

October 18, 2010 OWEB Grant Cycle Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	211-6050	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Lampson Levee Setback and Habitat Restoration		
Applicant:	Walla Walla Basin WC		
Basin:	UMATILLA	County:	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	\$97,985.00	Total Cost:	\$813,534.00

Application Description

This project was resubmitted from the last grant application cycle. The project would remove portions of 3/8 of a mile of private levee and restore riparian/wetland vegetation on a 22-acre conservation easement upstream from Milton-Freewater on the Walla Walla River in Umatilla County. The old levee constricts the Walla Walla River's ability to meander, limits fish habitat complexity for summer steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout, and limits riparian vegetation. Project components include connecting floodplain by pulling back portions of the levee; revegetate riparian area and floodplain; install a secondary backwater channel; re-align and reconnect a channelized spring creek. The river, where the levee will be removed, will be redesigned for stability and fish habitat by installing j-hooks, root wads and rock structures to create pools and spawning gravels. Partners include landowners and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR.)

OWEB funds were requested for project management (5%), contracted services (57%), supplies/materials (29%), and fiscal administration (9%).

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers noted that a good population of steelhead and bulltrout and recovering spring Chinook use the reach in the fall and winter, and there is good water quality but limited fish habitat. The review team recognized the good relationship with landowner and, based on both partners' track records, felt there was a high likelihood of project success. There was discussion that a downstream neighbor is concerned about flooding, and the watershed council has been talking with the neighbor about the project design and leaving the lower end of the levee in place as an additional buffer to the flood plain for the neighbor.

A final set of comprehensive designs was provided and the budget was revised to reflect those final changes. It was clarified that the riparian planting would be contracted out to the Umatilla Tribes Plant Nursery. The unit cost of planting does include predator controls and mulch mats where warranted. The review team noted that in this area of levees (Walla Walla River basin) projects like this will be watched by those all along the river and if successful, will serve as a great education and project procurement tool. The review team felt this project was ready for funding at this time.

Ecosystem Process and Function

Implementation of this project will reconnect the river to its flood plain, decrease flow velocity, diversify in-stream complexity, add high-velocity refugia, and enhance spawning habitat and complexity.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund.

Regional Review Team Priority

3 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Capital Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion	Non-Capital Amount
\$97,985.00			

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund.

Staff Recommended Award

Capital Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion	Non-Capital Amount
\$97,985.00			

Total Recommended Board Award

\$97,985.00