

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Planning Grant Proposal



Development of the Priest River Watershed Group: Advancing Collaboration, Communication, and Planning for Water Quality Solutions in Northwestern Idaho

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1. Executive Summary

Date: March 31, 2022

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

City, County, State: Priest River, Bonner County, Idaho

Project Summary: Trout Unlimited will establish the Priest River Watershed Group (PRWG) to support and enhance the native cold-water fishery in the Lower Priest Watershed through collaborative planning, public outreach, data compilation, and stakeholder engagement. The PRWG will concentrate its planning work on the Lower Priest River Watershed, located in the northwest Panhandle of Idaho, encompassing U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Endowment and private lands. The Lower Priest River begins at the outlet of Priest Lake and flows 45 miles south to the Pend Oreille River, and the entire basin is federally listed as critical habitat for Bull Trout, *Salvelinus confluentus*. There is a small, non-generative dam below the outlet of Priest Lake that maintains the summer recreational lake level. Record drought conditions, high water temperatures, decreasing Bull Trout redd counts, reduced flows, and fish kills in recent years have increased concern for, and brought new attention to, the river. The newly established PRWG will initially focus on recruiting a broad-based membership of stakeholders, including landowners, federal and state agencies, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, local government, business and industry interests, outfitters, environmental groups, other representatives from the Priest River and Priest Lake communities. The group will develop a collaborative organizational structure, gather and share existing information about the watershed, and identify critical data gaps. Members will clarify and prioritize major watershed concerns including high stream temperatures; degraded water quality; stream flows; agricultural impacts; aquatic, riparian and wetland habitat degradation; loss of stream function; bank and channel instability; floodplain disconnection; and current or potential future impacts from increasing recreational use. The PRWG will use these prioritized concerns to conduct pre-planning activities, such as filling data gaps and identifying potential restoration projects in the Basin.

Length of Project: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024

Federal Facility: The U.S. Forest Service

2. Project Location

This project is located in the Priest River Subbasin, USGS Hydrological Unit 17010215, which is in the northwest corner of Idaho and contains 981 square miles. (Figure 1.) The closest incorporated city is Priest River, which is located at the mouth of the Priest River, the southernmost boundary of the watershed, where the Priest River joins the Pend Oreille River. The northern most reaches of the watershed cross into Washington State and Canada. The focus of the Priest River Watershed Group will be the Lower Priest River and its tributaries. The Lower Priest River begins at the outlet of Priest Lake.

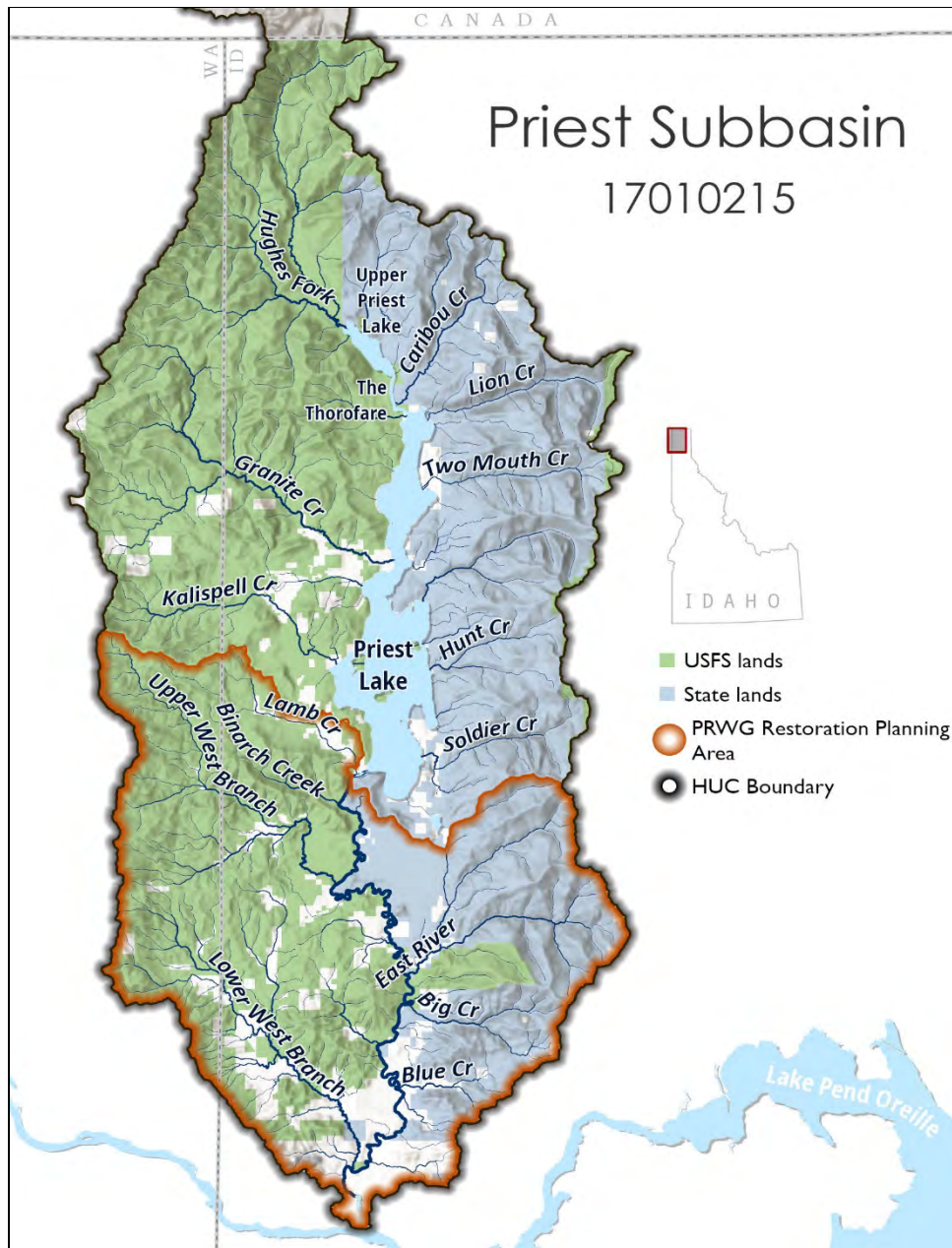


Figure 1. Priest River Subbasin with PRWG planning boundary indicated in red.

3. Technical Project Description

3.1. Applicant Category

Trout Unlimited (TU) is applying to establish a New Watershed Group, the Priest River Watershed Group (PRWG) which will have members from northern Idaho and northeastern Washington. TU is applying under this category because there is no watershed group working on the Priest River of Idaho.

The PRWG was conceptualized in fall of 2021 resulting from building polarization amongst the Priest River watershed stakeholders due to a concept that Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has been evaluating to take cold water from the depths of Priest Lake and bypass it around the dam and into the Lower Priest River. There has been no actual initiation of the PRWG to date. Activities so far have included stakeholder solicitation of interest and support and securing funds to have a Situation Assessment completed by a third-party facilitator. The only significant known planning effort specific to the Lower Priest River and tributaries has been the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address water quality concerns. However, implementation planning has not been initiated. There have been several planning efforts focused on the Priest Lakes, but as described below, the Priest Lakes will not be included in geographical scope for planning for the PRWG.

3.2. Eligibility of Applicant

Trout Unlimited (TU) is the nation's largest grassroots cold water conservation organization with a mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. TU works to achieve this mission on a local, state, and national level through an extensive volunteer network and dedicated staff. Headquartered outside of Washington, D.C., TU is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1959 that currently has approximately 258 staff working in 36 offices from Alaska to North Carolina. There is an active local chapter of TU, the Idaho Panhandle Chapter, that has over 350 members who will be informed about the PRWG activities and will help to identify stakeholders.

TU has an annual budget of \$74 million and currently manages over 475 federally-sourced grants. During the past five fiscal years, TU has received \$51.3 million of federal direct and pass-through funding. TU is subject to annual audits every year under the OMB's Uniform Guidance for federal grants. TU is a low-risk auditee and has received a clean federal grant audit the past three years with no reportable conditions. The fiscal aspects of the TU- BOR partnership are overseen by Elena Parkin, Controller and Acting Chief Financial Officer. She oversees several national and regional accountants who handle essential fiscal and administrative tasks for federal grants including the WaterSMART CWMP. Nationally, approximately 24.2% of TU's revenue in FY21 consisted of federal funding.

TU has been involved in the development of several watershed groups that have received support from the CWMP. Most recently, the Salt River Watershed Group was provided startup funding in 2021. Other groups include the Bitter Root Watershed Group and the Sun River Watershed Group in Montana and the Willwood Working Group #3 in Wyoming. TU has a long history of working with diverse entities including timber companies, ranchers, federal and state governments, tribes, and the aquatic recreation community to improve our waterbodies in the face of a legacy degradation, a shifting climate and rapidly expanding developmental pressure. The PRWG fits in well with this history.

TU will administer the CWMP grant, using a portion to support TU staff time and provide for indirect costs associated with the project. TU staff time will be required to procure and manage facilitation support; coordinate meetings, field trips and presentations; develop and disseminate outreach materials; and grant management responsibilities. The TU Project Manager has been

active in aquatic resource management in northern Idaho for 15 years and has strong relationships with governmental, environmental, industry, conservation, recreational and community partners. Preliminary discussions with stakeholders have shown that TU is seen as the right choice for coordinating this group because of the TU reputation of unbiased collaboration in the name of improving watershed health.

TU has internal control measures to ensure that federal funding is managed according to Uniform Guidance. All TU employees follow and are annually trained in federal compliance including procurement, identifying and avoiding conflicts of interest, reporting, grants administration, vendor screening and the grant life cycle. At the time of submission of this application, there has been no actual or potential conflict of interest identified. TU employees will follow procedures to identify and avoid potential conflicts of interest that could arise.

3.3. Goals

The preliminary goals expected to be met by this proposal include:

- Establish the PRWG with broad and committed stakeholder engagement.
- Build trust between stakeholders and the surrounding communities through engagement and outreach.
- Develop a shared vision for and a defined output from the PRWG.
- Develop a shared understanding of the Priest River Basin and resource concerns in the Lower Priest River system.
- Identify priority resource concerns to be addressed and create the foundation for the work needed to address those concerns.

3.4. Approach

TU is applying for this funding opportunity to support the initiation and development of the PRWG. Anticipated activities fall in both **Task A: Watershed Group Development** and **Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning**. The activities planned under these Tasks will help to develop a collaborative and functional group focused on defining critical resource needs and challenges in the Lower Priest River.

During this summer, 2022, a Situation Assessment will be completed by a third-party facilitator procured by TU using funds donated by a stakeholder in the basin, Idaho Forest Group (IFG). This assessment aims to support TU and partners in reaching out to stakeholders, identifying overlooked stakeholders, defining stakeholder concerns, and identifying unforeseen obstacles or opportunities for the PRWG. This assessment is expected to refine some of the tasks etched out below.

Activities are described below and align with the Activities and Tasks outlined in Section 4.3. of this proposal; Criterion C: Implementation and Results.

Activity 1: Organizational Development (TASK A)

TU and partners have elected to hire a professional third-party facilitator to work with the PRWG. This will help to build trust in the intent of the PRWG and aims to facilitate open and

productive dialogue among the stakeholders. Using guidance provided from the Situation Assessment, TU, the facilitator, and other partners will work together to define stakeholder groups and identify potential interested parties. Equal and broad stakeholder representation will be essential to establish trust early and create a shared understanding of the resource issues. Once the stakeholders have been identified and assembled, the group can then address the organizational structure, consensus-based decision-making, and other operational procedures. One of the key initial activities will be development of the group's Mission and Vision. Although monthly meetings including four field trips are envisioned in this proposal, the meeting schedule will likely be determined by the PRWG.

Activity 2: Stakeholder Education (TASK A)

Stakeholder education involves both educating the stakeholders who are attending the PRWG meetings and the public at large to build an understanding of the Lower Priest River. Prior to the first meeting of the PRWG, considerable stakeholder education about the PRWG will occur through the Situation Assessment and through TU participation and presentations at meetings of other stakeholder group meetings.

When the PRWG begins to meet, stakeholders will receive information and monthly presentations from agency and other partners about the Priest River Watershed. These presentations will help to build a shared understanding of the watershed and the fishery; and challenges facing both.

One of the initial tasks for the PRWG will be to develop a communication plan to guide outreach to the public at large. Concepts to be considered, and budgeted for in this proposal, include development of a website specific to the PRWG, creation and distribution of pamphlets and written media, and attendance at community events by representatives of the PRWG. Another ongoing source of information will be the PRWG meetings, which will be opened to the public.

Activity 3: Research (TASKS A & B)

Data compilation will be one of the early and ongoing tasks of the PRWG. A system for storing and filing data and information will need to be developed that allows access for all stakeholders. A subcommittee may develop to help find and organize data and resource planning documents. This data will be presented to the entire group. This information paired with the expert presentations and field trip observations will help to define gaps in what is known and what questions still linger about the watershed. The PRWG will then develop strategies to fill these data gaps.

Activity 4: Restoration Planning (TASK B)

In preparation for restoration project planning, which will likely occur after this funding period ends, the PRWG will identify and prioritize the major challenges to the Priest River cold-water fishery. This will be done using the information collected during the PRWG meetings and compiled through additional research activities. Consensus on priorities will need to be reached amongst the group. The group will begin to accumulate restoration and recreational access project ideas early on and that collection of proposal ideas can continue to grow through the life

of this grant funding period. The process of data collection and development of project proposals is likely to be iterative, with proposal ideas illuminating data gaps that must be filled before further decisions can be made regarding priorities.

4. Evaluation Criteria

4.1. Evaluation Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity & Geographic Scope

4.1.1. Sub-criterion A1-Watershed Group Diversity

There are two main communities in the watershed, Priest Lake and Priest River. The watershed has year-round and seasonal homeowners, ranchers, farmers, fishing guides, resort and marina owners. The Priest River basin is a popular destination for outdoor recreation, particularly in the summer months. Industry stakeholders include timber companies and hydropower. Several conservation, recreation and environmental organizations are active in the basin. Property ownership is heavily dominated by US Forest Service (USFS) lands and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and active harvesting is ongoing. There are numerous other state, federal and local managers and political representatives with interests in the basin. The Kalispel Tribe, whose reservation is nearby in Washington, has interest in the watershed as it is part of their traditional homeland and contains many resources upon which generations of tribal members depended. Accordingly, members of the timber industry, environmental organizations, fishing guides, and state and federal natural resource agencies and land managers have all expressed interest in the formation of the PRWG. TU and these partners recognize that any efforts to study and restore the Lower Priest River may have impacts upstream and downstream, both intended and unintended. Therefore, a diverse and broad-based membership of the new collaborative PRWG is critical to avoiding pitfalls and achieving agreement on strategies to restore the watershed.

The following table contains a list of potential stakeholders for the PRWG, all of whom will be approached through direct outreach to determine their interest in participating. Those in ***bold italics*** have provided letters of support (Appendix A). Those in *italics* have already agreed to participate in the PRWG.

Entity	Sector
Avista	Utility
<i>Bonner County</i>	<i>Local Government</i>
Bonner County Farm Bureau	Agriculture
Bonner County Soil and Conservation District	Local agency
City of Priest River	Local Government
<i>Idaho Conservation League (ICL)</i>	<i>Environmental</i>
<i>Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)</i>	<i>State Agency</i>
<i>Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)</i>	<i>State Agency</i>
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)	State Agency/Recreation
<i>Idaho Forest Group (IFG)</i>	<i>Timber Production</i>
<i>Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)</i>	<i>State Agency</i>

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)	State Agency
<i>Inland Northwest Fishing Guides (INWFG)</i>	<i>Recreation/Business</i>
<i>Kalispel Tribe of Indians</i>	<i>Tribe</i>
Landowners along Priest River	Community Members
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal Agency
<i>North Idaho Fly Casters (NIFC)</i>	<i>Conservation/Recreation</i>
Panhandle Building Contractors Association	Land Development
<i>Priest Community Forest Connection (PCFC)</i>	<i>Community/conservation</i>
Priest Lake Cabin Homeowners Association	Property Owners
Priest Lake Chamber of Commerce	Tourism
Priest Lake Sportsman’s Association	Recreation
Priest Lake Trails & Outdoor Recreation Club	Recreation
Priest River Chamber of Commerce	Economic Development
Selkirk Association of Realtors	Land Development
<i>Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA)</i>	<i>Environmental</i>
Stop the Priest Lake Siphon	Priest Lake Community
<i>The Pend Oreille Basin (Lakes) Commission (POBC)</i>	<i>Idaho State Interests</i>
Pend Oreille Rowing and Paddling Association	Recreation - Boating
<i>Trout Unlimited – project applicant and watershed group coordinator (TU)</i>	<i>Conservation</i>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Hydropower Provider
<i>US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)</i>	<i>Federal Agency</i>
<i>US Forest Service – IPNF (USFS)</i>	<i>Federal agency</i>
<i>US Geological Service (USGS)</i>	<i>Federal Agency</i>

The bullets below draw out the avenues that interested stakeholders have paved to support the activities of the PRWG.

- The Kalispel Tribe has committed to participate in the group, lend technical and research support, and has provided a letter of support and other materials for this proposal.
- As one of the nation’s largest lumber producers that depend heavily on public timber, IFG is a key player in forest management and an active participant in the Panhandle Forest Collaborative. IFG donated \$15,000 in funding to TU to have a Situation Assessment conducted on the Priest River basin in preparation for the formation of a watershed group.
- Avista, a hydropower utility with two dams on the Lower Clark Fork River, upstream of Lake Pend Oreille, has an interest in restoring Bull Trout as part of its protection, enhancement, and mitigation responsibilities under its federal dam license. Avista supplied grant-writing support in the development of this application.
- USGS has provided a letter of support, data for this proposal, and committed to share existing research on the watershed with the group and to assist in future research efforts towards meeting the needs of the PRWG.

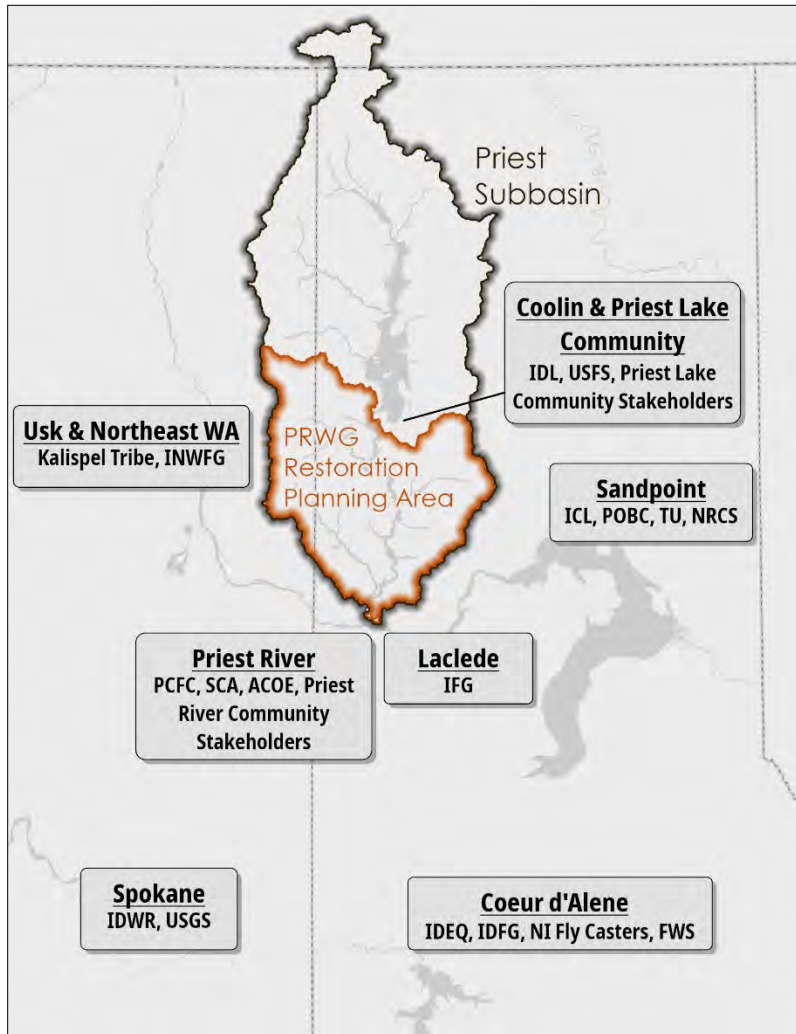
- IDFG submitted a letter of support and committed to sharing information on the fishery with the PRWG.
- ICL is a statewide environmental organization. ICL submitted a letter of support for the PRWG and will participate in the meetings.
- PCFC, a local non-profit, originally formed as the stewardship advisory committee for the Lakeface-Lamb Forest Stewardship Project in 2002. PCFC's local connections and experience gained from projects over the last two decades will help guide the formation and work of the PRWG. PCFC has submitted a letter of support for the project and has committed to attending stakeholder meetings.
- The Inland Northwest Fishing Guides have been involved recently in advocating for restoration of the lower river to improve the ecological health to benefit native trout and improve the angling experience along the river. The INWFG submitted a letter of support for the PRWG and will attend stakeholder meetings.
- IDEQ provided a letter of support and will take part in stakeholder meetings.
- IDL has committed to taking part in stakeholder meetings and considering implementation of restoration and recreational access projects prioritized by the PRWG on the lands they manage.
- The USFS has committed to taking part in stakeholder meetings and considering implementation of restoration and recreational access projects prioritized by the PRWG on the lands they manage.
- The POBC is an advisory board to the Idaho Governor on water quality and quantity issues on the Pend Oreille Basin, which includes the Priest Basin. The POBC has agreed to participate in PRWG meetings and to serve as a conduit of information going out of the PRWG through their quarterly meetings which are broadly attended by stakeholders throughout the Columbia River Basin.

As stated previously, TU will hire a facilitator to conduct a Situation Assessment for the Priest River watershed this summer, 2022. The information gathered will be aggregated into a report that shares the diversity of perspectives and attempts to illuminate areas of agreement or disagreement. The report may also identify potential pathways forward and assist in creating a baseline understanding of the variety of viewpoints once the stakeholders begin meeting through the PRWG. It is also expected that the Situation Assessment will identify new stakeholders in the Basin. TU will also present information about this project to regional stakeholder meetings such as the POBC, North Idaho Fly Casters, and Panhandle Forest Collaborative meetings over the spring and summer of 2022. These presentations may also unearth other stakeholders in the Priest Basin.

Once PRWG meetings begin, outreach will continue as described in the Approach, Implementation and Budget Narrative sections of this proposal. These outreach activities will be focused on reaching the broader regional community, but will also serve as pathways to new, previously unidentified stakeholders.

4.1.2. Sub-criterion A2 -Geographic Scope

The Priest River basin (HUC 17010215) is 981 square miles in area and is located in the northwest corner of the Idaho Panhandle within Bonner and Boundary counties. The watershed is broken down into three identifiable areas in this proposal in order to clearly discuss the approach: The Northern Headwaters; Upper and Lower Priest Lake; and the Lower Priest River.



Stakeholders will be included from the entire Priest basin although the primary planning focus of this Watershed Group will be the Lower Priest River and its tributaries. (Figure 2.) The stakeholders in the area are either agencies that work in the area or members of the communities of Priest Lake or Priest River and in between. This division of the basin for planning is because the Northern Headwaters and the Upper Priest River areas are characterized by mostly intact mature, inland temperate rainforest riparian habitat where human impacts are far fewer, and opportunities for restoration are limited. The Lower Priest Lake has much higher use and faces more environmental challenges than the portions of the Basin to the north.

Figure 2: PRWG Stakeholder Map

The Northern Headwaters

The northern headwaters of the Upper Priest River originate in the Nelson Mountain Range of British Columbia, and the Upper Priest River runs through Boundary County before flowing into Upper Priest Lake. Western headwaters of major tributaries originate in Washington State on a mountain crest that separates the Panhandle from the Colville National Forest in the Salmo-Priest Wilderness. Tributaries that originate in Washington State are contained in the jurisdiction of the Panhandle National Forest. The Selkirk Mountain Range rises on the east flank of the basin. All of the lands outside of Bonner County are either in Canada, U.S. National Forest, or Idaho State

Endowment lands. Stakeholders from this area are the USFS and IDL. Canada is not included as a stakeholder because there is very little area of the headwaters located there.

Upper Priest River (including Upper Priest Lake and Thorofare) and Lower Priest Lake

The Upper Priest River includes Upper Priest Lake and the Thorofare which connects Upper Priest Lake to Lower Priest Lake. Large portions of the Upper Priest River and Lake are in roadless areas. The Upper Priest Lake Basin is home to both Bull Trout and Westslope Cutthroat Trout, *Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*, in resident and migratory populations. The Upper Priest Basin is managed by IDFG differently than the Lower Priest Lake as described below in section 4.3.2. Sub-criterion C2 (Building on Relevant Federal, State or Regional Planning Efforts) because the native fishery has been better able to subsist in the Upper versus the Lower Priest Lake.

The Lower Priest Lake is larger than the upper lake and a popular summer recreation destination. The east shores of the lake are adjacent to Idaho State Endowment lands, and many cabin sites along the shore were leased from the state, until Idaho recently auctioned them off. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation operates two state parks on the east shores of the lake, and Dickensheet Campground along Priest River just downstream of Priest Lake. The community of Priest Lake, which includes gas stations, restaurants, a library, school, golf course and other businesses, is centered around State Highway 57. At the southern end of the lake is Coolin, a small unincorporated community with a motel, stores, restaurants, marina and a community hall. Several resorts and marinas encircle the lake on privately owned properties. Much of the western lakeshore is managed the U.S. Forest Service, which still leases cabin sites along the shore, and manages several campsites on the lower and upper lake. The Lower Priest Lake supports a vibrant summer economy based primarily off recreation centered on the lakes and the year-round resident population gets very small in the winters.

Lower Priest River and its Tributaries

The Lower Priest River begins at the outlet of the lower Priest Lake and Priest Lake's Outlet Dam is located about a quarter mile down from the outlet of the lake. The Lower Priest River travels a sinuous path about 45 miles long with several significant tributaries entering along its length. Highway 57 travels west roughly paralleling the Lower River and connecting Priest Lake to the town of Priest River. The town of Priest River is an incorporated community of about 2,000 people with deep ties to the timber industry. The Lower Priest River empties into the Pend Oreille River, on the east side of town, next to a former sawmill. Stimson Lumber operates a stud mill on the southern shore of the Pend d'Oreille River opposite downtown Priest River.

The "community" of Priest River includes the town of Priest River and rural landowners along the Lower Priest River mainstem and tributaries. Land uses in this community mainly include timberlands, ranching, farming and residential homes. Most of the land along the Lower Priest River and tributaries is managed by the USFS and IDL. Up until recently recreational use of the Lower Priest River has been minimal with limited recreational fishing and boating.

4.2. Evaluation Criterion B – Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

4.2.1. Sub-criterion B1 – Critical Watershed Needs

Endangered Species

The Lower Priest River Basin is of high importance to the recovery of Bull Trout, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1998. (Figure 3.) Bull Trout require cold clear water, intact migration corridors, and abundant complex forms of instream cover including woody debris, undercut banks, boulders and deep pools. Bull Trout do not compete well with other non-native chars such as Brook Trout *Salvelinus fontinalis* and Lake Trout *Salvelinus namaycush*. Bull Trout numbers have plummeted in Priest Lake, where Lake Trout are present. However, Bull Trout fare better in Upper Priest Lake, where IDFG practices Lake Trout suppression.



Figure 3: Bull Trout, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1998. Photo courtesy of Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Bull Trout are also found in the Middle Fork East River, which is a tributary of the Lower Priest River. Bull Trout cannot pass above or below the Outlet Dam at the Priest Lake outlet. The Lower Priest River is also home to native Mountain Whitefish, *Prosopium williamsoni*, and Westslope Cutthroat. Non-native fish, Smallmouth Bass *Micropterus dolomieu* and Brook Trout with more tolerance for warm water are found in the river. The only known Bull Trout spawning occurs in the East River, with the majority in the Middle Fork East River, which originates in the Selkirk Crest. Juvenile Bull

Trout in the Middle Fork East River have an unusual migration pattern, moving 35 km down the Priest River and then upstream 36 km through the Pend Oreille River to reach Lake Pend Oreille. The headwaters of the East River are home to a healthy population of Westslope Cutthroat, but the Lower Priest River is underperforming as a cold-water fishery overall, according to IDFG. The agency reports 0.02 Westslope Cutthroat Trout per 100 square meters in the Lower Priest River versus 1.93 cutthroat trout per 100 square meters in the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River which is similar in structure and climate.

The Priest River Basin is included in the Clark Fork River Basin Recovery Unit of designated critical habitat for Bull Trout. Lower Priest River is considered as supporting sub adult and adult rearing and is considered important for Bull Trout recovery. Yet, throughout the basin, Bull Trout numbers are low or absent. The adopted goal of the Clark Fork Recovery Unit Teams is a “sustained net increase in bull trout abundance and increased distribution of some local

populations within existing core areas in this recovery unit ...”¹ Recovery may require addressing habitat limitations, some of which are detailed below.

Water Quality Issues

Temperature

Elevated temperatures appear to be one of the limiting factors in supporting a thriving cold-water fishery in the Lower Priest River Basin. River segments with elevated temperatures include the lower 34.4 miles of Priest River from Upper West Branch Priest River confluence to Pend Oreille River, as well as several tributaries, including Binarch Creek, East River, and the Middle and North forks of the East River. All are listed as failing to meet water quality standards to support cold water aquatic life on the most recent Section 303D list of the Clean Water Act because of elevated temperatures.

Bull Trout need water that is between 2°C and 15°C (36°F and 59°F) to thrive. Priest Lake outflow typically exceeds 70°F in summer, as the source is the epilimnetic waters of the lake. Below the dam, cold water input from tributaries, groundwater seeps, wetlands and springs cool the river’s instream temperatures as the river flows downstream, according to data gathered by the Kalispel Tribe. While many tributaries and cold-water intrusions below the dam have a measurable positive influence on the Lower Priest River, several tributaries also have temperatures exceeding water quality standards. Data for East River shows this key tributary to be violation of state Westslope Cutthroat Trout spawning and incubation criteria, as well as EPA and Idaho Bull Trout juvenile rearing and spawning criteria. Data from Binarch Creek shows exceedances of state standards for Westslope Cutthroat spawning and incubation. Temperature TMDLs have been developed for both these tributaries.

From 1993-2011, the mean August stream temperature of Lower Priest River was 19.53°C, according to NorWeST Regional Database and Modeled Stream Temperatures Website. Idaho standards criteria for Bull Trout juvenile rearing is 13°C for the warmest 7-day period of summer. The USGS placed a temperature data logger at the river mile 3.8 gaging site from June – September of 1998 and 2000. This data showed that the state standards numeric temperature criteria for Cold Water Aquatic Life (19 °C daily mean) was exceeded 44 percent of the criteria days in 1998, and 27 percent in 2000. This data led to the Lower Priest River 303D listing as impaired for water temperature.²

The situation will only be exacerbated by climate change. Projections anticipate temperatures in Idaho to increase by 3.7°C by 2069, with a slight increase in precipitation (6 percent).³ But this

¹ Panhandle Bull Trout Technical Advisory Team (TAT). 1998. Priest River basin key watershed bull trout problem assessment. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Div. Of IDEQ, Coeur d’Alene, ID.

² Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Priest River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load, 2016 Temperature Addendum. Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

³ A. Kliskey, J. Abatzoglou, L. Alessa, C. Kolden, D. Hoekema, B. Moore, S. Gilmore and G. Austin. 2019. Planning for Idaho’s Waterscapes: A review of historical drivers and outlook for the next 50 years. Environmental and Science Policy 94: 191-201.

basin is already experiencing the effects of extreme temperatures. A heat wave in early July 2021 killed 40-50 fish in one location of the Lower Priest River with smaller die-offs in other parts of the river, primarily impacting Mountain Whitefish and some Westslope Cutthroat Trout.⁴ This recent incident and climate projections have added urgency to the state's objective to improve the cold-water habitat of Lower Priest River.

One environmental factor that impacts temperature is canopy cover. Canopy cover provides shade, but the general north-south orientation of the Lower Priest River limits the potential for increasing shade during the middle of the day. In the East River, canopy cover ranges from 5-80 percent in the mainstem.⁵ Loss of cover largely occurred because of logging in the riparian areas, before state restrictions on riparian logging were adopted, and from clearing land for agriculture. Lack of shade, combined with shallower, wider streams can also compound the problem of elevated temperatures. IDEQ's Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) analysis found the East River mainstem to be characterized by a wide, shallow stream channel, albeit with large pools with good volume. While the Lower Priest River has many pools and is wider and deeper than some comparable but colder rivers in the Northwest⁶, its north-south alignment and the elevated temperatures of water from Priest Lake may counteract those instream advantages.

Sediment

Sediment is another water quality concern in this watershed, primarily in tributaries to the Lower Priest River. Fine sediment in gravel-bed streams can negatively impact native fish. While some amount of fine sediment is normal, problems occur with excess sediment loading over background levels. Sediment can fill pools needed as cold-water refugia for fish; fill in gravel spawning beds, preventing the successful development of fish eggs and larvae; and reduce the abundance of food available for fish.

Sedimentation TMDLs have been developed for Kalispell Creek and Reeder Creek (both of which flow into Priest Lake), East River mainstem, Binarch Creek and Lower Priest River. Some severe erosion has been observed during a 2000 riverbank survey in the Lower Priest River, which resulted in the development of a TMDL. A USFS survey in late '90s found a moderate to high percentage fines in many upper reach spawning gravels of a pure strain Westslope Cutthroat Trout population and poor pool quality due to filling in by sediment.

Hillslope erosion is one of the background causes identified in the subbasin assessment. The soils in the basin are considered to have a high inherent hazard for surface erosion and moderate inherent hazard for mass failure. Another background source is a historic cycle of large wildland

⁴ Eli Frankovich. July 7, 2021. Heat Wave Kills Fish on Priest River, Highlighting the Need for a Cold-water Bypass. The Spokesman-Review.

⁵ G. Rothrock. 2003. Addendum Priest River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load, 2003. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

⁶ F.H. Mejia, J.M. Connor, P.R. Kaufmann, C.E. Torgersen, E.K. Berntsen, and T.K. Anderson. 2021. Integrating regional and local monitoring data and assessment tools to evaluate habitat conditions and inform river restoration. *Ecological Indicators* 131: 108213.

fires, which clear forest cover and the flooding that follows causes instream erosion. This is suspected of contributing to instream degradation through sediment accumulation, pool filling and channel widening.

Human causes of sedimentation include the watershed's long legacy of extensive timber management. In the Lower Priest River Basin, 50 percent is in federal ownership, 31 percent is state-owned, and 18 percent is privately owned. Most of the federal and state lands are managed primarily for timber production and extraction. The 43,163-acre East River watershed is overwhelmingly (87 percent) in state ownership, with just 8 percent in federal ownership (the Priest River Experimental Forest), 2 percent in private industrial timberlands and 3 percent in other private lands. Sediment loads in the East River were 185% above background levels in 2001, according to IDEQ data.

Figure 4: Men working a log jam on Priest River in 1911. Photo courtesy of University of Idaho photo archives.



Timber harvesting over the past century has occurred in both burned and disease/insect affected areas of the basin as well as in unburnt, mature growth stands of high value tree species such as white pine, spruce, hemlock and cedar. Along with the clearing of tree stands, logging resulted in construction of railroad lines and spurs, flumes and chutes and a network of roads and skid trails, and stream crossings. In some riparian zones, clearcutting of cedar and hemlock resulted in unstable banks. Current timber

harvest incorporates best management practices, but harvesting is still potentially contributing to sedimentation because of ongoing soil disturbance, road building, stream crossings and landings. Roads both for timber harvesting and other agency use also contribute to sedimentation due to surface runoff, undersized culverts and general wear and tear. Fill slopes and cut slopes are also prone to erosion. Road densities in the Priest River basin are significantly higher in the lower basin than the upper basin.

Another human source of sedimentation is agriculture; the clearing and conversion to grazing and pasture lands beginning in the 1890s when settlers cleared the flatter areas. Alfalfa and hay are grown in the lower Priest River Basin, and in some areas, drainage channels have been constructed and some stream segments have been straightened. This results in increased energy that widens and damages the stream. Some areas of East River allow direct access by cattle. Cattle are raised on private lands in the basin and several grazing allotments have been issued within the watershed. Cattle and clearing of riparian vegetation have damaged streambanks, causing sloughing and erosion.

Stream flows, water availability

Stream flows in the Lower Priest River have ranged from 11,000 cfs to 141 cfs at the USGS gage near the mouth of Priest River. Average precipitation in the Selkirk Mountains can reach 60 inches. Peak flows typically occur from mid- May to early June, when the high elevation snowpack rapidly melts. Low- to mid-elevations between 2,000-3,500 ft are subject to rapid snow melt and rain and can have high discharge rain-on-snow events, which are becoming more frequent and earlier with climate change, resulting in less snowmelt throughout the summer.

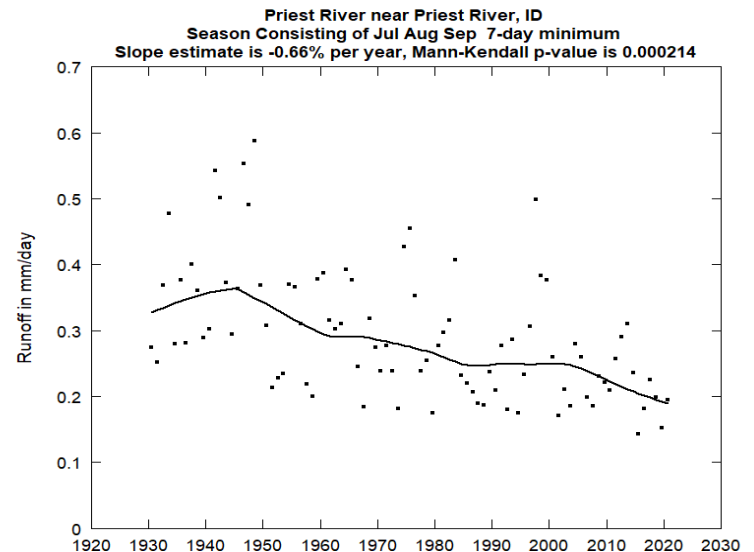


Figure 5: USGS stream flow data for Priest River shows mean monthly decline over time.

The average mean monthly flow is on the decline for the river, according to stream gage data collected by the USGS since 1929. (Figure 5.) Since the gage was installed in 1929, the average August flow is 494 cfs (based on monthly mean data) and 388 cfs for September. From 1929 until 1975, flows in August were 530 cfs on average and 424 cfs on average in September. In the next 46 years, that average monthly flow dropped significantly: 424 cfs in August and 353 cfs in September.

Stream flows in the Lower Priest River are controlled in part by the Priest Lake outlet dam, built in 1951 to benefit recreation uses. Idaho Statute requires that the lake level at the outlet gage be maintained at 3 feet for the recreational season. The dam gates usually remain open during spring runoff, and fall release does not begin until October. Prior to the dam's construction, the average daily stage of the lake at the outlet ranged between 4 feet in late May to a half foot by September 1. Current minimum discharge requirement is 60 cfs, according to a minimum instream flow water right held by the State of Idaho. The two state requirements at times conflict. In 2015, North Idaho experienced a severe drought and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) considered shutting off all outflow to the river and ended up reducing the outflow to maintain the state mandated summer pool for the lake.⁷ The conflict prompted the state to study ways to preserve the lake level without sacrificing downstream flows.

While inflow from the lake is limited, the Lower Priest River does benefit from tributaries below the dam. Only 5 percent of flow is lost through consumptive use between two gauging stations (Priest River near Coolin and Priest River near mouth). Overall, the flow increases by 25 percent between the two stations.

In 2018, IDWR completed the Priest Lake Water Management Study, which made several recommendations to address limited water supply and drought conditions, including temporarily

⁷ News Staff. July 28, 2015. Priest Lake Level Might be Lowered. The Spokesman-Review.

raising the surface level of Priest Lake three to six inches during the recreation season of dry years, improving the outlet dam, and maintaining minimum flow requirements downstream of the outlet dam.

In 2021, drought conditions resulted in reduced flows again, with early June water supply predictions based on lake inflows showing they would be 50 percent of normal. Gates were closed before spring runoff was over. The abnormally hot and dry summer worsened conditions, resulting in the lowest river flows on record and very warm water accumulating at the outlet of the dam. Even with increased storage capacity in Priest Lake, if drought conditions persist, the dam modifications are unlikely to resolve the conflict between these two state mandates. The state's Priest Lake Component of the State Water Plan acknowledges the impacts of the dam on native fish, stating, "The Priest River contains only limited populations of wild trout due to low stream discharges and elevated water temperatures during summer low-flows."

Other Resource Concerns

The Lower Priest River has lost wetlands and wet meadows in the East River area, where it's been converted to grazing, pasture and residential development. East River main stem has relatively poor overall habitat quality, due to sand deposition, streambank instability and erosion, and lack of good quality riparian vegetation. The East River has little instream large woody debris and other cover for fish, stemming from logging in the riparian area and the common use of log flumes in the past, which greatly simplified the instream habitat.

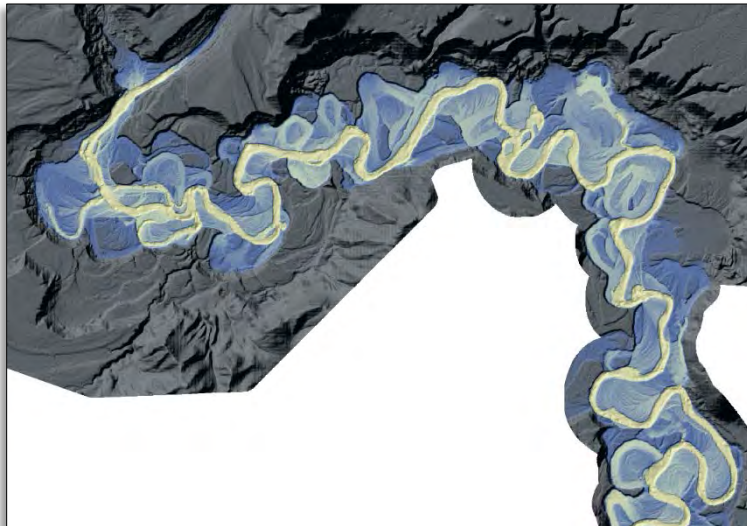


Figure 6: Floodplain delineation of a reach of the Lower Priest River, courtesy of the Kalispel Tribe Department of Natural Resources. The blue area marks the extent of use of the historic floodplain and yellow shows the current use of the floodplain.

The scoured river channel is also entrenched and disconnected from the flood plain along the mainstem and in the Lower Priest River, caused both by natural processes and human influence, such as log flumes and flood control. Historic maps show many meanders and oxbows that are no longer obvious on the landscape. (Figure 6.)

Sedimentation and other water quality concerns grow with the rapid development rate that Bonner County is currently experiencing. As the market tightens and inventory becomes scarce near the county seat and population center of Sandpoint, potential buyers are looking further

afield and considering building on raw land. Priest River is an affordable alternative in this hot market. "Ultimately, unmanaged growth and residential sprawl may be one of the biggest threats to the recovery of bull trout in this recovery unit," states the Bull Trout Recovery Plan for the Clark Fork River Recovery Unit, which includes the Priest River.

Another emerging issue of concern is the appearance of toxic algae in the warm waters in Priest Lake near the Outlet Dam. In late August of 2021, IDEQ and Panhandle Health District issued a public health advisory for the Priest Lake Outlet due to toxic blue-green algae blooms. Cyanobacteria was confirmed from outlet Bay Road to the dam, but it's unclear how far downstream the algae bloom extended.

Finally, recreation access is limited along the Lower Priest River. Interest and use of the area is growing, and as the fishery improves, increased impacts from recreation are expected. Currently there are few developed public access points and there is only one public toilet facility before reaching the mouth. Dispersed camping and off-road vehicle use is common on the IDL lands along the east side of the river, and user impacts and conflicts are expected to increase.

4.2.2. Sub-criterion B2 - Developing Strategies to address critical watershed needs/issues

The primary purpose of the PRWG is to effectively engage broad stakeholder participation in understanding the resource needs of the Lower Priest River Basin, and then working together to identify priority issues and explore ways to address those resource needs. While many resource needs have been identified in the past and are outlined above, what is needed is better working relationships within the basins, shared understanding of these resource needs and additional trusted information to identify and address the issues of concern.

Task A: Watershed Group Development

The Priest River Basin is home to diverse stakeholders who value the rich natural environment. Harnessing this shared value and creating common ground through a collaborative process is necessary to develop strategies to address critical resource needs. Efforts to address resource concerns in the past have tackled discreet problems and sought solutions to deal with those individual issues without taking into account impacts to interconnected landscapes and resources.

For instance, in 2013 the IDFG formed the Priest Lake Fishery Advisory Committee to respond to anglers' desires that the lake fishery be managed differently. The 13 committee members all shared a distinct interest in improving the lake's sport fishery and did not address habitat needs and conservation of the native fishery in the entire basin. Cabin owners and resort owners and others were successful in advocating for consistent summer lake levels to extend the summer recreation season. But those interests conflicted with the need to maintain a minimum discharge to Lower Priest River. Because of the increased frequency of low water years and incidence of fish mortality due to elevated temperatures, the IDFG initiated a feasibility analysis of constructing a cold-water bypass to draw cold water from the hypolimnion layer of the lake, instead of the warmer surface waters, to bring down in-stream temperatures in the Lower Priest River. The proposal has been hotly debated among proponents who wish to see the river restored and people who fear negative impacts on the lake.

To ensure that all interests, and relevant information and perspectives are heard and considered, the PRWG will actively seek out stakeholders from the entire Priest River Basin, using targeted outreach. While the critical resource needs are primarily in the Lower Priest River Basin, representation from interest groups from the entire basin is important as the water resources are connected. Establishing a consensus-based watershed group that isn't dominated by one agency

or interest group will provide a level playing field and an opportunity to gather, share and examine all relevant information in an open and interactive environment.

Using a professional facilitator who can establish clear and collectively developed ground rules will cultivate a safe place for difficult conversations, trust building and open dialogue. Developing a mission, goals and an outreach plan will help to focus the group's energy on the task at hand and a sense of ownership for the members. Expert presentations on the state of the Priest River Watershed will help to develop a shared understanding of the critical resource needs in the basin. Fields trips – such as floating the Lower Priest River - will help to build relationships between members and give members a better understanding of the issues on the landscape.

Without a shared understanding of the problem and the ability to discuss priorities and competing interests in a respectful space, no progress can be made toward identifying solutions. Thus, Task A activities as described in the Technical Project Description and the schedule contained in Section 4.3. (Implementation and Results) are critical to creating a solid foundation for any progress to be made.



Some of these stakeholders have worked together on previous projects – such as the Priest Lake Fishery Advisory Committee or Priest River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG). The Fishery Advisory Committee helped develop a lake management plan and the Priest River WAG developed the temperature TMDL for the Lower Priest River, but both groups have since disbanded. Participants from those planning efforts who join the PRWG will bring that knowledge to help inform the work of the newly formed PRWG. Past forest stewardship projects in the Priest Lake Ranger District also provide a source of information and past stakeholder experience that PRWG members could bring to the table.

Task B: Restoration Planning

The PRWG will be engaging primarily in pre-planning activities that will both help build understanding and working relationships within the Watershed Group and set the stage for restoration plans and projects to address critical resource needs. Some of the same activities described above in Task A, such as field trips and expert presentations, will serve to gather data as well as set the stage for a collaborative and effective watershed group.

One of the first activities that falls under both Task A and B is to compile existing data on the Priest River watershed and its fishery. Existing data is contained in studies and documents such as the 2016 Priest River Subbasin Assessment and subsequent amendments, and recent research conducted by the Kalispel Tribe and the USGS in the Lower Priest River and tributaries. The IDFG and IDWR have conducted studies regarding management of Priest Lake and the feasibility of lowering water temperatures in the Lower Priest River by means of a cold-water

bypass. Stakeholders will share studies and information from their own areas of expertise to add to the collection of existing literature which will be organized and made available to the public.

This process will allow the group to identify the major constraints to improving water quality and fish habitat using existing studies and plans, such as sediment and temperature TMDLs developed for the Lower Priest River and its tributaries. Some constraints may seem obvious, such as temperature, but through an open and thorough examination of the existing literature, other priority constraints may emerge. In compiling the existing data, questions will arise as data gaps are revealed. Creating a list of these data gaps is one of the key activities under Task B.

Based on preliminary consensus on the biggest constraints needed to be addressed, the group will develop strategies for filling those data gaps. The third-party facilitator will guide consensus-based decision-making and apply the rules of engagement adopted by the group to reach agreement on what constraints are highest priority. The group may also need to develop a ranking system to assist in the prioritization process.

As data is collected, and priority issues are identified, the group can turn to exploring restoration and recreational opportunities within the watershed. By improving water quality and the fishery, the Lower Priest River may experience greater recreation pressure. Word of the IDFG cold-water bypass project has prompted investments by outfitters interested in providing guiding services on the river, for instance. While the PRWG engages in preliminary planning for improving the ecosystem health of the river, it also will be tasked with anticipating the access needs of recreationists, and the impacts of increased recreation on the river. Depending on the level of agreement achieved on the priority issues needing to be addressed, the group may begin exploring opportunities to address both access and resource concerns, but this project proposal anticipates that the bulk of restoration planning work will be focused on information gathering, education of PRWG members, and coming to consensus on priority resource needs.

4.3. Criterion C – Implementation and Results

4.3.1. Sub-criterion C1 – Project Implementation

The table below lays out the main activities and their associated tasks, milestones, timeframe, and costs. As noted above, the timeframes for many activities overlap throughout the life of the project. As the group starts to meet and develop their operating procedures and meeting schedules, it is expected that there will be some deviation from these Activities and Tasks.

Task	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Direct cost
Activity 1: Organizational Development (TASK A)				\$32,762.55
Procure a facilitator	Facilitator hired	10/1/2022	11/1/2022	
Recruit stakeholders	All stakeholder seats filled with available participants	10/1/2022	2/1/2023	
Develop organizational structure and operational procedures	Meeting schedule set, bylaws adopted, committees established	11/1/2022	2/1/2023	

Develop mission statement, vision statement, and goals	PRWG adopts mission statement, vision statement and goals	11/1/2022	3/1/2023	
Activity 2: Stakeholder Education (TASK A)				\$39,762.55
Develop a communication and outreach plan	Communications plan adopted	12/1/2022	5/1/2023	
Present existing information on the Priest River Watershed	Resource topic presentations made on existing data	1/1/2023	12/1/2023	
Develop public outreach materials	Educational materials developed and outreach events calendared	2/1/2023	7/1/2023	
Conducting public outreach related to the Watershed Group	Calendared events attended, media coverage, outreach materials distributed	6/1/2023	9/30/2024	
Activity 3: Research (TASKS A & B)				\$32,362.54
Compile existing data	Existing data sourced and compiled into publicly accessible location	10/1/2022	3/1/2023	
Research existing resource planning documents	All known resource plans compiled and reviewed	10/1/2022	4/1/2023	
Identify essential data gaps	Essential data gaps agreed upon	3/1/2023	6/1/2023	
Develop strategies to fill the gaps	Data gathering projects identified and partners tasked with projects	5/1/2023	9/1/2023	
Activity 4: Restoration Planning (TASK B)				\$32,362.54
Identify major challenges for the cold-water fishery	Challenges on the cold-water fishery are documented	7/1/2023	12/1/2023	
Prioritize challenges facing the cold-water fishery	Challenges to the Priest River cold-water fishery prioritized	12/1/2023	4/1/2024	
Interview watershed group members and stakeholders to identify potential restoration and access projects	Potential restoration and recreational access opportunities identified	10/1/2023	9/30/2024	

4.3.2. Sub-criterion C2 – Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

The efforts of the PRWG will build on existing and relevant planning efforts. The Stakeholder Education Activity listed in the table above will focus on providing the stakeholders with information about relevant planning efforts. The existing planning documents that have been identified are listed below. It is assumed that additional planning documents will be illuminated as the PRWG begins to meet and stakeholders share information.

- Priest River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load (IDEQ, 2001)
- Priest River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL Addendum (IDEQ, 2003)
- Priest River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load: 2016 Temperature Addendum (IDEQ, 2016)
- Fisheries Management Plan (IDFG, 2019-2024)
- Management Plan for Conservation of Westslope Cutthroat Trout (IDFG, 2013)
- The Priest River Basin Component of the Comprehensive Idaho State Water Plan (IDWR, 1995)
- Recovery Plan for the Coterminous United States Population of Bull Trout (FWS, 2015)
- Idaho Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan (IDEQ; 2020-2025)
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan (USFS, 2015)
- Priest Lake Water Management Study (IDWR, 2018)

The IDEQ Priest River Subbasin Assessments and TMDLs (sediment and temperature) provide significant information on the Lower Priest River watershed. Some of the documents are dated and have unfulfilled recommendations for further study. These recommendations may provide opportunities to identify data gaps and strategies to fill them. The Priest River WAG successfully helped IDEQ develop the TMDLs, but further efforts to convene a TMDL implementation WAG were less successful. IDEQ sees the PRWG as an opportunity to begin implementation of the TMDLs or to identify stakeholders to be included in a future implementation WAG.

The IDFG Fisheries Management Plan focuses on opportunities specifically in the Lower Priest River watershed. One of the objectives is to “Seek opportunities to improve the cold-water fishery in Priest River.”



Strategies mentioned include evaluating the potential to increase cold-water refugia through habitat acquisition or conservation easements; study the feasibility of a cold-water bypass from Priest Lake; and work cooperatively with the Kalispel Tribe to improve understanding of Westslope Cutthroat Trout habitat use and movement patterns in Priest River.

To this end, IDFG is collaborating with the Kalispel Tribe this summer to collect more temperature data on the river. The health of the cold-water fishery is an indicator of the overall health of the Lower Priest River watershed. As such, seeking opportunities to help improve habitat for cold-water fish is likely to be a central activity of the PRWG.

IDFG previously convened a Priest Lake Fishery Advisory Task Force to advise the current management plan. A diverse group of local stakeholders met for several years and advised on management of the Upper and Lower Priest Lakes. The Lower Priest River was not a geographical focus for the group mainly because the dam prevents much interplay between the lower river and the lakes. Members of this group will likely be involved in the PRWG as stakeholders in the Priest River fishery as well.

The Panhandle Forest Collaborative (PFC) has been working on forest management issues on federal lands for over 15 years. The vision of the PFC is “By assisting the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and other agencies in bringing a balanced approaches to timber, wild ecosystems and recreation, the Panhandle Forest Collaborative helps to contribute to sustainable social, environmental and economic viability within the region.” Initially, the concept of connecting the PRWG with PFC was discussed, but not deemed the best path forward because the PRWG will cover a significantly smaller area than the PFC and the PFC mostly focuses on forest health projects on federal lands. There may be some overlap in stakeholder members, with the work of each entity informing the other. While a collaborative relationship between the organizations is expected, as detached entities the mission and goals will remain clear for each group.

The PRWG membership will bring their knowledge of current and past planning activities to the table with a focus on the specific issues relevant to the Lower Priest River, thereby increasing the opportunities for successful restoration activities to occur in this basin.

There is no significant overlap or redundancy between the proposed PRWG and any existing entity or planning effort. Nor is this duplicative of any other proposal that has been submitted for funding.

4.4. Evaluation Criterion D – Presidential and Dept of Interior Priorities

4.4.1. Sub-criterion D1 – Climate Change

Two of the critical resource issues that prompted this proposal are directly related to climate change: temperature and stream flows. One task of the PRWG will be to explore options to lower in-stream temperatures and assist with implementation of the temperature TMDLs in the Lower Priest River basin. Any success with lowering in-stream temperatures will contribute to creating a cold-water refugia for native fish – including threatened Bull Trout – as the climate warms.

In addition, stream flows appear also to be impacted by climate change, as evidenced by the recent drought years and increased frequency of low flow years in the last two decades. As mentioned above, reduced flows also contribute to higher temperatures. Rain on snow events are likely to increase in frequency as well, resulting in scouring and erosion, and potentially

increasing the sediment load to the system. Sedimentation, then, will be an indirect effect of climate change. As the PRWG moves into restoration planning work, it will identify the high-risk areas for erosion and sedimentation and explore opportunities for restoring those areas in a way that is more resilient to flashy runoff events.

In short, the primary water quality issues that the PRWG seeks to address are interrelated to climate change and solutions will make the ecosystem more resilient as the climate warms.

4.4.2. Sub-criterion D2 - Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Priest River meets the definition of a disadvantaged community due to its relatively low median income, compared to the State of Idaho, as well as Bonner County. In 2019, Priest River had a population of 1,923 people and a median income of \$38,125. The state median income was \$60,999 and Bonner County's was \$50,246, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. The poverty rate was 12.4 percent, which was slightly less than the state's poverty rate of 13.1 percent. Men make 1.42 times more wages in Priest River than women, and manufacturing is the top industry.

While Priest River is still home to a sawmill, owned by Stimson Lumber, the workforce in the timber industry is far smaller than in logging's heyday. The volume of timber coming off the land has significantly declined and mills operate more efficiently with fewer workers. A former sawmill on the east end of the town has long been dismantled and converted to a wetland bank. While manufacturing remains the largest sector of employment in the town, the next largest sectors are health care and social assistance, followed by accommodation and food services and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.

The PRWG will work with the community and stakeholders in the Lower Priest River basin to address water quality issues that impact their quality of life. Some residents draw their drinking water from the river, and others remember when the fishing was good in the Lower Priest River. The work of the PRWG eventually may provide the opportunity for employment under contracts related to restoration projects. If the fishery were to return, it may provide an opportunity for jobs and economic initiatives related to the outdoor recreation industry, and benefit the overall economy of the community.

4.4.3. Sub-criterion D3 – Tribal Benefits

The Priest River Watershed is extremely important to the Kalispel Tribe and is part of its Aboriginal Lands, which encompassed 2.37 million acres in Northeast Washington, North Idaho and Western Montana. While the Kalispel Indian Reservation is located on 4,693 acres in and around Usk, Wash., the Tribe has steadily been purchasing land for habitat and to support the Tribe's natural connections with this landscape, and now owns 1,701 acres in Bonner County.

The Tribe historically was organized around specific resource areas and the Priest Lake basin held many of the resources that were important to the Tribe's well-being, including mountain caribou, deer, waterfowl, and fish. Because of the importance of this area, the Tribe's Department of Natural Resources is one of the leading research agencies providing information regarding the Priest River and its ecological health.



Figure 9: Natural and cultural resources in the Kalispel Tribe's homeland.
Exhibit No. 64 in petition before the Indian Claims Commission, 1963.

The Tribe considers their quality life as intimately tied to quality space (habitat) and relationships (cultural/natural) and what occurs in the watershed eventually affects habitat, cultural, and natural connections within the Aboriginal Land area and specifically on the Kalispel Reservation.

When asked about the benefits of this project, a tribal representative answered, “The Tribe believes that we are all in this together, and that durable, long-lasting solutions to address water quality and quantity, accelerated soil erosion, and continued floodplain development and occupancy are best handled through a collaborative process. It’s not lake vs. river, Idaho vs. Washington. It’s one watershed.”

5. Project Budget

(1) Budget Proposal

Total Project Cost Table

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$ 156,108.35
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$ 0
Value of third-party contributions	\$ 0
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 156,108.35

Budget Item Description	Computation		Unit	Total Cost
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
TU Project Manager	\$24.77	1,040	Hours	\$25,760.80
Fringe Benefits				
TU Project Manager (48%)	48.00%	\$25,760.8	%	\$12,365.18
Equipment				
Travel				
Local travel (meetings, outreach, site visits) - 2 years	\$0.585	2,520	Miles	\$1,474.20
Per diem	\$25	10	Days	\$250.00
Supplies and Materials				
Printer and office supplies	\$25.00	24	Months	\$600.00
Meetings, events, field trip snacks and NA beverages	\$50.00	30	Events	\$1,500.00
Meeting facilities	\$200.00	20	Meetings	\$4,000.00

Printed outreach materials	\$2,000.00	1	Lump Sum	\$2,000.00
Contractual / Construction				
Professional Facilitation Support	\$83,500.00	1	Lump sum	\$83,500.00
Advertising in Local Newspaper	\$200	4	Ads	\$800.00
Website development and maintenance	\$5,000	1	Lump sum	\$5,000.00
Total Direct Costs				
				\$137,250.18
Indirect Costs				
Predetermined-NICRA	13.74%			\$18,858.17
Total Estimated Project Costs				
				\$156,108.35

(2) Budget Narrative:

Costs incurred prior to award:

Salaries and Wages

This grant will fund the existing TU Coeur d’Alene Project Manager, Erin Plue, covering 25 percent of their time to coordinate efforts for the development of the Priest River Watershed Group.

The TU Project Manager’s responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Establishing and coordinating the PRWG including:
 - Scheduling and organizing 20 PRWG meetings including reserving facilities, providing snacks, managing technology, and preparing meeting materials.
 - Scheduling and organizing four field trips.
 - Lining up presenters for educational presentations on the Priest River basin.
 - Writing/sharing meeting agendas and notes.
 - Working with the contracted facilitator to guide the collaborative process and accomplish the goals of the PRWG.
- Procuring and managing professional third-party facilitation support.
- Contracting with outside support for certain tasks such as website development.
- Grant management.

- Producing outreach materials.
- Attending up to three local outreach events per year on behalf of the PRWG.

Fringe Benefits

TU's current fringe benefit is 48%. This amount is included in the budget for the TU Project Manager. Fringe benefits for TU GIS Support will be an in-kind contribution towards the cost of the project.

Travel

Travel costs are associated with the TU Project Manager position. Most travel will occur within Bonner County where the Priest Basin is located. These costs include travel to and from the 20 in-person meetings, the four anticipated field trips, and outreach events. Travel costs also include per diem for ten days including the field trips and outreach events.

Equipment

There are no equipment costs anticipated for this project.

Materials and Supplies

Funds from the grant will be used for general office and outreach materials including informational brochures and display posters.

Twenty meetings will be held in-person at the Priest River Events Center or a similarly equipped meeting facility. For the in-person meetings costs for renting the facility are included in the budget. There are also four field trips planned in this budget. Costs for printed meeting materials, non-alcoholic refreshments and snacks are included for the four field trips and in-person meetings.

Contractual

Funds will be used to procure a third-party professional facilitator. The facilitator's time includes preparation for and attendance at the 20 meetings, four field trips, and possibly attendance at subcommittee meetings. The facilitator is responsible for recording meeting notes and supporting technological needs to offer the option for virtual attendance for members unable to attend PRWG meetings in person. Coordination and planning with the TU Project Manager is also accounted for in the facilitation time. Preliminary research into facilitation opportunities shows that these resources are uncommon and not locally available. Travel and lodging costs have been estimated for the facilitator's attendance at the in-person meetings. Facilitation support will be procured following competitive procurement processes.

Funds will also be used for advertising costs, which could include advertisements in the Coeur d'Alene Press, Bonner County Daily Bee and/or Spokesman-Review newspapers.

Although this plan could change depending on the stakeholder developed communication plan, in this budget funds are committed to the development and maintenance of a PRWG website. The TU Project Manager will contract externally for these services.

Third-Party In-Kind

Third-party in-kind support is likely for this project, but at this time we cannot specify the exact nature of that support nor quantify the value. Therefore, it has not been included in this proposal budget.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

As this project is designed to develop a new watershed group and undertake planning activities, no environmental and regulatory compliance costs are anticipated.

Indirect Costs

Trout Unlimited has a Federal negotiated indirect cost rate of 13.74%. This rate will be applied to the total direct costs of the project.

6. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

This section is not applicable to this proposal as no measurement, monitoring or field work is planned as part of this project.

7. Required Permits of Approvals

No permits or approvals are required for this proposal. This proposal does not include any on-the-ground work.

**APPENDIX A:
LETTERS OF SUPPORT**



Kalispel Tribe of Indians
P.O. Box 39
Usk, WA 99180

(509) 445-1147
(509) 445-1705 *fax*
www.kalispeltribe.com

3/21/2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Ms. Morgan,

On behalf of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians Natural Resources Department (KNRD), I would like to express our support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group to address resource concerns in the Lower Priest River, an area that was once a vital part of the ancestral Kalispel subsistence economy.

KNRD is actively engaged in Lower Priest River-related studies, including Westslope Cutthroat Trout tributary monitoring, water quality and discharge monitoring, water availability analyses, and identifying potential aquatic habitat restoration options. We partner with numerous agencies, including the Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, the US Geological Survey, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Bonner County Soil and Water Conservation District. The Priest River Watershed Group will provide the ideal venue to bring these and other stakeholders together to address resources concerns in the Lower Priest River.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to further discuss our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deane Osterman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "O".

Deane Osterman
Executive Director
Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department



United States Department of the Interior

IDAHO FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office - Spokane

3232 W. Nursery Road

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Telephone (208) 769-5110

www.fws.gov/idaho



Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

March 28, 2022

Subject: USFWS Support for Trout Unlimited's 2022 Grant Proposal – WaterSMART
Cooperative Watershed Management Phase I

Dear Avra Morgan;

This letter transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office's (IFWO) support for Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group (PRWG) to address resource concerns in the Lower Priest River.

The Service is a Federal agency responsible for recovering threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Our goal is to work collaboratively with Federal, State, Tribe, non-governmental, and private landowner partners to improve habitat health and ecological integrity for ESA listed species. To achieve this goal, we focus our efforts in four Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) in the State of Idaho while building and leveraging partner efforts to meet shared conservation targets. One of the conservation strategies IFWO has prioritized for the Selkirk Cabinet-Yaak PCA is to enhance populations of bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) in the Priest River Watershed by working with our partners to identify and address threats.

Priest River, a major tributary of the Pend Oreille River, is designated as critical habitat for bull trout, a threatened species under the ESA. However, the Lower Priest River is not meeting its potential as a cold-water fishery and is listed in Idaho as water quality impaired due to high temperature and sedimentation. The river is also designated a Special Resource Water, which means it needs intensive protection to preserve outstanding characteristics, or to maintain current beneficial uses. Gaining a better understanding of the resources concerns in the river and how stakeholders can work together to address those concerns is the purpose of the Priest River Watershed Group.

The IFWO currently participates on several watershed working groups in the Selkirk Cabinet-Yaak PCA, including the Pack and Kootenai Rivers, and is committed to continuing to help partners improve natural resources in the Priest River Watershed. The working group forum will enable us to collectively assess and prioritize specific conservation and restoration opportunities for bull trout and other species and will help us leverage future funds for implementation.

INTERIOR REGION 9
COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST

IDAHO, MONTANA*, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 12
PACIFIC ISLANDS

AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

This letter offers the IFWO's support for this opportunity to collaborate to enhance the cold-water fishery in the Priest River Watershed. If you have questions, please contact Brittany Morlin (208) 769-5111 or via email at brittany_morlin@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Patricia C. Johnson-Hughes

for Christopher Swanson
State Supervisor



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

PANHANDLE REGION
2885 West Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Brad Little / Governor
Ed Schriever / Director

February 28, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

REFERENCE: Support for proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group

Dear Ms. Morgan:

On behalf of Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), I would like to express our support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group to address fishery and water resource concerns in the Lower Priest River.

IDFG is the state of Idaho's fish and wildlife management agency, with our mission (Title 36 Idaho Code) to "preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage" all of Idaho's fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of the people of Idaho. As such, we have a responsibility for, and keen interest in, working collaboratively with stakeholders to benefit these resources.

Priest River, a major tributary of the Pend Oreille River, is designated as critical habitat for Bull Trout, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It also once supported a healthy population of native Westslope Cutthroat Trout. However, the Lower Priest River is not meeting its potential as a cold-water fishery and is listed in Idaho as water quality impaired due to high temperature and sedimentation. The river is also designated a Special Resource Water, which means it needs intensive protection to preserve outstanding characteristics or to maintain current beneficial uses. Gaining a better understanding of the resource concerns in the river and how stakeholders can work together to address those concerns is the purpose of the Priest River Watershed Group.

IDFG has done a considerable amount of assessment work on the fishery dating back to the 1950s, documenting the fishery resources, understanding the ecology of bull trout in the system, and identifying limiting factors to the native coldwater fishery. Most recently we have been working to identify potential solutions for limiting factors to benefit native fishes and the Priest River sport fishery and sharing that information with the public.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Ms. Avra Morgan – Page 2
February 28, 2022

We look forward to participating in improving this important public resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Corsi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct dot at the end of the final stroke.

Charles E. Corsi
Regional Supervisor

CEC:lat



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2110 Ironwood Parkway, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422

Brad Little, Governor
Jess Byrne, Director

March 8, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Subject: Priest River Watershed Group - Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Morgan:

On behalf of DEQ I would like to express our support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group to address resources and concerns in the Lower Priest River.

Priest River, a major tributary of the Pend Oreille River, is designated as critical habitat for Bull Trout, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It also once supported a healthy population of native Westslope Cutthroat Trout. However, the Lower Priest River is not meeting its potential as a cold-water fishery and is listed in Idaho as water quality impaired due to high temperature and sedimentation. The river is also designated as a Special Resource Water, which means it needs intensive protection to preserve outstanding characteristics, or to maintain current beneficial uses. Gaining a better understanding of the resources concerns in the river and how stakeholders can work together to address those concerns is the purpose of the Priest River Watershed Group.

We look forward to participating in improving this important public resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Steed", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Steed
DEQ Surface Water Manager

United States Department of the Interior



U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center
Cascadia Field Station

17 February 2022

Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Morgan:

On behalf of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center (FRESC), I would like to express our support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group to address resources concerns in the Lower Priest River.

USGS FRESC scientists capitalize on their diverse expertise to answer scientific questions shaped by the environments of the western United States. We collaborate with each other and with partners to provide rigorous, objective, and timely information and guidance for the management and conservation of biological systems in the West and worldwide.

Dr. Christian Torgersen and his team are currently assisting the Kalispel Tribe with Lower Priest River-related research, including identifying spatial and temporal water temperature patterns, assessing food quality for resident fish species, and placing the lower Priest River's channel incision and floodplain disconnection patterns, flow, sediment, and wood regimes into a broader regional context. Results from this research will help inform the Tribe and their partners with current and future management decisions with respect to water quantity and quality and aquatic habitat.

We look forward to participating in the Priest River Watershed Group to help identify basic research needs that will help address resources concerns in the Lower Priest River. Please be advised that this letter is not a commitment of Government resources but is written in support of the project's scientific and scholarly activities and mission relevance. Trout Unlimited's proposed work will be vital for improving this important public resource.

Sincerely,

Maureen Purcell, Ph.D.
Acting Deputy Director, FRESC



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

208.265.9565 • PO Box 2308, Sandpoint, ID 83864 • www.idahoconservation.org

February 25, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing on behalf of the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) to express support for Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group to improve water quality and fisheries in Priest River. ICL has been Idaho's leading voice for conservation since 1973. As Idaho's largest state-based conservation organization, we represent over 30,000 supporters, many of whom have a deep personal interest in protecting human health and the environment. ICL works to protect these values through public education, outreach, advocacy and policy development.

ICL is committed to participating in TU's proposed watershed group. Priest River was historically a vibrant bull trout and cutthroat trout fishery. Unfortunately, due to increases in sediment and temperature, the fishery is not what is used to be. There is a need to identify solutions to reduce sediment and temperature to recover these fisheries. Such solutions would align with the Bull Trout Recovery Plan and improve the westslope cutthroat trout sport fishery.

ICL hopes that you will approve Trout Unlimited's proposal so that the community can get to work restoring the river, its water quality and its fisheries.

Sincerely,

Brad Smith
North Idaho Director



March 23, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Morgan,

On behalf of North Idaho Fly Casters, I would like to express our support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group to address resources concerns in the Lower Priest River.

North Idaho Fly Casters began in 1977 and emphasizes fly fishing, education, and conservation among its current 180+ members. We are in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, and our membership covers North Idaho, including the Priest River and Lake area. Our record includes several conservation projects, educational outreach programs with local high schools, and support for organizations including Casting for Recovery and Project Healing Waters.

Priest River, a major tributary of the Pend d'Oreille River, is designated as critical habitat for Bull Trout, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It also once supported a healthy population of native Westslope Cutthroat Trout. However, the Lower Priest River is not meeting its potential as a cold-water fishery and is listed in Idaho as water quality impaired due to high temperature and sedimentation. The river is also designated a Special Resource Resource Water, which means it needs intensive protection to preserve outstanding characteristics, or to maintain current beneficial uses. Gaining a better understanding of the resources concerns in the river and how stakeholders can work together to address those concerns is the purpose of the Priest River Watershed Group.

We have several members who remember the Priest River in its heyday, when the fishery was healthier as shown by the quality and quantity of trout. They and their families learned to fly fish on this water, and several owned properties in the area. We have witnessed the increased water temperatures over the years, and the notable fish kill last July, which caught the attention of local newspapers and brought many more of our members to ask, "What is being done?". Today we are very concerned about the future of the Lower Priest River and the potential impact on the related area if we do not act soon to reverse the trend of lower water levels and higher temperatures. As a group of concerned fly fishers, we support the Watershed Group, and the efforts to find a solution and improve this important fishery.

We look forward to participating in improving this important public resource and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Birkett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Richard Birkett
President
North Idaho Fly Casters
C: (208) 660-1975
birkettstl@gmail.com



February 20, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Morgan,

On behalf of the outfitters and guides operating on Priest River, I would like to express our support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to form a Priest River Watershed Group to address resources concerns in the Lower Priest River.

I have owned and operated Inland Northwest Fishing Guides (INWFG) since 2016 and hold business, outfitter and guides licenses in Washington, Idaho and New York states. Inland Northwest fishing Guides primary areas of operation are Eastern Washington and the Panhandle Region of Idaho. Currently, INWFG is one of two outfitting businesses licensed by the state of Idaho to conduct operations on the Priest River. Along with this outfitters license, INWFG holds land use permits for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and the Idaho Department of Lands.

Priest River, a major tributary of the Pend d'Oreille River, is designated as critical habitat for Bull Trout, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It also once supported a healthy population of native Westslope Cutthroat Trout. However, the Lower Priest River is not meeting its potential as a cold-water fishery and is listed in Idaho as water quality impaired due to high temperature and sedimentation. The river is also designated a Special Resource Resource Water, which means it needs intensive protection to preserve outstanding characteristics, or to maintain current beneficial uses. Gaining a better understanding of the resources concerns in the river and how stakeholders can work together to address those concerns is the purpose of the Priest River Watershed Group.

As a result of the water quality issues present on the Priest River, the population of cold-water fish species have suffered significant declines. This renders the guiding opportunities on the Priest River incredibly limited and given the present adversities that these fish populations face, makes guiding it ethically questionable. Not only am I invested in the health of the Priest River Subbasin and have a financial interest in its restoration, I have a moral obligation to participate in facilitating that restoration. It is an ecosystem that is in desperate need of attention. The solutions to the issues present are attainable through the cooperation and shared efforts of the stakeholders. I encourage you to support Trout Unlimited in the formation of this Watershed Group. These measures need to be taken now as these fish populations are grave jeopardy. Each passing year may be their last.

We look forward to participating in improving this important public resource.

Sincerely,
Henry Jones

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Statement about Official Resolution

The official resolution will be submitted immediately following Trout Unlimited's next board meeting and no later than 30 days after March 31, 2022.



Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees Resolution
Authorizing Application to Bureau of Reclamation Notice of Funding Opportunity
No. R22AS00163, WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 for
FY2022:

"Development of the Priest River Watershed Group."

Whereas: Trout Unlimited has prepared an application for funding to bring together, facilitate and administer a diverse stakeholder group working to identify challenges facing the cold-water fishery and develop project ideas for restoration within the Priest River watershed of Idaho;

The Board of Trustees of Trout Unlimited, upon motion made, seconded, and duly carried, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that:

1. Trout Unlimited is authorized to submit an application to the Bureau of Reclamation for grant assistance for the above-titled project.
2. Trout Unlimited has prepared and reviewed the application, and Chris Wood, President and Chief Executive Officer of Trout Unlimited, or his designee, is authorized to sign the application and enter into a funding agreement, if awarded.
3. Any grant assistance received under this application will be used for costs associated with implementation of the above-titled project. Trout Unlimited is authorized to commit to the provision of in-kind contributions and other resources identified in the funding application, and will work with Reclamation to timely meet all deadlines associated with an award of funding.
4. Trout Unlimited acknowledges that if the Bureau of Reclamation approves grant assistance for the project, the Bureau of Reclamation will pay Trout Unlimited only on a reimbursement basis. Trout Unlimited understands reimbursement basis means that Trout Unlimited will only request payment from the Bureau of Reclamation after Trout Unlimited incurs eligible and allowable costs and pays them.

Trout Unlimited
Board of Trustees

Attested by: Patricia Blizman
Position: Secretary
Date: 4/28/2022