



FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

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



I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant Name: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited-Ryen Neudecker
- Mailing Address: PO Box 1
- City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854
- Telephone: 406-240-4824 E-mail: ryen@montanatu.org
- B. Contact Person (if different than applicant): See above
- Address: _____
- City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
- C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if different than applicant): Chris O'Connor
- Mailing Address: _____
- City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854
- Telephone: 406-240-8347 E-mail: ccoconnor75@gmail.com

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

- A. Project Name: Blackfoot River Fish Screen-RM 46
- River, stream, or lake: Blackfoot River
- Location: Township: 15N Range: 13W Section: 34
- Latitude: 47.004873 Longitude: -113.132802 *within project (decimal degrees)*
- County: Powell
- B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to upgrade an existing irrigation diversion pump site on the Blackfoot River with a river screen to eliminate trout entrainment. The project is located in critical bull trout habitat and will also benefit westslope cutthroat trout, a species of special concern.

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

The Blackfoot River Watershed in western Montana supports populations of two imperiled native species, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. The mainstem Blackfoot River and primary tributaries are designated critical habitat for bull trout. Westslope cutthroat trout currently occupy approximately 90% of their historical range in the Blackfoot and the watershed supports one of the larger fluvial metapopulations of genetically unaltered westslope cutthroat trout in Montana. The river also supports a robust rainbow trout and brown trout fishery. This project, located in the middle Blackfoot River watershed will eliminate entrainment of wild trout at an existing pump site near river-mile 46. Specifically, an unscreened irrigation diversion located within a critical migration corridor for native trout populations will be upgraded with a river screen.

The diversion is just upstream of the mouth of Monture Creek and is located within the migration corridors for stronghold populations of fluvial bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. The existing pump site is not appropriately screened, and the irrigator has documented trout being routed all the way through the pivot system and plugging the nozzles (see picture).

Project Goals & Objectives:

The overall goal of the Blackfoot River Fish Screening Project is to eliminate fish entrainment, improve migration corridors for native migratory trout, and allow for efficient irrigation practices. Specific objectives include: installing a low-maintenance, cost-effective, self-cleaning fish screen capable of accommodating the water right.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent): 50 feet
 Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g. stream miles opened): Five miles

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars):	\$ 8,900
Matching Dollars:	\$ 18,964
Matching In-Kind Services:*	\$ 2,510.80
<i>*salaries of government employees are not considered matching contributions</i>	
Other Contributions (not part of this app)	\$ _____
Total Project Cost:	\$ \$30,374.80

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.

- 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 ☒ No ☐

The landowner will sign a 20-year maintenance commitment agreement.

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

The river screen will be used to pump water from the river and deliver it to the pipeline system that serves the pivot.

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

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

Westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.

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

Screening irrigation diversions is an important strategy in our efforts to conserve and restore native trout populations in the Blackfoot River watershed.

- C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent? What are the expected short term and long term benefits to the fishery?

Yes, by eliminating a source of entrainment, which will protect wild trout recruitment to the Blackfoot River fishery. This section of the Blackfoot River is a popular angling destination with over 20,000 angler days per year. Screening this diversion will also contribute to the FWP management goals of eliminating controllable sources of mortality for bull trout.

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

Yes, by upgrading this existing irrigation diversion that is entraining trout, recruitment should improve in a highly popular reach of the Blackfoot River for anglers.

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

Entrainment of wild trout through the existing irrigation diversion will be addressed by upgrading the pump site with a river screen.

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

This project advances the overall Blackfoot River Restoration program, in this case by benefiting native trout conservation, wild trout fishery enhancement and irrigation infrastructure upgrades that are fish-friendly. Specific public benefits include: 1) expanding suitable habitat and fish passage conditions for westslope cutthroat trout and 2) eliminating a limiting factor for trout.

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

No. The new river screen will be designed to meet the water rights of the diversion site.

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

No.

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

No.

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: November 9, 2021

Sponsor (if applicable): _____

Submittal: Applications must be signed and received on or before November 15 and May 15 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 and send to mmcgree@mt.gov
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Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

001-2022

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	10	Hrs	\$50.00	\$ 500.00		500.00		\$ 500.00
Design	5	Hrs	\$100.00	\$ 500.00		500.00		\$ 500.00
Engineering	5	Hrs	\$100.00	\$ 500.00		500.00		\$ 500.00
Permitting				\$ -				\$ -
Oversight	11	Hrs	\$70.00	\$ 770.00		770.00		\$ 770.00
Project Mgmt	22	Hrs	\$45.00	\$ 990.00		990.00		\$ 990.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 3,260.00	\$ -	\$ 3,260.00	\$ -	\$ 3,260.00
Travel								
Mileage	440	miles	\$0.57	\$ 250.80		250.80		\$ 250.80
Per diem				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 250.80	\$ -	\$ 250.80	\$ -	\$ 250.80
Construction Materials****								
River Screen	1	LS	\$17,719.00	\$ 17,719.00	7,700.00	10,019.00		\$ 17,719.00
Davit Crane	1	LS	\$8,875.00	\$ 8,875.00	1,200.00	7,675.00		\$ 8,875.00
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 26,594.00	\$ 8,900.00	\$ 17,694.00	\$ -	\$ 26,594.00
Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization								
Tractor	3	hrs	\$90.00	\$ 270.00		270.00		\$ 270.00
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 270.00	\$ -	\$ 270.00	\$ -	\$ 270.00
TOTALS				\$ 30,374.80	\$ 8,900.00	\$ 21,474.80	\$ -	\$ 30,374.80

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)
Private Landowner	\$ 270.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,270.00	Yes
USFWS	\$ -	\$ 12,694.00	\$ 12,694.00	Yes
Blackfoot Challenge		\$ 1,270.00	\$ 1,270.00	Yes
BBCTU	\$ 2,240.80		\$ 2,240.80	Yes
TOTALS	\$ 2,510.80	\$ 18,964.00	\$ 21,474.80	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

(contributions not associated with the application)

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

Example of Riverscreen proposed for Blackfoot River pumping station:



Blackfoot River Heart-Heart Diversion Location/Pump House







Fish in irrigation nozzle



Blackfoot River Fish Screen Site

River mile 46; .25 miles upstream of Monture Creek; five miles west of Ovando

Scotty brown bridge
Scotty Brown Rd

Blackfoot River Diversion



4000 ft

FWP.MT.GOV

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804

November 5, 2021

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Attn: Michelle McGree
1420 East 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Future Fisheries Panel:

I am writing in support of the Blackfoot River fish screen application submitted by the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This section of the Blackfoot River is an important migration corridor for native westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Furthermore, this river section is one of the most popular angling destinations in Region 2 with over 20,000 angler days per year.

The irrigation pump is located within the migration corridor of the remaining strongholds of migratory bull trout in the Blackfoot watershed. Since inception of the Blackfoot restoration initiative, a key tenet of the program has been to reduce or eliminate controllable sources of mortality for bull trout. An essential element of this approach has been screening all ditches along the migration corridors of migratory bull trout populations.

The Heart – Heart Ranch has been a great conservation partner for over 30 years, enabling many restoration projects to occur on the mainstem river and tributaries through the ranch, including the donation of an instream flow lease. The ranch is situated in a critical portion of the watershed from a native species standpoint, so this project will complement the myriad of beneficial actions already completed on the ranch. Although this pump site has a primitive screen, the efficacy is inadequate and fails to meet fish screening criteria. This cost-effective project will ensure a modern screen that is ideal for fish conservation goals while greatly improving maintenance of this site.

This project will protect fishery values in this extremely popular recreational fishery while also contributing to native species conservation goals in the Blackfoot River. This simple project will help ensure our ongoing commitments to bull trout conservation are met. Thank you very much for consideration of this funding request.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor