and TRIB have the option to recommend to the LE that a proposal not continue in the review process due to lack of sufficient information.

Step Two: PRESENTATIONS TO REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

After the pre-applications are submitted the LE will transmit those to the RTT Chair for distribution ahead of the technical presentations to the RTT. Project sponsors will provide project overviews to the RTT and other reviewers to discuss location, limiting factors, biological benefits, and other technical aspects of the project proposal with the RTT. This will allow reviewers and project sponsors to discuss strengths and weaknesses of their proposal with the goal of improving the overall application and project. The RTT may elect to develop a preliminary ranking of pre-applications based on their relative competitiveness.

Step Three: COMPLETE APPLICATIONS DUE (PRISM)

Following the initial RTT review of pre-applications, projects that move forward in the application process will be initiated in PRISM by the LE. All proposals must be submitted electronically using the State's PRISM database. PRISM is RCO's web-based platform used by project sponsors to apply for and manage grants, to get grant contracts, and to produce project reports. Sponsors will work with the LE to get their PRISM project ID number and initiate the application process in PRISM.

Project sponsors will submit a complete application through the online PRISM portal, including an attachment of the completed pre-application (JotForm) in PDF format. Project sponsors need to reference Manual 18 and other guiding documents from RCO to ensure their applications meet the requirements of the state process (refer to Manual 18 *Appendix C: Application Checklist* for requirements).

Although not required by PRISM, a standardized naming convention for your proposal is important for project reviewers. Proposal names may include the following elements:

- Sponsor name/acronym

- Indication of project type (Assessment, Design, Project, etc.)
- Project phase (phase I, II, III)
- Geographic link (e.g., Upper Entiat)
- Avoid using landowner names in proposals to protect landowner privacy.

In the PRISM application, it is important to include planning metrics that allow the region and state to track project implementation in a consistent manner. Sponsors must enter the planned metric outcomes consistent with their proposed project type. Sponsors are responsible for accurately tracking and reporting project metrics in PRISM throughout the life of a project. The LE will work with project sponsors to ensure that appropriate project metrics are entered in the application (see *Appendix A: UC PRISM-SRP Metric Tracking Protocol* for more details).

Contact your LE if you need assistance with the PRISM database. Additionally, the SRFB annually adopts Manual 18 that describes the process for pursuing funds from the State. Manual 18 and other associated documents can be found on the UCSRB website and RCO's website:

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/salmon-recovery/>.

Step Four: PROJECT TOURS

Project site tours in the Methow, Okanogan, Entiat and Wenatchee sub-basins will be scheduled by the LE. Field-based and digital presentations will span four full days during the second week of May. Digital presentations will be held in-person during the four planned tour days. Given the limited time for project tours, proposals the RTT determines to be “competitive” during the initial presentations in March (step 2) will be prioritized for field-based tours. Proposals the RTT determines to be “less competitive” will be toured via in-person digital presentation(s) unless time allows otherwise. Project sponsors are strongly encouraged to attend their respective site tour(s) to share information regarding the proposed project, answer questions, and receive additional technical feedback. The LE will work with project sponsors to prepare handout materials for tour participants. Time will be limited and allocated based on the number of proposals and necessary time between project locations or presentations. This is a key opportunity for project sponsors to discuss their project and receive feedback from reviewers about project elements.

Representatives from the RTT, RCO, TRIB Committees, CAC, and SRFB Review Panel may all attend the tours. Some project proposals may not require a site visit (e.g., an assessment project or others due to logistical issues); however, the LE will identify a location and time to discuss the project proposal with reviewers. Once the portfolio of potential projects is finalized, the UCSRB will develop the agenda and itinerary with input from the various reviewers. Project sponsors are encouraged to work with the LE to develop refined information and materials during the site tours. Please check the website for the current tour schedule.

Step Five: PROPOSAL REFINEMENT AND SUBMITTAL

After the reviewers provide comments, project sponsors may refine details ahead of the revised proposal deadline for regional scoring and ranking. Any missing data such as project metrics or

funding entities as identified by the LE should be addressed prior to the revised proposal submittal. Revised proposals must be uploaded to PRISM so the LE can distribute them to reviewers for regional technical scoring and final ranking. **If changes are made to proposals between the initial pre-application (JotForm) deadline and the revised proposal deadline (e.g., budget, landowner support, project scope, etc.), associated updates must be made in the JotForm as these factors may impact region-specific scoring and ranking criteria.** Please reference the UC SRFB/TRIB 2024 Funding Schedule for specific dates.

After revised proposals are submitted, there are no additional opportunities for interaction with the RTT to further refine the technical details of a project. Project sponsors should always communicate with the LE to answer questions as they arise throughout the process. Significant changes in project scope or total project cost after the revised proposal submittal are not allowed. These changes make it difficult for the CACs to evaluate projects after the RTT scores have already been assigned. Therefore, sponsors are strongly discouraged from making changes to scope or total project cost following final proposal submittal. Changes in funding allocation requests, while discouraged after the revised proposal submittal, are accepted based on outside funding decisions or conditions made by the CAC or SRFB Review Panel. **Changes in budget allocations must be communicated to the LE in writing one week prior to the CAC presentations.**

Step Six: TECHNICAL SCORING AND CITIZEN RANKING

After final project proposals have been submitted, the RTT will convene for technical scoring of the proposals. The RTT uses the Upper Columbia Biological Strategy and associated updates as its primary framework for evaluating projects. The RTT uses a robust and transparent scoring criteria based on the aforementioned framework and should be referenced when developing proposals for funding consideration.

The RTT has requested that the project scoring meeting be closed to non-RTT members, with exceptions for technical representatives from funding entities, other reviewers, and LE representatives. The RTT members can only score proposals as they were submitted. Information provided after the deadline will not be considered during the project review. It is important that project sponsors are as succinct and inclusive in the application as possible. There are limits to the number of attachments that regional and state technical reviewers can consume. The LE may provide one hard copy of a document per review group and/or the electronic version if the document is large. The final technical scores and comments from the RTT will be distributed to sponsors and select partners in the Upper Columbia shortly before the CAC presentations.

During RTT scoring of Design proposals, the RTT may request additional review during the design process if the group has concerns about the project proposal. The RTT will determine design review conditions and review intervals aligned with qualitative benchmarks established by the RCO (see Manual 18 *Appendix D: Design and Restoration Project Deliverables*). This will allow sponsors the ability to request additional funds to address the design review condition(s). The RTT will forward conditional comments to the CAC, who will make a final recommendation

that the LE submits to the RCO as part of the final regional list. Sponsors are encouraged to seek input from the RTT early in the development of Design proposals.

Sponsor presentations to the CAC will occur during evening meetings in both Chelan and Okanogan County. If a sponsor has proposals in each county, expect to present for both committees. The Okanogan and Chelan CACs will separately meet following the presentations to score the social and economic considerations of a proposed project and develop a ranked list. After each CAC develops their county-specific ranked list, both committees will convene in a joint meeting to develop one regional list per funding source for funding consideration. The CACs, whether meeting as an individual committee or the Joint Citizens Advisory Committee (JCAC) use the same review criteria. Note, a regional allocation of \$200,000 will be set aside from the Riparian Funding source to specifically fund riparian only restoration and stewardship projects (no in-stream components). Given no riparian only projects at the point of final ranking, the allocation will be available for all other Riparian Funding eligible projects.

The individual lists from each of the CACs will be combined into one list per funding source during the JCAC meeting, which will be comprised of members from each CAC. The initial process for merging the individual lists for discussion at the JCAC is as follows:

- The region will combine the individual lists using the project's order of rank in the relative list (i.e., rank 1 from Okanogan County is matched with rank 1 from Chelan, and so on).
- To decide which project from within the matched ranking gets placed first, the secondary consideration is the relative RTT score. For each paired ranking (e.g., 1-1, 2-2, etc.), the project with a higher RTT score will rank above the project with a lower RTT score.

The following ground rules for decision making guide the JCAC in its deliberations to develop the final ranked list for the Upper Columbia.

1. A CAC member may, at any time, make a motion to move a particular project up or down on the list.
2. The CAC member making such a request must include rationale based on the citizens' review criteria.
3. The JCAC will then engage in discussion regarding the motion to move a project on the list.
4. After discussion, the JCAC will vote – approve, oppose, abstain – on the motion to move the project on the list.
5. The motion will carry upon unanimous approval by all JCAC members (excluding “abstain” votes).

The result of this meeting is the final recommended list of projects submitted to the SRFB for consideration for funding.

SRFB/TRIB FUND REVIEW AND FUNDING

The SRFB Review Panel will meet during the months of May and June to review all the project applications. The SRFB Review Panel evaluates projects based on benefits to salmon, likelihood of success, and a cost-benefit analysis (see Manual 18 Appendix F). The SRFB Review Panel will label projects as either *Clear*, *Conditioned*, *Needs More Information*, or *Project of Concern*. Projects that receive a *Clear* label are eligible without restriction to receive SRFB funds. Sponsors whose projects receive a *Needs More Information* or *Conditioned* label will have the opportunity to address the SRFB Review Panel comments by submitting additional information to the SRFB Review Panel and/or accepting the condition(s). The SRFB Review Panel will consider the additional information and make a final determination by July 26. Based on regional policy, proposals flagged as *Projects of Concern* by the SRFB Review Panel in its final report will not be forwarded on the final ranked list and are ineligible for SRFB funding.

The SRFB will meet in September to make its final funding decisions for that year. The TRIB Committees will also make internal decisions for funding, after release of the draft SRFB Review Panel report. Once the SRFB has made its final decisions for funding, the TRIB commonly meets to finalize their decisions for funding projects.

POST SRFB AWARD AMENDMENTS

Amendments require consultation with the LE and subsequent recommendations from technical and citizens' committees. Manual 18 outlines the process for SRFB approval of contract amendments. To access the Amendment Request form and "Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Funding Request Authority Matrix", please contact your LE for assistance.

APPENDIX A: UC PRISM-SRP METRIC TRACKING PROTOCOL

See [Manual 19 Appendix C: PRISM/Salmon Recovery Portal Data Communication Process](#) (p. 48) for more information.

Accurate project reporting is an essential component of salmon recovery. Tracking project metrics (e.g., riparian miles treated or number of fish passage corrections) helps organizations gauge recovery efforts, plan future restoration projects, and report accomplishments. The metric data shapes the story of salmon recovery in Washington and helps justify ongoing support for salmon recovery to funding entities and the public. Project and outcome tracking across the state is conducted in the Salmon Recovery Portal, a mapping and project tracking tool that allows lead entities and others to share habitat protection and restoration projects with funders and the public. The portal helps lead entities relate planned, proposed, current, and past project achievements to salmon recovery goals.

TRACKING PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Projects that move through the lead entity process begin in the Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP). Once the project is initiated, the project sponsor then completes the application process in PRISM. Data entered into the PRISM database are transferred directly back into the SRP database. Therefore, UCSRB and sponsors need to ensure that data are entered into PRISM in a way that is consistent with data management in the SRP.

Projects under application: During the SRFB grant round process, UCSRB staff create a new project in SRP based on pre-application materials (the JotForm application). UCSRB staff send the project number to sponsors to complete PRISM applications. During the PRISM application process, sponsors follow the protocol described below to ensure consistent reporting of funding sources and recovery metrics. (Note: regional monitoring project applications cannot be started in the SRP; coordinate directly with the LE and GSRO science recovery coordinator.) *See Manual 18, 2023, p. 31.*

Ongoing and completed projects: Sponsors accurately report metrics when submitting progress reports and final reports in PRISM. Sponsors respond to any questions or clarifications from UCSRB staff before submitting the final report in PRISM. UCSRB may follow up with individual sponsors for additional clarification. Any changes to work types, project funders (for matching funds), or metric outcomes must be made in PRISM.

REPORTING PROJECT FUNDING

When entering match funding during the application process, add individual funders separately using the “+ Add match” button. Include a separate dollar amount for each distinct funder. Search for the name of the funder in the dropdown list to see if the funder already exists in the system before manually entering a funder’s name. Upon completion of the project, enter each matching funders separately again, with the appropriate associated dollar amount spent.

REPORTING PROJECT OUTCOMES (METRICS)

During the PRISM application, the sponsor enters the project work type, which automatically generates the relevant project metrics. The sponsor then quantifies the values as proposed project accomplishments. The following metrics are required for the Upper Columbia regional reporting process, depending on the project work type. For example, for a passage project, the sponsor will check the box next to a Fish Passage Improvement Project and then enter values for the following three metrics: (1) Miles of Stream Made Accessible, (2) Number of blockages/impediments/barriers impeding passage, (3) Road-crossing removal. Additional project metrics may be entered in PRISM, as desired, but those listed below are required. For each project submission, sponsors should ensure that the metrics listed below are entered during the application and final reporting. If a metric is not applicable to the project, enter a zero to identify that this metric was considered but the metric was not applicable to the project. *Note: for fish passage projects and acquisitions/easements/leases, please consult with the LE before submitting metrics in final report. These projects require verification or addition of metrics.*

Design, Monitoring, or Assessment projects: No metric reporting codes required

Acquisition, easement, lease projects: The following acquisition metric reporting codes are required.

1. Miles of Streambank and/or Shoreline Protected by Land or Easement Acquisition
2. Acres of Land, Wetland or Estuarine Area Conserved by Acquisition or Lease
3. Floodplain Areas Protected in Acres** this reporting metric does not appear in PRISM. Work with the LE to add this metric upon completion of the project.

Restoration projects: The following metric reporting codes are required for the project types listed.

Fish Passage Improvement

1. Miles Of Stream Made Accessible (SRFB) (C.2.b.1)
2. Number of blockages / impediments / barriers impeding passage (C.2.b.4)
3. Number of road-crossings (C.2.i.2)

Fish Screening Project

1. Fish screens installed (C.1.c.1)
2. Fish screens replaced or modified (C.1.d.1)

Instream Flow Project

1. Miles Of Stream 'Protected' For Adequate Flow (C.3.b)
2. Change In Water Flow (C.3.c)
3. Cfs (Cubic Feet Per Second) of water conserved per year (C.3.g.2)

Instream Habitat Project (also includes Floodplain and Off-Channel Reconnection Projects)

1. Total Miles of Instream Habitat Treated (C.4.b)

2. Number Of Beavers (C.4.h.2)
3. Miles of Off-Channel Stream Created or Connected (C.4.c.4)
4. Acres of Channel/Off-Channel Connected or Added (C.4.c.5)
5. Number of structures placed in channel (C.4.d.7)
6. Pools Created through channel structure placement (C.4.d.5)
7. Miles of Streambank Stabilized (C.4.e.3)

Riparian Habitat Project

1. Total Riparian Miles Streambank Treated (C.5.b.1)
2. Total Riparian Acres Treated (C.5.b.2)
3. Miles of Fence Along Stream (C.5.d.2)
4. Riparian Acres Treated for forestry practices/stand management (C.5.i.2)
5. Acres Planted in Riparian (C.5.c.3)

Upland Habitat and Sediment Project

1. Acres of Upland Habitat Area Treated (C.6.b.1)
2. Number of Erosion/Sediment Control Installations (C.6.e.3)
3. Miles of Road Abandoned (C.6.d.2)
4. Miles of Road Treated for drainage improvements and reconstruction (C.6.c.2)
5. Acres Treated for Slope Stabilization (C.6.g.2)
6. Upland livestock management (C.6.j.1)

Water Quality Project

1. Total acre feet of Water Treated for water quality (C.7.b.2)
2. Miles Of Stream Treated with Nutrients (C.7.g.5)
3. Water Quality Limitation Treated (C.7.c)

Wetland Project

1. Acres of wetland Improved/Restored (C.8.e.2)

UPPER COLUMBIA SRFB/ TRIB 2024 FUNDING SCHEDULE				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
FEBRUARY/MARCH				
February 12 (afternoon)	Meeting: UC Region SRFB Kick-Off Meeting	LE, RTT, TRIB, Sponsors, RCO	Virtual	LE/RCO
March 11, COB	DEADLINE: Regional Project Pre-application (JotForm) submitted to Lead Entity	Sponsors	Online/Email	LE
March 27, 28	Meeting(s): Sponsor Presentations to RTT	Sponsors, LE, RTT, TRIB, SRFB Review Panel, CAC	Virtual	LE/RTT/CAC
APRIL				
April 19, COB	DEADLINE: Complete applications due in PRISM	Sponsors, LE, RCO	PRISM	LE
MAY				
May 6, 7, 8, & 9 if needed	Tours: SRFB/TRIB Project Tours	Sponsors, LE, RTT, TRIB, SRFB SRP, CAC	TBD – Field tours & presentations	LE
	Wenatchee			
	Entiat			
	Methow			
	Okanogan			
May 9	Action: TRIB reviews draft proposals	TRIB	TRIB	TRIB Chair
May 14	Lead entity feedback (optional)	LE	PRISM	LE
May 16	TRIB provides comments	TRIB	Email	TRIB Chair

UPPER COLUMBIA SRFB/ TRIB 2024 FUNDING SCHEDULE				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
May 15 & 16	Action(s): SRFB Review Panel reviews proposals;	SRFB Review Panel	N/A	N/A
May 24, COB	DEADLINE: Revised proposals due for regional RTT scoring and CAC ranking	Sponsors, LE, RCO, SRFB Review Panel, RTT, CAC, TRIB	PRISM	LE
May 31	First Comment Form: Sponsors receive SRFB Review Panel project status (<i>Clear, Conditioned, NMI or POC</i>)	SRFB Review Panel, LE, Sponsors	Email/Prism	LE
JUNE				
June 10 or 11	Action: (optional) Discuss projects identified as conditioned, NMI or POC	Sponsors, RCO, SRFB Review Panel, LE	Conference Call	LE/RCO
June 12	Action: RTT review/scoring	RTT, CAC, LE	RTT Meeting	RTT
June 13	Action: TRIB reviews final proposals	TRIB	TRIB Meeting	TRIB Chair
June 17 & 18 (evenings)	Presentations to Citizens: Okanogan/Chelan CAC's	Sponsors, CAC's, RTT, LE	TBD	LE
June 19	Action: TRIB Decisions	TRIB	Email	TRIB Chair
June 20 (evening)	Joint CAC SRFB final ranking	CAC's, LE	TBD	LE
June 24, Noon	DEADLINE: Final revised applications due in PRISM	Sponsors, LE	PRISM	LE

UPPER COLUMBIA SRFB/ TRIB 2024 FUNDING SCHEDULE				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
JULY				
July 16, 17 & 18	Action: SRFB Review Panel completes comments	SRFB Review Panel, RCO	N/A	RCO
July 26	Final Comment Form: Sponsors receive final SRFB Review Panel comments	SRFB Review Panel, LE, Sponsors	Email/Prism	SRFB Review Panel
AUGUST				
August 12	Deadline: Sponsors must accept SRFB Review Panel conditions	Sponsors	Email/Prism	LE/RCO
August 13	Deadline: Regional Ranked List submitted to RCO	LE	PRISM	LE/RCO
August 20	Deadline: Regional Submittal	LE	Email	LE
SEPTEMBER				
September 10	Final grant report available for public review	RCO	Email	RCO
Sept 24 & 25	Action: SRFB Funding Decisions	SRFB	Olympia, WA	RCO

Acronyms

CAC- Citizen's Advisory Committee
 LE- Lead Entity Coordinator/Program
 PRISM – RCO's Application portal/ database
 RCO - Recreation and Conservation Office
 RTT- Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team
 SRFB - Salmon Recovery Funding Board
 SRFB Review Panel - State Review Panel
 TBD – To be determined
 TRIB- Tributary Committees
 UC- Upper Columbia Region
 UCSRB - Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Timeline Legend

Meetings	Blue
Deadlines	Red
Actions	Black



2024 Upper Columbia Regional Project Pre-Application

- * Pre-applications due March 11, 2024 (COB)
- *Complete applications due in PRISM April 19, 2024 (COB)
- *Revised proposals due in PRISM May 24, 2024 (COB)
- *Final revised applications due in PRISM June 24, 2024 (noon)

Project Title *

Contact Information

Sponsor *

Organization

Primary Contact *

First and Last Name

E-Mail Address *

Budget Request

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

Anticipated Request - SRFB (standard round)

Anticipated Request - SRFB Riparian Funding

Anticipated Request - Targeted Investment

Anticipated Request - Tributary Committee

Anticipated Request - BPA Programmatic

Anticipated Other Funding

Anticipated TOTAL Budget *

Other Funding Source(s)

List Names

Project Location

Briefly describe the location of the project *

(Example: "The project will occur in the Wenatchee River starting at RM 0.5 and ending at RM 1")

Latitude (decimal degrees) *

Longitude (decimal degrees) *

Project subbasin *

Wenatchee
Entiat
Methow
Okanogan
Multiple Subbasins
Columbia River - small tributaries

Does the proposed project span multiple assessment units? *

Yes
No

List the additional assessment units directly impacted by this proposal.

Reach(es) Name *

Reach names can be found online at <https://prioritization.ucsrb.org/>

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 1
Rank 2
Rank 3
Unranked (not a priority or missing data)

Multiple reaches (provide details below)

Project Information

1. 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]. ***

2. What species will the project benefit? *

Spring Chinook
Steelhead
Bull Trout
Summer Chinook
Other

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

Design, Monitoring or Assessment
Acquisition, Easements, Leases
Fish Passage
Fish Screening
Instream Flow
Instream Habitat (Includes Floodplain & Off-Channel Reconnection)
Riparian Habitat
Upland Habitat
Water Quality
Wetlands

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

Yes

No

Don't Know

5. Has this project been submitted previously for funding through the SRFB and/or other process(es)? *

Yes

No

Don't Know

6. What category is the project? *

Design

Restoration

Assessment

Protection

Monitoring

If applicable, what is the secondary project category?

N/A

Design

Restoration

Assessment

Protection

Monitoring

Is the project eligible for Riparian Funding? *

Yes

No

Project Risk and Economic Benefits

1. What is the landownership? *

e.g. private, DNR, Forest Service, etc.

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

Yes

No

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 *

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

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

6. Are other projects being proposed immediately upstream or downstream of worksite? *

Yes

No

Don't know

7. Please describe the risk of failure associated 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? *

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

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

Optional Section - Preparation for PRISM

The following questions are identical to the questions RCO requires in the PRISM application. If desired, sponsors can complete associated questions early and copy responses into PRISM during the "Complete Application" phase due on April 19, 2024.

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

Yes

No

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 historical factors important to understand the problems.

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

3. 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 and future condition. Include which species and life stages will benefit from the outcome, and the time of year the benefits will be realized.

4. 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).

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.

6. 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?

7. How have lessons learned from completed projects or monitoring studies informed this projects?

8. Describe the alternatives considered and why the preferred was chosen.

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

10. Does your project address or accommodate the anticipated effects of climate change?

11. Describe the sponsor's experience managing this type of project. Describe other projects where the sponsors has successfully used a similar approach.

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

Supporting Documents

Upper Columbia Process Guide 2024

SRFB Manual 18 (2024)

RCO Application Resources (2024)

Attachment B: Regional Technical Team Documents

RTT Scoring Criteria for Pre-Proposals

RTT Scoring Criteria for Full Proposals

RTT Comments on 2024 SRFB Pre-Proposals

RTT Comments on 2024 SRFB Full Proposals

UPPER COLUMBIA PRE-PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA



November 2023

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Introduction

The Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team (UCRTT) has developed criteria for evaluating pre-proposals submitted as part of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and other regional funding processes. This early evaluation benefits both the reviewers and project sponsors. That is, reviewers have a capacity to evaluate multiple applications, and early feedback from reviewers provides project sponsors information on the competitiveness of their applications. Thus, reviewers are not overburdened reviewing full applications that are not competitive within a funding cycle and project sponsors can spend more time and resources on developing competitive applications. Importantly, this process will only be used when the funding request across all proposed projects exceeds the SRFB funds available within a funding cycle.

In some funding cycles, project sponsors are required to submit pre-proposals of their proposed projects before they submit full project applications. Pre-proposals should include project objectives, a brief description of the proposed project and its size (footprint), the location of the project, limiting factors addressed, costs, and landowner support. Based on this information, the RTT and CAC can use simplified evaluation criteria to determine if a proposed project will be competitive within the funding cycle and provide early feedback to sponsors so that they can improve their proposal moving forward. What follows is a description of the criteria the RTT will use to evaluate pre-proposals of proposed projects within a funding cycle.

Scoring Criteria

Like the evaluation of full applications, the RTT uses specific criteria to evaluate each project type (restoration, protection, assessment, design, and monitoring). Unlike the evaluation of full applications, only a few criteria are used to determine if a proposed project will be competitive within a funding cycle. The criteria used to evaluate pre-proposals determine whether the proposed project is placed within an important assessment unit, addresses important limiting factors or protects high-quality habitat, enhances or protects natural processes, and improves freshwater survival and/or capacity. Below we describe the criteria used to evaluate pre-proposals for each project type.

Restoration Projects

1. Address Primary Limiting Factors

- a) Does the proposed restoration project reduce the effects of **primary** limiting factors (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy; [Prioritization Portal](#)) at the reach¹ scale? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Proposed restoration actions must address **primary** factors limiting the freshwater survival and/or distribution of fish species. Projects that address more than one limiting factor, or fully rectify a single limiting factor, achieve the highest scores.

Sequencing of projects also affects scoring. That is, projects that address limiting factors that are unlikely to affect freshwater survival or distribution without first correcting other factors would achieve relatively low scores, unless the proposed sequencing is justified by extenuating circumstances.

Limiting factor ranks are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = project does not address ranked limiting factor at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = project provides some level of improvement to ranked limiting factor(s) (rated unacceptable or at-risk at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = project fully rectifies a Rank 1 limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.

2. Location and Scale of the Restoration Project

- a) Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration? (16% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high priority assessment units for restoration within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high priority assessments units, or provide access to

¹ A reach is one of the nested hierarchical subdivisions of a drainage network. It is smaller than a valley segment and larger than a channel unit. A reach is classified by the geomorphic attributes of valley confinement, bed material, channel geometry, slope, and assemblages of geomorphic units (e.g., pool, riffle, etc.). Reaches in the Upper Columbia are set to be 1-4 km long and are identified in the Prioritization Strategy.

such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.
 - 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
 - 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.***

b) Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit? (9% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because reaches vary in habitat quality, habitat quantity, connectivity, and geomorphology, they do not have equal restoration potential. Therefore, restoration actions should occur first in reaches with the highest potential for restoration. The RTT has incorporated several factors in identifying high-priority reaches for restoration within assessment units (see Step 2 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority reaches, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Unranked Reach.
 - 1 = Rank 3 Reach.
 - 4 = Rank 2 Reach.
 - 7 = Rank 1 Reach.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the Reach prioritization scores.***

3. Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action

a) Does the proposed project promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The RTT defines *natural stream/watershed processes* as dynamic processes affecting habitat form and function at multiple spatial and temporal scales. Floodplain connectivity, complex instream structure, absence of barriers, and large intact riparian zones are all features of natural stream/watershed processes. As discussed within the Biological Strategy, “process-based restoration” refers to projects that will result in long-term changes to natural watershed and fluvial processes. Projects such as riparian plantings, increasing flows, barrier removal, and floodplain and wetland reconnections are all examples of projects that restore natural processes.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = project does not promote watershed processes.
 - 1-6 = project improves intermediate levels of watershed processes (some level of restoration of process occurs (or the probability is high) at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = project fully restores watershed processes at the *reach* scale.

4. Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity

- a) Will the project increase freshwater survival and/or capacity for focal species and life stages at the **reach** scale? (25% of total score)
- **Rationale:** Habitat restoration projects are implemented to increase freshwater survival, increase capacity, and/or expand the distribution of focal fish species. Therefore, it is important to assess the effects of restoration actions on pre-spawn survival, egg-smolt survival, and spawner distribution. These factors are evaluated at the **reach** scale. Species and life stage priorities are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = no benefit to freshwater survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and life stages at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = intermediate increase in survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages at the *reach* scale.
 - 7 = highest possible benefit to survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and high priority life stages at the *reach* scale.

Restoration Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weighting factor	Total Maximum Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Address Primary Limiting Factors	Does the proposed restoration project reduce the effects of primary limiting factors (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy) at the reach scale?	7	3.57	25	
Location and Scale of the Restoration Project	Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration?	7	2.29	16	
	Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit?	7	1.29	9	
Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action	Does the project promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream?	7	3.57	25	
Benefits to Freshwater Survival or capacity	Will the project increase freshwater survival and/or capacity for focal species and life stages at the reach scale?	7	3.57	25	
Grand Total		35		100	

Protection Projects

1. Placement of Protection Project

- a) Is the proposed protection project sited within an important “assessment unit” for protection (property with high-quality habitat) or restoration (purchase of property for the purpose of restoring it)? (16% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high priority assessment units for protection within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that protect high-quality habitat within priority assessments units will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

In some cases, project sponsors may seek funding to acquire property that is relatively degraded so they can restore or enhance it. In this case, the assessment unit will be scored using restoration rankings, not protection rankings. Sponsors will need to provide conceptual restoration designs so biological benefit can be evaluated.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.
 - 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
 - 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, **the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.**

- b) Is the proposed protection project sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit? (9% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because reaches vary in habitat quality, habitat quantity, connectivity, and geomorphology, they do not have equal protection value. Therefore, protection actions should occur first in reaches with the highest protection value. The RTT has incorporated several factors in identifying high-priority reaches for protection within assessment units (see Step 2 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that protect

habitat quantity and quality within high-priority reaches will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

As with scoring assessment units, for projects seeking funding to acquire property that will be restored or enhanced, reaches will be scored using restoration rankings, not protection rankings.

- **Scoring:**

- 0 = Unranked Reach.
- 1 = Rank 3 Reach.
- 4 = Rank 2 Reach.
- 7 = Rank 1 Reach.
- If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the Reach prioritization scores.***

c) Will the proposed project protect watershed processes or important high-quality habitat?
(25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Large parcels of high-quality riparian/floodplain habitat may facilitate the full expression of watershed processes. In reaches with predominantly dysfunctional habitat, disconnected parcels of high-quality riparian/floodplain habitat can serve as important strongholds for biological and physical processes. Therefore, the importance of protecting a given parcel depends on the context of the reach or watershed condition. Examples of areas that are important to protect are tributary junctions, parcels that contain multiple channels and side channels, areas that offer cold-water refugia, mature riparian areas for large wood recruitment, major spawning areas, and connected floodplains.

- **Scoring:**

- 0 = project does not protect important processes or is not an important stronghold.
- 1-6 = project protects parcels that facilitate watershed processes to some degree or parcels where processes can be restored or are habitat strongholds.
- 7 = project protects an important parcel that contains important watershed process(es) or is an important habitat stronghold.

2. Threats

a) How imminent is the threat of habitat degradation to the proposed land if the project is not implemented? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because salmon recovery funds are limited, the most pressing concerns need to be addressed first. When evaluating proposals, it is necessary to predict the extent to which a project will change habitat conditions and assess the significance of that change to fish populations. Therefore, to evaluate a habitat protection project, one must have a reasonable basis for comparing what would happen with and without the project. The ability to predict the fate of a proposed parcel of land for protection or easement is difficult but improved when informed by knowledge of the intentions of the present landowner, market conditions, and local critical areas and zoning laws, among others. Scoring protection projects by default as if all extant habitat values will be lost but for the project would substantially and artificially inflate the value of these projects as compared to restoration projects.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = No clear threat of habitat degradation exists at this time (e.g., what might or could happen is the only threat).
 - 1-6 = The threat to high-quality habitat is not imminent, but the project proponent makes a compelling argument that this protection opportunity will not exist in the future and/or is required for restoration to occur.
 - 7 = There is a demonstrated imminent threat to the property that could lead to loss of high-quality habitat.

3. Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity

a) What would be the anticipated loss in freshwater survival and capacity at the **reach** scale and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages if the proposed area was developed (i.e., what habitat values would be lost and to what degree would that loss reduce freshwater survival and/or distribution of focal species and life stages at the reach scale)? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Freshwater survival is related to the quality of stream habitat. The loss of high-quality habitat or capacity will result in reduced freshwater survival, abundance, or distribution of focal fish species and priority life stages.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = there would be no reduction in freshwater survival, capacity, or distribution if the proposed area is not protected.

- 1-6 = intermediate reduction in survival or capacity.
- 7 = there would be a large reduction in freshwater survival, capacity, or distribution if the proposed area is not protected.

Protection Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weight	Total Maximum Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Placement of Protection Project	Is the proposed protection project sited within an important “assessment unit” for protection or restoration?	7	2.29	16	
	Is the proposed protection project sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit?	7	1.29	9	
	Will the proposed project protect watershed processes or important high-quality habitat?	7	3.57	25	
Threat	How imminent is the threat of habitat degradation to the proposed land if the project is not implemented?	7	3.57	25	
Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity	What would be the anticipated loss in freshwater survival and capacity at the reach scale and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages if the proposed area was developed (i.e., what habitat values would be lost and to what degree would that loss reduce freshwater survival and/or distribution of focal species and life stages at the reach scale)?	7	3.57	25	
Grand Total		35		100	

Assessment Projects

1. Addresses High Priority Data Gaps

- a) Will the proposed assessment address important data gaps ([Data Gaps](#)) that inform prioritization and/or the development of projects? (34% of total score)
- **Rationale:** All proposed assessments should fill important data gaps and/or link directly to restoration or protection actions addressing **primary** factors that limit freshwater production and/or distribution of fish species. Assessment projects that fill critical data gaps in prioritization and/or inform actions that address more than one limiting factor, or fully rectify a single limiting factor at the *reach* scale, will achieve the highest scores. Sequencing will also affect scores.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = assessment will not fill a critical data gap in prioritization, nor will it result in projects that lead to improvement in limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = assessment will only partially fill a critical data gap in prioritization, and/or will result in intermediate change in limiting factor(s) (limiting factor(s) will be partially addressed at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = assessment will completely fill data gaps in Prioritization in Tier 1 AUs and/or will result in projects that fully rectify limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.

2. Area Covered by Assessment

- a) Is the proposed assessment project sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration? (34% of total score)
- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high-priority assessment units for restoration within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority assessments units, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.
 - 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
 - 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.***

3. Methods

a) Are the methods outlined within the proposed assessment adequate to achieve the stated objectives? (32% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The assessment must clearly describe the methods that will be used to gather and analyze information. The proposal should demonstrate that it is using an accepted approach (i.e., the RTT Reach Assessment Guidance document). If it is innovative, the proposal should discuss how the methods will achieve the stated objectives of the assessment and demonstrate the benefits of the methods relative to the [RTT Reach Assessment Guidance](#).
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the methods are not adequate (employs questionable methods or practices or those not proven to be effective) to achieve the stated objectives.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (methods need substantial changes (uses methods where results are incomplete) to achieve stated objectives (1 point), or a few changes (employs experimental methods with well-developed rationale and experimental design; 6 points)).
 - 7 = the methods are adequate (employs methods described in the RTT Reach Assessment Guidance document) to achieve the stated objectives.

Assessment Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weight	Total Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Addresses High Priority Data Gaps	Will the proposed assessment inform the development of projects that reduce the effects of primary limiting factors at the reach scale (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy)?	7	4.85	34	
Area Covered by Assessment	Is the proposed assessment project sited within an important assessment unit for restoration?	7	4.85	34	
Methods	Are the methods outlined within the proposed assessment adequate to achieve the stated objectives?	7	4.57	32	
Grand Total		21		100	

Design Projects

1) Address Primary Limiting Factors

- a) Will the proposed design lead to development of projects that will reduce the effects of **primary** limiting factors at the **reach** scale (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy; [Prioritization Portal](#))? (25% of total score)
- **Rationale:** All designs proposed should link directly to restoration or protection actions addressing **primary** limiting factors that limit freshwater survival and/or distribution of fish species at the *reach* scale. Design projects with a direct linkage to development of actions addressing more than one important limiting factor, or fully rectifying a single limiting factor, achieve the highest scores. Sequencing also affects scores.

Limiting factor ranks are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = design will not address ranked limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = design will provide some level of improvement to ranked limiting factor(s) (rated unacceptable or at-risk at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = design will fully rectify Rank 1 limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.

2) Area Covered by Design

- a) Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration? (16% of total score)
- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high-priority assessment units for restoration within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Design projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority assessments units, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.

- 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
- 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
- If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.***

b) Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit? (9% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because reaches vary in habitat quality, habitat quantity, connectivity, and geomorphology, they do not have equal restoration potential. Therefore, restoration actions should occur first in reaches with the highest potential for restoration. The RTT has incorporated several factors in identifying high-priority reaches for restoration within assessment units (see Step 2 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Design projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority reaches, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Unranked Reach.
 - 1 = Rank 3 Reach.
 - 4 = Rank 2 Reach.
 - 7 = Rank 1 Reach.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the Reach prioritization scores.***

3) Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action

a) Will the proposed project (created from the design) promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The RTT defines *natural stream/watershed processes* as dynamic processes affecting habitat form and function at multiple spatial and temporal scales. Floodplain connectivity, complex instream structure, absence of barriers, and large intact riparian zones are all features of natural stream/watershed processes. As discussed within the Biological Strategy, “process-based restoration” refers to projects that will result in long-term changes to natural watershed and fluvial processes. Projects such as riparian plantings, increasing flows, barrier removal, and

floodplain and wetland reconnections are all examples of projects that restore natural processes.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = project does not promote watershed processes (it has very localized effects).
 - 1-6 = project improves intermediate levels of watershed processes (some level of restoration of process occurs (or the probability is high) at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = project fully restores watershed processes at the *reach* scale.

4) **Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity**

a) Will the proposed project (created from the design) improve freshwater survival or increases capacity for focal species and priority life stages at the **reach** scale? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Habitat restoration projects are implemented to increase freshwater survival, increase capacity, and/or distribution of focal fish species and priority life stages. Therefore, it is important to assess the effects of restoration actions on pre-spawn survival, egg-smolt survival, and spawner distribution. These factors are evaluated at the **reach** scale. Species and life stage priorities are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = no benefit to freshwater survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and life stages at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = intermediate increase in survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages at the *reach* scale.
 - 7 = highest possible benefit to survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and high priority life stages at the *reach* scale.

Design Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weight	Total Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Address Primary Limiting Factors	Will the proposed design lead to development of projects that will reduce the effects of primary limiting factors at the reach scale (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy)?	7	3.57	25	
	Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important "assessment unit" for restoration?	7	2.29	16	
Area Covered by Design	Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important "reach" within a priority assessment unit?	7	1.29	9	
	Will the proposed project (created from the design) promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream?	7	3.57	25	
Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action	Will the proposed project (created from the design) improve freshwater survival or increases capacity for focal species and priority life stages at the reach scale?	7	3.57	25	
Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity					
Grand Total		35		100	

Monitoring Projects

1. Information Needs

- a) Will the proposed monitoring project fill a Tier 1 data gaps identified in the Upper Columbia Monitoring and Data Management Committee (MaDMC) data gaps list ([Upper Columbia Data Gaps List](#))? (27% of total score)
- **Rationale:** A monitoring project must be designed to address Tier 1 data gaps, as identified by the MaDMC, *or new information needs identified by a project sponsor that the RTT agrees are important information needs*. Monitoring projects that focus on addressing specific information gaps previously identified by the RTT will score highest.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = monitoring project will not address an important data gap.
 - 1-6 = monitoring project will address a less important data gap or should be expanded to more fully address the Tier 1 data gap.
 - 7 = monitoring project will adequately address a Tier 1 data gap.
- b) What is the scale of inference of the proposed monitoring study? (23% of total score)
- **Rationale:** A monitoring project that provides information at the population or across populations (ESU/DPS) scales will score higher than a monitoring project that provides information at the reach or project scale.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 1 = monitoring project provides information at the site scale (i.e., 10s of meters).
 - 2 = monitoring project provides information at the reach scale (i.e., 100s of meters).
 - 3 = monitoring project provides information at the stream scale (i.e., kilometers).
 - 4 = monitoring project provides information at a watershed scale smaller than AU (e.g., HUC 14).
 - 5 = monitoring project provides information at the AU scale (i.e., HUC 12).
 - 6 = monitoring project provides information at the population scale.
 - 7 = monitoring project provide information across populations (i.e., ESU/DPS scale).

2. Purpose of Monitoring Project

- a) Do the objectives of the monitoring proposal complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts? *(23% of total score)*
- **Rationale:** Millions of dollars have been spent on monitoring programs in the Upper Columbia River basin. Future monitoring efforts should be proposed in context with previous and existing monitoring programs. In addition, the proposal should state clearly how it will use information from existing monitoring programs.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0-2 = proposed monitoring project will not complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts.
 - 3-6 = intermediate; information will complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts to some degree.
 - 7 = proposed monitoring project will completely complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts.

3. Methods

- a) Are the methods outlined within the pre-proposal appropriate for addressing the information need? *(27% of total score)*
- **Rationale:** The monitoring proposal must clearly describe the methods (including study design, sampling methodology, and analytical approaches) that will be used to gather and analyze the information. The proposal should demonstrate that it is using accepted methods. If the methods are innovative, the proposal should discuss how the methods will achieve the stated objectives of the monitoring project and demonstrate the benefits of the methods relative to standard methods.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the methods are not adequate (employs questionable methods or practices or those not proven to be effective) to achieve the stated objectives.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (methods need substantial changes to achieve stated objectives [1 point] or few changes [6 points]).
 - 7 = the methods are adequate to achieve the stated objectives.

Monitoring Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weighting Factor	Total Maximum Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Information Needs	Will the proposed monitoring project fill Tier 1 data gaps have identified in the Upper Columbia Monitoring and Data Management Committee data gaps list?	7	1.14	8	
	What is the scale of inference of the proposed monitoring study?	7	1.00	7	
Purpose of Monitoring Project	Do the objectives of the monitoring proposal complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts?	7	1.00	7	
Methods	Are the methods outlined within the pre-proposal appropriate for addressing the information need?	7	1.14	8	
Grand Total		28		30	

UPPER COLUMBIA FULL PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA



November 2023

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Introduction

In this document the RTT identifies and describes the scoring criteria used to evaluate restoration, protection, assessment, design, and monitoring full proposals. These criteria are designed and intended for the review and scoring of proposals. The goal of the RTT is to use the most objective evaluation approach possible to ensure a fair and effective review and ranking of proposals across multiple project types. Because the proposal is the primary instrument by which the RTT evaluates potential projects, the clarity and completeness of the proposal is critical to the RTT's ability to assess and score the potential benefits of the project. If a proposal does not clearly identify objectives and methods, and include all supporting materials (figures, maps, references, etc.) necessary for the RTT to understand adequately the proposed project, it will likely score low.

Scoring Criteria

The RTT identified scoring criteria that are specific to each project type (restoration, protection, assessment, design, and monitoring). Importantly, the proposed projects must be placed in high-priority areas, address important limiting factors, and identify benefits to focal species productivity and distribution. Various criteria form the basis for evaluating each of the five project types.

Criteria are assigned weights depending on their importance in the overall evaluation. That is, some criteria are considered more important than others. Thus, those criteria with high weights are considered more important in the evaluation of each project type. The assignment of weights also increases contrast in scores among project proposals. Projects scoring less than 40 points out of 100 total points are specifically called out as having "low biological benefit" so that funders and other reviewers can determine whether the project is worth further evaluation or funding.

The RTT believes it is important to assess the cost effectiveness of each proposed project. The RTT has included the evaluation of cost-benefit in various ways in the past, ranging from a qualitative evaluation that was not part of official scoring, to a quantitative assessment that applied a standardized score to each project for each reviewer. Under the current approach, RTT members evaluate the cost effectiveness of each proposal independently. Each member decides the points for cost effectiveness by evaluating the biological benefit and cost of each project. Scores will range from 0 to 7, with the highest points associated with high-benefit/low-cost projects and the lowest points associated with low-benefit/high-cost projects.

Finally, the RTT realizes project sponsors may submit applications seeking funding to protect two different types of properties. On the one hand, sponsors may seek funding to protect high-quality habitat, which will be protected in perpetuity. On the other hand, sponsors may seek funding to acquire property that is relatively degraded so they can restore the habitat on it. Although both are protection projects and will be scored using the protection criteria, scoring of assessment units and reaches will be

based on the type of protection project. That is, the RTT will use protection assessment unit and reach rankings to score acquisition projects that intend to protect existing, high-quality habitat. In contrast, restoration assessment units and reach rankings will be used to score acquisition projects that intend to purchase property with relatively poor habitat that can be restored once the property is purchased. For the latter, sponsors will need to provide conceptual restoration designs for acquired properties that will be restored.

Restoration Projects

1. Address Primary Limiting Factors

- a) Does the proposed restoration project reduce the effects of **primary** limiting factors (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy; [Prioritization Portal](#)) at the reach¹ scale? (20% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Proposed restoration actions must address **primary** factors limiting the freshwater survival and/or distribution of fish species. Projects that address more than one limiting factor, or fully rectify a single limiting factor, achieve the highest scores.

Sequencing of projects also affects scoring. That is, projects that address limiting factors that are unlikely to affect freshwater survival or distribution without first correcting other factors would achieve relatively low scores, unless the proposed sequencing is justified by extenuating circumstances.

Limiting factor ranks are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = project does not address ranked limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = project provides some level of improvement to ranked limiting factor(s) (rated unacceptable or at-risk at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = project fully rectifies a Rank 1 limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.

2. Location and Scale of the Restoration Project

- a) Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration? (10% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high-priority assessment units for restoration within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority assessments units, or provide access to

¹ A reach is one of the nested hierarchical subdivisions of a drainage network. It is smaller than a valley segment and larger than a channel unit. A reach is classified by the geomorphic attributes of valley confinement, bed material, channel geometry, slope, and assemblages of geomorphic units (e.g., pool, riffle, etc.). Reaches in the Upper Columbia are set to be 1-4 km long and are identified in the Prioritization Strategy.

such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.
 - 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
 - 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.***

b) Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because reaches vary in habitat quality, habitat quantity, connectivity, and geomorphology, they do not have equal restoration potential. Therefore, restoration actions should occur first in reaches with the highest potential for restoration. The RTT has incorporated several factors in identifying high-priority reaches for restoration within assessment units (see Step 2 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority reaches, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Unranked Reach.
 - 1 = Rank 3 Reach.
 - 4 = Rank 2 Reach.
 - 7 = Rank 1 Reach.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the Reach prioritization scores.***

c) Is the restoration project appropriately scaled and scoped? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Projects must be placed so they function within the geomorphic context of the stream reach. Projects sited without consideration of stream flows, sediment dynamics, and geomorphology will likely fail or provide limited long-term physical

and biological benefit, and thus will receive the lowest scores. Similarly, a project may be too small in scope to achieve the purported benefits.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = scale and scope of project does not match project objectives.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (scale and scope is appropriate to meet some of the project objectives).
 - 7 = scale and scope are appropriate to meet clearly articulated project objectives.

3. Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action

a) Does the proposed project promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The RTT defines *natural stream/watershed processes* as dynamic processes affecting habitat form and function at multiple spatial and temporal scales. Floodplain connectivity, complex instream structure, absence of barriers, and large intact riparian zones are all features of natural stream/watershed processes. As discussed within the Biological Strategy, “process-based restoration” refers to projects that will result in long-term changes to natural watershed and fluvial processes. Projects such as riparian plantings, increasing flows, barrier removal, and floodplain and wetland reconnections are all examples of projects that restore natural processes.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = project does not promote watershed processes.
 - 1-6 = project improves intermediate levels of watershed processes (some level of restoration of process occurs (or the probability is high) at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = project fully restores watershed processes at the *reach* scale.

b) How long will it take for the project to achieve its intended response? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The type of restoration action will determine how long it will take before the intended response of the action is realized. For example, an engineered log jam may have an immediate effect on cover for fish, while riparian plantings can take over 25 years before the intended effect is realized (Attachment 1). It is important to not reduce the scores of projects that restore processes and take longer to achieve the intended response; thus, no project will receive a score of 0.

- **Scoring:**
 - 1 = >50 years
 - 2-6 = 1-50 years
 - 7 = ≤1 year

c) How long will the proposed restoration action and its benefits persist? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Restoration projects that promote long-term habitat improvements, and/or require little to no on-going maintenance are likely to have the greatest biological benefit and will receive higher scores (Attachment 1). Projects that treat only symptoms of degraded watershed processes, or require continued on-going maintenance are unlikely to persist for long periods. These projects will receive lower scores.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 – 3 = restoration project will persist for fewer than 10 years (or require on-going maintenance).
 - 4-6 = 10-50 years (or longer with some maintenance required).
 - 7 = 50+ years with little to no maintenance.

d) Will the proposed project ameliorate the effects of climate change? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Certain project actions are more likely to reduce or ameliorate the effects of climate change. In general, actions that restore *natural stream/watershed processes* are likely to have the most potential to reduce the effects of long-term climate change (Attachment 1). Projects that have a high likelihood to reduce the effects of climate change will score higher than projects that do not.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = will not ameliorate the effects of climate change.
 - 1-6 = likely to ameliorate the effects of climate change.
 - 7 = will ameliorate the effects of climate change within a high-risk reach for climate change.

4. Methods

1. Are the methods² outlined within the proposal adequate to achieve the stated objectives?
(5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The proposal must clearly describe the methods that will be used to implement the project. The proposal should demonstrate that it is using an accepted approach to achieve the objectives. If the methods are innovative, the proposal should describe how the methods will achieve the stated objectives and demonstrate the benefits of the methods relative to a standard method. In addition, projects that “over-engineer” its components to meet the objectives will likely score lower than projects that allow natural processes to achieve objectives.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the methods do not appear adequate (employs questionable treatments, methods, or practices or those not proven to be effective) to achieve the stated objectives.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (methods need substantial changes (uses methods where results are incomplete) to achieve stated objectives (1 point), or a few changes (employs experimental treatments or methods with well-developed rationale and experimental design; 6 points)).
 - 7 = the methods appear adequate (employs accepted or tested standards, methods, or practices) to achieve the stated objectives.

5. Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity

- a) Will the project increase freshwater survival and/or capacity for focal species and life stages at the **reach** scale? (30% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Habitat restoration projects are implemented to increase freshwater survival, increase capacity, and/or expand the distribution of focal fish species. Therefore, it is important to assess the effects of restoration actions on pre-spawn survival, egg-smolt survival, and spawner distribution. These factors are evaluated at the **reach** scale. Species and life stage priorities are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

² Methods for this purpose include the protocols used to implement projects (such as hand placement of structure instead of machinery) or the types of materials used (e.g., a bottomless culvert instead of a bridge).

- **Scoring:**

- 0 = no benefit to freshwater survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and life stages at the *reach* scale.
- 1-6 = intermediate increase in survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages at the *reach* scale.
- 7 = highest possible benefit to survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and high priority life stages at the *reach* scale.

6. Cost Effectiveness of Restoration Project

a) How cost effective is the proposed restoration project? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** There are limited funds available for salmon recovery. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the cost of a proposed project is commensurate with the potential biological benefit.

- **Scoring:**

- 0 = no benefit to freshwater survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species at the reach scale. Cost is irrelevant if there is no biological benefit.
- 1-6 = intermediate biological benefit per cost. Greater points are given to restoration projects with high benefit-low costs, while lower points are assigned to projects with low benefit-high costs.
- 7 = highest possible biological benefit at a relatively low cost.

Restoration Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:			Date:		
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weighting factor	Total Maximum Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Address Primary Limiting Factors	Does the proposed restoration project reduce the effects of primary limiting factors (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy) at the reach scale?	7	2.86	20	
Location and Scale of the Restoration Project	Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration?	7	1.43	10	
	Is the proposed restoration project sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit?	7	0.71	5	
	Is the restoration project appropriately scaled and scoped?	7	0.71	5	
Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action	Does the project promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream?	7	0.71	5	
	How long will it take for the project to achieve its intended response?	7	0.71	5	
	How long will the proposed restoration action and its benefits persist?	7	0.71	5	
	Will the proposed project ameliorate the effects of climate change?	7	0.71	5	
Methods	Are the methods outlined within the proposal adequate to achieve the stated objectives?	7	0.71	5	
Benefits to Freshwater Survival or capacity	Will the project increase freshwater survival and/or capacity for focal species and life stages at the reach scale?	7	4.29	30	
Cost Effectiveness of Restoration Project	How cost effective is the proposed restoration project?	7	0.71	5	
Grand Total		77		100	

Protection Projects

1. Placement of Protection Project

- a) Is the proposed protection project sited within an important “assessment unit” for protection (property with high-quality habitat) or restoration (purchase of property for the purpose of restoration)? (10% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high-priority assessment units for protection within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that protect high-quality habitat within priority assessments units will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

In some cases, project sponsors may seek funding to acquire property that is relatively degraded for the purpose of enhancement or restoration. In this case, the assessment unit will be scored using restoration rankings, not protection rankings. For this type of protection project, sponsors will need to provide conceptual restoration designs so biological benefit can be evaluated.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.
 - 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
 - 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, **the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.**

- b) Is the proposed protection project sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because reaches vary in habitat quality, habitat quantity, connectivity, and geomorphology, they do not have equal protection value. Therefore, protection actions should occur first in reaches with the highest protection value. The RTT has incorporated several factors in identifying high-priority reaches for protection within assessment units (see Step 2 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that protect

habitat quantity and quality within high-priority reaches will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

As with scoring assessment units, for projects seeking funding to acquire property that will be restored or enhanced, reaches will be scored using restoration rankings, not protection rankings.

- **Scoring:**

- 0 = Unranked Reach.
- 1 = Rank 3 Reach.
- 4 = Rank 2 Reach.
- 7 = Rank 1 Reach.
- If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the Reach prioritization scores.***

c) To what extent does the proposed project protect high-quality habitat or habitat that can be restored to high quality with appropriate restoration actions? (15% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Maintaining high-quality habitat within priority spawning and rearing areas is critical to the viability of focal fish populations. Thus, protecting these areas, or areas with high restoration potential, is important to the conservation of the focal species.

- **Scoring:**

- 0 = Will not protect important (intact) habitat; site too small to achieve protection goal.
- 1-6 = 40-60% of total project area is intact habitat with plans for restoration.
- 7 = More than 60% of total project area is intact habitat; size is sufficient quantity to accommodate goal.

d) Will the proposed project protect watershed processes or important high-quality habitat? (20% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Large parcels of high-quality riparian/floodplain habitat may facilitate the full expression of watershed processes. In reaches with predominantly dysfunctional habitat, disconnected parcels of high-quality riparian/floodplain habitat can serve as important strongholds for biological and physical processes. Therefore, the importance of protecting a given parcel depends on the context of the reach or watershed condition. Examples of areas that are important to protect are tributary junctions, parcels that contain multiple channels and side channels, areas that offer

cold-water refugia, mature riparian areas for large wood recruitment, major spawning areas, and connected floodplains.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = project does not protect important processes or is not an important stronghold.
 - 1-6 = project protects parcels that facilitate watershed processes to some degree or parcels where processes can be restored or are habitat strongholds.
 - 7 = project protects an important parcel that contains important watershed process(es) or is an important habitat stronghold.

2. Threats

a) How imminent is the threat of habitat degradation to the proposed land if the project is not implemented? (15% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because salmon recovery funds are limited, the most pressing concerns need to be addressed first. When evaluating proposals, it is necessary to predict the extent to which a project will change habitat conditions and assess the significance of that change to fish populations. Therefore, to evaluate a habitat protection project, one must have a reasonable basis for comparing what would happen with and without the project. The ability to predict the fate of a proposed parcel of land for protection or easement is difficult but improved when informed by knowledge of the intentions of the present landowner, market conditions, and local critical areas and zoning laws, among others. Scoring protection projects by default as if all extant habitat values will be lost but for the project would substantially and artificially inflate the value of these projects as compared to restoration projects.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = No clear threat of habitat degradation exists at this time (e.g., what might or could happen is the only threat).
 - 1-6 = The threat to high-quality habitat is not imminent, but the project proponent makes a compelling argument that this protection opportunity will not exist in the future and/or is required for restoration to occur.
 - 7 = There is a demonstrated imminent threat to the property that could lead to loss of high-quality habitat.

3. Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity

- a) What would be the anticipated loss in freshwater survival and capacity at the **reach** scale and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages if the proposed area was developed (i.e., what habitat values would be lost and to what degree would that loss reduce freshwater survival and/or distribution of focal species at the reach scale)? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Freshwater survival is related to the quality of stream habitat. The loss of high-quality habitat or capacity will result in reduced freshwater survival, abundance, or distribution of focal fish species and priority life stages.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = there would be no reduction in freshwater survival, capacity, or distribution if the proposed area is not protected.
 - 1-6 = intermediate reduction in survival or capacity.
 - 7 = there would be a large reduction in freshwater survival, capacity, or distribution if the proposed area is not protected.

4. Cost Effectiveness of Proposed Protection Project

- a) How cost effective is the proposed protection project? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** As with restoration projects, the benefits associated with protecting a parcel of riparian/floodplain habitat should justify the cost of the acquisition or conservation easement.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = no benefit to freshwater survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species at the *reach* scale. Cost is irrelevant if there is no biological benefit.
 - 1-6 = intermediate biological benefit per cost. Greater points are given to protection projects with high benefit-low costs, while lower points are assigned to projects with low benefit-high costs.
 - 7 = highest possible biological benefit at a relatively low cost.

5. Conditions Affecting the Proposed Project

- a) Are there any conditions regarding the protection of the property that could limit the existing high-quality habitat? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Purchase of a property with explicit provisions for activities or anthropogenic features that may affect the quality of habitat may reduce the overall value of the purchase or conservation easement in terms of salmon recovery. Scores will be assigned based on whether there are activities or conditions regarding the purchase (or conservation easement) that are detrimental to riparian, floodplain, and stream conditions.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0-3 = conditions on the purchase (or conservation easement) of the property exist that will have some effect on the protection of existing high-quality habitat; or the ability to do future restoration work.
 - 4-6 = conditions exist on the purchase (or CE) but will likely have minimal impact to high quality habitat; and do not hinder future restoration actions.
 - 7 = no conditions exist that could impact the protection of high-quality habitat in perpetuity nor future restoration actions.

Protection Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weight	Total Maximum Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Placement of Protection Project	Is the proposed protection project sited within an important "assessment unit" for protection or restoration?	7	1.43	10	
	Is the proposed protection project sited within an important "reach" within a priority assessment unit?	7	0.71	5	
	To what extent does the proposed project protect high-quality habitat or habitat that can be restored to high quality with appropriate restoration actions?	7	2.14	15	
	Will the proposed project protect watershed processes or important high-quality habitat?	7	2.86	20	
Threat	How imminent is the threat of habitat degradation to the proposed land if the project is not implemented?	7	2.14	15	
Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity	What would be the anticipated loss in freshwater survival and capacity at the reach scale and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages if the proposed area was developed (i.e., what habitat values would be lost and to what degree would that loss reduce freshwater survival and/or distribution of focal species and life stages at the reach scale)?	7	3.57	25	
Cost Effectiveness of Protection Project	How cost effective is the proposed protection project?	7	0.71	5	
Conditions Affecting the Project	Are there any conditions regarding the protection of the property that could limit the existing high-quality habitat?	7	0.71	5	
Grand Total		56		100	

Assessment Projects

1. Addresses High Priority Data Gaps

- a) Will the proposed assessment address important data gaps ([Data Gaps](#)) that inform prioritization and/or the development of projects? (20% of total score)
- **Rationale:** All proposed assessments should fill important data gaps and/or link directly to restoration or protection actions addressing **primary** factors that limit freshwater production and/or distribution of fish species. Assessment projects that fill critical data gaps in prioritization and/or inform actions that address more than one limiting factor, or fully rectify a single limiting factor at the *reach* scale, will achieve the highest scores. Sequencing will also affect scores.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = assessment will not fill a critical data gap in prioritization, nor will it result in projects that lead to improvement in limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = assessment will only partially fill a critical data gap in prioritization, and/or will result in intermediate change in limiting factor(s) (limiting factor(s) will be partially addressed at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = assessment will completely fill data gaps in Prioritization in Tier 1 AUs and/or will result in projects that fully rectify limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.

2. Area Covered by Assessment

- a) Is the proposed assessment project sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration? (25% of total score)
- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high-priority assessment units for restoration within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority assessments units, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.
 - 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
 - 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.***

b) Is the proposed assessment appropriately scaled and scoped? (25% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Assessment projects must be sufficiently comprehensive to anticipate the physical and ecological issues that potentially influence the effectiveness of the restoration projects they inform.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = scale and scope of project cannot provide projected benefits.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (scale and scope should be expanded to achieve full benefit).
 - 7 = the assessment is robust with respect to all factors potentially influencing the success of subsequent projects.

3. Methods

a) Are the methods outlined within the proposed assessment adequate to achieve the stated objectives? (20% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The assessment must clearly describe the methods that will be used to gather and analyze information. The proposal should demonstrate that it is using an accepted approach (i.e., the RTT Reach Assessment Guidance document). If it is innovative, the proposal should discuss how the methods will achieve the stated objectives of the assessment and demonstrate the benefits of the methods relative to the [RTT Reach Assessment Guidance](#).
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the methods are not adequate (employs questionable methods or practices or those not proven to be effective) to achieve the stated objectives.

- 1-6 = intermediate (methods need substantial changes (uses methods where results are incomplete) to achieve stated objectives (1 point), or a few changes (employs experimental methods with well-developed rationale and experimental design; 6 points)).
- 7 = the methods are adequate (employs methods described in the RTT Reach Assessment Guidance document) to achieve the stated objectives.

4. Dissemination of Data and Results

a) How will results and data from the assessment be disseminated to interested parties upon completion of the project? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** It is important that the proposal clearly identify how assessment information will be used and how data and information will be disseminated and accessed (e.g., on the web) once the project is complete. Assessment projects that produce useful information and disseminate data in an analyzed and formally reported format (e.g., with metadata and access to QA/QC raw data) will score higher than data disseminated in more raw forms.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = no description of information dissemination or accessibility, and data or information generated will be of limited use or use is unknown.
 - 1-6 = some plan for information dissemination and accessibility, and/or some level of uncertainty regarding the usefulness of data and information generated.
 - 7 = full description of information dissemination and accessibility, and clear and compelling description of the usefulness of data and information generated.

5. Cost Effectiveness of Assessment Project

b) How cost effective is the proposed assessment project? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** It is important that the cost of an assessment project reflects the use of appropriate methods and sufficient effort to obtain the information. It is also important that the assessment provides information that can be used to guide future restoration or protection actions.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the proposed assessment uses inappropriate methods and will provide no useful information. Cost is irrelevant if the assessment does not provide useful information.

- 1-6 = intermediate level of useful information per cost of the assessment. Greater points are given to assessment projects that will produce high quality information at low cost, while lower points are assigned to assessments that will produce low quality information at high costs.
- 7 = highest possible information per cost of the assessment.

Assessment Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weight	Total Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Addresses High Priority Data Gaps	Will the proposed assessment address important data gaps that inform prioritization and/or the development of projects?	7	2.86	20	
Area Covered by Assessment	Is the proposed assessment project sited within an important "assessment unit" for restoration?	7	3.57	25	
	Is the proposed assessment appropriately scaled and scoped?	7	3.57	25	
Methods	Are the methods outlined within the proposed assessment adequate to achieve the stated objectives?	7	2.86	20	
Dissemination of Results and Data	How will results and data from the assessment be disseminated to interested parties upon completion of the project?	7	0.71	5	
Cost Effectiveness of Assessment Project	How cost effective is the proposed assessment project?	7	0.71	5	
Grand Total		42		100	

Design Projects

1. Address Primary Limiting Factors

- a) Will the proposed design lead to development of projects that will reduce the effects of **primary** limiting factors at the **reach** scale (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy; [Prioritization Portal](#))? (20% of total score)

- **Rationale:** All designs proposed should link directly to restoration or protection actions addressing **primary** limiting factors that limit freshwater survival and/or distribution of fish species at the *reach* scale. Design projects with a direct linkage to development of actions addressing more than one important limiting factor, or fully rectifying a single limiting factor, achieve the highest scores. Sequencing also affects scores.

Limiting factor ranks are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = design will not address ranked limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = design will provide some level of improvement to ranked limiting factor(s) (rated unacceptable or at-risk at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = design will fully rectify Rank 1 limiting factor(s) at the *reach* scale.

2. Area Covered by Design

- a) Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration? (10% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Streams vary in intrinsic potential and habitat quantity and quality because of differences in geology, geomorphology, valley width, elevation, stream size, gradient, and other factors. The RTT incorporated intrinsic potential and other information in identifying high-priority assessment units for restoration within each sub-basin (see Step 1 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Design projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority assessments units, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Not a priority.
 - 1 = Tier 3 Lower Priority.

- 4 = Tier 2 Moderate Priority.
- 7 = Tier 1 High Priority.
- If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the AU prioritization scores.***

b) Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Because reaches vary in habitat quality, habitat quantity, connectivity, and geomorphology, they do not have equal restoration potential. Therefore, restoration actions should occur first in reaches with the highest potential for restoration. The RTT has incorporated several factors in identifying high-priority reaches for restoration within assessment units (see Step 2 in the Habitat Action Prioritization Within the Upper Columbia River Basin document; [Prioritization Strategy](#)). Design projects that improve habitat quantity and quality within high-priority reaches, or provide access to such habitat, will achieve the highest scores. Scores are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = Unranked Reach.
 - 1 = Rank 3 Reach.
 - 4 = Rank 2 Reach.
 - 7 = Rank 1 Reach.
 - If a proposed project targets a combination of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, ***the RTT will use the higher of the Reach prioritization scores.***

c) Is the proposed design appropriately scaled and scoped? (10% of total score)

- **Rationale:** Projects must be designed so they will function within the geomorphic context of the stream reach. Projects that are sited without consideration of stream flows, sediment dynamics, and geomorphology will likely fail or provide limited long-term physical and biological benefits and will receive the lowest scores. Similarly, a project may be too small in scope to achieve the purported benefits.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = scale and scope of project is not matched to project objectives.

- 1-6 = intermediate (scale and scope is appropriate to meet some of the project objectives).
- 7 = scale and scope are appropriate to meet articulated project objectives.

3. Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action

a) Will the proposed project (created from the design) promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The RTT defines *natural stream/watershed processes* as dynamic processes affecting habitat form and function at multiple spatial and temporal scales. Floodplain connectivity, complex instream structure, absence of barriers, and large intact riparian zones are all features of natural stream/watershed processes. As discussed within the Biological Strategy, “process-based restoration” refers to projects that will result in long-term changes to natural watershed and fluvial processes. Projects such as riparian plantings, increasing flows, barrier removal, and floodplain and wetland reconnections are all examples of projects that restore natural processes.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = project does not promote watershed processes (it has very localized effects).
 - 1-6 = project improves intermediate levels of watershed processes (some level of restoration of process occurs (or the probability is high) at the *reach* scale).
 - 7 = project fully restores watershed processes at the *reach* scale.

b) How long will it be before the project (created from the design) achieves its intended response? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The type of restoration action will determine how long it will take before the intended response of the action is realized. For example, an engineered log jam may have an immediate effect on cover for fish, while riparian plantings may take over 25 years before the intended effect is realized (Attachment 1). It is important to not reduce the scores of projects that restore processes and take longer to achieve the intended response; thus, no project will receive a score of 0.
- **Scoring:**
 - 1 = >50 years
 - 2-6 = 1-50 years

- 7 = ≤1 year
- c) How long will the proposed restoration action and its benefits (created from the design) persist? (5% of total score)
- **Rationale:** Restoration projects that promote long-term habitat improvements and/or require little to no on-going maintenance are likely to have the greatest biological benefit and will receive higher scores (Attachment 1). Projects that treat only symptoms of degraded watershed processes, or require continued on-going maintenance are unlikely to persist for long periods. These projects will receive lower scores.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 – 3 = restoration project will persist for less than 10 years (or require on-going maintenance).
 - 1-6 = 20-50 years (or some maintenance will be required).
 - 7 = 50+ years (and little to no maintenance).
- d) Will the proposed project (created from the design) ameliorate the effects of climate change? (5% of total score)
- **Rationale:** Certain project actions are more likely to reduce or ameliorate the effects of climate change. In general, actions that restore *natural stream/watershed processes* are likely to have the most potential to reduce the effects of long-term climate change (Attachment 1). Projects that have a high likelihood to reduce the effects of climate change will score higher than projects that do not.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = will not ameliorate the effects of climate change.
 - 1-6 = likely to ameliorate the effects of climate change.
 - 7 = will ameliorate the effects of climate change.

4. Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity

- a) Will the proposed project (created from the design) improve freshwater survival or increases capacity for focal species and priority life stages at the reach scale? (20% of total score)
- **Rationale:** Habitat restoration projects are implemented to increase freshwater survival, increase capacity, and/or distribution of focal fish species and priority life

stages. Therefore, it is important to assess the effects of restoration actions on pre-spawn survival, egg-smolt survival, and spawner distribution. These factors are evaluated at the **reach** scale. Species and life stage priorities are based on outputs in the [Prioritization Portal](#).

- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = no benefit to freshwater survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and life stages at the *reach* scale.
 - 1-6 = intermediate increase in survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and priority life stages at the *reach* scale.
 - 7 = highest possible benefit to survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species and high priority life stages at the *reach* scale.

5. Methods

a) Are the methods outlined within the proposed design adequate to achieve the stated objectives? (10% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The proposal must clearly show the methods that will lead to an action (project). The proponent should demonstrate that the methods proposed are an accepted approach. If the methods are innovative, then the proposal should describe how the methods will achieve the stated objectives of the design and demonstrate the benefits of the innovative method relative to a standard method.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the methods are not adequate (employs questionable methods or practices or those not proven to be effective) to achieve the stated objectives.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (methods need substantial changes (uses methods where results are incomplete) to achieve stated objectives (1 point), or a few changes (employs experimental methods with well-developed rationale and experimental design; 6 points)).
 - 7 = the methods are adequate (employs accepted or tested standards, methods, or practices) to achieve the stated objectives.

6. Cost Effectiveness of Design Project

a) How cost effective is the proposed design project? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** It is important that the proposed design leads to a project with high biological benefit at a reasonable design cost.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the design will lead to no benefit to freshwater survival, capacity, and/or distribution of focal species at the *reach* scale. Design cost is irrelevant if the design leads to a project with no biological benefit.
 - 1-6 = the design will lead to intermediate biological benefit per design cost. Greater points are given to designs that will lead to high benefit at low design cost, while lower points are assigned to designs that will lead to low benefit at high design cost.
 - 7 = the design will lead to the highest possible biological benefit at relatively low design cost.

Design Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:						
Reviewer:				Date:		
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weight	Total Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)	
Address Primary Limiting Factors	Will the proposed design lead to development of projects that will reduce the effects of primary limiting factors at the reach scale (as identified in the Prioritization Strategy)?	7	2.86	20		
	Area Covered by Design	Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important “assessment unit” for restoration?	7	1.43	10	
		Is the proposed project (created from the design) sited within an important “reach” within a priority assessment unit?	7	0.71	5	
Temporal Effect of Proposed Restoration Action	Is the proposed design appropriately scaled and scoped?	7	1.43	10		
	Will the proposed project (created from the design) promote natural stream/watershed processes that are consistent with the geomorphology of the stream?	7	0.71	5		
	How long will it be before the project (created from the design) achieves its intended response?	7	0.71	5		
	How long will the proposed restoration action and its benefits (created from the design) persist?	7	0.71	5		
Benefits to Freshwater Survival or Capacity	Will the proposed project (created from the design) ameliorate the effects of climate change?	7	0.71	5		
	Will the proposed project (created from the design) improve freshwater survival or increases capacity for focal species and priority life stages at the reach scale?	7	2.86	20		
Methods	Are the methods outlined within the proposed design adequate to achieve the stated objectives?	7	1.43	10		
Cost Effectiveness	How cost effective is the proposed design project?	7	0.71	5		
Grand Total		77		100		

Monitoring Projects

The RTT agreed to score monitoring projects independent of other project types. That is, scores from monitoring proposals will not be combined with scores from other project types and ranked. To avoid confusion and prevent combining monitoring proposal scores with other proposals, the RTT changed the total possible points for monitoring projects from 100 to 30. This scaling will clearly separate monitoring projects from other project types.

As noted in Manual 18, *“Regional monitoring projects must address high priority information needs or data gaps identified within a recovery plan; associated regional research, monitoring, and evaluation plan; or lead entity strategy. Regional monitoring projects should complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts.”* High-priority monitoring projects fill data gaps associated with population status and trends, limiting factors, project implementation, and effectiveness monitoring. This information is needed to evaluate the status of listed populations, identify limiting life stages, and track changes in habitat conditions over time.

1. Information Needs

- a) Will the proposed monitoring project fill a Tier 1 data gap identified in the Upper Columbia Monitoring and Data Management Committee (MaDMC) data gaps list ([Upper Columbia Data Gaps List](#))? (20% of total score)
 - **Rationale:** A monitoring project must be designed to address Tier 1 data gaps, as identified by the MaDMC, *or new information needs identified by a project sponsor that the RTT agrees are important information needs*. Monitoring projects that focus on addressing specific information gaps previously identified by the RTT will score highest.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = monitoring project will not address an important data gap.
 - 1-6 = monitoring project will address a less important data gap or should be expanded to more fully address the Tier 1 data gap.
 - 7 = monitoring project will adequately address a Tier 1 data gap.
- b) What is the scale of inference of the proposed monitoring study? (20% of total score)
 - **Rationale:** A monitoring project that provides information at the population or across populations (ESU/DPS) scales will score higher than a monitoring project that provides information at the reach or project scale.
 - **Scoring:**

- 1 = monitoring project provides information at the site scale (i.e., 10s of meters).
 - 2 = monitoring project provides information at the reach scale (i.e., 100s of meters).
 - 3 = monitoring project provides information at the stream scale (i.e., kilometers).
 - 4 = monitoring project provides information at a watershed scale smaller than AU (e.g., HUC 14).
 - 5 = monitoring project provides information at the AU scale (i.e., HUC 12).
 - 6 = monitoring project provides information at the population scale.
 - 7 = monitoring project provide information across populations (i.e., ESU/DPS scale).
- c) How will monitoring data (raw and processed) and results be disseminated to interested parties upon completion of the project? *(15% of total score)*
- **Rationale:** It is important that the proposal clearly identify how this information will be used and how data and information will be disseminated and accessed (e.g., on the web) once the project is complete. Monitoring projects that produce useful information and disseminate data in an analyzed and formally reported format (e.g., with metadata and access to QA/QC raw data) will score higher than data disseminated in more raw forms.
 - **Scoring:**
 - 0 = no description of information dissemination or accessibility, and data or information generated will be of limited use or use is unknown.
 - 1-6 = some plan for information dissemination and accessibility, and/or some level of uncertainty regarding the usefulness of data and information generated.
 - 7 = full description of information dissemination and accessibility, and clear and compelling description of the usefulness of data and information generated.

2. Purpose of Monitoring Project

- a) Do the objectives of the monitoring proposal complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts? *(15% of total score)*
- **Rationale:** Millions of dollars have been spent on monitoring programs in the Upper Columbia River basin. Future monitoring efforts should be proposed in context with

previous and existing monitoring programs. In addition, the proposal should clearly state how it will use information from existing monitoring programs.

- **Scoring:**
 - 0-2 = proposed monitoring project will not complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts.
 - 3-6 = intermediate; information will complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts to some degree.
 - 7 = proposed monitoring project will completely complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts.

3. Methods

a) Are the methods outlined within the monitoring proposal appropriate for addressing the information need? (15% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The monitoring proposal must clearly describe the methods (including study design, sampling methodology, and analytical approaches) that will be used to gather and analyze the information. The proposal should demonstrate that it is using accepted methods. If the methods are innovative, the proposal should discuss how the methods will achieve the stated objectives of the monitoring project and demonstrate the benefits of the methods relative to standard methods.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the methods are not adequate (employs questionable methods or practices or those not proven to be effective) to achieve the stated objectives.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (methods need substantial changes to achieve stated objectives [1 point] or few changes [6 points]).
 - 7 = the methods are adequate to achieve the stated objectives.

b) Is the proposed monitoring project appropriately scaled and scoped? (10% of total score)

- **Rationale:** The spatial and temporal scales of a monitoring project must be sufficient to ensure the information gap can be addressed sufficiently.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the spatial and temporal scale and/or scope of proposal cannot meet the objectives.
 - 1-6 = intermediate (scale and/or scope should be expanded to meet the objectives).

- 7 = the spatial and temporal scales of the monitoring project are robust with respect to all factors potentially influencing whether the project addresses the information gap(s).

4. Cost Effectiveness of Monitoring Project

a) How cost effective is the proposed monitoring project? (5% of total score)

- **Rationale:** It is important that the cost of monitoring reflects the quality and usefulness of the information generated from the project. It is also important that the monitoring project uses appropriate methods and sufficient effort to obtain the information.
- **Scoring:**
 - 0 = the monitoring project uses inappropriate methods and will not fill a data gap. Cost is irrelevant if monitoring does not provide useful information.
 - 1-6 = intermediate level of useful information per cost of the monitoring project. Greater points are given to monitoring projects that will produce high-quality, useful information at low cost; lower points are assigned to monitoring projects that will produce low-quality, less useful information at high costs.
 - 7 = completely fills a data gap at a relatively low cost.

Monitoring Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name:					
Reviewer:				Date:	
Criteria	Question	Potential Score	Weighting Factor	Total Maximum Potential Score	RTT Score (1-7)
Information Needs	Will the proposed monitoring project fill a Tier 1 data gap identified in the Upper Columbia Monitoring and Data Management Committee's data gaps list?	7	0.86	6.0	
	What is the scale of inference of the proposed monitoring study?	7	0.86	6.0	
	How will monitoring data (raw and processed) and results be disseminated to interested parties upon completion of the project?	7	0.64	4.5	
Purpose of Monitoring Project	Do the objectives of the monitoring proposal complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts?	7	0.64	4.5	
Methods	Are the methods outlined within the monitoring proposal appropriate for addressing the information need?	7	0.64	4.5	
	Is the proposed monitoring project appropriately scaled and scoped?	7	0.43	3.0	
Cost Effectiveness of Monitoring Project	How cost effective is the proposed monitoring project?	7	0.21	1.5	
Grand Total		49		30	

Attachment 1

Effects of Different Restoration Techniques on Criteria of Success

Typical response times and duration of various types of enhancement actions and whether those actions address natural watershed processes and ameliorating effects of climate change (from Roni et al. 2002; 2013 with modifications).

Category of Techniques	Restores Processes	Years Until Response	Duration of Restoration	Ameliorate Effects of Climate Δ
Reconnection (floodplain side channel; good groundwater interactions or spring-fed)	Yes	<1	50+	Yes
Reconnection (upstream to perennial colder water)	Yes	<1	50+	Yes
Instream flow (cooler)	Yes	<1	varies	Yes
Planting of trees	Yes	25 to 50	100+	Yes
Fencing	Yes	<1-5	10+	Yes
Roads	Yes	10-50	100+	Unlikely
LWD	No	<1-5	20 – 30	Unlikely
Nutrients	No	<1	1?	No

RTT 2024 Pre-Proposal Scoring

28 March 2024

Attendees During RTT Discussion:

RTT: John Crandall, John Arterburn, Kate Terrell, Tracy Bowerman, Brandon Rogers, Shelby Fowler, Catherine Willard, Steve Fortney, Amanda Barg, Tom Kahler, Joe Lange, Carlos Polivka, and Tracy Hillman

TC: Chris Fisher

CACs: Keith Truscott

RCO: Amee Bahr

UCSRB: Ariel Edwards, Ryan Niemeyer, and Amanda Ward

The RTT agreed to provide sponsors with an overall score and standard deviation (SD) along with comments but will not provide an indication about whether a project is competitive or not. Importantly, RTT scores are based on an evaluation of pre-proposals. In some cases, sponsors provided information during presentations that was not contained in the pre-proposals. In these cases, the RTT relied mostly on the information contained in the pre-proposals but offered comments that may relate to the additional information provided during presentations. For projects located in reaches and or assessment units that have no ranking, the RTT decided unanimously to override the score of 0. The general rule was to assign a score of 1 if the proposed project was in a single reach and a score of 4 if the project was in more than one reach.

RTT Scores on Pre-Proposals

The following tables show the average scores of up to 12 reviewers using the pre-proposal scoring criteria. Table 1 ranks biological benefits of projects seeking funding from the SRFB Standard Round, Table 2 ranks projects seeking SRFB Riparian Funding, and Table 3 ranks projects seeking monitoring funding. Members who were conflicted recused themselves from scoring and discussing pre-proposals.

It is important to point out that the scores are based on a subset of the criteria used to score full proposals. These scores are only intended to provide feedback to the sponsors on the relative competitiveness of their applications during this grant round. These scores will change as sponsors update and complete full applications, the RTT uses their full proposal scoring criteria, and additional RTT members participate in final scoring. For projects that scored relatively low, the RTT recommends that sponsors of those low-scoring projects evaluate whether they need to spend additional resources to make their applications more competitive during this grant round.

Table 1. Biological ranking of SRFB General Round projects and the mean RTT scores based on evaluation of the pre-proposals. Total possible score = 100.

Project	Score
Entiat River - Bockoven	82
Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Restoration	81
Nason Creek and State Route 207 Realignment Fish Habitat Enhancement (Phase 1 and 2)	76
Lower Chiwawa AU Instream Complexity and Floodplain Reconnection Design	75
Stormy Creek - Bockoven	70
Peshastin Creek RM 2.5*	70
Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	68
Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	67
Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge	66
Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration	60
Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management	60
Colockum Creek Reach Assessment	58
Lower Sleepy Hollow Floodplain and Riparian Restoration**	56
White River Floodplain Restoration	53

* The sponsor of this project may seek funding from the Riparian funds.

** The sponsor of this project is seeking funding from both Standard and Riparian funds.

Table 2. Biological ranking of SRFB Riparian projects and the mean RTT scores based on evaluation of the pre-proposals. Total possible score = 100.

Project	Score
White River - Landin	76
Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	66
Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	66
Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)	63
Riparian Restoration at M23R	61
Lower Sleepy Hollow Floodplain and Riparian Restoration	56

Table 3. Biological ranking of SRFB monitoring projects and the mean RTT scores based on evaluation of the pre-proposals. Total possible score = 30.

Project	Score
Bioenergetics Modeling and Restoration Effectiveness	21

SRFB Standard Round

Restoration Projects

Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds

Score: 67

SD: 12.6

The RTT sees value in establishing suitable flows in the side channels and ponds to reduce the incidence of fish stranding at this site. Although flows into the side channels and ponds are regulated, off-channel habitat at this site supports high densities of salmonids and may provide growth and survival advantages not seen in the mainstem Twisp and Methow rivers. Some members of the RTT questioned whether the placement of six-foot-wide bottomless culverts are large enough to prevent plugging with debris and beaver damming activities. They would like to see in the full application the amount of freeboard available with the placement of six-foot-wide culverts. In addition, the sponsor should describe how they will monitor and manage beaver-caused culvert plugging. If available, the sponsor should provide information on water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels (day and night) within the ponds. A comparison of water temperatures in the ponds and in the Twisp River adjacent to the project site would be useful. In addition, information on pond size (surface area) and average and maximum depths would be useful. Finally, the RTT understands that the ponds may also be used to acclimate hatchery-produced Coho Salmon. The RTT requests that the sponsor provide information on which ponds are used to acclimate juvenile Coho Salmon, when the fish are stocked and released, and the densities at which the fish are stocked.

Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Restoration

Score: 81

SD: 7.3

This is a high priority project within a high priority area and should lead to relatively large biological benefits. The RTT supports removing the levee and restoring floodplain connectivity. In addition, there is relatively little infrastructure on the floodplain that restricts the project. It appears the sponsor has addressed concerns raised by the RTT during the RTT's review of the project design last year. That said, it is important that the sponsor include in the full application an explanation of why the proposed project will not increase the likelihood of an avulsion in the Suspension Creek area. Because this project is located within a reach of the Methow River that can dewater, the RTT recommends groundwater monitoring on the floodplain.

Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Score: 60

SD: 7.0

This project, located in the Big Meadow watershed, will remove a barrier (culvert) that will restore connectivity to about 1 mile of cold-water habitat upstream from the barrier. Although this project will provide some benefit to *O. mykiss*, its greatest benefit will be the restoration of

natural processes, including the passage of sediment and wood through the system. Because of the size of the stream, the project will not result in a large increase in fish capacity; however, it will provide cold-water habitat that may increase the survival of salmonids. Because the Big Meadow watershed has an abundant population of Brook Trout, it is unclear whether the presence of Brook Trout will reduce the benefits of the proposed project to target salmonids. The gradient of Pole Creek may limit the presence of Brook Trout within the stream, thereby reducing potential interactions between target fish species and Brook Trout. Some members of the RTT questioned whether the road crossing Pole Creek is needed. In the full application, the sponsor should state whether the road can be decommissioned, and if it cannot be decommissioned, they should state why. In addition, the sponsor should confirm that fish will have unimpeded access to all habitat within the one-mile section upstream from the road crossing.

Peshastin Creek RM 2.5

Score: 70

SD: 7.7

Although not located in a high-priority area for restoration, this project intends to reconnect a relatively large floodplain within a stream that is largely disconnected from its floodplain. There are few opportunities to reconnect floodplains within Peshastin Creek and where they exist, the RTT believes those areas should be reconnected. Fortunately, the landowners support the largest and most intensive restoration alternative and, as such, this project will provide relatively large biological benefits, especially to natural-origin steelhead. That said, some RTT members questioned whether the project could go even bigger (i.e., restore a larger extent of the floodplain). In the full application, the RTT would like to see more information on whether the area of the floodplain reconnected could be increased beyond what is currently proposed. The full application should also indicate the depth to groundwater and whether the side channels will intercept groundwater. In terms of biological benefit, this project scored high and was only reduced in overall score because it is not located in a high-priority AU and reach.

Nason Creek and State Route 207 Realignment Fish Habitat Enhancement (Phase 1 and 2)

Score: 76

SD: 9.5

This project is located in a high-priority area and addresses several of the factors limiting fish within this reach. The goal is to relocate the road, which currently disconnects Nason Creek from a large floodplain in this reach. Thus, it is a very expensive project but this is expected when removing infrastructure that impedes floodplain connectivity. In addition to reconnecting the floodplain, the project will enhance habitat conditions within the floodplain and stream, resulting in more immediate benefits to fish, which is a benefit that would not be realized if only Phase 1 was implemented. As such, the RTT believes this will have a relatively large biological benefit at the reach scale. The RTT also believes that a proposal for removing the entire road from the floodplain would maximize the biological benefit of a road-removal project within this reach. Thus, this project would have scored higher for biological benefit had the road been relocated out of the floodplain for the entire length of the reach. The RTT has some understanding of why the sponsor intends to implement the project in phases. However, not

including Phase 3 in the current proposal appears to make the overall project even more expensive. Although there is little information provided on what is proposed under Phase 3, it appears that a section of the “new” road will need to be removed under Phase 3 to reconnect the floodplain from RM 3.2-4.6. The expense and disturbance of reconnecting the road upstream of the lowest CED site only to have to remove it later when constructing Phase 3 seems like an unnecessary expense. The RTT would benefit from having a better understanding of what will be proposed under Phase 3. Therefore, the RTT recommends that the sponsor include in the final proposal a full explanation of all three phases with a clear justification for the proposed approach that includes all the costs of separating this project into three phases. Perhaps the sponsor could show an estimated cost of implementing all three phases at once and the cost of implementing the phases separately.

Protection Projects

Stormy Creek – Bockoven

Score: 70

SD: 4.4

This is a large acquisition project (321 acres) located in the Stormy Creek watershed. Although a large portion of this acquisition includes uplands, the project will protect 2.4 miles of riparian and floodplain habitat (1.2 miles on both sides of the stream). In addition, this stream is currently the focus of extensive restoration work using low-cost, process-based, restoration actions and is well connected to other protected parcels within the project area. Most importantly, the parcel is currently on the market and therefore the RTT believes there is a high threat of habitat degradation if the property is purchased by a developer or other non-conservation-minded entity. The species most benefiting from this acquisition is steelhead; however, there are not a lot of steelhead spawning in the stream (no Chinook Salmon have been observed in the stream). The RTT would like to see in the full application a description of the upstream landowner’s land-use activities as these activities may affect habitat conditions within the protected area. Because the SRFB process will take several months, the RTT recommends that the sponsor establish a First Right of Refusal (or some other mechanism to give priority to the sponsor) with the landowner. The sponsor should also confirm in the full application that the landowner understands that the purchase of the property using “fish dollars” cannot exceed the appraised value of the property.

Entiat River – Bockoven

Score: 82

SD: 7.4

This parcel includes 16.5 acres and 0.4 miles of riparian habitat along the Entiat River. This is an important piece of property to protect because it is in good ecological condition, it is well connected with other protected properties, and is in a high priority assessment unit. This property is on the market and the RTT believes a real threat exists if the property is developed. Because the SRFB process will take several months, the RTT recommends that the sponsor establish a First Right of Refusal (or some other mechanism to give priority to the sponsor) with the landowner. The sponsor should also confirm in the full application that the landowner understands that the purchase of the property using “fish dollars” cannot exceed the appraised value of the property.

Design Projects

Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design

Score: 68

SD: 5.7

The RTT recognizes that there are few opportunities to reconnect side channels and floodplain habitat within Peshastin Creek. Therefore, where these opportunities exist, they should be explored, mainly because Peshastin Creek is an important stream for natural-origin steelhead production. The proposed project at this site is especially attractive because it includes cold-water inputs and has a somewhat intact channel. Because of the high cost of implementing a restoration project at this site, the RTT strongly encourages the sponsor to reconnect the full length of the side channel, which will provide the greatest biological benefit at this site and may require addressing concerns with downstream landowners. Indeed, the RTT recommends that the sponsor secures support by landowners within and adjacent to the proposed project before completing the 60% design. The sponsor should provide information on water temperatures within the side channel. The existence of cold water within the side channel will provide thermal refugia for salmonids and will add to the biological benefit of this project. The RTT also noted that the design needs to consider the effects of Ingalls Creek, located upstream from the project site, moving sediment and large wood into the project area. Finally, as recommended by the RTT last year, the sponsor should encourage the landowners to contribute to this project. The owners have access to equipment that can be used to help with restoration work and they may be able to use the materials removed from the site in another project. This would reduce the cost of implementation and may serve as part of any potential mitigation responsibilities. The RTT also recommends the sponsor meet with WSDOT to see if Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds can be used to support this project.

Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge

Score: 66

SD: 6.6

This project intends to expand cold-water sites and create complexity/cover for salmonids in a reach of Nason Creek that warms because of a lack of riparian vegetation. Actions that expand cold-water refugia but do not dilute or otherwise minimize the benefits of the cold-water sites are supported by the RTT. Although this project is within a high-priority assessment unit, the spatial scale of the action is relatively small. In addition, the greatest threat to habitat and fish within the project area is the BPA powerline, which limits suitable riparian vegetation and canopy cover along the stream. Unfortunately, this appears to be a constraint that cannot be easily addressed in this area. Therefore, expanding the influence of the cold-water sites is likely the best approach at this time. The sponsor will need to provide a high level of certainty that the existing cold-water sites will not be stranded (i.e., disconnected), diluted, or minimized as a result of the proposed action.

Lower Chiwawa AU Instream Complexity and Floodplain Reconnection Design

Score: 75

SD: 6.3

This is a large-scale project that will address several of the factors limiting salmonids in a high priority assessment unit. Off-channel and floodplain habitat, as well as pools, are limiting in the Chiwawa River

within this assessment unit. This project, along with other projects to be implemented in this assessment unit by other sponsors, should have large benefits to salmonids. Because of various constraints, there are limited opportunities to address impaired conditions within this assessment unit. Therefore, where opportunities exist, it is important to take advantage of enhancing these areas where feasible. The RTT supports this project and recommends the sponsor do the maximum amount of enhancement possible at each of the four sites.

Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management

Score: 60

SD: 7.3

This project does not completely restore natural processes because flows within the side channel will be regulated, which, in this case, is appropriate because the risk of an avulsion appears quite high at this site. Because water is currently limiting in the side channel, increasing flows in the side channel and maintaining cold-water temperatures should have a relatively large biological benefit. There is some debate within the RTT as to whether the three culverts should be replaced with a bridge. Although expensive, replacing the three culverts with a bridge will allow water, sediment, and wood to move more freely in the side channel (enhancing natural processes). Regardless, the RTT agrees that the intake to the channel must be designed to allow more continuous flow through the channel (to reduce factors currently limiting fish production in the side channel) and to avoid the possibility of an avulsion.

White River Floodplain Restoration

Score: 53

SD: 6.7

The RTT had a difficult time evaluating this project because it is not entirely clear what is being proposed. The RTT evaluated the project based on the information contained within the pre-proposal, which, without much information, resulted in the project receiving a relatively low score. The RTT believes the sponsor is primarily looking for feedback and direction from the RTT on a potential project within the lower portion of the White River. To that end, because work in this area will be expensive, the RTT recommends that the sponsor go big with restoration. That is, the project should not only address the bridge and road culverts but should also address the restoration of the entire floodplain. Addressing only the bridge will have a relatively small biological benefit. The first step, however, should be to conduct an updated reach assessment (following the RTT guidance document) for the area covered in the previous assessment. In addition, a better understanding of the system of ditches (and their purposes) across the floodplain is needed. It appears that some ditches are used to drain the floodplain, while others divert water onto the floodplain. The assessment can then be used to identify a suite of possible restoration actions that address floodplain reconnection and issues associated with the road, bridge, and culverts. Finally, depending on the condition of the bridge and culverts, the sponsor should look into the use of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to replace aging infrastructure.

Assessment Projects

Colockum Creek Reach Assessment

Score: 58

SD: 5.2

The RTT/MaDMC identified tributaries draining directly into the Columbia River as important data gaps. Indeed, information on these tributaries is needed to help populate the RTT prioritization tool. In addition, these tributaries are identified as part of steelhead populations in the Upper Columbia. The proposed project intends to conduct surveys within the Colockum watershed to help fill these data gaps. This is appropriate because PIT-tagged adult steelhead have been detected in Colockum Creek and they may use it for spawning and as thermal refugia. From the presentation, it appears the sponsor is proposing to evaluate existing information, conduct remote sensing surveys (fortunately, LiDAR data are available for Colockum), evaluate stream flows and temperatures, assess barriers, conduct a habitat survey (Level II), and identify possible restoration actions to address impairments. The RTT believes it is critical to understand stream flows, the amount of water diverted, temperatures, and barriers within the stream. These should be the highest priority at this time. The full application needs to make it clear what assessment work will be proposed. In addition, the sponsor should coordinate with Cascade Fisheries on their (Cascade Fisheries') eDNA sampling. Given that there is one landowner, who apparently diverts the majority of the water, the RTT encourages the sponsor to work with the landowner on the possibility of improving irrigation efficiencies (e.g., piping or wells).

SRFB Riparian Funding

Riparian Restoration at M23R

Score: 61

SD: 6.4

The RTT understands that this project will plant riparian vegetation at four sites within the larger project area, resulting in 4.3 acres of treatment. From a fish benefit perspective, the riparian restoration work in the three sites immediately adjacent to the river will likely have the greatest benefit to fish. Because of the location of the larger restoration site (2.4 acres), it will likely provide less direct benefits to fish; however, it may help filter fine sediment and other products from adjacent agricultural activities and can provide organic matter to the river. The RTT considers these as indirect benefits to fish. In the final application, the sponsor should provide more information on the depth to the water table (surface of groundwater) in the four planting areas and information on the species to be planted (from reference areas). Finally, the sponsor should include a riparian enhancement plan in the full proposal.

Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds

Score: 66

SD: 9.4

The RTT believes establishing a riparian buffer zone between the road and the off-channel ponds is an important project to implement at this site. An established riparian zone at this site will help filter sediments, salts, and other road chemicals (e.g., 6PPD-q, which is toxic to fish)

from entering the ponds. Riparian vegetation will also provide canopy cover, thereby reducing water temperatures within the ponds. The RTT recommends making the buffer widths as wide as possible. A wider buffer width and smaller surface area of the ponds (without compromising depth) will provide more canopy cover and therefore less direct solar radiation on the ponds. This will not only help reduce water temperatures, but should also reduce primary productivity within the ponds, which in turn should reduce any potential dissolved oxygen sag within the ponds at night. As noted for the Habitat Connectivity Improvement project, the sponsor should provide information on water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels (day and night) within the ponds. A comparison of water temperatures in the ponds and in the Twisp River adjacent to the project site would be useful. In addition, information on pond size (surface area) and average and maximum depths would be useful. Finally, any information on current canopy cover or incoming solar radiation would be important to include in the full proposal.

Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)

Score: 63

SD: 12.3

The RTT is intrigued by this project. The use of virtual fencing to keep cattle out of the riparian area is an excellent example of how technology can be used to improve and protect stream and riparian conditions in headwater streams. The fact that this project covers a very large area (~30 miles of stream) and also prevents cattle from entering high-priority spawning and rearing areas should result in a relatively large benefit for salmonids. Furthermore, degradation in headwater areas from grazing can also affect habitat conditions in important downstream rearing and spawning areas. The RTT did have some concerns that are mostly related to a lack of information in the pre-proposal. For example, the sponsor will need to identify the widths of riparian zones protected using virtual fencing, watering locations for cattle, who is responsible for responding to a breach in the fencing, how quickly a breach will be addressed, redundancy in the monitoring system, who is responsible for monitoring the system, and how frequently the system will be monitored. The RTT recommends that the sponsor include the USFS's operational plan with the full application. In addition, the RTT recommends that the sponsor include a riparian restoration plan for the areas in which they intend to restore riparian vegetation that was degraded due to fires and grazing. Although beyond the control of the sponsor, the RTT questions why the USFS would allow grazing in sensitive areas that were recently burned. These areas should be allowed to recover before additional stress is placed on them. As a final note, the RTT believes the use of virtual fencing is far better than what currently exists in this allotment.

Lower Sleepy Hollow Floodplain and Riparian Restoration

Score: 56

SD: 5.3

Although the sponsor discussed floodplain reconnection during the presentation, the RTT only evaluated and scored the riparian restoration pre-proposal. The RTT understands that the sponsor will submit a separate application addressing floodplain reconnection at this site. Below we provide comments on both projects; the score is only for the riparian restoration project.

Riparian Restoration—The RTT is encouraged by the riparian restoration work the sponsor and landowners have completed on this site, including riparian plantings and invasive/noxious plant control. The RTT believes these efforts should continue. The project scored relatively low because it is located

within a lower priority area for doing restoration work and many of the sites to be treated are not immediately adjacent to the river. Restoration sites located far from the river tend to provide less benefit to fish than restoration sites located adjacent to the river. In addition, at least one of the treatment sites is well above the elevation at which inundation would occur on a frequent basis. Nevertheless, the proposed restoration work does promote natural processes.

Floodplain Reconnection—The RTT believes the greatest biological benefit at this site will result from the reconnection of the river and floodplain. The RTT agrees that the sponsor should explore elevating the riverbed to achieve better floodplain connectivity. If the sponsor intends to elevate the riverbed to reconnect the floodplain, they should inform and seek feedback from local authorities, communities, and governments during the earliest phases of this project. Importantly, the RTT recommends that the sponsor do all they can to reconnect the floodplain along the ~2-mile reach of the river, not just within the footprint of the current restoration site (i.e., CDLT property). Under this scenario, the project would not need to be designed to prevent an avulsion. Indeed, by including the entire 2-mile segment of river, the project would create a wider migration zone, which not only helps restore natural processes but should provide a large biological benefit.

Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement

Score: 66

SD: 6.0

This is primarily a management project intended to control noxious and invasive plant species and to restore the diversity of native plant species adjacent to recently implemented restoration projects in a high-priority area along the Entiat River. The sponsor intends to develop a riparian enhancement plan that will guide the restoration of 3.23 acres of degraded riparian habitat and remove about 0.75 acres of reed canary grass. The RTT was pleased to see that the sponsor has conducted small-scale studies to evaluate the use of different techniques to control/remove reed canary grass. This information will inform the riparian enhancement plan. Although the sponsor does not intend to use fire to help control reed canary grass, the RTT believes that it can be used successfully under controlled conditions. Agencies such as DNR, USFS, local fire districts, and others can assist with treating invasive species with burning. Some of these entities may be willing to burn the invasive species at no cost as part of their fire training. The RTT was also pleased to see that the sponsor intends to monitor the sites for several years. This is needed to adaptively manage the sites over time. As a final note, the RTT would like to see the sponsor begin planting native vegetation as soon as possible. The RTT does not believe it is necessary to wait 2-3 years (proposed period of reed canary grass control) before planting. Planting vegetation over the 5-year period will create uneven-aged vegetation, which improves the function of riparian habitat.

White River – Landin

Score: 76

SD: 4.7

This project will protect 34.6 acres of high-quality riparian and floodplain habitat along 0.5 miles of the White River. This project captures a large oxbow lake, which, if protected, can be reconnected with the White River. The parcel is also adjacent to other large, protected parcels. The property is currently not listed for sale and therefore the threat of habitat loss is relatively low; however, that could change at any time. Currently, very few steelhead and low numbers of spring Chinook Salmon use the White River. On the other hand, large numbers of Sockeye Salmon and Bull Trout use the White River and all

salmonids would benefit from habitat protection in the lower river. The RTT recommends that the sponsor establish a First Right of Refusal (or some other mechanism to give priority to the sponsor) with the landowner. The sponsor should also confirm in the full application that the landowner understands that the purchase of the property using “fish dollars” cannot exceed the appraised value of the property.

Monitoring Projects

Bioenergetics Modeling and Restoration Effectiveness

Score: 21 (out of 30 possible points)

SD: 2.5

The project will be conducted in the Wenatchee and Entiat sub-basins and is intended to complement the work by Bellmore in the Methow River. Importantly, this work will begin to evaluate the effects of floodplain restoration work on consumption/diet and growth of salmonids, and food production, in different types of floodplain treatment types. This information is usually lacking in effectiveness-monitoring programs and is valuable to understanding the “true” effects of restoration on fish productivity and survival. The researchers will use this information to better understand fish capacity in floodplain habitat. Although this work helps to fill data gaps identified by the RTT/MaDMC and is supported by the RTT, the sponsor will need to provide a more detailed description of methods and how the information will be used to establish food-web structure, growth, and capacity of fish on floodplains. Specifically, the methods need to provide a description of how aquatic meiofauna (e.g., Ostracods, Copepods, Cladocerans, Gastrotrichs, Diptera, Nematodes, etc.) and aquatic and terrestrial macroinvertebrates will be collected (e.g., gear, mesh sizes of nets, etc.), who will process the samples, and the level of classification needed. The sponsor also needs to describe how they intend to sample fish diet (e.g., gastric lavage, stable isotope analysis, etc.) and which bioenergetics model will be used (including the data requirements of the model). The RTT understands that the sponsor is only proposing a pilot study at this time because of the limited amount of SRFB money available (\$50,000). As such, the RTT recommends that the sponsor prioritize what data will be collected and how it will be used to address the objectives of the study. For example, with limited funding, is it necessary to quantify benthic meio- and macrofauna at this time? On the other hand, it may be prudent to collect all necessary samples and preserve the samples for later analysis when additional funding is available.

RTT COMMENTS ON SRFB PROPOSALS, 2024

The Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team (RTT) held a meeting/conference call on 12 June 2024 to score Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) proposals. Below are the average benefit scores from 10 reviewers and comments identified by the RTT during the scoring meeting. Members with conflicts of interest with specific proposals recused themselves from participating in scoring.

During the review of pre-proposals, the RTT decided to override scores of “0” for projects located within reaches with no rankings based on the spatial extent of the proposed project. That is, a proposed project that extends beyond a single reach would be given a higher score (score = 4) than a project that is located within a single reach (score = 1). A proposed project that extends beyond more than one reach is likely to address limiting factors and threats across a larger spatial scale than a proposed project located in one reach.

The following tables show the average scores using the scoring criteria. Table 1 ranks biological benefits of projects seeking funding from the SRFB Standard Round, Table 2 ranks projects seeking SRFB Riparian Funding, and Table 3 ranks projects seeking monitoring funding.

Table 1. RTT scores, ranks, and cost requests for restoration, protection, assessment, and design projects seeking funding from the SRFB Standard Round, 2024. SD = standard deviation. Total possible points = 100.

Project	Type	RTT Score	SD	Rank	SRFB Cost Request
Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain	Restoration	80	3.2	1	\$747,978
Nason Creek and SR 207 Phase 1 & 2*	Restoration	75	9.5	2	\$600,000
Entiat River RM 18.5 Acquisition*	Protection	75	10.6	3	\$205,400
Lower Chiwawa Complexity and Floodplain*	Design	71	7.4	4	\$273,038
Habitat Connectivity at Twisp Ponds*	Restoration	71	10.7	5	\$108,749
Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	Design	68	4.5	6	\$206,928
Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management	Design	66	7.6	7	\$145,252
Nason-Kahler Habitat and Coldwater Refuge	Design	65	9.1	8	\$96,971
Clockum Creek Reach Assessment*	Assessment	61	4.7	9	\$125,000
Pole Creek Fish Passage*	Restoration	61	6.6	10	\$150,000
White River Floodplain Conceptual Design	Design	52	8.0	11	\$212,500

* These projects are listed according to their standard deviations (SD). The lower the SD, the less variation among reviewers and the higher the ranking.

Table 2. RTT scores, ranks, and cost requests for riparian projects, 2024. SD = standard deviation. Total possible points = 100.

Project	Type	RTT Score	SD	Rank	SRFB Cost Request
White River Oxbow Acquisition	Protection	82	9.5	1	\$360,100
Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	Restoration	73	6.8	2	\$238,505
Peshastin RM 2.5	Restoration	72	7.5	3	\$754,500
Goat and Eight Mile Riparian Protection	Restoration	71	8.9	4	\$175,000
Entiat Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	Restoration	65	9.7	5	\$272,236
Riparian Restoration at M23R*	Restoration	55	7.1	6	\$250,894
Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration*	Restoration	55	8.0	7	\$130,000

* These projects are listed according to their standard deviations (SD). The lower the SD, the less variation among reviewers and the higher the ranking.

Table 3. RTT scores, ranks, and cost requests for monitoring projects, 2024. SD = standard deviation. Total possible points = 30. The RTT developed a separate ranking because of differences in scoring and funding processes.

Project	Type	RTT Score	SD	Rank	SRFB Cost Request
Food Web, Bioenergetics, and Restoration	Monitoring	19	2.2	1	\$82,682

SRFB Standard Round

Restoration Projects

Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Restoration

Average Score: 80

Standard Deviation: 3.2

RTT Rank: 1/11

This is a high priority project within a high priority area and should lead to relatively large biological benefits. The RTT supports removing the levee and restoring floodplain connectivity. In addition, there is relatively little infrastructure on the floodplain that restricts the project. It appears the sponsor has addressed concerns raised by the RTT during the RTT's review of the project design last year and during the pre-proposal review process. The RTT was especially pleased to see that the sponsor addressed the RTT's concern of a potential avulsion through the Suspension Creek area. If implemented, the RTT believes this project should be monitored because it is located within a reach of the Methow River that can dewater. It is not clear how well the floodplain reconnection will function during mainstem dewatering.

Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Average Score: 61

Standard Deviation: 6.6

RTT Rank: 10/11

This project, located in the Big Meadow watershed, will remove a barrier (culvert) that will restore connectivity to about 1 mile of cold-water habitat upstream from the barrier. Although this project will provide some benefit to *O. mykiss*, its greatest benefit will be the restoration of natural processes, including the passage of sediment and wood through the system. Because of the size of the stream, the project will not result in a large increase in fish capacity; however, it will provide cold-water habitat that may increase the survival of salmonids. Because the Big Meadow watershed has an abundant population of Brook Trout, it is unclear whether the presence of Brook Trout will reduce the benefits of the proposed project to target salmonids. The gradient of Pole Creek may limit the presence of Brook Trout within the stream, thereby reducing potential interactions between target fish species and Brook Trout. It is also unclear whether fish have unimpeded access to all habitat within the one-mile section upstream from the road crossing. Although the RTT appreciates that the sponsor examined the possibility of whether the road crossing on Pole Creek was needed, the RTT still questions why the Pole Creek crossing cannot be removed, and the Wounded Knee/Pulse Bridge be replaced. The RTT recommends that the sponsor reports back to the RTT once there is more information on

restoring the Wounded Knee/Pulse Bridge. Finally, if this project is funded, the RTT would like an opportunity to review the draft and final designs.

Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds

Average Score: 71

Standard Deviation: 10.7

RTT Rank: 5/11

The RTT sees value in establishing suitable flows in the side channels and ponds to reduce the incidence of fish stranding at this site. Although flows into the side channels and ponds are regulated, off-channel habitat at this site supports high densities of salmonids and may provide growth and survival advantages not seen in the mainstem Twisp and Methow rivers. The RTT appreciates the additional information on water temperatures, dissolved oxygen concentrations, and sizing of bottomless culverts. The RTT also appreciates that the sponsor will develop an adaptive management plan with defined triggers to address flow obstructions. If this project is funded, the RTT would like an opportunity to review draft and final designs.

Nason Creek and State Route 207 Realignment Fish Habitat Enhancement (Phase 1 and 2)

Average Score: 75

Standard Deviation: 9.5

RTT Rank: 2/11

This project is located in a high-priority area and addresses several of the factors limiting fish within this reach. The goal is to relocate the road, which currently disconnects Nason Creek from a large floodplain in this reach. Thus, it is a very expensive project, but this is expected when removing infrastructure that impedes floodplain connectivity. In addition to reconnecting the floodplain, the project will enhance habitat conditions within the floodplain and stream, resulting in more immediate benefits to fish, which is a benefit that would not be realized if only Phase 1 was implemented. As such, the RTT believes this will have a relatively large biological benefit at the reach scale. The RTT supports projects that remove threats (e.g., roads, infrastructure, etc.) that limit properly functioning conditions. Although expensive, removing the road from the floodplain helps restore properly functioning condition.

The RTT appreciates the responses to their comments regarding the phasing of the study. The RTT has struggled with why the entire reach was not addressed in a single application; however, after reviewing the sponsor's responses to comments, the RTT believes the approach identified by the sponsor is the most appropriate one at this time, especially given that the road cannot be relocated between RM 3.2 and 3.8.

Protection Projects

Entiat River RM 18.5 Acquisition

Average Score: 75

Standard Deviation: 10.6

RTT Rank: 3/11

This parcel includes 16.5 acres and 0.4 miles of riparian habitat along the Entiat River. This is an important piece of property to protect because the riparian area is in relatively good condition (or can be restored), it is well connected with other protected properties, and is in a high priority assessment unit. This project would have scored higher if most of the parcel was in the floodplain. This property is on the market and the RTT believes a real threat exists if the property is developed. Because the SRFB process will take several months, the RTT recommends that the sponsor establish a First Right of Refusal (or some other mechanism to give priority to the sponsor) with the landowner.

Design Projects

Lower Chiwawa AU Instream Complexity and Floodplain Reconnection Design

Average Score: 71

Standard Deviation: 7.4

RTT Rank: 4/11

This is a large-scale project that will address several of the factors limiting salmonids in a high priority assessment unit. Off-channel and floodplain habitat, as well as pools, are limiting in the Chiwawa River within this assessment unit. This project, along with other projects to be implemented in this assessment unit by other sponsors, should have large benefits to salmonids. Because of various constraints, there are limited opportunities to address impaired conditions within this assessment unit. Therefore, where opportunities exist, it is important to take advantage of enhancing these areas where feasible. The RTT recommends the sponsor do the maximum amount of enhancement possible at each of the four sites.

Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge

Average Score: 65

Standard Deviation: 9.1

RTT Rank: 8/11

This project intends to expand cold-water sites and create complexity/cover for salmonids in a reach of Nason Creek that warms because of a lack of riparian vegetation. Actions that expand cold-water refugia but do not dilute or otherwise minimize the benefits of the cold-water sites are supported by the RTT. Although this project is within a high-priority assessment unit, the spatial scale of the action is relatively small. In addition, the greatest threat to habitat and fish within the project area is the BPA powerline,

which limits suitable riparian vegetation and canopy cover along the stream. Unfortunately, this appears to be a constraint that cannot be easily addressed in this area. Therefore, expanding the influence of the cold-water sites is likely the best approach at this time. The sponsor will need to provide a high level of certainty that the existing cold-water sites will not be stranded (i.e., disconnected), diluted, or minimized as a result of the proposed action.

Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design

Average Score: 68

Standard Deviation: 4.5

RTT Rank: 6/11

The RTT recognizes that there are few opportunities to reconnect side channels and floodplain habitat within Peshastin Creek. Therefore, where these opportunities exist, they should be explored, mainly because Peshastin Creek is an important stream for natural-origin steelhead production. The proposed project at this site is especially attractive because it includes cold-water inputs and has a somewhat intact channel. Because of the high cost of implementing a restoration project at this site, the RTT strongly encourages the sponsor to reconnect the full length of the side channel, which will provide the greatest biological benefit at this site and may require addressing concerns with downstream landowners. Indeed, the RTT recommends that the sponsor secures support by landowners within and adjacent to the proposed project before completing the 60% design. In addition, the RTT recommends that the sponsor consider all options (e.g., split flow, flow confined to one channel during low flow, separating flows from Ingalls Creek and Peshastin Creek, etc.) and discuss those with the RTT throughout design development. The RTT supports the value planning study.

The RTT appreciates the responses to their comments. The cooler water temperatures measured in the side channel will provide thermal refugia for salmonids and will add to the biological benefit of this project. The RTT appreciates the evaluation of Ingalls Creek, located upstream from the project site, moving sediment and large wood into the project area. Finally, the RTT appreciates the fact that the sponsor will encourage the landowner to contribute to the implementation of the proposed project. Given the high cost of this project, it is good that the sponsor is working with WSDOT to see if Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds can be used to support this project.

White River Floodplain Restoration

Average Score: 52

Standard Deviation: 8.0

RTT Rank: 11/11

The RTT understands that this project will develop road designs, which, if implemented, would remove the levee effect of the road, eliminate large wood removal at the bridge, and allow floodplain restoration. Although the RTT sees value in evaluating the road crossing, it is not clear whether there is a sequencing issue. That is, the RTT was unable to determine the amount of coordination that would occur between the Yakama Nation, who will conduct the reach assessment, and the sponsor and how

that coordination would influence the design. Currently, there appears to be some redundancy between the proposed work and the reach assessment. The RTT believes the reach assessment to be conducted by the Yakama Nation should be completed before designs are developed for the road. The reach assessment is needed to provide information on limiting factors and conditions and will help inform restoration designs associated with the road and the floodplain. As the RTT noted before, this will be a very expensive project and therefore it should not only address the road but the entire floodplain. At this time, however, it is not clear whether the reach assessment to be conducted by the Yakama Nation will include an evaluation of the system of ditches (and their purposes) across the floodplain. It appears that some ditches are used to drain the floodplain, while others divert water onto the floodplain. If the reach assessment does not include a complete evaluation of the floodplain and the ditches, the RTT would support that work occurring as soon as possible. The reach assessment can then be used to identify a suite of possible restoration actions that address floodplain reconnection and issues associated with the road, bridge, and culverts.

Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management

Average Score: 66

Standard Deviation: 7.6

RTT Rank: 7/11

This project does not completely restore natural processes because flows within the side channel will be regulated, which, in this case, is appropriate because the risk of an avulsion appears quite high at this site. Because adequate water is limiting in the side channel, increasing flows in the side channel and maintaining cold-water temperatures should have a relatively large biological benefit. The RTT appreciates the fact that the sponsor will evaluate whether the three culverts should be replaced with a bottomless or box culvert. Although expensive, replacing the three culverts with a bottomless culvert will allow water, sediment, and wood to move more freely in the side channel (enhancing natural processes). Finally, the RTT agrees that the intake to the channel must be designed to allow more continuous flow through the channel (to reduce factors currently limiting fish production in the side channel) and to avoid the possibility of an avulsion.

Assessment Projects

Colockum Creek Reach Assessment

Average Score: 61

Standard Deviation: 4.7

RTT Rank: 9/11

The RTT/MaDMC identified tributaries draining directly into the Columbia River as important data gaps. Indeed, information on these tributaries is needed to help populate the RTT prioritization tool. In addition, these tributaries are identified as part of steelhead populations in the Upper Columbia. The proposed project intends to conduct surveys within the Colockum watershed to help fill these data gaps.

This is appropriate because PIT-tagged adult steelhead have been detected in Colockum Creek and they may use it for spawning and as thermal refugia. The sponsor intends to use a combination of literature/data searches, stream surveys, and remote sensing to identify fish passage barriers, geomorphology, and fish use in the watershed. This information will be used to develop a detailed habitat survey plan and to guide hydrologic monitoring. This is an appropriate approach given the lack of information on the Colockum watershed. The RTT believes it is critical to understand stream flows, the amount of water diverted, temperatures, and barriers within the stream. During the literature/data search, the RTT recommends that the sponsor coordinates with WDFW regarding diversions and Cascade Fisheries regarding eDNA sampling. Given that there is one landowner, who apparently diverts most of the water, the RTT encourages the sponsor to work with the landowner on the possibility of improving irrigation efficiencies. Because of a lack of information, the RTT struggled to evaluate and score how the data/results will be disseminated and shared publicly. Finally, because of a lack of information, the RTT struggled to evaluate the methods proposed to do the assessment.

SRFB Riparian Funding

Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement

Average Score: 65

Standard Deviation: 9.7

RTT Rank: 5/7

This is a riparian enhancement project that intends to control noxious and invasive plant species and to restore the diversity of native plant species adjacent to recently implemented restoration projects in a high-priority area along the Entiat River. The sponsor intends to develop a riparian enhancement plan that will guide the restoration of 3.23 acres of degraded riparian habitat and remove about 0.75 acres of reed canary grass. The RTT was pleased to see that the sponsor has conducted small-scale studies to evaluate the use of different techniques to control/remove reed canary grass. This information will inform the riparian enhancement plan. It was not clear whether the sponsor intends to water the plants or plant them deep enough to intercept groundwater. The RTT was also pleased to see that the sponsor intends to monitor the sites for several years. This is needed to adaptively manage the sites over time. Finally, the RTT appreciates that the sponsor will begin planting native vegetation as soon as possible.

Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration

Average Score: 55

Standard Deviation: 8.0

RTT Rank: 7/7

The RTT is encouraged by the riparian restoration work the sponsor and landowners have completed on this site, including riparian plantings and invasive/noxious plant control. The RTT believes these efforts should continue, in addition to reconnecting the floodplain. The project scored relatively low because it is located within a lower priority area for doing restoration work and many of the sites to be treated are

not immediately adjacent to the river. Restoration sites located far from the river tend to provide less benefit to fish than restoration sites located adjacent to the river. In addition, at least one of the treatment sites is well above the elevation at which inundation would occur on a frequent basis. Nevertheless, the proposed restoration work does promote natural processes.

Peshastin Creek RM 2.5

Average Score: 72

Standard Deviation: 7.5

RTT Rank: 3/7

Although not located in a high-priority area for restoration, this project intends to reconnect a relatively large floodplain within a stream that is largely disconnected from its floodplain. There are few opportunities to reconnect floodplains within Peshastin Creek and where they exist, the RTT believes those areas should be reconnected. Fortunately, the landowners support the largest and most intensive restoration alternative and, as such, this project will provide relatively large biological benefits, especially to natural-origin steelhead. In terms of biological benefit, this project scored high and was only reduced in overall score because it is not located in a high-priority AU and reach.

Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds

Average Score: 73

Standard Deviation: 6.8

RTT Rank: 2/7

The RTT believes establishing a riparian buffer zone between the road and the off-channel ponds is an important project to implement at this site. An established riparian zone at this site will help filter sediments, salts, and other road chemicals (e.g., 6PPD-q, which is toxic to fish) from entering the ponds. Riparian vegetation will also provide canopy cover, thereby reducing water temperatures within the ponds. The RTT was pleased to see that the sponsor addressed many of the RTT's comments. The sponsor has developed a useful plan for making the buffer widths as wide as possible. A wider buffer width and smaller surface area of the ponds (without compromising depth, which enhances stratification and groundwater connectivity) will provide more canopy cover and reduce direct solar radiation on the ponds. This will not only help reduce water temperatures, but should also reduce primary productivity within the ponds, which in turn should reduce any potential dissolved oxygen sag within the ponds at night. The RTT also appreciates the additional information on temperature, dissolved oxygen, and dimensions of each pond. The RTT supports this project and recommends that it be monitored for effectiveness.

Riparian Restoration at M23R

Average Score: 55

Standard Deviation: 7.1

RTT Rank: 6/7

The RTT understands that this project will plant riparian vegetation at four sites within the larger project area, resulting in 4.3 acres of treatment. From a fish benefit perspective, the riparian restoration work in the three sites immediately adjacent to the river will likely have the greatest benefit to fish. Because of the location of the larger restoration site (2.4 acres), it will likely provide less direct benefits to fish; however, it may help filter fine sediment and other products from adjacent agricultural activities and can provide organic matter to the river. The RTT considers these as indirect benefits to fish. The RTT appreciates the use of a reference condition to help guide the riparian enhancement effort; however, the RTT also recognizes that any reference riparian condition along the Methow River has likely been altered because of land uses. Therefore, planning to achieve conditions beyond those on the reference site would be appropriate.

Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)

Average Score: 71

Standard Deviation: 8.9

RTT Rank: 4/7

The use of virtual fencing to keep cattle out of the riparian area is an excellent example of how technology can be used to improve and protect stream and riparian conditions in headwater streams. Indeed, the use of virtual fencing is far better than what currently exists in this allotment. The fact that this project covers a very large area (~32 miles of stream) and prevents cattle from entering high-priority spawning and rearing areas should result in a relatively large benefit for salmonids. Furthermore, degradation in headwater areas (especially within Eight Mile and Goat watersheds that provide critical cold-water conditions) from grazing can also affect habitat conditions in important downstream rearing and spawning areas.

The RTT appreciates the sponsor's responses to the RTT's comments. Establishing a minimum buffer width of 50 feet within all riparian areas, and wider buffers in critical/sensitive areas, is appropriate. The RTT encourages the widest buffer possible (at least to the 200-year site potential tree height) in sensitive and unconfined areas. The RTT also appreciates the redundancy in the monitoring system. The additional information on the proposed riparian planting component of the project was useful; however, the RTT encourages the sponsor to work with the RTT on the selection of sites to be treated.

As a final point, the RTT would like to see this project evaluated to determine whether the system works effectively at eliminating grazing in riparian areas and still meets the production goals of the rancher. If this approach is successful from both the perspective of the ecologist/conservation biologist and the rancher, it can be used statewide to protect riparian areas across large spatial scales on both public and

private lands. If the rancher finds the approach useful and cost effective, the rancher can be a great ally in advancing the technique among other ranchers.

White River Oxbow Acquisition

Average Score: 82

Standard Deviation: 9.5

RTT Rank: 1/7

This project will protect 34.6 acres of high-quality riparian and floodplain habitat along 0.5 miles of the White River. This project captures a large oxbow lake, which, if protected, can be reconnected with the White River. The parcel is also adjacent to other large, protected parcels. The property is currently not listed for sale and therefore the threat of habitat loss appears low; however, the sponsor indicates that if the landowner cannot sell the property to the sponsor, the landowner will sell it to a private third party. Currently, very few steelhead and low numbers of spring Chinook Salmon use the White River. On the other hand, large numbers of Sockeye Salmon and Bull Trout use the White River and all salmonids would benefit from habitat protection in the lower river.

Monitoring Projects

Bioenergetics Modeling and Restoration Effectiveness

Average Score: 19

Standard Deviation: 2.2

RTT Rank: 1/1

The project will be conducted in the Entiat sub-basin and is intended to complement the work by Bellmore et al. in the Methow River and work by Polivka et al. in the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow basins. Importantly, this work will begin to evaluate the effects of floodplain restoration work on consumption/diet and growth of salmonids, and food production, in different types of floodplain treatment types. This information is generally lacking in effectiveness-monitoring programs and is needed to understand the “true” effects of restoration on fish productivity and survival. The researchers will use this information to better understand fish capacity in floodplain habitat.

The RTT was pleased to see that the sponsor considered and addressed the RTT’s comments on the pre-proposal. Focusing on invertebrate drift and examining gut contents will be critical to this study. The RTT was also pleased to see that the sponsor conducted a power analysis to help determine the number of replicates needed to increase the certainty of results. That said, the use of only one reference site may not adequately capture natural variation. In addition, sampling gut contents from only a small sample of fish may limit extrapolation of results and make it difficult to evaluate consumption relative to food availability. The use of the ATP model is appropriate for this study. Because drift concentration is a function of the time the net is in the stream, area of the net mouth that is submerged, and mean water velocity at the net mouth, the RTT recommends that the sponsor evaluate the filtration efficiency of the

drift nets. Nets with a 250- μm mesh have been shown to clog within minutes. Thus, the proposed sampling time of 4 hours may exceed the filtration efficiency of the nets within some habitat types.

Attachment C: Project Summary

UC SRFB Project Information Sheet 2024

Okanogan County Project Fact Sheet 2024

Chelan County Project Fact Sheet 2024

SRFB 2024 - Chelan and Okanogan County Funding Requests									
PRISM #	Project Title	Subbasin	Sponsor	SRFB Request	Riparian Request	TRIB Comm. Request	Targeted Investment Req.	Other Funding Req.	TOTAL Budget
24-1834	Entiat River RM 18.5 Acquisition	Entiat	CDLT	\$205,400		\$107,500		\$8,000	\$320,900
24-1833	White River Oxbow Acquisition	Wenatchee	CDLT		\$360,100				\$360,100
24-1836	Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration	Wenatchee	CF	\$150,000				\$27,500	\$177,500
24-1837	Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration	Wenatchee	CF		\$130,000				\$130,000
24-1860	Peshastin RM 2.5	Wenatchee	CF		\$754,500	\$200,000			\$954,500
24-1861	Nason Creek and SR 207 Phase 1 & 2 Project	Wenatchee	YN	\$600,000			\$3,500,000	\$8,430,497	\$12,530,497
24-1824	Lower Chiwawa Complexity and Floodplain Reconnect PR	Wenatchee	CCNRD	\$273,038				\$507,068	\$780,106
24-1825	Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge	Wenatchee	CCNRD	\$96,971				\$138,953	\$235,924
24-1826	Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	Entiat	CCNRD		\$272,698				\$272,698
24-1827	Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management Project	Entiat	CCNRD	\$145,252		\$29,558			\$174,810
24-1828	Clockum Creek Reach Assessment	Columbia Rv (Small Tribs)	CCNRD	\$125,000				\$26,337	\$151,337
24-1829	White River Floodplain Conceptual Design	Wenatchee	CCNRD	\$150,000				\$37,500	\$187,500
24-1877	Peshastin creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	Wenatchee	CCNRD	\$206,928		\$206,927			\$413,855
24-1856	Food Web Monitoring, Bioenergetics and Restoration	Multiple	CCNRD	\$80,130				\$51,063	\$131,193
24-1822	Goat and eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)	Methow	TU		\$175,000				\$175,000
24-1835	Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Reconnection	Methow	CF	\$747,978		\$745,297			\$1,493,275
24-1821	Riparian Restoration at M23R	Methow	MSRF		\$250,894				\$250,894
24-1819	Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	Methow	MSRF		\$238,505				\$238,505
24-1820	Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	Methow	MSRF	\$108,749		\$19,949			\$128,698
				\$2,889,446	\$2,181,697	\$1,309,231	\$3,500,000	\$9,226,918	\$19,107,292

2024 Okanogan County SRFB Proposals - Project Information Table										
Project Title	Funding Source	Project Category	Subbasin	Primary Species	Secondary Species	Assessment Unit (AU) Affected	AU Priority Tier (Primary Species)	Reach(es) Affected	Reach: Highest Rank	Project Description
Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)	Riparian	Restoration	Methow	Spring Chinook	Steelhead, Bull Trout	Eight Mile Creek, Goat Creek, Chewuch River - Pearrygin Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Chewuch River Pearrygin 09, 10, 11; Doe 01, 02, 03; Eight Mile Creek 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09	Rank 1	The goal of this restoration project is to restore and protect riparian habitat from grazing within the Cub Allotment of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Cub Allotment covers portions of upper Goat Creek, Cub Creek, Eight Mile Creek, Falls Creek, and part of the Chewuch River. These watershed support ESA-listed steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout. The project will improve bank stability, riparian canopy cover, and riparian disturbance for spawning steelhead and bull trout by excluding cattle from the riparian area and increasing riparian function and cover through riparian planting. This project will use invisible fencing to create an estimated 32 river miles of protected riparian area from cattle grazing through 2029 and identify up to 5 sites in need of riparian cover and planting to be implemented by 2029.
Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Reconnection	Regular SRFB	Restoration	Methow	Spring Chinook	Steelhead, Bull Trout	Methow River - Fawn Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Methow River Fawn 08, 09	Rank 1	This project seeks to address limiting factors of floodplain connectivity, off-channel habitat, cover, and pool quantity and quality for ESA-listed fish by implementing a restoration design focused on selective levee removal and the placement of instream mainstem and off-channel wood. The design includes selective excavation to reconnect high-flow channels along 0.5mi of levee, mainstem wood structures along roughly 0.75mi of river, and high-flow channel wood structures. Implementation would occur in 2025 or 2026. These reaches of the Methow are used by spring chinook and steelhead for spawning and rearing, and bull trout for feeding, migrating, and overwintering. This is a unique opportunity to work on a disconnected floodplain on private land without existing infrastructure.

Riparian Restoration at M23R	Riparian	Restoratoion	Methow	Spring Chinook, Steelhead	Bull Trout, Cutthroat, Lamprey, Rainbow	Methow River - Thompson Creek	Restoration: 2 Protection: 1	Methow River Thompson 05	Rank 2	The Riparian Restoration at M23R project is located in the Middle Methow reach of the Methow River between river miles 47.25 and 48.25, between the towns of Twisp and Winthrop in Okanogan County, WA. Spring Chinook and Upper Columbia Steelhead are the priority species supported by restoration efforts.
Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	Riparian	Restoration	Methow	Spring Chinook, Steelhead	Bull Trout, Coho, Pacific Lamprey, Cutthroat, Rainbow	Lower Twisp River	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Twisp River Lower 02	Rank 2	The Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds project seeks to create an effective riparian buffer zone between a county road and three large ponds, to increase pond shading to mitigate solar gain and reduce water temperatures through riparian plantings, to increase habitat complexity and diversity for juvenile salmonids at an off-channel site in the lower Twisp River between river miles 1.0-1.5, and to reduce potential input of toxic tire wear particles (6PPD-quinone), which can result in toxic effects for coho salmon. The project site is located at Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation's Twisp Ponds restoration site, an off-channel system consisting of five ponds and interconnecting channels, which provides high quality spawning and rearing habitat for UCR spring chinook, UCR steelhead, and other species of fish.

Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	Regular SRFB	Restoration	Methow	Spring Chinook, Steelhead	Bull Trout, Coho, Pacific Lamprey, Cutthroat, Rainbow	Lower Twisp River	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Twisp River Lower 02	Rank 2	The Habitat Connectivity at Twisp Ponds project is a restoration project that seeks to improve hydrologic connectivity between the Twisp River and throughout a connected off-channel system of ponds and channels. The project site is located at Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation's Twisp Ponds restoration site, an off- channel system in the Lower Twisp River between river miles 0.8 - 1.5. The system consists of five ponds and interconnecting channels that provide high quality spawning and rearing habitat for UCR spring chinook, UCR steelhead, and other species of fish. The Twisp Ponds system is supplied via an unscreened diversion structure designed and constructed with BPA support. While the diversion has proven effective through base flows, undersized culverts in the upstream segment between the diversion and the highest ponds are vulnerable to debris blockage, which reduces water conveyance to the downstream ponds and channels, impacting water quality and causing dewatering, juvenile salmonid stranding, and mortality. The Habitat Connectivity project seeks to address this vulnerability by replacing existing undersized culverts with larger culverts that are less likely to becoming plugged with debris and reconnecting former flow paths to create an overflow channel to ensure water flows are maintained to the pond and channel system in the event of a blockage in the primary channel.
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2024 Chelan County SRFB Proposals - Project Information Table										
Project Title	Funding Source	Project Category	Subbasin	Primary Species	Secondary Species	Assessment Unit (AU) Affected	AU Priority Tier (Primary Species)	Reach(es) Affected	Reach: Highest Rank	Project Description
Entiat River RM 18.5 Acquisition	Regular SRFB	Acquisition	Entiat	Spring Chinook	Steelhead, Summer Chinook, Pacific Lamprey	Entiat River - Potato Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Entiat River Potato 05	Rank 1	CDLT will acquire and permanently protect 16.5 acres of land along the mainstem Entiat River, which is valuable spawning and rearing habitat for Spring Chinook and Steelhead. Acquisition and conservation of the land will facilitate future shore and stream restoration projects to improve habitat for these species, as have been accomplished by salmon recovery partners on other CDLT properties. The SRFB Reach prioritization spreadsheet it shows this Reach as Ranked #1 with Protection being a Tier 1 action for spring Chinook and Steelhead.
White River Oxbow Acquisition	Riparian	Acquisition	Wenatchee	Spring Chinook	Bull Trout, Steelhead, Summer Chinook	Lower White River	Restoration: 2 Protection: 1	Lower White River 01 and 02	Rank 3*	The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will purchase and permanently protect this 34.6-acre property located along the lower White River near river mile 2, including 0.5 miles riverfront. This project would protect valuable spawning and rearing habitat for Spring Chinook, Bull Trout, and Steelhead. This property has been long sought after by our restoration partners for restoration projects including an important oxbow re-connection. CDLT has a long history of working with salmon recovery partners on properties to restore complex salmon habitat. The SRFB Reach prioritization spreadsheet shows protection being a Tier 1 action for Spring Chinook and Bull Trout.

Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration	Regular SRFB	Restoration	Wenatchee	Steelhead	Bull Trout, Rainbow	Big Meadow Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection:1	Pole Creek 01	Rank 3*	Cascade Fisheries (CF) will work with project partners including the Wenatchee River Ranger District (WRRD), USFWS, and BPA to correct one (1) fish passage barrier improving access to 1.05 miles of cold-water habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish species, especially steelhead and bull trout. Project benefits will be realized immediately upon implementation of the project in the summer of 2025. The existing culvert barrier occurs on Pole Creek at RM 0.3, in the Chiwawa River Watershed.
Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration	Riparian	Restoration	Wenatchee	Steelhead, Spring Chinook	Bull Trout, Summer Chinook	Wenatchee River Nahahum Canyon	Restoration: 2 Protection: 2	Wenatchee River Nahahum 03	Rank 3	This project seeks to improve riparian and floodplain habitat, function, and values to 40 acres of floodplain on a parcel occurring on the left bank of the Wenatchee River from RM 2.25 - RM 2.75. Over the 5-year implementation period the project will: 1. Planting 2 new acres of floodplain habitat with willows, cottonwoods, and other native riparian vegetation. 2. Maintaining 3 acres of previously installed floodplain plants, including irrigation, brush cutting, mulching, replacing dead plants, and browse control maintenance. 4. Noxious weed control over the entire 40-acre property. The implementation of this project will restore floodplain process and improve habitat for spring chinook, steelhead, bull trout, coho, and summer chinook.
Peshastin RM 2.5	Riparian	Restoration	Wenatchee	Steelhead, Spring Chinook	Bull Trout, Summer Chinook	Lower Peshastin Creek	Restoration: 2 Protection: 2	Peshastin Creek Lower 03	Rank 2	Cascade Fisheries has a rare and exciting opportunity to work with enthusiastic landowners to conduct a significant restoration project in a watershed with few opportunities of this magnitude. This project addresses the following high priority habitat impairments deemed as at risk or unacceptable by the RTT in Reach 3 of the lower Peshastin AU: riparian canopy cover, cover- wood, pool quality and quantity, floodplain connectivity, off-channel and side channels, channel, and bank stability.

Nason Creek and SR 207 Phase 1 & 2 Project	Regular SRFB & Targeted Inv.	Restoration	Wenatchee	Spring Chinook, Steelhead	Steelhead, Bull Trout, Cutthroat	Lower Nason Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Nason Creek Lower 03	Rank 2	The Nason Creek SR 207 Realignment and Restoration Project is a tribal led large scale salmon habitat restoration project taking place along Nason Creek near Lake Wenatchee in Chelan County, Washington. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation have partnered with WSDOT and the USFS to restore biologically productive side channel and floodplain habitats in critical spring Chinook salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing areas that were either impacted or disconnected by highway development in the early 1940s. The proposed project will remove a problematic 0.65-mile-long segment of SR 207 from the Nason Creek floodway in order to reconnect 14.74 acres of historic side channel and floodplain habitat. Removal of roadway will allow salmon habitat restoration efforts to take place that will create better main-channel habitat and reconnect and protect at-risk side channels that are important to multiple life stages of salmon and steelhead. The removal of SR 207 from the floodplain will directly address two WSDOT listed Chronic Environmental Deficiency Sites where the highway constantly erodes into Nason Creek during spring high flows, resulting in on-going aquatic habitat degradation and traffic disruption. The Yakama Nation intends to use SRFB grants along with other funding to finalize the highway realignment designs, and to implement the roadway realignment construction and to remove the old highway alignment with implementation planned for 2025 through 2027.
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Lower Chiwawa Complexity and Floodplain Reconnect PR	Regular SRFB	Design	Wenatchee	Spring Chinook	Bull Trout	Lower Chiwawa River; Big Meadow Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Chiwawa River Lower 01, 03, 05, 06 / Big Meadow Creek 01	Rank 1	This project will develop Preliminary Design Packages for each of four Lower Chiwawa AU project areas (Areas B, C, E and F). Collectively, the designs will identify restoration actions to: (a) increase cover and complexity along ~1.35 miles of mainstem channel, (b) create up to 1.1 miles of new side channel habitat; and (c) better connect ~33.5 acres of floodplain. Road and riparian treatments also are expected. The project also will complete cultural resources survey/reporting and wetland delineations for each project site to facilitate data collection, site evaluation and preparation of permit applications. In addition, it will complete an in-stream recreational use study to assess boating and boater safety in the stream and develop recommendations on how to balance the safety of recreational users with in-stream habitat improvements. The project also will evaluate the Big Meadow Campground, develop a strategy to remove this facility and restore the area, and identify and evaluate up to three areas where a replacement campground can be developed. Finally, this project will prepare draft HPA and JARPA applications for each of four Lower Chiwawa AU project areas (Areas B, C, E and F).
Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge	Regular SRFB	Design	Wenatchee	Spring Chinook	Steelhead, Bull Trout	Lower Nason Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Nason Creek Lower 05	Rank 2	The project seeks to address degraded habitat conditions and limiting factors for salmonids in Nason Creek by developing preliminary restoration preliminary designs to support implementation in 2026. This project will design restoration treatments at the Nason-Kahler Creek confluence and extending upstream ~0.35 mile in Nason Creek. Restoration treatments will address reach limiting factors related to pools, temperature, cover, and floodplain connectivity. Apex and bank-buried log structures will be designed to maximize coldwater refuge, provide cover, force scour, maintain pools, and initiate floodplain processes. Spawning and rearing spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout will benefit.

Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	Riparian	Restoration	Entiat	Spring Chinook	Steelhead, Bull Trout	Entiat River - Potato Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Entiat River Potato 06, 07	Rank 1	<p>The Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement Project is a Riparian Restoration project that will rehabilitate 3.23 acres of degraded riparian area along high priority restoration reaches of the Entiat River. The project will build off of previous instream restoration efforts (completed in 2019 and 2020) by re-establishing a diverse native riparian plant assemblage on the expansive floodplains at two project sites: Area B at rivermile (RM) 21 (aka Bremmer) and Area C at RM 18.6 (aka Stormy Preserve). Due to historic grazing, clearing, and agricultural activities, these project areas are characterized by compacted soil; sparse native vegetation; and invasive species, particularly reed canary grass which dominates 0.75 acres of the total 3.23. The overall goal is to develop and implement a comprehensive Riparian Enhancement Plan that will include invasive treatment, native tree and shrub planting, and monitoring and adaptive management in order to achieve lasting riparian health. This action will restore associated ecological services such as: groundwater retention, shade and lowered stream temperature, long-term source of large wood, sediment and pollutant capture, and supporting aquatic food webs through enhanced leaf litter. Therefore, this action will also address reach-specific limiting factors (temperature, baseflow, cover, riparian disturbance) and support recovery of ESA-listed spring Chinook and Steelhead.</p>
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Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management Project	Regular SRFB	Design	Entiat	Steelhead	Spring Chinook, Bull Trout, Summer Chinook	Entiat River - Mills Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Entiat River Mills 06	Rank 3	<p>This project will complete a preliminary design to address the critical low flows in the side channel leading to stranding and high juvenile salmonid mortality rates during low mainstem flow periods by analyzing the culvert inlet to the side channel and evaluating natural inlet options to provide for higher periodic flows and/or sustained perennial flow. This project seeks to address poor floodplain and side channel connectivity for spring/summer rearing by evaluating the possibility of replacing the triple barrel culvert under Roaring creek road with a bottomless or box culvert design. This project will address high summer water temperature in the side channel, a metric suspected of leading to high mortality. High side channel water temperature could be corrected with the creation of a natural inlet at the head of the channel providing for increased seasonal flow or sustained perennial flow through the channel. Complete water column freezing, another factor contributing to mortality rates will also be evaluated and likely addressed through the increased season flow allow the channel to property dewater during low flow months and provide proper escape to fish species utilizing the side channel.</p>
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Clockum Creek Reach Assessment	Regular SRFB	Assessment	Columbia Rv (Small Tribes)	Steelhead	Rainbow	Colockum Creek	Unranked	Colockum Creek	Rank 3*	Colockum Creek is a tributary to the Columbia River downstream of Wenatchee, WA. that drains a 25,000 acre watershed. The creek provides steelhead spawning and rearing habitat as well as spring Chinook rearing habitat. The lower 6 miles of the stream is mostly in private lands and the upper 7 miles (and most of the watershed area) is within the Colockum Wildlife Habitat Area under WDFW and WDNR ownership. There are significant data gaps, including habitat availability, hydrology, fish passage barriers, fish distribution and use, and irrigation use/ouakes of the creek. Moreover, there is limited information on watershed condition and function, potential sources of degradation, and feasible restoration opportunities. There are known issues in the creek caused by irrigation diversions, other barriers and land use, but without the habitat data to rank the stream, it is challenging to fund restoration of natural processes in this drainage. The purpose of this scope is to develop a watershed assessment that fills necessary data gaps, identifies suitable restoration strategies, and creates a pathway for watershed recovery.
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White River Floodplain Conceptual Design	Regular SRFB	Design	Wenatchee	Spring Chinook	Steelhead, Bull Trout, Sockeye	Lower White River	Restoration: 2 Protection: 1	White River Lower 01, 02	Rank 3*	<p>The White River Floodplain Feasibility Concept Design is a collaborative planning project to address the loss of habitat forming processes, floodplain disconnection, and high stream temperatures in the lower White River. The large-scale project will address the major human disturbances that are the root cause of ecological degradation, including the Little Wenatchee Road Prism and bridge at RM 2.1 and the complicated network of wetland ditches in the wide floodplain from RM 1.5 - 5.5. The road prism directly bisects the White River floodplain and channel, is a dam at high flows, dramatically restricts retention and conveyance of large wood and creates fish passage issues. The wetland ditch complex is known to drain the wetland and create hazardous flows for fish. Through the proposed project, CCNRD will work with the Yakama Nation Fisheries (YNF) to augment their planned reach assessment effort with detailed flow monitoring of the wetland ditch network, complete a comprehensive wetland restoration plan, and develop conceptual road prism replacement designs. These actions will spearhead a collaborative restoration effort to holistically address human-made impacts that have led to restricted ground water retention, floodplain disconnection, hazardous fish flows and high stream temperatures in the Lower White River RM 0-5.5, thus improving survival and reproductive success of ESA-listed bull trout and spring Chinook and retaining the White River as a bull trout stronghold.</p>
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Peshastin creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	Regular SRFB	Design	Wenatchee	Steelhead, Spring Chinook	Bull Trout	Lower Peshastin Creek	Restoration: 2 Protection: 1	Lower Peshastin 08	Rank 1	<p>The proposed Preliminary Design project is to reconnect a historic mainstem channel of Peshastin Creek as a 4180' side channel or split flow channel with the existing mainstem channel. The historic channel was disconnected by 1950s highway construction. CCNRD submitted a similar proposal to SRFB in 2023 and also to BOR Water SMART AERP and is receiving funding from BOR to complete Preliminary Designs. This proposal (SRFB and Trib Com) will provide 35% match for that funding. The sponsor will work with a river engineering firm to review existing data, develop hydraulic models, project alternatives and a conceptual design to improve habitat for spring Chinook and steelhead life stages; spawning and incubating steelhead are high priority life stages, medium priority life stages, include spring Chinook (adult migration, holding, spawning, fry colonization and summer rearing) and steelhead (fry colonization and winter rearing). An alternatives analysis and conceptual design was funded and completed in 2016 (12-1447). In that alternatives analysis, we selected a full-reconnection alternative as our preferred alternative to identify what issues and opportunities existed on the site. One of the main constraints at the time was the overall construction cost \$14-17 million and the impacts to landowners. Additionally, due to existing channel constraints, significant excavation and disruption of the canopy over the historic channel would have to occur to accommodate that design.</p>
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Food Web Monitoring, Bioenergetics and Restoration	Monitoring (Regular SRFB)	Monitoring	Multiple	Spring Chinook	Steelhead	Entiat River - Potato Creek; Lower Nason Creek	Restoration: 1 Protection: 1	Entiat River Potato 05, 06, 07	Rank 1	This project seeks to complement an ongoing study on monitoring the fish response to floodplain restoration in different tributaries, by initiating methods for monitoring the total biomass and complexity of the food web that supports fish foraging and growth in one major sub basin of the Upper Columbia River. We will identify and quantify the abundance of food relevant for juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead in form of drift samples collected in different habitat types within restored and unrestored control floodplain reaches. We will identify the sampled invertebrate species and compare them to those identified in gut content, sampled from juvenile salmonids captured in the same habitats. We will also measure fish density and the average growth rates of juvenile salmon fry and parr in these habitats as part of a larger study to understand how growth correlates to food availability. Furthermore, we will measure temperature, flow and depth and classify the substrate type of each sampling replicate to better understand what habitat types and environmental conditions within each reach are most productive and can provide for the highest number of individuals. We will then apply bioenergetic modeling to predict growth, habitat selection by fish and population carrying capacity, and compare actual fish data to these predictions.
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Attachment D: Citizens' Advisory Committee Documents

CAC Project Proposal Ranking Criteria 2024

Chelan CAC Ranking Meeting Final Summary 2024

Okanogan CAC Ranking Meeting Final Summary 2024

Joint CAC Meeting Final Summary 2024

Project Proposal Ranking Criteria

Total maximum score is 100 points

Criterion 1-5 are calculated as a weighted percentage, ensuring each criterion's weight is equal to the traditional 150-point scale weighted percentage. Committee members will score each criterion on a 20-point scale. Upon submitting scores to UCSRB, the LE Coordinator will enter scores into a spreadsheet that calculates the weighted scores based on percentages listed below.

Criterion 1: Benefits to Fish and Certainty of Success – 40% weight of total score (20 points)

- How did the RTT rate this project?
- Does the project address documented habitat ecological concerns as outlined in the Draft Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan, Biological Strategy, or local Watershed Plan?
- Is the project consistent with the Recovery Plan Implementation Strategy?
- Is the project/assessment based on proven scientific methods that will meet objectives?
- Are there any obstacles that could delay the implementation of this project or study (permitting and or design)?

Criterion 2: Project Longevity – 20% weight of total score (20 points)

- Who has the responsibility to manage and maintain the project? What is the responsibility of current or future landowners?
- Has the sponsor successfully implemented projects in the past?
- Are the benefits associated with the project in perpetuity?
- Will the project last only a few years?
- Is there a high risk of failure associated with this project?

Criterion 3: Project Scope – 10% weight of total score (20 points)

- How much habitat is being protected or gained?
- Are threats imminent?
- Is the scale of the proposed action appropriate?

Criterion 4: Community Support – 16.7% weight of total score (20 points)

- Has there been public outreach about this project to assess the level of community support?
- Is there any community outreach planned during and/or after implementation?
- Will the project create benefits or raise concerns for particular groups or the community at large?
- Does the project build community support for salmon recovery efforts?
- Has the project sponsor secured landowner participation or acceptance?
- *New:* Will there be public access? What is the breadth and strength of the partnership supporting the project (technical support, financial and in-kind contributions, labor)?

Criterion 5: Economics – 13.3% of total score (20 points)

- Does the project represent an opportunity for economic benefit?
- Will this project help the region move closer to delisting or reduce regulatory intervention?
- Is the project budget clearly defined and reasonable?
- How much benefit does the project create for the dollars invested?



Chelan CAC Ranking Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 20, 2024 5:20-6:00pm

Chelan County Fire Station, Chelan WA

- CAC Participants: Matt Collins, Leah Hemberry, Jim Johnson, Keith Truscott, Mike Deason, Alan Schmidt, Bruce Merighi
- UCSRB Staff: Ariel Edwards, Meghan Camp, Gabby Vermeire

Keith Truscott, Chelan CAC Chair, convened meeting at 5:20 pm

Keith Truscott noted that the Chairs have a 1-year appointment; asked CAC members for feedback on if they wanted to elect a new Chair and Vice-chair or keep the current Chair and Vice-chair.

Jim Johnson moved to approve Chair and Vice chair to continue with appointments. Mike Deason seconded the motion and all members approved.

Chair Truscott provided overview of CAC ranking process and asked members to identify any conflicts of interests:

Three members discussed their relations to different project sponsors; however, it was determined that none of these relationships constituted a conflict of interest as defined by the newly enacted bylaws:

- *Has financial ties to the applicant;*
- *Sits on the applicant's Board of Advisors;*
- *Stands to benefit directly from the proposed project's completion; or*
- *Has contributed directly to the development of the proposal.*

No CAC members had a conflict of interest; therefore all members scored all projects this year.

Prior to the meeting, individual CAC members had scored and ranked the projects and submitted those to Ariel. UCSRB staff projected a table that showed total score and rank by project for each CAC member, with summary statistics that showed average score, standard deviation of score, and average rank for each project. The project list was ranked based on the average of all Citizen's ranks.

Based on combined Citizen ranks, the initial project order was (projects in green = riparian):

Chelan County Projects	Score	Rank	RTT Score
Entiat River 18.5 Acquisition	84	1	75
Nason Creek and SR 207 Phase 1 & 2 Project	82	2	75
White River Oxbow Acquisition	82	3	82
Lower Chiwawa Complexity and Floodplain Reconnect	78	4	71
Peshastin RM 2.5	77	5	72
Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management	75	6	66
Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	71	7	68
Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	68	8	65
Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge	68	9	65
Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration	66	10	61
Colockum Creek Reach Assessment	60	11	61
Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration	58	12	55
Food Web Monitoring, Bioenergetics and Restoration	56	13	19
White River Floodplain Conceptual Design	51	14	52

Initial ranking by funding pool:

Regular SRFB - Chelan County Projects	Score	Rank	RTT Score
Entiat River 18.5 Acquisition	84	1	75
Nason Creek and SR 207 Phase 1 & 2 Project	82	2	75
Lower Chiwawa Complexity and Floodplain Reconnect	78	3	71
Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management	75	4	66
Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	71	5	68
Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge	68	6	65
Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration	66	7	61
Colockum Creek Reach Assessment	60	8	61
Food Web Monitoring, Bioenergetics and Restoration	56	9	19
White River Floodplain Conceptual Design	51	10	52

Riparian - Chelan County Projects	Score	Rank	RTT Score
White River Oxbow Acquisition	82	1	82
Peshastin RM 2.5	77	2	72
Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	68	3	65
Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration	58	4	55

Review CAC rankings based on individual scores:

- CAC chair asked if there was any need to discuss the rankings and all members agreed there was not a need to discuss each ranking in depth.

General Project Discussion:

- Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design – The review panel has classified the project as a “project of concern” currently. The two concerns noted were the overall cost and the sequencing of phases. There is a chance that the panel will still have it marked as a project of concern after the next July review if the sponsor does not adequately respond to the review panel’s questions.
 - A CAC member noted that it is worth it to fund a well-thought-out design for this project.
 - UCSRB staff explained that the sponsor still has time to submit answers to panel questions (due at final deadline June 24 at noon).
 - UCSRB staff continued - If the project is still determined to be a project of concern after the review in July, it comes back to CAC/UCSRB. We then will decide if we still want to bring the project to SFRB for funding. All CAC members noted they would be prepared to reconvene to discuss this should it be needed.
 - Members noted that this project ranked in the middle of the pack this year by both RTT and CAC.
 - CAC member suggested that Value Engineering planning process would be helpful to see and is a necessary step for large projects like this.
 - UCSRB staff noted that the sponsor is planning to do value planning this winter with BOR (this was noted in revised application).
 - CAC member added that it would be helpful if the sponsor had participation from DOT on this project like DOT is participating in SR 207.
- CAC member asked if they could hold back some of this money for the future?
 - Riparian funds can rollover to next year
 - Unused general SFRB funds will need to be spent within a year, can be spent on other things (cost increases, etc).

Discussion of each project and member input on whether they believe the project was ranked appropriately; review of standard deviation to understand how well aligned the group was about the project:

- CAC members noted that they were happy with the rankings as they are.
- Standard deviations seemed reasonable for projects – none warranted a discussion.
- There was a comment about Wilson Side Channel being ranked lower by the RTT while the CAC was under the impression based on the site tour that they were supportive of the project.
 - Ariel reviewed some of the RTT comments, but also noted that it still ranked around the middle of the RTT’s list.

Final Chelan CAC Ranked List:

Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the Chelan CAC list as initially ranked. Mike Deason seconded the motion. Chair Truscott asked for discussion on the motion, none. All approved, motion passed.

(Note: final Chelan ranked list identical to preliminary ranked lists above)

Meeting adjourned at ~5:45



Okanogan CAC Ranking Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 20, 2024 5:20-5:45pm

Chelan County Fire Station, Chelan WA

CAC Participants: Louis Sukovaty, Larry Hill
UCSRB Staff: Ryan Niemeyer, Amanda Ward

Quorum not present.

A discussion on how to proceed was held. It was decided to review the projects and forward list to the joint CAC meeting with their conditional approval. The vote would be confirmed once the other Okanogan CAC members provided their input.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

Prior to the meeting, individual CAC members had scored and ranked projects and submitted those to Ariel. Ryan projected a table that showed the summary of these scores and ranks, average score, standard deviation of score, and average rank for each project. UCSRB staff led a brief discussion on both the CAC ranks and RTT scores.

- CAC scores were averages of 5 CAC members who were able to send in scores prior to the Joint meeting.
- CAC rankings were compared to RTT scores for any disagreements.
- Standard deviation was reviewed for each CAC score – no outliers identified/discussed.

Based on combined Citizen ranks, the initial project ranking was (projects in green = riparian):

Okanogan County Projects	Score	Rank	RTT Score
Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Reconnection	83	1	80
Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)	78	2	71
Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	78	3	71
Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	77	4	73
Riparian Restoration at M23R	73	5	55

Ranking by funding pool:

Okanogan County Projects – Regular SRFB	Score	Rank	RTT Score
Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Reconnection	83	1	80
Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	78	2	71

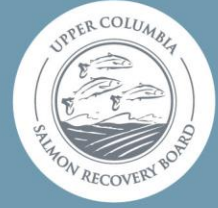
Okanogan County Projects – Riparian	Score	Rank	RTT Score
Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)	78	1	71
Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	77	2	73
Riparian Restoration at M23R	73	3	55

CAC members present agreed to keep the order of projects as they stand. These rankings will be shared with all CAC members for an electronic vote of approval.

Four of the scoring CAC members shared their approval of these rankings virtually – ranking approved.

An additional Okanogan representative joined the Joint CAC meeting at 5:45 pm.

Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



UPPER COLUMBIA LEAD ENTITY JOINT CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Chelan County Fire Station, Chelan WA
Thursday, June 20, 2024 ~ 5:55 to 6:30 PM

- CAC Participants: Matt Collins, Leah Hembery, Jim Johnson, Keith Truscott, Mike Deason, Alan Schmidt, Bruce Merighi (virtual), Louis Sukovaty, Larry Hill, Will Keller
- UCSRB Staff: Ariel Edwards, Meghan Camp, Gabby Vermeire, Ryan Niemeyer, Amanda Ward

Review Joint Citizen Ranking Process and Discussion

Ariel Edwards reviewed the joint ranking, or “zippering” process. Noted that we will begin the ranked list with an Okanogan project this year since we started with Chelan last year.

Prior to deliberations, the group reviewed the decision-making ground rules used to finalize the project list:

1. *A Citizen Advisory Committee member may, at any time, make a motion to move a particular project up or down on the list.*
2. *The Citizen Advisory Committee member making such a request must include rationale based on the citizens’ review criteria.*
3. *The Joint Citizen Advisory Committee will then engage in discussion regarding the motion to move a project on the list.*
4. *After discussion, the Joint Citizen Advisory Committee will vote – approve, oppose, abstain – on the motion to move the project on the list.*

The motion will carry upon unanimous approval by all Joint Citizen Advisory Committee Members (excluding “abstain” votes).

Review Funding Line

- UCSRB staff reviewed the funding line: \$2,897,110 for regular SRFB and \$2,460,997 for riparian funds.
- UCSRB staff also noted that the UC region owes the Pend Orielle region \$7,738 that we borrowed last year to cover our ranked list. With this amount subtracted, the UC total allocation is: **\$2,889,372.**

- Ariel noted that the lowest ranking project can be funded minus \$74 (total request – total funding allocation = \$74)
- There is \$279,762 left over from Riparian funds (after fully funding list). This excess will be rolled over to next year.

Present County Lists and Decide on Regional Provisional List

- UCSRB staff shared the zippered ranked lists for both funding pools, starting with Okanogan County projects.

Discussion

- Pole Creek Passage project –CAC members requested to review funding request breakdown spreadsheet again.
 - Ariel can send this
- Ariel noted to both CACs that Peshastin RM 8.8 is currently a “project of concern” – review panel wanted more information from sponsor
 - Sponsor will answer questions for panel (due June 24).
 - If the panel still deems it a project of concern in July, it will come back to CAC/UCSRB to decide whether to move forward to recommend it for funding.
- SR 207 is the only project requesting Targeted Investment funding– that will not be available if CCA is repealed
 - This year’s riparian funding will not be affected by the CCA vote this year.
- CAC members asked if this is the “new normal” for funding, and why it was so much greater this year?
 - UCSRB staff shared that overall funding will likely be less next year, riparian funding for next year is dependent on the CCA vote in November.
 - There were multiple factors that went into a higher-than-normal regular SRFB funding allocation this year (including rollover funds that needed to be used). RCO has noted that this will not be the “new normal” for future years – it is more likely that the allocation will go back to the \$2-2.5 million range next year.
- Multiple CAC members asked if it is appropriate to ask sponsors about progress on last year’s projects?
 - Both Chelan and Okanogan CAC members noted that hearing updates on previously funded projects would help with work moving forward, e.g. what contractors were used, did they work out, etc.
 - It was noted that sponsors already have a lot on their plates, but even a brief report/update would be very helpful.

Jim Johnson made a motion on behalf of Chelan CAC – sponsors report progress on projects previously funded in the previous year to CAC. Mike Deason seconded the motion; motion passed.

- Action Item: UCSRB staff will brainstorm some options for this. It was noted that updates will likely be a bit delayed (i.e. projects that are funded in 2024 may not be ready for updates until 2026). UCSRB staff will be reaching out to project sponsors and CAC members to find a good option for this moving forward.

Finalize Ranked Project List

Leah Hembery made a motion to approve the Ranked Project List as it stands (with the final project in the regular SRFB pool receiving its request minus \$74.)

Larry Hill seconded the motion. Chair Truscott asked for any discussion on the motion, none. Chair Truscott called for a vote, all approved. Motion passed.

The final approved list combined from both counties was as follows (blue or green shading indicating projects located in Okanogan County, those without shading are in Chelan County):

(Regular SRFB)

Final Rank	Category	UC Regional Project	CAC Rank	RTT Score	SRFB Request	Running (SRFB) Total
1	Restoration	Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Reconnection	1	80	\$747,978	\$747,978
2	Protection	Entiat River 18.5 Acquisition	1	75	\$205,400	\$953,378
3	Restoration	Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	2	71	\$108,749	\$1,062,127
4	Restoration	Nason Creek and SR 207 Phase 1 & 2 Project	2	75	\$600,000	\$1,662,127
5	Design	Lower Chiwawa Complexity and Floodplain Reconnect	3	71	\$273,038	\$1,935,165
6	Design	Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management	4	66	\$145,252	\$2,080,417
7	Design	Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	5	68	\$206,928	\$2,287,345
8	Design	Nason-Kahler Confluence Habitat and Coldwater Refuge	6	65	\$96,971	\$2,384,316
9	Design	Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration	7	61	\$150,000	\$2,534,316
10	Assessment	Colockum Creek Reach Assessment	8	61	\$125,000	\$2,659,316
11	Monitoring	Food Web Monitoring, Bioenergetics and Restoration	9*	19*	\$80,130	\$2,739,446
12	Design	White River Floodplain Conceptual Design	10	52	\$150,000	\$2,889,446
Funding Line						
**2024 Available Regular SRFB Funding:						\$2,889,372
<p><i>*Monitoring projects are scored on a different point scale by RTT (1-30)</i></p> <p><i>**UC owes Pend Orielle \$7,738, which was subtracted from the full 2024 allocation to get the total available.</i></p> <p><i>Final ranked project (12) will be offered total request – \$74.</i></p>						

(Riparian Grant)

Final Rank	Category	UC Regional Project	CAC Rank	RTT Score	Riparian Request	Running (Riparian) Total
1	Restoration	Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)	1	71	\$175,000	\$175,000
2	Protection	White River Oxbow Acquisition	1	82	\$360,100	\$535,100
3	Restoration	Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	2	73	\$238,505	\$773,605
4	Restoration	Peshastin RM 2.5	2	72	\$754,500	\$1,528,105
5	Restoration	Riparian Restoration at M23R	3	55	\$250,894	\$1,778,999
6	Restoration	Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	3	65	\$272,236	\$2,051,235
7	Restoration	Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration	4	55	\$130,000	\$2,181,235
Funding Line						
*2024 Available Riparian SRFB Funding:						\$2,460,997
<i>*Unallocated funds = \$279,762</i>						

The meeting was adjourned at ~ 6:25 pm.

Attachment E: Final Ranked Project List

Final 2024 UC SRFB Ranked Project List

2024 Upper Columbia Regular SRFB Ranked Projects									
Final Rank	PRISM ID	Project Type	UC Regional Project	County CAC Rank	RTT Score	SRFB Request	Match %	Anticipated Total Budget	Running (SRFB) Total
1	24-1835	Restoration	Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Reconnection	1	80	\$747,978	50%	\$1,493,275	\$747,978
2	24-1834	Protection	Entiat River 18.5 Acquisition	1	75	\$205,400	36%	\$320,900	\$953,378
3	24-1820	Restoration	Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds	2	71	\$108,749	16%	\$128,698	\$1,062,127
4	24-1861	Restoration	Nason Creek and SR 207 Phase 1 & 2 Project	2	75	\$600,000	67%	\$12,530,497	\$1,662,127
5	24-1824	Design	Lower Chiwawa Complexity and Floodplain Reconnect	3	71	\$273,038	65%	\$780,106	\$1,935,165
6	24-1827	Design	Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management	4	66	\$145,252	17%	\$174,810	\$2,080,417
7	24-1877	Design	Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Preliminary Design	5	68	\$206,928	50%	\$413,855	\$2,287,345
8	24-1825	Design	Nason-Kahler Confluence Haibtat and Coldwater Refuge	6	65	\$96,971	59%	\$235,924	\$2,384,316
9	24-1836	Design	Pole Creek Fish Passage Restoration	7	61	\$150,000	15%	\$177,500	\$2,534,316
10	24-1828	Assessment	Colockum Creek Reach Assessment	8	61	\$125,000	17%	\$151,337	\$2,659,316
11	24-1856	Monitoring	Food Web Monitoring, Bioenergetics and Restoration	9*	19*	\$80,130	39%	\$131,193	\$2,739,446
12	24-1829	Design	White River Floodplain Conceptual Design	10	52	\$150,000	20%	\$187,500	\$2,889,446
Funding Line									
**2024 Available Regular SRFB Funding:									\$2,889,372

*Monitoring projects are scored on a different point scale by RTT (1-30)

**UC owes Pend Orielle \$7,738, which was subtracted from the full 2024 allocation to get the total available.

Final ranked project (12) will be offered total request - (\$74).

Note: Blue shading indicates Okanogan County projects.

2024 Upper Columbia Riparian Ranked Projects									
Final Rank	PRISM ID	Project Type	UC Regional Project	County CAC Rank	RTT Score	Riparian Request	Match %	Anticipated Total Budget	Running (Riparian) Total
1	24-1822	Restoration	Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection (Cub Allotment)	1	71	\$175,000	0%	\$175,000	\$175,000
2	24-1833	Protection	White River Oxbow Acquisition	1	82	\$360,100	0%	\$360,100	\$535,100
3	24-1819	Restoration	Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds	2	73	\$238,505	0%	\$238,505	\$773,605
4	24-1860	Restoration	Peshastin RM 2.5	2	72	\$754,500	21%	\$954,500	\$1,528,105
5	24-1821	Restoration	Riparian Restoration at M23R	3	55	\$250,894	0%	\$250,894	\$1,778,999
6	24-1826	Restoration	Entiat River Floodplain Riparian Enhancement	3	65	\$272,698	0%	\$272,698	\$2,051,697
7	24-1837	Restoration	Lower Sleepy Hollow Riparian Restoration	4	55	\$130,000	0%	\$130,000	\$2,181,697
Funding Line									
*2024 Available Riparian SRFB Funding: \$2,460,997									

*Unallocated funds = \$279,300

Note: Green shading indicates Okanogan County projects.