



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 43200 · Olympia, WA 98504-3200 · (360) 902-2200, TTY (800) 833-6388
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building · 1111 Washington Street SE · Olympia, WA 98504-3200

October 31st, 2016

TO: Representatives J.T Wilcox, 2nd District; Brian Blake, 19th District; Ed Orcutt, 20th District; and Judy Clibborn, 41st District

FROM: Thomas P Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Program, Fish Passage and Screening Division Manager, Chairman Fish Barrier Removal Board

SUBJECT: Fish Barrier Removal Board – Progress Report

The Second Substitute House Bill 2251, Chapter 120, Laws of 2014, concerning fish barrier removals directed the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to maintain and chair a Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB). As directed, the FBRB has developed a statewide strategy for prioritizing and repairing fish passage barriers (see attached flyer and prioritized barrier removal project list). The FBRB is seeking \$51.4 million in the 17-19 biennium to repair 79 fish passage barriers statewide, opening 160 miles of habitat. The House bill also directed the FBRB to: correct multiple fish barriers in whole streams - rather than through individual, isolated projects; coordinate with other entities sponsoring barrier removals - such as regional fisheries enhancement groups and conservation districts, in a manner that achieves the greatest cost savings to all parties; and correct barriers located furthest downstream in a stream system.

The FBRB developed two project pathways: a Coordinated Pathway and a Watershed Pathway. The intent of the Coordinated Pathway is to leverage the large gains made by the investments of WSDOT, the forest industry, and local governments with funding to repair barriers in close proximity to other barrier repairs. A solicitation was sent to cities and counties in the summer of 2015. The Board received project nominations from 32 organizations (City: 13, County: 13 and Recovery Region/Lead Entity: 6). A total of 244 projects were submitted for consideration (City: 61, County: 136, Private: 42 and State: 5). The presence of a downstream barrier, not an anadromous stream and not in coordination with any completed or funded barrier correction projects, all disqualifying criteria spelled-out in the solicitation, narrowed the project list down to 110 projects. The board further narrowed the project list down to the top 50 projects based upon habitat linear gain. Finally, the board rank ordered the list based upon: cost per linear mile, level of coordination, habitat quality, and barrier severity/passability. The board is submitting the top 15 projects on this Coordinated Pathway for funding consideration this biennium.

The intent of the second pathway (Watershed Pathway) is to prioritize barrier repairs in whole stream reaches and sub-basins that will have the largest benefit to salmon at a population scale. Each Salmon Recovery Region or Lead Entity was permitted to nominate a sub-watershed for board consideration. The Board's direction requested nominations that yielded the greatest salmon and steelhead population benefits if fish passage barriers were removed. The recovery region nominations were: the Lower Cowlitz,

Wilson/Cherry (Yakima Basin), Okanogan, Snake River Tributaries and the Grande Ronde Tributaries. Because of the difficulty in selecting just one sub-watershed in the Puget Sound and on the Washington Coast the board employed habitat production models (Intrinsic Potential modeling) for Coho and Steelhead to produce habitat productivity estimates and reviewed impervious surface percentages in order to select watersheds. For the Puget Sound, the board selected the Pysht River, Pilchuck River and Goldsborough Creek watersheds. For the Washington Coast, the board selected the Newaukum River watershed. Within the watersheds, projects were developed and ranked based upon priorities from the recovery regions with technical assistance provided by WDFW staff. The board is submitting the top 64 projects on this pathway for funding consideration.

The FBRB has proposed the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) be the financial grant managers for the Board. RCO has submitted a 2017-2019 capital budget request for \$51.4 M on behalf of the FBRB. This request will fund the design (Phase 1), engineering and construction (Phase 2) of 79 fish passage barriers throughout the state using a grant program and existing salmon recovery networks in close coordination with local governments. In this first, 17-19 biennium, 55 of the projects will be design and construction while 24 projects will be design only.

Local governments and private landowners will become partners in efforts to remove salmon barriers under the program. For the 17/19 biennium, the Board will develop grants to repair barriers on local government ownership (50), private ownership (22), and state ownership (7). These barrier remedies are in addition to the state's obligations under the Federal court injunction. When all projects are completed, DFW estimates that 160 miles of habitat will become available to salmon and steelhead.

SSHB 2251 directed a minimum dollar match rate consistent with the authority's criteria. If no funding match was specified, a match amount of at least 25% per project would be required. No match rate was specified. Therefore, the FBRB approved a lower, 15%, initial match requirement for the first biennium because project sponsors would not have been able to meet a larger, unbudgeted, match requirement on short notice from this new grant program. The match requirements are subject to change after the 17/19 biennium at the discretion of the FBRB. For the initial competitive grant round (17/19 biennium), the required match must equate to a minimum of 15% of the funding request. For phased projects, 15% match is required per phase/contract. For example, a design-only contract requires 15% match. Matching resources may include cash, bond funds, grants (unless prohibited by the funding authority), in-kind labor, equipment/materials.

The FBRB is correcting fish passage barriers on waterways that drain into Puget Sound, directly supporting the 2016 Puget Sound Action Agenda. Nine items in the Habitat Near-Term Actions (NTA) document relate to fish passage by restoring access to historic anadromous salmonid habitats by removing or replacing human-made barriers with passable structures such as side-arm floodgates, larger culverts, or bridges. Secondary owners of this NTA are Department of Natural Resources and RCO. The work of the FBRB and the proposed list of fish barrier corrections will be statewide. The FBRB estimates that one-half of these barrier correction projects, 36/79, directly relate to the Puget Sound.

SSHB 2251 also directed DFW to initiate permit streamlining conversations so that implementation of the Board's priorities were not delayed by permits, including United States Army Corps of Engineer permit processes. All FBRB projects qualify for DFW's streamlined fish enhancement Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permits. Additionally, as directed, DFW initiated contact with the Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to explore the feasibility of bundling multiple transportation-related fish barrier removal projects under available nationwide permits for the purpose of achieving streamlined federal permitting with a reduced processing

time. In two meetings held in 2015, the federal agencies expressed a desire to expedite fish passage permit processing and there is some evidence that results of these conversations have resulted in faster permit times in the Chehalis Basin where this cooperative effort was tested. However, additional effort is planned by DFW to more formally improve process changes statewide, especially with the Corps of Engineers.

The Board is looking forward to building upon existing salmon recovery efforts with this holistic statewide approach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T P Jameson', written in a cursive style.

Thomas P. Jameson
Fish Passage and Screening Division Manager
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
(360) 902-2612

Enclosures:

- Encl. 1 – FBRB Funding Proposal 2017-2019
- Encl. 2 – Prioritized Project List

The last great, strategic investment for salmon survival in Washington State is removing the barriers that prevent fish from reaching many thousands of miles of pristine and restored habitat in the headwaters of their natal streams.

BUILDING ON LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

The Fish Barrier Removal Board talked to cities, counties, lead entities, salmon recovery regions, and several tribes to find the best projects to maximize investments in salmon recovery. The Board engaged these entities to develop the project list advanced for funding:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Asotin Conservation District | Palouse Conservation District |
| Asotin County | Pilchuck River Working Group |
| Chehalis Basin Lead Entity | Private Landowners |
| City of Lake Stevens | Skagit County |
| City of Port Angeles | Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity |
| City of Renton | Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity |
| City of Riverside | Snohomish Basin Lead Entity |
| City of Sammamish | Snohomish Conservation District |
| Clallam County | Snohomish County |
| Clark Conservation District | Sound Salmon Solutions |
| Clark County | South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group |
| Colville Confederated Tribes | Squaxin Tribe |
| Cowlitz County | Suquamish Tribe |
| Cowlitz Indian Tribe | Trout Unlimited |
| Elwha Tribe | Tulalip Tribe |
| Jefferson County | Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board |
| Kitsap County | Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership |
| Kittitas Conservation District | Washington State Department of Transportation |
| Kittitas County | Washington State Parks and Recreation |
| Lewis County | Whatcom County |
| Lewis County Conservation District | Whitman Conservation District |
| Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board | Whitman County |
| Makah Tribe | Wild Fish Conservancy |
| Mason Conservation District | WRIA 14 Salmon Habitat Recovery Committee Lead Entity |
| Mason County | Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity |
| Nez Perce Tribe | |
| North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon | |
| North Olympic Salmon Coalition | |
| Okanogan County | |

HIGH INTEREST IN PROGRAM

There was strong interest in the Fish Barrier Removal Board's call for projects in 2015. Over 200 fish barriers were submitted for funding consideration.

We anticipate even more interest in this strategic barrier removal approach as projects are completed and access to fish habitat is restored.



Fish Barrier Removal Board

2017-2019 FUNDING PROPOSAL

A statewide strategy to remove barriers and reconnect salmon and steelhead to their spawning habitat in Washington state.



We have a legal and moral obligation to restore wild salmon to Washington State. Every investment we make in salmon recovery is an investment we make in our future."

—GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE



Washington voters overwhelmingly support investing in bridge and culvert improvements for salmon.

—73% VOTER SUPPORT IN 2016 MOORE INFORMATION SURVEY

54 ENTITIES ENGAGED TO FIND MOST BENEFICIAL PROJECTS FOR SALMON

Contact:
 Tom Jameson, FBRB Chair
 WDFW Fish Passage Division Manager
 Thomas.Jameson@dfw.wa.gov
 360-902-2612
wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb



PRIORITIZING: GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO SALMON RECOVERY

The Fish Barrier Removal Board priorities:

1. Remove downstream barriers first
2. Work with regional salmon recovery organizations to identify priority salmon watersheds and ensure the highest contribution to salmon and steelhead recovery
3. Work with cities and counties to identify opportunities for barrier removal adjacent to other recently completed fish passage projects
4. Maximize coordination with other entities removing fish barriers.

CONNECTING: FOCUS ON WHOLE STREAMS

- Focus on strategic investments to create stream connectivity
- Leverage investments of state and private industry
- Remove downstream barriers that block access to the nearly 4,000 miles of upstream habitat opened by the forest industry

MOMENTUM: ELEVATE ALL SALMON RECOVERY

We have the opportunity to build on existing salmon recovery efforts.

It's time to invest in this holistic, strategic, statewide approach to removing barriers and restoring passage.

Connecting salmon to prime habitat statewide

The first step is to remove the downstream barriers.



PUGET SOUND & HOOD CANAL

36 barrier removal projects
91.0 miles of habitat opened
\$23.4M investment

DEER CREEK



WASHINGTON COAST

6 barrier removal projects
10.6 miles of habitat opened
\$3.3M investment

LOST CREEK



LOWER COLUMBIA

13 barrier removal projects
31.8 miles of habitat opened
\$8.3M investment

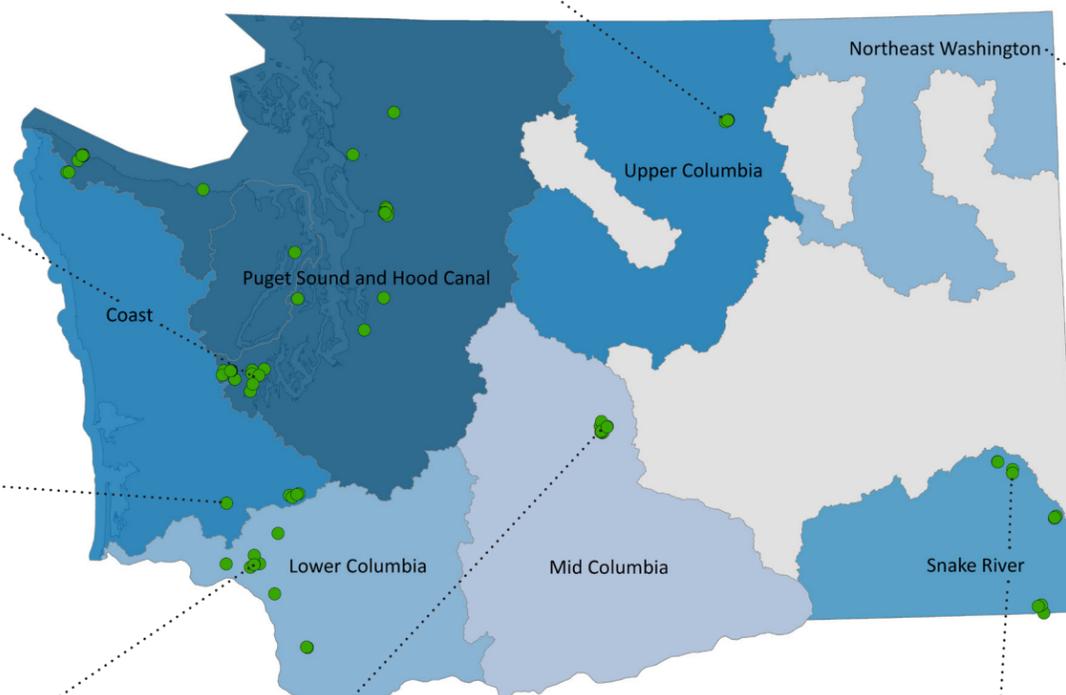
ARKANSAS CREEK TRIBUTARY



UPPER COLUMBIA

5 barrier removal projects
1.6 miles of habitat opened
\$4.8M investment

JOHNSON CREEK



RESIDENT FISH ONLY



MID COLUMBIA

8 barrier removal projects
6.9 miles of habitat opened
\$3.6M investment

COOKE CREEK

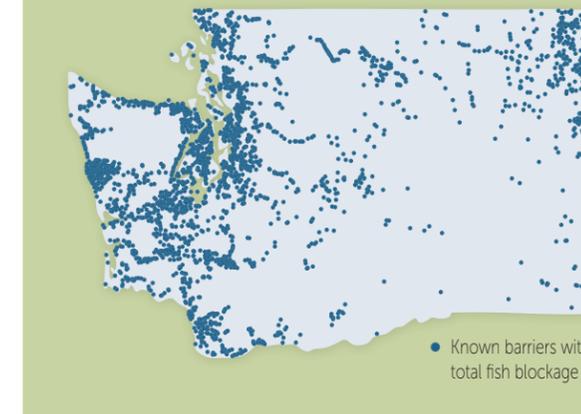


SNAKE RIVER

11 barrier removal projects
17.8 miles of habitat opened
\$8.0M investment

LITTLE ALMOTA CREEK

Fish passage is a statewide problem.



PROPOSAL:

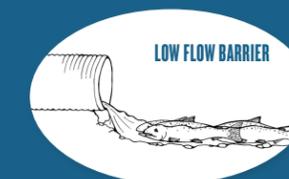
79
FISH BARRIER
PROJECTS

160
MILES OF HABITAT
OPENED

\$51.4 M
MAXIMIZED
INVESTMENT

WHAT IS A FISH BARRIER?

- Aging culverts not designed for fish passage
- Gates and screens
- Collapsed road crossings
- Weirs, dams, water diversions



Fish Barrier Removal Board 2017-2019 FUNDING PROPOSAL

Rank	Stream Name	Legislative District	County	Project Sponsor	Budget Request	All Projects Running Total
1	Chico Creek	35	Kitsap	Suquamish Tribe	\$3,784,978	\$3,784,978
2	Johnson Creek	24	Clallam	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	\$3,007,706	\$6,792,684
3	Buford Creek	9	Asotin	Nez Perce Tribe or Asotin C.D.	\$4,720,452	\$11,513,136
4	Middle Fork Newaukum	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$572,325	\$12,085,461
5	Unnamed Tributary to Arkansas Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$284,527	\$12,369,989
6	Coleman Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas Conservation District	\$770,472	\$13,140,461
7	Catherine Creek	44	Snohomish	Sound Salmon Solutions	\$566,330	\$13,706,791
8	Coffee Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$327,043	\$14,033,834
9	Johnson Creek	7	Okanogan	Trout Unlimited/CCT	\$543,982	\$14,577,815
10	Baxter Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$2,181,377	\$16,759,192
11	Turner Creek	20	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$1,090,144	\$17,849,336
12	Cottonwood Creek	9	Asotin	Asotin Conservation District	\$62,356 *	\$17,911,692
13	Unnamed Tributary to Johnson Creek	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$1,834,712	\$19,746,404
14	Middle Fork Newaukum	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$926,622	\$20,673,026
15	Dayton Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$501,466	\$21,174,492
16	Coleman Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas County Public Works	\$1,700,624	\$22,875,115
17	Catherine Creek	44	Snohomish	Snohomish C.D.	\$436,057	\$23,311,173
18	Johnson Creek	7	Okanogan	Trout Unlimited/CCT	\$600,616	\$23,911,788
19	Thorndyke Creek	24	Jefferson	Jefferson County	\$190,775 *	\$24,102,564
20	Catherine Creek	44	Snohomish	Wild Fish Conservancy	\$189,685	\$24,292,249
21	Johnson Creek	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$852,710	\$25,144,959
22	Delameter Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$1,590,519	\$26,735,478
23	Cougar Creek	9	Asotin	Asotin Conservation District	\$63,555 *	\$26,799,033
24	Johnson Creek	7	Okanogan	Trout Unlimited/CCT	\$1,752,725	\$28,551,758
25	Johnson Creek	7	Okanogan	Trout Unlimited/CCT	\$1,752,725	\$30,304,483
26	Middle Fork Newaukum	20	Lewis	Lewis County Conservation District	\$87,909	\$30,392,393
27	West Fork Coffee	35	Mason	Mason County	\$303,699	\$30,696,091
28	Caribou Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas Conservation District	\$194,245	\$30,890,336
29	Little Pilchuck Creek	44	Snohomish	Tulalip Tribe	\$223,915 *	\$31,114,252
30	Unnamed Tributary to Middle Fork Newaukum River	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$699,055	\$31,813,306
31	Unnamed Tributary to Delemeter Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	\$152,620	\$31,965,927
32	Caribou Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas Conservation District	\$194,245	\$32,160,172
33	Ennis Creek	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$1,090,144	\$33,250,315
34	Uncle Johns Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$272,536 *	\$33,522,851
35	Delameter Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$1,760,582	\$35,283,433
36	Unnamed Tributary to Mason Creek	18	Clark	Clark Conservation District	\$227,840	\$35,511,273
37	Uncle Johns Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$361,061	\$35,872,334
38	Johnson Creek	7	Okanogan	Trout Unlimited/CCT	\$155,891 *	\$36,028,224
39	Deer Creek	35	Mason	Mason Conservation District	\$272,536 *	\$36,300,760
40	Mason Creek	18	Clark	Clark County	\$109,014 *	\$36,409,774
41	Red Cabin Creek	39	Skagit	Skagit County	\$359,747	\$36,769,522
42	Panther Creek	11	King	City of Renton	\$272,536 *	\$37,042,058
43	Kenny Creek	42	Whatcom	Whatcom County	\$468,762 *	\$37,510,819
44	Fisher Creek	10	Skagit	Skagit County	\$501,466 *	\$38,012,285
45	Lost Creek	20	Lewis	Lewis County Conservation District	\$256,402	\$38,268,687
46	Lost Creek	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$801,255	\$39,069,943
47	Erick Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	\$564,694	\$39,634,637
48	Ebright Creek	41	King	City of Sammamish	\$1,043,267	\$40,677,904
49	Little Salmon Creek	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$93,262 *	\$40,771,166
50	South Fork Goldsborough Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$87,643 *	\$40,858,809
51	Lower Hoko Wetland Complex	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$770,731	\$41,629,541
52	Little Penewawa Creek	9	Whitman	Whitman Conservation District	\$1,063,980	\$42,693,521
53	Unnamed Tributary to Little Pilchuck Creek	44	Snohomish	Snohomish Conservation District	\$283,982	\$42,977,503
54	Cooke Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas Conservation District	\$461,646	\$43,439,149
55	Cooke Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas Conservation District	\$461,646	\$43,900,796

*Funding request for design only during 2017-2019 Biennium

Fish Barrier Removal Board 2017-2019 FUNDING PROPOSAL

Rank	Stream Name	Legislative District	County	Project Sponsor	Budget Request	All Projects Running Total
56	Little Penewawa Creek	9	Whitman	Whitman Conservation District	\$134,088	\$44,034,883
57	South Fork Goldsborough Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$236,969	\$44,271,852
58	Railroad Creek	24	Clallam	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	\$140,629	\$44,412,481
59	Unnamed Tributary to Little Pilchuck Creek	44	Snohomish	Snohomish County	\$711,864	\$45,124,344
60	Pirate Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$182,360 *	\$45,306,705
61	Parke Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas Conservation District	\$278,579	\$45,585,283
62	Unnamed Tributary to Little Pilchuck Creek	44	Snohomish	Snohomish County	\$1,215,510	\$46,800,793
63	Talbot Creek	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$724,945	\$47,525,739
64	Little Almota Creek	9	Whitman	Nez Perce Tribe or Asotin C.D.	\$283,437 *	\$47,809,176
65	Snodgrass Creek	35	Mason	Mason County	\$272,536 *	\$48,081,712
66	Parke Creek	12	Kittitas	Kittitas Conservation District	\$278,580	\$48,360,292
67	Little Almota Creek	9	Whitman	Palouse Conservation District	\$171,153 *	\$48,531,444
68	Unnamed Tributary to Little Pilchuck Creek	44	Snohomish	Sound Salmon Solutions	\$207,127	\$48,738,571
69	Lower Hoko Wetland Complex	24	Clallam	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	\$113,266 *	\$48,851,837
70	Little Almota Creek	9	Whitman	Nez Perce Tribe or Asotin C.D.	\$325,728 *	\$49,177,566
71	Tributary to Puget Sound	35	Mason	Mason County	\$66,400 *	\$49,243,965
72	Gage Creek	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$727,126	\$49,971,091
73	Steptoe Creek	9	Whitman	Palouse Conservation District	\$700,962	\$50,672,053
74	Tributary to Puget Sound	35	Mason	Mason County	\$175,662 *	\$50,847,716
75	Steptoe Creek	9	Whitman	Palouse Conservation District	\$212,578	\$51,060,294
76	Steptoe Creek	9	Whitman	Palouse Conservation District	\$54,510 *	\$51,114,804
77	Delameter Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$54,500 *	\$51,169,304
78	Leckler Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$173,600 *	\$51,342,904
79	Leckler Creek	19	Cowlitz	Cowlitz County	\$57,100 *	\$51,400,004
Additional Investments for Consideration						
80	Unnamed Tributary to Hoko River	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$758,800 *	\$52,158,804
81	Unnamed Tributary to Hoko River	24	Clallam	Clallam County	\$115,600 *	\$52,274,404
82	Unnamed Tributary to North Fork Newaukum River	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$37,870 *	\$52,312,274
83	Unnamed Tributary to Middle Fork Newaukum River	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$60,000 *	\$52,372,274
84	Gheer Creek	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$75,600 *	\$52,447,874
85	Tributary to Gheer Creek	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$37,800 *	\$52,485,674
86	Gheer Creek	20	Lewis	Lewis County	\$50,400 *	\$52,536,074