



STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

February 2009

Item #4: Grant Approval: Project #08-1954, Alder Creek Side Channel Pilot Project

Prepared By: Jason Lundgren, Outdoor Grant Manager

Presented By: Brian Abbott, Salmon Section Manager

Approved by the Director:

Proposed Action: Decision

Summary

At the December 11, 2008 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) meeting, staff requested additional time to schedule a site visit and evaluate additional options for Project #08-1954, Alder Creek Side Channel Pilot Project. On January 15, 2009 Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff, two review panel members, the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership, and Quinault Indian Nation staff visited the site.

The sponsor explained the construction details and their observations of change since the project was completed. The review panel and sponsor discussed the current proposal and the reasons for siting the new jams in their proposed location. The Quinault River had experienced some high flows since the application deadline in September. Upon further review and observation, the review panel has removed the POC designation and conditioned the project.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board fully fund the Alder Creek Side Channel Project Pilot Project – Final at \$80,000 as long as the sponsor accepts the review panel's condition (Attachment A).

Suggested language for motion

Move to approve the funding for project #08-1954, Alder Creek Side Channel Pilot Project, subject to the sponsor's acceptance of the review panel's condition, and authorize the Director to execute an agreement to facilitate prompt project implementation.

Background

In December 2007, the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) was awarded board funds to build engineered log jams (ELJ's) on the Upper Quinault River (07-1712R). The goal of the project was to protect Alder Creek Side channel, one of five remnant side channels used by Sockeye salmon for spawning.



During the spring and early summer of 2008, QIN secured both permits and additional funds. They began construction in August 2008. Due to the additional funding and construction efficiencies, they completed the project on time and within budget. By October 15, thirteen ELJ's were installed to deflect the main stem Quinault away from the side channel and increase complex floodplain structure.

Concurrent to the project construction, QIN staff applied to the board for funds in the 2008 grant cycle to install three more ELJ's at the Alder Creek site (Project #08-1954R). The timing of the grant process and construction made it difficult for them to develop a concise and comprehensive proposal.

The review panel thought that the recently completed project should be evaluated for at least one year before building additional ELJ's at the site, and deemed the project a "project of concern". QIN noted that the opportunity to build additional ELJ's under existing permits and on an exposed gravel bar may be missed by taking that time to observe and monitor the effects of the recent project. The board deferred its decision on the project until the February 2009 meeting to give staff, the review panel, and the sponsor time to reach agreement.

Analysis

On January 15, 2009 RCO staff, two review panel members, the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership, and Quinault Indian Nation staff visited the project site. The sponsor explained the construction details and their observations of change since the project was completed. The review panel and sponsor discussed the current proposal and the reasons for siting the new jams in their proposed location.

The review panel was impressed with the quality of work that has been done in assessing, designing and constructing the Alder Creek side channel project. Following the site visit, they agreed there is concern about the spacing at the most upstream ELJs, and that it appears additional work is needed to protect the Alder Creek Side Channel.

Nevertheless, the review panel believed that the approach needs further analysis, so they removed the "project of concern" designation and conditioned the project. The review panel recommended a condition (Attachment A) that the QIN provides *"information about how the channel in the project area has responded as a result of this year's high flows and clearly defines the best location and spacing of the 3 proposed ELJs and the design criteria."* At the time of this writing, the QIN is reviewing the condition.

Next Steps

If the board approves the funding and QIN accepts the project condition, staff will execute an agreement to implement the project.

Attachments

- A. Post Application/Submittal Project Comment Form 2008, Project #08-1954R (1/20/09)

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

POST APPLICATION/SUBMITTAL PROJECT COMMENT FORM 2008 – V4 1/20/2009

PROJECT INFORMATION

Panel Member Name:	<u>SRFB Review Panel</u>	Project Location:	
Lead Entity:	<u>Quinault Nation LE</u>	Project Number:	<u>08-1954R</u>
Project Sponsor:	<u>Quinault Indian Nation</u>	Project Name:	<u>Alder Creek Side Channel Pilot Project - Final</u>
Date:	<u>January 23, 2009</u>	Project Number:	

Please refer to the criteria listed below or Manual #18, Appendix C, for projects that are not considered technically sound. In the "Why" area explain your reason for selecting this as a preliminary project of concern.

1. Is this a preliminary project of concern according to the SRFB's criteria?

Yes No NMI

Why?

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

CONDITION: The Review Panel is impressed with the quality of work that has been done in assessing, designing and constructing the Alder Creek side channel project. It is clear after the site visit there is concern about the spacing at the most upstream ELJs and the desire to install 3 additional ELJs to "fill the gap" and reduce any potential risk of a channel change into this location. We also noted loss of the island protecting the side channel downstream from ELJ -1. It appears additional work is needed to meet the goal of protecting the Alder Creek Side Channel. However, exactly what should be done needs further analysis and forethought. The Lead Designer and Geomorphologist must provide information about how the channel in the project area has responded as a result of this year's high flows and to clearly define the best location and spacing of the 3 proposed ELJs and the design criteria.

4. Other comments.