

Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART  
Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023  
Kittitas Conservation Trust Application  
3/21/2023

**Gold Creek Restoration**  
**Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation**

Kittitas Conservation Trust  
Mitch Long, Project Manager  
120 W Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 207  
P.O. Box 428, Roslyn, WA 98941-0428  
509-649-2951 (o), 509-674-8220 (c)  
[mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org](mailto:mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org)

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## Executive Summary

Located near Snoqualmie Pass, Washington, Gold Creek contains one of the few remaining populations of the ESA threatened Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) in the upper Yakima Basin. The current seasonal dewatering conditions and lack of habitat complexity in the creek are so dire that if change does not occur soon, this population will disappear. Nearly a century of anthropogenic impacts have increased the frequency, extent, and duration of dewatering. Two Interstate 90 gravel borrow pits act as siphons that exacerbate the dewatering of Gold Creek. Decades of clear-cut logging and road development have caused a 4.6-fold increase in channel width, causing the flow to go sub-surface and the loss of large, old growth trees has reduced habitat complexity and cover Bull trout rely on. The goal of Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation is to restore the geomorphology and increase the habitat complexity of river miles (RM) 2 to 3 with large wood to improve Bull trout holding, spawning, and rearing habitat, as well as reconnect the floodplain. Large wood will be strategically installed via helicopter to reduce the impact on the riparian vegetation and streambanks in this rugged, hard to access reach. Many partnering organization are invested in Gold Creek Restoration including US Fish and Wildlife Service, Yakama Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Gold Creek and the Gold Creek Bull trout population are characterized as a **high priority** in four different recovery plans: Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Bull Trout Enhancement Plan, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout.

## Project Location and Problem Statement

### Gold Creek Watershed

Located just east of Snoqualmie Pass in Kittitas County, Washington, Gold Creek is the headwaters of the upper Yakima River (Figures 1-3). Gold Creek flows for approximately 8 miles from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness into Keechelus Reservoir near Interstate 90 (I-90) in the Central Cascade Mountains. Upstream fish passage is blocked at Keechelus Dam on the downstream end of the reservoir.

Much of the watershed is within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, but there are some private land holdings near the proposed restoration sites. The Gold Creek watershed is 14.3 square miles and ranges in elevation from 2,507 to 6,933 feet above sea level. The average annual precipitation is 87.6 inches, with mean temperatures ranging from 33-52 degrees F. Phase 2: RM 2-3 starts at 47.411887°, -121.369572°.

Detailed maps of the project area and proposed action:

- a. Figure 1 – Topographical Map
- b. Figure 2 – Overview Map
- c. Figure 3 – Bird’s Eye View of Gold Creek, Heli’s Pond and Gold Creek Pond

### Stream Dewatering

Seasonal dewatering occurs annually within the lower 2.5 miles of Gold Creek from late July to late September/October and continuous surface flows generally return when fall rains arrive. In 2022, 2 miles of Gold Creek dewatered during the time when Bull trout typically migrate upstream to spawn (Figure 4). This was the largest dewatering event on record. Over a 9-day period, more than 3 inches of rain fell (Gauge FW6102 Snoqualmie Pass), a quarter mile of the creek was rewetted, and an estimated 10-12 cfs were added to the creek (Figure 5). Over the next 4 days, a total of 7 inches of fell, reconnecting surface water flows in Gold Creek. The extent of dewatering in 2022 was a significant increase from what was recorded in 2013 and 2014, where the dewatering extent was 1.24 miles and 0.91 miles, respectively. During the 8-year period, the dewatered extent of Gold Creek nearly doubled in distance indicating that the extent of annual dewatering is increasing from anthropogenic activities, drought, and climate change.

### Gold Creek Bull Trout

The upper Yakima Basin Bull trout were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1998 and the entire eight miles of Gold Creek is recognized as Critical Habitat. Gold Creek's seasonal dewatering and overly simplified habitat are so dire that if change does not occur soon, this population of Bull trout could disappear.

Since 1984, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have monitored Bull trout in Gold Creek using spawning redd surveys. From 1984 to 2022, annual redd totals in Gold Creek ranged from 2 to 51 (Figure 6). In the last 5 years (2018-2022), an average of 13 redds were observed, with 6 observed most recently in 2022. In 1984, 1985, and 2017, only 2 redds were observed each year, the lowest counts on record. Historically, Gold Creek Bull trout have been the stronghold population of the upper Yakima River. In comparing redd numbers from 20 years ago to the last 10 years, there is a decline in the number of redds, which directly relates to a decline in the overall Bull trout population. According to WDFW monitoring estimates, the current Gold Creek Bull trout population consists of less than 50 spawners; a self-sustaining population needs at least 500 spawning adults. Low numbers of spawners expose the population to extirpation from a single stochastic event (e.g. landslide, drought) that could eliminate the spawning run entirely.

Gold Creek Bull trout are adfluvial; juvenile fish live in Gold Creek for 1-4 years before migrating to Lake Keechelus to mature, and then the mature fish migrate back into the creek to spawn. Mature Bull trout migrate into Gold Creek throughout the summer, preparing to spawn mid-October to mid-November. The seasonal dewatering causes a full fish passage barrier for mature fish who have yet to migrate upstream to their natal spawning habitat, as access is completely cut off (Figure 7). Moreover, the few fortunate fish able to migrate upstream prior to dewatering face greatly reduced spawning habitat, as up to 2 miles of creek go dry (Figures 4 and 8). Fish unable to migrate before dewatering may spawn in sub-optimal habitat, return to the reservoir and attempt to spawn later in the season, or abandon spawning altogether. Bull trout that become stranded in disconnected pools face increased risk of predation or desiccation and likely don't survive until the creek rewaters.

Gold Creek dewatering also affects juvenile Bull trout. Juveniles become stranded in disconnected pools with little to no cover, and also face increased risk of predation or complete desiccation (Figure 9). The dewatering of Gold Creek also increases risk of poaching and harassment, further exacerbating Bull trout recovery efforts.

### Anthropogenic Impacts

Historically, although some dewatering may have naturally occurred, nearly a century of anthropogenic landscape alterations to the watershed have drastically increased the frequency, extent, and duration of dewatering. During the 1970s and 1980s, Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) required large quantities of gravel to expand I-90. More than 750,000 cubic yards of gravel were extracted from Gold Creek Pond, forming a 27-acre pond, which occupies 78% of the valley bottom and the entire eastern floodplain of Gold Creek (Figure 1). Yet the gravel extraction sites were never restored.

The pond has exacerbated negative impacts to groundwater dynamics across and upstream of Gold Creek Valley. Due to the size, depth, and orientation of Gold Creek Pond within the alluvial valley, the pond has changed what was once a gaining reach to a perennial losing reach of the creek. Data from the 2013/2014 hydrology monitoring periods documented that the pond acts as a siphon pulling water away from the creek and magnifies seasonal dewatering. Heli's Pond, a smaller 2-acre gravel pit just north of Gold Creek Pond, was excavated in 1996 as a source of gravel for resurfacing roads. It further influences groundwater dynamics and extends dewatering further upstream in Gold Creek.

Gold Creek has been negatively impacted by decades of clear-cut logging and road development, which have caused a 4.6-fold increase in channel width from 1944 to present. This destabilized, over-widened channel with little complexity or cover continues to progress upstream, further eroding channel banks during seasonal high flow events. The over-widened channel provides more surface area for flow to go sub-surface and exacerbates the effects of dewatering. The loss of large, old growth riparian ecosystems has destabilized the creek, eliminating the benefits of large wood in the creek and floodplain, preventing the return of more natural floodplain function that Bull trout rely on.

According to Natural Systems Design's (NSD) hydrologic modeling results from the 2013/2014 monitoring period, filling Gold Creek Pond would prevent 0.5 miles of creek from drying up and it would increase the duration of surface water connection by delaying the onset of dewatering. By filling Heli's Pond, the models showed it would eliminate the dewatering effect on the upstream extents of the monitored dewatering. By restoring the geomorphology of the channel, instream work would return the creek to more narrow and natural channel widths, and add habitat complexity, creating larger and deeper pools with greater cover for juvenile rearing and adult migration. The narrower stream width will concentrate more water in the thalweg to facilitate greater passage during low flows. The addition of high-flow side channels within the western portion of the valley would reintroduce the creek to its floodplain, decrease

the energy of the flood flows, store more groundwater for later release into the creek, and allow Gold Creek to return to its natural processes.

### *Bull Trout Recovery Programs*

Although their abundance is low, Gold Creek Bull trout numbers are relatively robust compared to other nearby populations. Gold Creek has been identified as a top priority for recovery of Bull trout in the upper Yakima River by the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, the 2012 (updated in 2017) Bull Trout Action Plan, the 2015 USFWS Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout, and the 2015 Reclamation Bull Trout Enhancement Plan. Of the other populations in the Upper Yakima River, three are probably extirpated (Cle Elum, Teanaway, and Waptus) and the other two populations, Box Canyon and the Upper Kachess, have annual redds numbering less than 10. With such low numbers across the upper Yakima River Bull trout populations, limited gene flow between populations is a concern. To prevent extirpation of Gold Creek Bull trout, major ecological restoration is needed as soon as possible.

Two recovery programs have been implemented to reduce the decline of Bull trout in Gold Creek. The first, the Bull trout rescue-and-rear program, is a partnership between Yakama Nation (YN), WDFW, USFWS, and Mid-Columbia Fisheries (MCF). This program collects juveniles from dewatering reaches of Gold Creek during the summer, rears them over the winter at YN's La Salle hatchery, and then re-introduces them the following spring. Since 2019, 358 juveniles have been collected from Gold Creek, with over-winter survival at the hatchery increasing from 73% to 96%. Over the coming years, biologists expect to see these fish mature and spawn in Gold Creek.

The second recovery method is USFWS' trap and haul program. A small percentage of Bull trout become entrained below the Keechelus Dam, unable to return to their natal stream to spawn due to a lack of fish passage facilities at the dam. During their migration, USFWS traps mature Bull trout below the dam and transports them above the dam. Since the beginning of the program in 2019, USFWS have successfully transported 18 Bull trout above the dam and some have been observed spawning in Gold Creek multiple years in a row.

Coupled together, the two recovery programs and the proposed habitat restoration actions provide a unique opportunity to reinvigorate Gold Creek Bull trout. The rescue-and-rear program increases the number of potential spawners, the trap and haul program increases the number of spawners, and the habitat actions proposed here would improve the spawning grounds once they arrive, and provide additional habitat complexity for juveniles.

### *3Rs: Resiliency, Redundancy, Representation*

USFWS utilizes the "3Rs" resilience, redundancy, and representation, to guide implementation of the Endangered Species Act. The current Gold Creek Bull trout population lacks function in the 3Rs, but the proposed restoration actions in RM 2-3 will support the recovery of the Gold Creek Bull trout population.

### *Resiliency*

The Gold Creek Bull trout population is currently NOT resilient; it is one stochastic event away from extirpation. The population size is dangerously small and the growth rate is static or negative and unstable, as shown by redd abundance trends, which is the best index of population abundance available for most Bull trout populations.

Basin experts have determined that a significant reason for this loss of connectivity between reservoir foraging, migration, and overwintering (FMO) habitat and spawning and rearing habitat is caused by seasonal dewatering. This connectivity loss affects the population's resiliency in several ways.

- Access to spawning habitat is blocked/reduced – precluding successful spawning or reducing the total success rate, i.e., less eggs are deposited in the gravel.
- Failure to spawn may impart stress, increase mortality rates, or reduce future year spawner recruitment.
- Adults that spawn may do so in sub-optimal habitat due to de-watering – reduces egg/fry/juvenile survival, i.e., less recruitment of juveniles from spawn events.
- Adults that spawned successfully may be exposed to de-watering that reduces their survival as they descend back to reservoir FMO habitat – reduces year-to-year spawning success by removing adults from the spawning population prematurely.
- Juvenile Bull trout rear in their natal tributary for multiple years before they migrate downstream to FMO habitat. Seasonal de-watering can reduce habitat quality, isolate individual fish where they either die or face reduced feeding/growth, and block downstream seasonal migrations between spawning, rearing, and FMO habitats – these each reduce successful recruitment rates to the spawning population.

### *Redundancy*

Current redundancy in the upper Yakima River is non-existent due to the lack of connectivity between the local populations. The Gold Creek Bull trout population is genetically isolated due to the absence of fish passage at Keechelus Dam. However, the Yakima Basin Integrative Plan is currently addressing connectivity within the upper Yakima River reservoirs. This work, paired with YN's Bull trout reintroduction plans, will increase redundancy in the future, and the Gold Creek Restoration Project will provide vital spawning and rearing habitat for the population of the upper Yakima River Bull trout to bounce back.

### *Representation*

The key to Bull trout recovery in the upper Yakima River, specifically in Gold Creek, is the representation of multiple life-history stages and genetic diversity. The current Gold Creek Bull trout population is the stronghold in the upper Yakima River and may be the best chance for recovery given the work proposed here. The proposed restoration actions will help support all life stages of Gold Creek Bull trout.

## **Applicant Category and Eligibility**

Kittitas Conservation Trust is a 401(c)(3) conservation organization. We are applying as an Applicant B. The Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation project improves fish passage conditions by reducing the dewatering duration and extent that causes a fish passage barrier, as well as improve instream conditions for ESA listed Bull trout by increasing habitat complexity and floodplain reconnection.

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) contains numerous Category A entities (Tribe, State, Irrigation/Water Districts) and has provided a letter of partnership for this proposal. YBIP is a collaboration of state, federal, tribal, businesses and community organizations committed to addressing water, fishery, habitat, and climate variability challenges to ensure a robust Yakima River Basin within its built and natural systems. They have come together to improve water resources for fish, families, farms, and forests. YBIP is a partnering organization that contains numerous Category A entities: State (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Ecology), Tribal (Yakama Nation), and Irrigation/Water districts (Kittitas Reclamation District, Roza Irrigation District). All of these entities have signed a YBIP letter of partnership for the Gold Creek Restoration Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation application, agree to the submittal and content of the application, and are active partners in the technical design review, public outreach, and post-implementation monitoring of the project.

Yakama Nation is a Category A entity (Tribe) and has provided a letter of partnership for KCT's proposal. Yakama Nation has been actively participating in the Gold Creek Project since its inception, as they are invested in the recovery of the Upper Yakima Basin Bull trout. They are currently a cooperating entity for the NEPA process and leads the annual Juvenile Bull trout rescue and rear program. They will also be actively participating in the technical design review and post-implementation monitoring of the project.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is a Category A entity (state) and has provided a letter of partnership for KCT's proposal. They are currently an active participant in this project. WDFW is a cooperating entity for the NEPA review and is the lead entity on the SEPA review for the entire Gold Creek Restoration Project. WDFW has also been monitoring the population of Bull trout in Gold Creek for the last 30 years and will continue monitoring post-implementation. They will also be actively participating in the technical design review.

## **Technical Project Description**

### **Project Benefits**

The entire reach of Phase 2: RM 2-3 has been negatively impacted by decades of clear-cut logging and road development, which have caused a 4.6 -fold increase in channel width from 1944 to present. This destabilized, over-widened channel with little complexity or cover continues to unravel upstream, further eroding channel banks during seasonal high flow events. The loss of large, old growth riparian ecosystems has destabilized the creek, eliminating the



benefits of large wood in the creek and floodplain, preventing the return of more natural floodplain function that Bull trout rely on.

The lower portion of the reach dewatered annually, causing a fish passage barrier for migrating mature adult Bull trout, which can increase stress levels, causing ripe adults to abandon spawning attempts all together. The dewatering can also cause juvenile Bull trout to become stranded in disconnected pools with little to no cover, which increases direct aquatic and terrestrial predation and mortality when pools dry fully.

The goal of Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation is to restore the geomorphology of RM 2-3 and increase the habitat complexity with large wood to improve Bull trout holding, spawning, and rearing habitat, as well as reconnect the floodplain. The instream wood replenishment will create habitat complexity (deeper pools with cover), provide cover from high velocity flood flows, create more opportunities for gravel sorting and redd placement, improve the likelihood of juvenile survival during the critical rearing life stage for this population of Bull trout, and improve migration conditions for mature Bull trout.

In addition, the placement of the large wood will increase floodplain connection, allowing Bull trout greater access to the productive, nutrient rich habitat that will help increase their growth and reproductive rates to the point where they may become delisted as an ESA threatened species. Reconnecting the floodplain will also resupply the groundwater with flood flows, releasing more water later in the season, reducing or eliminating the fish passage barrier of the dewatered section of Gold Creek.

The Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation 60% design was just completed. Because this reach is in a rugged, hard to access area, the installation of the large wood will be strategically delivered via helicopter to reduce the impact on the already established riparian vegetation and unstable streambanks. Two excavators will be used to drive piles to provide structure stability, of which minimal disturbance is associated with this work. In this one-mile reach, a total of 28 structures will be installed utilizing 950 logs, with key members having diameter of 40". The current cost estimate for Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation is \$3,300,000.

### General Project Benefits

- *Explain how the project will benefit ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management, including benefits to plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and ecosystems that are supported by rivers, streams, and/or other water sources, or that are directly influenced by water resources management.*

The Keechelus Reservoir supports a small population of threatened adfluvial Bull trout that is in active decline. The construction of Keechelus Dam by the Bureau of Reclamation limited the migratory capacity of Bull trout to areas upstream of the dam. The dam also blocked the historical food source of the Bull trout: Sockeye, Coho, and Spring Chinook salmon. Gold Creek is currently the only stream adequate for Bull trout spawning upstream of Keechelus Dam

that does not have a passage barrier at the mouth. The project would minimize the dewatering area (passage barrier) that adult Bull trout face in Gold Creek.

*o In your response, identify the specific ecological values benefitted and how those ecological values depend on, or are influenced by, water resources or water resources management.*

Placing wood in RM 2-3 would benefit Bull trout by increasing habitat complexity through restoring the natural geomorphic processes around large wood. Scour around logs would provide deep pools for cover and sort gravels to increase spawning habitat. Deposition of fine sediments behind logs would create habitat for riparian vegetation to grow, providing shade and leaf litter inputs into the food web. The logs would also act as nutrient input for aquatic insects to break down, which are food to juvenile Bull trout and other fish.

*o Explain whether the project will increase water supply reliability for ecological values by improving the timing or quantity of water available; improving water quality and temperature; or improving stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and ecosystems; or through similar approaches.*

Adding large wood to RM 2-3 would increase the number and size of pool habitat available throughout the dry season. Pool habitats that connect to groundwater are critical for Bull trout to survive the dewatering that occurs in this section. Scour around logs should be deep enough to connect to groundwater where the water temperature will remain suitable for Bull trout to live throughout the summer months. Deposition of fine sediments near large wood would promote riparian vegetation growth, creating cooler in-stream temperatures.

Additionally, adding LWD would help spread water out on the floodplain and recharge groundwater in the area.

• *Will the project improve watershed health in a river basin that is adversely impacted by a Reclamation water project?*

Yes, adding large wood to RM 2-3 of Gold Creek would improve ecological complexity and restore ecosystem function to the upper Yakima River Basin, which is impacted by several BOR water projects.

• *Is the project for the purpose of meeting existing environmental mitigation or compliance obligations under Federal or State law?*

No.

• *If the project will benefit aquatic or riparian ecosystems within the watershed (e.g., by reducing flood risk, reducing bank erosion, increasing biodiversity, or preserving native species), explain the extent of those benefits (i.e., magnitude and geographic extent). Estimate expected project benefits to ecosystems and provide documentation and support for this estimate, including a detailed explanation of how the estimate was determined.*

The geographic extent of the benefits from this project would be realized upstream of Keechelus Dam within the watershed. Sub-adult Bull trout with Gold Creek origins have been found rearing in other Keechelus Reservoir tributaries like Coal Creek, Rocky Run, and Resort Creek (Paul James from CWU has data/documentation if needed). If Gold Creek is supporting more Bull trout, they could rear in other streams as well, extending the FMO range of Bull trout in the Upper Yakima Basin.

- *If the project will benefit specific species and habitats, describe the species and/or type of habitat that will benefit and the status of the species or habitat (e.g., native species, game species, federally threatened or endangered, State listed, or designated critical habitat). Describe the extent (i.e., magnitude and geographic extent) to which the project will benefit the species or habitat, including an estimate of expected project benefits and documentation and support for the estimate.*

LWD placement in RM 2-3 would benefit federally listed Bull trout, in their critical habitat. Bull trout are a native species, a game fish species, and a subsistence species if they are at harvestable levels. The project would provide more suitable spawning and rearing habitat for the only population of Bull trout in Keechelus Reservoir.

- *If the proposed project will benefit federally listed threatened or endangered species, address the following:*

- o Is the species subject to a recovery plan or conservation plan under the ESA?*

Yes, the 2015 USFWS' Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout

- o What is the relationship of the species to water supply?*

The adfluvial Bull trout that exist in Gold Creek need lake-river habitats that are cold and connected to spawn and rear. The annual dewatering of Gold Creek directly prevents spawning by creating a fish passage barrier to mature adults and strand juveniles in disconnected pools, causing mortality.

- o What is the extent of the proposed project that would reduce the likelihood of listing or would otherwise improve the status of the species?*

Adding wood to RM 2-3 would help improve habitat conditions in terms of fish passage, water quality, and habitat carrying capacity and complexity. All of these are major factors in improving species status.

- o Is the species adversely affected by a Reclamation project?*

Yes, many populations of Bull trout are isolated from areas upstream of Reclamation dams in the Yakima River Basin and across the coterminous range of the species. Specifically for Gold Creek Bull trout, upstream fish passage is blocked at Keechelus Dam on the downstream end of the reservoir. Downstream travel through or over the dam has occurred, but can also be fatal to Bull trout.

- *Will the project address drought conditions or drought-related impacts on water supplies, habitat, species, or the ecosystem as a whole? Is yes, describe past and current drought*

*conditions and impacts and forecasted drought conditions and anticipated impacts. How will this project help build resilience to drought?*

Bull trout in Gold Creek rely on snow melt to maintain flow throughout the dry season. Even in average or above-average snow-pack years Gold Creek dewater during the summer months. Under drought conditions, stream flow is very limited. Flow diminishes earlier in the year and for an extended period, which may extend past the spawning season. 2015 was a drought year in WA, and only 3 Bull trout redds were observed in Gold Creek that year.

Additionally, salmonid fishes preferentially use pool habitats in the stream under drought conditions (VerWey, 2018). Adding LWD would improve and increase pool habitat in Gold Creek.

- If the project will result in long-term improvements to water quality (e.g., decrease sediment or nutrient pollution, improve water temperature, or mitigate impacts from floods or drought), explain the extent of those benefits (i.e., magnitude and geographic extent). Estimate the expected project benefits to water quality and provide documentation and support for this estimate, including a detailed explanation of how the estimate was determined.*

Because this creek is highly impacted by historic logging and road development, the benefits of the installed large wood will be seen for millennia. There will be greater floodplain connectivity, which will decrease the scour potential of flood flows, reducing the sediment supply into the creek. The establishment of gravel bars behind the large wood will allow more riparian vegetation growth. This will improve bank stabilization, reducing the sediment supply into the creek, provide shade for the creek that will in turn decrease water temperature, and act as a natural filter of pollutants from the landscape. The large wood will create deeper scour pools which will offer decreased water temperatures. An actual estimate of long term water quality improvements is challenging to calculate, as it will change over time. But we do know that in this mile stretch of restored creek, water quality benefits will be achieved and will increase over time.

- Are there project benefits not addressed in the preceding questions? If so, what are these benefits?*

Additional benefits to the project will be stabilizing and developing riparian zones to further support regeneration of old growth forests that once dominated the lower valley floodplain. This will provide benefits to other ESA species like spotted owl and marbled murrelet. Gold Creek Valley is an important wildlife migration corridor that provides connections to the Norse Peak Wilderness area (to the south) to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area (to the north). The project will further the goals for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Adaptive Management Plan for Snoqualmie Pass and build on significant conservation and infrastructure investments to improve species connections across I-90 from the south to north.

### Multiple Benefits

- If the project will benefit multiple water uses (e.g., benefits to ecological values AND benefits to other water uses, including municipal; agricultural; Tribal; commercial, recreational,*

*subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing; and river-based recreation), explain how and to what extent the project will benefit multiple water uses.*

This project will benefit the local community which has a junior water right from potential claims of impairment from other senior water rights holders, such as the Yakama Nation. It will also help to mitigate the impacts from past water projects like Reclamation's Yakima Project. It will improve flow and habitat conditions that will help offset the dams and diversions throughout the Yakima Basin that have negatively impacted Bull trout's ability to access the total range of their historic FMO habitat. It will also help with efforts to provide anadromous fish passage at Keechelus Reservoir (a goal of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan) to improve flow, habitat, spawning and rearing conditions for reintroduced Sockeye, Coho, and Chinook to the Keechelus Reservoir once passage is complete. Historically, Gold Creek was an important fishery for the Yakama Nation with accounts of harvests of Chinook so plentiful that fish would be "stacked like cordwood, high as a man's head" (Lane, 1994).

- *If the project will provide multiple restoration benefits (e.g., benefits to ecological values or watershed health; fish and wildlife habitat; protection against invasive species; enhancement to commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing; enhancement of river-based recreation), explain how.*

In addition to the in-stream Bull trout habitat benefits, this project will provide several other restoration benefits including the stabilization of stream banks and the reintroduction of connectivity of Gold Creek to its floodplain. Both of these actions will help with the natural regeneration of old growth riparian forests that once dominated the lower Gold Creek floodplain prior to clear cut logging. This will replenish habitats that were utilized by ESA listed Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. It will also improve habitat conditions that support a wide diversity of terrestrial species that utilize Gold Creek Valley that rely on this area for connectivity to broader protected wilderness areas. This is especially important in the face of climate induced migration, ensuring genetic diversity of migratory species, and avoid potential wildlife/human conflicts in other more developed areas.

- *Will the project reduce water conflicts within the watershed? If so, explain how.*

Currently, the small private community that has been developed in Gold Creek Valley utilizes very junior water rights (early 1970's priority date). They divert surface water from a tributary of Gold Creek that would otherwise contribute to additional flows into the dewatered reach of Gold Creek. Increasing surface flow in Gold Creek from these restoration efforts would help the community retain use of their water right and avoid unnecessary claims of impairment from the Yakama Nation or Washington State Department of Ecology during water years with average or below "Total Water Supply Available" (TWSA) in the Yakima Basin. Gold Creek demonstrates annual seasonal dewatering due to anthropogenic disturbances regardless of TWSA determinations for the basin. Currently there is no readily identified ways to mitigate for future water withdrawals in the Gold Creek watershed.

## Collaborative Planning

### Recovery Plans

Gold Creek and the Gold Creek Bull trout population are characterized as a **high priority** in four different Recovery Plans:

- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP), Habitat Subcommittee’s Bull Trout 10-year plan
- Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan
- Bureau of Reclamation’s Bull Trout Enhancement Plan
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout

By providing funding through this and future applications, Reclamation will be showing the restoration community that they are willing to take action to help recover the Gold Creek Bull trout population. Once implemented, the actions in this proposal would prevent Bull trout from becoming listed as endangered and with time hopefully become delisted.

In 2012, local Bull trout biologists in the Yakima Basin completed the [Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan](#), which was updated by the [Yakima Bull Trout Working Group](#) in 2017. This document contains detailed information on the status of each population in the Yakima Basin and the actions that will be needed to stem their decline. Recently, the Habitat Subcommittee for YBIP released the [10-year plan](#) for Bull Trout for 2023-2033. This plan outlines actions and goals to be funded by YBIP for the recovery of Bull trout populations. The document is intended to provide guidance in development of the state YBIP budget. In addition, the 10-year plan will inform and provide synergy with other funding opportunities.

USFWS released the final [USFWS Bull Trout Recovery Plan](#) in Sept 2015; the federal plan draws heavily from the local Bull Trout Action Plan in its section on the Yakima Basin. Key parties in the Yakima Basin signed a [2015 Memorandum of Understanding](#) committing each other to working on recovery of Bull Trout in the Yakima Basin. The Bureau of Reclamation also issued its [Bull Trout Enhancement Plan](#) in 2015; it focuses on actions to benefit the Gold Creek, Kachess and Box Canyon populations that will help offset any impacts on Bull Trout from planned water supply projects.

Gold Creek Restoration is a **HIGH PRIORITY** under the Habitat and Watershed Protection element of the **YBIP and the 10-year Bull trout plan for 2023-2033**. YBIP is part of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP), authorized by Congress in 1979 to help mitigate water supply issues in the Yakima Basin. This plan contains comprehensive and integrated solutions for the Yakima River basin’s water resource problems. It addresses water quantity, water quality, ecosystem and watershed health, and the health of Bull trout and Bull trout habitat.

The 10-year plan addresses the limited water supplies and dewatering of rivers in the Yakima River Basin by creating more reliable water supply for ecological values. The development of

this plan occurred over the past several years during the Habitat Subcommittee meetings through YBIP and includes the following contributors: Irrigation districts, KCT, Kittitas County, Kittitas County Conservation District, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Bureau of Reclamation, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, USFWS, United States Forest Service, Washington Conservation Corps, Washington Department of Natural Resources, WDFW, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington Water Trust, and Yakama Nation.

In the 2015 **Bull Trout Enhancement Plan** by the Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Department of Ecology, the proposed Gold Creek Restoration Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation project supports the following:

- 3.1.1 Gold Creek Actions: Narrow channel width and construct a stable low-flow channel utilizing wood and rock, HIGH PRIORITY

In the Bull Trout Enhancement Project, Individual projects were identified in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Yakama Nation. The Yakama Nation, Service, WDFW, Ecology, USFS and Reclamation, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate coordination and communication concerning Bull trout enhancement projects. This document summarizes current threats to Bull trout in the reservoirs and tributaries of those watersheds and prioritizes specific actions expected to reduce the probability or magnitude of risk posed. The projects described in this document consider both habitat enhancements to improve the function and productivity of reservoir and tributary habitats as well as population enhancement efforts, such as translocation/and or supplementation of Bull trout populations in the Yakima Basin.

In the 2012 (updated in 2017) **Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan**, Gold Creek Bull trout are designated as a TIER 1, HIGH PRIORITY ACTION POPULATION. The proposed Gold Creek Restoration project addresses the following:

- Gold Action #2: Instream and Floodplain Habitat Restoration, HIGH PRIORITY
  - Fund and implement instream work in Gold Creek

The Yakima Bull Trout Action plan was written by biologists from Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, WDFW, USFWS, Yakima Bull Trout Working Group (representatives from federal and state agencies, the Yakama Nation, and conservation non-profits including KCT), and the public. The main goal of this plan is to identify the specific actions that will most benefit Bull trout populations in the Yakima Basin.

In the 2015 **Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout by USFWS**, the proposed Gold Creek Restoration project addresses the following actions:

## PRIORITY LEVEL 1

- 1.1.2 Maintain, restore, and protect riparian zones and stream channels associated with Bull trout habitat
- 1.2.9 Reduce impacts to adjacent instream habitat, and remove passage barriers

The goal of this recovery strategy is to manage threats and ensure sufficient distribution and abundance to improve the status of Bull trout throughout their extant range in the coterminous United States so that protection under the ESA is no longer necessary.

Gold Creek Restoration is a part of a watershed restoration approach for upper Yakima Basin Bull trout. Box Canyon Restoration was completed in 2020 and Upper Kachess River Restoration will be implemented in 2023. The Gold Creek Bull trout population is the most viable population in the Upper Yakima Basin and has the best chance of survival with the Gold Creek Restoration actions described in this proposal.

### **Strategy or Plan Development:**

*o Was the strategy or plan developed through a collaborative process? Was the strategy or plan developed as part of a collaborative process by: A watershed group, as defined in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act? OR A water user and one or more stakeholders with diverse interests (e.g., stakeholders representing different water use sectors such as agriculture, municipal, Tribal, recreational, or environmental)?*

Yes, See above.

*o Describe who was involved in preparing the plan and whether the plan was prepared with input from stakeholders with diverse interests (e.g., water, land, or forest management interests; and agricultural, municipal, Tribal, environmental, and recreation uses)? Describe the process used for interested stakeholders to provide input during the development of the strategy or plan. For some Tribal strategies or plans, collaboration could include working with entities representing multiple interests within the Tribe (e.g., Tribal water agencies; Tribal fish and wildlife agencies, cities, or towns on Tribal land; Tribal fisheries; Tribal industries; and agriculture).*

Yes, see above.

*o If the strategy or plan was prepared by an entity other than the applicant, explain why it is applicable to the proposed project. Describe whether and how the applicant was involved in the development of the strategy or plan. If the applicant was not involved in the development, explain why.*

KCT had opportunities to comment on the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan and the YBIP 10-year plan. The other plans were created in-house (USFWS, Reclamation), but were created in conjunction with the other Bull trout plans.

*o For Tribal strategies or plans that were developed collaboratively with multiple Tribal interests, but did not include collaboration with external entities, provide an explanation as to*



*why collaboration with entities external to the Tribe were not involved in the development of the strategy or plan.*

NA

**• Strategy or Plan Support for Project:** *Describe how the plan or strategy provides support for your proposed project.*

*o Does the proposed project implement a goal or need identified in the plan?*

Yes, see above.

*o Describe how the proposed project is prioritized in the referenced plan or strategy.*

See above

### **Stakeholder Support**

The landowners, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and Forterra, have been vital partners in the development of Gold Creek Restoration.

Kittitas Conservation Trust is the project sponsor for the Gold Creek Restoration project, but this project has required intensive coordination and collaboration within the restoration community since its inception in 2012. Without strong partnerships, the Gold Creek Restoration project would be nowhere near ready for implementation, which comes at a time where immediate and intensive restoration actions are needed to prevent the extirpation of the Gold Creek Bull trout population.

The following briefly summarizes each partner and their role within the Gold Creek Restoration Project.

Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT) is a small, non-profit land trust serving Kittitas County. Our mission is to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, open space, and recreational assets in the upper Yakima River. We are the project sponsor for the Gold Creek Restoration project and will be coordinating all aspects of the project, from data collection to design to implementation. The original founders of KCT are Yakama Nation (YN) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), of whom represent two of the three KCT board members. Needless to say, YN and WDFW have formed strong partnerships with KCT and are fully supportive of the Gold Creek Restoration Project.

Yakama Nation Fisheries (YN) leads the Bull trout rescue-and-rear program in Gold Creek and are developing a basin-wide reintroduction plan for Bull trout. They are providing technical assistance and design review. In addition, YN is addressing junior water right holders' over-consumption of water from Gold Creek that is contributing to the dewatering. YN is a partner in the Cultural Compliance (Section 106) and the National Historic Preservation Act consultation. YN is a contributing partner to the USFS through the NEPA process to permit the project.

Gold Creek Valley is located on the ancestral lands of the Yakama Nation. In 1966, James Alexander was interviewed and reported the following (Lane, 1994):

*“The fish trap [my great-grandfather] used was at the upper end of Lake Keechless. It was built like a platform, built at the head of Lake Keechless. It was woven out of saplings, like a platform and he could walk out on it. There was a rock at the head of the lake and little falls came in there but the rock has been blasted out. The platform was built over the water at the edge of the falls. The salmon would try and jump up, the spring run of Chinook, and they would fall back onto the platform and he would walk out and get them and hit them on the head and kill them.*

*His drying sheds were near the shore. They were covered with cedar bark to keep them dry and the air was cool and circulated through them.*

*These things were told to me by my grandmother.*

*He had stacks of salmon, corded up like wood, higher than a man’s head in his winter lodge. They had to be kept dry, or they would spoil.”*

Gold Creek Valley is an important location for the Yakama Nation, and we are all working collaboratively to restore the land and water there.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was a partial funder for the initial assessment and design work (\$63,000) and funding is pending for Phase 1: RM 1-2 Implementation (\$1.7 Recovery Challenge; \$2M Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill - National Fish Passage Program). USFWS is the ESA consultation lead and is providing in-kind donation for writing funding proposals, technical assistance, design review, project management, and construction oversight. USFWS also leads a Bull trout trap and haul and PIT-tag monitoring program at five Bureau of Reclamation owned dams, including Keechelus. PIT-tag monitoring in Gold Creek and other spawning tributaries is used to evaluate trap and haul, the rescue and rearing program, and the effectiveness of the restoration work proposed here.

Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) is a part of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP), authorized by Congress in 1979 to help mitigate water supply issues in the Yakima Basin. YBIP is a partial funder for the entire Gold Creek Restoration project (\$1,741,981 secured for past assessments, designs, and permitting). Currently, Bull trout recovery has been codified in the Yakima River Basin through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2015 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, WA State Department of Ecology, WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Yakama Nation who are all parties to the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. This has helped provide stable funding for projects that enhance Bull trout and their habitat along with water supply projects.

Yakima Basin Bull Trout Working Group is a formal group that has worked to develop the Yakima Basin Bull Trout Action Plan in 2012 (updated in 2017). This is a group of technical experts and restoration practitioners that work to meet recovery goals for our Bull trout

populations. This group helps with vetting projects, provides technical guidance on specific restoration and recovery plans and projects, and helps with funding recommendations with Yakima Basin Integrated Plan's Bull trout enhancement funding requests through WA State.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has been conducting spawning redd surveys to monitor the Gold Creek Bull trout population since 1984. WDFW is the SEPA consultation lead.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest / U.S. Forest Service is one of the landowners. They are the NEPA, Cultural Compliance (Section 106), and National Historic Preservation Act compliance consultation lead.

Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board is a partial funder (\$365,141 secured for past assessments, designs, and permitting).

Additional supporting partners: Conservation Northwest, Native Fish Society, Washington Water Trust, Trout Unlimited, Mid- Columbia Fisheries, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, Kittitas County, Kittitas County Conservation District, Kittitas Reclamation District, Private Landowners and community members.

Extensive outreach has been performed for the Gold Creek Restoration Project in the last decade and will continue during- and post- implementation. Videos, websites, social media posts, and public round-tables are examples of the outreach that has been conducted.

- *Describe the level of stakeholder support for the proposed project. Are letters of support from stakeholders provided? Are any stakeholders providing support for the project through cost-share contributions or through other types of contributions to the project?*

See above descriptions of stakeholders. Stakeholders have provided letters of support for the Gold Creek Restoration Project and they are attached. Please note that due to the high volume of federal funding NOFOs that were released in the past few months, these letters were originally for USFWS funding applications. Stakeholders were not asked to provide another letter for this application. Some stakeholders have provided financial support for other phases of the Gold Creek Project. For this project, the cost-share sources are described in the Budget section.

- *Explain whether the project is supported by a diverse set of stakeholders, as appropriate, given the types of interested stakeholders within the project area and the scale, type, and complexity of the proposed project. For example, is the project supported by entities representing agricultural, municipal, Tribal, environmental, or recreation uses?*

See above. This project is supported by a diverse set of stakeholders.

- *Is the project supported by entities responsible for the management of land, water, fish and wildlife, recreation, or forestry within the project area? Is the project consistent with the policies of those agencies?*

Yes, the US Forest Service is the property owner and fully supports this project. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife fully supports this project. US Fish and Wildlife Service fully supports this project. This project is consistent with the policies of all these agencies.

• *Is there opposition to the proposed project? If so, describe the opposition and explain how it will be addressed. Opposition will not necessarily result in fewer points.*

Some neighbors were originally opposed to the entire Gold Creek Restoration Project, but now with accurate information, they have become supporters of the project. See outreach section above.

### Restoration Approach

Since 2012, KCT has been working with NSD to monitor and collect data in Gold Creek Valley for geomorphic, hydrologic, hydraulic, and habitat assessments to understand the current dewatering and poor habitat conditions in Gold Creek. Based on these assessments, Gold Creek presents a significant restoration opportunity for Bull trout benefits. Hydrologic modeling showed that meaningful intensive restoration will restore Gold Creek habitat to levels not seen since anthropogenic impacts (gravel pits, extensive logging) and allow the stream to flow in a way that creates natural resiliency to climate change. However, immediate action is required, as one small stochastic event, such as a drought or a landslide, could completely extirpate the Gold Creek Bull trout population that is currently at a mere fraction of its historic levels.

Four restoration actions have been developed to effectively restore natural flow and improve the instream habitat complexity of Gold Creek: (1) RM 1-2 instream restoration, (2) RM 2-3 instream restoration, (3) Heli's Pond restoration, and (4) Gold Creek Pond restoration. Material from the instream work can be efficiently used to fill the ponds, limiting the transportation time and off-site materials needed, reducing the total cost of implementation.

Due to funding limitations, a phased approach is required. Action #1 (RM 1-2) will be addressed as Phase 1, as that reach currently dewater during the in-stream work window. Implementation of RM 1-2 will have the least negative impact on the current Bull trout population. Phase 1 also includes restoring Heli's Pond, as the fill from RM 1-2 side channel excavation will be used. Phase 2 (this proposal) will be Action #2 (RM 2-3), and there will be as little ground based construction as possible, utilizing a helicopter to deliver large wood to the reach, minimizing negative effects to Bull trout.

Gold Creek Pond will be Phase 3, the last restoration action to be completed, as it will be the most expensive and the most time consuming, but can occur outside the in-stream work window. Restoring Gold Creek Pond will have the greatest effect on in-stream flows in Gold Creek, but the in-stream restoration needs to occur first in RM 1-2 and RM 2-3 to maximize the habitat benefits and minimize the negative effects to Bull trout. With all four restoration actions completed, Gold Creek can flow naturally and return to its natural processes, providing the necessary benefits for Bull trout recovery.

### *Phase 1: RM 1-2 Instream Restoration + Heli's Pond Restoration*

For RM 1-2 instream restoration, 60% design is complete. The restoration approach for RM 1-2 is to restore the creek to its historic channel width, improve floodplain and side channel connectivity, limit the duration of annual dewatering of the creek, and increase instream and side channel habitat complexity. This restoration action will restore one mile of instream habitat by constructing 75 engineered log jams and installing 196 toe habitat logs in the stream, and constructing five high-flow side channels totaling 0.86 miles. Restoration actions will also restore 2.9 acres of floodplain at 16 different locations with roughness logs and vegetation plantings. Fill from the construction of the side channels will be used to fill Heli's Pond.

For Heli's Pond Restoration, 30% design is complete. Hydraulic models show that completely filling Heli's Pond will increase surface water flow in Gold Creek, nearly eliminating the dewatering effects on the creek within close proximity the pond. A 75% pond fill would decrease the siphon effect and decrease costs of implementation. The landowner, Forterra, will have the final approval on the design.

The total estimated implementation cost for 2024 for Phase 1 is \$4,463,000.

### *Phase 2: RM 2-3 Instream Restoration (This Proposal)*

For RM 2-3 instream restoration, 60% design is complete. The approach for RM 2-3 is to increase habitat complexity. A helicopter will be utilized to minimize ground disturbing activities and limit the negative impacts to Bull trout. Current implementation estimate is \$3,300,000.

### *Phase 3: Gold Creek Pond Restoration*

For Gold Creek Pond Restoration, 30% design is complete. There are three alternatives being considered through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

1. Forested Wetland Complex – would fill most of the existing pond and convert the area back to a forested wetland complex, similar to its historic condition. This alternative would significantly reduce, if not eliminate completely, the dewatering effect the pond has on the creek. It would also remove berms and infrastructure and fill the outlet channel. New tributary channels would be established to connect Gold Creek to the forest wetland complex.
2. Multi-Pond Alternative – would elevate the pond to bring the ground water up, requiring an earthen dam at the southern end to contain the water. Smaller ponds would be constructed with varying elevations. This alternative would remove the berms and fill the outlet channel.
3. Gold Creek Integration Alternative – would integrate Gold Creek into the restored pond and create in-line habitat. It would be similar to the multi-pond alternative, but would allow migrating fish to have access to the ponds for holding while the creek is in its dewatered stage. This alternative would remove the berm and fill the outlet channel.

All three alternatives are estimated to cost about the same to construct. Approximately 900,000 cubic yards of fill will be required to fully fill the pond. Estimated implementation cost for the Gold Creek Pond Restoration is \$24,812,000.

**Readiness to Proceed**

This funding request is to partially fund Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025 and implementation of RM 2-3 is scheduled to be completed within one field season. Cost-savings will be realized if other phases are combined. An additional contingency year is requested to allow buffer time to finalize the permitting and environmental compliance and to allow for any delays that may occur due to contracting, a global pandemic, or supply chain issues.

Table 1. Timeline for Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Apply for WaterSMART Funds	Winter 2023
Funds Awarded	December 2023
NEPA Documents Finalized	July 2024
NEPA Decision	August/Sept 2024
Permitting and ESA Consultation	Summer-Winter 2024
Finalize Designs	Summer-Winter 2024
Purchase and stage construction supplies	Summer 2024
Pre-bid Walkthrough	June 2025
Contract Out to Bid	June 2025
Implementation	July 2025-2026, cost savings will be found if combined with other phases of the project.
Contingency Implementation Year (unforeseen setbacks such as a global pandemic, supply chain issues, weather, etc)	Summer 2027

- *Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates. This may include, but is not limited to, design, environmental and cultural resources compliance, permitting, and construction/installation.*

See above.

- *Proposals with a budget and budget narrative that provide a reasonable explanation of project costs will be prioritized under this criterion.*

See the Budget Section below.

- *Describe any permits and agency approvals that will be required along with the process and timeframe for obtaining such permits or approvals.*

See below in the Permit and Compliance Section.

- *Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project. If additional design is required, describe the planned process and timeline for completing the design. Priority will be given to projects that are further along in the design process and ready for implementation.*

60% designs have been completed by Natural Systems Designs. NSD also performed two years of data collection and analysis in 2013/2014 to direct the designs.

- *Does the applicant have access to the land or water source where the project is located? Has the applicant obtained any easements that are required for the project? If so, provide documentation. If the applicant does not yet have permission to access the project location, describe the process and timeframe for obtaining such permission.*

The US Forest Service is the landowner for RM 2-3 and has been actively participating in the data collection and design phases of this restoration project and is in full support of KCT's work.

- *Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements for the project and the associated costs. Has a line item been included in the budget for costs associated with compliance? If a contractor will need to complete some of the compliance activities, separate line items should be included in the budget for Reclamation's costs and the contractor's costs.*

The local Reclamation office supports this project. Environmental and cultural resource compliance are already underway and funded from other sources for the entire Gold Creek Restoration Project. The US Forest Service is the NEPA, Cultural Compliance (Section 106), and National Historic Preservation Act compliance consultation lead.

- *Is the project completely or partially located on Federal land or at a Federal facility? If so, explain whether the agency supports the project and has granted access to the Federal land or facility, whether the agency will contribute toward the project, and why the Federal agency is not completing the project.*

This project is located on Federal land. The US Forest Service is the property owner and fully supports this project and has granted access to the land. They have been an active participant in this project since its inception. US Forest Service is the NEPA, Cultural Compliance (Section 106), and National Historic Preservation Act compliance consultation lead. The Forest Service is not funding this portion of the project.

## **Project Budget and Budget Narrative**

The estimated cost for Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation is \$3,300,000 (Table 1). At a 75% federal cost share, KCT is requesting \$2,475,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023. Of these funds, \$2,375,000 will go directly towards implementation and \$100,000 will go towards KCT personnel for implementation planning and construction oversight. No overhead costs will be charged.

Table 1. Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation estimated costs.

Item Description	Qty	Unit Cost	Item Cost
Helicopter mobilization	1 LS	\$55,200.00	\$55,200
Helicopter operation	15 days	\$99,360.00	\$1,490,400
Type 5 ELJ (Helicopter Placement)	28 units	\$36,611.40	\$1,025,119.20
Sales tax	8.9%		\$221,081.85
Engineer for Implementation Oversight	1 LS	\$408,198.15	\$408,198.15
KCT Personnel	2000	\$50	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$3,300,000</b>

The remaining 25% non-federal cost share of \$825,000 will come from a combination of the YBIP / Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (State), Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (State), and the Washington State Streamflow Restoration Grant (State) funding sources (Table 2). Funding has been dedicated to KCT's Upper Yakima Bull Trout Projects in the upcoming State Budget cycle with YBIP. This funding will be split between the Upper Kachess Restoration Implementation in 2024 and Gold Creek Restoration Project. The funding amount is dependent on the budget allocations, but will be between \$896,350 and \$1,024,600 total. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board application process has just begun, and we will be requesting \$500,000 for purchasing and staging supplies (ie logs), to be split between Phase 1: RM 1-2 Implementation and Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation. The Streamflow Restoration Grant cycle has not been announced yet, but the Gold Creek Restoration project fits the criteria perfectly. We will be requesting upwards of \$2M to be split amongst all phases of the Gold Creek Restoration project. No letters of commitment are available at this time, but the funding will be secured and available by the time the funds from this award are administered in December 2023.

Table 2. Summary of non-federal and federal funding sources.

Funding Sources	Amount to be split amongst KCT projects	Amount for Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation
1. YBIP / RCO (State)	\$896,350 - \$1,024,000	\$500,000
2. SRFB (State)	\$500,000	\$250,000
3. Streamflow Grant (State)	\$2,000,000	\$75,000
Non-federal subtotal		\$825,000
<b>Requested Reclamation Funding</b>		<b>\$2,475,000</b>
Total Project Costs		\$3,300,000

It should be noted that since 2012, KCT has secured \$2,241,634 for the assessment, design, and permitting of the entire Gold Creek Restoration project, with only \$63,000 coming from a



federal source (US Fish and Wildlife Service) and the remaining coming from non-federal sources. This amount includes \$71,512 of KCT's in-kind contribution from base funding.

The entire Gold Creek Restoration Project is estimated to cost \$32.6M to implement, which includes Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation from this application. The following funding sources have been or will be pursued for Phase 1: RM 1-2 Implementation, Phase 2: Gold Creek Pond Implementation, and Phase 3: Gold Creek Pond Restoration:

- USFWS Recovery Challenge
- USFWS National Fish Passage Program - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
- WA State Salmon Recovery Funding
- WA State Department of Ecology Streamflow Restoration Grant
- WA Department of Transportation
- WA State Capitol Budget
- Open River Fund - William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Western Native Trout Initiative
- Patagonia / Holdfast Collective
- Microsoft
- Amazon
- Hewlett Foundation
- Central Washington Initiative
- Yield Giving
- Floodplains by Design
- Resource Legacy Fund

We are aware that no other federal funds may be used on Phase 2: RM 2-3 if the EWRP funding is received.

## **Performance Measures**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Extensive monitoring of Gold Creek Bull trout began in the 1980s, including but not limited to spawning redd surveys, snorkel surveys, demographic surveys, Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT) tag antennas, and dewatering surveys. These monitoring efforts will continue to occur until the Bull trout population has been recovered to a self-sustaining population.

The USFWS and YN operate PIT-tag antennas in lower Gold Creek near the I-90 bridge and in upper Gold Creek upstream of the proposed project. The antennas are used to monitor Bull trout movements within Gold Creek associated with three projects: 1) the rescue-and-rear program, 2) the trap and haul program, and 3), WDFW young of the year Bull trout tagging. PIT-tag Antennas will be used to evaluate the proposed restoration project, both before and after implementation. Additional monitoring objectives are detailed in Table 3.

- Describe the performance measures that will be used to quantitatively or qualitatively define actual project benefits upon completion of the project. Include support for why the specific performance measures were chosen.

See above and Table 3 below.

Table 3. Monitoring objectives for pre- and post- implementation of Phase 2: RM 2-3.

Monitoring Objectives	Metric	Methods
Pool Survey: Evaluate the ability of Bull Trout to survive the dewatering period in Gold Creek by documenting how the Gold Creek pool depth, persistence/wittedness, and distribution changes pre- and post-project.	Total number of pools that remain wet throughout the season, residual depth of pools, and area of pools.	Measure location, size and depth of pools throughout the entire annually-dewatering reach of Gold Creek at least once a month just prior to dewatering, through the dewatering period, and after reconnection. Repeat methods before and after project implementation.
Fish Rescue: Evaluate how Bull Trout use the restored reach may change by comparing the number of fish rescued pre-treatment to post-treatment.	Number of fish in the isolated pools of the dewatered reach.	Continue to rescue bull trout in isolated pools that are likely to dry up during dewatering season before and after project implementation.
Temperature: Evaluate how temperature changes in the reach of Gold Creek downstream of the current Gold Creek Pond outlet channel.	Average and maximum daily water temperature, and 7-day average water temperature.	Measure water temperature at the Gold Creek Pond outlet (left bank), Gold Creek upstream of the pond, and downstream of the confluence of the pond outlet and stream. Repeat methods before and after project implementation.
Habitat Variables: Evaluate how the Gold Creek morphological characteristics in the dewatering reach might change between pre- and post-stream restoration.	Stream width, bank full width, large woody habitat size and distribution, substrate type and distribution, side-channel habitat length and distribution, pool/riffle/run habitat lengths and distribution.	Measure the above metrics once before and at least once after the project is implemented.
Ground Water Levels: Evaluate ground water levels to determine changes in elevation pre- and post-project implementation.	Ground water elevations.	Reoccupy ground water monitoring wells that were used during the planning and design phase with pressure transducers pos-project implementation to determine changes in elevation.
Engineered Structure Stability and Geomorphic Response: Evaluate the stability of Engineered Structures and geomorphic response pre- and post-project implementation	Movement of engineered structures or individual logs, determine wood racking from upstream sources, measure of the relative abundance of morphologic patches across the valley bottom in the restoration reach.	Utilize ariel drone and/or LiDAR imagery pre- and post-project implementation. Post-project imagery would be taken right after construction and 3-5 years post-construction.

- *All applicants are required to include information about plans to monitor improved streamflows, aquatic habit, or other expected project benefits. Describe the plan to monitor the benefits over a 5-year period once the project has been completed. Provide details on the steps to be taken to carry out the plan.*

See above.

## **Presidential and DOI Priorities**

### *Climate Change*

Looking into the future, climate models indicate the Yakima River Basin will shift toward a rainfall-dominated hydrologic regime. This will result in higher winter flows, lower summer flows, and warmer stream temperatures. These results paired with increased floodplain disconnections will continue to limit Bull trout populations, especially in degraded habitats like Gold Creek. The magnitude of the predicted change varies among the models, but the types of changes are consistent. Gold Creek's ecosystem is at significant risk as the lack of future snowpacks will reduce the base stream flows and the limited flow will be unable to buffer the ecosystem against the warmer, drier conditions.

Without any restoration actions, Gold Creek's current habitat conditions will continue to degrade, leading to the extirpation of the Gold Creek Bull trout population within our lifetime. When the proposed habitat restoration actions are implemented, the channel and riparian ecosystem will become more natural and robust. Gold Creek will be more resilient to the climate impacts, particularly by better capturing and storing seasonal rain events within the newly engaged floodplains to maintain surface water connections longer. This will allow for more Bull trout to successfully spawn and rear, eventually reaching a healthy, self-sustaining population.

- *How will the project build long-term resilience to drought? How many years will the project continue to provide benefits? Estimate the extent to which the project will build resilience to drought and provide support for your estimate.*

The addition of large wood to the creek will help reconnect the floodplain, which will lead to more groundwater storage that will releases cooler water later in the summer. One mile of creek will be restored and reconnected to the floodplain, but actual volume of water stored as groundwater will depend on each year's spring flows.

- *In addition to drought resiliency measures, does the proposed project include other natural hazard risk reductions for hazards such as wildfires or floods?*

By accessing the floodplain, the power of a heavy flood will be dispersed and reduce the flood damage seen downstream. By reconnecting the floodplain, riparian and forest trees and shrubs will hold more moisture during the year, reducing wildfire risk.

- *Will the proposed project establish and use a renewable energy source?*

No.

- *Will the proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation?*

Yes. By reconnecting the floodplain, more grasses, trees and other vegetation will grow, increasing carbon sequestration.

- *Does the proposed project include green or sustainable infrastructure to improve community climate resilience, such as reducing the urban heat island effect, lowering building energy demands, or reducing the energy needed to manage water? Does this infrastructure complement other green solutions being implemented throughout the region or watershed?*

No infrastructure is proposed.

- *Does the proposed project seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollutions such as air or water pollution?*

It does not seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollutions, but the additional vegetation growth will help reduce air and water pollution in the watershed.

- *Does the proposed project have a conservation or management component that will promote healthy lands and soils or serve to protect water supplies and its associated uses?*

The act of restoring a stream and floodplain restoration promotes healthy lands and soils.

- *Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?*

See above.

#### Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Kittitas County has a low to moderate Social Vulnerability Index of 0.2831 with 20% of the population below the poverty line. The per capita income is \$27,974 which is 43% of the statewide per capita of \$64,758. The entire Gold Creek Restoration project will provide up to 30 jobs for three years with an average of \$62,400 per annum, which is more than twice the current per capita income.

- *Will the proposed project serve or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities.*

See above. This project promotes economic growth.

- *Describe, in detail, how the community is disadvantaged based on a combination of variables that may include the following: o Low income, high and/or persistent poverty, o High unemployment and underemployment*

See above.

- *If the proposed project is providing benefits to an underserved community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the underserved definition in E.O. 13985,*

*which includes populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.*

NA

### *Tribal Benefits*

Gold Creek Valley is located on the ancestral lands of the Yakama Nation. The teachings of the Yakama Nation mandate that they advocate for the resources that cannot speak for themselves. The Yakama Nation Fisheries Program is investing a lot of time and effort into Bull trout recovery in the upper Yakima Basin and are a vital partner for the Gold Creek Restoration project. By funding this and future proposals for the Gold Creek Restoration project, Reclamation is showing their investment to maintaining and strengthening its partnership with the Yakama Nation.

- *Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for an Indian Tribe?*

Yes, this project is directly connected to YN's effort to strengthen the Bull trout population in Gold Creek. Since 2019, YN has been leading the Bull trout rescue-and-rear program. Working in partnership with WDFW, USFWS, and Mid-Columbia Fisheries, this program collects juveniles from dewatering reaches of Gold Creek during the summer, rears them over the winter at YN's La Salle hatchery, and then re-introduces them the following spring. Additionally, the YN is working with the WA Department of Ecology to reclaim their water rights within the Gold Creek watershed. Once those water rights are reclaimed, more water will flow in Gold Creek, supporting the Bull trout population.

The restoration actions proposed here directly benefit and supplement the current efforts put forth by the YN. By improving the Bull trout habitat as described in this proposal, the Bull trout that are re-introduced into the creek will have a greater chance of survival.

- *Does the proposed project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?*

Yes, Bull trout are listed as a Threatened ESA listed species. According to the Reclamation Manual on Indian Policy of the Bureau of Reclamation, Reclamation will implement the Endangered Species Act (Pub. L. 93-205) in a manner that respects the exercise of tribal sovereignty over the management of Indian lands and tribal trust resources.

- *Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits, such as improved public health and safety, by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?*

Yes, in a time of unprecedented climate change and drought, this project will increase the complex habitat that is required for Bull trout survival. Both Gold Creek Valley and Bull trout are considered sacred to YN and they will be greatly affected by climate change and drought if we leave the reach un-restored.

In addition, Yakama Nation tribal members would benefit from the restoration of Gold Creek from employment through the continued conservation and management of Bull trout in the upper Yakima River.

### **Environmental Compliance and Required Permits**

NEPA, Cultural, Historical and ESA Compliance are all in process, as is the Nationwide permit and SEPA. The other permits have not been started. There will be ground disturbing activities for Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation from two small excavators.

1. NEPA Environmental Assessment – Lead Entity, U.S. Forest Service – In process
2. Cultural Assessment (Section 106) – Lead Entity, U.S. Forest Service w/Yakama Nation – In process w/ NEPA
3. Endangered Species Act Compliance (ESA) – Lead Entity, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – In process w/ NEPA
4. Nationwide Permit – Lead Entity, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – In process w/NEPA
5. SEPA – Lead Entity, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife – In process
6. Shoreline Development Permit – Lead Entity, Kittitas County – Not started
7. Water Quality Certification (Section 401) – Lead Entity, Dept of Ecology – Not started
8. Hydraulics Project Approval (HPA) – Lead Entity, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife – Not started
9. FEMA No Rise/LOMR – Lead Entity, Kittitas County – Not started
10. Stormwater Construction Permit – Lead Entity, Dept of Ecology – Not started

### **Literature Cited**

All publicly available Gold Creek reports, memos, designs, and maps are available online at:  
<https://www.kittitasconservationtrust.org/projects/gold-creek-restoration-flow-and-habitat/>

2015 Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout by USFWS  
[https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/Final\\_Mid\\_Columbia\\_RUIP\\_092915.pdf](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/Final_Mid_Columbia_RUIP_092915.pdf)

Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP)  
<https://yakimabasinintegratedplan.org/>  
<https://ybfwrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/FINAL-Habitat-Sub-Committee-Bull-Trout-10-year-plan.pdf>

2012 and the updated 2017 Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan  
<https://ybfwrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/YBTAP-9-2012-FINAL-small.pdf>  
[https://ybfwrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2017\\_BTAP\\_Actions\\_Update.pdf](https://ybfwrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2017_BTAP_Actions_Update.pdf)

2015 Bull Trout Enhancement Plan by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Washington State Department of Ecology

<https://ybfwr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Feb-2015-BOR-Bull-Trout-Enhancement-Plan.pdf>

Lane, Barbara. 1994. Usual and Accustomed Indian Fisheries in the Yakima Basin: Anthropological and Ethnohistorical Evidence. Prepared for the Department of Justice.

VerWey, Brian J. 2018. Effects of A Severe Drouth on Summer Abundance, Growth, and Movement of Cutthroat Trout in a Western Oregon Headwater Stream. *Northwestern Naturalist*. 99(3):209-221.

## Figures

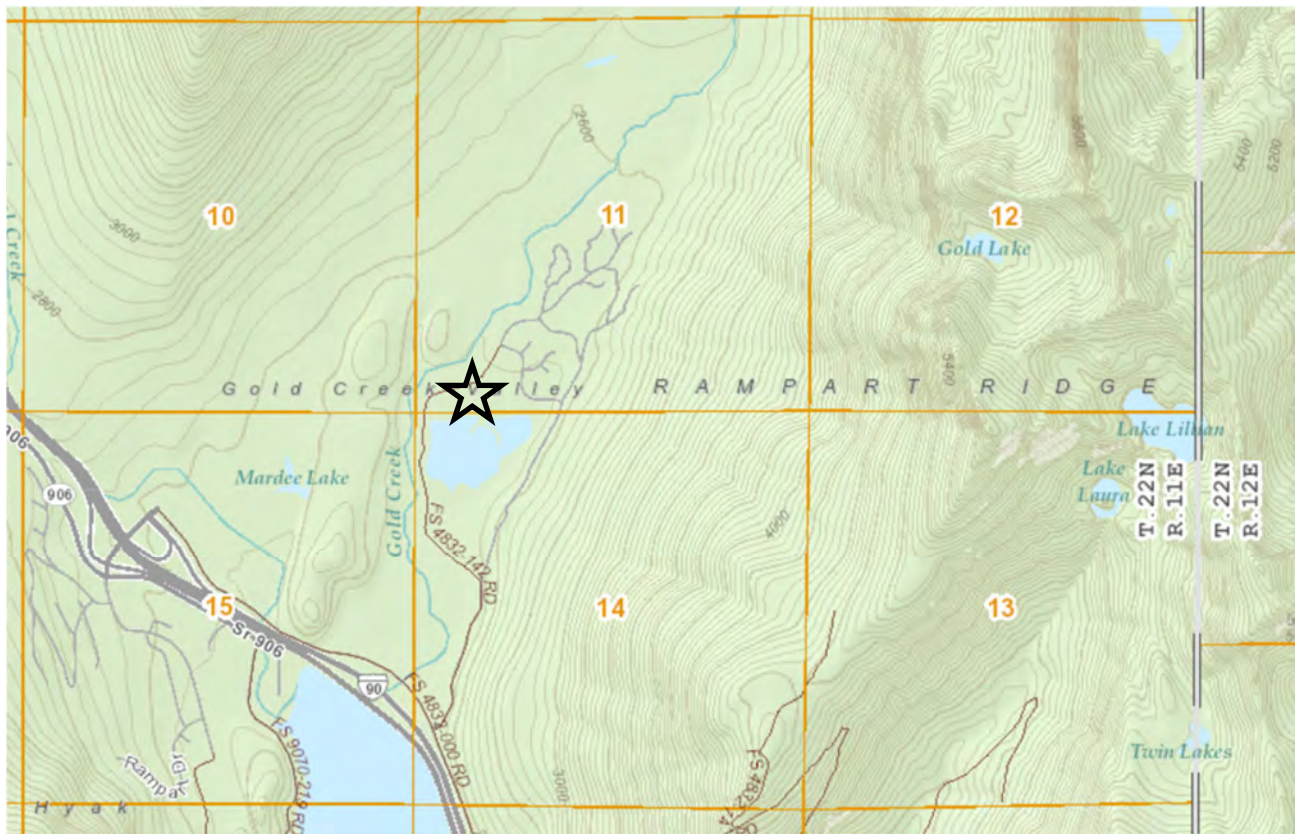


Figure 1. Topographical map with an overview of Gold Creek and Gold Creek Pond (yellow star). RM 2-3 is in the upper portion of the map.



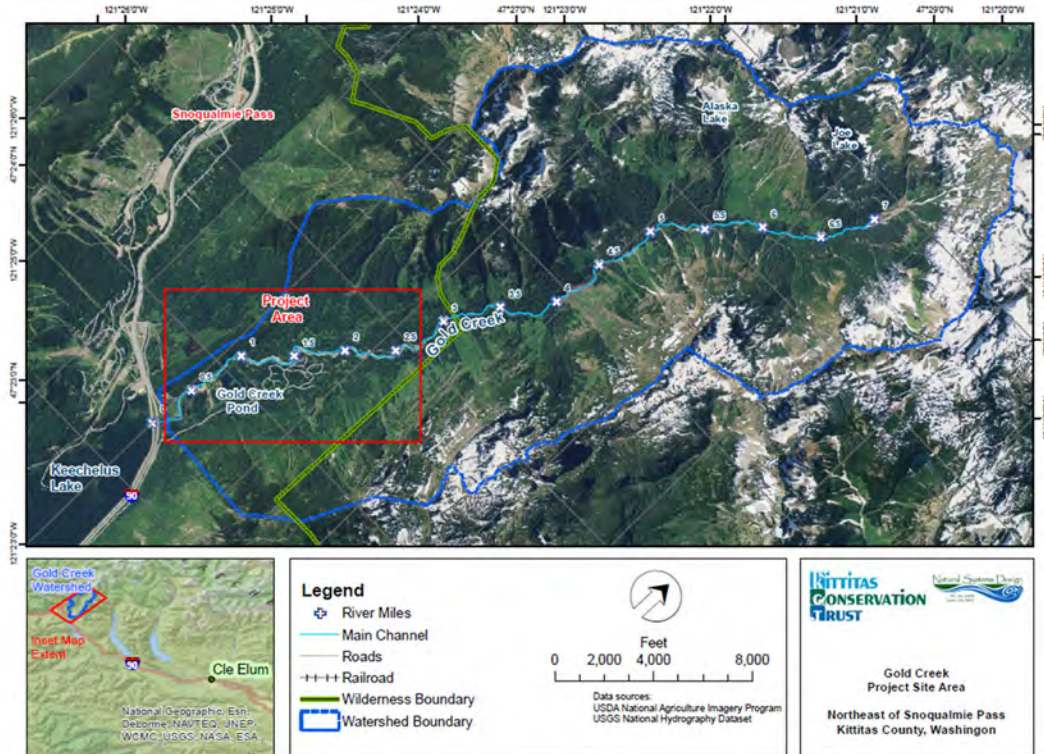


Figure 2. Overview map of Gold Creek and Gold Creek Pond. Produced by Natural Systems Design.



Figure 3. Bird's eye view of Gold Creek. Gold Creek Pond is located at RM 0.75 to RM 1.15, is 27 acres, and is 60 feet at its deepest point. Heli's Pond is located at RM 1.8, is 2 acres and is 15 feet at its deepest point. Flow goes from bottom right corner to top left. RM 2 is in the lower portion of the map.



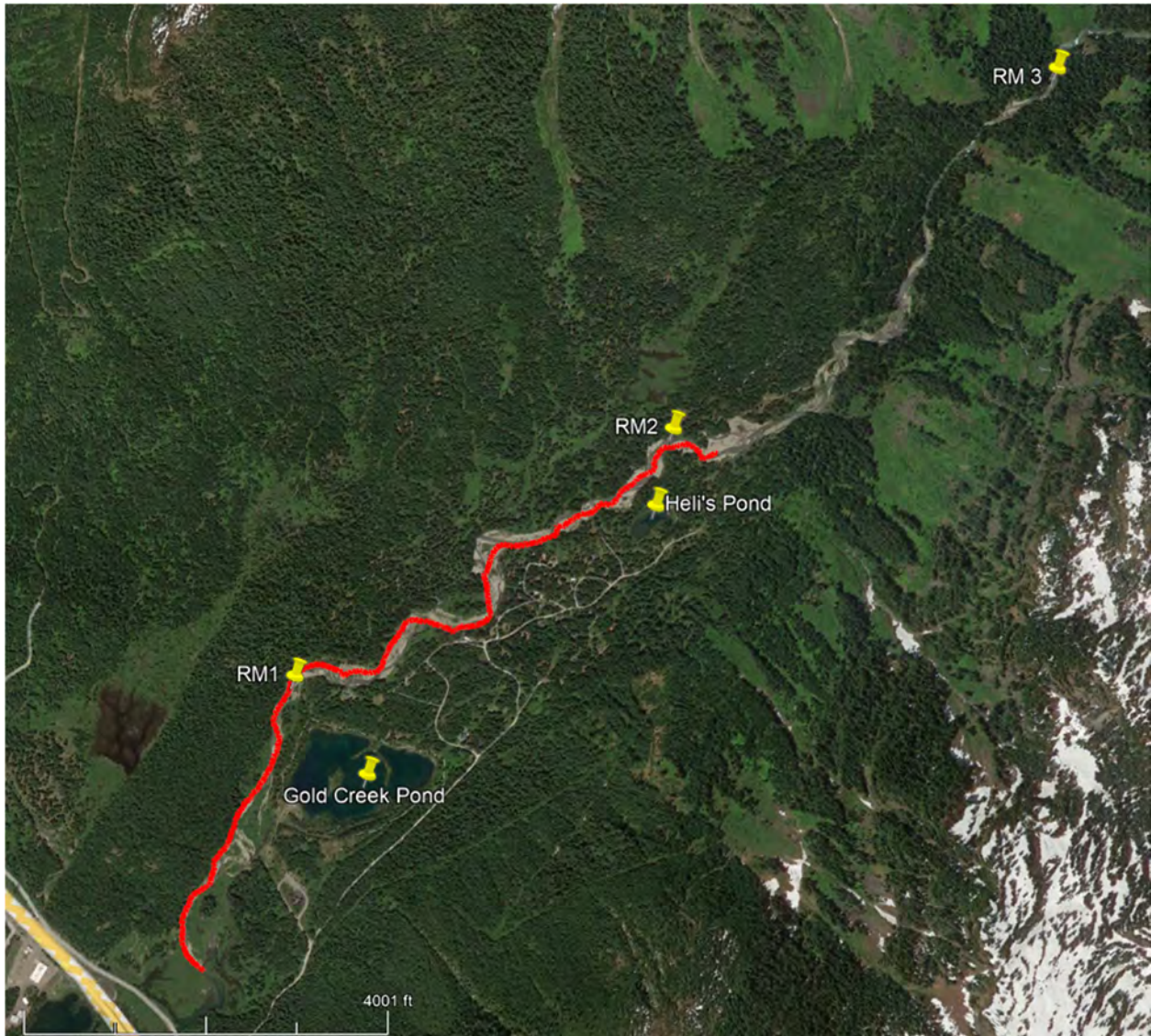


Figure 4. On October 18, 2022, two miles of Gold Creek were dewatered, shown by the red line. Flow is from top of photo to bottom of photo. The lower portion of RM 2-3 was dewatered in 2022.





Figure 5. The top photo shows the upstream dewatered extent on 10/18/2022, upstream of RM 2. The bottom photo shows the same location nine days later on 10/27/2022 after 3.33 inches of rain. The flow was visually estimated at 10-12 CFS and continued for another quarter mile downstream.



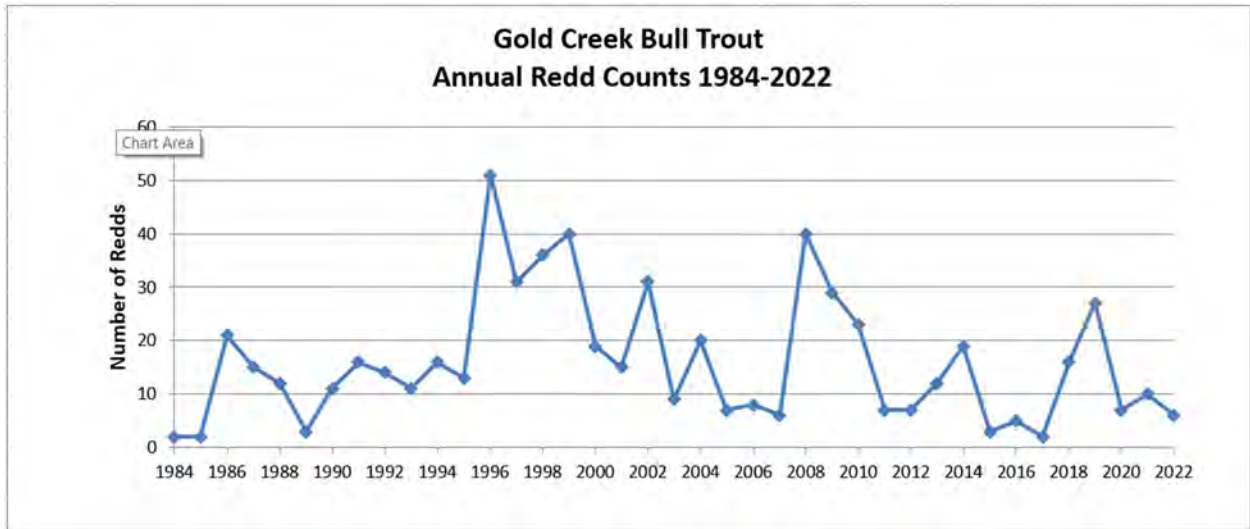


Figure 6. Gold Creek Bull trout annual redd counts, 1984-2022. Produced by WDFW.



Figure 7. Representative image of dewatered Gold Creek RM 1-2.





Figure 8. Representative image of Gold Creek RM 2-3.



Figure 9. Representative image of a disconnected pool with limited cover in the dewatered section of Gold Creek.

# **Kittitas Conservation Trust**

## **Resolution 23-01**

### **Authorization to commit the Kittitas Conservation Trust to financial and legal obligations associated with receipt of financial assistance award from the US Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023; Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00089**

WHEREAS: The Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT) is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and qualified under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is also qualified as a nonprofit nature conservancy corporation under RCW 64.04.130 and 84.34.250, whose primary purpose is to undertake activities to protect and enhance open space, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS: The Yakama Nation, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Trendwest Resorts (now Suncadia) entered into a Cooperative Agreement dated December 4, 2000 in which the WDFW goal to protect and conserve fish and wildlife, Yakama Nation treaty protected interests and Suncadia's environmentally sensitive resort development interests are joined into a policy of no net loss of productive fish and wildlife habitat in connection with the development of a Master Plan Resort and Cle Elum Urban Growth Area on 7,400 acres of Suncadia Property bisected by six miles of the Cle Elum River; and

WHEREAS: KCT has worked on Large-scale restoration projects both on and off Suncadia Resort property to further the goal of "no net loss" of fish and wildlife habitat in accordance with applicable watershed and recovery plans for the upper Yakima Basin watershed; and

WHEREAS: KCT has successfully designed and implemented restoration projects in Box Canyon Creek and Kachess River to benefit genetically distinct populations of bull trout to improve critical spawning and rearing habitat for these fish; and

WHEREAS: KCT, in 2012, began exploring the causal mechanisms of habitat degradation and flow limitations in the Gold Creek valley to benefit ESA listed Mid-Columbia Bull Trout; and

WHEREAS: KCT has worked with regional partners to the Yakima Basin Bull Trout Working Group, to further recovery goals for the Gold Creek population of bull trout found in the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan (2012, updated 2017); and

WHEREAS: KCT has continued to work on restoration of Gold Creek over 10 years to develop large-scale restoration alternatives, feasibility studies, developed designs of preferred restoration alternatives, and permitting to implement restoration activities to address limitations to bull trout production in the gold Creek watershed; and

WHEREAS: KCT has worked in partnership with the Yakama Nation, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and

the WA State Department of Ecology to further the goals of the Memorandum of Understanding, (Reclamation Agreement No: R15MU13704, USFS Agreement No. 15-MU-11061700-32) related to the development and implementation of bull trout restoration and enhancement actions as a part of the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan; and

WHEREAS: KCT is working directly with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to further recovery goals for the Mid-Columbia Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout Recovery Plan (September, 2015); and

WHEREAS: KCT is partnering with the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, Habitat Subcommittee, to further the goals of the Bull Trout 10 Year Plan (2023-2033).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of the Kittitas Conservation Trust authorizes the commitment of the organization to the financial and legal obligations associated with receipt of financial assistance award from the US Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023; Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00089.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Executive Director, Mitchell Long, will be the official with legal authority to enter into an agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Kittitas Conservation Trust supports the application submission.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That Kittitas Conservation Trust will work with the US Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of Kittitas Conservation Trust on March 9th, 2023, during the regular KCT Board Meeting.

Jeff Tayer, Board President, WDFW



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David Blodgett, Board Secretary, YN

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Tucker Stevens, Board Treasurer, Suncadia

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# APPENDIX A

## Letters of Partnership and Support

### Letters of Partnership for Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3

1. Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (Collaboration with Tribal, State and Irrigation District Partners)
2. Yakama Nation (Tribal)
3. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (State)

### Letters of Support for Gold Creek Restoration

\*\*Please note that these letters of support were submitted for recent USFWS funding opportunities. Due to the recent influx of Federal funding opportunities, new letters were not requested.

1. USFWS Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
2. USFWS Mid-Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
3. State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
4. Okanogan- Wenatchee National Forest
5. Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners
6. Forterra
7. Washington State Department of Transportation
8. Kittitas Reclamation District
9. Trout Unlimited
10. Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
11. Conservation Northwest
12. Washington Water Trust
13. Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program
14. Mountains to Sound Greenway
15. Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
16. The Nature Conservancy





# *This River Runs Forever* Yakima Basin Integrated Plan

Urban Eberhart  
*Kittitas Reclamation District*

Commissioner Cory Wright  
*Kittitas County*

Commissioner Amanda McKinney  
*Yakima County*

Brandon Parsons  
*American Rivers*

Lisa Pelly  
*Trout Unlimited*

Phil Rigdon  
*Yakama Nation*

Scott Revell  
*Roza Irrigation District*

Mike Livingston  
*Washington Department of Fish  
and Wildlife*

Tom Tebb  
*Washington State Department of  
Ecology*

March 20, 2023

To: Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources  
Projects for Fiscal Year 2023 Reviewers

## **Re: Support Letter for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Gold Creek Restoration Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation Proposal**

Dear Reviewers,

As members of the Implementation Committee of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (Integrated Plan), we are writing to express our strong support and partnership for the Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT's) proposal under the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023. We agree to the submittal and content of the application, and we will be active participants in the technical design review, public outreach, and post-implementation monitoring of the project.

This project is a critical component of the habitat protection and enhancement element and bull trout priority identified in the Integrated Plan. The Integrated Plan is a unique integrated water resource management effort supported by a coalition of 23 members, including conservation groups, agricultural interests, irrigators, and local, state, and federal agencies. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Yakama Nation are leading plan implementation through partnership with these and other organizations.

Today, Gold Creek, considered the headwaters of the Yakima River, is home to one of just four remaining populations of bull trout in the Upper Yakima River Basin. The Gold Creek Restoration project is an important step towards the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production, including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years, there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the

*"Restoring the natural health and economy in the Yakima Basin."*



Snoqualmie area of Washington State. The Gold Creek Restoration project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency and corridors for movement, especially during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has performed extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, including the Yakama Nation and local communities, to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. It is through these partnerships that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve habitat function for both wildlife and people. This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Thank you for considering the Gold Creek Restoration Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation project for funding under the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023.

Sincerely,



Urban Eberhart  
Kittitas Reclamation District



Cory Wright  
Kittitas County



Amanda McKinney  
Yakima County



Brandon Parsons  
American Rivers



Lisa Pelly  
Trout Unlimited



Phil Rigdon  
Yakama Nation



Scott Revell  
Roza Irrigation District



Mike Livingston  
WDFW



Tom Tebb  
WA State Dept. of Ecology

*“Restoring the natural health and economy in the Yakima Basin.”*



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

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March 24, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects  
Fiscal 2023 Reviewers

Dear Reviewers:

The Yakama Nation has partnered with the Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT) on their Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation Project proposal under the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023. This project is a critical component of restoration for bull trout in Gold Creek. We agree to the submittal and content of the application and have been and will be active participants in this project. Yakama Nation is currently a cooperating entity for the NEPA process and leads the annual Juvenile bull trout rescue and rear program. We will also be actively participating in the technical design review and post-implementation monitoring of the project.

Today, Gold Creek is home to one of just four remaining populations of bull trout in the Upper Yakima River Basin. The Gold Creek Restoration project is a necessary step towards the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production, including habitat degradation and dewatering. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

The Yakama Nation has a vested interest in restoring ecological function to Gold Creek water. We are working with a diverse group of partners and stakeholders to rescue bull trout that have become isolated in small pools within the dewatering section of Gold Creek. Some fish are moved to areas with perennial streamflows, while a subset of these fish are transported to a hatchery setting. These fish are then reared in the hatchery until they have a higher likelihood of survival, at which time they are released back into their natal stream. The Yakama Nation is committed to helping this genetically distinct population of bull trout that is at severe risk of becoming extirpated due to its critically low numbers.

Gold Creek is a headwaters tributary to the Upper Yakima River. It needs to be viewed in this manner, and not simply as a tributary to Keechelus Reservoir. We hope that the Bureau of Reclamation recognizes the Gold Creek Valley Restoration as an integral piece to the larger restoration of the Yakima headwaters and even larger Yakima Basin. It is our duty to make systems like Gold Creek more resilient

for all of our fish and wildlife species, to give them the best chance of survival in the face of a changing climate.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has performed extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. It is through these partnerships that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve over habitat function for both wildlife and people. This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Thank you for considering the Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation project for funding under the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023.

Sincerely,



Philip Rigdon, Superintendent  
Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720  
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

March 23, 2023

To: WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023 Reviewers

**Re: Letter of Partnership for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Gold Creek Restoration  
Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation Proposal**

Dear Reviewers,

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has partnered with the Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT) on their Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation Project proposal under the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023. This project is a critical component of restoration for bull trout in Gold Creek, a tributary of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Keechelus Reservoir in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. We agree to the submittal and content of the application and are an active participant in this project. WDFW is a cooperating entity for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and is the lead entity on the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review for the Gold Creek Restoration Project. We have also been monitoring the population of bull trout in Gold Creek for the last 30+ years and will continue monitoring post-project implementation. We will also be actively participating in the technical design review.

This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering, stranding, and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Gold Creek Watershed. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on the Gold Creek corridor. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency and corridors for movement, especially the uncertainty associated with climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has conducted extensive data collection, assessment, and design on Gold Creek by working with a diversity of partners including the Yakama Nation, and local, state, and federal entities to ensure restoration actions identified for

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects Program  
March 23, 2023  
Page 2

implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives in a timely manner. It is through these partnerships that we ensure that the proposed large-scale restoration efforts will benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve habitat function for both wildlife and people.

Thank you for considering the Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation project for funding under the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Livingston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "L".

Mike Livingston  
WDFW - Region 3, South-Central Washington, Director



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office  
215 Melody Lane, Suite 103  
Wenatchee, Washington 98801



In Reply Refer to:  
**FWS/R1/2023-0003884**

Mitch Long  
Kittitas Conservation Trust, Executive Director  
120 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 207  
Roslyn, Washington 98941-0428

Dear Mr. Long:

**Subject:** Letter of Support for the Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding opportunities (BIL National Fish Passage Program and Recovery Challenge) for the Gold Creek Restoration Project

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (Service) provide our support for the Gold Creek Restoration Project. This project supports bull trout recovery efforts by directly addressing limiting factors that have been well documented by experts in the Yakima Basin. It proposes reach-scale instream and floodplain restoration actions, such as increasing large woody debris, building stream complexity, and reintroducing flood flows to the floodplain to improve water storage and benefit riparian health. Proposed groundwater hydrology restoration specifically addresses dewatering of bull trout habitat in Gold Creek caused decades ago when deep ponds were excavated to build Interstate 90. This project also benefits other native aquatic species and terrestrial wildlife habitat connectivity, complementing other recovery work the Service and partners have supported in Gold Creek recently. The combination of these actions reduces threats to species and improve habitat across boundaries, on National Forest and private land.

Bull trout were listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1998, and Gold Creek was designated as critical habitat in 2010, providing the entirety of spawning and rearing habitat used by bull trout in Keechelus Reservoir. The Gold Creek local population is the farthest upstream population of bull trout in the Upper Yakima Basin. It is genetically unique, and its persistence will be key to restoring bull trout in the Yakima core area. Adult bull trout spawn, and their offspring rear, in Gold Creek in the proposed project area, upstream of the Forest Service Road 4832 bridge. After several years of rearing in and above the project area, fish eventually move downstream to Keechelus Reservoir to feed and overwinter.

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### PACIFIC REGION 1

IDAHO, OREGON\*, WASHINGTON,  
AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

\*PARTIAL

Though a relative stronghold in the Upper Yakima Basin, Gold Creek bull trout persist at perilously low abundance, likely below 50 spawning adults, and well below thresholds needed to maintain resiliency to stochastic events or maintain genetic diversity over time. Much of this is due to interruptions to annual spawning migrations between habitat in Gold Creek and the reservoir, caused by season de-watering. These interruptions reduce the population's spawning success rate, reduce recruitment of new population members, and reduce survival of all life-stages via stranding, increased predation, and poaching as the stream dries out.

Management guidance supports the restoration actions proposed. The Service's 2015 final **Bull Trout Recovery Plan** and the **Yakima Basin Bull Trout Action Plan** (updated in 2017) identify the need for stream restoration to maintain and recover the Gold Creek local population of bull trout. This project includes specific components to address several "Level 1, 2, and 3" priority recovery actions identified in the Recovery Plan, such as connecting spawning and rearing areas to forage, migration, and overwintering habitats, improving passage and habitat quality, and reducing impacts from existing legacy impacts from past forest management (i.e., Recovery Actions #1.2.6, 1.2.9, and 2.1.2).

The Gold Creek valley is important to wildlife species as well, serving as a critical migration corridor, linking the Alpine Lakes Wilderness to the north with the Norse Peak and William O. Douglas Wilderness areas to the south. Our office supported the Interstate 90 wildlife habitat connectivity structures near the mouth of Gold Creek, which many wildlife species have been utilizing. We also provided millions of dollars in funding and assistance to improve connectivity through land exchanges (e.g., Forterra, USFS, etc.) with our ESA Section 6 Habitat Conservation Planning Program.

This project capitalizes on existing partnerships of public and private entities to promote habitat restoration in the Gold Creek watershed. Positive partnerships within our own Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, the Washington State Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Kittitas Conservation Trust, the Yakima Basin Bull Trout Working Group, the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service), Conservation Northwest, and others, are essential in restoring wildlife connectivity and bull trout populations and habitat. These entities have an impressive record of conservation success, both in upper Yakima tributaries and across the Yakima Basin. In addition, this project is compatible with, and part of, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan planning efforts focused on water resources and involving many of these same partners.

Our office continues to work in partnership towards whole watershed restoration in the Gold Creek Valley. Restoration components in this project complement an action we recently supported with the Forest Service – completion of ESA consultation for replacement of the Forest Service Road 4832 bridge, near the mouth of Gold Creek. We also recently provided \$25,000 of statewide Recovery Funds to the Kittitas Conservation Trust to develop 3-d hydraulic models and Gold Creek Pond restoration alternatives. These analyses and technical support to our partners benefited the final development plans for the Gold Creek Restoration, increasing its probability of success.

We support this opportunity to implement restoration actions that are critically needed for bull trout and have been in the making for over 20 years. We expect this project's actions will continue to improve ecosystem function for key aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species in the Gold Creek watershed and upper Yakima Basin. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Sonja Kokos (360-280-0392 or [sonja\\_kokos@fws.gov](mailto:sonja_kokos@fws.gov)), Judy Neibauer (509-548-4734 or [judy\\_neibauer@fws.gov](mailto:judy_neibauer@fws.gov)), or Michael Humling (509-423-0533 or [michael\\_humling@fws.gov](mailto:michael_humling@fws.gov)).

Sincerely,

*For* Brad Thompson, State Supervisor  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

cc:

USFWS, Leavenworth, WA (K. Terrell)

USFWS, Leavenworth, WA (K. Pfannenstein)

USFS, Cle Elum, WA (P. Garvy Darda)

USFS, Wenatchee, WA (D. Topolewski)

USFS, Wenatchee, WA (G. Shull)

WDFW, Ellensburg, WA (W. Meyer)

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Yakima, (A. Conley)





## United States Department of the Interior

Mid-Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
Leavenworth Fisheries Complex  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
7501 Icicle Road  
Leavenworth, Washington 98826



Mitch Long  
Executive Director  
Kittitas Conservation Trust  
120 W. Pennsylvania Ave. Suite 207  
Roslyn, WA 98941

RE: Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Long,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Mid-Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (MCFWCO) fully supports Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) Gold Creek Restoration Project. The MCFWCO has partnered with KCT for over 20 years implementing habitat restoration projects in the Upper Yakima Basin. The KCT consistently develops and implements restoration projects that provide significant ecological benefits and are of high value to native fish and aquatic species in the Yakima River subbasin. Restoration efforts such as the Gold Creek Restoration Project will have substantial positive impacts on local Bull Trout populations which are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

For over 10 years, KCT has completed extensive data collection, assessments, and designs for the Gold Creek Restoration Project by collaborating with a diversity of partners, including Yakama Nation, the Service, Forest Service, and local communities, to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. The MCFWCO has been a part of the Gold Creek Restoration Project since its inception in 2012. We have provided financial assistance during the assessment and design phases and have been actively providing technical assistance during the design review. After a long and arduous process, the Gold Creek Restoration Project is moving to the implementation phase.

The Gold Creek Restoration Project directly aligns with USFWS's mission: "Working with other to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people." Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. It is essential that these

habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for climate and ecological resiliency and facilitate migratory corridors, especially during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change. 2

It is our understanding that the restoration actions associated with this project may need to be phased due to the total cost for implementation (currently estimated to be \$25M). Funding opportunities such as the Recovery Challenge and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill-National Fish Passage are important building blocks to move this project forward. Funding of this restoration project will help to restore a critical ecosystem that support the Gold Creek Bull Trout population. We appreciate your dedication to helping to protect and restore Bull Trout habitat in the Upper Yakima Basin.

Sincerely,

William Gale, Project Leader

Natural Resources Building  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

1111 Washington St. S.E.  
Olympia, WA 98501



(360) 902-3000  
TTY: (800) 833-6388

E-mail: [Info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:Info@rco.wa.gov)  
Web site: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

October 19, 2022

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (\$10M Bipartisan Infrastructure Law & \$1.7M Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear Grant Application Evaluators,

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) encourage you to fully fund Kittitas Conservation Trust's grant applications totaling \$11.7M for Gold Creek Restoration. The goals of the project are to restore natural flow and improve instream habitat to recover ESA listed bull trout in Gold Creek, located in the upper Yakima River watershed near Snoqualmie Pass (off of I-90 in Kittitas County). This project presents an opportunity to address the factors limiting native fish production including seasonal dewatering and habitat degradation. This project seeks to address far reaching development and resource extraction impacts over the last century and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and function of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years, there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in this area of Washington State. This project will build on those investments and provide benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. Kittitas Conservation Trust and partners are designing the restoration project to restore self-sustaining natural habitat forming riverine and floodplain processes essential for resiliency, especially as we face a future with climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has collected extensive data, completed a restoration alternatives assessment, and advanced design by working with a diversity of partners, Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives.

RCO has been a strong supporter of the project to date, having awarded the following grants:

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant (2012) in the amount of \$167,250 for Gold Creek Habitat Assessment + Conceptual Design (Project 12-1306)



- Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant (2015) in the amount of \$197,891 for Gold Creek Instream Habitat Design (Project 15-1153)

We now administer a Yakima Basin Integrated Plan grant (18-1426) in the amount of \$1,241,981 on behalf of Department of Ecology for Gold Creek Valley Design and Permitting. With preliminary designs nearly complete and final designs expected in the spring of 2023, the time is right to construct this restoration project. These infrastructure grants are key to being able to implement large-scale restoration efforts like this to recover bull trout and improve overall habitat function for both wildlife and people.

With your support, Kittitas Conservation Trust will be able to construct the restoration project in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that bull trout depend on.

Sincerely,



Megan Duffy  
Director  
Recreation and Conservation Office



Erik Neatherlin  
Director  
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

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**Date:** October 26, 2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for the Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear Reviewer:

I am writing to express our support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration Project. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest endorses this project as an important step for the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. It represents a significant opportunity to address limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts from development and resource extraction which have accumulated over the last century and will provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and other partners have made significant investments over the last 20 years to connect habitats and provide migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. This project will build on these investments and provide great benefits to all species that depend on river corridors in the area. It is essential that these habitats are resilient and provide corridors for movement, especially under projected climate change scenarios.

KCT has been working in the Gold Creek area for over 10 years, collecting extensive data, assessing conditions, and developing designs by working with diverse partners, the Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions meet multiple goals and objectives. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has engaged in these efforts because of our responsibility to manage habitat for native species and our belief that successful partnerships and community engagement result in the best outcomes for the natural systems we steward. To date, the Forest has provided over \$150,000 to fund personnel working on project designs and environmental planning.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is pleased to express our support for this important project and for the dedicated work of KCT. Their commitment to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, open space, and recreational assets in the upper Yakima River Basin, combined with their consistent emphasis on collaboration, strengthens partnerships and continues to improve conditions for natural resources. It is through partnerships such as this that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts in the Gold Creek Valley that recover bull trout and improve habitat function for both wildlife and people. Thank you for considering the Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project for funding under the BIL and Recovery Challenge program.

Sincerely,

**JOSEPH RAUSCH** Digitally signed by JOSEPH RAUSCH  
Date: 2022.10.26 10:13:52 -07'00'

JOSEPH RAUSCH  
District Ranger  
Cle Elum Ranger District





Kittitas County, Washington  
**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**

District One  
Cory Wright

District Two  
Laura Osiadacz

District Three  
Brett Wachsmith

October 24, 2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

To U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Kittitas County wants to provide our support of Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency and corridors for movement, especially during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. Kittitas County has engaged in these efforts both because of the fish and wildlife benefits from instream flow restoration, but also because of Kittitas Conservation Trusts work with adjacent landowners to look for opportunities to also address existing flood hazards. It is through these partnerships that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve over habitat function for both wildlife and people.

This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Sincerely,



---

Laura Osiadacz, Chairman



---

Cory Wright, Vice-Chairman



---

Brett Wachsmith, Commissioner

# FORTERRA

LAND FOR GOOD

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October 18, 2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Forterra NW

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear Mitch Long,

Forterra NW would like to provide our enthusiastic support of Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction to provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in Washington State's Central Cascades. This project will build on those investments and will provide direct benefits to all species who depend on river corridors in the area. It is essential that these habitats function in a natural state to provide ecological resiliency and connectivity, especially given the uncertain impacts of climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. Forterra NW has worked to advance conservation in the region to support wildlife habitat, and greatly supports the restoration of the critical natural resources at Gold Creek. It is through these partnerships that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve habitat function for both wildlife and people. This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Michael Storace*

4404767B9690453...

Michael Storace

Forestland Program Manager

Forterra NW





**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Transportation Building  
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300  
360-705-7000  
TTY: 1-800-833-6388  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

October 21, 2022

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mid-Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office  
7501 Icicle Road  
Leavenworth, WA 98826

RE: USFWS Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) & Recovery Challenge Grant  
Application - Kittitas Conservation Trust - Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear Grant Evaluators:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is pleased to support the Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration project.

This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will complement, the improvements made to this segment of Interstate 90, as part of the *I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East* (I-90 SPE) project.

WSDOT replaced the existing Gold Creek Bridges that constrained Gold Creek with two new bridges that connect Gold Creek to Lake Keechelus Reservoir. The Gold Creek Restoration project is the next step in large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve the habitat function for both wildlife and people.

We look forward to continuing our work with KCT and other partners on this important coordinated effort. Please give their application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Millar'.

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP  
Secretary of Transportation



## Kittitas Reclamation District

P.O. Box 276

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: (509) 925-6158 Fax: (509) 925-7425

October 20, 2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
From: Kittitas Reclamation District

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) is providing this letter of support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. It represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. It will address the significant negative impacts that have occurred over the last century from development and resource extraction and will provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency and create corridors for movement, especially during these uncertain times of climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, including the Yakama Nation and local communities, to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. It is through collaboration and partnerships that we can achieve large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve habitat functions that benefit fish, wildlife, and society.

This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

The KRD supports this important climate resiliency project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Urban Eberhart".

Urban Eberhart  
Secretary Manager  
Kittitas Reclamation District



October 18, 2022

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
7501 Icicle Road  
Leavenworth, WA 98826

*Re: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL-NFPP & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project*

Dear USFWS,

Trout Unlimited supports the Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) Gold Creek Restoration application for funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's BIL-NFPP and Recovery Challenge grant. Bull trout in Gold Creek face extirpation threats from stream dewatering and habitat degradation. KCT's project seeks to reduce and help eliminate the threats by restoring degraded stream and floodplain habitat. This project will significantly advance recovery of upper Yakima Basin Bull trout.

Bull trout historically thrived in this area and were a culturally and ecologically significant fish. Land use practices contributed to the significant reduction in the local populations and climate change will further threaten the species if no action is taken. Protecting and restoring Bull trout and their habitats is a priority for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and vital to the Yakima Basin's overall health.

For over 10 years, the Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design for Gold Creek restoration by working with a diversity of partners. Through these partnerships, Yakima Basin projects are developed with strong support and designed to realize environmental and cultural benefits.

Trout Unlimited encourages you to fund KCT's Gold Creek restoration project and help recover Bull trout. Please feel free to contact me at [lisa.pelly@tu.org](mailto:lisa.pelly@tu.org) or 509-630-0467 with any questions.

Thank you,

Lisa Pelly, director

---

***Washington Water Project***

103 Palouse, Suite 14, Wenatchee, WA 98801; 115 S. Glover Street, Twisp, WA 98856;  
119 W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 201, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
(509) 888-0970 • Fax: (509) 888-4352 • [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)



*Making a difference for salmon*

---

October 25, 2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Board of Directors reviewed the Gold Creek Restoration Project in 2019 and supports the work proposed by the Kittitas Conservation Trust. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project will address limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. This project will build on those investments and provide benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency and corridors for movement, especially during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. Mid-Columbia Fisheries has long been committed to bull trout protection and recovery. Each summer and fall, our Bull Trout Task Force educates river users, removes recreational rock dams, and assists the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife with population surveys. We support and participate in restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve over habitat function for fish, wildlife and people.

This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Margaret Neuman".

Margaret Neuman  
Executive Director



**Officers**  
*Board President*  
*Board Vice President*  
*Board Secretary*  
*Board Treasurer*  
*Executive Director*

Joseph Joy  
Andy Held  
Patricia Laughman  
Bruce Jacobsen  
Mitch Friedman

October 21, 2022

Attn: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Review Committee  
Re: Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust funding application (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear Committee Members:

Conservation Northwest here states support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) proposal for the Gold Creek Restoration. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. It represents a great opportunity to address limiting factors to native fish production, including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts caused over the past century by development and resource extraction and will provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 25 years, Conservation Northwest has been involved in many of the significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie Pass area. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species that depend on the area and its river corridors. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide resiliency and corridors for movement, especially during this time of unprecedented climate change.

For over ten years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with diverse partners, including Yakama Nation and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives.

Conservation Northwest has engaged in these efforts as they are core to our mission to protect, connect and restore wildlife and critical wildlife habitat like the project footprint of the Gold Creek Restoration Project. Through these partnerships we realize large-scale restoration benefits like recovery of bull trout and improvement of habitat function for wildlife and people.

This funding will provide a unique opportunity to implement restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Sincerely,

Mitch Friedman  
Executive Director





**Seattle Office**

1500 Westlake Ave N,  
Suite 202  
Seattle, WA 98109

P 206.675.1585

**Ellensburg Office**

103 East 4th Ave,  
Suite 203  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

P 509.925.5600

Date: 10/19/2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Washington Water Trust

**RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project**

Dear Application Review Team,

Washington Water Trust (WWT) wants to provide our support of Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency and corridors for movement, especially during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives.

WWT is committed to the restoration of instream flows in critical fish bearing streams and has worked collaboratively for over 20 years in the Yakima Basin to restore instream flows. The success of restoration in the Yakima Basin is a result of the partnerships and collaboration at all scales to address the pressing environmental issues of the basin. KCT's Gold Creek Restoration is a strong example of a large-scale collaborative project to benefit the recovery of bull trout and to improve the habitat function for both wildlife and people that WWT enthusiastically supports. This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Sincerely,



James Kraft  
Executive Director



Date: October 19, 2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding  
(BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

Gentlemen:

The Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP) wants to provide our support of Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout. This project represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on river corridors and the area. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency and corridors for movement, especially during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change.

For over 10 years, Kittitas Conservation Trust has done extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. YTAHP has engaged in these efforts because the Kittitas Conservation Trust is one of the primary YTAHP Core team partners, and we share a common goal of restoring fish access and habitat on the Yakima River and its tributaries. It is through these partnerships that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve overall habitat function for both wildlife and people.

This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Signed,



Brian D. Miller  
YTAHP Program Manager





President  
Alison Washburn (\*), Store Manager, REI Co-op

Vice President  
Josh M. Lipsky (\*), Partner, Cascadia Law Group PLLC

Immediate Past President  
Doug McClelland (\*), Former Assistant Region Manager  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Secretary  
Sharon Linton (\*), Marketing Consultant, SL Connects

Treasurer, Operations Committee Chair  
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Fundraising Committee Chair  
Ken Krivanec (\*), President, Tri Pointe Homes

Board Engagement Committee Chair  
Marie Quasius(\*), Senior Port Counsel, Port of Seattle

Executive Director  
Jon Hoekstra (\*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

October 31, 2022

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Laurie Benson (X), South Puget Sound Assistant Region  
Manager for Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions, WA Dept.  
of Natural Resources  
Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, WA State Dept. of  
Natural Resources  
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Dow Constantine (X), King County Executive  
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The Wilderness Society  
Deloa Dalby, Savor Snoqualmie Valley Leadership Team;  
The Mountaineers Foothills Branch  
Diana Dupuis (X), Director,  
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission  
Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cyclist,  
Karl Forsgaard, Manager of Implementations, Thomson Reuters;  
Alpine Lakes Protection Society  
Kurt Fraese (\*), Fraese and Associates, LLC  
Hilary Franz (X), Commissioner of Public Lands, WA State Dept. of  
Natural Resources  
Lindsay Frickle, Advancement Director,  
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
Jen Gradisher, Trail Program Director, Washington Trails Association  
Matt Grimm, Investment Professional, BMGI  
Laura Hoffman, Owner, Copper Ridge Farm; Microsoft  
Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners  
Warren Jimenez (X), Director, King County Parks  
Cora Johnson (\*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers, Inc  
Andrew Kenefick, Retired, Senior Legal Counsel, Waste Management  
of Washington, Inc  
Melanie Kitzan, Associate General Counsel, Alpine Immune Sciences  
Janet Knox, President & Principal Geochemist,  
Pacific Groundwater Group  
Ken Konigsmark, Issaquah Alps Trails Club  
Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance  
Danny Levine, Retired, President, NationAd Communications  
Elizabeth Lunney (\*), Former Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust  
Interim Executive Director  
Bob Manelski, Retired, Senior Director, 787 Program, Boeing  
Ben Mayer, Associate, K&L Gates  
Dr. Roberta McFarland, Outdoor Schools Washington  
Roger Millar (X), Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT  
Chad Nesland, Director, Microsoft Procurement, Microsoft  
Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director,  
American Whitewater  
David Patton, Northwest Area Director, The Trust for Public Land  
Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates  
Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club,  
Washington State Chapter  
Janet Ray, Retired, Asst VP, Corporate Affairs and Publishing,  
AAA Washington  
Jim Reinhardtsen (\*), President, Laird Norton Properties  
Vik Sahney, Board VP, E&I Committee Chair, The Mountaineers  
Meredith Shank, Social Venture Partners  
Steve Shesteg, Director, Environmental Sustainability,  
The Boeing Company  
Jill Simmons, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association  
Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP  
David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President CH2M HILL  
Chris Thomas, Vice President, Head of Public Affairs, Divert, Inc.  
Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington  
Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle  
Adam Torem, Industrial Insurance Appeals Judge,  
Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals  
Jody Weil (X), Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest  
(\* Executive Committee Member  
(X) Ex-Officio (non-voting) Director

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Organization/person who is supporting

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS  
funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to express our strong support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration. This project is an important step to the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout, and represents a great opportunity to address limiting factors to native fish production, including dewatering and habitat degradation. It is our opinion that KCT's proposal will address significant impacts over the last century from development and resource extraction, and create opportunities to restore natural flows and functions of this critical bull trout tributary.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area convenes and leads a broad coalition of conservation groups, community leaders, local governments, agencies, and businesses. We work to conserve and enhance the landscape from Seattle to Central Washington, and to engage people as stewards of these lands and waters. We strive to support our partners in these endeavors, and recognize KCT's extensive data collection, assessment, and design efforts. They have worked hand in hand with an array of partners, the Yakama Nation, and local communities to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives, including those prioritized by the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. It is through these partnerships that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve habitat function for both wildlife and people.

It is essential that Gold Creek is restored to its natural functions, in order to provide resiliency and corridors for species movement, especially during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change. RCO funding will enable KCT and their partners to implement timely restoration actions to help revive the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Sincerely,

Nicky Pasi, Kittitas Programs Manager





**Date:** October 26, 2022

**To:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**From:** Alex Conley, Yakima Basin fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

**RE: Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for the Gold Creek Restoration Project**

I write on behalf of the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (the Board). The Board was created by 21 county and city governments and the Yakama Nation to promote the recovery of at-risk fish and wildlife species in the Yakima Basin. One of our primary goals is to support recovery of steelhead and bull trout, so that these species can be removed from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) threatened species list.

The remaining bull trout populations in the Upper Yakima are all at risk of extirpation, which threatens our ability to recovery this federally-listed species. In 2012, the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board brought local and regional partners together to complete the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan (BTAP). This plan identifies what actions need to be done to recover bull trout in the Yakima Basin. The BTAP identifies the restoration of habitat and flow in Gold Creek as one of the highest priority actions for bull trout in the Yakima Basin. For this reason, we are excited to see Kittitas Conservation Trust's application for the Gold Creek Restoration which will directly implement BTAP priority actions in Gold Creek. Board staff have actively participated in Gold Creek working groups, data collection and project design review, and commend KCT for its efforts to build a broad partnership focused on recovering bull trout and improving wildlife connectivity in the Gold Creek Valley. KCT's proposed Gold Creek Restoration Project offers a unique opportunity to address the primary limiting factor for this at-risk bull trout population and build upon extensive investments in wildlife connectivity in the Snoqualmie Pass/I-90 corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Conley".

Alex Conley  
Executive Director

Date: November 8, 2022

To: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: The Nature Conservancy in Washington

RE: Letter of Support for Kittitas Conservation Trust's Application to USFWS funding (BIL & Recovery Challenge) for Gold Creek Restoration Project

Dear Habitat Restoration and Conservation Program,

The Nature Conservancy supports the Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT) application for the Gold Creek Restoration. With responsibility for the management over 35,000 acres within the Central Cascades Forest, and our deep involvement in dry forest health issues, the Conservancy is particularly aware of the need to rebuild habitat function and connectivity within both forest and freshwater ecosystems across the Yakima River basin. This project will take an important step toward the recovery of Gold Creek bull trout and represents a great opportunity to address the limiting factors to native fish production including dewatering and habitat degradation. The project will address significant impacts from development and resource extraction over the last century and provide the best opportunity to restore natural flows and functions within this critical bull trout tributary.

Over the last 20 years there have been significant investments in connecting habitats and providing migratory corridors for fish and wildlife in the Snoqualmie area of Washington State; in fact, this was a driver for the Conservancy's investment in the Central Cascades Forest. This project will build on those investments and provide great benefits to all species who depend on river corridors in the area. It is essential that these habitats are functioning in a natural state to provide for resiliency during these uncertain times of unprecedented climate change.

For over 10 years, KCT has completed extensive data collection, assessment, and design by working with a diversity of partners, including the Yakama Nation and local communities, to ensure restoration actions identified for implementation will meet multiple goals and objectives. The Conservancy has engaged in these efforts because of our interest in large scale forest and freshwater conservation and management, and our strong support for locally led solutions. It is through these partnerships that we can realize large-scale restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of bull trout and improve habitat function for both wildlife and people.

This funding will provide a unique opportunity to allow for the implementation of restoration actions in a timely manner and help to bring back the critical ecosystems that support this bull trout population.

Sincerely,

**David N.  
Rolph**

David Rolph

Digitally signed by  
David N. Rolph  
Date: 2022.11.08  
16:57:46 -08'00'

Director of Land Conservation,  
The Nature Conservancy in Washington



March 21, 2023

Subject: Required Statements for Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation

Dear Environmental Water Resources Projects for FY2023 Reviewers

Below is a complete list of all Required Statements regarding our project titled Gold Creek Restoration, Phase 2: RM 2-3 Implementation

**Overlap/Duplication Statement**

There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel.

**Conflict of Interest Statement**

KCT has no conflicts of interest.

**Indirect Cost Statement**

We are a 501.c.3 non-profit that will charge all costs directly.

**A-133 Single Audit**

Kittitas Conservation Trust did not expend \$750,000.00 or more in Federal Funds during our most recently closed fiscal year and is therefore not required to submit an A-133 audit to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

If you have any other questions or concerns with the above statements, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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

Mitchell Long  
Executive Director

[mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org](mailto:mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org)