

**State and Private Forestry
FY 2010 Western Competitive
Resource Allocation
Single-State Project Proposal**

Filename	
2010S&PFGrantAppChehalisLowerColumbia.doc	
Administration Information	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$300,000
Matching Share:	\$300,000

Applicant Information	
1	State Forestry Agency: Washington State Department of Natural Resources
	Contact Person: Steve Gibbs, Forest Stewardship Program Manager
	Address: P. O. Box 47012
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Project Information				
2	Descriptive Title of Project:	Chehalis-Lower Columbia River Basins Family Forest Conservation Project		
	Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Districts (7 counties), Cascade Land Conservancy, Local Land Trusts, Washington Farm Forestry Association, Washington Tree Farm Program, Society of American Foresters, Family Forest Foundation.		
	State(s):	WA	Congressional Districts:	3
	Counties:	7 counties in the Chehalis and Lower Columbia River Basins	Forest Service Regions:	6

Total Leverage								
Please specify each 3 rd party contributor (partnering organizations and agencies, including other Federal) and the dollar value of each contribution. Please DO NOT show grant requested funds in this table.								
3	Contributors: (Please specify by name)	DNR - FFFPP Manager	NRCS Estimated EQIP cost-share	Conservation District Staff	SAF/Tree Farm/WFFA	Misc. Field Day Donors	Fish Passage Cost-Share (Est.)	TOTAL
	Value of Contributions:	\$72,000	\$600,000	\$240,000	\$7,000	\$4000	\$3,000,000	\$3,923,000

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash ¹	In-Kind ²		
4	Personnel / Labor:	\$167,508	\$204,000	\$0	\$371,508
	Fringe Benefits:	\$45,227	\$54,928	\$0	\$100,155
	Travel:	\$21,072	\$21,072	\$0	\$42,144
	Equipment:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Supplies:	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$40,000
	Contractual:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Construction:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Other:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Indirect Costs:	\$46,193	\$0	\$0	\$46,193
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$ 0	\$600,000

Project Duration	
5	What is the duration of this project? <input type="checkbox"/> One Year <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three Years

National Relevance	
6	Conserve Working Forest Landscapes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests From Harm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project Description	
7	<p>Maximum 5500 Characters Including Spaces – Clearly summarize the proposed project, including goals, objectives, measurable outputs, outcomes, and how grant funds will be used towards successful completion of the project.</p> <p>Background: The Chehalis and Lower Columbia River basins are the "timber basket" of Washington -- home to some of the most productive forest land in the nation and birthplace of the national Tree Farm program. Of particularly critical importance, these two river basins support more federally listed fish stocks and wildlife species than any other watershed area in the state. Conservation of working forests here is an absolute top priority for all natural resources agencies. Within these watersheds, the last remaining high-quality, low elevation riparian habitat - and highest productivity forest land - is found on 571,000 acres of family-owned forests. These lands face serious threats from conversion and fragmentation due to their relative proximity to Interstate 5 and the Portland/Vancouver and Puget Sound metro areas. Long-term retention and sustainable management of forest lands has been identified as a critical priority in both river basins by all state and federal natural resource agencies and the state's top conservation organizations. Other project partners have pledged funds to accomplish specific fish habitat and water quality objectives (e.g. \$3 million is available to solve fish passage problems on family forest lands). Unfortunately, due to the current fiscal situation, no funds are available to provide the necessary technical and educational assistance necessary to provide a complete and effective program which addresses current fish passage,</p>

¹ 'Cash' is the value of any qualifying match the applicant pays for such as cash, staff time, supplies, or equipment.

² 'In-Kind' is the value of any qualifying match contributed by a non-federal 3rd party contributor such as donated time, supplies, or equipment.

fish habitat, and water quality priorities and encourages long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands in these critical watersheds. This grant will provide the "missing piece" which will allow the family forest lands portion of larger watershed plans to be effectively implemented.

The Project:
 This project will provide an integrated program of aggressive landowner outreach, educational programs, and technical assistance --supplmented by financial incentives from NRCS EQIP and the Washington Family Forest Fish Passage Program -- across the Chehalis and Lower Columbia Basins with the following goal, objective, outputs and outcomes:

Project Goals:
 1) Long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands in these critical watersheds.
 2) Improved fish habitat, fish passage, and water quality resulting from projects focused and targeted on specific, already identified, high priority areas.

Project Objective:
 Conduct an effecive program of landowner outreach, educational programs, and technical assistance to achieve the above goals.

Estimated Outputs:
 1) Outreach and Education:
 10,000 family forest owners will be contacted via a targeted direct mail campaign. 800 landowners will attend educational programs including a regional Forest Owners Field Day event and Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Shortcourses, and other subject-specific educational programs. 20 urban forest managers will receive training in managing remnant forest stands.
 2) Technical Assistance:
 400 landowners will receive on-site technical assistance. 1000 others will receive verbal or written information and assistance.

Estimated Outcome:
 1) Long-term rentention and sustainable management will be positively influenced on 200,000 acres of family forest land.
 2) Over \$3 million of targeted, high-priority, fish passage, fish habitat, and water quality improvement projects will be completed (using complementary funds from other sources which will leverage the effectiveness of this grant).
 Grant funds will be used for:
 1) Conducting program promotion and landowner outreach.
 2) Advertising and conducting educational programs for family forest owners and urban forest managers.
 3) Providing advice and technical assistance to family forest owners.
 4) Grant management and reporting.

Program Integration	
8	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The following S&PF programs will integrate with this project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Urban and Community Forestry -- Urban forest managers will receive education regarding management of "remnant forest stands" in urban environments, including forest ecology, silvicultural practices, hazard tree recognition and management, root diseases recognition and management, wildfire hazard reduction, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. 2) Forest Health: Forest health program staff will teach at landowner educational programs and provide specific forest-health related technical assistance to forest owners and their advisors. Stewardship Foresters will disseminate forest health information to landowners and respond to forest health problems. 3) State Fire Assistance (National Fire Plan): Fire prevention education foresters will teach at landowner education programs. Stewardship Foresters will provide wildfire hazard reduction information to landowners as part of their technical assistance. 4) Seedling, Nursery, and Tree Improvement: DNR-operated seed orchard and nursery will make genetically improved tree seedlings available to family forest owners in the project area.

Collaboration	
9	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>This project will include partnerships and collaboration with several external entities, including: Washington State University Extension -- will partner with DNR, and other public and private entities, to conduct landowner education programs, including Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Shortcourses, Regional Forest Owners Field Days, and many individual subject-specific workshops. USDA-NRCS -- will provide personnel to teach at educational programs, refer existing and potential cooperators seeking forestry assistance to DNR, and provide EQIP funds for forest conservation practices on family forest lands. Conservation Districts -- advertise/promote the project and refer landowners. One District will employ a forester who will support the project at no cost to this grant. Washington Tree Farm Program -- co-sponsor educational programs. Refer candidates for certification who need management plans to DNR. Washington Farm Forestry Association (forest landowner association): co-sponsor educational programs, provide volunteer labor and financial support for Forest Owners Field Days. Land Trusts- co-sponsor/present at landowner education programs.</p>

Leverage	
10	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) -- Will provide an estimated \$3 million in non-federal funds to enable family forest owners in the project area to remove barriers to fish passage (e.g. undersized, damaged, misalligned culverts). NRCS will provide EQIP funds to help family forest owners implement conservation practices within the project area. Society of American Foresters -- Financial support for Forest Owners Field Day. Tree Farm Program -- Financial support for Forest Owners Field Day. Washington Farm Forestry Association -- Financial support for Forest Owners Field Day. Forest Products Companies -- Financial support for Forest Owners Field Day. Land Trusts -- Financial support for Forest Owners Field Day. Cowlitz Conservation District -- Conservation District forester will provide technical assistance, and support educational programs, within the District's service area, at no cost to the project. Estimated dollar amounts for this leverage are itemized in the "Total Leverage" budget above.</p>

Meaningful Scale	
11	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>This project is entirely within the Department of Natural Resources' Pacific Cascade Region. This is the geographic scale at which landowner assistance programming has historically been delivered and has proven to be effective in the past. Geographic proximity to I-5 makes service delivery across the project area very feasible and efficient, a fact that has proven to be the case over many years. Program delivery at this scale dovetails perfectly with river-basin-level planning and plan implementation and allows full support for, and coordination with, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Local Work Group which operates on a multi-county regional level. Within the project area, "high priority" areas have already been identified through the Forest Stewardship Program Spatial Analysis Project (SAP). This will allow us to "focus" limited resources on the highest priority areas for maximum outcome for the funds expended.</p>

Sphere of Influence	
12	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The success, and widespread geographic applicability of this type of model is already well proven and widely known. The organizational and operational aspects of this project can be easily replicated to facilitate implementation of a program of landowner outreach, education, and technical assistance to encourage long-term retention and sustainable management of forest lands anywhere in the country. Additionally, this approach can be tailored to any scale project from a single watershed, to a river basin. Any entity in any geographic area can be successful with this type of approach, as long as all 3 program elements are adequately represented and thoroughly integrated: Extensive outreach, a continuing program of landowner education -- both of these conducted in a well-organized, close partnership with other applicable public and private entities appropriate to the locale -- and supported by an adequate level of technical assistance, and financial incentives for practice implementation where available.</p>

Sustainability of Outcomes	
13	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>Several components of this model are designed to help ensure "outcome sustainability" -- which, in this case, is defined as the landowner's long-term commitment to retaining and managing their forest land. First, a program of on-going educational programming is important to both attracting "new" forest owners but also keeping them motivated, informed, and committed over time. This is supported by follow up technical assistance to ensure that the landowners are able to translate knowledge into practice and have access to continuous timely advice so they can implement management practices continuously over time. One component of this model, in particular, helps ensure long-term landowner commitment and "sustainable outcomes": Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Shortcourses. The eight-week investment of time participants have in this approach to Forest Stewardship Plan development ensures a level of "ownership" in the plan and high probability of commitment to its implementation (in contrast to agency-prepared plans in which landowners have nothing invested and no particular commitment to implementation). DNR will aggressively pursue sustainable program funding to help ensure the continuation of an effective program over time.</p>