Mainstem Newaukum RM 8-9 Riparian Planting And Acquisition, Phase 1

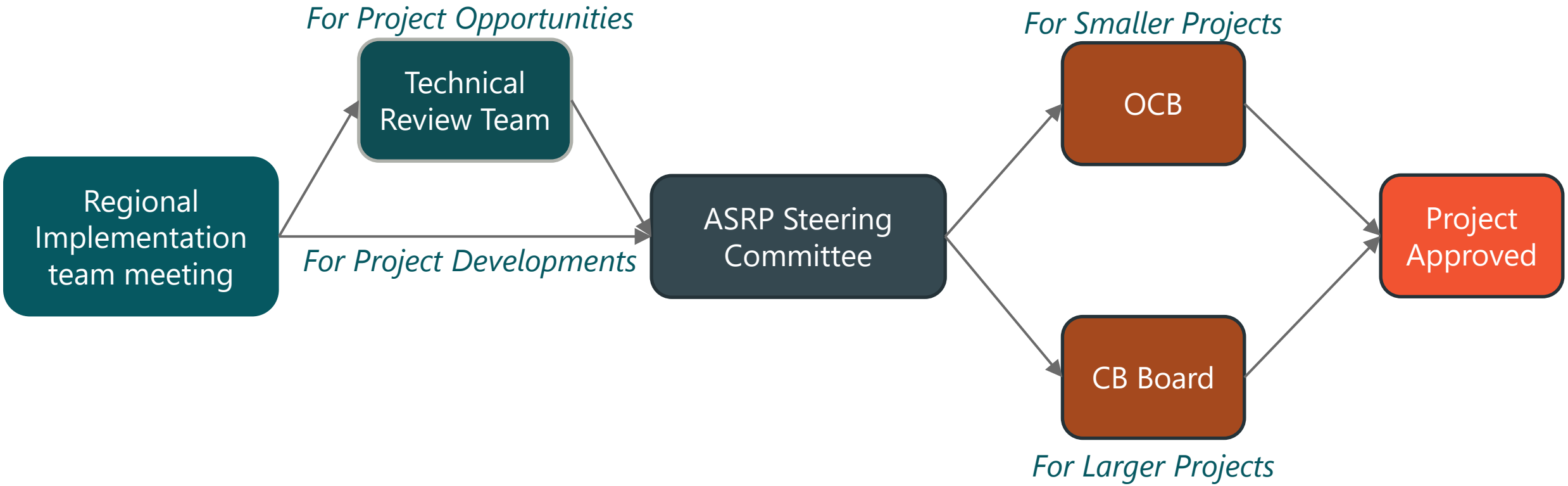
Drew Mealor, WDFW

6/1/23

CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington
OFFICE OF CHEHALIS BASIN

HOW DO WE APPROVE PROJECTS?



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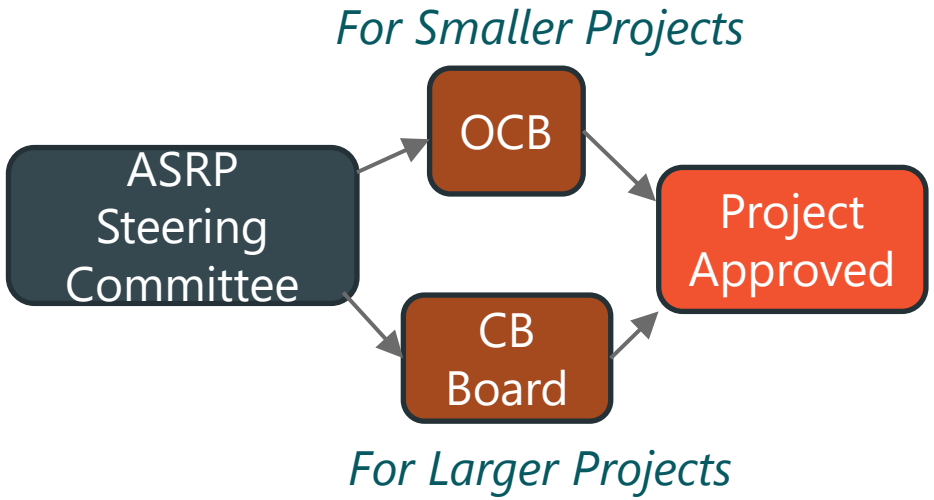
ASRP PROJECT FUNDING APPROVAL



Project approval process:

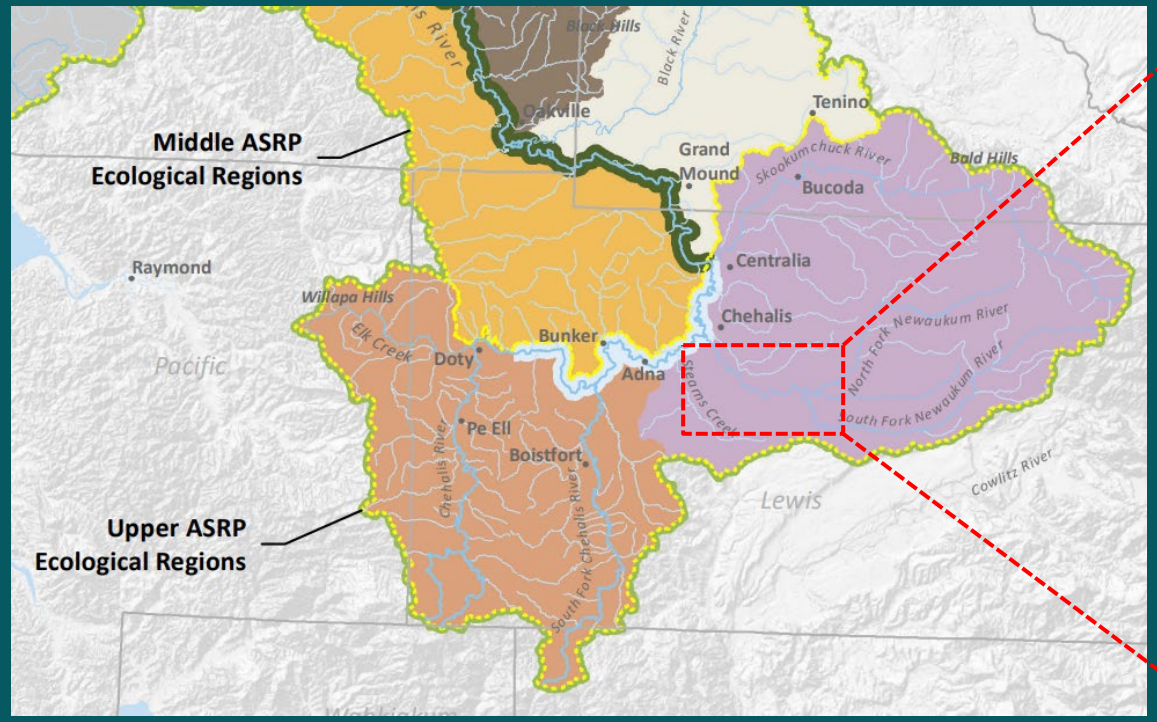
- Board approval needed for project funding requests exceeding $500,000
- Two-part approval process
  - First meeting – project introduction
  - ***Second meeting – request action to approve (or not approve) project for funding***

ASRP BUDGET STATUS

- Mainstem Newaukum RM 8-9 Riparian Planting And Acquisition, Phase 1
- Sponsor: Lewis Conservation District and Washington Farmland Trust
- Seeking: $725,000

	As of 5/4/2023	With proposed project
Funding Amount	$16,968,494	$17,693,494
Remaining Unobligated	$4,281,506	$3,556,506

NEWAUKUM RM 8-9, PHASE 1: PROJECT REVIEW



CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY

PROJECT: Mainstem Newaukum RM 8-9 Riparian Planting And Acquisition, Phase 1

- **Sponsor:** Lewis CD and Washington Farmland Trust
- **Location:** Lewis County, Cascade Mountains Ecological Unit. Lower Newaukum Mainstem GSU: an **ASRP near term priority area**
- **Landowner:** Single Private landowner; Ag and rural residential
- **ASRP Priority Limitations Addressed By Project:** Habitat Diversity, Temperature, Key Habitat, Channel Stability, Sediment Load
- **ASRP Priority Actions Addressed By Project:** Riparian restoration (high), reconnect floodplain (high), place large wood (medium)
- **Cost:** $725,000

Geospatial Unit	Restoration Actions							Priority Species or Habitat Focus	Limiting Factors From Highest Priority to Lowest
	Place Large Wood	Remove Fish Barriers	Reconnect/ Restore Floodplain	Riparian Restoration	Beaver Ponds/ BDAs	Wetland Restoration	Acres of OSF* Habitat Protection/ Restoration		
Lower Newaukum MS GSU	●		●	●				(R) Early Riparian Restoration (S) Spring Chinook	**Temperature, Habitat Diversity, Channel Length,** Key Habitat, Sediment Load, Predation, Channel Stability, Flow

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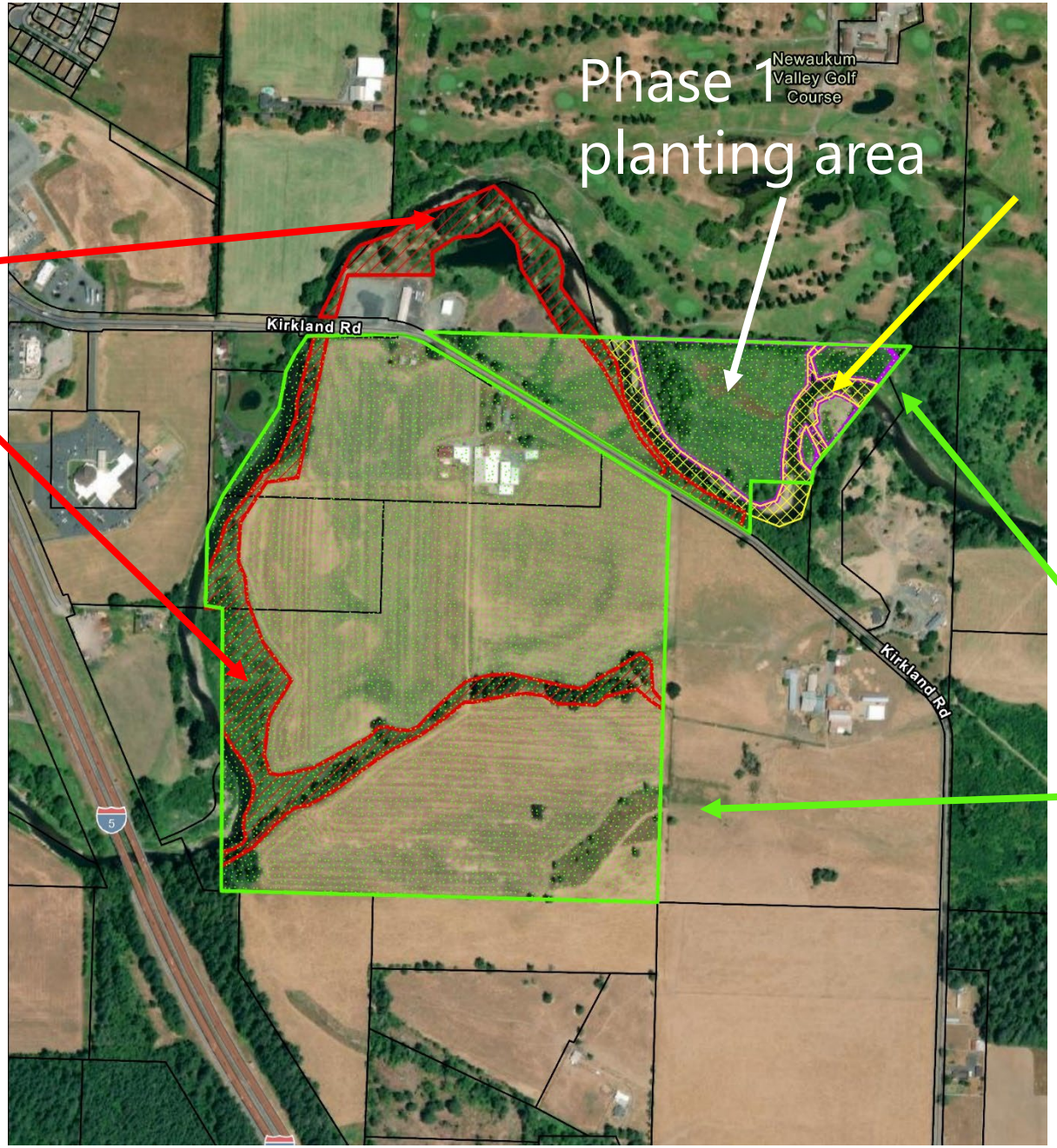
Phase 2 Riparian Planting



Phase 2 instream structure (concept design in phase 1)

Agricultural Easement Area (Phase 1)

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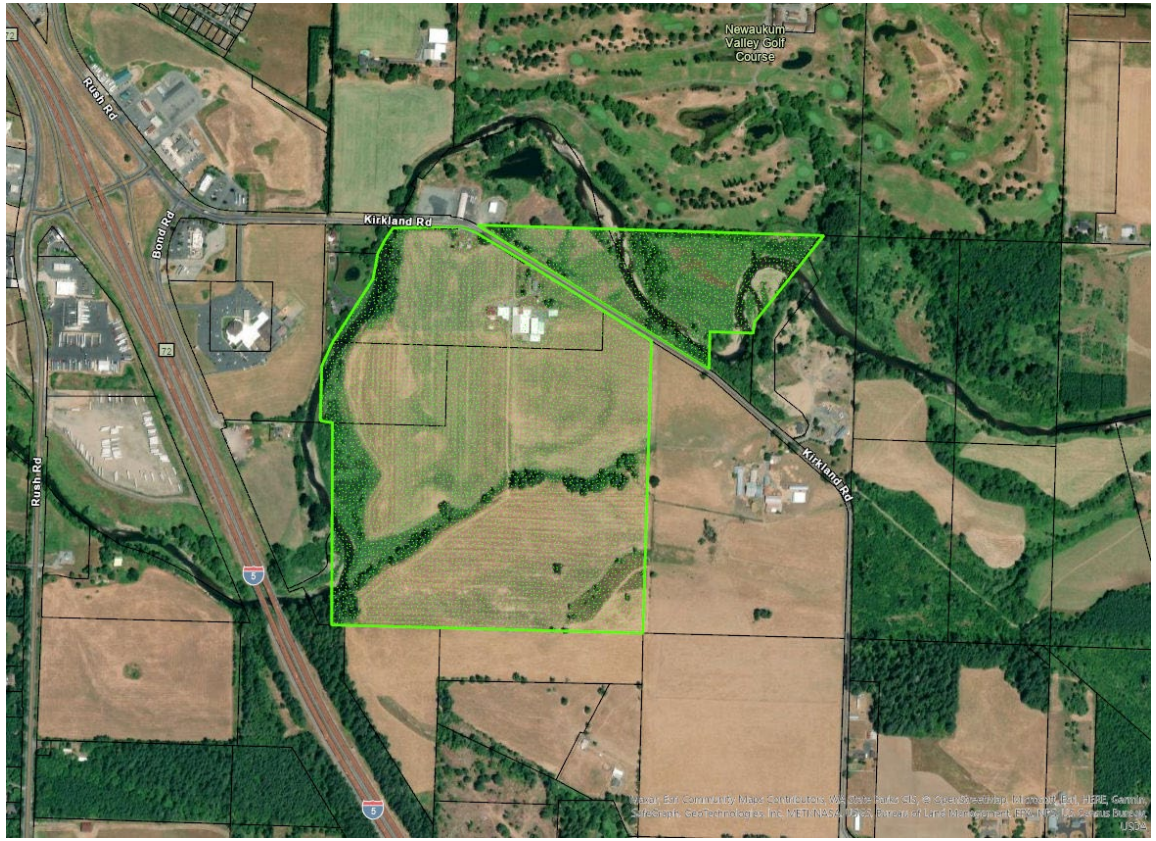
EASEMENT AREA – PHASE 1

131.7 ACRES



Sub budget: $293,425

Additional $271,000 match from WCRII

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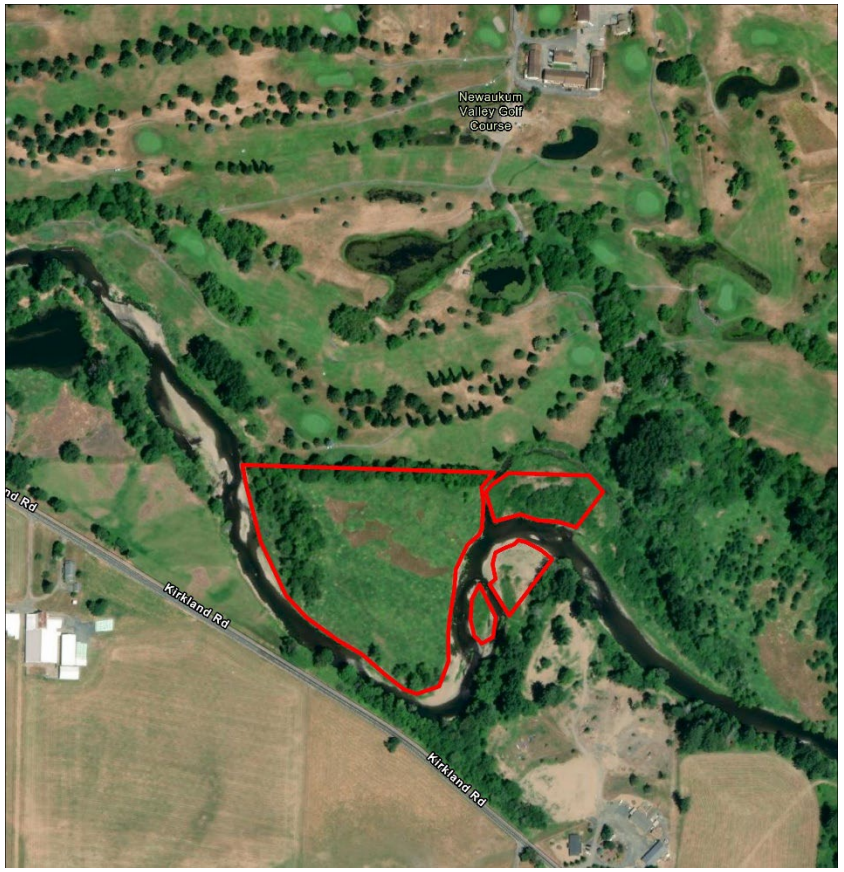
PLANTING AREA- PHASE1

11.95 ACRES



Sub budget: $356,575

Additional $30,000 match from WA Conservation Commission

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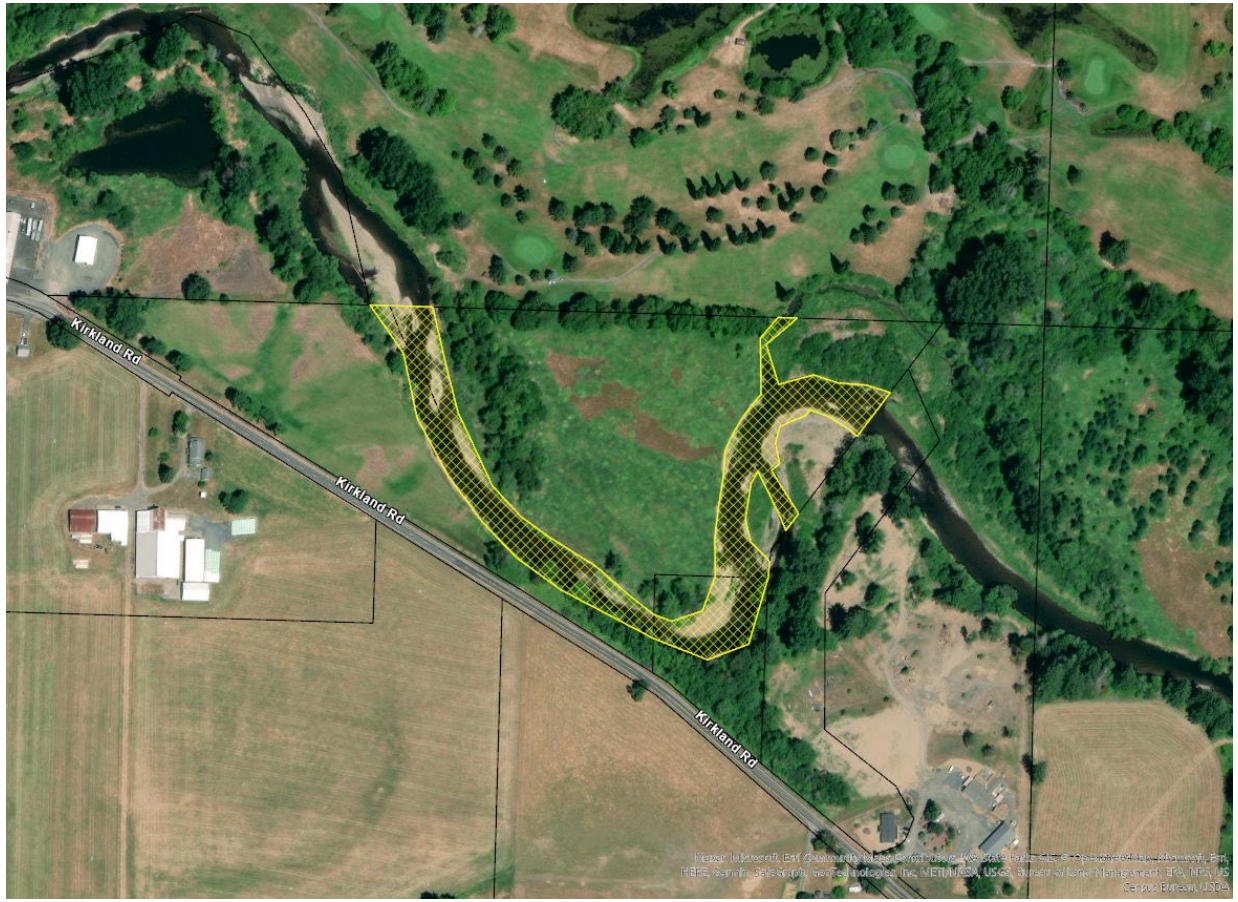
INSTREAM STRUCTURES – PHASE 2

2,200 FEET



Sub budget: $75,000 for assessment and concept design

Construction would be funded in future phase

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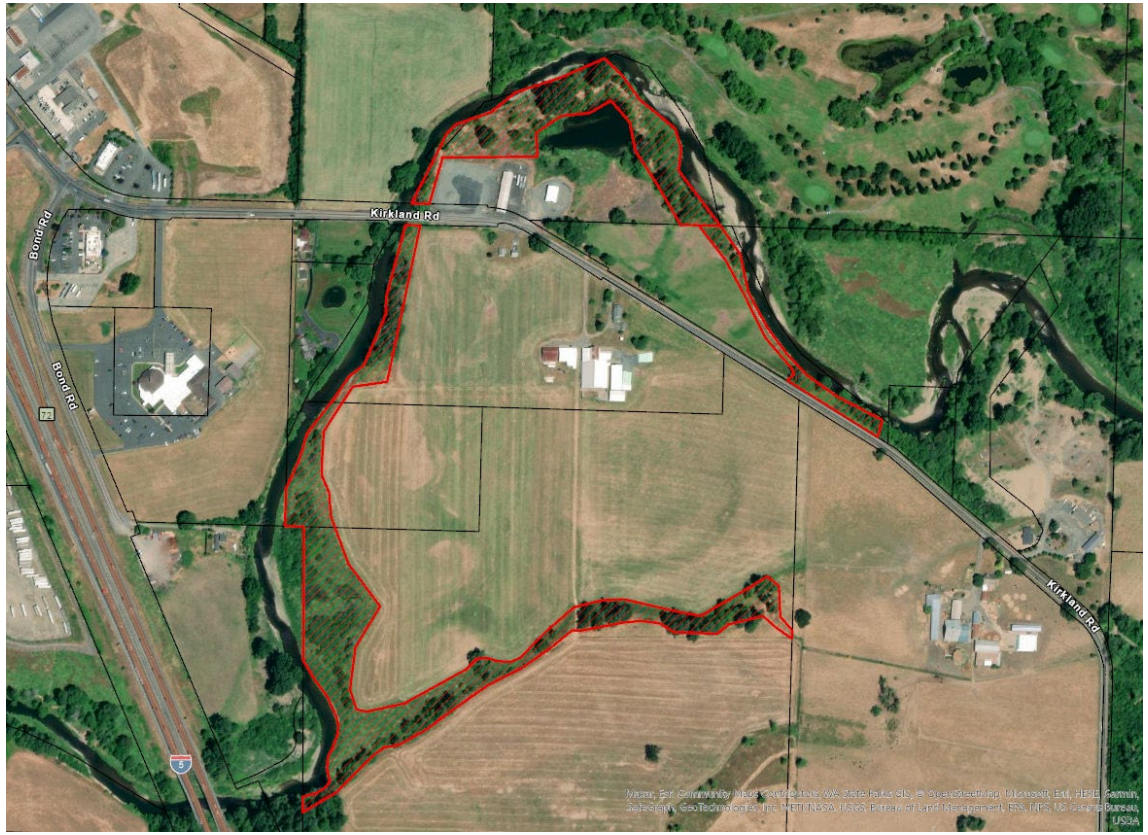
RIPARIAN BUFFER – PHASE 2

19 ACRES



Would be funded in future phase

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TASK: REQUEST ACTION ON FUNDING REQUEST

- This project is requesting Phase 1 funding of $725,000
  - Because this amount is greater than $500,000, *this request must be approved by the Board*
  - The sponsor would need start a new funding request for Phase 2
- Please send any questions to Drew Mealor (Andrew.Mealor@dfw.wa.gov)

Predation Takeaways, ASRP Board Subcommittee Discussion, and Proposed Next Steps

Celina Abercrombie, WDFW

6/1/23

CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington
OFFICE OF CHEHALIS BASIN

NON-NATIVE FISH AND PINNIPED PREDATION

PURPOSE

- Integrate fisheries into our aquatic species and habitat framework

AGENDA

- Summarize predation takeaways
- Update on non-native fish study
- Share out All Hs discussion with ASRP board subcommittee
- Present next steps and obtain board direction

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NON-NATIVE FISH PREDATION TAKEAWAYS

- We know more now than we did several years ago about non-native fish presence and predation in the Chehalis Basin but more work will continue to better inform this topic.
- Rock bass are numerically the dominant non-native fish predator in the Chehalis.
- Smallmouth bass strongly correlated with stream temperature.
- Preliminary predation study results showed Chinook smolts most common salmonid sampled in bass stomach contents (estimated at 24-47%). These results didn't speak to what other species were found in the sampled fish.

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NON-NATIVE FISH PREDATION TAKEAWAYS

- Habitat degradation is a driving factor in declining salmon and other aquatic species populations in the basin.
- Predation concerns shouldn't slow down or preclude habitat restoration. Restoration actions are not expected to increase predatory fish populations, particularly in ASRP near-term priority areas.
- No policy limitations or fishing restrictions exist on bass and other non-native fish in the Chehalis Basin's rivers and streams.

- Update -> WDFW's non-native fish study is pivoting to look at non-native fish abundance in the basin based on the board's interest. The field work for this effort will be conducted summer 2023 with estimates of abundance available in Q2 of 2024.

PINNIPED PREDATION TAKEAWAYS

- Primary pinnipeds in Grays Harbor include harbor seals and sea lions. Steller sea lions are also present on the outer coast, Columbia River and in Puget Sound.
- Very little information is known about pinniped predation in the Chehalis as compared to Puget Sound and Columbia River.
- Typically, higher levels of predation occur around bottlenecks or pinch points, such as dams, where one to a few animals are responsible for this higher rate of predation.
- No lethal removal options currently exist for Grays Harbor and the Chehalis.
- Lethal options in other systems require extensive monitoring and evaluation before action can be taken.
- Non-lethal, deterrents are being explored in other systems.

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NON-NATIVE FISH AND PINNIPED PREDATION TAKEAWAYS

“It's only because salmon runs are depleted by human activities that predation by sea lions or native fish such as pikeminnow even become a concern,” said Jeff Miller (Center for Biological Diversity). He said an endangered listing could allow removal of “invasive predators.”

CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY

ASRP BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- What management actions can be taken to reduce impacts from non-native fish known to predate on salmon?
- Are these actions effective? And if so, under what circumstances?
  - For example, are derbies a good means for addressing predation and how often would a derby operate to be effective?
- Under current regulations, are there actions that can be taken to address potential pinniped impacts from predation?
- What actions besides habitat restoration can be taken to support spring-run Chinook salmon?
- Can a restoration hatchery be created for the Chehalis Basin? And what are the considerations for further evaluation?

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS FOR BOARD DIRECTION

TASK	TIMEFRAME TO INFORM SUBCOMMITTEE
Research derbies and related actions, such as targeted trapping	July 2023
Identify restoration hatchery options for further exploration and research including preliminary feasibility for implementation	August 2023

Are you supportive of these next steps?

Yes/No/Maybe