



J.R. SIMPLOT COMPANY ONE CAPITAL CENTER 999 MAIN STREET SUITE 1300
P.O. BOX 27 BOISE, IDAHO 83707 (208) 336-2110 FAX (208) 389-7515

RECEIVED

DEC 17 2015

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

December 16, 2015

Jeff Peppersack, Chief
Water Allocation Bureau
State of Idaho
Department of Water Resources
322 East Front Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: IDWR Permit No. 72-16896.

Dear Jeff:

In response to the December 9, 2015 lapse notice we received for the above referenced permit, I am enclosing a Statement of Completion for submitting Proof of Beneficial Use. Please apply the enclosed \$600.00 check toward covering your fee for the filing of the enclosed Proof.

For reference to confirm the development under this permit, I am enclosing a summary of the project that was constructed in 2012 and 2013 ("Yankee Fork Pond Series 3" dated July 9, 2013). I inadvertently missed the original deadline for filing proof and respectfully request the reinstatement of this permit. I visited the site of the project in June, 2015. The results continue to improve habitat for anadromous and other local fish species.

Please accept the filing of the enclosed Proof. If I can assist with any additional information to assist in the reinstatement of this permit, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Vic Conrad
Land, Water & Asset Recovery

Enclosure

Yankee Fork Pond Series 3

Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

9 July 2013

From 10 September to 16 November 2012 the Office of Species Conservation conducted habitat improvement of Pond Series 3 in the Yankee Fork Drainage (Figure 1). Several partners assisted in this effort including the Salmon-Challis National Forest, J.R. Simplot Company, Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The Pond Series 3 project is located along the Yankee Fork between Cearley Creek and Jerry's Creek on private land owned by the J.R. Simplot Company and public land managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The habitat improvement project involved leveling and re-distributing the dredge piles and filling the ponds in the vicinity of Pond Series 3 and creating, instead, a stream side-channel and flood-plain.

Portions of the Yankee Fork, including the project area, have been impacted by dredge mining which occurred during the late 1940s through early 1950s. The historical mining, which left large piles of dredge tailings, resulted in fewer pools, increased water velocities, and limited availability of spawning-size gravel in that portion of the mainstem Yankee Fork.

Several studies and restoration efforts have been conducted in the Yankee Fork to reverse these effects, these included efforts in the 1980s to create off-channel habitat for salmonids by connecting remnant tailings ponds to the mainstem Yankee Fork. Over time, these "pond series," including Pond Series 3, have filled in with fine sediment and, for the most part, now lack upstream connections to the mainstem, except at high spring flows.

The primary project goal of this project was to immediately create and maintain high-flow refuge and year-round rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. More specifically, this project was intended to provide side channel habitat that is accessible and provides appropriate habitat to juvenile salmonids throughout the year. The project provided a self-sustaining, perennial side channel with variable velocities; sufficient depths; and clear, cold, clean water flowing over clean, coarse substrate, with abundant summer and winter hiding cover and well-vegetated riparian zones. The side channel intercepted groundwater, will interact frequently with the floodplain (at least once every other year on average), will experience sediment flushing flows every few years, and will maintain a year-round surface water connection at its mouth with the mainstem. The floodplain was constructed with complex topography including depression areas and upland areas which will support a diverse mix of native aquatic, wetland, and upland vegetation. Wood structures were added to provide habitat complexity in the side channel and create roughness and microsites for establishing vegetation on the floodplain. Although the primary focus was creation and maintenance of juvenile Chinook salmon summer and winter habitat, the project is also expected to improve holding and spawning habitat for returning adult steelhead, as well as habitat for Chinook salmon and other native salmonids, including bull trout. The following pictures (Figure 2 - Figure 18) show several of the work activities either in progress or completed.

Work in the project area resumed in the spring of 2013 with planting and irrigation of rooted vegetation (Figure 19 - Figure 20), removal of the coffer dam (following high flows; Figure 21 - Figure 22), and grading a parking area adjacent to the project area where interpretative signs will be located (Figure 23). Logs removed by the Forest Service during the 2012 Halstead Fire and not used for the Pond Series 3 project were relocated to a secure area (Figure 24 - Figure 25) so they can be used during future similar Yankee Fork fish habitat improvement projects.

During 2013, both adult (Figure 26) and juvenile (Figure 27) salmonids were observed using the newly created habitat in the Pond Series 3 Side Channel project area. The vegetation continues to become established (Figure 28), and the fishing is improving (Figure 29).

Construction Management

Lost River Fish Ecology Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- Be the Contracting Officer's representative in the field to implement the designed Pond Series 3 Side Channel Project
- Conduct time-lapse photography of project implementation
- Conduct beaver removal
- Measure, record, and relay to construction personnel instantaneous turbidity measurements
- Oversee automated turbidity monitoring
- Check grade elevations to ensure project was implemented as designed
- Relay scheduling from the Contractor to the Contracting Officer
- Provide input to Contracting Officer for Contractor regarding questions not addressed by the project design
- Participate in regular meetings to update Contracting Officer on project progress and implementation questions
- Work closely with contractor to ensure that all project work elements were implemented in a sequence and manner so as to not negatively affect work area, future work elements, or project work flow
- Oversee wetland creation and restoration
- Oversee floodplain creation and enhancement, dike removal, mine tailings removal
- Oversee stream channel creation, including tree placement for habitat complexity and floodplain roughness
- Oversee erosion and sediment control
- Oversee willow cutting and installation
- Participate in final reporting

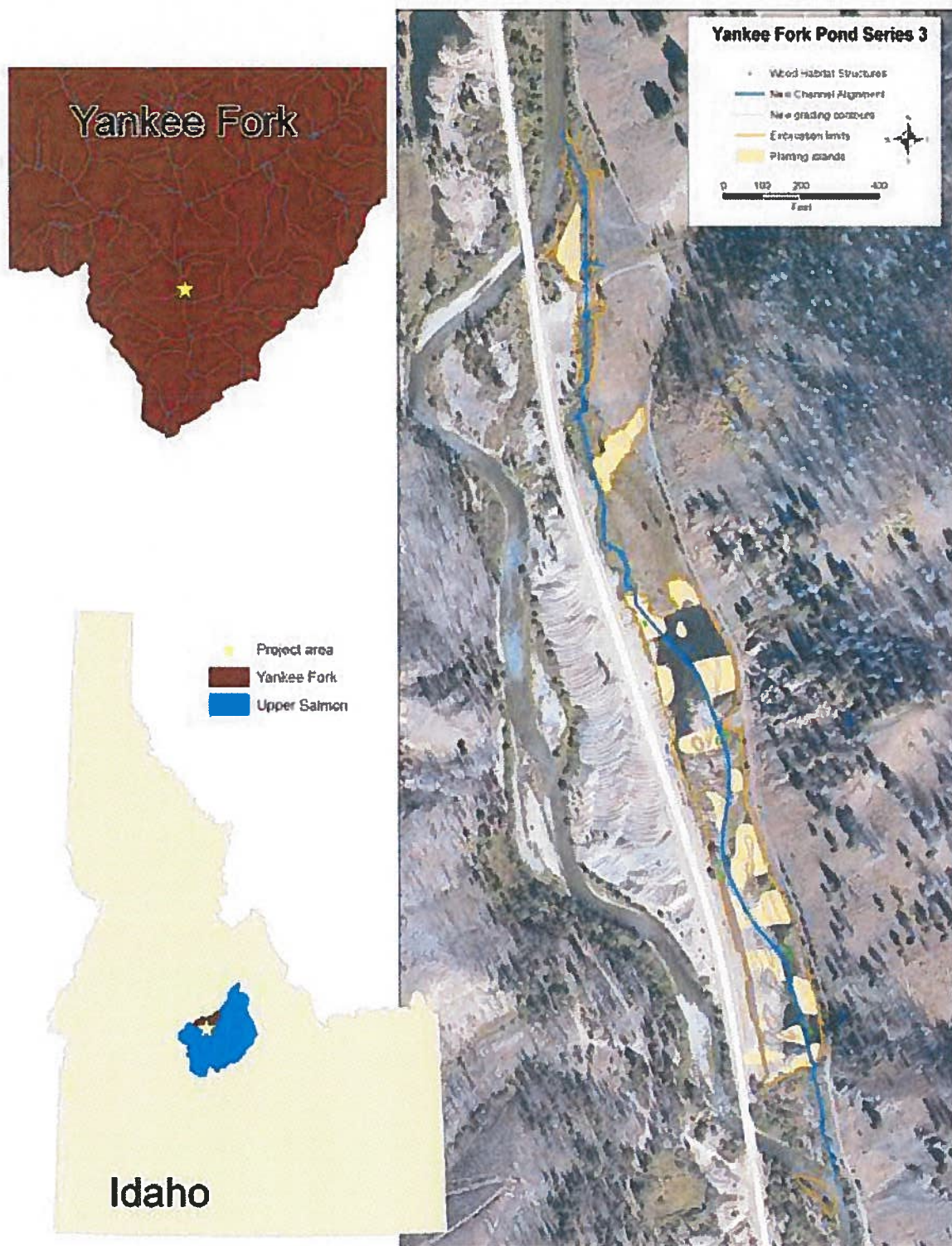


Figure 1. Location of the Pond Series 3 project in the Yankee Fork drainage of central Idaho, showing the location of the newly created channel, planting islands, wood habitat structures and flood-plain grading.



Figure 2. Constructing an inlet channel and off-channel inlet control structure (sheet pile).



Figure 3. Placing wood habitat structures.



Figure 4. Placing wood habitat structures.



Figure 5. Installing rock weir structures for stabilization and complexity.



Figure 6. Removing a 36-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert and associated fill and constructing a roughened channel (rock) upstream of, though, and downstream of the existing culvert embankment.



Figure 7. Placing rock to create habitat and stream stability.



Figure 8. Placing rock to create habitat and stream stability.



Figure 9. Roughened channel for inflow stability.



Figure 10. Removing an old road embankment across a floodplain.



Figure 11. Re-vegetating with aquatic, wetland, riparian, and upland species.



Figure 12. Re-vegetating with native willow.



Figure 13. Relocating beaver to give woody vegetation time to become re-established.



Figure 14. Removing tailings piles adjacent to and through the pond series to create a flood-plain and placing the material into the ponds to create a stream channel (middle camera photo point 24 September 2012).



Figure 15. Removing tailings piles adjacent to and through the pond series to create a flood-plain and placing the material into the ponds to create a stream channel (middle camera photo point 20 November 2012).



Figure 16. Removing tailings piles adjacent to and through the pond series to create a flood-plain and placing the material into the ponds to create a stream channel (lower camera photo point 22 September 2012).



Figure 17. Removing tailings piles adjacent to and through the pond series to create a flood-plain and placing the material into the ponds to create a stream channel (Lower camera photo point 20 November 2012).



Figure 18. Creation of a point-bar to aid in formation of a pool at the outflow of Pond Series 3.



Figure 19. Rooted plugs, planted in the Pond Series 3 project area during spring 2013.



Figure 20. Irrigation of planting areas (rooted plugs planted during the spring of 2013 and areas seeded during the fall of 2012) began in June of 2013 and will continue throughout the summer.



Figure 21. Removing the coffer dam after high spring flow receded (June 2013).



Figure 22. Yankee Fork Pond Series 3 inflow with coffer dam removed (June 2013).



Figure 23. Building the parking area along the Pond Series 2 Side Channel project area in preparation for installation of interpretative signs.



Figure 24. Trees the Forest Service cut during the 2012 Halstead Fire that were hauled to a staging area during the spring of 2013.



Figure 25. Trees stockpiled at the staging area for use on future Yankee Fork projects.



Figure 26. Adult steelhead spawner in the Yankee Fork Pond Series 3 Side Channel project area. Several steelhead spawned in the project area during the spring of 2013.

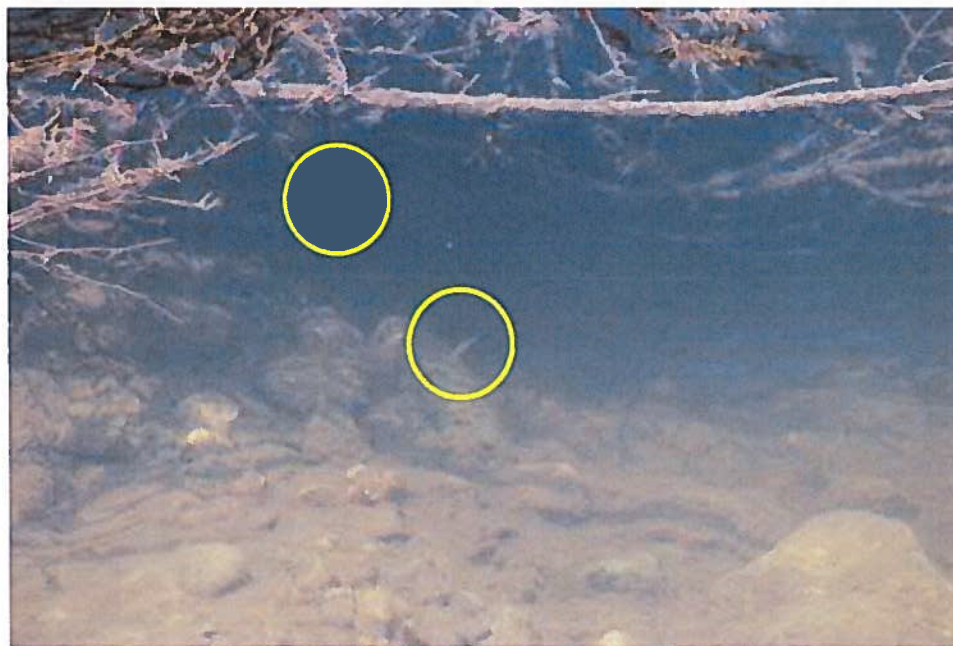


Figure 27. Newly hatched juvenile salmonids utilizing the woody debris cover in groundwater channels created in the project area.



Figure 28. Grass in planting islands of the Yankee Fork Pond Series 3 Side Channel project (July 2013).

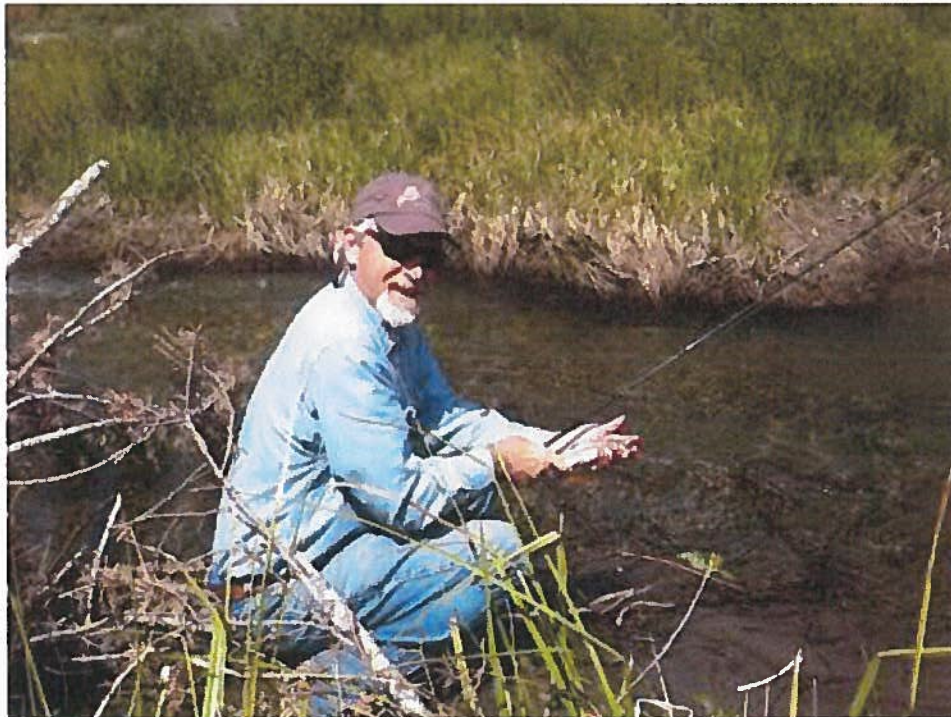


Figure 29. Jerry Myers with an age 1 steelhead captured with hook-and-line from within the Yankee Fork Pond Series 3 Side Channel Project (June 2013).