PROJECT: 26-1056 PLAN, WALLA WALLA RIVER BRIDGE TO BRIDGE PHASE 4 DESIGN

Sponsor: Tri-State Steelheaders Inc Program: Salmon State Projects Status: Preapplication

Parties to the Agreement

PRIMARY SPONSOR

Tri-State Steelheaders Inc
Address PO Box 1375
City Walla Walla **State** WA **Zip** 99362
Org Type Non-Gov-Reg Fisheries Enhance Group
Vendor # SWV0015388-00
UBI 601169392
Date Org created
Org Notes

link to Organization profile
☐ Org data updated

SECONDARY SPONSORS

No records to display

MANAGING AGENCY

Recreation and Conservation Office

LEAD ENTITY

Snake River Salmon Rec Bd LE

QUESTIONS

#1: List project partners and their role and contribution to the project.

External Systems

SPONSOR ASSIGNED INFO

Sponsor-Assigned Project Number

Sponsor-Assigned Regions

LINK AN EXISTING SRP PROJECT

Unlink
26-1056, Walla Walla River B2B Phase 4 DES, Salmon St

Project Application Report - 26-1056

Project Contacts

Contact Name Primary Org	Project Role	Work Phone	Work Email
Kat Moore Rec. and Conserv. Office	Project Manager	(360) 867-8426	kathryn.moore@rco.wa.gov
Brian Burns Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	Project Contact	(509) 529-3543	brian.burns@tristatesteelheaders.com
Ali Fitzgerald Snake River Salmon Rec Bd LE	Lead Entity Contact	(509) 382-4115	ali@snakeriverboard.org

Worksites & Properties

#	Worksite Name
#1	Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 Design

Planning	Property Name
	Mike Buckley

Worksite Map & Description

Worksite #1: Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 Design

WORKSITE ADDRESS

Street Address Lowden Gardena Rd
City, State, Zip Walla Walla WA 99362

Worksite Details

Worksite #1: Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 Design

SITE ACCESS DIRECTIONS

From Lowden, head west on Highway 12. Turn south onto Lowden-Gardena Rd. The project site is accessed from the first bridge you come to.

TARGETED ESU SPECIES

Species by ESU	Egg Present	Juvenile Present	Adult Present	Population Trend
Chinook-Middle Columbia River Spring, Not Warranted	✓	✓	✓	
Steelhead-Middle Columbia River, Walla Walla River, Threatened	✓	✓	✓	

Reference or source used

TARGETED NON-ESU SPECIES

Species by Non-ESU	Notes
Bull Trout	
Lamprey	
Rainbow	

Questions

#1: Give street address or road name and mile post for this worksite if available.

Lowden Gardena Rd, mile marker 1

Project Location

RELATED PROJECTS

Project Application Report - 26-1056

Projects in PRISM

PRISM Number	Project Name	Program Name	Current Status	Relationship Type	Notes
23-1030 P	Walla Walla River B2B Phase 4 Design	Salmon State Projects	Board Alternate	Copied From	
17-1267 R	Bridge to Bridge Restoration Phase 2-	Salmon State Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	
19-1497 P	Walla Walla B2B Phase 3 Design	Salmon State Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	Additional design work needed due to major changed conditions.
23-1029 R	Walla Walla River B2B Phase 3A Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	Active	Earlier Phase	
25-1024 R	Walla Walla River B2B Phase 3B Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	Board Funded	Current Phase	
14-1902 P	Bridge to Bridge Final Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	Final designs for remaining project reach below project 11-1588.
11-1588 R	Bridge to Bridge - Levee Removal	Salmon Federal Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	
10-1819 P	Bridge to Bridge Levee Final Design	Salmon Federal Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	Project area is the first half-mile at the upstream end of the Bridge to Bridge reach. Implemented in project 11-1588.
08-2028 P	Walla Walla River Bridge to Bridge Rest Design	Salmon Federal Projects	Closed Completed	Earlier Phase	Conceptual plan for entire Bridge to Bridge reach.

Related Project Notes

Questions

#1: Did this project originate from the Shore Friendly program?

No

#2: Project location. Describe the geographic location, water bodies or habitat types, and the location of the project in the watershed, i.e. nearshore, tributary, main-stem, off-channel, etc.

The proposed project is on the lower Walla Walla River main stem between McDonald Rd and Lowden Road. The project is about 25 miles upstream from the confluence with the Columbia River.

#3: How does this project fit within your regional recovery plan and/or local lead entity's strategy to restore or protect salmonid habitat? Cite section and page number.

This section of the Walla Walla River is identified by the Snake River Recovery Board as a priority restoration reach and major spawning area. CTUIR lower Walla Walla River Geomorphic Assessment and Actions Plan (2014) identifies the reach as priority for restoration. The
2008 Fish Accords (Three Treaty Tribes-Action Agencies 2008), the Lower Walla Walla River
was identified as a top priority in the CTUIR Independent Science Review Panel proposal (2013).

#4: Is this project part of a larger overall project?

Yes

#4a: How does this project fit into the sequencing of the larger project?

This project is the 4th and final design project in the Bridge to Bridge project. Phases 1, 2, and 3A have been completed. Phase 3B construction was funded in 2025 and will be implemented this year. This design phase is proposed now in order to minimize the time between implementation of 3B and 4.

#5: Is the project on State Owned Aquatic Lands? Please contact the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to make a determination. **Aquatic Districts and Managers**

No

Project Application Report - 26-1056

Property Details

Property: Mike Buckley (Worksite #1: Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 Design)

Planning

LANDOWNER

Name	Mike Buckley
Address	11537 W. Hwy 12
City	Walla Walla
State	WA Zip 99362
Type	Private

CONTROL & TENURE

Instrument Type	Landowner Agreement
Timing	Proposed
Term Length	Fixed # of years
# Yrs	10
Expiration Date	
Note	

Project Proposal

Project Description

Tri-State Steelheaders Inc. proposes to update the Phase IV restoration designs developed as a part of PRISM #14-1902 because high spring flows significantly changed instream conditions in this reach of the Walla Walla River. The design will complete the 4th and final phase of the project just upstream of Lowden Gardena Road.
The Bridge to Bridge Restoration Design completed in 2010 (PRISM #08-2028) developed preliminary plans to improve channel complexity, create off channel habitat, and encourage side channels in nearly two miles of the Walla Walla River near Lowden, and Touchet in Walla Wall County, WA. Final Design and Implementation was broken down to include these phases:
-Ph I (11-1588) restored the uppermost ~1/2 mile, downstream of McDonald road in 2013.
-Ph II (17-1267)) moved downstream to restore 0.6 mi in 2021.
- Ph III (19-1497) moved downstream, to design restoration along 0.52 rivermiles
The Bridge to Bridge section of the Walla Walla River is identified by The Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan as a priority restoration reach in the Walla Walla mainstem major spawning area. Adult and juvenile summer steelhead and spring Chinook use the project reach during their migrations and Bull Trout occur there seasonally. Other species of cultural value and state concern that utilize the project reach are Margined Sculpin, Leopard Dace, and River Lamprey.

Project Questions

#1: Problem statement. What are the problems your project seeks to address? Include the source and scale of each problem. Describe the site, reach, and watershed conditions. Describe how those conditions impact salmon populations. Include current and historic factors important to understand the problems.

The lower Walla Walla River, between McDonald Rd bridge and Lowden Rd Bridge, lacks aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat. Due to limited instream and off-channel habitat for anadromous fish, there has been documented increased mortality among out-migrating smolts in the lower Walla Walla River, with as many as 70 percent failing to reach McNary Dam, as stated in the Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan by CTUIR in 2014. The current conditions and sources of mortality in the lower Walla Walla River may hinder important salmonid overwinter rearing and overall recovery of fish species, as noted by CTUIR in 2014. The USFWS multi-year synthesis for the Walla Walla River (Schaller et al. 2014) suggests that because the lower river has degraded habitat conditions and bull trout migrate downstream out of the headwater area, small classes of migratory bull trout may be the most susceptible to mortality.

#2: Describe the limiting factors, and/or ecological concerns, and limiting life stages (by fish species) that your project expects to address.

According to the Lower Walla Walla River Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan by the CTUIR 2014, the lower Walla Walla River in the project reach is a low-gradient, primarily single-channel, straightened, and restricted from its historic flood plain. It also lacks riparian areas and complexity. The project reach is affected by specific physical and physiological limiting factors such as water quantity, quality, and temperature, as well as biological factors such as predation. These conditions particularly impact out-migrating juveniles for target species mid-Columbia Steelhead, limiting overwinter rearing habitat.

#3: **Project Goals.** What are the project goals? The goal of the project should be to solve identified problems by addressing the root causes. Then clearly state the desired future condition. Include which species and life stages will benefit from the outcome, and the time of year the benefits will be realized. **Example Goals and Objectives**

The overarching objective of this project is to improve and diversify the aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat while increasing flood plain connectivity and minimizing excessive terrace erosion within project reach. This will ultimately enhance the quantity, quality, and diversity of habitat for target species, especially for out-migrating juveniles and winter rearing.

#4: **Project Objectives.** What are the project objectives? Objectives support and refine biological goals, breaking them down into smaller steps. Objectives are specific, quantifiable actions the project will complete to achieve the stated goal. Each objective should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound). **Example Goals and Objectives**

Objective 1: Add large wood structures including bank rootwads and flow deflection jams and apex jams, providing increased spawning gravel bars, pool and cover for juveniles, and stream braiding.
Objective 2: Plant riparian species including willow, water birch, black cottonwood, and redosier dogwood. Plant grass species like basin wildrye, bluegrass, and snake river wheatgrass.
Objective 3: Minimize bank erosion along upper terraces with riparian plantings on targeted unstable banks.
Objective 4: Increase floodplain connectivity with excavation and enhancement with LWD of side channels to improve off channel winter rearing habitat.
Objective 5: To meet landowner expectations by replacing aging irrigation infrastructure (well pump and main line) at landowner's expense.

#5: **Scope of work and deliverables.** Provide a detailed description of each project task/element. With each task/element, identify who will be responsible for each, what the deliverables will be, and the schedule for completion.

This project will deliver final design of phase 4 of the bridge-to-bridge project. The Tri-State Steelheaders will be responsible for completion of design project. Including
Contracting engineering firm in beginning of 2026
Design review with stakeholder engagement through 2027
Cultural Resource Survey in summer 2027
Final design and basis for design report ready for construction January 2027.

#6: **Assumptions and Constraints.** What are the assumptions and physical constraints that could impact whether you achieve your objectives? Assumptions and constrains are external conditions that are not under the direct control of the project, but directly impact the outcome of the project. These may include ecological and geomorphic factors, land use constraints, public acceptance of the project, delays, or other factors. How will you address these issues if they arise?

The section of the Walla Walla River has been included in previous phases design and construction projects. We will build on the experience learned in those projects to complete this design project. There is a bridge in the down stream end of the project reach that will need to considered in design. Landowner has informed us of a irrigation pipe under the channel that could impact design.

#7: **Previous Lessons Learned.** How have lessons learned from completed projects or monitoring studies informed this project?

This will be 4th Bridge to Bridge final design, all utilizing the engineering team at GeoEngineers. Each of the construction project includes as-built report. This project will implement the a the same design goals and objectives that has been used in previous phases.

#8: **Project Alternatives.** Describe the alternatives considered and why the preferred was chosen.

The alternative analysis was created in bridge to bridge restoration design #08-2028. The process involved the identification of the project's goals and objectives. Several enhancement alternatives were developed to a conceptual level using similar assumptions and cost estimates to facilitate a reasonable side by side comparison. The alternative with the highest benefit-to-cost ratio as defined by the overriding project goals and input from stakeholders. The alternative which included the protection of terrace banks, creating off-channel habitat, realigning portions of the channel, and excavating off-channel habitat was chosen for it's preferred cost-to-benefit rating.

#9: How were stakeholders consulted in the development of this project? Identify the stakeholders, their concerns or feedback, and how those concerns were addressed.

CTUIR and WDFW have been consulted with during the development of this phase and previous phases. The current stakeholders are WWCCD, CTUIR, and WDFW will be engaged for design review and input.

#10: **Climate Change.** Does your project address or accommodate the anticipated effects of climate change?

Yes

#10a: How will your project be climate resilient given future conditions?

Climate change is increasing the likelihood of warmer air temperatures and more precipitation in the winter and reduced precipitation in the summer. This project provides stream complexity allowing for greater survivability in an increased range of conditions include flow and temperature.

#10b: How will your project increase habitat and species adaptability?

Upon implementation, by the installation of large woody debris in the project reach, in addition to riparian tree plantings, we hope increased shading and habitat will maintain cooler water temperatures for the benefit of cold-water fish species.

#11: **Project Team Experience.** Describe the project management team's experience managing this type of project. Describe other projects where they have successfully used a similar approach.

The sponsor began working on Walla Walla River Bridge to Bridge with the 08-2028 initial design for the first 2 projects in the reach, issued an additional design modification project (19-1497 P) to update designs for phase 3, and implemented phase 3A this previous summer. We are now currently managing the Phase 3B construction contract at this time, with construction slated for summer 2026.

#12: **Veteran Involvement.** Will veterans (including the veterans conservation corps) be involved in the project? If yes, please describe.

No

Planning Supplemental

#1: Is the project an assessment / inventory?
No

#2: Is your project a Barrier / Screening Diversion Inventory Project?
No

#3: Is this a fish passage design / screening design project?
No

#4: Will the project develop a design?
Yes

#4a: Will a licensed professional engineer design of the project?
Yes

#4b: Will you apply for permits as part of the project scope?
Yes

Planning Metrics

Worksite: Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 Design (#1)

Area Encompassed (acres) (B.0.b.1)	30.0
Miles of Stream and/or Shoreline Affected (B.0.b.2)	0.66

DESIGN FOR SALMON RESTORATION

Final design and permitting (B.1.b.11.a RCO)

Total cost for Final design and permitting	$182,500
Project Identified in a Plan or Watershed Assessment. (1221) (B.1.b.11.a)	Bridge to Bridge project is identified as a priority in the Walla Walla 2050 plan.Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (2021 Version). Snake River Salmon Recovery Region Provisional Work Plan. Dayton, WA.
Priority in Recovery Plan (1223) (B.1.b.11.b)	National Marine Fisheries Service, 2009, Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment ESA Recovery Plan, Portland, OR

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources

Total cost for Cultural resources	$10,000
Acres surveyed for cultural resources	30.00

Overall Project Metrics

COMPLETION DATE

Projected date of completion	08/31/2026

Planning Cost Estimates

Worksite #1: Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 Design

Category	Work Type	Estimated Cost	Note
Cultural Resources	Cultural resources	$10,000	
Design for Salmon restoration	Final design and permitting (B.1.b.11.a RCO)	$182,500	
	Subtotal:	$192,500	
	Total Estimate For Worksite:	$192,500	

Summary

Total Estimated Costs:	$192,500
Total Estimated Planning Costs:	$192,500

Cost Summary

	Estimated Cost	Project %	Admin/AA&E %
Planning Costs			
Planning	$192,500		
SUBTOTAL	$192,500	100.00 %	
Total Cost Estimate	$192,500	100.00 %	

Funding Request and Match

FUNDING PROGRAM

Salmon State Projects	$192,500	100.000000

SPONSOR MATCH

Questions

#1: Explain how you determined the cost estimates

Cost are based on sponsor experience, cost estimates, and project previous phases.

Other Funding

OTHER FUNDING DETAILS

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resource Areas

Worksite #1: Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 Design

Area: Walla Walla B2B Phase 4 APE

#1: Describe any planned ground disturbing pre-construction/restoration work. This includes geo-technical investigation, fencing, demolition, decommissioning roads, etc.

This project does not include any ground disturbing work

#2: Describe the existing project area conditions. The description should include existing conditions, current and historic

#2: Describe the existing project area conditions. The description should include existing conditions, current and historic land uses and previous excavation/fill (if depths and extent is known, please describe).

The project area consist of in-channel and forested riparian area, there is no known historic land use or buildings in project area.

#3: Will a federal permit be required to complete the scope of work on the project areas located within this worksite?

No

#4: Are you utilizing Federal Funding to complete the scope of work? This includes funds that are being shown as match or not.

No

#5: Do you have knowledge of any previous cultural resource review within the project boundaries during the past 10 years?

No

#6: Are there any structures over 45 years of age within this worksite? This includes structures such as buildings, tidegates, dikes, residential structures, bridges, rail grades, park infrastructure, etc.

No

Project Permits

Permits and Reviews	Issuing Organization	Applied Date	Received Date	Expiration Date	Permit #
Cultural Assessment [Section 106]	DAHP				May or may not apply now
Dredge/Fill Permit [Section 10/404 or 404]	Army Corps of Eng.				May or may not apply now
Endangered Species Act Compliance [ESA]	US Fish & Wildlife				May or may not apply now
Hydraulics Project Approval [HPA]	Dept of Fish & Wildlife				May or may not apply now
SEPA	Local or State				May or may not apply now
Shoreline Permit	City/County				May or may not apply now
Other Required Permits					May or may not apply now

Attachments

Required Attachments	4 out of 7 done
Applicant Resolution/Authorizations	
CCA Tribal Notification	
Cost Estimate	✓
Landowner Acknowledgement	✓
Map: Planning Area	✓
Photo	✓
RCO Fiscal Data Collection Sheet	

PHOTOS (JPG, GIF)

Photos (JPG, GIF)

550470

552458

PROJECT DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOS

Project Documents and Photos

File Type	Attach Date	Attachment Type	Title	Person	File Name, Number Associations	Shared
	03/06/2026	Cost Estimate	SRFB Cost Estimate B2BP4.xlsx	DavidT	SRFB Cost Estimate B2BP4.xlsx, 702137	✓
	03/05/2026	Landowner Acknowledgement	B2BP4 Design Landowner Acknowledgement.pdf	DavidT	B2BP4 Design Landowner Acknowledgement.pdf, 701971	
	01/16/2024	Map: Area of Potential Effect (APE)	Project APE Report (01/16/24 08:31:12)	MarkJ	Project APE Report - 23-1030 (01-16-2024_08-31-12).pdf, 592490	✓
	01/16/2024	Cultural Resource Screening Report	Project Cultural Resource Screening Report (01/16/24 08:31:1	MarkJ	Project Cultural Resource Screening Report - 23-1030 (01-16-2024_08-31-11).pdf, 592489	✓
	01/16/2024	Project Review Comments	Proj Review Comments Final, 23-1030P(compl 01/16/24 08:30)	MarkJ	Project Review Comments Report - 23-1030 (compl 01-16-2024_08-30-56).pdf, 592487	✓
	01/16/2024	Project Review Comments	Proj Review Comments LE, 23-1030P(compl 01/16/24 08:30)	MarkJ	Project Review Comments Report - 23-1030 (compl 01-16-2024_08-30-44).pdf, 592486	✓
	01/16/2024	Project Review Comments	Proj Review Comments Initial, 23-1030P(compl 01/16/24 08:30)	MarkJ	Project Review Comments Report - 23-1030 (compl 01-16-2024_08-30-31).pdf, 592485	✓
	03/03/2023	Landowner Acknowledgement	RCO-LandownerAck-B2BPhase4Design.pdf	MorganM	RCO-LandownerAck-B2BPhase4Design.pdf, 553800	
	02/22/2023	Photo	Phase4_5212022.jpg	MorganM	Phase4_5212022.jpg, 552458	✓
	02/02/2023	Map: Planning Area	Bridge to Bridge Phased Map.pdf	MorganM	Bridge to Bridge Phased Map.pdf, 550471	✓
	02/02/2023	Map: Planning Area	B2B_VicinityMap.JPG (1).JPG	MorganM	B2B_VicinityMap.JPG (1).jpg, 550470	✓

Application Status

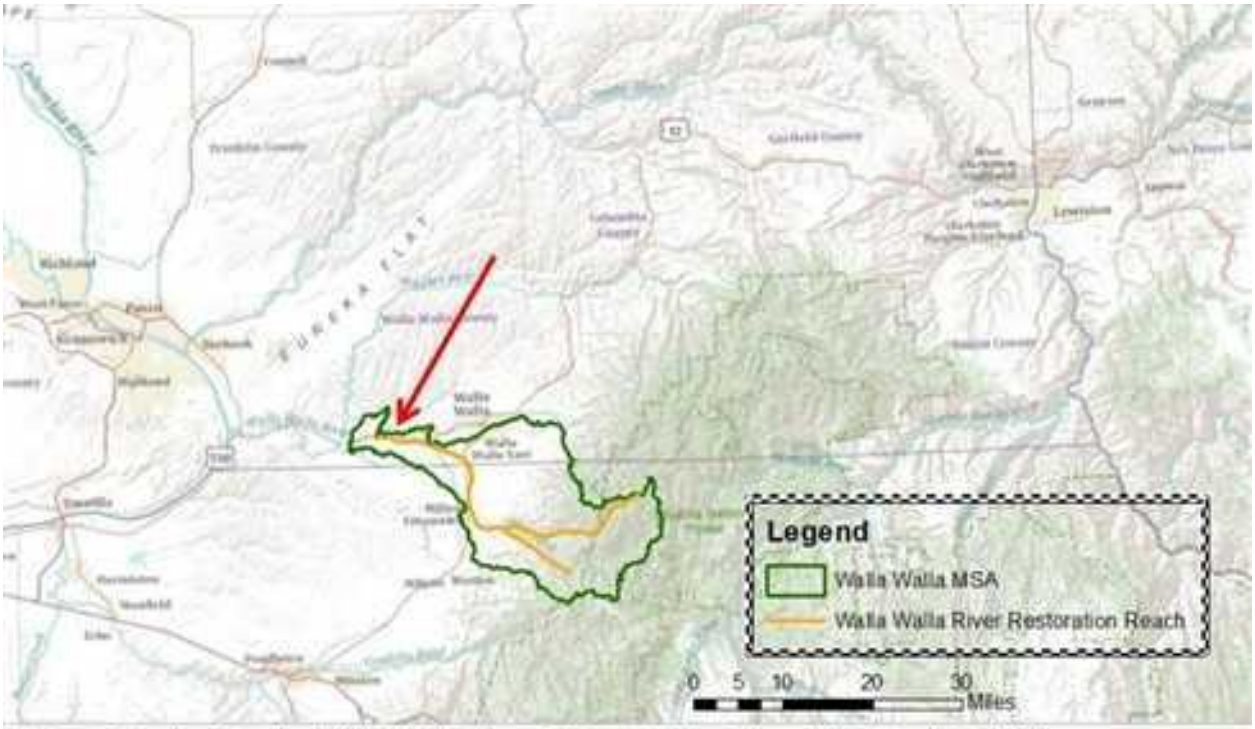
Application Due Date: 06/22/2026

Status Name	Status Date	Submitted By	Submission Notes
Preapplication	01/05/2026		

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information in this application is true and complete, and if artificial intelligence (AI) was used to prepare this application, I accept full responsibility for ensuring its accuracy and compliance. I understand incomplete applications will be rejected by RCO and that I may be asked to submit additional documentation before evaluation or

approval of this project. I understand that if a grant is awarded to my project, I will be bound by all representations and commitments in this application, which RCO may enforce to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Date of last change: 03/06/2026

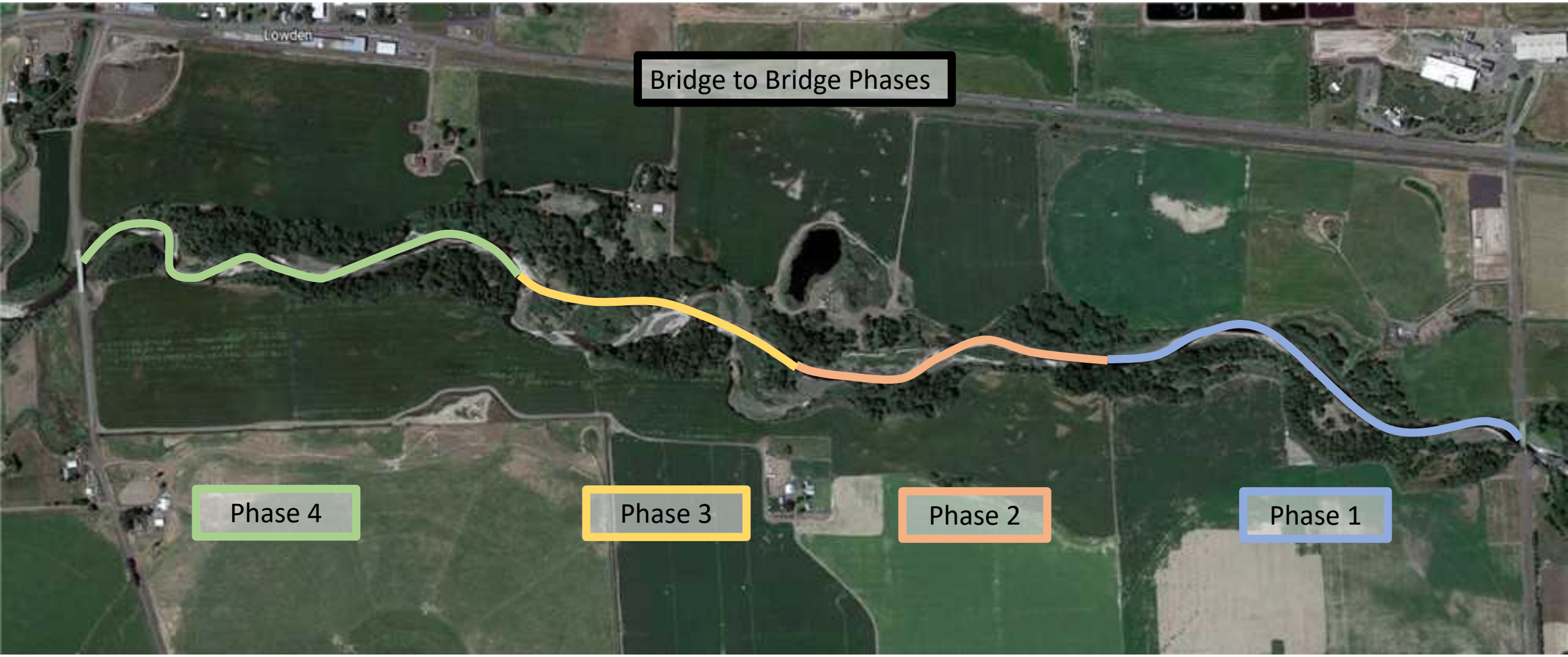


Tri-State Steelheaders Inc; Walla Walla River Bridge to Bridge Phase 4 Design (#26-1056)

Attachment #550470, B2B_VicinityMap.JPG (1).JPG

Tri-State Steelheaders Inc; Walla Walla River Bridge to Bridge Phase 4 Design (#26-1056)

Attachment #552458, Phase4_5212022.jpg


Lowden
Bridge to Bridge Phases
Phase 4
Phase 3
Phase 2
Phase 1

DESIGN PROJECTS

The costs on this page are for design projects, not for the design phase of a restoration grant.

				OVERALL PROJECT	GRANT REQUEST	MATCH & OTHER FUNDING			
				Budget must account for all costs to complete the project	*Enter only the amount of the grant request*	*The Grant Request, Match and Other Funding should equal the total project cost and Budget Check cell should be 0. Sponsors must account for all sources and types of funding needed to complete the project.*			
				Amount	Grant Amount	Match in PRISM	Other Funding not reported as match in PRISM	Source (Grant, Cash, Materials, Labor, Volunteers, etc)	Funding Type (federal, state, local)
Design Costs									
Category	Task Description	Qty	Rate						
Data collection	*Riparian and in-stream conditions*	**1.00**	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ -	$ -		
Survey	*Topographic bathymetric survey, construction stakeouts*	1.00	$ 31,000.00	$ 31,000	$ 31,000	$ -	$ -		
Final design	*Modeling, analysis, drawings, reporting, engineering project management*	1.00	$ 116,500.00	$ 116,500	$ 116,500	$ -	$ -		
Permits	*Permitting and engineering permit support*	1.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -		
Cultural resources	*Cultural resources survey and reporting*	1.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ -	$ -		
Administrative	*Grant admin, stakeholder engagement, project oversight, travel*	1.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ -	$ -		
			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			STotal	**$ 192,500**	**$ 192,500**	**$ -**	**$ -**		
Indirect Costs				Amount	Grant amount	Match in PRISM	Funding not reported in PRISM	Match Source	Match Type (federal, state, local)
	Description	Approved Rate	Total Project Base						
	Indirect Expenses			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
		0.000%	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		
			STotal	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**		
			Totals	**$ 192,500**	**$ 192,500**	**$ -**	**$ -**		

Landowner Acknowledgement Form

Landowner Information

Name of Landowner: Mike Buckley

Landowner Contact Information:

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. Title: Landowner

First Name: Mike Last Name: Buckley

Contact Mailing Address: 11537 Old Hwy 12, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Contact E-Mail Address:

Property Address or Location:

1. Mike Buckley (Landowner or Organization) is the legal owner of property described in this grant application.
2. I am aware that the project is being proposed on my property.
3. If the grant is successfully awarded, I will be contacted and asked to engage in negotiations.
4. My signature does not represent authorization of project implementation.

Landowner Signature

3/3/26
Date

Project Sponsor Information

Project Name: Bridge to Bridge Phase 4 Design

Project Applicant Contact Information:

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. Title: Project Manager

First Name: David Last Name: Talkington

Mailing Address: 216 N Roosevelt St

E-Mail Address: david@tristatesteelheaders.com

Project Review Comments

PROJECT: 23-1030 P, Walla Walla River B2B Phase 4 Design

Sponsor: Tri-State Steelheaders Inc Program: SALMON ST PROJ Status: Board Alternate

MEETING: Initial Review

Shared: 5/24/2023

Review Panel:

Review Status: Needs more information

Considerations:

Topics	Comments
Review Panel Comments - Initial	
Questions (response required)	
	Please provide a list of the expected documents to be produced by this project.
	Reply: This project will produce a final design report, engineered drawings, and estimate of anticipated unit costs for Phase 4 of Bridge to Bridge.
	Would the sponsor consider designing adaptive management actions for previously implemented Phase 1 at the same time?
	Reply: Construction costs have led us to divide Phase 3 into two construction projects. Adding Phase 1 work acts against the cost control we're trying to achieve. Based on our experience with Phase 2 (major changed conditions after final design), we also would be concerned about design too far ahead of implementation. We do envision re-visiting Phase 1, see the last answer below.
	Were previous phases constructed in general accord with the methods identified in the B2B phase 3 final design drawings? Were the construction flow bypass and LWD installation methods completed as expected?
	Reply: GeoEngineers has designed all phases. The lead engineer for Phase 1 was different than subsequent phases, but their project manager has remained the same. Phases 1 and 2 were very different in the work completed. Much of Phase 1 was an 800-foot long LWD bank structure, so that length of channel was bypassed. Phase 2 structures were more distributed throughout the project area, and installed to engage flow at higher discharges, so many were installed in the dry without any water control needed. At the time Phase 1 was completed in 2013, vibratory pounders were not as common as they are now. Piles were drilled for Phase 1. Phase 2 piles were placed by vibratory pounder. As this has become a common approach, it is also our preferred approach.
Improvements to Make Project Technically Sound (response required)	
	A more complete summary of the outcomes, improvements and possible misses (where project didn't meet objectives) from phase 1 and 2 implementation would boost the confidence in developing designs based on the same approach used in these previous phases. Very little detail or specific lessons learned has been provided in question #7 of the application. The only thing we know is that the reach has changed due to high water events since 2020, but we don't know how habitat and channel processes are changing in response to restoration actions.

PROJECT: 23-1030 P, Walla Walla River B2B Phase 4 Design

Sponsor: Tri-State Steelheaders Inc Program: SALMON ST PROJ Status: Board Alternate

	Reply: The design approach that unifies the phases was selected in the conceptual design for the reach. That is, remove obstacles and let the river's natural processes dictate (rather than putting the channel where we think it should be). Each phase has had slightly different goals. The goals of Phase 1 were to remove a half-mile of levee (which defined the project reach) that confined the river and to add some LWD for habitat complexity and in anticipation of realignment after the levee was removed. Goals of Phases 2-4 are focused on the improvement of instream habitat, splitting flow, and improving off-channel habitat through placement of wood structures. In the Phase 1 project area, we've seen the river migrating into the old levee footprint, water flowing over the old levee footprint and into a relict meander, natural recruitment of riparian vegetation, and formation of scour pools around introduced channel roughness (such as small trees and the built structures). The Phase 1 project area would benefit from more work, as was suggested above. The original design contained improvements to a side channel and additional LWD structures. These were removed due to the cost exceeding available funds. The Phase 2 project area was practically devoid of any LWD, and the goal became to simply increase the number of pieces of wood in that reach. The side-channel use of BDAs in this project was poorly implemented by the contractor, and probably a poor design choice by us. The intent was to maintain a recently formed side channel, and improve its complexity. This reach would probably benefit from additional wood, but may also benefit from a little more time to continue to respond to the project completed there in 2021. Phases 3 and 4 have more to offer than the previous phases in better instream and riparian conditions. Pool quality and quantity improve in these phases, and canopy closure occurs more frequently. The intention with these phases is to maintain what is already good, make use of existing anchor points (large trees, point bars), and improve instream complexity.
General Comments (response not required)	
We may consider conditioning this project for preliminary design review prior to moving on to final permit ready designs. Alternatively we may ask for final designs to wait for the implementation of Phase 3 to be completed.	
	Reply: Conditioning this project based on implementation of phase 3 would push the timeline past 2 years.

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MEETING: Final Review

Shared: 7/18/2023

Review Panel:

Review Status: Cleared

Topics	Comments
Review Panel Comments - Final	
General Comments	
	The sponsor provided sufficient explanation about the timing and approach for the last 2 phases of the Bridge to bridge project to clear Phase 4 for design prior to implementation of Phase 3. It is likely that Phase 3 will have a chance to get implemented prior to the completion of the design and permitting process for this phase and can inform the implementation of Phase 4.