

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Individual Comment Form



Lead Entity:	WRIA 1
Project Number:	15-1286
Project Name:	Middle Fork Porter Creek Reach Phase 1
Project Sponsor:	Lummi Nation
Grant Manager:	Marc Duboiski

	Date	Status ¹
Post-Application		
Final	9/23/15	Clear

PROJECT SUMMARY *(for Review Panel reference only)*

To restore salmon habitat in WRIA 1, this project will construct 11 engineered log jams (ELJs) in the mainstem Middle Fork Nooksack River, consisting of three Type I ELJs (42x80x6'), 2 Type II ELJs (30x60x6'), and six Type III ELJs (34x75x4') (Figure 4). Endangered early spring Chinook salmon and bull trout will benefit from 11 primary pools; more pools may develop indirectly as increased roughness causes dynamic equilibrium. Scour pools provide thermal refugia (holding pools) from elevated Middle Fork water temperatures during summer spawning months in addition to pools for juvenile overwintering (rearing pools). In addition, juveniles will benefit from 1.23 miles of off channel rearing habitat by increasing connectivity with the floodplain and side channels. All features are focused on enhancement of endangered Spring Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) habitat by maximizing natural habitat-forming processes inherent in this reach of river.

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 9/23/15

Final Project Status: Clear

Review Panel Member(s): Full SRFB Review Panel

- 1. If the project is a POC, please identify the SRFB criteria used to determine the status of the project:**
- 2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:**
- 3. Other comments:**

The project sponsor has addressed the previous review panel comments and is cleared to proceed.

For adaptive management purposes, the sponsor should provide measurable project objectives to meet the S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) objectives requirement. The key WRIA 1 habitat indicators provide excellent objectives for pools and wood, but don't address all of the project objectives. For example, please estimate how many forested islands can be expected following project completion. A measurable objective for floodplain and side-channel connectivity might quantify the amount of floodplain habitat to be gained or the number of side channels to be connected.

¹ CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; NMI: Needs More Information; POC: Project of Concern; NOTEWORTHY: Exemplary Project

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POST-APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Project Status: Click to choose a status

Review Panel Member(s):

1. If the project is a POC, identify the SRFB criteria used to determine the status of the project:
2. If the project is a POC, identify the changes that would make this a technically sound project:
3. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
4. General comments:



SPONSOR RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS:

If your project is not cleared (i.e. has a status of NMI, Conditioned, or POC) you must update your proposal, PRISM questions, or attachments as necessary to address the review panel's comments. Use track changes when updating your proposal. Fill out the section at the end of your project proposal to document how you responded to comments.

DRAFT APPLICATION / SITE VISIT REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 6/4/2015

Project Site Visit?

Yes No

Review Panel Member(s): Jennifer O'Neal and Steve Toth

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**

If the target life stage for this project is juvenile Chinook (p. 3) clarification of the current level of juvenile use in the reach should be included. Significant investment (70 LWD accumulations stabilized) has been made in this reach already. Some of those structures have been lost, but some still remain. Please discuss the effectiveness of these existing structures and justify the need for additional investment in this reach, especially given the lack of knowledge on how juveniles are using the current structures.

Replanting native riparian forests is a key element of restoration plans. At the field visit the sponsor described its program of working with its tribal conservation corps and NSEA to do revegetation. Including this information in the proposal would strengthen it.

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**
3. **General Comments:**

The Porter Reach is identified as having the highest level of spawning in the Middle Fork (p. 3), yet further increases in spawning habitat are proposed in the application. How much more spawning can be expected in this reach given the current high level of use?

The use of marginal habitat along forested islands by juvenile Chinook is of interest to the Review Panel. What information is available on the use of these areas by chinook, as opposed to significant research identifying use

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of side channels by juvenile and adult chinook. More direct benefit may be achieved by focusing on enhancement of side channels and other low velocity areas with structures and cover.

The design process should refine the specific project objectives that are listed in the proposal, and then follow them consistently. Trapping gravel, improving connectivity with side channels and forming pools are distinct objectives that typically deserve distinct design approaches, and simply loading up the project reach with ELJs may not be appropriate to meet the various objectives.

Staff Comments: The preliminary design deliverables must be submitted with the final application on 8/14/15 to remain eligible for funding consideration (Manual #18, Restoration, page 12).



SPONSOR RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS:

Revise your project proposals using “track changes” and update any relevant PRISM questions and attachments. Fill out the section at the end of your project proposal to document how you responded to comments.