

Project: Mainstem Newaukum RM 8-9 Riparian Planting and Acquisition Phase 1

Synopsis:

- **Sponsor:** Lewis Conservation District and Washington Farmlands Trust
- **Location:** Lewis County, Cascade Mountain Ecoregion. Mainstem Lower Newaukum GSU- a near term priority area
- **Landowner:** Single Private landowner- agricultural
- **ASRP Priority Limitations for this location:** Channel Length, Temperature, Key habitat
- **ASRP Priority Actions for this location:** Riparian restoration (high), reconnect floodplain (high), place large wood (medium)
- **Cost:**
 - Total Phase 1 ASRP Request: \$725,000
 - Conservation Easement: \$293,425
 - Restoration and Phase 2 design: \$431,575
- **Narrative:**
 - Lewis Conservation District and the Washington Farmlands Trust is seeking funding for the first phase of a protection and restoration project on the mainstem Newaukum. The ASRP Technical Advisory Group has identified this reach as important habitat for Spring and Fall Chinook, with this project specifically addressing Spring Chinook. This project incorporates three main elements:
 - An agricultural conservation easement
 - Riparian plantings
 - Instream wood installation

The agricultural conservation easement (CE) will protect this property from further development and will permanently place a portion of the property into habitat use rather than agricultural use. Given the proximity of this property to a freeway and golf course, this would prevent urban encroachment and associated detrimental impacts to aquatic habitat.

Riparian plantings would be installed during both phases of the project with the intention of lowering stream temperatures and providing wildlife cover.

The Mainstem Newaukum is in general terms lacking wood, channel complexity, deep pools, key habitat, and habitat diversity. This project would assess the property and identify potential instream work that can be completed to better the habitat for fish and wildlife. Phase 1 would fund concept-level instream design. Phase 2 will be requesting funds for the identified agreed upon instream work and additional riparian plantings.

Outcomes (Funded by this project):

- 132 acres of agricultural conservation easement, with 25-50 percent of the acreage being placed into permanent riparian habitat and the remainder in agricultural use.
- 1.4 miles of instream habitat protected by easement
- 11.95 acres of invasive treatment and planting

Previous and Related Funding:

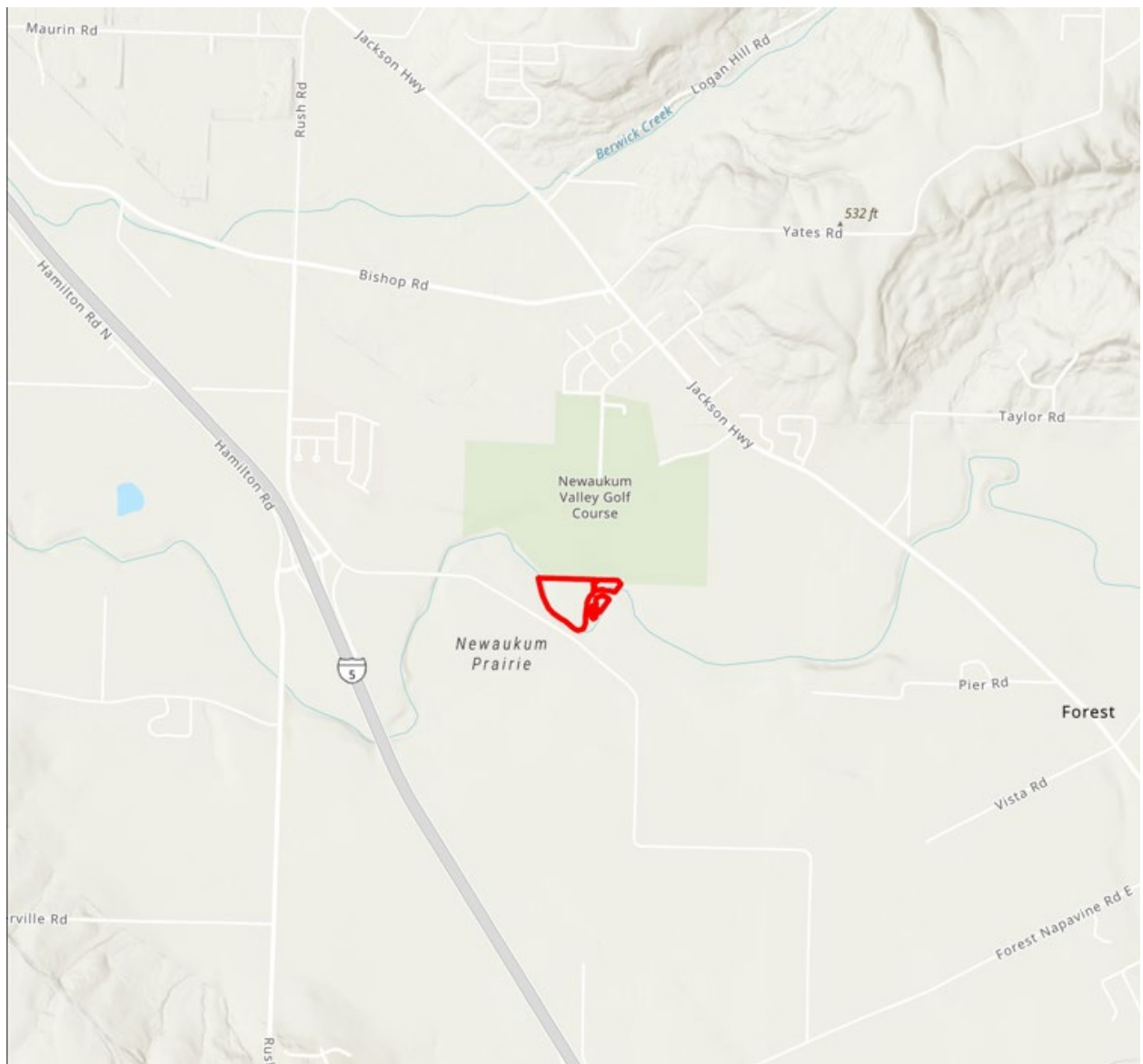
- The “Chehalis Basin Watershed Liaison” project (prism [20-1906](#)) funded Lewis CD with \$85,000 in 2020 through the ASRP to conduct landowner outreach on properties where Spring Chinook are present, such as the Newaukum
- The Washington Farmland Trust is also seeking \$271,750 from the WWRP for their “Spencer Farm Acquisition” project ([PRISM 22-1649](#), status: Board Preliminary Approved). The conservation easement portion of the ASRP funding would supply the required match for the WWRP funding. However, the WWRP has a maximum limit on the percentage of the agricultural CE that is placed into permanent habitat use. Because this project is looking have a larger percentage placed into habitat use, it is likely that the ASRP will end up paying for more than 50% of the CE.

Milestones + Timeframe:

- Fall 2023:
 - CE written and due diligence completed
 - Cultural Resources
 - Site prep, invasive species control, and ordering supplies
 - Consultant hired for phase 2 design
- Early 2024:
 - Acquisition Closing
 - Phase 1 riparian plantings completed
 - Phase 2 concept design completed
- Mid-late 2024
 - Phase 2 funding sought (if needed)
- 2024-2028
 - Invasive species treatment

Feedback:

- Good to see project in highly important MS Newaukum
 - Could serve as foothold to get greater landowner willingness from neighbors
- Will need to ensure that riparian buffers are sufficiently wide in agricultural areas
- Explore if landowner would be open to actions which further increase floodplain connectivity on their property



Easement Area – Phase 1

131.7 Acres



Planting Area- Phase 1

11.95 Acres



Instream Structures – Phase 2 2,200 Feet



Riparian Buffer – Phase 2

19 Acres

