**SRFB AMENDMENT REQUEST**

**SRFB Subcommittee**

**Project Name:** Lower Icicle Conservation Easement

**Project Number:** 08-2060 A

**Project Sponsor:** Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT)

# Lead Entity: Chelan County Lead Entity

**Lead Entity Ranking:** 4 of 8

**Source of Funding:** State

**Current** **Proposed**

**SRFB Funds:** $ 362,200 28% $ 362,200 79%

**Sponsor Match:** $ 944,000 72% $ 95,550 21%

**Project Total:** $1,306,200 $ 457,750

**Request:** Match reduction of $848,450 or 90% from the original proposal. Phase 1 will not be required as a result, and Phases 2 & 3 are scheduled to be closed by the end of this year.

**Background:** The grant was initially received by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust for the Phase 1 conservation easement purchase on 65 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat along Icicle Creek, just upstream of the City of Leavenworth. This phase proposed to protect 5,900 linear feet of riverbank. Two additional Phases (2 & 3) were identified in the grant for future conservation easement purchase, which are for 10 and 5 acres respectively, and would protect a combined 3,155 linear feet of riverbank. (See Attachment A for vicinity and site map)

The CDLT submitted the Phase 1 application under the Washington Wildlife Recreation Program – Riparian (WWRP-RP) category for the match portion of their SRFB grant (10-1225). The project ranked 6th out of 20 projects statewide last year, however, due to the difficult legislative session, the entire last year.

The CDLT worked closely with the Chelan County lead entity in considering several amendment options prior to settling on this request. Other options considered and reasons rejected were: 1 - to request a two-year time extension and reapply for WWRP again in 2012, with potential funding available in 2013. This was too lengthy of an extension for the family selling their property and for the RCO, due to the uncertainty of receiving funding; 2 – to reduce the size of the Phase 1 acquisition. The CDLT and the seller both seek to protect the entire Phase 1 and will continue to pursue multiple funding sources, including SRFB and WWRP; 3 – to request a scope change to a different tributary to the Wenatchee or to a different watershed. This was the least desirable alternative and greatly deviates from the original scope.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approving the match reduction because:

* The request fits in the SRFB authority Matrix #6 – Reduce match.
* The Chelan County lead entity supports this request.
* The Phase 2 & 3 properties were identified in the original grant application, are contiguous and have similar salmon use and habitat values as the Phase 1 property.
* The sponsor has secured their matching funds for the Phase 2 & 3 easements.
* The family selling the property is motivated to execute the transaction by the end of 2011, and producing success will help the dynamics towards continued efforts to project Phase 1.
* The sponsor has had an excellent track record with this and past projects.

**SRFB Subcommittee Decision:** 08-15-11

**Attachment A**

**Vicinity & Site Map**

