

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the Bureau of Reclamation's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	10RA10FW001
Project Title	Recovery Act: Entiat Subbasin Habitat Improvement Project: Preston Reach, Entiat Wells
Recipient	Cascadia Conservation District 215 Melody Lane Wenatchee WA 98801
Principle Investigator / Program Manager	Mr. Mike Rickel Cascadia Conservation District 215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801 mike.rickel@wa.nacdnet.net
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$634,000
Cost Share	N/A
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Length of Agreement	2 years
Anticipated Period of Performance	June 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	Reclamation is conducting the Tributary Habitat Program under Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and Fish and Wildlife Act as delegated from the Secretary of the Interior in Secretarial Order No. 3274, Amendment 1, dated August 26, 2009.
CFDA # and Title	15.517 – Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(4) - Unique Qualifications
Reclamation Point of Contact	By mail: Bureau of Reclamation Pacific Northwest Regional Office Attn: Mr. Bryant Lyndaker 1150 N. Curtis Road Boise, ID 83706 By Phone: 208-378-5138 By E-mail: blyndaker@pn.usbr.gov

OVERVIEW

Background:

Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) is serving as a Project Sponsor to the Bureau of Reclamation to identify, secure funding for, and assist the implementation of prioritized projects developed to meet the objectives for habitat improvement in the Columbia and Snake River basins. The two projects with ARRA funding under this cooperative agreement are the Preston Reach Habitat Complexity Project on the Entiat River and the Entiat River Off-Stream Wells Implementation Project.

The Objective of these projects are to restore passage for fish and address adverse affects associated with on-going in-river maintenance and operational activities associated with the diversion projects. Financial assistance for this project will carry out the public purpose of: improved access to spawning and rearing habitat; improved habitat quantity and quality for native endangered fish species including Spring Chinook salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Bull Trout; and improved fish passage; improved wildlife habitat; and improve public use of the rivers.

Due to the complexity of the issues and the geographic location a great amount of activity must be coordinated involving State and local government units, private landowners, non-profit organizations, in addition to various Federal Agencies; including Reclamation, before a project is finalized. Coordination with local organizations and private landowners is essential to the overall success of habitat improvement in the Entiat Subbasin.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

Cascadia is responsible for developing fish habitat projects through planning, coordination, landowner outreach, permitting, contract award, construction oversight, or construction management as necessary for project implementation and the evaluation and monitoring of project performance.

Description and Specific activities for Preston Reach Complexity Project

Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) will oversee construction of up to five instream habitat features designed by / for Reclamation for the Preston Reach area of the Entiat watershed. All phases of this work are to be conducted in close coordination with Reclamation and the affected landowners. The Recipient will participate in alternatives analysis, conduct landowner outreach and coordination, gather public comments and input, develop landowner agreements, negotiate access agreements for project sites, coordinate site visits, coordinate submittal of permit applications, participate in final design development, develop bid package, advertise, purchase and arrange for storage / delivery of woody materials, hire contractor, oversee construction, manage contract, and conduct monitoring, follow-up and adaptive management. Other activities may include data collection such as assisting with flow measurements, topographic or other data gathering, and mapping. Recipient will work with Reclamation or its contractor as requested to provide data, gather examples of other projects, and perform other work as needed toward project implementation.

The proposed schedule for habitat construction is as follows:

August – October 2009	Assist Reclamation with data collection and landowner outreach/coordination, participate in design development.
November 2009-April 2010	Participate in alternatives analysis & selection, submit permit applications, develop and finalize landowner agreements

May – June 2010	Develop bid package; advertise and hire contractor
July – October 2010	Oversee construction and manage contract
November 2010 – June 2011	Monitor project outcome, conduct adaptive management
October 2009 – July 2011	Report progress and submit invoices as appropriate

Description and Specific activities for Entiat River Off-Stream Wells Implementation

Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) will work with previously identified landowners and Reclamation to site and size up to 8 irrigation water wells sufficient to replace current surface water diversion(s) on the Entiat River. CCD will work with Reclamation to conduct cultural resources investigations and develop specifications as needed to prepare for construction. At sites where the well is productive but not sufficient to replace the diversion, alternatives to drilling a second well will be investigated, e.g., upgrades to the delivery system that would achieve the necessary irrigation capacity. Where feasible, if the cost of upgrading the irrigation water delivery system associated with the site would be less than the cost of drilling and developing a second well, this option may be pursued with willing landowners. Unproductive wells are to be abandoned.

Primary work components include securing landowner agreements and permits, drilling, development, casing and pump installation, irrigation piping, connections, electrical connections, meters and water rights transfers. Secondary work may include channel modification, riparian restoration, or other habitat improvements to decommission the diversion and provide habitat benefits.

The proposed schedule for well drilling is as follows:

August-October 2009	Select target well sites and complete landowner agreements Develop specifications and bid documents Advertise and select contractor
October – November 2009	Drill / develop wells, install casings, pumps, meters, & electrical
February-April 2010	Install pipe & connections (weather permitting); test systems
April-October 2010	Continue to test new systems, manage adaptations as needed Apply for water rights transfers and potential placement of saved water into trust water program. Apply for permits as needed for habitat improvements.
July-September 2010	Decommission diversion(s) and remove screens or structures as needed; improve fish habitat in diversion area as appropriate for multiple resource benefits
September 2010 – June 2011	Monitor project outcome; manage adjustments as needed to achieve functional alternative irrigation sources and to decommission diversions
October 2009 – July 2011	Report progress and submit invoices as appropriate

RECLAMATION INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement in this project is anticipated by Reclamation. Reclamation will assist CCD with

project implementation by providing technical assistance in planning and coordination. Reclamation will produce the designs for the modifications required to complete the project, perform construction inspection during project construction, and perform effectiveness monitoring of the project after completion.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS
Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.
In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria: (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives; (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity; (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress’ intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose; (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications; (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

Reclamation did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

(2) CONTINUATION

Cascadia Conservation District has an existing agreement for similar projects and has been working with Reclamation and other state, Federal, and local entities for several years working on habitat improvement projects within Cascadia County. Their knowledge and expertise in planning, coordinating and monitoring habitat improvement projects has been very beneficial to the overall goals of these projects.

(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

Cascadia, as a local government entity, works with many partners to sponsor fish habitat protection and passage activities, and works to secure cost-sharing from Federal and non-Federal sources for project construction in this area. They have familiarity with local issues and needs.

Cascadia has the technical capacity for this type of work, and currently provides these same services for Reclamation under a Cooperative Agreement and for other Federal and non-Federal entities. Additionally, Cascadia has been designated by Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration as the lead entity for this type of work within the Entiat subbasin.

Reclamation does not plan on making these funds available for competition because the Cascadia is the only non-Federal partner currently providing planning, permitting, construction, construction management and oversight for Federally-funded fish habitat projects within the Entiat subbasin.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 661—666c). Additionally, the Commissioner of Reclamation's letter, dated October 30, 2007, delegating "Off-site Habitat Improvements" authority to the Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, Bureau of Reclamation.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. § 661, states in part:

[T]o provide that wildlife conservation shall receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water-resource development programs through the effectual and harmonious planning, development, maintenance, and coordination of wildlife conservation and rehabilitation ... the Secretary of the Interior is authorized (1) to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes,

Secretary of the Interior in Secretarial Order No. 3274, Amendment 1, dated August 26, 2009.

Sec. 4 Delegation. The Assistant Secretary - Water and Science is delegated the authority under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 661 - 666c); section 5 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1534); and section 7(a) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. § 742f(a)) that is required to take the actions specified in Sec. 5 below, either directly or by providing financial assistance to non-Federal parties, when the Assistant Secretary determines that such actions are required in order to meet obligations under subsection 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2)) regarding the construction and/or continued operation and maintenance of any Federal reclamation project located in Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region. This authority may be further delegated to the Commissioner, Reclamation. It may not be delegated below the Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.

Sec. 5 Actions under the Authority Delegated. a. Planning, designing, and constructing, including acquiring lands or interest therein as needed for: (1) fish passage and screening facilities at any non-Federal water diversion or storage project within the Pacific Northwest Region; or (2) projects to create or improve stream habitat; b. Acquiring or leasing water or water rights from willing sellers or lessors; or c. Monitoring or evaluating the effect of Reclamation actions on ESA-listed species.