

**SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000  
PUBLIC LAW 110-343  
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM  
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**Name of Resource Advisory Committee:**  
**Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):  
**Funding Fiscal Year(s):**

<b>2. Project Name:</b> Clearwater and Hoh Forest Inter-planting Project	<b>3a. State:</b> WA <b>3b. County(s):</b> Jefferson
<b>4. Project Submitted By:</b> The Nature Conservancy	<b>5. Date:</b> 8/31/15
<b>6. Contact Phone Number:</b> Anne Hughes, Senior Grants Specialist (206) 343-4345, ext. 302	<b>7. Contact E-mail:</b> ahammerhughes@tnc.org

<b>8. Project Location:</b>	
a. National Forest(s): Adjacent to Olympic National Forest	b. Forest Service District: Pacific Ranger District
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Project is located in: TWN 25 North, RNG 12 West, Sections 11, 13, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 34 TWN 26 North, RNG 12 West, Sections 8 and 17 TWN 26 North, RNG 13 West, Sections 25 and 26	

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:**  
The overall project goal is to accelerate the development of complex forest habitat, which will increase riparian shade and improve the stream habitat function necessary for restoring salmon and other species dependent on late-successional forests on the Olympic Peninsula.

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: (in one sentence)  
The Nature Conservancy intends to conduct inter-planting on approximately 400 acres of recently harvested forestland within the Clearwater and Hoh River floodplains. The inter-planting will involve a diversity of native conifer species to increase forest heterogeneity and diversity across the landscape, and to accelerate development of complex forest habitat that increases riparian shade and the abundance of large wood, and improves watershed processes necessary for restoring high quality salmon habitat and the habitat of late-successional forest species within the watershed.

b. Detailed:  
The Clearwater and Hoh Rivers of the Olympic Peninsula support some of the most viable and genetically diverse salmon populations in the lower 48 states, including fall and spring/summer Chinook, coho, chum, pink, and sockeye salmon, and steelhead, cutthroat, and bull trout. However, in recent decades, salmon populations have declined and run sizes are now dramatically lower than historic numbers. Freshwater habitat degradation related to industrial forestry practices and forest road development is uniformly recognized as the most limiting factor for salmon.

The Clearwater and Hoh sub-basins have seen significant impacts, including: removal of large woody debris from streams; mass wasting activities due to forest roads; and reduction in the amount of forest stand size classes and native species composition. All of these impacts influence water quality and habitat for salmon and species dependent on late-successional forests.

To address this threat, the Conservancy purchased 3,088 acres of lowland forest along the Clearwater River in 2011 from two major industrial timber companies in order to restore vital salmon habitat within the watershed and help salmon recover to their historic abundance. In 2014, the Conservancy purchased an additional 2,538 acres from Fruit Growers Supply (FGS) to expand the protection of the Clearwater River. In total, the Conservancy's acquisitions on the Clearwater complete a protected corridor that connects the river from summit to sea. The corridor extends from a state Natural Resource Conservation Area in the river's headwaters, through the Conservancy's protected Clearwater Forest Reserve (which includes 18 miles of the river) to the river's mouth in Olympic National Park.

In March 2015, the Conservancy acquired 3,184 acres of forested land along the Hoh River. The acquisition along the Hoh builds on the work of our partner, the Hoh River Trust, to create a 32-mile conservation corridor extending from Olympic National Park to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Following acquisition of the properties, the Conservancy developed a 100-year Forest Management Plan for its land on the Olympic Peninsula to focus management on priority actions that will restore healthy forest and river systems. In accordance with the Management Plan, the Conservancy is actively conducting forest restoration on the properties through forest road improvements, road decommissioning, and young stand thinning and inter-planting to restore and accelerate the development of complex forest habitat. These actions will increase riparian shade and improve the stream habitat function necessary for restoring salmon and other late-successional forest species.

Within the Clearwater and Hoh River floodplains, there remains approximately 400 acres of recently harvested clearcuts that have been planted with a single species: Douglas-fir. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$80,000 in Olympic National Forest Title II funding to support our work to increase forest diversity in the Clearwater and Hoh. By inter-planting these young stands with a diversity of seed zone-specific tree species that naturally occur in the area, we will set these lands on a trajectory for restoration of natural forest conditions. The total project cost is estimated to be \$175,000. If our request is successful, the Conservancy will use private funding to leverage Title II funding in order to inter-plant the entire 400-acre area.

Timing of this effort is critical. Once the young monoculture stands of Douglas-fir reach four years of age, the opportunity to incorporate additional species into the current stands becomes very difficult and extremely expensive. The Conservancy will contract with local reforestation crews to plant 70,000 Sitka spruce, western red cedar, and western hemlock seedlings within the 400-acre area. Seedlings will be grown and purchased from a local Washington nursery.

### 11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved?  Yes  No

**Land Status:** Private

If Yes, specify: The Nature Conservancy is a private nonprofit conservation organization.

<b>12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation?</b> (Check at least 1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restores and improves land health.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restores water quality

<b>13. Project Type</b>	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Watershed Restoration	

<b>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish</b>
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
<b>Miles of stream/river restored/improved:</b> 6 miles
<b>Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:</b> 6 miles
<b>Acres of native species reestablished:</b> 400 acres of native species reestablished
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trial obliterated:
<b>Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):</b> 400 acres of forest health improved
Acres of rangeland improved:
<b>Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:</b> 400 acres will be improved over the long term for salmon and species dependent on late-successional forest habitat

Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated:
<b>Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:</b> 1.43 FTEs = 2078/hrs contractors, 300/hrs nursery employees, 728/hrs Olympic Forester, 120/hrs WA Forest Manager
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
<b>Direct economic activity benefit:</b> local contractors will be used for the labor and Washington-based nursery Silvaseed Company will be contracted to grow the seedlings
Other:

<b>15. Estimated Project Start Date:</b> 1/01/2016	<b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date:</b> 12/31/2017
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**

The Clearwater and Hoh Forest Inter-planting Project requires partnership solely with a forest contractor and a nursery. However, as part of its larger forest restoration work on the Olympic Peninsula, the Conservancy has developed strong government, private, and tribal partnerships to support our work within the two watersheds. We have worked closely with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) to identify and prioritize riparian restoration projects. The Conservancy’s Management Plan and restoration priorities are consistent with work being completed by the QIN, Hoh River Trust, and Trout Unlimited. During the acquisition phase, our purchases received support from all three Jefferson County Commissioners, the QIN, Hoh Tribe, Hoh River Trust, and Washington Department of Natural Resources.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

Forest restoration enhances habitat for salmon and other wildlife, helps filter water and air, and provides jobs to the local community. For example, we contract with a heavy equipment operator who lives in the small Clearwater community to participate in active forest conservation management. The Conservancy’s work is advancing smart conservation practices that benefit both nature and people.

The work described in this proposal will be conducted by local contractors, which, in addition to providing jobs, will help increase awareness and understanding of the larger restoration effort on the Clearwater and Hoh properties. The Conservancy also allows recreation access on these properties, including hiking, fishing, bird watching, and hunting.

**19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?**

The Clearwater and Hoh River Inter-planting Project is consistent with the Title II priorities as a project that is designed to enhance forest ecosystems and to restore land health and water quality. As noted above, the Conservancy’s ownerships within Jefferson County increase the acreage of Olympic Rainforest held either by government entities or in protected status by a nonprofit organization. Each of these ownerships protects forested corridors along important salmon-bearing rivers.

The Conservancy’s goals for the Clearwater and Hoh River properties are consistent with and enhance goals described within the Olympic National Forest 1990 Land and Resource Management Plan. In particular, the work described in this proposal is consistent with the protection of:

- Late-successional reserves: providing habitat for late-successional and old-growth dependent species.
- Riparian reserves: protecting the health of aquatic systems and their dependent species, providing benefits to upland species.

The Conservancy’s work downstream from the Olympic National Forest ensures that work by USFS to steward old-growth forests and riparian areas within the National Forest are not diminished by poor timber practices and forest road construction downstream. It is the cumulative effort of the work of many partners throughout the Olympic Peninsula that will reverse the trend of declining forest and riparian habitat and ensure that we retain the ecological, cultural, and economic values that make the Olympic Rainforest an extraordinary place.

<b>20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?</b> (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

**21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials?**  Yes  No

<b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b>
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$80,000
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:**

The Conservancy will contribute approximately \$95,000 from private and other funding sources to leverage a grant from the Title II program.

**24. Monitoring Plan**

- Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above:* Each inter-planting area will have two stocking survey areas established to monitor the survival and growth of the native tree species planted. These areas will be surveyed for two years after the project is completed to determine the success of the inter-planting effort.
- Identify who will conduct the monitoring:* A Conservancy staff forester will conduct the monitoring on the project areas. The Conservancy has four foresters on staff with extensive experience implementing and monitoring forest restoration projects.
- Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):* This cost is included in the staff salary allocation, estimated to be 1.5 weeks each year.

**25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.**

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.

Other, please explain:

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**Project Recommended By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Chairperson**

Resource Advisory Committee

**Project Approved By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Forest Supervisor**

National Forest

## Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

### Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Project Cost
a. Field Work & Site Surveys				
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost		39,000.00	29,000.00	68,000.00
i. Salaries		22,420.36		22,420.36
j. Materials & Supplies			48,996.72	48,996.72
k. Monitoring				
l. Other		4,261.08		4,261.08
m. Project Sub-Total		65,681.44	77,996.72	143,678.16
n. Indirect Costs		14,318.56	17,003.28	31,321.84
<b>o. Total Cost Estimate</b>		<b>80,000.00</b>	<b>95,000.00</b>	<b>175,000.00</b>

Note: Salaries includes both staff salary and the Conservancy's federally approved benefits rate. Other includes travel, postage, and printing.

If the Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee is unable to fund our full request, the Conservancy is willing to reduce the scope and may be able to accept a smaller grant award.

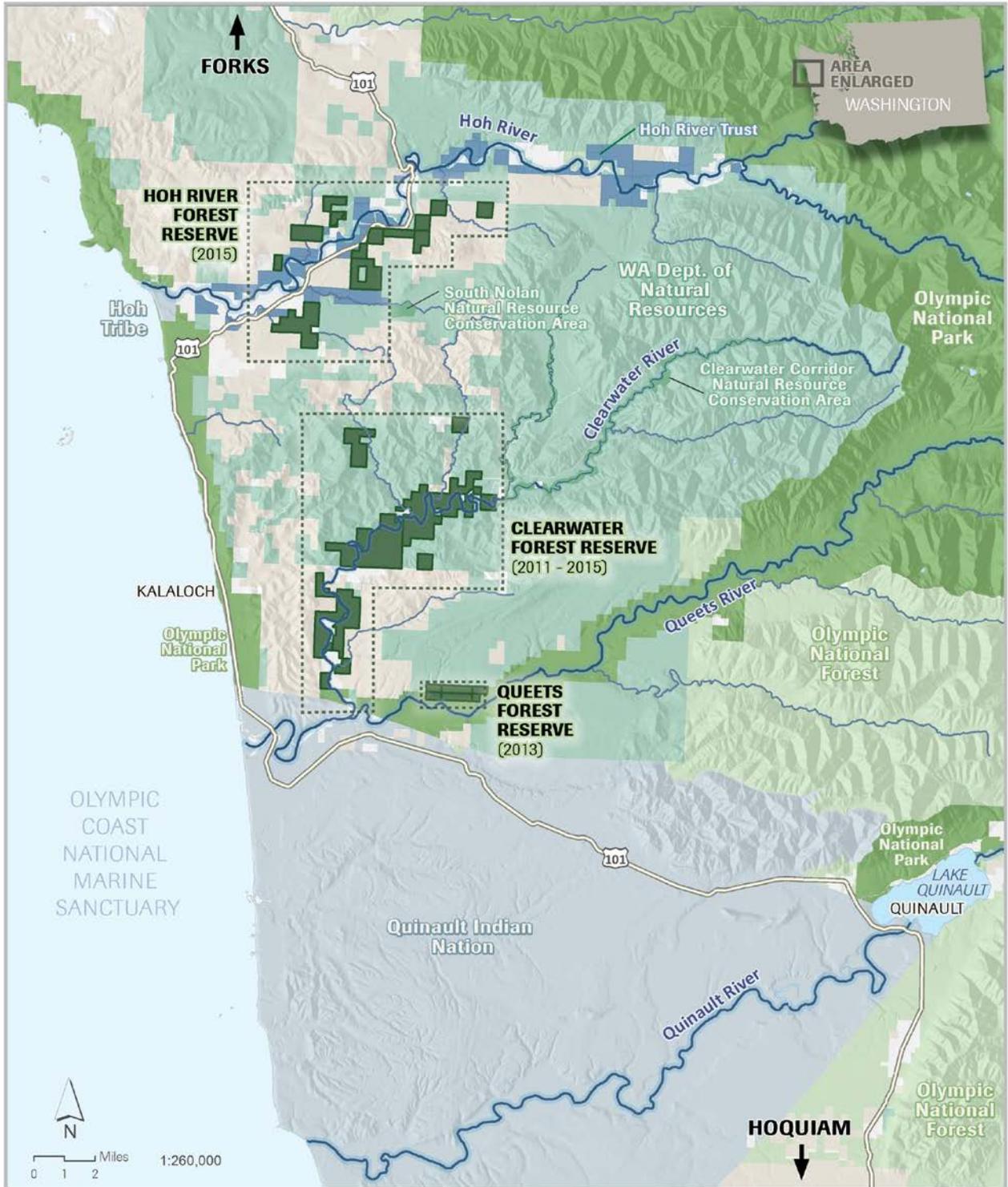
#### NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.

Figure 1

# OLYMPIC FOREST RESERVES

The Nature Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



## MAP LEGEND

 The Nature Conservancy Property	 National Park	 WA Dept. of Natural Resources	 Hoh River Trust	 Private Forest Lands
 National Forest	 WA Dept. of Natural Resources - Natural Resource Conservation Area	 Tribal Land	 Other Private Lands	

April 20, 2015