

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	11SS10FW001
Project Title	Methow Subbasin Anadromous Fishery Habitat Improvement II
Recipient	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) PO Box 1608 Okanogan, WA 98840
Principal Investigator / Program Manager	Chris Johnson, President Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) PO Box 1608 Okanogan, WA 98840 Phone: 509-422-0300
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$1,461,669
Cost Share	N/A
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Length of Agreement	4.5 years
Anticipated Period of Performance	June 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act , 16 U.S.C. § 661 et seq. (1958)
CFDA # and Title	15.517 – Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(4) - Unique Qualifier
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

Reclamation currently provides technical assistance for fisheries habitat improvement in eleven tributary subbasins in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Actions identified in these subbasins are designed to improve survival of fish during spawning and rearing life stages. Reclamation is committed to providing assistance to entities that can attend to issues involving fish screening, fish passage, water flow, and channel complexity in specific tributary subbasins of the Columbia River in order to benefit anadromous fish habitat. The Methow Subbasin is one such subbasin. Reclamation expects to provide assistance to meet specific metric goals that include: (1) fish screens that meet current criteria; (2) spawning and rearing access restored by removal of fish passage barriers; (3) meeting instream flow targets; and (4) increased miles of channel complexity in the Upper Columbia Region, Methow Subbasin.

Reclamation through this Agreement is providing assistance to Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) in bringing about fish habitat improvement projects in the Methow Subbasin. MSRF will identify potential habitat projects in the Methow Subbasin; coordinate habitat projects with local constituents; define projects for consideration by Reclamation and other interested parties; participate during project design and construction in an advisory role; and determine the viability of the project outcome on fish habitat after completion.

Benefit

The ultimate outcome of these projects will be to restore passage and add habitat complexity to tributaries in the Methow Subbasin which will benefit anadromous fisheries. Benefits include: improved access to spawning and rearing habitat; reduced entrainment; increased streamflow, improved fish passage; and improved habitat quantity and quality for native endangered fish species including spring chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

Objectives

- a. Development and Coordination in the Twisp and Chewuch Rivers: Development and Coordination is the general exploration, liaison, coordination that is not project specific, but necessary in order to move a project from a concept to actual habitat improvement. Under Development and Coordination effort, MSRF is expected to perform the following types of tasks within the Region:
 1. Assist in the preparation of an annual implementation plan for the Tributary Habitat Program for the Methow Subbasin. Reclamation's Tributary Habitat Program in the Pacific Northwest Region was initiated in 2000 as part of the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinions on Operation and Maintenance of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Reclamation is currently operating under the current FCRPS Biological Opinion.
 2. Inform landowners and other interested parties of the Tributary Habitat Program, as identified in Attachment 1, and its objectives. Coordination with landowners in

the preparation of planning and implementation for the Tributary Habitat Program within the Methow Subbasin and obtain landowner access agreements as necessary.

3. Attend regular meetings and coordination with Reclamation and other entities working on habitat improvement activities within the Region.
 4. Develop projects that result in increased stream flow in rivers and streams in the Methow Subbasin geographic areas.
 5. Work in partnership with other entities to implement projects with willing landowners on approaches for improving instream flow and obtain landowner access agreements as necessary.
 6. Investigate the: need for fish screens; opportunities for removal of fish passage barriers; improvement of physical conditions that affect water conditions; and improvement of channel complexity conditions.
 7. Develop and perform Tributary and Reach Assessments as defined by Reclamation.
 8. Report to Reclamation with the results of its investigations.
 9. Report other related concerns or issues in progress reports as per the agreement.
 10. Summarize the funding status of each project and submit with invoices.
- b. Site Specific Objectives: Site specific objectives are associated with individual projects, and are separate from the Development and Coordination portion of the work. Once Reclamation approves an identified project and it is funded, MSRF is responsible for ensuring all elements of implementation are progressing throughout construction. Reclamation performs the design function, with MSRF responsible for obtaining construction funding from others. After construction, MSRF will monitor and evaluate the performance of the implemented projects through the next year's water cycle to ensure the project remains fully functional through both a low water and a high water event to ensure meeting the objectives for implementation.

Specific project objectives that MSRF will engage in include but are not limited to: preparing grant applications and securing grant funding for project implementation; landowner and community outreach assistance; development of permitting applications and packages; coordination, meeting attendance, and site visits with local, State and Federal permitting entities; providing consultation and advice on project features; providing assistance to identified lead Federal Agencies for the application of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); performing due diligence on all potential transactions, working with federal and state partner agencies to obtain water rights info for projects, drafting acquisition contracts and other necessary water-related documents, completing closing documents, providing progress monitoring and observance during the implementation of projects; and

providing follow-on evaluation and monitoring of project performance. MSRF is authorized to perform the preceding tasks under this Agreement.

Middle Methow (M2)

Objective 2A - M2 Whitefish Island: The Objective of the M2 Whitefish Island is to assist Reclamation in identification and implementation of projects designed to Increase channel complexity in side channels, increase duration of surface water flow in side channel, increase habitat complexity in main channel to connect isolated high quality habitat units, protect and improve the quantity and function of riparian vegetation. This task will require a significant outreach and education component in coordination with the YIN

Task 2B - M2 WDFW Obanion Reach: The Obanion Reach task Order Objects include identification and implementation of projects designed to Protect plan-form channel complexity; Increase habitat complexity in side channel ; Increase frequency and duration of floodplain activation to strengthen floodplain—channel interaction; Increase habitat complexity in main channel to connect isolated high quality habitat units; Maintain surface water connections at MVID East diversion and fish returns and Protect and improve the quantity and function of riparian vegetation. This task will require a significant outreach and education component in coordination with the YIN

RECLAMATION INVOLVEMENT

For approved projects, the Bureau of Reclamation will provide designs for the funded activity and, work closely with MSRF throughout the activity and provide technical expertise as needed prior to MSRF obtaining and administering construction funding from others. Reclamation will also complete NEPA and ESA compliance reviews for any projects using Reclamation Construction Authority. Reclamation and the United States will at no time be owners of any lands or facilities relating to this Agreement, and will at no time have any operation and/or maintenance responsibilities for these lands and facilities.

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 & (4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

Single Source Justification Description:

MSRF has been serving as Reclamation's Methow Basin Project Sponsor for the past four years. During that time MSRF has developed a monthly coordination meeting process that brings together agency representatives and local stakeholders in a collaborative process designed to inform project selection and implementation. This process has evolved in scope to include project development and review, funding solicitation and development of monitoring protocols for projects. MSRF will use this local forum as a primary outreach tool to identify and build regional support for prioritized project actions within the task areas identified in this proposal. This established rapport with local public and private individuals and entities is essential to the successful identification and completions of the various projects in the Methow Subbasin.

As Project Actions are identified and prioritized, MSRF works with Reclamation to develop permitting and funding strategies for each action type/area to ensure that projects are implemented within the time frames established by Reclamation.

MSRF coordinates actions with other federal, state and tribal partners to avoid redundant efforts/processes and encourage collaboration in funding and implementation.

MSRF maintains an active outreach and public engagement program through hosted public events, newsletter mailings and website development. This effort will focus on placing the proposed actions into a regional perspective.

Finally, MSRF maintains an on-going adaptive management and monitoring presence in the watershed to ensure that project actions actually achieve desired benefits and to maintain continued public support for future recovery actions.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. § 661, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior:

[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,

Departmental Manual Part 255 DM 1, Chapter 1 authorizes the Commissioner of Reclamation:

1.1 *Delegation. Subject to the exceptions in Section 1.2, the Commissioner of Reclamation (Commissioner) is delegated the authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science to:*

B. Take the following actions, either directly or by providing financial assistance to non-Federal parties, pursuant to the Conservation of Wild Life, Fish and Game Act of March 10, 1934 (Pub. L. 73-121; 48 Stat. 401) as amended by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of August 14, 1946 (Pub. L. 85-624; 72 Stat. 563; 16 U.S.C. 661-666c); Section 5 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, December 28, 1973 (Pub. L. 93-205; 87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1534); and Section 7(a) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956, August 8, 1956 (70 Stat. 1122; 16 U.S.C. 742f(a)), regarding the construction and/or continued operation and maintenance of any Federal reclamation project:

(1) plan, design, and construct, including acquiring lands or interest therein as needed for: (a) fish passage and screening facilities at any non-Federal water diversion or storage project; or (b) projects to create or improve instream habitat. (2) acquire or lease water or water rights from willing sellers or lessors; or (3) monitor and evaluate the effect of Reclamation actions on Endangered Species Act-listed species.