

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant Application

BOR-DO-19-F010

Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division

November 13, 2019

Title: Little Salmon Watershed Advisory Group

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name: Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division (McCall Office)

Address: Nez Perce Tribe Watershed

14054 Burr Lane

McCall, Idaho 83638

Project Manager: Wesley Keller

Project Manager Address: same as above

Email address: wesleyk@nezperce.org

Work Phone: 208-634-3031



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Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Executive Summary

Date: November 13, 2019

Applicant Name: Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division

Location: McCall, Valley County, Idaho

The Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division (NPT-WD) is applying for grant funding to form a Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) of diverse stakeholders interested in water quality in the Little Salmon River watershed. All interested parties would be encouraged to attend, including landowners, interested citizens, conservation organizations, and city, county, state, federal, and tribal agencies. Grant funds would be used to rent a monthly meeting place, employ the services of an advisory group facilitator, create a webpage, allow for training and travel, and for miscellaneous supplies needed to conduct meetings. The workgroup could convene for up to two years. The NPT-WD has experienced success in collaborative groups balancing needs of varied stakeholders, under the guidance of a facilitator, over the last seven years in other project areas. The NPT-WD would utilize their collaborative experience and apply it to the Little Salmon WAG.

Length of Time: Up to two years

Estimated Completion Date: Spring, 2022

The proposed project is not located on a Federal facility.

Background Data

The Little Salmon River watershed contains three fish species listed as “Threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. These three species are Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; listed in 1992), Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*; 1999), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*; 1998). Further, the Little

Salmon River watershed provides “Critical Habitat” for these three ESA-listed species (58 FR 68543, 70 FR 52630, 75 FR 63898).

Meadows Valley provided historic spawning habitat for Chinook salmon, based on oral accounts of the Nez Perce Tribe. In 1922, the construction of highway US 95 severely constrained the river corridor near Little Salmon Falls. In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps blasted three spillways into the natural rock and built concrete headgates to allow fish passage to Meadows Valley. However, this attempt for fish passage was ultimately abandoned and the remaining Little Salmon Falls are now fish passage barriers.

The Little Salmon River watershed can be divided at Round Valley Creek into an upper and lower assessment unit, due to differences in fish distribution, water quality, water temperature, land ownership, and land use. The area above the falls (Upper Little Salmon Assessment Unit) does not currently support anadromous fish, is 58% in private ownership, is heavily grazed, and has Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for water temperature, E. coli, and total phosphorous (IDEQ, 2017). The headwaters of the Little Salmon River watershed lie primarily in the Payette National Forest (PNF). Two large dams retain irrigation water through the summer in Brundage and Goose Reservoirs on the PNF. The Little Salmon River becomes much larger in the Meadows Valley, where grazing is the primary land use. Surface water is diverted throughout the Meadows Valley to inundate pastureland. The area below the falls (Lower Little Salmon Assessment Unit) currently supports Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout with spawning and rearing habitat, is over 75% in federal ownership, and experiences less water quantity and water temperature impairment due to the inflow of tributaries. However, the lower Little Salmon River has been impaired by physical substrate habitat alterations (IDEQ, 2017). Additionally, water quality issues of elevated temperature, bacteria, and nutrients from the upper assessment unit do impact the lower assessment unit of this watershed.

The importance of the Little Salmon River to the Nez Perce Tribe cannot be stressed enough. The Nez Perce Tribe has occupied the Little Salmon River watershed since time immemorial. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) of the Little Salmon River watershed is well documented. The most informative descriptions are from a study from Allen Slickpoo, Sr.,

titled *Ancient Nez Perce Fishing Practices on the Snake and Salmon Rivers: Nez Perce perspectives on the fishing practices and locations.*

From page 22:

47. Muulp'e (pronounced Mool-peh, meaning like water was "boiling" turning and bubbling current) was named for the Little Salmon River.

48. Yawinme (pronounced Yah-win-me, meaning a very cold tributary or canyon), coming from the word "yaw'n" meaning coldspell. The creek is known as Rapid River and has been used for fishing purposes from time immemorial

51. A'tass (pronounced Aht-toss, meaning place of "coming out" like from a deep canyon, into an open area. This was referred to the Meadows area, at the headwaters of the Muulp'e, or the Little Salmon River. Here, was the spawning grounds for the Chinook salmon, Many of our people would journey into this area, because it not only offered the fishing, but the hot springs, as well. Our people used the natural hot springs for medicinal purposes.

There was also a place here called the Pilalwexnaas (pronounced pe-lal-wehk-nahs) meaning place of racing. The people would challenge to horse races and other games. They would also go to the nearby mountains to pick huckleberries, or for medicinal herbs that grew there, as well as for hunting activities. They would dry their fish, meat, or berries and return to their homes.

Additional useful information comes from the Affidavit of T. Weber Greiser, an archaeologist with Historical Research Associates, Inc. The US Dept. of Justice contracted Historical Research Associates, Inc. to "research anthropological and historical resources and to conduct interviews with Nez Perce tribal members in order to determine the evidence available regarding fishing, hunting and gathering by the members of the Nez Perce Tribe, including the identification of the 'usual and accustomed fishing places' of the Nez Perce Tribe."

Page 5:

"(7)...At times, the entire tribal group used locations where food resources were abundant, such as fishing places near Asotin, Washington, at Wallowa Lake, Oregon, and the headwaters of the Little Salmon River in Idaho, as gathering places."

In addition to historical importance, the Little Salmon River currently comprises over 60% of the entire Chinook harvest fishery for the Nez Perce Tribe. Therefore, the Little Salmon River is

more important for Chinook harvest than all other streams combined from both the Salmon and Clearwater watersheds. As Nez Perce Tribal members consume more salmon than the average American (EPA, 2016), it is therefore critical that the fish they consume are taken from cold, clean water with reduced pollutants.

The NPT-WD would like to use this opportunity to continue a working relationship with the Bureau of Reclamation. The NPT-WD previously worked in partnership with Bureau of Reclamation employees on an Expert Panel process. In 2016, the most recent Expert Panel process analyzed seven assessment units in the South Fork Salmon River and Big Creek watersheds. The units included the Secesh River Watershed (SES1/SEC1), the East Fork South Fork Salmon River and tributaries (SSS1A/SSC1A), Johnson Creek Watershed (SSS1B/SSC1B), the Upper South Fork Salmon River tributaries (SSS2/SSC2), Lower South Fork Salmon River Watershed (SSS3/SSC3), Mainstem South Fork Salmon River (SSS4/SSC4), and Upper Big Creek Watershed (MLS1B/BCC1B). The NPT-WD identified projects implemented to address limiting factors in each assessment unit, such as road decommissioning, road improvements, riparian planting, and fish passage restoration. Additionally, the NPT-WD reported future plans to continue addressing these limiting factors.

Project Location

The Little Salmon River watershed is located in Adams and Idaho Counties, Idaho and encompasses the towns of New Meadows and Riggins. The Little Salmon River originates at about 6,280 feet at Blue Bunch Ridge and feeds into the Salmon River at the town of Riggins, Idaho. The Little Salmon River parallels US Highway 95 for most of its length. U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 17060210

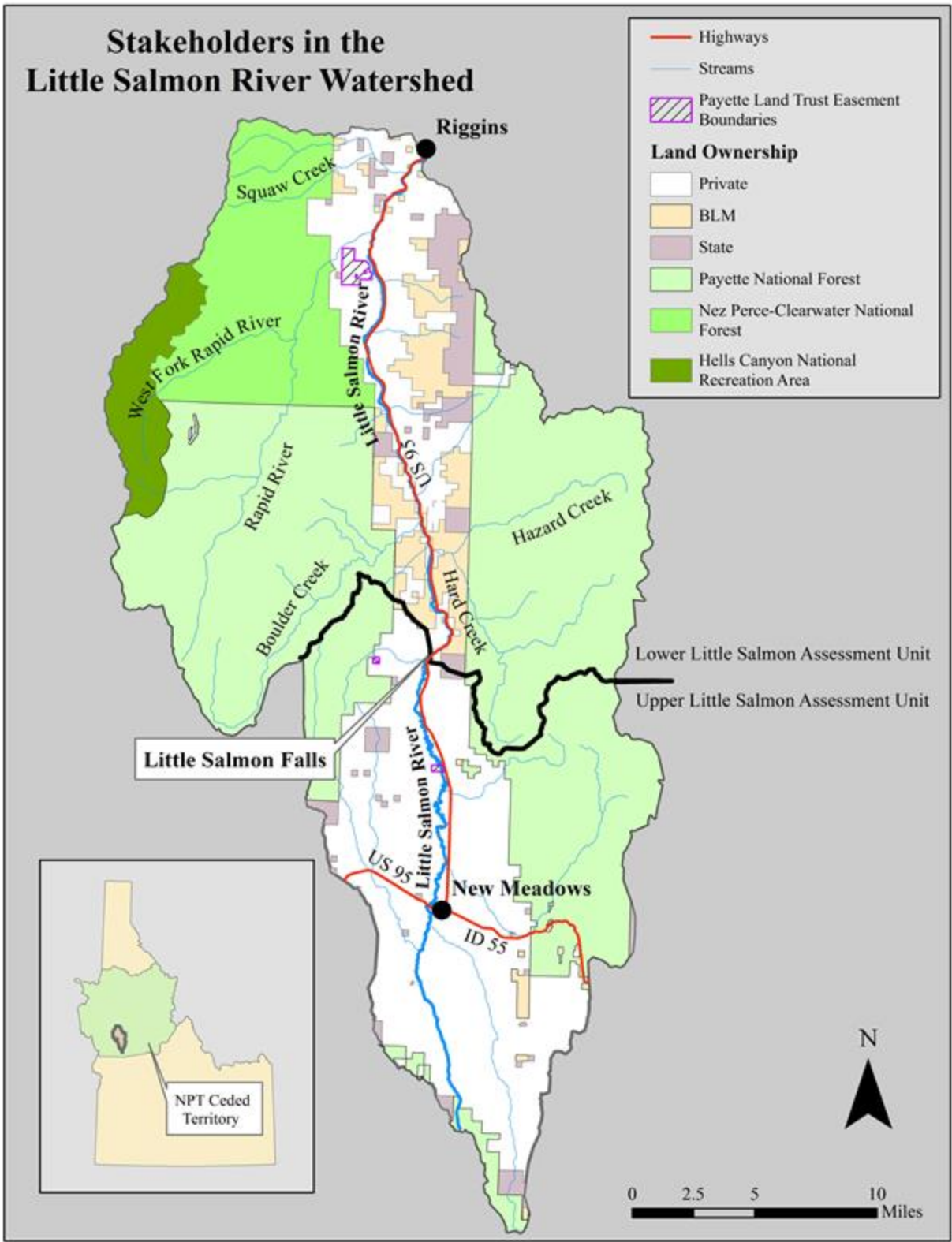


Figure 1. Land ownership in the Little Salmon River watershed. The inset map displays the Little Salmon River watershed relative to the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) ceded territory and Idaho.

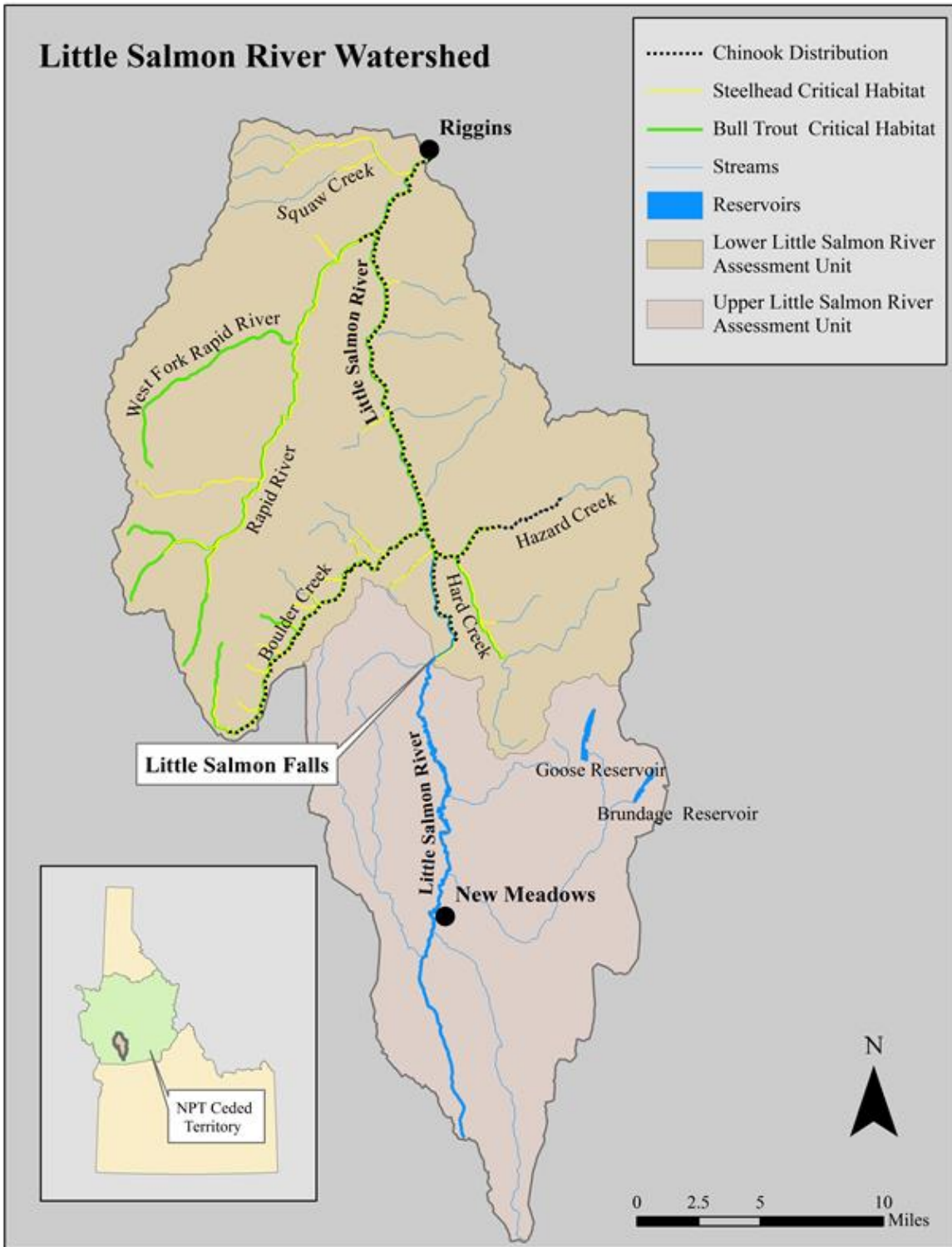


Figure 2. ESA-listed fish distribution in the Little Salmon River watershed. The inset map displays the Little Salmon River watershed relative to the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) ceded territory and Idaho.

Technical Project Description & Milestones

Applicant Category: We are seeking funding as a New Watershed Group. Currently, no workgroup exists to collaboratively discuss watershed-scale issues in the Little Salmon River watershed.

Eligibility: The Nez Perce Tribe is significantly affected by water quality and quantity in the Little Salmon River watershed. Nez Perce Tribal members eat more fish than the average American (EPA, 2016) and the Little Salmon River watershed provides the most Chinook salmon harvest for the Nez Perce Tribe (59% of total harvest from 2003-2018; exceeding 40% of total harvest in all years on record; unpublished NPT data). Therefore, Little Salmon River water quality is critical to the health of Tribal members for spawning and rearing habitat provided to salmon and steelhead.

Goals: Preliminary goals are to (1) bring all interested and appropriate stakeholders together, (2) discuss watershed-scale issues pertaining to water availability, quality, and use, and (3) plan and prioritize actions to address degradation.

Approach: Our approach will be to focus on Task A (Watershed Group Development) and Task B (Watershed Restoration Planning). All affected stakeholders would be encouraged to attend, including landowners, interested citizens, and city, county, state, federal, and tribal agencies. After gathering all interested stakeholders, the watershed group will develop a guiding mission statement, vision statement, and goals. Grant funding would be used to hire a facilitator to coordinate watershed group meetings, ensure all stakeholders are properly represented, and communicate with the group as necessary. Meeting together, the watershed group would discuss water quality degradation identified in the Little Salmon River watershed (from headwaters downstream to Salmon River confluence). Finally, the watershed group will outline a restoration plan, based on restoration ideas directed at specific issues (e.g., Table 1).

Table 1. Critical issues and potential restoration actions for the Little Salmon Watershed.

	Critical Watershed Needs or Issues	Potential Restoration Actions
<p>Upper Little Salmon Assessment Unit (AU):</p> <p>This AU is above the confluence of Round Valley Creek and the Little Salmon River. The majority of this AU is in private ownership and heavily grazed by livestock. The New Meadows wastewater treatment plant is located in this AU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy livestock grazing in the Meadows Valley has denuded riparian vegetation, degraded water quality, reduced summer flows, elevated water temperatures, and contributed high levels of fine sediments to streams. • US Highway-95 encroaches on the Little Salmon River and floodplain. Road fill materials pushed into the stream cause the stream to narrow, resulting in bank instability and sediment delivery. • Fish cannot pass upstream through Little Salmon Falls, due to constriction from construction of US Highway-95. • New Meadow waste water treatment plant pollution violations of chlorine, E. coli, phosphorus, and suspended solids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase private land or acquire Conservation Easements along the Little Salmon River and tributaries. • Work with land owners on riparian exclusion fencing projects to keep livestock out of streams to improve: bank stability, instream sediment conditions, water quality, and water temperatures. • Improve riparian conditions through planting to increase stream shading. • Remove road fill material dumped in the floodplain or channel. • Establish long-term plans to reduce impacts from US-95 in future highway upgrades. • Install/restore fish passage structures at the falls and throughout the watershed when habitat conditions improve adequately. • Work with the New Meadows waste water treatment plant to obtain grants to upgrade facilities.

Lower Little Salmon Assessment Unit:

The area below the confluence of Round Valley Creek and the Little Salmon River is defined as the Lower Little Salmon Assessment Unit.

- US-95 encroaches on the Little Salmon and floodplain.
- The majority of the lower Little Salmon River reach is straightened, confined, simplified, and deeply channelized as a result of floodplain loss to accommodate US Highway-95.
- Heavy timber harvest occurs in this assessment unit on state, federal and private land. Timber harvest leads to elevated fine sediment levels in streams. Additionally, dense road networks in RCA's and throughout the watershed negatively impact fine sediment levels instream.
- Develop conceptual plan/analysis to re-establish flood plains, meanders, and natural riparian vegetation where possible.
- In segments that remain channelized, use natural engineered structures to increase cooling through hyporheic water exchange, and to force bar and pool formation.
- Establish long-term plans to reduce impacts from US-95 in future highway upgrades.
- Decommission unauthorized roads on federal land to reduce road densities.
- Prohibit timber harvest within RCA buffers.
- Implement bank stabilization projects

Evaluation Criteria

A. Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

To create the WAG, we will reach out to local ranchers, irrigators, non-producing landowners, City of New Meadows, City of Riggins, Adams County, Idaho County, DF Development LLC, Payette Land Trust, Adams Soil & Water Conservation District

(ASWCD), Payette National Forest- New Meadows Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest- Salmon River Ranger District, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest- Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cottonwood Field Office, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Conservation League, and any other persons or entities within the entire Little Salmon River watershed that may be considered an affected stakeholder. Outreach will occur through posting informational material at local buildings and in the local newspaper, mailing invitations to landowners, as well as communicating with local agency officials (e.g., Forest Service District Rangers, BLM Field Office Manager, ASWCD Chair). Currently, the Payette Land Trust, Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, the New Meadows Ranger District and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality support the formation of this WAG and have written letters of support (Appendix A).

This WAG will encompass the entire Little Salmon River watershed. The land ownership of the watershed is characterized by private and federal management in the headwaters and private and local management in lower reaches (Figure 1). Therefore, inclusion of all affected stakeholders will ensure representation from the entire HUC-8 Little Salmon River watershed.

B. Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

Meeting together, the watershed group will discuss critical watershed issues identified in the Little Salmon River watershed (from headwaters downstream to Salmon River confluence). Critical issues in the Little Salmon River watershed include riparian ecological degradation, water quality issues, and endangered species issues. For instance, current habitat-based factors limiting threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead population include (1) degraded riparian condition, (2) excess sediment, (3) passage barriers and fish entrainment, (4) low summer flows, and (5) high water temperatures (NMFS, 2017). Furthermore, the Little Salmon River and many tributaries (Big Creek, Mud Creek, Little Mud Creek, East Branch Goose Creek, West Branch Goose Creek, and

Goose Creek) have EPA-approved TMDLs and/or are impaired by pollution (IDEQ, 2017).

To address critical watershed needs, the WAG will help build partnerships across all varied uses and managers of the watershed (e.g., agriculture, recreation, fish and wildlife). In order to incorporate and identify all relevant critical watershed issues, the WAG will (1) encourage all affected stakeholders to discuss their perspective on issues, (2) review all available scientific literature relevant to the Little Salmon River watershed, and (3) invite local/regional government agency scientists to speak to the group. Through this process, the WAG will address all proposed watershed issues and use scientifically-based information to direct restoration ideas. The WAG will identify opportunities to resolve conflicts by facilitating collaborative discussions that consider all management priorities. The workgroup would then discuss and prioritize restoration ideas that could provide solutions. Restoration plan priorities will be based on severity of degradation and risk to human and environmental health, as dictated by expert opinion and scientific evidence.

C. Implementation and Results

The implementation of this plan requires stakeholder outreach, workgroup development, discussion, and development of a restoration plan. Stage One will involve stakeholder outreach, beginning immediately upon project approval and lasting two months (June-July, 2020). During this time, we will request stakeholder input regarding location of a centralized meeting place and best available meeting times. Stage One milestone will be receiving confirmation from all potentially interested stakeholders. After two months, we will establish a regular meeting place and time with the WAG. Stage Two will involve workgroup development, where the group meets and forms its mission statement, vision statement, and goals. Stage Two will occur over multiple meetings from August-September, 2020. Stage Two milestones are the successful development of mission statement, vision statement, and goals. During Stage Three, the workgroup will meet and discuss critical watershed issues. This stage will last approximately fourteen months (October, 2020-November 2021). The Stage Three milestone is the completion of a

comprehensive list or table of watershed issues, discussed and agreed on collaboratively. Stage Four will complete this project, where the WAG meets and develops a prioritized watershed restoration plan. This stage will last six months (December 2021-May 2022). Stage Four milestones are the completion of a list of restoration priorities, along with who may undertake the implementation, timelines, and potential funding sources. The costs for Stage One will accommodate outreach, largely undertaken by the facilitator and miscellaneous categories. The costs for Stages Two, Three, and Four are \$1,800 per month of meeting (for the room, facilitator, and note taker), as well as travel funding (\$100) for guest speakers, as needed.

Watershed restoration plans will address issues and build on relevant regional, state, and federal efforts. The WAG restoration plan will incorporate goals of the Adams County Ground Water Quality Improvement and Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (IDEQ, 2014). For instance, the WAG proposing to restore riparian functioning would reduce nitrate contamination, a specific goal of the Adams County Plan. The WAG will build on efforts by IDEQ to identify sources of ecological degradation throughout the Little Salmon River watershed (IDEQ, 2017). Finally, the WAG will build on federal efforts to recover ESA-listed fish populations, through addressing limiting factors identified for salmon and steelhead in the Little Salmon River watershed (NMFS, 2017).

D. Department of the Interior Priorities

This project primarily supports the Department of Interior priority to restore trust with local communities. This workgroup would be a team-building and partnership exercise between private landowners, the agricultural community, and city, county, state, tribal, and federal employees. The collaborative dialogue would forge relationships across the boundaries of land/resource management.

This project also supports the Department of Interior priority to create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt. The workgroup would use science (available in literature or expert government employees) to guide the restoration plan for water and land resources. Additionally, the workgroup would inherently foster

relationships between conservation organizations, citizens, and government officials, where the balanced use and stewardship of lands is paramount.

Project Budget

Budget Proposal

Budget Item Description	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	Total Cost for Year 1	Total Cost for Year 2
	\$/Unit	Quantity			
Salaries and Wages					
Meeting Facilitator	\$1,000.00	12	monthly	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Meeting Note Taker	\$200.00	12	monthly	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Training					
Resource Management Collaborative Training	\$1,000.00	3	One-time Training for 3 individuals	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Travel					
Travel to Collaborative Training	\$600.00	3	Lump Sum	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Per Diem for training (lodging, food)	\$1,100.00	3	Lump Sum	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
Travel for guest speakers	\$100.00	5	Lump Sum	\$500.00	\$500.00
Meeting Room Rental					
Renting New Meadows meeting room	\$600.00	12	monthly	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
Supplies and Materials					
Office supplies for meetings	\$1,000.00	1	Lump Sum	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Web Page Development					
Development/maintain of a web page for WAG	\$4,100.00	1	Lump Sum	\$4,100.00	\$4,100.00
Other					
Unforeseen miscellaneous costs	\$650.00	1	Lump Sum	\$650.00	\$650.00
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$35,950.00	\$35,950.00

INDIRECT COSTS				
Type of Rate	Percentage	\$Base		
Indian Organizations Negotiated Rate	28.10%	\$50,000.00	\$14,050.00	\$14,050.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS (per year)			\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

Budget Narrative

The budget narrative is designed to explain items included in the submitted budget proposal. As noted in the budget, we are applying for the full \$100,000 grant, over a two-year period, so \$50,000 per year. The Phase I grant budget for year 1 and year 2 are identical as costs are expected to be similar for both years. As this is a Phase I project, all funds will be geared towards Watershed Restoration Planning.

Salaries and Wages:

No grant funds will be used on salary and wages for Nez Perce Tribe employees, as we have internal funding to cover these costs. Salaries and wages will be used to cover the cost associated with hiring a meeting facilitator, which is needed to help with outreach to stakeholders, conducting monthly meetings, moderating dialogue, and keeping the meetings on track. Meetings will be roughly 8 hours a day and once a month; the moderator will be paid roughly a \$1,000 a day for each meeting day they perform these tasks. A specific facilitator has not been chosen but rough bids came in at this value. A note taker will also be paid \$200 a day to record all discussion during the meetings. These notes will be made publically available to document meeting discussions.

Training:

The NPT-WD has been involved in collaborative meetings regarding natural resource management decisions. While we currently have experience in facilitating meetings to individuals with diversified backgrounds, additional training would be beneficial to foster new ideas on the best way to organize and convey information. Land use impacts and protecting water resources are not simple conversations and involve a high degree of

organization and leadership. This budget includes cost for natural resource collaborative training so that these meetings are conducted as efficiently as possible.

Travel:

Included in this budget are travel funds to attend the trainings mentioned above (per diem to attend trainings and travel funds to cover travel expenses), as well as fuel costs for guest speakers. Guest speakers such as the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality may be driving from several hours away to educate the Watershed Advisory Group on current water quality conditions.

Meeting Room Rental:

A meeting room will be rented in New Meadows to conduct meetings. Several meeting locations have been contacted where cost have averaged \$600 per day. We plan on meeting once a month.

Supplies and Materials:

Supplies and materials will be needed to conduct meetings such as: facilitate outreach fliers, print documents, projector and projector screen, and remote meeting web conferencing.

Web Page Development:

Transparency is a critical component to the goals of any Watershed Advisory Group. Meetings will be held once a month. In an effort to get as many people as possible to participate, we would like to have all agendas, presentations, mission statements, and decision-making materials publically available to interested individuals who are unable to attend in person. Construction and maintaining a web page will occur over a two-year period and require the web page engineer to update monthly.

Other (Miscellaneous Costs):

Even with proper budget planning, there will be unforeseen miscellaneous costs. The budget item allows for some flexibility, should miscellaneous costs arise.

Indirect Costs:

The current Indian Organizations Indirect Cost Negotiations Agreement EIN: 82-0255928 is 28.1% effective on October 24, 2019.

Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

There are no third party funding sources for this Phase I grant application.

Environmental & Cultural Resources

Compliance

This grant application is a Phase I proposal which involves Watershed Group Development and Watershed Group Planning, and does not involve project implementation; therefore, no Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance documents are required. There is no NEPA requirement for Phase I planning. No Section 106 permits are required, as there are no ground-disturbing activities associated with this project. There will be no impacts to endangered species as a result of this Phase I project.

Required Permits or Approvals

This grant submittal is a Phase I proposal which involves Watershed Group Development and Watershed Group Planning, and does not involve project implementation, therefore no permits or approvals are required.

Appendix A: Letters of Project Support



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1445 North Orchard • Boise, ID 83706 • (208) 373-0550

Brad Little, Governor
John H. Tippetts, Director

November 12, 2019

Wesley Keller
Nez Perce Tribe
McCall Watershed Project Leader

Subject: BOR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant Application

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality - Boise Regional Office (DEQ-BRO) works to support the DEQ mission “To protect human health and the quality of Idaho’s air, land, and water” in the 10 southwestern Idaho counties that includes Adams County and the Little Salmon River Watershed.

The Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division (NPT-WD) is applying for grant funding to facilitate formation and meetings of the Little Salmon River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) made up of diverse stakeholders interested in water quality in the Little Salmon River watershed. The BRO has worked closely with the Little Salmon River WAG to develop watershed management plans such as the Little Salmon River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), TMDL 5-year review, and the Implementation Plan for Agriculture, Forestry and Urban/Suburban Activities and supports the NPT-WD BOR WaterSMART grant proposal.

The DEQ-BRO looks forward to working with NPT-WD to further their mission to improve water quality of the Little Salmon River which has deteriorated by a variety of anthropogenic pollution sources arising from the non-point source sector. The collaborative effort proposed by the NPT-WD will be substantive to establish a relationship within the community to come up with a strategic plan to implement and/or enhance new and existing water quality improvement plans and existing on-the-ground best management practice implementation projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L Holloway".

Lance Holloway
Surface Water Quality Manager

LH:tg



File Code: 2300
Date: NOV 13 2019

Subject: Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program

To: Wesley Keller
McCall Watershed Project Leader

This letter is to show our support for the Nez Perce Tribe's application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant to fund a Watershed Advisory Group in the Little Salmon Watershed, which includes a portion of the New Meadows Ranger District of the Payette National Forest. The grant would promote collaboration and coordination in watershed restoration discussions, including completing watershed planning activities and designing watershed management projects to improve water quality in the Little Salmon.

The formation of this Watershed Advisory Group would follow in the spirit of shared stewardship and collaboration. Specifically, working across boundaries to affect change at a landscape-level, and leveraging the knowledge of each other to develop comprehensive solutions.

I thank the Nez Perce Tribe for their proactive identification of a potential solution to a complex issue, and look forward to working with them on this and other projects.

Sincerely,

ERIN PHELPS
District Ranger





Valley Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 580
Cascade, ID 83611
Phone: (208) 382-3317

November 12, 2019

RE: Nez Perce Tribe – Watershed Division
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant Application

Dear WaterSMART CWMP Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of Valley Soil & Water Conservation District (VSWCD), we would like to express our support for the Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division (NPT-WD) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant application. VSWCD has worked together with the NPT-WD to accomplish 319 DEQ watershed goals and have experienced first-hand their ability to create a successful collaboration to achieve effective water quality project results. The NPT-WD is focused on a collaboration within the Little Salmon River Watershed whereas the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District is simultaneously working on a collaboration within the North Fork Payette River watershed to address recurring Harmful Algal blooms in Lake Cascade. Collaboration and planning in both watersheds is critical to maintaining viability and health of downstream watersheds.

Best Regards,

Durena L. Farr, District Manager

Durena L. Farr
Valley Soil & Water Conservation District
VSWCD/df
Durena.Farr@usda.gov

PAYETTE LAND TRUST

CONSERVING THE RURAL LANDSCAPE OF WEST CENTRAL IDAHO
A NON PROFFIT 501 (C)3 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATI

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Bureau of Reclamation,

The Payette Land Trust is in support of the Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division (NPT-WD) application for grant funding to form a Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) of diverse stakeholders interested in water quality in the Little Salmon River watershed. The NPT-WD would utilize this collaborative experience and apply it to the Little Salmon WAG. PLT holds three (3) conservation easements in the Little Salmon Watershed and is currently pursuing another.

Since 1993 the PLT has been a recognized 501 (c) 3 nonprofit conservation organization, for 25 years, the PLT has worked to promote a community ethic that values and conserves it's working agricultural properties and timberlands in balance with thoughtful developments. We envision dedicated areas of open access and connectivity, encouraging people to take part in their environment. We believe in maintaining the region's pristine rivers, streams, meadows and lakes for present and future generations.

With two Fee Title properties and eight Conservation Easements, the PLT has secured conservation on approximately 3,000 acres of land within the West Central mountains of Idaho and is effectively working to conserve the Payette, Little Salmon and Wieser river watersheds. The four counties within the PLT region are Adams, Idaho, Valley and Washington.

The formation of a Little Salmon Watershed Advisory Group fits directly into the mission of the PLT.

The Payette Land Trust looks forward to the formation of the Little Salmon Watershed Advisory Group.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Craig Utter, Executive Director Payette Land Trust

PLT Board of Directors

Rick Fereday—President,

Jim Fronk, Gary Thompson, Micheal Eck, Michelle Groenevelt, Regan Berkley, Bob Vosskuhler

Appendix B: Official Resolution

The official resolution will be submitted within 30 days after the application deadline.

Appendix C: References

- EPA. (2016). *A Fish Consumption Survey of the Nez Perce Tribe*. United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- IDEQ. (2014). *Adams County Ground Water Quality Improvement and Drinking Water Source Protection Plan*. Boise, ID: State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality.
- IDEQ. (2017). *Idaho's 2014 Integrated Report*. Boise, ID: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.
- NMFS. (2017). *ESA Recovery Plan for Idaho Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon and Snake River Basin Steelhead*. Portland, OR: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region. Retrieved from http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/recovery_planning/salmon_steelhead/domains/interior_columbia/snake/Final%20Snake%20Recovery%20Plan%20Docs/final_snake_river_spring-summer_chinook_salmon_and_snake_river_basin_steelhead_recovery_plan.pdf