

Upper Salmon Conservation Action Program 2023 Request for Proposals (RFP) - Guidelines

RFP opens February 1, 2023 and closes on March 15, 2023

Please review these guidelines and the supporting attachments prior to submitting an application for funding through the Upper Salmon Conservation Action Program. **For additional information or questions about this program, please email uppersalmoncap@gmail.com.**

I. Background

Jervois Mining USA Limited (“Jervois”) is the owner of the Idaho Cobalt Operations (ICO), located approximately 25 miles west of Salmon, Idaho. The Salmon-Challis National Forest issued a Record of Decision to approve the ICO Plan of Operations in 2009. The Idaho Conservation League (“ICL”), an established statewide conservation organization, has extensive experience in conservation programs and a working knowledge of natural resource issues in the Upper Salmon River basin. In an effort to enhance and restore natural resources in the Upper Salmon River basin, Jervois has partnered with the ICL since 2021 to implement the Upper Salmon Conservation Action Program (“Program”).

Jervois will contribute a minimum of \$150,000 per year into a dedicated fund (“Fund”) for the program through the operational life of the ICO. The Fund is held by Jervois and funding decisions will be made by a committee (the “Committee”) composed of equal representation from Jervois and ICL. The Committee will select, fund, and assess the effectiveness of approved projects.

II. Purpose of the Fund

The funding available for the 2023 grant cycle is **\$150,000**. This funding may be allocated to a single project or allocated amongst several smaller funding requests.

The purpose of the Fund is to financially support conservation projects in the Upper Salmon River basin of Idaho (**Attachment 1**). The Fund is intended to support projects that protect and restore fisheries, water quality, wildlife habitat, and/or biodiversity in this region. The Fund is primarily intended to fund project implementation work but may in some cases be used to purchase conservation easements or for design and/or monitoring components for projects that align with the Program goals. If the project involves a conservation easement, the holder of the conservation easement must be qualified to hold conservation easements under federal and state law. This Fund may be used to complement other conservation funding sources in the basin (including Bonneville Power Administration, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, etc.) and help fill in funding gaps.

The Program will not support activities of the following nature:

- Normal operating costs of existing projects (such as salaries)

- Projects with potential negative environmental, community, or social impacts
- Direct requests for credit or loans

III. Project Proposals

Project proposals should articulate a clear vision of the goals and objectives of the proposed project and its benefits to fisheries, water quality, wildlife habitat, and/or biodiversity in the Upper Salmon basin. Please refer to the **Application Form** for specific details on what information is requested.

Proposals are reviewed and scored by the Committee using a standardized scoring system (see **Attachment 2**) to evaluate:

- Conservation components;
 - Scope and durability of conservation benefits
 - Connectivity to other restoration projects and/or protected land
- Funding leverage;
 - Matching funds (project funding from state, federal, or other sources)
 - In-kind contributions (skilled services, equipment, etc.)
- Track record of project success;
- Public involvement;
 - Opportunity for citizen science, field tours, educational opportunities, etc.
- Local/tribal employment and/or involvement in project;
 - Lemhi and Custer County residents
 - Members of the Shoshone-Bannock and Nez Perce Tribes
- Project monitoring (if applicable);
- Use of funds; and,
- Fulfillment of Program goals.

IV. To Apply

A government entity, tribal nation, non-government organization, corporation/partnership, private citizen, private landowner or their designee may submit a proposal.

To apply:

1. The project must be located within the Upper Salmon River basin (**Attachment 1**).
2. Applicants must submit proposals by **March 15, 2023** to be considered in the 2023 funding cycle. **Attachment 3** provides a schedule of the proposal review process and funding award dates.
3. The preferred method to submit applications is via email in PDF format.
4. Please include the title of your proposal followed by ‘**Upper Salmon CAP Funding Application**’ in the subject line and email proposals to: uppersalmoncap@gmail.com.

Electronic delivery is the preferred method for proposals. Mailed proposals will also be accepted (in the event that an electronic proposal is not feasible) and should be in the form of a USB jump-drive. Please do not send a paper copy or a fax of your proposal. The USB jump-drive should be clearly labeled with the title of your proposal followed by ‘Upper Salmon CAP Fund Application’.

For proposals sent via USPS, FedEx, or UPS:

Attn: Courtney Burgard, Jervois Mining USA Limited
1309 S. Challis Street
Salmon, ID 83467

V. Additional Information

Proposals will be accepted between February 1 and March 15, 2023.

If the project is located on private property, the landowner(s) must sign the proposal. By signing and submitting the proposal, landowner(s) acknowledge the proposal is made willingly by the lawful owner(s) in order to be considered for funding awards.

It is important for the Committee to provide accurate information to the public regarding the Program’s funded conservation efforts. Applicants should be aware that project information will be used by the Committee for internal planning and public information purposes. A summary of each proposal may be announced in a press release and/or on a to-be-developed Program website, but the announcements will not include any personal information of the applicants.

Final award decisions will be made by the Committee after a thorough review of all applications. All applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals by **April 14, 2023**. A Grant Agreement Form will be sent to successful applicants. The Grant Agreement will include the disbursement schedule and reporting schedule for the project. Each successful applicant must attend a meeting to review and discuss the terms of the Grant Agreement with the Committee. Funds will be made available by **May 1, 2023** after receipt of the signed Grant Agreement.

Award amounts can vary and may not be the full amount requested by the applicant. Disbursements will be in a lump sum amount. The amount of grant money provided for a project will remain fixed; in the event that project expenses exceed the proposed budget, the grant recipient will be required to cover any additional expenses.

Attachment 1. Project Area Map



The Project Area includes the following watershed and sub-watersheds:

- Main Salmon River (between Stanley and Shoup)
- Headwaters of Salmon River
- East Fork of Salmon River
- North Fork of Salmon River
- Pahsimeroi River
- Lemhi River
- Panther Creek
- Smaller tributaries within these sub-watersheds

Attachment 2. Committee Project Scoring Matrix (maximum score = 70 points)

	<i>Scored by:</i>	
1)	Conservation Components - 10 points Project does not include substantive conservation components..... <i>0 points</i> Project includes adequate conservation components..... <i>5 points</i> Project includes strong conservation components..... <i>10 points</i>	
Basis		
2)	Matching Funds and/or In-Kind Contributions - 5 points Provide a score from <i>0</i> (no matching funds/in-kind contributions) to <i>5</i> (substantial matching funds/in-kind contributions) points.	
Basis		
3)	Track Record of Project Success - 10 points Project proponents have no track record of project success..... <i>0 points</i> Project proponents have an adequate track record of project success..... <i>5 points</i> Project proponents have a strong track record of project success..... <i>10 points</i>	
Basis		
4)	Public Involvement - 10 points Project does not include notable public involvement/engagement..... <i>0 points</i> Project includes 1 component designed to involve/engage the public..... <i>5 points</i> Project includes 2+ components designed to involve/engage the public..... <i>10 points</i>	
Basis		
5)	Local/Tribal Employment/Involvement - 10 points Provide a score between <i>0</i> (no involvement) and <i>10</i> (robust involvement) points based on the project's employment and/or involvement of residents of Custer/Lemhi Counties and/or members of the Shoshone-Bannock or Nez Perce tribes.	
Basis		
6)	Project Monitoring (if applicable) - 10 points Proposal does not include implementation and effectiveness monitoring..... <i>0 points</i> Proposal includes implementation and effectiveness monitoring w/metrics... <i>10 points</i>	
Basis		
7)	Use of Funds - 5 points Funds will be used primarily for design/planning of project..... <i>0 points</i> Funds will be used primarily for implementation of project..... <i>5 points</i>	
Basis		
8)	Fulfills Upper Salmon Conservation Program Goals - 10 points	

	Project does not at all fulfill the program goals..... <i>0 points</i> Project does an adequate job of fulfilling program goals..... <i>5 points</i> Project does an excellent job of fulfilling program goals..... <i>10 points</i>	
Basis		
	Total	

Attachment 3. 2023 RFP Timeline

February 1, 2023	Grant application period opens
March 15, 2023	Grant application period closes
March 15 - April 14, 2023	Application review, scoring, and selection
April 14, 2023	Notify grant recipients
May 1, 2023	Disburse grant funds after grant agreements are signed
Summer/Fall 2023	Field tours of projects (if possible/applicable)
December 15, 2023	Annual grant reports due