

Habitat Conservation Plan Tributary Funds/SRFB 12th Round

Douglas PUD: Wells

Chelan PUD: Rock Island

Chelan PUD: Rocky Reach

2011 GENERAL SALMON HABITAT PROGRAM PRE-PROPOSAL

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor: Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Contact Person: Chris Johnson
Address: PO Box 1608
City, State Zip Code: Okanogan, WA, 98840
Telephone: (509)422-0300
Email: msrf@communitynet.org, msrf@centurytel.net

PROJECT TITLE

Methow River Acquisition 2011 RM 48.9

PROJECT SUMMARY (300 word maximum)

See outline and examples on previous page.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) proposes to acquire approximately 0.94 acres of riparian and side channel habitat adjacent to the Methow River near RM 48.9. The targeted property includes active floodplain in the Middle Methow (M2) Whitefish Island project area.

The Methow River is a Category 2 watershed, where habitat protection actions are a Tier 1 priority. The Upper Columbia Biological Strategy (Strategy) states that protecting habitat “to allow unrestricted stream channel migration, complexity, and flood plain function [should be the] highest priority for protecting biological productivity” (RTT 2008). This acquisition will allow cleanup and restoration of this floodplain, allow the full range of active restoration actions on the adjacent side channel, and build on the opportunities being developed for the neighboring 17 acres of floodplain currently under acquisition.

Current land use, including vehicle storage and wood clearing in the floodplain portion of the property, is inconsistent with desired river and floodplain function. The surrounding properties currently provide significant habitat diversity, natural water storage, and critical rearing, refuge, and migratory habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and bull trout, as well as a wide variety of wildlife species. The area adjacent to the property supports some of the highest densities of summer Chinook spawning in the Methow River.

MSRF and its partners, including Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), US Geological Survey (USGS), and the Yakama Nation are implementing a large, reach-based study to identify, prioritize, and support restoration and monitoring actions in the Middle Methow. This project site was identified through that effort. Acquisition will result in restoration actions being developed and implemented in the next 5 years.

PROJECT BUDGET

Anticipated Request from SRFB:	\$ 41,400
Anticipated Request from Tributary Committee:	\$ 22,400
Anticipated Other Contributions/Matches:	\$ 5,000
Anticipated TOTAL Project Budget	\$ 68,800

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The total project description should be no greater than 2,000 words. Include enough information for the reviewers to have a clear understanding of your project. Attach labeled photos or illustrations and reference those figures in your description.

1. Project Overview

- a) List the primary project objectives, such as how this project will improve or maintain habitat conditions and habitat forming processes.

This property is within the Whitefish Island subreach of the Middle Methow (M2) reach-based restoration effort under development by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) for the BPA Targeted solicitation. The primary objective of this project is to protect and restore natural floodplain functions on the prioritized 0.94 acre +/- floodplain property and riparian buffer within a reach of identified high quality salmonid habitat (Figure 1). This project will allow active restoration of this property, and implementation of the full range of options on the adjacent side channel and floodplain (Figure 5). This project will increase the benefits obtained from protection and restoration of the adjacent 17 acres of high quality floodplain currently under acquisition under 11th round funding.

To meet these objectives, MSRF will undertake the following activities:

- Acquisition of the sensitive portion of the property and provide perpetual protection through deed of right restrictions to guarantee that the floodplain and riparian habitat will be preserved and managed for salmon recovery purposes;
- Removal of derelict vehicles and site cleanup;
- Re-vegetation with native species to increase habitat complexity and bank stability;
- Restoration of functional habitat for key life stages in accordance with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan (UCSRB 2007) and M2 Reach Assessment (Reclamation 2010) recommendations.



Figure 1 Looking toward proposed acquisition.

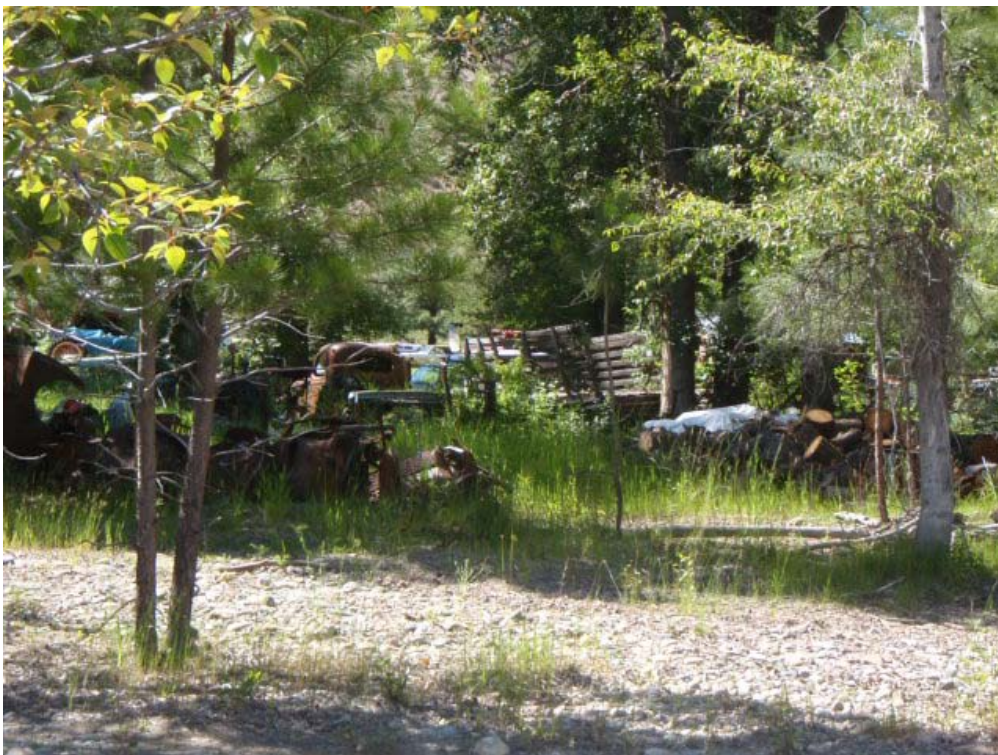


Figure 2 Derelict vehicles will be removed and the site will be cleaned up under this project.

- b) Briefly state the nature, source, and extent of the problem that the project will address, including the primary causes of the problem (threats), not just the symptoms. Explain how achieving the project objectives will help solve the problem.

Agricultural, residential, and recreational development, including vegetation clearing, road and dike construction, and bank armoring activities are identified as factors that fragment floodplain and riparian habitat, reduce river meander and wood recruitment, and limit spawning gravel recruitment in the Methow Valley. The resulting fragmentation reduces the connection between the river and off-channel habitat. Typically, as properties are developed, native riparian vegetation is removed and replaced with lawn and ornamental species to open up views, resulting in loss of near stream habitat complexity, shade potential, riparian function, and LWD recruitment potential.

This property has been identified as a priority for acquisition and protection through a targeted reach assessment process involving multi-agency review and local stakeholder participation. The surrounding 17 acres have been secured through funding obtained in Round 11. Modeling and development of restoration actions identified additional benefits that could be obtained through acquisition of this property. Although the property is small, approximately 0.94 acres, its location in the floodplain and impact on riparian habitat restoration along valuable side channel habitat, will facilitate long-term recovery of natural processes in this reach. Current and past land use on this property has resulted in loss of riparian structure from clearing and other habitat impacts associated with the large number of abandoned vehicles within the floodplain portion of this property. Acquiring, restoring, and protecting this property will ensure that this section of the river is allowed to migrate naturally. Acquisition of this property will also result in removal of existing derelict vehicles and prevent continued dumping and storage of additional vehicles in the floodplain.

The Whitefish Island properties represent a unique habitat assemblage in the Methow River with complex side channel, alcove, and connected floodplain habitat. Acquisition and protection of the side channel and floodplain areas will allow restoration of migration and meander opportunities. Active channel migration creates and maintains wetlands and side channels, an important component of juvenile rearing habitat. Rearing habitat is limited in the Methow River, and the draft Middle Methow Reach Assessment identified off-channel habitat to be at risk in the reach (Reclamation 2010). The Biological Strategy recommends protecting functioning floodplain, riparian habitat, and side channels as a Tier 1 priority action in the Middle Methow Reach (RTT 2008).

- c) Identify the fish resources/impacted species (species and life-history stages present, unique populations) and habitat conditions (including limiting factors) that will be affected by this project.

This project area supports habitat needs for the following three ESA listed fish species: spawning, rearing and migration of Upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead; migration, rearing, and limited spawning of UCR spring Chinook; and adult and sub-adult foraging, migrating and overwintering Columbia River bull trout. The area also supports some of the highest concentrations of non-listed UCR summer Chinook spawning in the Methow River.

The proposed acquisition will add approximately 0.94 acres to the surrounding 17 acres of protected riparian and floodplain habitat. The adjacent side channel supports rearing and refuge habitat, identified as limiting in the M2 Reach Assessment (Reclamation 2010). Side channels also provide sensitive habitat during all life stages for listed fish stocks and other wildlife.

- d) Discuss how this project fits within the Upper Columbia Recovery Plan (i.e., does the project address a priority action, occur in a priority area, or target priority fish species?).

According to the Strategy, “the highest priority within the Methow Subbasin should be the protection of habitat that supports the salmonid communities so that the populations are robust to environmental disturbances, can increase in abundance, and expand their range to adjacent watersheds.” The Strategy designates the Middle Methow as a Priority (Category 2) watershed for protection actions, and specifically recommends actions that protect water quality and habitat diversity by protecting side channels, and off-channel habitat (RTT 2008). Protecting this property and removing the old vehicles will protect and improve water quality and allow opportunities to restore a functional riparian community.

The Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Recovery Plan (UCSRB 2007) identifies a suite of actions intended to reduce the primary threats to aquatic and riparian habitats and to improve conditions where feasible and practical. For the Middle Methow, the Plan identifies increasing habitat diversity and quantity by restoring riparian habitat, reconnecting side channels and the floodplain (where feasible), and adding instream structures within the river as both short and long-term priorities.

2. Project Design

- a) Describe the location of the proposed project.

The Methow River Acquisition 2011 48.9 (Figure 3) targets the floodplain portion of parcel 3421130082 owned by Ellis Peters for acquisition. County Assessor records identify the property as a 1.94 acre parcel with approximately 1.3 acres located within the active floodplain along the right bank of the Methow River at approximate RM 48.9, in Section 13 of T34N R21E. The upland portion of the property is developed for residential use. Floodplain areas are currently used for vehicle storage and wood cutting. The property is located at approximate latitude 48.4458°N, longitude 120.1621°W.

Under this proposal, property boundaries would be adjusted using a boundary line adjustment process to separate the majority of the floodplain area from the upland residential property. County zoning regulations require a minimum lot size of 1.0 acres be maintained for the residential portion of the property. The property has not been surveyed, and Assessors records and calculated acreage cannot be relied upon for accurate legal description of the acquisition property. At a minimum, the current owner would retain approximately 1.0 acres of primarily upland property, including the existing house and accessory structures. MSRF would acquire the remaining portion of the property (estimated at 0.94 acres), including the majority of the floodplain area (Figure 4). Discrepancies between historic

survey records and Okanogan County aerial information will require survey to clarify actual acreage and adjust parcel boundaries.



Figure 3 Proposed acquisition showing relationship to property under acquisition with 11th Round funding.

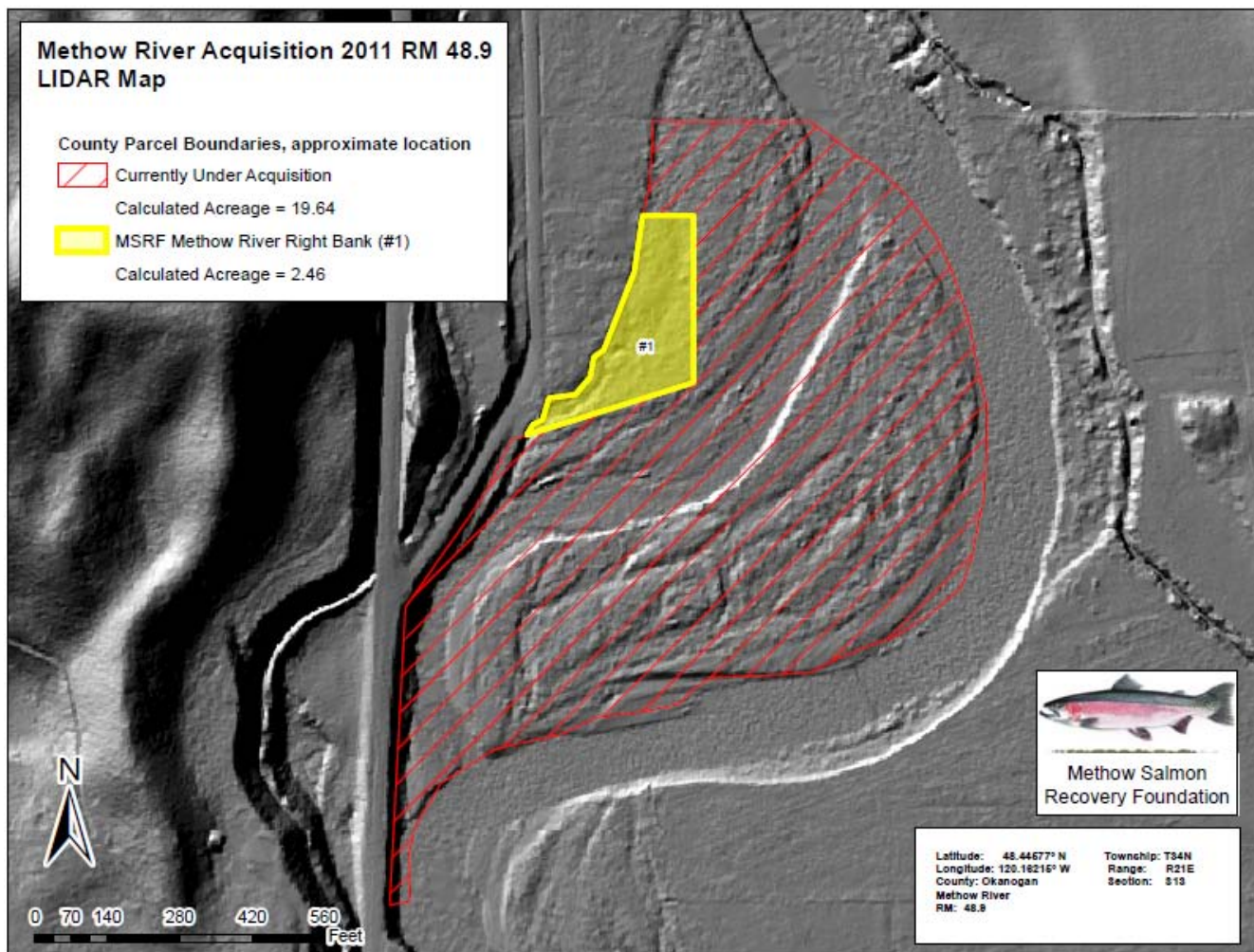


Figure 4 Proposed acquisition will include floodplain portion of the property.

- b) Briefly describe the project design and how it will be implemented. Describe the extent of the project and restoration methods.

Acquisition of the property by the MSRF (Sponsor) will result in permanent protection by deed of right, restricting any future development or clearing on the property. Deed of right protections will ensure permanent protection, restoration, and conservation of critical habitat function. MSRF will submit proposed deed of right language to funding entities for review to ensure adequate conditions are in place for the protection, conservation, and restoration of the habitat on the property to ensure that the purchase results in measurable benefits to salmon recovery.

Immediate restoration actions will include removal of hulk vehicles, site cleanup, and seeding and planting actions designed to replace noxious weed and exotic species with native riparian plant assemblages appropriate for the site. The proposed acquisition is within the Whitefish Island subreach of the M2 reach-based restoration effort, currently in development for the BPA targeted solicitation. Restoration activities will include enhancement of side channel flows and increasing LWD distribution within the side channel area. Potential projects also include development of a groundwater-fed alcove channel to

provide low flow rearing habitat. Groundwater piezometers have been installed on the adjacent property to determine the feasibility and benefits that could be achieved from a groundwater channel. It is expected that the data from the established piezometers will be sufficient to inform restoration options on this property. MSRF will seek funds for long-term restoration actions through the targeted solicitation process.

- c) Describe the scale and size of the project, and its proximity to protected, functioning, or restored habitats. If available, please provide quantitative estimates on scale and size (e.g., acres of riparian habitat, kilometers of fencing, etc.).

The property contains approximately 1.94 acres of floodplain, riparian, and upland habitat along the Methow River. This property represents an opportunity to add approximately 1 acre to the 17 acres of high quality riparian habitat and associated waterfront previously funded for protected under 11th round funding. The proposed addition will expand restoration opportunities at the Whitefish Island side channel and alcove project and reduces the potential for water quality conflicts with the existing pattern of use. The acquisition and protection of this property will allow long-term recovery of natural processes in this reach of the Methow River. The acquisition would also support active habitat improvement of the properties to be completed under the BPA targeted solicitation.

- d) Briefly describe the monitoring plan, long-term stewardship, and maintenance obligations for the project or acquired land. For acquisition and combination projects, identify any planned use of the property, including upland areas.

MSRF proposes to acquire ownership of the targeted portion of the property in fee simple title and provide protection for the floodplain and riparian areas through perpetual deed of right. Under this proposal, property boundaries would be established by professional land survey to support a boundary adjustment to segregate the restoration areas apart from the reserved residential site. The current owner would retain a minimum of 1.0 acres in the upland portion of the property, including the existing house and accessory structures. MSRF will manage the acquisition portion of the property for conservation actions that support natural riparian and floodplain functions as well as allowing active restoration supporting and enhancing salmon recovery. The M2 Reach Assessment (Reclamation 2010) identified several potential in-channel restoration projects in the sub-reach to improve habitat diversity and increase the quantity and quality of rearing habitat. Potential projects include increasing distribution of large wood in the side channel to provide cover and cause localized scour and deposition, increasing the duration of surface water flows, and reducing the effects of bank hardening in the main channel.

MSRF maintains active partnerships with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Services for habitat projects on properties currently held for conservation. MSRF is also a partner with the Town of Twisp, Wild Fish Conservancy, and the WA Department of Ecology through a Centennial Agreement that provides funds for out-year riparian restoration and success monitoring on numerous sites throughout the Methow Valley. If acquired, this property will be incorporated into the coordinated effort, and additional partnerships will be sought with other agencies to ensure maximum public benefit is achieved on properties protected with

public funding. MSRF is committed to combining active restoration and management with acquisition to maximize the public benefits from acquisition.

3. Project Development

- a) List the individuals and methods used to identify the project and its location.

The M2 Reach Assessment (Reclamation 2010), a targeted reach assessment process involving multi-agency review, including each of the federal action agencies, the Yakama Nation, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, and WDFW, as well as local stakeholder participation, identified this property as a priority for acquisition and protection. The primary objective of this acquisition is to expand the restoration and enhancement options for the larger Whitefish Island project by incorporating the targeted property. Acquisition will allow consideration of larger channel reconfiguration efforts, development of groundwater galleries, and reduce constraints limiting natural channel meander. Once acquired, the property will be protected by deed of right restrictions that will retire development rights that conflict with riparian and floodplain functions. This property will significantly expand restoration opportunities on the surrounding 17 acres protected under SRFB/TRIB 11th round funding.

- b) Explain how the cost estimates for the project were determined.

Acquisitions costs were based on comparable protection acquisitions completed within the Methow Valley during the past 5 years and Okanogan County Assessor valuation methods. The final value offered will be determined by a Yellow Book compliant reviewed appraisal process to determine the full fair market value.

Actual costs for fees, escrow, and recording fees were derived from quoted figures based on the estimated purchase price. Professional fees for project management, implementation, and monitoring are based on our current rate schedule and estimated hours required to complete the project. Match figures are based on past costs for comparable projects. Initial cleanup and vehicle removal costs were based on costs for comparable projects and assumptions made on volumes.

- c) List all landowner names. Include a signed Landowner Acknowledgement Form (available on the SRFB Web site) from each landowner acknowledging that their property is proposed for Tributary Committee funding consideration.

The parcel is currently owned by Ellis Peters. A landowner willingness form will be supplied prior to June 30, 2011.

- d) List the project partners that will contribute towards the proposed project and define their contribution.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF)

MSRF will be responsible for permit compliance, grants management, and project reporting.

Contacts:

Chris Johnson, President (509) 422-0300

Chris Eliassen, Grant Manager (509) 996-2787

US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Reclamation will provide engineering service, technical specifications and bid support, and landowner outreach services.

Contact:

Jennifer Molesworth, Subbasin Liaison (509) 997-0640

Wild Fish Conservancy

Monitoring Support and Technical Assistance

Contact:

John Crandall, Aquatic Ecologist (509) 341-4341

WA Department of Ecology

Program funding for ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

Contact:

Mark Peterschmidt, Water Quality Program (509) 575-2800

US Geological Survey

Monitoring Support

Contact:

Pat Connolly, Lead Research Fish Biologist, (509) 538-2299 ext. 269

PROJECT TIMELINE

List the project milestones and the anticipated date of completion.

Item/Milestone	Outcome	Target Date (Month/Year)
Project Start	▪ Applications, landowner agreements completed.	May 9, 2011
Order Appraisal/Review	▪ Pending notification of award	March 2012
Purchase Agreement Signed	▪ All properties	June 2012
Committee Review of deed of right	▪ Committee/SRFB Approval of the Conditions within the Proposed deed of right	July 2012
Acquisition Closing	▪ Subject to acceptance of title report and appraised values.	August 2012
Recorded documents to the Committee	▪ Transfer of Development Rights completed	August 2012
Site restoration and cleanup	▪ Vehicles removed, site cleanup, disturbed areas seeded and planted	October 2013
Project Complete	▪ Acquisition and protections in place	September 2014
Final Report and invoice to Committee	▪ Final approval and payment by the Committee/SRFB	December 2014

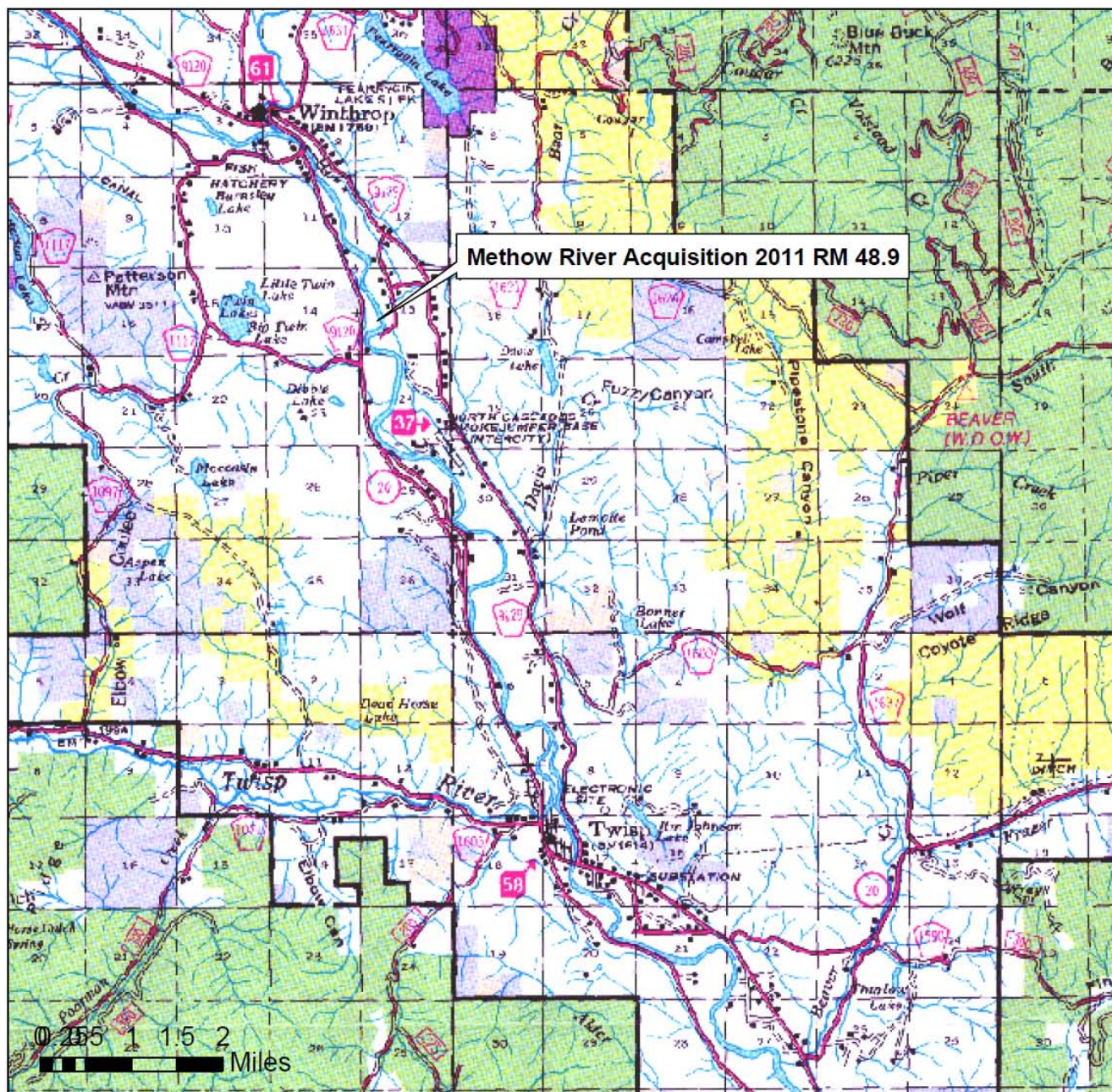
DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET – Use SRFB Format

Item	Cost/unit	Units	SRFB Fund Request	Trib. Fund Request	Donated/Other Source
Appraisal and Review	3,500	LS	3,500	0	
Survey and boundary line adjustment	3,000	LS	2,000	1,000	
Permits and fees	500	LS	500	0	
Land Acquisitions	40,000	LS	25,000	15,000	
Property Restoration (limited)	10,000	LS	5,000	5,000	
Project Administration	6,800	LS	5,400	1,400	
Technical review and support services	5,000	LS	0	0	5,000
Totals	68,800		41,400	22,400	5,000

PROPOSED PROJECT COST: \$68,800

Submit this completed form and any attachments via email to Becky Gallaher, becky.gallaher@chelanpud.org. or you may submit a paper copy or diskette (or CD) to the following address:

Becky Gallaher
HCP Tributary Fund
Post Office Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98807



Project Location



Methow River Acquisition 2011 RM 48.9

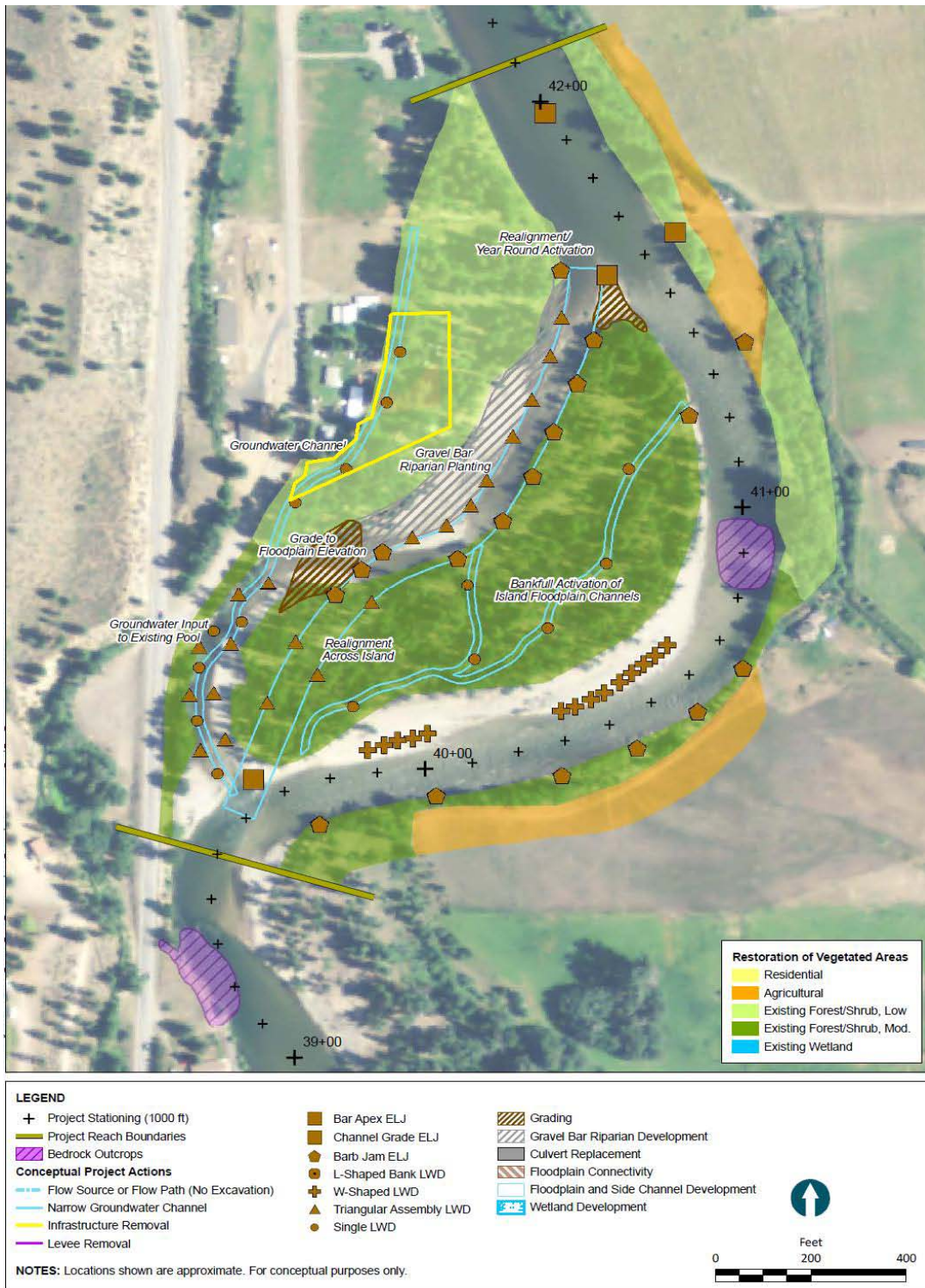
Location Map

MSRF Methow River Right Bank (#1)

Latitude: 48.44577° N
Longitude: 120.16215° W

Township: T34N
Range: R21E
Section: 13

Figure 5 Location of proposed acquisition project.



DRAFT



Figure 1-3a
Aerial View, Conceptual Project Alternative #3 - Whitefish Island Subreach
Alternatives Evaluation Report
USBR/ M2 Reach

Figure 6 Draft concepts showing location of proposed acquisition.