FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

All sections must be addressed, or the application will be considered invalid

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Clark Fork Coalition

Mailing Address: 140 S. 4th St. W. #1

City: Missoula State: MT Zip: 59801

Telephone: 406-542--0359 ext. 203 E-mail: karen@clarkfork.org

B. Contact Person (if different than applicant): Adam Switalski – Clark Fork Coalition Project Mgr.

Address: 140 S. 4th St. W. #1

City: Missoula State: MT Zip: 59801

Telephone: 406-542--0359 ext. 210
406-396-1941 (cell) E-mail: adam@clarkfork.org

C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if different than applicant): The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Mailing Address:
TNC: 32 S. Ewing, Suite 215, Helena, MT 59601,
406-214-2036, skloetzel@tnc.org

DNRC: 2705 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804,
406-542-4309, jhansen@mt.gov

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Name: Little Park Creek Restoration and WCT Conservation

River, stream, or lake: Little Park Creek

Location: Township: 12 Range: 19 Section: 25, 26

Latitude: 46.765148° Longitude: -113.941769° *within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Missoula

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to protect a genetically pure westslope cutthroat population from hybridization and nonnative fish invasion, as well as improve habitat conditions in lower portions of Little Park Creek downstream of the barrier. Proposed project work will also address chronic sediment delivery issues and reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of an undersized culvert in the lower reach of Little Park Creek. This stream supports a unique, genetically pure WCT population in middle and upper reaches (upstream of barrier), while lower reaches of the stream and receiving waters in Miller Creek are important spawning and rearing areas for mildly hybridized WCT and other salmonid species. This is a collaborative project among the Clark Fork Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

C. Brief Project Description (attach additional information to end of application):

Miller Creek watershed encompasses 47.9 square miles and flows west for 18 miles to its confluence with the Bitterroot River near Missoula. Miller Creek and its tributaries are a historically productive fishery and an important tributary for spawning westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout in the lower Bitterroot River Basin. However, Miller Creek is listed on the DEQ 303(d) list for temperature and sediment impairments. The high sediment loads, elevated water temperature, and dewatering are undoubtedly negatively affecting aquatic habitat quality and fish carrying capacity, translating to lost angling opportunities on Miller Creek and the Bitterroot River.

This collaborative project would be conducted in Little Park Creek, one of two tributaries of upper Miller Creek that contain genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout (WCT). Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) sampled Little Park Creek in spring 2020 and determined that the population was non-introgressed and has maintained a relatively high level of genetic diversity. Furthermore, The Forest Service Climate Shield model predicts that this WCT population will persist despite predicted moderate (2040) or extreme (2080) climate change conditions in the watershed.

A perched 36” culvert approximately ¼ mile above the confluence with Miller Creek has fortuitously created a fish barrier on Little Park Creek and prevented rainbow trout from colonizing upstream reaches and hybridizing with WCT. This culvert is inadequate to serve as a permanent fish passage barrier because of current specifications and observed instability.

The Little Park Creek watershed consists of mixed land ownership, with the majority managed by the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The upper basin also contains smaller DNRC and an 80-acre private in-holdings along the valley bottom and near the confluence with Miller Creek. Little Park Creek watershed has been heavily roaded and logged in the past, and sediment delivery from roads and inadequate stream crossings remain the primary source of stream habitat degradation.

This project will have two components to protect genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout and improve downstream habitat. First, we propose to construct an enhanced upstream fish passage barrier on Little Park Creek on TNC lands. This would protect and maintain the pure WCT isolate population inhabiting middle and upper reaches from nonnative trout populations occupying reaches immediately downstream. A concrete beneficial barrier and ford would replace an undersized and failing 36’ perched culvert (see attached photo) and would be constructed to block upstream movement of fish (improving on the current perched culvert), while accommodating a 100-year flood event

A fence would be installed around the beneficial barrier site (e.g., short pieces of jackleg fence) to keep dogs and humans from trampling this point sediment source. Additionally, a small footbridge would be installed to minimize disturbance at the stream crossing. (More information on the beneficial barrier is attached at the end of the proposal).

The second component of the project is to remove a 24” concrete culvert near the confluence with Miller Creek on DNRC lands. This culvert is undersized, a seasonal high velocity barrier, and likely to overtop and fail in the near future (see attached photo). Restoration would include removing the culvert, excavating the fill, re-contouring banks/floodplain, installing two in-stream grade-control structures (with large logs on site), and revegetating the disturbed streambanks with clump transplants and native seed.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent): 1/4 miles

Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g. stream miles opened): 5 1/2 miles isolated

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars):	**$**	**20,000**
Matching Dollars:	**$**	**16,550**
Matching In-Kind Services:*	**$**	**1,450**

**salaries of government employees are not considered matching contributions*

Other Contributions (not part of this app)	**$**	
Total Project Cost:	**$**	**38,100**

F. **Attach** itemized (line item) budget – *see budget template*

G. **Insert** or **attach** a project location map showing the project area in relation to a major landmark or town. Please indicate if the project location is on public or private property.

See attached map

H. **Attach** specific project plans (e.g. detailed sketches, plan views [showing location and type of channel modifications], example photographs), current condition photographs, and maps. **If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete and attach a supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).*

I. **Attach** letters or statements of support. This includes landowner consent, community or public support, and fish biologist support.

J The project agreement includes a 20-year maintenance commitment. Please indicate (yes or no) that you will ensure project protection for 20 years. Discuss your ability to meet this commitment.

Yes [x] No [ ]

The Clark Fork Coalition, public and private land managers, and project partners have been implementing and maintaining stream restoration projects since 2009. We are committed to our protection and restoration work and have staff dedicated to monitoring the effectiveness of these projects.

K. **Describe** or **attach** land management & maintenance plans, including changing to grazing regimes, that will ensure protection of the restored area.

No grazing is allowed on the TNC lands (location of barrier installation and portion of lower stream reach). Gates and boulders have been placed on side roads to prevent any illegal or non-administrative motorized use.

In lower stream reaches, on DNRC lands, grazing is not currently allowed or planned; fences are in place along the perimeter of the property. These parcels have recently been enhanced for public use (including ADA accessibility) through installation of a gravel hiking trail system and designated parking area adjacent to the county road.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS (attach additional information to end of application):

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?

Westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) will have a direct benefit of barrier installation and habitat improvements. WCT, WCTxRBT hybrids will benefit from fish passage and habitat improvements in lower reaches of the project.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?

This project will enhance wild fish habitat in numerous ways. First, by ensuring isolation of a genetically pure cutthroat population, we are protecting WCT with important conservation value. This is likely the most viable WCT conservation population in the watershed and one of a few pure population isolates that border Missoula. Second, by removing a stream crossing below the pure WCT isolate, we are ensuring aquatic passage and connectivity in lower stream reaches. Improvements will also reduce or eliminate failure risk, acute impacts (e.g., overtopping) and chronic problems such as elevated sediment inputs, which impact the quality of spawning habitat downstream.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?

The restoration and protection treatments proposed will lead to a more robust fishery, especially with regard to native westslope cutthroat trout. This project is one phase in a series of restoration efforts being undertaken by the Clark Fork Coalition and project partners in the upper Miller Creek watershed to benefit wild and native trout populations. Benefits to public fisheries and fishing are both direct and indirect. Adjacent Miller Creek reaches are publicly accessible and will benefit directly from enhanced population resiliency, connectivity, and carrying capacity.

The proposed project, in combination with collective efforts in adjacent stream reaches, will improve fish abundance, WCT conservation, and overall health, productivity and resiliency of upper Miller Creek at a larger scale. Long terms plans include extending benefits to lower Miller Creek and ultimately the Bitterroot River.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?

This project is one phase in a series of restoration efforts being undertaken by the Clark Fork Coalition and project partners in the upper Miller Creek watershed to benefit wild and native trout populations. Benefits to public fisheries and fishing are both direct and indirect. Adjacent Miller Creek reaches are publicly accessible and will benefit directly from enhanced population resiliency, connectivity, and carrying capacity.

The proposed project, in combination with collective efforts in adjacent stream reaches, will improve fish abundance, WCT conservation, and overall health, productivity and resiliency of upper Miller Creek at a larger scale. Long terms plans include extending benefits to lower Miller Creek and ultimately the Bitterroot River.

E. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?

Project addresses two primary objectives with different types of degradation. Enhancement of the upper fish passage barrier will ensure that a genetically pure WCT conservation population remains viable and non-introgressed. Although there are habitat issues in this upper reach, the value of this population is that genetics have not been degraded or compromised. Installation of the permanent barrier will help ensure this continues and facilitate future habitat improvements in the occupied reach.

The lower portion of the project area was degraded by installation of an undersized culvert crossing. The culvert installed was undersized, so we are proposing to remove a culvert on an unneeded road segment (DNRC). Improving fish passage at this location will allow full access for spawning and rearing of wild trout populations in applicable reaches of Miller Creek and lower Little Park Creek.

F. What public benefits will be realized from this project?

Conservation and protection of a genetically pure WCT population. Improvements in lower reaches will also improve access to spawning areas and improve trout rearing habitat quality. Overall public benefits from this project will include increased salmonid population resiliency and density, enhanced fishing opportunities, and improved opportunity for recruitment to local and downstream public fisheries.

G. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

The project will not interfere with the water or property rights of adjacent landowners. There are no water rights issues involved with this project.

H. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site? (explain):

No, the project would not result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site.

I. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?

No, the project is not associated with mine reclamation.

Each approved project applicant must enter into a written agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks specifying terms and duration of the project. The applicant must obtain all applicable permits prior to project construction. A competitive bid process must be followed when using State funds.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:  Date: 5/28/2021

Sponsor (if applicable): _____

Submittal: **Applications must be *signed and received before* December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period**. Late or incomplete applications will be rejected.

Mail to:	FWP Future Fisheries Fish Habitat Bureau PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701	Email:	Future Fisheries Coordinator FWPFFIP@mt.gov (electronic submissions must be signed) For files over 10MB, use https://transfer.mt.gov

Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

Additional Information on the Little Park Creek beneficial barrier

The beneficial barrier would provide both road crossing and fish barrier and would include a wide shallow channel cross section at the crossing, a vertical drop of 3+ feet, and a wide, smooth concrete apron to limit any staging area or pool below the crossing. A key aspect of the barrier is to disperse flow at the crossing, and on the apron to create unfavorable hydraulics for fish passage. Structural design elements include: opening (e.g. weir) width/depth to pass peak flows, abutment height and structure stability against overturning, and hydraulic characteristics on the apron.

The concrete infrastructure would include a concrete slab apron, wing walls, a 3 ft. vertical concrete headwall, and a rock-hardened road tread. At bankfull flow, water depth in the ford is expected to be about 0.75 ft deep. During the 100 year flood, flow depths would approach 2 ft deep. The crossing would be expected to be passable by light trucks below bankfull flow. Vehicle passage during flows greater than bankfull may become difficult for passenger vehicles.

A hardened ford crossing would be used on the roadbed because it is a significantly less costly option to the bridge and has comparable hydraulic characteristics. The site has minimal vehicular traffic, is behind a locked gate, and does not require year-round access, so any sediment generation from crossing the ford would be limited. Emergency access for wildland fire would not be limited by spring high flow conditions, and potential future logging operations can probably work around infrequent peak flow conditions.

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

PROJECT COSTS					CONTRIBUTIONS			
WORK ITEMS (Itemize by Category)	**NUMBER OF UNITS**	**UNIT DESCRIPTION***	**COST/UNIT**	**TOTAL COST**	**FUTURE FISHERIES REQUEST**	**MATCH (Cash or Services)****	**OTHER (Not part of this application)**	**TOTAL**
Personnel***								
Survey	8	hrs	$177.00	$ 1,416.00		1,416.00		$ 1,416.00
Design/Drafting	8	hrs	$137.00	$ 1,096.00		1,096.00		$ 1,096.00
Engineering	6	hrs	$158.00	$ 948.00		948.00		$ 948.00
Bidding/Permitting	10	hrs	$137.00	$ 1,370.00		1,370.00		$ 1,370.00
Oversight (engineer)	10	hrs	$137.00	$ 1,370.00		1,370.00		$ 1,370.00
Project Management (Clark Fork Coalition)	120	hrs	$50.00	$ 6,000.00		6,000.00		$ 6,000.00
			Sub-Total	$ 12,200.00	$ -	$ 12,200.00	$ -	$ 12,200.00
Travel								
Mileage	358	miles	$0.56	$ 200.48		200.48		$ 200.48
Per diem				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 200.48	$ -	$ 200.48	$ -	$ 200.48
Construction Materials****								
Concrete Fish barrier/	18	CY	$800.00	$ 14,400.00	14,400.00			$ 14,400.00
Rock armor	50	CY	$25.00	$ 1,250.00		1,250.00		$ 1,250.00
Footbridge	1	LS	$1,000.00	$ 1,000.00		1,000.00		$ 1,000.00
Fencing (jackleg fence)	1	LS	$400.00	$ 400.00		400.00		$ 400.00
Native seed	1	LS	$200.00	$ 200.00		200.00		$ 200.00
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 17,250.00	$ 14,400.00	$ 2,850.00	$ -	$ 17,250.00
Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization								
Mobilization	1	LS	$1,500.00	$ 1,500.00	1,500.00			$ 1,500.00
Excavator - remove culvert, prepare site for fish barrier / abutments	12	hrs	$175.00	$ 2,100.00	2,100.00			$ 2,100.00
load rock, place rock, backfill / regrade site	12	hrs	$175.00	$ 2,100.00	2,100.00			$ 2,100.00

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Remove culvert and restore stream crossing	10	hrs	$175.00	$ 1,750.00		1,750.00		$ 1,750.00
Dump truck - transport rock armor from borrow pit	8	hrs	$125.00	$ 1,000.00		1,000.00		$ 1,000.00
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 8,450.00	$ 5,700.00	$ 2,750.00	$ -	$ 8,450.00
			TOTALS	$ 38,100.48	$ 20,100.00	$ 18,000.48	$ -	$ 38,100.48

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

All of the columns in the budget table and the matching contribution table MUST be completed appropriately or the application will be invalid. Please see the example budget sheet for additional clarification.

*Units = feet, hours, inches, etc. Do not use lump sum unless there is no other way to describe the costs.

**Can include in-kind materials. Justification for in-kind labor (e.g. hourly rates used). Do not use government salaries as match. Describe here or in text.

***The Review Panel suggests that design and oversight costs associated with a proposed project not exceed 15% of the total project budget. If design and oversight costs are in excess of 15%, applications must include a justification or minimum of two competitive bids for the cost of undertaking the project.

****The Review Panel recommends a maximum fencing cost of $1.50 per foot. Additional costs may be the responsibility of the applicant and/or partners.

Additional details:

APPLICATION MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

(do not include requested funds or contributions not associated with the application)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Department of Natural Resources	$ -	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	Y
The Nature Conservancy		$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	Y
MPG Ranch	$ -	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00	N
Westslope Chapter Trout Unlimited	$ -	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00	N
Clark Fork Coalition	$ -	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,000.00	Y
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTALS	$ -	$ 18,000.00	$ 18,000.00	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

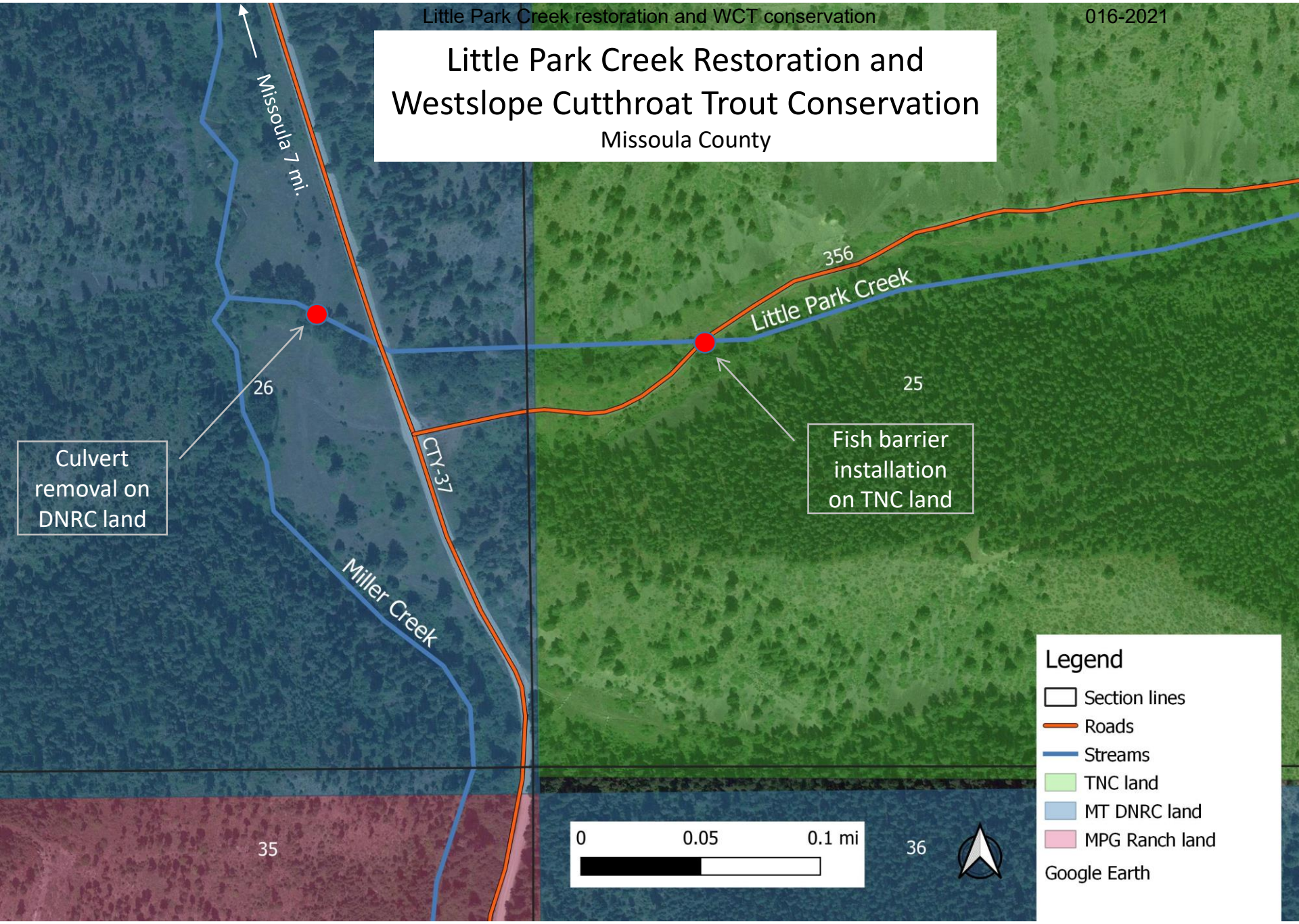
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

(contributions not associated with the application)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTALS	$ -	$ -	$ -	

Little Park Creek Restoration and Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation

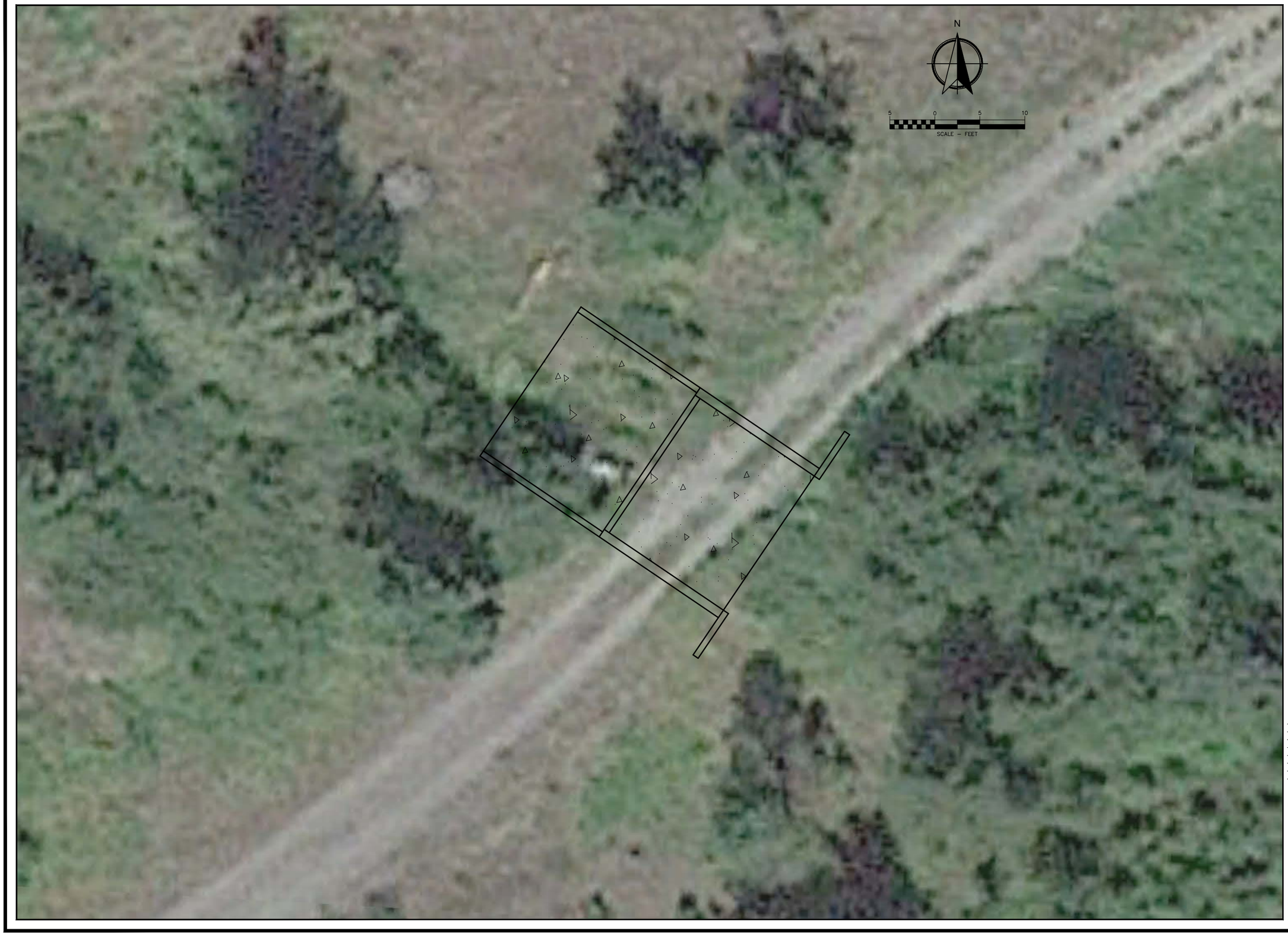
Missoula County



Little Park Creek Restoration and Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Future Fisheries Proposal

Figure 1: Little Park Creek perched culvert on TNC lands to be replaced with beneficial barrier.

Figure 2: Little Park Creek culvert on DNRC lands to be removed and restored.



WGM GROUP
WWW.WGMGROUP.COM

PRELIMINARY
PLOTTED: 5/27/21
SAVED: 5/27/21

SITE PLAN
LITTLE PARK FISH BARRIER
MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA

REVISIONS:

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

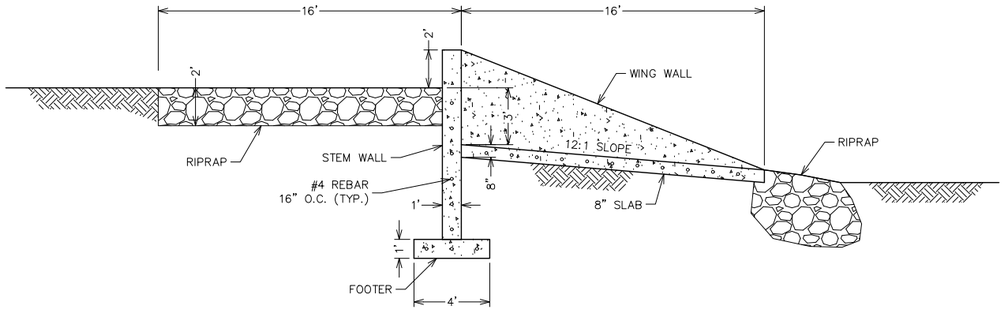
PROJECT: 19-12-16
LAYOUT: Layout1
SURVEYED: ---
DESIGN: ---
DRAFT: CEG
APPROVE: BA
DATE:

MAY 2021

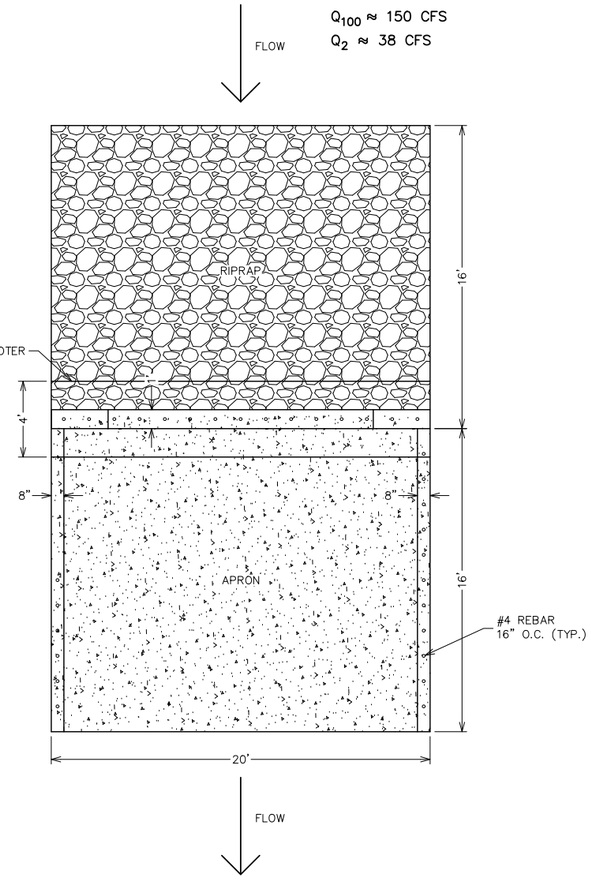
SHEET 1 OF 3

FILE: W:\Projects\191216\CAD Data\Design\191216_site.dwg

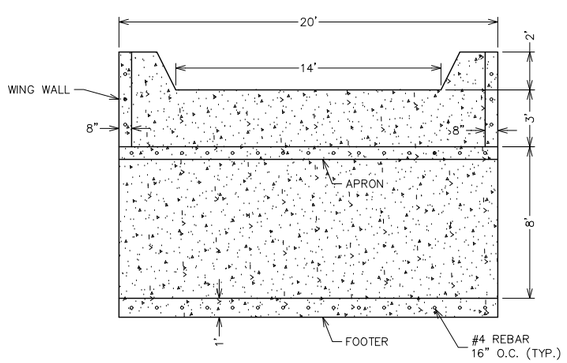
Barrier with Drivable Ford– Preferred Alternative



SIDE VIEW



PLAN VIEW



FRONT VIEW - UPSTREAM

4 0 4 8
SCALE – FEET

WGM GROUP
WWW.WGMGROUP.COM

PRELIMINARY
PLOTTED: 5/27/21
SAVED: 5/27/21

DETAILS
LITTLE PARK FISH BARRIER
MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA

REVISIONS:

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

PROJECT: 19-12-16
LAYOUT: SHT3
SURVEYED: ---
DESIGN: ---
DRAFT: CEG
APPROVE: BA
DATE:

MAY 2021

SHEET 3 OF 3

FILE: W:\Projects\19\216\CAD Data\Design\19\216_site.dwg

FWP.MT.GOV

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5506
May 27, 2021

Future Fisheries Improvement Program
C/O Michelle McGree
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
P.O. Box 200701
1420 E. 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Clark Fork Coalition FFIP Proposal – Little Park Creek

Dear Review Committee Members:

This letter in written in support of the Clark Fork Coalition's (CFC) application for Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) funding for enhancement work on Little Park Creek, a tributary of Miller Creek just south of Missoula. This is a collaborative project involving CFC, The Nature Conservancy, Montana DNRC, Montana FWP, and other partners that seeks to conserve genetically pure Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT), improve habitat conditions in this small tributary, and build upon past and ongoing work in the watershed.

The project originated as a fish passage barrier enhancement project on the stream when FWP sampling and genetic testing revealed that the WCT population above the barrier site was non-introgressed (genetically pure). Although mild WCT hybridization was detected below the barrier, this reach serves an important spawning and rearing area for trout migrating out of main stem Miller Creek. However, additional substandard crossings and habitat issues were identified in this lower reach.

Accordingly, the FFIP project proposal involves two primary aspects: (1) reconstructing the barrier to ensure that the WCT conservation population remains protected from hybridization and (2) enhancing fish passage and habitat quality in lower reaches (below the barrier) to promote recruitment of wild trout to main stem Miller Creek. The current fish passage barrier is simply a poorly installed, undersized culvert that fortuitously protected the WCT population upstream from hybridization. This structure is showing signs of failure and should be replaced to ensure continued protection from immigration and genetic contamination.

This project is key component of ongoing restoration work in the Miller Creek watershed and is certainly worthy of consideration for funding. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information regarding past, ongoing and planned projects in the basin or for updated fisheries monitoring data.

Sincerely,

Ladd

W. Ladd Knotek
Fisheries Management Biologist

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Southwestern Land Office • Missoula Unit
3206 Maverick Lane, Missoula, MT 59804 Phone: (406) 542-4201 Fax: (406) 542-5807

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR 1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

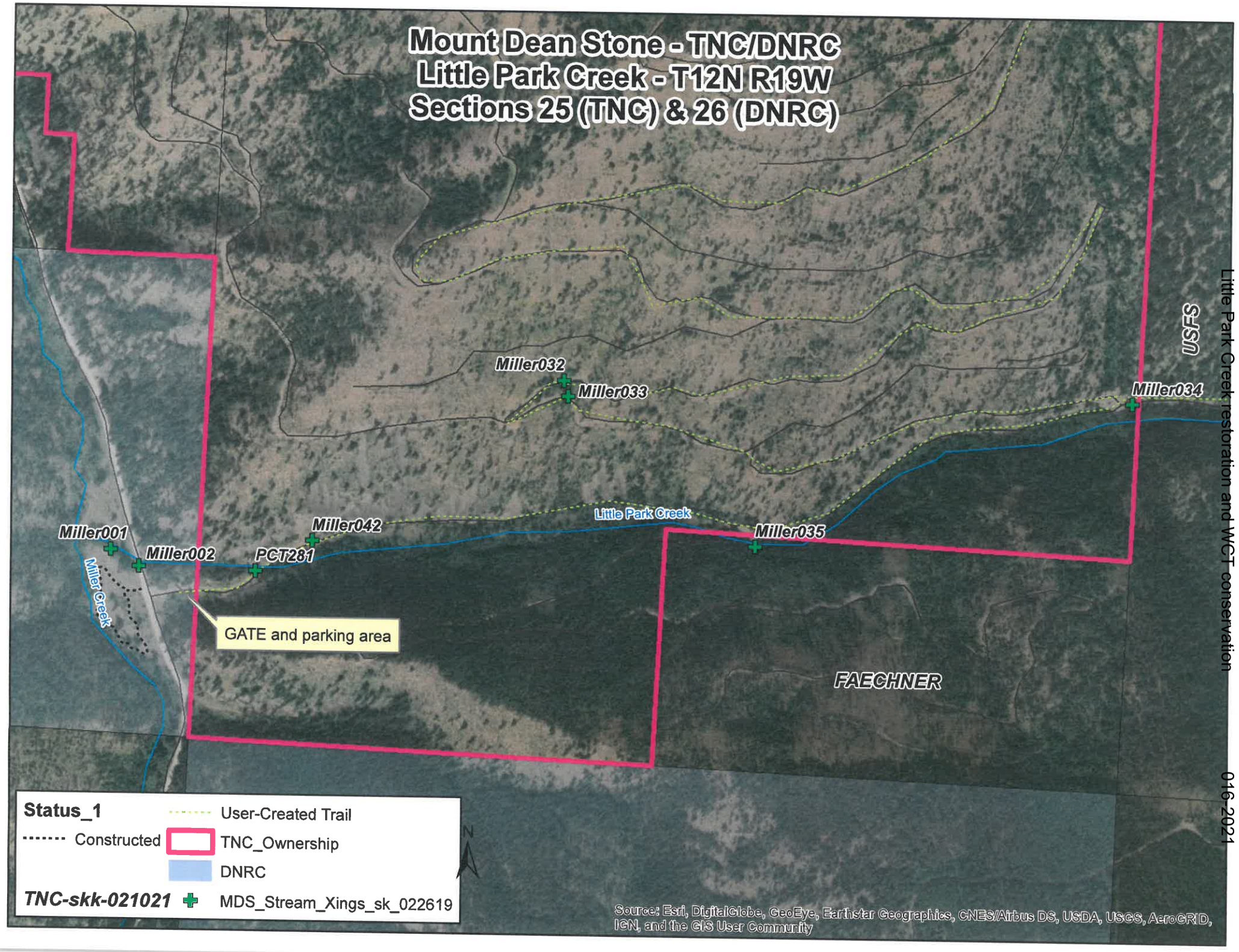
May 27, 2021
LETTER OF CONSENT

To Whom It May Concern;

Please accept this letter as verification that the Montana DNRC is aware of, and supports the Clark Fork Coalition's plan to remove an existing concrete culvert pipe on DNRC ownership in the SESE of Section 26, T12N R19W (identified as Miller 001 on the attached map). The removal of this pipe is necessary for the improvement of fish habitat and to address stream flow conditions caused by an improper installation of the pipe. If you have concerns or questions about this project I can be contacted by phone (406) 542-4309, email: jehansen@mt.gov or mail at the above address.

Sincerely;

Jonathan Hansen
Missoula Unit Manager


Mount Dean Stone - TNC/DNRC
Little Park Creek - T12N R19W
Sections 25 (TNC) & 26 (DNRC)
Miller032
Miller033
Miller034
Miller035
Miller042
Miller001
Miller002
PCT281
Little Park Creek
Miller Creek
GATE and parking area
USFS
FAECHNER
Status_1
Constructed
User-Created Trail
TNC_Ownership
DNRC
TNC-skk-021021
MDS_Stream_Xings_sk_022619
N
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
Little Park Creek restoration and WCT conservation
016-2021

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Nature Conservancy in Montana
32 South Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

Tel (406) 443-0303
Fax (406) 443-8311

nature.org/montana

May 24, 2021

Future Fisheries Grant Program
Fish Habitat Bureau
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: Access Permission and Project Support on The Nature Conservancy's Mount Dean Stone lands at Little Park Creek

Dear FWP Future Fisheries Coordinator,

The Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) is applying for a Future Fisheries Program grant on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owned land in the Mount Dean Stone project area, just south of Missoula, Montana. Mount Dean Stone is part of a 20+ year effort towards watershed restoration and protection that TNC has initiated in western Montana under its Montana Forests program. The primary objective of our Montana Forest program is to restore and permanently protect lands for their significant forest, wildlife, fisheries and community values.

TNC fully supports CFC's efforts to restore and enhance fisheries in Miller Creek and specifically its Little Park Creek tributary. Little Park Creek contains a healthy and pure population of Westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) that is threatened by downstream hybridized and non-native trout. This grant request is critical in ensuring that the pure WCT population is secured, that downstream at-risk stream crossings are corrected, and that road-system-associated sediment sources are minimized.

In addition to being a willing private landowner, TNC is supporting this project with financial and staff assistance.

Furthermore, TNC hereby grants CFC access and permission to conduct ground-disturbing activities necessary to carry out these grant-funded restoration efforts on TNC lands and roadways. TNC will collaborate on the project and assist CFC in obtaining the necessary permits.

Sincerely,

Steven Kloetzel
Western Montana Land Steward
The Nature Conservancy in Montana
406-214-2036
skloetzel@tnc.org

Chris Bryant
Western Montana Land Protection Director
The Nature Conservancy in Montana
406-214-6437
cbryant@tnc.org