



## Chelan County Natural Resource Department

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**website:** <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/nr1.htm>

September 17, 2007

Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team  
Citizens Committee  
Wenatchee, Washington

**SUBJECT:** Chelan County Natural Resource Department - Revised 2007 Salmon Recovery Fund Board Applications

The Nason Creek Complexity Projects – Phase I Design grant application was submitted to the RTT in June 2007. Based upon SRFB State Review Panel and RTT comments and review, the CCNRD is no longer pursuing funding for the Nason Creek Complexity grant application in 2007. During the RTT and SRP review process, the CCNRD was directed to submit grant proposals with specific project sites to facilitate RTT evaluation. The RTT also recommended that if the larger suite of projects is going to be completed in Nason Creek then dialogue with the railroad needs to occur at the policy level.

**To replace the Nason Creek Complexity proposal, the CCNRD is now proposing two projects:**

- 1) Lower Wenatchee River Complexity Site 12/13 – Design, Permitting, Construction, Maintenance & Monitoring.**
- 2) Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad & Wenatchee Watershed Coordination Plan**

The Lower Wenatchee River Complexity Site 12/13 represents an off-channel and high-flow channel habitat project located in the Gagnon Project reach. This site was examined during the USBR-funded Lower Wenatchee River Geomorphic Assessment with Application to Potential Habitat Improvement Projects (CH2M HILL) and in the Channel Migration Zone Study (Jones & Stokes 2004). As presented in these studies, Site 12/13 provides a good opportunity to meet the Tier 1 objectives of the Biological Strategy for the lower Wenatchee, while being in sequence with the projects that are already occurring within this reach. Site 12/13 was scheduled for proposal during 2008 funding cycle; however since we are waiting for specific sites to emerge from the MCA and the prioritization process for Nason complexity projects, we have decided to move the Nason proposal to a later funding cycle and bring Site 12/13 proposal forward this funding round.

The second project proposed will build upon the RTT recommendation that the recovery region should not leave it up to project sponsors to get the railroad to work cooperatively on a project-by-project basis.

This proposal would fund a process to create a dialog between the CCNRD (and other parties) and BNSF to outline a project proposal, review, and approval process between project sponsors and BNSF railroad.

The CCNRD has spent time reorganizing our proposal following the RTT and SRFB review and believe the combination of these two proposals provides the best approach to 1) moving a planned habitat improvement project forward, and 2) Addressing potential future project obstacles associated with the BNSF railroad. We have attached detailed and complete SRFB grant applications using the in-Stream Habitat Form and Non-Capital (Planning and Assessment) Form for each project. We look forward to your review and comments and will work hard to answer any questions you may have with these new proposals.

Please contact myself 509-667-6346 if you have any questions regarding the information in this permit package.

Sincerely,

Joy Juelson  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Chelan County Natural Resource Department

Board of County Commissioners

*Keith W. Goehner*  
*Buell Hawkins*  
*Ron Walter*

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