



Project 6-6 Merritt Creek Riparian Cleanup and Restoration

Background: The historic Praxair lime pit deposits have been exposed along the lower channel of Merritt Creek impairing the stream with extremely high pH. Merritt Creek was recently designated as a trout stream, and contains brook trout in the upper reaches.

Problem Statement: Lime deposits need to be removed from the stream bank and slopes stabilized to prevent further erosion. Trees will need to be replanted in the riparian corridor to restore shade.

Goals: Eliminate the source of alkalinity and restore to stable shaded streambanks.

Priority: High

Task Duration: 1-2 years

Potential Mechanism: Cleanup-Praxair, Riparian Restoration-GLRI, CWL, CPL, TS

Potential Partnering Organization(s): Praxair, PCA, DNR, AFF, TU

Estimated Cost: Cleanup-Praxair, Riparian Restoration-\$10,000

Comments: It may be necessary to acquire a stream easement to obtain funding for riparian restoration.

Special Considerations: Required cleanup by PCA expected to be completed in 2010.

Accomplishments: DNR Fisheries and PCA have met onsite with Praxair, and lime cleanup is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

Measure(s) of Success: Natural stable streambank with stream pH levels within the range of survival for trout.

Primary Contact: Deserae Hendrickson, DNR Fisheries, (218)525-0853

Vision Statement: Maintain, protect, and restore healthy cold water ecosystems with relatively stable flows and a diversity of habitat for fish and wildlife to enhance our quality of life.

For project information: www.lrcd.org/links/lsc_projects.htm