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*Connor Parrish, Project Manager, Gallatin Home River Initiative*

Michelle McGree  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Habitat Protection Bureau  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Transmitted via email to: FWPFIP@mt.gov  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Mrs. McGree,

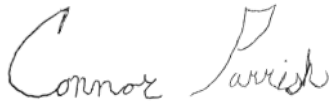
Attached please find a Future Fisheries Improvement Program application packet for 5 Bar 6 Mill Creek Restoration Project. This is a collaborative project in partnership with Hunter Terry, owner of the 5 bar 6 Ranch (Grey Bear Holdings LLC.). Mill Creek is a major tributary to Yellowstone River with its confluence near the town of Pray, in Paradise Valley of Park County, MT. Of the remaining Yellowstone Cutthroat strong holds, Mill Creek is one of the largest watersheds that occur outside of Yellowstone National Park. Despite its importance to native fish, a legacy of land use has left the lower reaches of Mill Creek in a degraded condition. Approximately 7 miles upstream of its confluence with the Yellowstone River, Mill Creek flows through Hunter Terry's 5 Bar 6 Ranch for 2 miles. Historic landowners channelized and diked the north bank, cutting off Mill Creek from its side channels and historic flood plan. The lack of large wood and instream habitat complexity within this reach indicates that wood has likely been removed and the stream channel simplified. This area is primarily riffle habitat with a small number of pools that have limited fish holding capabilities. However, this stretch of river is an important spawning and rearing area for migratory Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout because it occurs upstream of an irrigation diversion that is responsible for annually dewatering of lower Mill Creek (DeRito 2004). Additionally, a U.S. Forest Service easement allows public fishing access to Mill Creek through the 5 Bar 6 Ranch. Since purchasing the property in 2019, Mr. Terry has been in discussions with Trout Unlimited about improving habitat and instream flow through the 2 mile stretch of stream that flows through his property and adjacent USFS lands.

TU is planning a phased restoration approach focusing on the upper mile of stream before continuing work further downstream onto USFS land. The completed phase 1 of restoration would include the installation of 10-15 engineered log jams and breaching of two push-up berms. The results of this work will improve spawning, rearing, and over wintering habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and other species including rainbow trout, brook trout and brown trout. These restoration actions will also improve fishing opportunities within a reach of Mill Creek where a US Forest Service easement allows for public fishing access.

Mr. Terry has provided Trout Unlimited with \$25,000 and pledged an additional \$11,000 of in-kind labor for a restoration project on Mill Creek. TU will also be contributing \$5,000 of in-kind

labor to help manage the project. To complete this project, TU is requesting \$25,002.44 from FFIP to contribute to this restoration effort. We will also be applying for additional funding from both Western Native Trout Initiative and the Jackson Hole One Fly to cover the remaining project costs (\$40,250 requested from each). If approved, FFIP funds will pay for materials and labor required for the implementation of this project. We hope you and the FFIP Citizens' Panel will find the 5 Bar 6 Mill Creek Restoration project worthy of your support. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connor Parrish".

Connor Parrish  
Project Manager, Gallatin Home River Initiative



# **FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION**

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



## **I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

A. Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Contact Person (if different than applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name  
(if different than applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## **II. PROJECT INFORMATION**

A. Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

River, stream, or lake: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ *within project (decimal degrees)*

County: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Purpose of Project:

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

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

E. Project Budget:

**Grant Request (Dollars):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Matching Dollars: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Matching In-Kind Services:\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Other Contributions (not part of this application) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Project Cost:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 ☐

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

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

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

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

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?

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

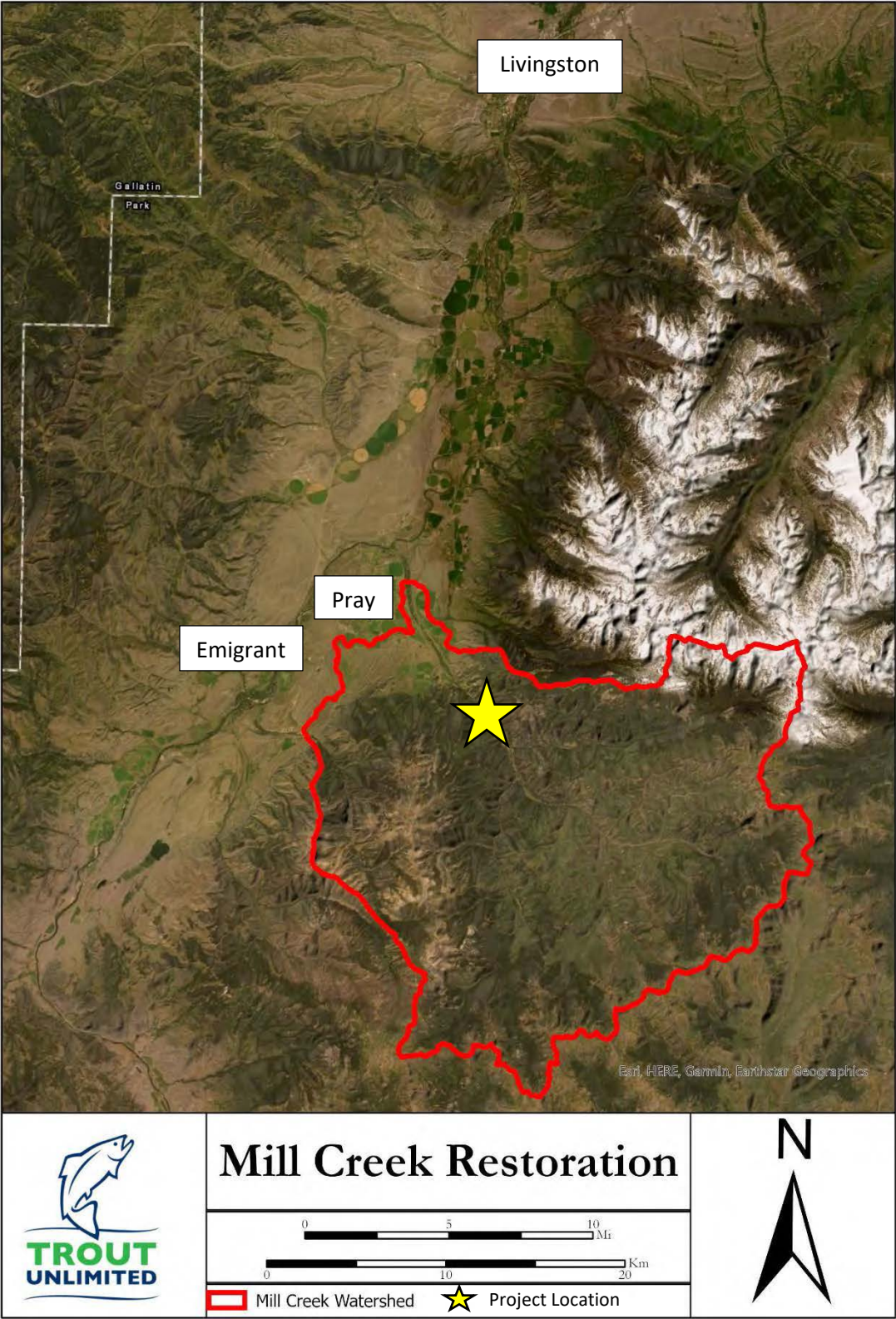
Sponsor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Management Bureau PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701	Email: Future Fisheries Coordinator at: <a href="mailto:FWPFFIP@mt.gov">FWPFFIP@mt.gov</a>  Electronic submissions must be signed. For files over 10MB, use <a href="https://transfer.mt.gov">https://transfer.mt.gov</a> & send to <a href="mailto:mmcgree@mt.gov">mmcgree@mt.gov</a>
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*Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.*

**Project Location**





## Changes to Mill Creek Over Time



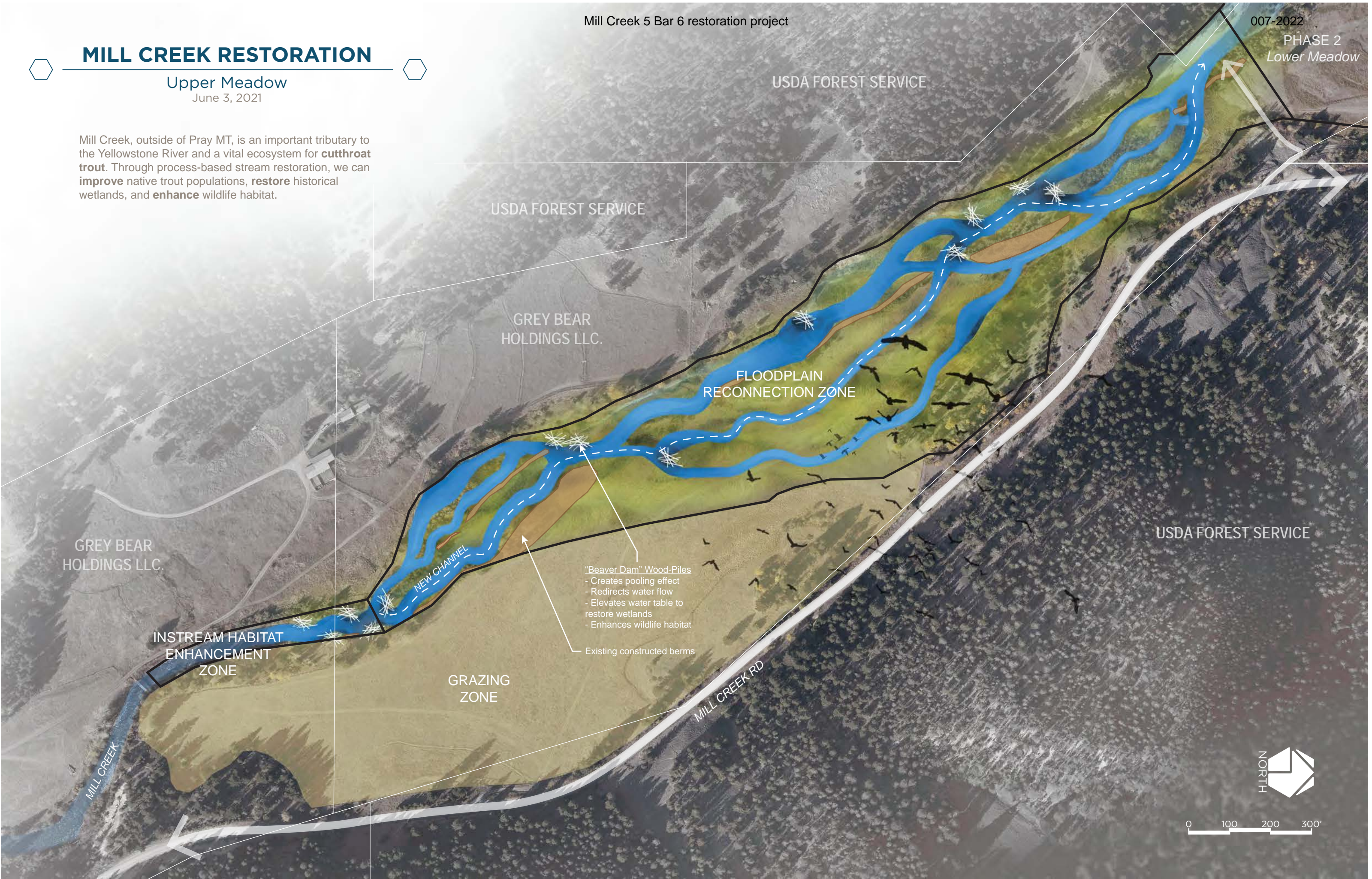
Mill Creek has been forced into one main channel and flood plain connection has been cut off by dikes/push up berms. The stream lacks channel complexity and secondary channels which reduces the capacity for Mill Creek to support trout within this reach. The proposed project would address these issues by installing 10 – 15 engineered large wood structures and breach two push up berms. This would result in the reconnection of the historic floodplain and increased instream habitat complexity.



# MILL CREEK RESTORATION

Upper Meadow  
June 3, 2021

Mill Creek, outside of Pray MT, is an important tributary to the Yellowstone River and a vital ecosystem for **cutthroat trout**. Through process-based stream restoration, we can **improve** native trout populations, **restore** historical wetlands, and **enhance** wildlife habitat.





## Site Photos



*Figure 1: Photos of earthen berms that have cut off Mill Creek from its historic floodplain. The proposed project would breach these structures.*



*Figure 2: Dry historic floodplain (left) that was disconnected by the construction of earthen berms. A spring (right) within the project area feeds a the historic side channel which would be reconnected at high flows under the current restoration proposal.*



*Figure 3: Within the project area Mill Creek is primarily shallow riffle habitat with large substrate. The proposed project would increase pool frequency and diversify the habitat types available to all life stages of trout.*

**BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

007-2022

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
<b>Personnel***</b>								
Survey	1	Topo, drone, and wetland delineation	9000	\$ 9,000.00		9,000.00		\$ 9,000.00
Design	1	Final designs	10000	\$ 10,000.00		10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Engineering	1	No-rise analysis	6000	\$ 6,000.00		6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Permitting	20	TU project manager's time	50	\$ 1,000.00		1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Oversight	40	Project oversight by consultant	100	\$ 4,000.00		4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
				\$ -				\$ -
		Sub-Total		\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
<b>Travel</b>								
Mileage				\$ -				\$ -
Per diem				\$ -				\$ -
		Sub-Total		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Construction Materials****</b>								
wood posts	444	untreated wooden fence posts	\$4.51	\$ 2,002.44	2,002.44			\$ 2,002.44
logs	175	10 - 20 ft logs, transported to site	\$500.00	\$ 87,500.00	15,000.00	72,500.00		\$ 87,500.00
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
		Sub-Total		\$ 89,502.44	\$ 17,002.44	\$ 72,500.00	\$ -	\$ 89,502.44
<b>Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization</b>								
Labor	160	4 person construction crew for one week	\$50.00	\$ 8,000.00	8,000.00			\$ 8,000.00
	40	Heavy Equipmment	\$350.00	\$ 14,000.00		14,000.00		\$ 14,000.00
				\$ -	-			\$ -
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				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -	-			\$ -
		Sub-Total		\$ 22,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	\$ 22,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>				\$ 141,502.44	\$ 25,002.44	\$ 116,500.00	\$ -	\$ 141,502.44

**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.

# BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

007-2022

\*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)
Trout Unlimited	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	Y
Hunter Terry (landowner)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	Y
Wester Native Trout Initiative (grant app due January 21, 2022)	\$ -	\$ 40,250.00	\$ 40,250.00	N
Jackson Hole One Fly (grant app due February 2022)	\$ -	\$ 40,250.00	\$ 40,250.00	N
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 105,500.00	\$ 116,500.00	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS				
(contributions not associated with the application)				
CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Fisheries Division

1420 E. Sixth Ave.

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Future Fisheries Review Panel,

I am writing you to provide support for Trout Unlimited's "*5 Bar 6 Mill Creek Restoration Project*" application to the Future Fisheries Improvement Program. Since purchasing property along Mill Creek, I have been in frequent discussions with Trout Unlimited about our shared goals of improving fish habitat and fishing opportunities in our treasured local stream. TU's proposed project would benefit native Yellowstone cutthroat, rainbow, and brown trout by improving in-stream habitat and reconnecting historic floodplain. We pledge to support this project by donating funding, materials, and heavy equipment time to complete the construction of 10-15 in-stream wood structures and breach two earthen dikes. The completed project will provide long-lasting benefits to trout that reside in Mill Creek and those that migrate up from the Yellowstone River to spawn. We thank you for considering this project for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hunter Terry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hunter" and last name "Terry" clearly distinguishable.

Hunter Terry, Owner 5 Bar 6 Ranch



Fisheries Division  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701  
(406) 444-2449  
November 15, 2021

Ms. Michelle McGree  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Ms. McGree,

Please accept this letter of support for the Future Fisheries Improvement Program application submitted by Connor Parrish with Trout Unlimited. The application addresses the need for stream restoration along a meadow section of Mill Creek in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The project area supports a conservation population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout and high-quality angling for this Montana native trout.

This meadow reach of Mill Creek has been modified substantially over the years. Placer mining, channelization to create more grazing land, and livestock grazing have altered the form and function of the reach of Mill Creek flowing through this meadow and divorced the stream from its floodplain. The proposed actions will restore habitat quality, reduce sedimentation, and reconnect Mill Creek to its floodplain. The benefit to Yellowstone cutthroat trout would be considerable, as the habitat degradation through this reach reduces the carrying capacity of the stream.

Anglers will also benefit from this project. Anglers can access the stream under the Stream Access Law. The meadow reach is a popular spot for fishing, and anglers frequently contact FWP's fish biologists regarding restoration through the reach. Restoring function, habitat quality, and aesthetics will bring benefits to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout and recreationalists.

Carol Endicott, Yellowstone Cutthroat Biologist, will be the department's primary point of contact for this project. You can reach her at 406-222-3710 or [cendicott@mt.gov](mailto:cendicott@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Eileen Ryce  
Fisheries Division Administrator