

Project Number: 23027

Project Title: Methow Basin Floodplain and Riparian Land Acquisitions

Sponsor: YN

ISRP or CBFWA Comment or Issue #1:

“..., but they may get comparable benefit through purchase of a subset of the properties or by purchasing the property in increments.”

ISRP or CBFWA Comment or Issue #1:

Your observation that a subset of these properties may provide comparable benefit for spring chinook is correct. In preparation for this project proposal I communicated primarily with Brad Martin, Executive Director, of the Methow Nature Conservancy. Given that the opportunities and status of available properties varies through time, my approach for this project, if funded in whole or in part, will be to work with Brad, WDFW, and the Okanogan Planning Unit to identify which available parcels will provide the most benefit for salmonids in the Methow Basin. There may be opportunities to dovetail with properties being purchased or with conservation easements to maximize the biological benefit within a particular river reach for salmonids. For example, the State of Washington has monies to purchase properties in the Methow Basin, and in fact, purchased some parcels in 2000. Working with the NRCS (Will Kellar) and other agency personnel, opportunities may exist to secure funding to initiate or complete the rehabilitation activities some of these parcels will require to realize their maximum benefit for salmonids. I'm optimistic about the positive communication occurring between the various governments, conservation groups and private landowners with respect to habitat restoration for salmon. This project represents another piece of the restoration puzzle in the basin, which can be meshed with other going projects to maximize the benefit of everybody's restoration dollar.