



**Kalispel Tribe of Indians**

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The Restoration of Goose Creek and Big Meadows Conceptual Design Plan written by Confluence Inc. in April of 2010, identified five phases for implementation. The proposed project phases were developed based on constructability.

Phase I included constructing a new floodplain and meandering channel through the eastern (downstream) portion of Big Meadows. The downstream extent of Phase I was identified as the tie in point to the existing channel on Tribal land at the eastern end of the meadow. The upstream extent of Phase I was to be immediately below the fish barrier (to be constructed in Phase 2). This phase included constructing approximately 3,560 feet of floodway (top width between 70 and 90 feet) with 4,275 feet of inset channel excavated within the floodway.

Project goals for the Big Meadows Restoration are to restore aquatic, riparian and wetland habitats as well as native fish species. The non-native fish removal and cutthroat trout restoration program in Goose Creek will occur above the fish barrier. The construction cost associated with the extensive level of channel/floodway excavation below the fish barrier as prescribed in the conceptual design for Phase I, is significantly higher than that of any other phase. After review by Tribal staff and with input from project partners (USFWS and USDA NRCS) a consensus was reached that the cost/benefit of Phase I was beyond too high; this was the most expensive phase but provided relatively little benefit to wetland habitat and native fish restoration. The Tribe therefore then decided to eliminate Phase I as described in the Big Meadows Conceptual Design.

The decision to eliminate Phase I reduces the number of construction phases from five to four. The original Phase II will now be Phase I and so on. Phase I will now include constructing the fish passage barrier and 3,170 feet of new channel upstream of the barrier. The newly constructed channel will be excavated to dimensions that will allow the meadow to act as the floodplain. No new channel construction will occur downstream of the barrier. The downstream extent of Phase I will be the barrier which will tie into the existing channel.

Additional analyses that will be conducted prior to the Phase I final design will include:

- Flood hazard study
- Wetland delineation and jurisdictional determination
- Final analysis for appropriate barrier location

Both the wetland delineation and flood hazard study will be conducted for the entire project area. The Phase I Final Design will include:

- Final Channel Design (Phase I only)
- Floodplain Dike Design/Access Road
- Fish Barrier Design

The additional analyses and the Phase I Final Design will be completed 4/1/11. Phase I construction will begin in 2011. Depending upon the construction window and available funding, Phase I construction may take two work seasons to complete. The Phase I

Budget is detailed in the 2010 Restoration of Goose Creek and Big Meadows Conceptual Design Plan, page 61.