



The Washington Water Trust is a private, nonprofit organization that works to benefit water quality, fisheries and recreation in Washington's rivers and streams by acquiring existing water rights from willing sellers through purchase, lease or gift.

August 9, 2004

Barbara McIntosh
Outdoor Grants Manager
C/O Salmon Recovery Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2004

**INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Dear Ms. McIntosh,

Re: Support for the 5th Round SRFB proposal for ongoing thermal and landscape assessment in the Okanogan Subbasin.

Washington Water Trust is a private, nonprofit organization working to restore rivers and streams throughout Washington. We work closely with landowners, watershed planning groups, tribes and citizens in the Okanogan to identify high priority areas for implementing strategic water initiatives. The information produced by Thermal Imagery and LiDAR is extremely important to our efforts and represents the kind of vital information and data necessary to develop strategic and prioritized water acquisitions for instream flow purposes.

The primary objective of the Phase I thermal survey (funded by SRFB in the 3rd round) was to collect water surface temperature data for select areas of the Okanogan River. Temperature is a primary limiting factor in defining habitat refugia and information about them is indispensable when considering mitigation and protection plans. A secondary objective was to collect detailed elevation data using LiDAR technology to provide high-resolution topographic data for the same length of river system together with approximately 50 meters of riparian zone on either side of the stream channels.

The information from Phase II will complete the GIS analysis of the remaining 106 miles of river data (in hand) and extend the coverage another 55 miles to include previously un-surveyed salmonid habitats. We are presently working with fish biologists from the Colville Tribe to identify priority habitats and locate streams with potential for quality fish restoration. The additional information will be extremely helpful in developing a comprehensive assessment of the Okanogan area and understanding the linkages between surface and ground water interactions.

Thank you, we appreciate the opportunity to add our support to this 5th round project proposal to initiate Phase II of these studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Susan Adams", written over a circular blue stamp.

D. Susan Adams

Executive Director
Washington Water Trust

Cc: Rollie Geppart
Joe Peone
Keith Wolf