



FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

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



I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Jim Buer

Mailing Address: PO Box 789

City: Scobey State: MT Zip: 59263

Telephone: 406-783-8575 E-mail: j.buer@nemont.net

B. Contact Person (if different than applicant): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if different than applicant): Terry Buer

Mailing Address: PO Box 947

City: Scobey State: MT Zip: 59263

Telephone: 406-783-8403 E-mail: terrybuer@gmail.com

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Name: Buer Pond Fencing

River, stream, or lake: Buer Pond

Location: Township: T36N Range: R49E Section: S21

Latitude: 48.85751 Longitude: -105.32066 Within project (decimal degrees)

County: Daniels

B. Purpose of Project:

Self-sustaining populations of largemouth bass and yellow perch in Buer Pond provide one of the better available angling opportunities for residents of Northeastern Montana. Additionally, the yellow perch population in Buer pond serves as a reliable donation source for supplementing other waterbodies via wild fish transfer. The purpose of this project is to exclude cattle from the surrounding landscape at Buer Pond. This exclusion of cattle will allow ecologically important riparian and near-shore emergent vegetation to remain unaltered and result in an overall health benefit to the fishery and surrounding ecosystem.

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

Reeverts Fencing LLC out of Scobey, MT will be contracted to install approximately 2,650 ft of 4 strand barbed wire fence that will surround Buer Pond. The project will result in an approximately 35-acre section of property that will be free of grazing. Along the fence, 5.5' T posts with 16.5' rod spacing will be used for this project as well as 10' T posts ("deadmen") where elevation relief requires them. All braces used for this project will be steel. The new fence will also include one drive-in gate and one walk-through gate. See attached map for spatial coverage of the project. Labor, equipment, and mobilization of equipment will also be supplied by Reeverts Fencing LLC. Please find line-item details within the attached budget.

D. What was the cause of habitat degradation and how will the project correct the cause?

Free range cattle have grazed and trampled vegetation surrounding Buer Pond. Additionally, inflow and outflow water of Buer Pond lacks sufficient riparian vegetation due to presence of cattle. This fencing project will allow for the exclusion of cattle from this section of land surrounding Buer Pond as well as inflow and outflow water.

Grazing cattle will not lack water as a result of this project as alternate water is available outside the enclosure to the west.

E. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent): 5 acres

Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g., stream miles opened): Fenced area = ~35 acres

F. Project Budget Summary:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 70% - \$6,650

Matching Dollars: \$ 30% - \$2,850

Matching In-Kind Services:* \$ Contractor is installing – included in total cost

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

Other Contributions (not part of this app) \$

Total Project Cost: \$ \$9,500

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

H. Attach project location map(s) that include:

☒ Extent of the project, including context (relation to major landmark or town)

☒ Indication of public and private property

☒ Riparian buffer locations and widths (if applicable) and grazing locations

I. Attach project plans:

☒ Detailed sketches or plan views with the location and proposed restoration

☒ Pre-project photographs (GPS location strongly recommended)

☐ If water leasing or water salvage is involved, attach a supplemental questionnaire (<https://myfwp.mt.gov/getRepositoryFile?objectID=36110>)

J. Attach letters or statements of support (e.g., landowner consent, community or public support, and fish biologist support). List any other project partners:

Attached.

III. MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING (attach additional information to end of application):

- A 20-year maintenance commitment is required*. Please confirm that you will ensure this protection and describe your approach. Attach any relevant maintenance plans. Yes ☒ No ☐
- *If it is a water leasing project, describe the length of the agreement.*

General fence maintenance will be included as part of the plan.

- B. Will grazing be part of or adjacent to the project? If so, describe or attach land management plans, including short term and long term grazing regimes. If the landowner is not the applicant, please describe their involvement in the project. *If you want assistance with grazing plan development, note your need.*

Grazing will be allowed adjacent to the project with exception of the pasture directly to the east of the enclosure. Terry Buer is the son of the applicant and heavily involved with the financials, logistics, and overall scope of this project.

Grazing/no grazing areas are noted on attached maps.

- C. Will the project be monitored to determine if goals were met? If so, what are the short-term and long-term plans to assess benefits and lessons learned? Were pre-project data collected? Will monitoring information be shared with FWP?

Yes, pre-project photos will be taken (attached) and long-term fisheries data can be used as reference for post-project benefits. FWP will be actively managing the fishery as part of standard long-term monitoring and will be able to observe the overall habitat benefits within the enclosure annually.

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

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

Yellow Perch
Largemouth Bass

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

An enclosure where cattle are excluded will allow riparian and near-shore emergent vegetation to remain undisturbed. This vegetation will provide critical spawning habitat for yellow perch, who spawn in near-shore vegetation in early spring. Additionally, increases in littoral vegetation will provide important rearing habitat for juvenile yellow perch and largemouth bass.

- C. What is the expected improvement to fish populations, both short term and long term? How might the project translate to angler success?

Relative abundance of yellow perch and largemouth bass may increase in Buer pond as a result of this project over the long term. Short term, improvements in relative weight (condition) of both species will likely be observed as abundances of prey (macroinvertebrates and various minnow species) increase with improved habitat.

Angler success will likely improve as recruitment of young fishes increases with additional rearing habitat.

- D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how? Is public fishing allowed onsite? If not, describe how the public would access the project benefits.

Yes, improvements to fish populations referenced in earlier sections will allow for better angler opportunity at catching yellow perch and largemouth bass. Public fishing is allowed onsite.

- E. Aside from angling, what local or large-scale public benefits will be realized from this project?

Land surrounding Buer Pond is currently enrolled in the Block Management Program. Increased density of grassland habitat surrounding Buer Pond will allow for better upland bird habitat, wildlife grazing, and subsequent improvements to hunting.

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

No, water rights on the property are owned by the Buer family.

- G. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site (including paid access)? Explain:

No, public fishing access is allowed year-round and hunting access via the Block Management Program is available in fall. No commercial activity is expected.

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

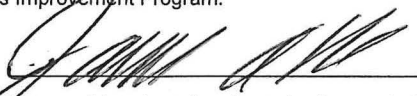
No

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.

V. 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.

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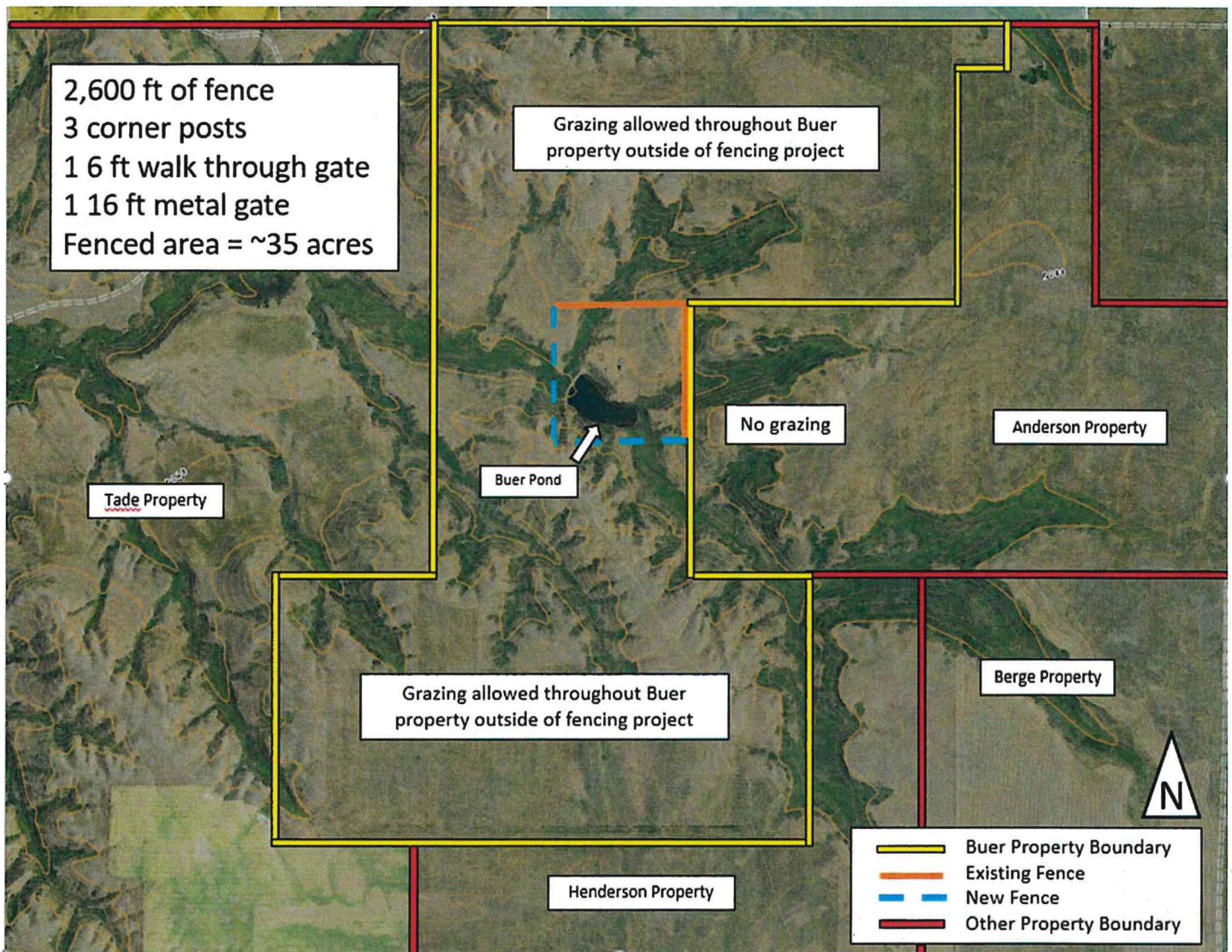
Applicant Signature: Date: 3-28-22

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.

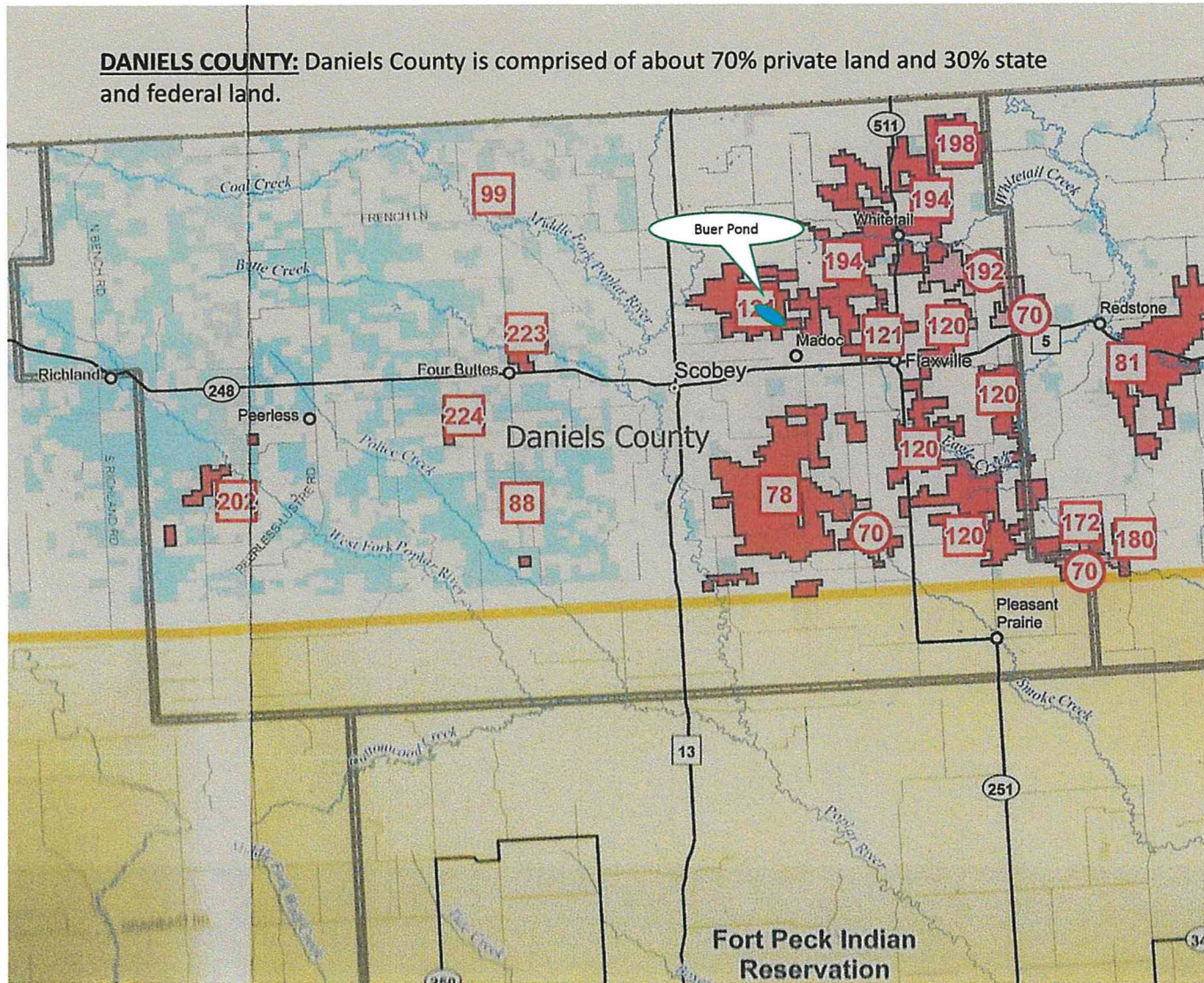
Mail to: FWP Future Fisheries
Fish Habitat Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

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

Figure 1. Map denoting public/private property, grazing, and project extent.



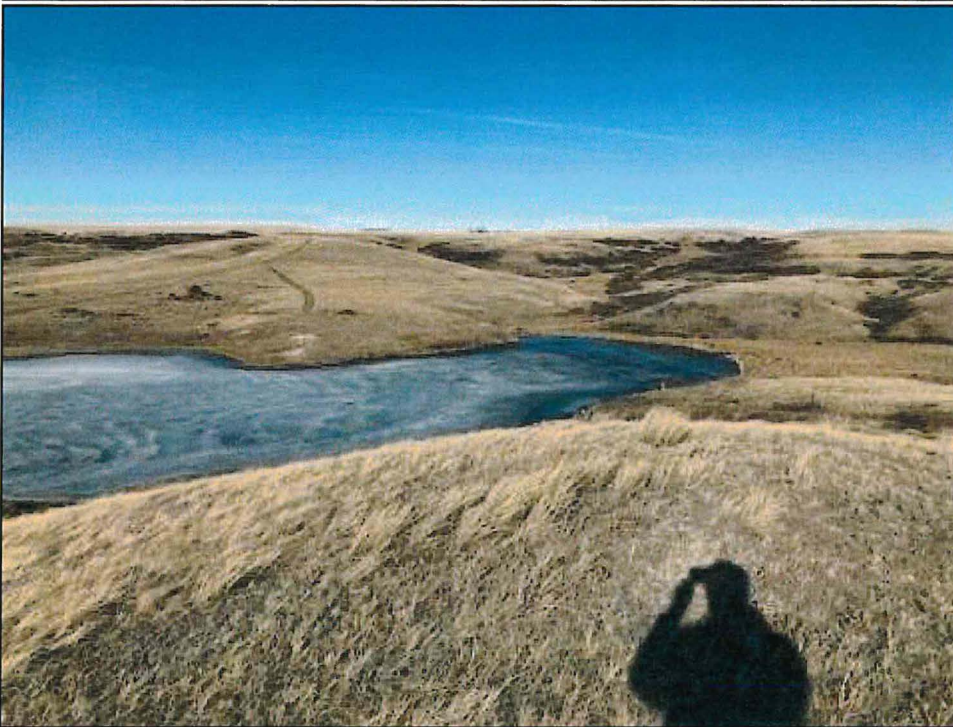
DANIELS COUNTY: Daniels County is comprised of about 70% private land and 30% state and federal land.

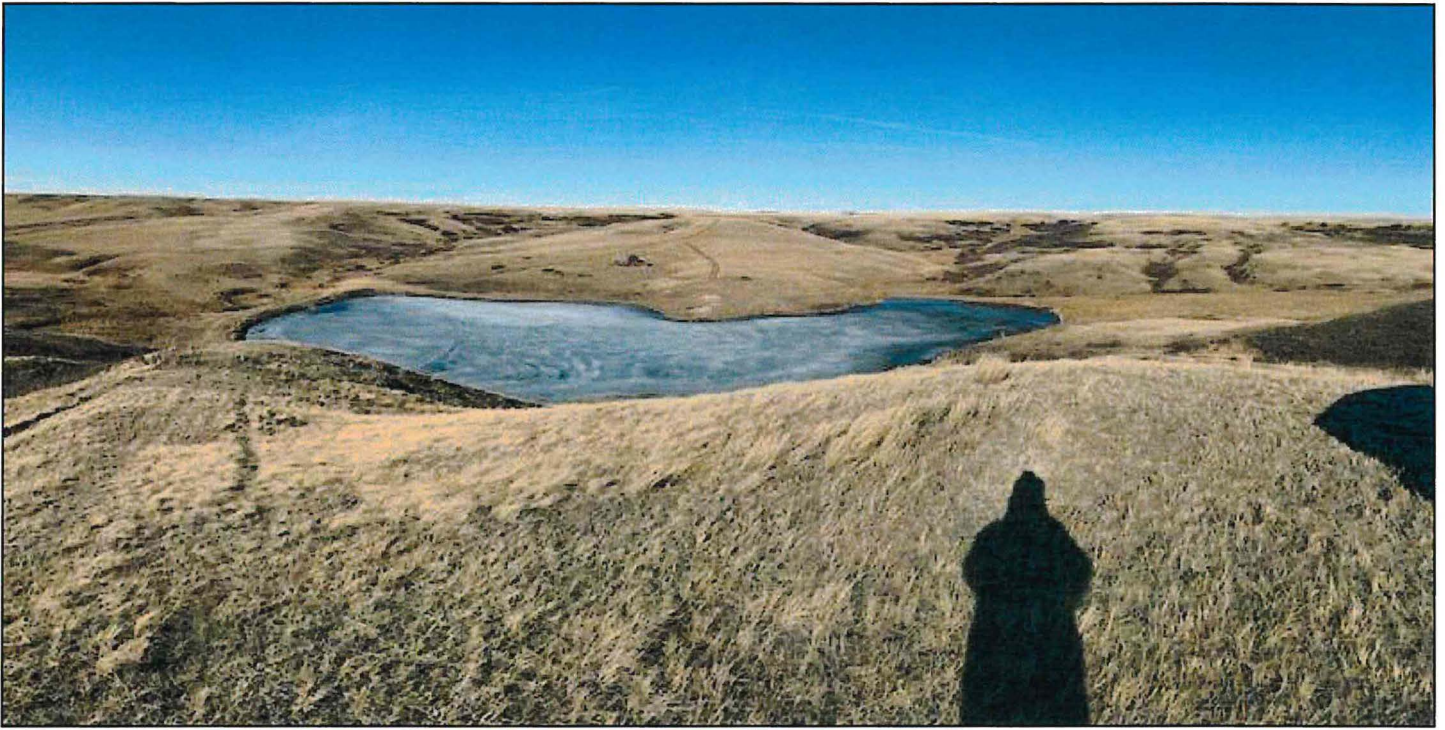


BLOCK MANAGEMENT AREAS				
BMA No.	BMA NAME	GENERAL LOCATION	ACRES	Page
1	70 Gilbertson	Norh Unit	2,300	81
2	70 Gilbertson	South Unit	1,275	81
3	70 Gilbertson	West Unit	1,038	81
4	78 Madoc	SE of Scobey	22,269	81
5	81 Redstone	East of Redstone	12,642	95
6	88 Redfield	South of Four Buttes	840	81
7	99 Silver Lake	North of Four Buttes	320	81
8	120		18,418	82
9	121 High Plains		12,200	82
10	172	Sheridan	2,490	95
11	180	Sheridan	1,280	96
12	192		3,388	82
13	194		19,802	82
14	198		2,609	82
15	202		1,683	82
16	223		1,960	82
17	224		640	82
TOTAL ACRES			105,154	

	STATE LAND
	TYPE 1 BLM (Sign-In-Box)
	TYPE 2 BLM

Figures 2-9. Pre-project photographs.











March 30, 2022

Future Fisheries Improvement Program
FWP Fisheries Division
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Future Fisheries Improvement Application – Buer Pond Fencing Project, Daniels County, MT

Dear Future Fisheries Improvement Program Citizen Review Panel,

It is our understanding that Jim Buer, in partnership with Terry Buer, is applying for a Future Fisheries Improvement Grant for habitat improvement at Buer Pond. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) would like to express its support for Jim Buer's proposal to construct a habitat enclosure that excludes free-range cattle from Buer Pond and the surrounding landscape.

Buer Pond provides one of the few productive fisheries available to the public in Northeast Montana. The proposed fencing project to exclude cattle from the range around Buer Pond will allow ecologically important riparian vegetation, as well as aquatic emergent vegetation, to remain unaltered. This will provide improved habitat for naturally reproducing yellow perch, largemouth bass, and additional wetland-associated species that utilize near-shore environments. As a result of this project, anglers will likely see higher catch rates as the quantity and quality of fish spawning and rearing habitat improves. Additionally, increased abundance of important naturally reproducing prey species for juvenile fishes in Buer Pond will result in overall improvements to fish condition.

We believe the proposed project meets the criteria for funding eligibility established by the Future Fisheries Improvement Program, and we support all aspects of this proposal. This project will greatly benefit the angling public through the enhancement of wild fish populations and their habitats.

Sincerely,

Steve Dalbey
Region 6 Fisheries Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Buer Pond fencing
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

016-2022

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			\$	-				\$ -
Design			\$	-				\$ -
Engineering			\$	-				\$ -
Permitting			\$	-				\$ -
Oversight			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
		Sub-Total	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel								
Mileage			\$	-				\$ -
Per diem			\$	-				\$ -
		Sub-Total	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Materials****								
5.5' T post	160		\$7.96	\$ 1,272.81	890.97	381.84		\$ 1,272.81
Wire	2,640		\$0.45	\$ 1,181.35	826.95	354.41		\$ 1,181.35
10.5' T post	30		\$16.85	\$ 505.62	353.93	151.69		\$ 505.62
Gate - 6'	1		\$469.77	\$ 469.77	328.84	140.93		\$ 469.77
Gate - 16'	1		\$531.04	\$ 531.04	371.73	159.31		\$ 531.04
Steel Braces	27		\$23.75	\$ 645.07	451.55	193.52		\$ 645.07
Misc.	N/A		\$283.34	\$ 283.34	198.34	85.00		\$ 283.34
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
		Sub-Total	\$	4,889.00	\$ 3,422.30	\$ 1,466.70	\$ -	\$ 4,889.00
Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization								
Equipment	1		\$1,208.00	\$ 1,208.00	845.60	362.40		\$ 1,208.00
Labor	1		\$2,466.00	\$ 2,466.00	1,726.20	739.80		\$ 2,466.00
Mobilization	1		\$937.00	\$ 937.00	655.90	281.10		\$ 937.00
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
			\$	-				\$ -
		Sub-Total	\$	4,611.00	\$ 3,227.70	\$ 1,383.30	\$ -	\$ 4,611.00
TOTALS				\$ 9,500.00	\$ 6,650.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ -	\$ 9,500.00