

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY98 Watershed Proposal Form**

Section 1. General administrative information

Title **Create fish passage and wild anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat.**

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 8023

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Joann Vidondo-Landowner. Application assistance is by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Water Resources Department.

Business acronym (if appropriate) LO, ODFW, OWRD.

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

Name	Joann Vidondo
Mailing Address	Route 2, Box 720
City, ST Zip	Prairie City, Oregon, 97869
Phone	541-820-3393
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Email address	

Subcontractors.

List one subcontractor per row; to add more rows, press Alt-Insert from within this table

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.

 Unknown.

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

There is potential for bull trout migration from the Middle Fork John Day River into Bridge Creek above the present dam location. Bull trout are found in Clear Creek, the

next tributary upstream from Bridge Creek. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have determined bull trout in the John Day River system are warranted for Threatened Status.

Other planning document references.

This is a Watershed project. Support groups include: ODFW-contact Tim Unterwegner at 541-575-1167, OWRD-contact is Kelly Rise at 541-575-0119. Jack Cavender at 541-934-2432, chair of the North Fork John Day River Watershed Council indicated he supports the project and believes the council would also be in full support of the project. Time frame constraints prevent a full council vote on the issue prior to application deadline.

Subbasin.

Middle Fork John Day River subbasin

Short description.

Rehabilitate the dam on Bates Pond to current Oregon State dam safety standards. Provide anadromous and resident fish passage facilities. Re-open approximately thirteen stream miles of wild steelhead habitat. Wild spring chinook salmon spawning and rearing could occur in lower Bridge Creek. Potential exists for bull trout to colonize Bridge Creek.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
X	Anadromous fish	X	Construction	X	Watershed
+	Resident fish		O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research	+	Ecosystems
	Climate		Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other	+	Resource mgmt		Fish disease
			Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement		Wildlife habitat en-
			Acquisitions		hancement/restoration

Other keywords.

Anadromous, Wild Spring Chinook, Wild Summer Steelhead, Passage, Bull Trout, Habitat, Spawning, Threatened species.

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Obj 1,2, 3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Create anadromous and resident fish passage	a	Obtain funding for the project
		b	Obtain permits for the project
		c	Hire qualified engineer
		d	Design fish passage facilities
		e	Hire qualified contractor
		f	Build fish passage facilities
2	Rehabilitate the dam to current state dam safety standards	g	Obtain funding for the project
		h	Obtain permits for the project
		i	Hire qualified engineer
		j	Design dam repairs
		k	Hire qualified contractor
		l	Rehabilitate the dam

Objective schedules and costs

1	12/1997	10/1999	\$100,000.00
2	12/1997	10/1999	\$100,000.00

Schedule constraints.

Permits of various agencies need to be obtained and requirements followed. Timely engineering is required. Appropriate contractors need to be retained. Oregon preferred in-water work periods need to be followed. Cost analysis figures are unprofessional estimates.

Completion date.

It is planned that the original funding request, if approved, will fund the entire project which should be completed by the end of 1999.

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel	None	None
Fringe benefits	None	None
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	This is the responsibility of the contractors and subcontractors	None
Operations & maintenance	Landowner responsibility	None
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)	None	None
PIT tags	# of tags: None	None
Travel	None	None
Indirect costs	None anticipated.	None
Subcontracts	\$200,000.00	None
Other	None anticipated	None
TOTAL	\$200,000.00	None

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	None	None	None	None
O&M as % of total	None	None	None	None

Section 6. Abstract

Answers:

- a. Question answered in narrative below.
- b. Bridge Creek is a headwater tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River. Sometime prior to 1951 a dam was built across Bridge Creek effectively cutting off fish passage. Bridge Creek and its tributaries were historical spawning and rearing areas for anadromous fish. The dam was constructed without benefit of water rights as required by law. Efforts by the landowner to obtain water rights have been stymied by two main issues which are the scope of this proposed project. In summary, the OWRD has issued a draft reservoir storage permit to the landowner. Approval of the final permit is contingent upon, among other things, the dam being brought up to current dam safety standards and fish passage facilities being constructed. The landowner does not have the financial ability to repair the dam and provide fish passage facilities. The dam is

approximately a 23 foot high earth fill structure storing about 32 acre feet of water while submerging about 7.2 acres of land. Maximum depth of water is 10.7 feet.

- c. Benefits to fish are approximately thirteen stream miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for wild anadromous and resident fish will be re-opened. ODFW has conducted physical surveys of Bridge Creek and tributaries and high quality habitat for anadromous and resident fish species exists.
- d. Dam repair and fish passage facility plans would be prepared by a registered professional engineer licensed in the State of Oregon. The plans would be reviewed and approved by the dam safety engineer for the OWRD and the ODFW engineer.
- e. Expected outcome is a reservoir with legal water rights and fish passage facilities.
- f. Construction methods and the final product would be reviewed by the registered professional project engineer, the OWRD dam safety engineer and the ODFW engineer.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

Bates Pond is located in a portion of the NW1/4 NW1/4 Sec. 28 and the NE1/4 NE1/4 Sec. 29, T. 11S., R. 35 E., W.M. The reservoir and dam were constructed across the main channel of Bridge Creek sometime prior to 1951 effectively cutting off all fish passage at the dam location. The water was used for saw mill purposes until 1974 when the mill was shut down and dismantled. Breaching of the dam at this time to cause storage to cease and provide natural fish passage is an undesirable option due to the downstream siltation that would occur due to escape of dam material and sediment buildup within the reservoir area. The pond was used by the sawmill to store, at times, up to 13 million board feet of lumber. A chute was used to transport the logs from this pond to a lower pond for processing. There is potential for highly organic sediments to escape to the Middle Fork John Day River and affect chinook and steelhead spawning habitat if the dam is breached. The siltation would negatively affect the Middle Fork John Day River in known chinook salmon spawning areas as well as the lower end of Bridge Creek.

b. Proposal objectives.

The objectives are to rehabilitate the dam, provide adequate fish passage, allow the landowner to legalize storage of water and prevent severe siltation loads from entering known spawning areas of chinook salmon and steelhead. Approximately thirteen stream miles of high quality anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat will be re-opened on Bridge Creek and its tributaries. Potential exists for bull trout to colonize.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

This project is consistent with NWPPC basin plan goals for doubling anadromous fish in the Columbia Basin. The project will benefit wild spring chinook, summer steelhead, with potential for bull trout. This project is consistent with the primary goals of the John Day River subbasin plan for habitat enhancement and passage improvement for wild

salmonids. John Day River salmon and steelhead populations are being used to measure success of other anadromous fish programs throughout the basin.

d. Project history

This would be a new project.

e. Methods.

ANSWERS:

Tasks: Acquiring funding to do the project is a critical component of the project. A frustrating part of filling out this application is we do not have an effective method to specifically estimate individual breakdown costs nor even the total cost of the project. Although it may seem premature to apply for funding without specific knowledge of the cost breakdown for each specific task, we are unable to come up with specific cost figures without an extensive cost feasibility study-analysis of the project by registered professional project engineers. Such a study up front is inappropriate due to several factors: 1) limiting time frame constraints to either complete the project or cause the dam to be breached; 2) the up-front costs of such a feasibility study could more effectively be applied towards actual work to accomplish the project; 3) the landowner's and State of Oregon's need to bring the situation to a timely conclusion one way or another.

Critical Assumptions: That the requested funds would be adequate to bring the project to completion. That unforeseen problems or issues will not crop up.

Sequence of Operations: Upon receipt of funding, the landowner plans to hire engineers to put the project into motion. Those engineers would work closely with the OWRD and ODFW to ensure the methods used and results obtained would be up to current legal standards and comply with the scope of the intended project.

Environmental protection requirements: All required permits would be obtained from pertaining agencies prior to commencement of the project. This would include contacts with and approval of: the Oregon Division of State Lands, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the ODFW, the OWRD, Grant County Court and the Grant County Planning Commission.

Risks to Habitats or Humans: Even though the dam has not been identified as an immediate risk for failure, it is important that dam safety issues be resolved. If the dam cannot be rehabilitated and fish passage provided the dam will need to be breached to cause storage of water to cease and allow fish passage under natural conditions. This would cause siltation loads to enter sensitive anadromous fish spawning and rearing areas. Work to accomplish the project would be conducted during Oregon's preferred in water work periods. Any required work outside of the preferred in water work period would occur only if allowed by ODFW. It is expected the necessary work to rehabilitate the

structure and provide fish passage would lead to less siltation entering rearing and spawning areas versus breaching of the dam.

Methods for monitoring and evaluating results: It is expected that wild steelhead and potentially wild chinook salmon and bull trout would utilize the re-opened areas of Bridge Creek and tributaries for spawning and rearing. Spawning surveys will be conducted by ODFW in Bridge Creek to monitor success of the project.

Results expected: The landowner would acquire a legal right to store water, fish passage would be provided, additional high quality fish rearing and spawning habitat would be re-opened. It is anticipated the project would produce an additional 115 adult steelhead annually. It is unknown to what degree chinook salmon and bull trout will utilize the habitat.

Potential result: Past efforts by the landowner to sell or trade the property to organizations or entities that may have more resources available to enhance the fisheries and habitat areas have been dismantled by the legal inadequacies and uncertainties associated with the dam and reservoir. Bringing the dam into legal status would make the property much more attractive to potential buyers or entities interested in land exchanges.

f. Facilities and equipment.

Facilities and equipment would be provided by the engineers, contractors and subcontractors hired to do the project.

g. References.

ODFW, CTUIR, CTWS. 1990 Salmon and steelhead production plan, John Day River subbasin dated 1990. Publishing entity was NWPPC Portland, Oregon.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

All required permits would be obtained from the appropriate agencies prior to commencement of the project. This would include contacts with and approval of: the Oregon Division of State Lands, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the ODFW, the OWRD, the Grant County SWCD Grant County Court and the Grant County Planning Commission.

This project will be consistent with nearby Bureau of Reclamation fish passage and irrigation efficiency projects. It will also compliment other on-going fish habitat enhancement projects on the Middle Fork John Day River and its tributaries. These projects include approximately 10 miles of stream fencing, several instream water right leases and substantial land acquisitions by the Nature Conservancy.

Section 9. Key personnel

Registered professional engineers licensed in the State of Oregon would be retained to plan, conduct and monitor the project in cooperation with engineers of the OWRD and ODFW. Contractors or subcontractors would be responsible to the engineers and landowner.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Unknown.