FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

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

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Ben LaPorte-Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 21

City: Divide State: MT Zip: 59727

Telephone: 303-808-5611 E-mail: blaporte@bhwc.org

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if different than applicant): Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks-Mount Haggin WMA

Mailing Address: 1420 East Sixth Avenue, P.O Box 200701

City: Helena State: MT Zip: 59620

Telephone: 406-444-2535 E-mail: fwpgen@mt.gov

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Name: Mount Haggin WMA Culvert Removal and Replacement

River, stream, or lake: Sixmile Creek, Little California Creek, Julius Gulch (multiple culvert locations)

Location: Township: 3 North Range: 12 West Section: 24

Latitude: 45.9926, Longitude: -113.0345 *Within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Deer Lodge

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to address multiple fish passage barriers to native fish in the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and restore approximately 8.4 miles of upstream passage and connectivity. Currently, there are four undersized and perched culverts that restrict upstream movement by native fish. The area is part of the second largest native fish project in Montana, in which the system was cleared of non-native fish and, for the last 2 years, has been stocked with native Arctic graying and Westslope cutthroat trout (and other natives).

This project proposes to completely remove two (Little California Creek 1 and Julius Gulch) of the four culverts that are unnecessary and out of commission and replace the other two culverts (Sixmile Creek and Little California Creek 2) to facilitate fish passage and stream connectivity.

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

Four culverts in the French Creek drainage have been identified as fish passage barriers, leaving the streams bifurcated and disconnected. The focus of this project is to remedy those problematic culverts by either complete removal or replacement.

Culvert Removals:

-Little California Creek 1: This culvert is undersized, too steep, and has partially collapsed. There are very few fish above this culvert, despite having good habitat upstream. This project will remove this culvert as this road is no longer in use. The streambed will be re-graded to match the existing upstream and downstream elevations. If necessary, grade control structures will be installed in the disturbed area (in place of the culvert). All excess material excavated during removal will be placed on the access road behind and blended into existing road base elevations. All disturbed areas will be seeded with a native seed mix. This project will restore 2.5 miles of the stream above.

-Julius Gulch: This culvert is undersized and perched approximately 1-1.5 feet above water height. There are currently no fish upstream. The lack of fish is likely due to a previous barrier downstream that has since been restored during our 2016/17 French Gulch Restoration project. This project will remove this culvert as the road crossing is old and defunct. The streambed will be re-graded to match the existing upstream and downstream elevations. If necessary, grade control structures will be installed in the disturbed area (in place of the culvert). All excess material excavated during removal will be placed on the access road behind and blended into existing road base elevations. All disturbed areas will be seeded with a native seed mix. This project will restore 1.5 miles of the stream above.

Culvert Replacements:

-Little California Creek 2: Currently, this culvert comprises two 12-inch smooth pipes that are partially collapsed and too steep to pass fish. The Little California Creek 1 culvert is just downstream, causing the first passage barrier. The Little California Creek 2 culvert is just upstream and forms the second/complete blockage to upstream movement. This crossing is still in use, so this project will replace the twin pipes with a 36-inch by 60-foot squash pipe. The pipe will have baffles installed to retain gravels and will be set to a flatter grade. No imported rock will be needed. Locally harvested rock will be utilized for culvert placement and inlet/outlet protection. All disturbed areas will be seeded with a native seed mix. This project will restore 2.5 miles of the stream above.

-Sixmile Creek: Currently, this culvert has two 36-inch pipes that are set too steep. The culverts have an approximately 2-foot drop on the outlet side, causing very limited upstream fish passage movement. This crossing is on a fairly major thoroughfare (Dry Creek Road) in the Mount Haggin WMA, so a replacement is warranted. The two culverts will be replaced with a 60-inch by 60-foot squash pipe. 2-3 step pools will need to be constructed on either the upstream (likely the upstream side) or downstream side to catch grade. 6 yards of rock for step-pool creation and outlet protection are estimated. 4 yards of cushion material are estimated for placement and backfill. The new culvert will have baffles and well-mixed alluvium installed throughout to facilitate the filling of interstitial spaces and year-long passage. We do not have a stamped design for this replacement, yet plan to utilize the USFS's standard specifications and design sheets for 5-foot squashed pipe culvert replacements (see Lick Creek Culvert Replacement attachment). This project will restore 4.4 miles of the stream above.

This project comes off the heels of the Big Hole Watershed Committee's (BHWC) many years of involvement in remedy and restoration on the Mount Haggin WMA and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) efforts to restore the French Creek drainage to a completely native fishery. The project will open 8.4 miles of stream habitat to the restored French Creek population and will represent one of the largest interconnected populations of Westslope Cutthroat trout in the upper Missouri River drainage and the only population of fluvial Arctic grayling in the absence of non-native species. The addition of 8.4 additional miles due to this project will bring the total mileage of the occupied stream to nearly 48.4 miles!

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

All four proposed culverts are within the French Creek watershed on the state-owned Mount Haggin WMA. The watershed has a rich history of resource extraction and human industry, first starting in 1864 with the first discovery of gold and silver in French Gulch. Later, the growth of the Anaconda Company's works in 1883 and the development of the mines in Butte, led to a high demand for timber. W.R. Allen formed a logging company and built an elaborate system of flumes to carry timber to the mouth of Mill Creek, where it could be loaded on the Butte, Anaconda, and Pacific Railroad for transport to Butte and Anaconda. Another round of logging occurred in the area in the 1970s, leaving behind a vast system of roads to extract the timber. Lastly, the establishment or ranching occurred in the area throughout this period, prompting road building and infrastructure. Many of the culvert crossings installed throughout history have been undersized and sometimes poorly placed, resulting in the creation of either partial or complete fish barriers in the tributary streams. Some of the issue culverts have been addressed. Others have not. This project will restore fish passage and stream connectivity to four of the remaining culvert barriers.

E. 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): 8.4 miles

F. Project Budget Summary:

Grant Request (Dollars):	**$**	**24,500.00**
Matching Dollars:	**$**	**50,786.00**
Matching In-Kind Services:*	**$**	

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

Other Contributions (not part of this app)	**$**	
Total Project Cost:	**$**	**75,286.00**

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

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

- [X] Extent of the project, including context (relation to major landmark or town)
- [X] Indication of public and private property
- [ ] Riparian buffer locations and widths (if applicable) and grazing locations

I. Attach project plans:

- [X] Detailed sketches or plan views with the location and proposed restoration
- [X] 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:

A letter of support from MFWP and a letter of funding commitment from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is attached.

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

A. A 20-year maintenance commitment is required*. Please confirm that you will ensure this protection and describe your approach. Attach any relevant maintenance plans. *If it is a water leasing project, describe the length of the agreement.*

Yes	No
X	

A 20-year Landowner Agreement will be signed upon FFIP approval. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks are the landowner and primary partner on this project. The principal biologist, Jim Olsen (Fisheries Biologist) and Vanna Boccadori (Wildlife Biologist) have both been involved in multiple BHWC habitat restoration projects on the Mount Haggin WMA over the last 10 years and are familiar with the Landowner Agreement commitment.

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 not be part of or adjacent to the project. There are no grazing allotments in the project areas. Furthermore, there are no operation and maintenance costs necessary to support this project in the future.

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?

FWP is in the process of restoring native fish to many of these streams. In conjunction with these introductions, FWP will perform monitoring to determine the survival and reproduction of both cutthroat and grayling. Some of these monitoring sites will be at or near these passage improvement areas, and therefore data would be available for the status of the fishery in specific areas. Culvert removals will not require any monitoring for passage as the stream will be returned to its former configuration. Jim Olsen, MFWP fisheries biologist will be responsible for post-project data collection and overall monitoring coordination. The BHWC staff will support MFWP with monitoring activities as needed.

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

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

This project will directly benefit Westslope cutthroat trout and Arctic grayling.

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

The entire French Creek drainage including Little California, Julius Gulch and Sixmile Creek are being restored to native species including Arctic grayling and Westslope cutthroat trout. Restoration of cutthroat and grayling to French Creek drainage and its tributaries will add an additional 40 miles of stream restored for native fish and would nearly double the amount of secured habitat for the native fish in the Big Hole. Restoration of fish passage at each crossing location would add nearly 8.4 miles of stream to this total.

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

Most of the culverts slated for removal or replacement are near the upper portions of the watersheds. These areas can contain important refuge areas as fish move upstream seasonally for spawning or to access cold-water refuge areas. Facilitating passage in these areas will create more robust fisheries. All of the streams on Mount Haggin WMA are open to the public for fishing. Creating more robust fisheries in these smaller tributary streams will aid in more robust fisheries in the larger streams that do see more angling use.

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, this project will open up 8.4 miles of critical headwater habitat for Arctic grayling and Westslope cutthroat, as the entirety of the project is located on public lands. Angling experience will automatically increase upstream of the project areas, but also downstream on Deep Creek and the Big Hole watershed as the French Creek basin feeds native fish populations.

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

Montanans will directly benefit from this project through the restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat that belongs to them. Because the project area is located on public property that is accessible year-round, all recreationists that recreate on the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area will be positively affected. Opportunities for both Montanans and visitors to observe and, in some cases, harvest these fish in this area will be increased through the implementation of the proposed action.

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

No, the project is located entirely on public property on the state-owned Mount Haggin WMA.

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

No.

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

Yes. The entire French Creek drainage was subject to extensive mining activity from 1884-mid 1930's.

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.

Applicant Signature: Ben Falconte Date: 5/10/2023

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

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Mount Haggin culvert removal and replacement

017-2023

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	20	HR	$50.00	$ 1,000.00	1,000.00			$ 1,000.00
Oversight	40	HR	$50.00	$ 2,000.00	2,000.00			$ 2,000.00
Maintenance				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ 3,000.00
Travel								
Mileage	1,200	miles	$0.66	$ 786.00		786.00		$ 786.00
Per diem				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 786.00	$ -	$ 786.00	$ -	$ 786.00
Construction Materials** **								
Little California Creek 2: Replacment-36" x 60' squash culvert	1	EA	$4,520.00	$ 4,520.00	20.00	4,500.00		$ 4,520.00
Sixmile Creek: Replacement-60" x 60' squash culvert	1	EA	$11,690.00	$ 11,690.00		11,690.00		$ 11,690.00
Sixmile Creek Replacement-rip rap material for outlet protection	10	CY	$300.00	$ 3,000.00		3,000.00		$ 3,000.00
				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 19,210.00	$ 20.00	$ 19,190.00	$ -	$ 19,210.00
Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization								
Little California Creek 1: Removal-Mobilization/Demobilization	12	HR	$160.00	$ 1,920.00	1,920.00			$ 1,920.00
Little California Creek 1: Removal-Excavator hours	12	HR	$205.00	$ 2,460.00	2,460.00			$ 2,460.00
Little California Creek 1: Removal- Dump truck hours	12	HR	$110.00	$ 1,320.00	1,320.00			$ 1,320.00
Little California Creek 1: Removal-Travel, labor and materials	1	LS	$800.00	$ 800.00	800.00			$ 800.00
Julius Gulch: Removal-Mobilization/Demobilization	18	HR	$160.00	$ 2,880.00	2,880.00			$ 2,880.00
Julius Gulch: Removal-Excavator hours	12	HR	$205.00	$ 2,460.00	2,460.00			$ 2,460.00
Julius Gulch: Removal- Dump truck hours	18	HR	$110.00	$ 1,980.00	1,980.00			$ 1,980.00
Julius Gulch: Removal-Travel, labor and materials	1	LS	$1,180.00	$ 1,180.00	1,180.00			$ 1,180.00
Little California Creek 2: Replacement-Mobilization/Demobilization	12	HR	$160.00	$ 1,920.00	1,920.00			$ 1,920.00
Little California Creek 2: Replacement-Excavator hours	12	HR	$205.00	$ 2,460.00	2,460.00			$ 2,460.00
Little California Creek 2: Replacement-Dump truck hours	12	HR	$110.00	$ 1,320.00	1,320.00			$ 1,320.00
Little California Creek 2: Replacement-Travel, labor and materials	1	LS	$780.00	$ 780.00	780.00			$ 780.00
Sixmile Creek: Replacement-Mobilization/Demobilization	23	HR	$160.00	$ 3,680.00		3,680.00		$ 3,680.00
Sixmile Creek: Replacement-Excavator hours	29	HR	$205.00	$ 5,945.00		5,945.00		$ 5,945.00
Sixmile Creek: Replacement-Dump truck hours	29	HR	$110.00	$ 3,190.00		3,190.00		$ 3,190.00
Sixmile Creek: Replacement-Travel, labor and materials	1	LS	$1,495.00	$ 1,495.00		1,495.00		$ 1,495.00
30% Construction Contingency	0.3	30% of const.	$55,000.00	$ 16,500.00		16,500.00		$ 16,500.00
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -

				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 52,290.00	$ 21,480.00	$ 30,810.00	$ -	$ 52,290.00
			TOTALS	$ 75,286.00	$ 24,500.00	$ 50,786.00	$ -	$ 75,286.00

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 may require a justification or minimum of two competitive bids for the cost of undertaking the project. For projects that include a maintenance request, it must not exceed 10% of the total project cost.

****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: USFWS has $50k secured for the implementation of this project (BIL National Fish Passage). BHWC will also match the mileage ($786.00) necessary for project planning, and implementation. Due to the timing of this grant cycle, BHWC has not been able to get contractors physically to the site due to the snow and high elevations. Estimates based on photos. We have included the 30% contingency costs given to us. We expect after a site visit in late May 2023, that the contingency budget may decrease, but certainly won't increase. We'd hope to adjust the final contractor budget line item with FFIP after the contracting and procurement phase .

APPLICATION MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

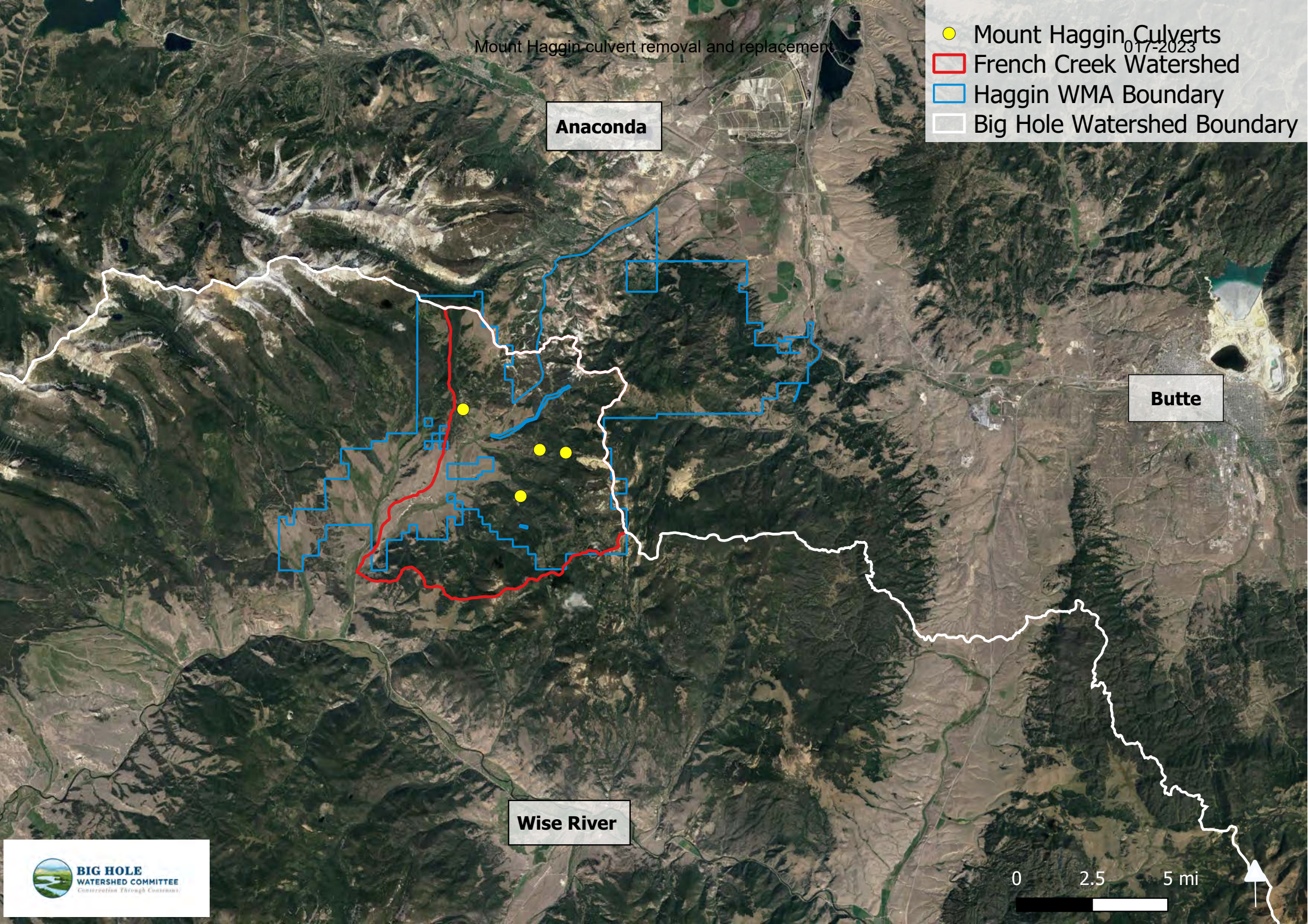
(do not include requested funds or contributions not associated with the application)

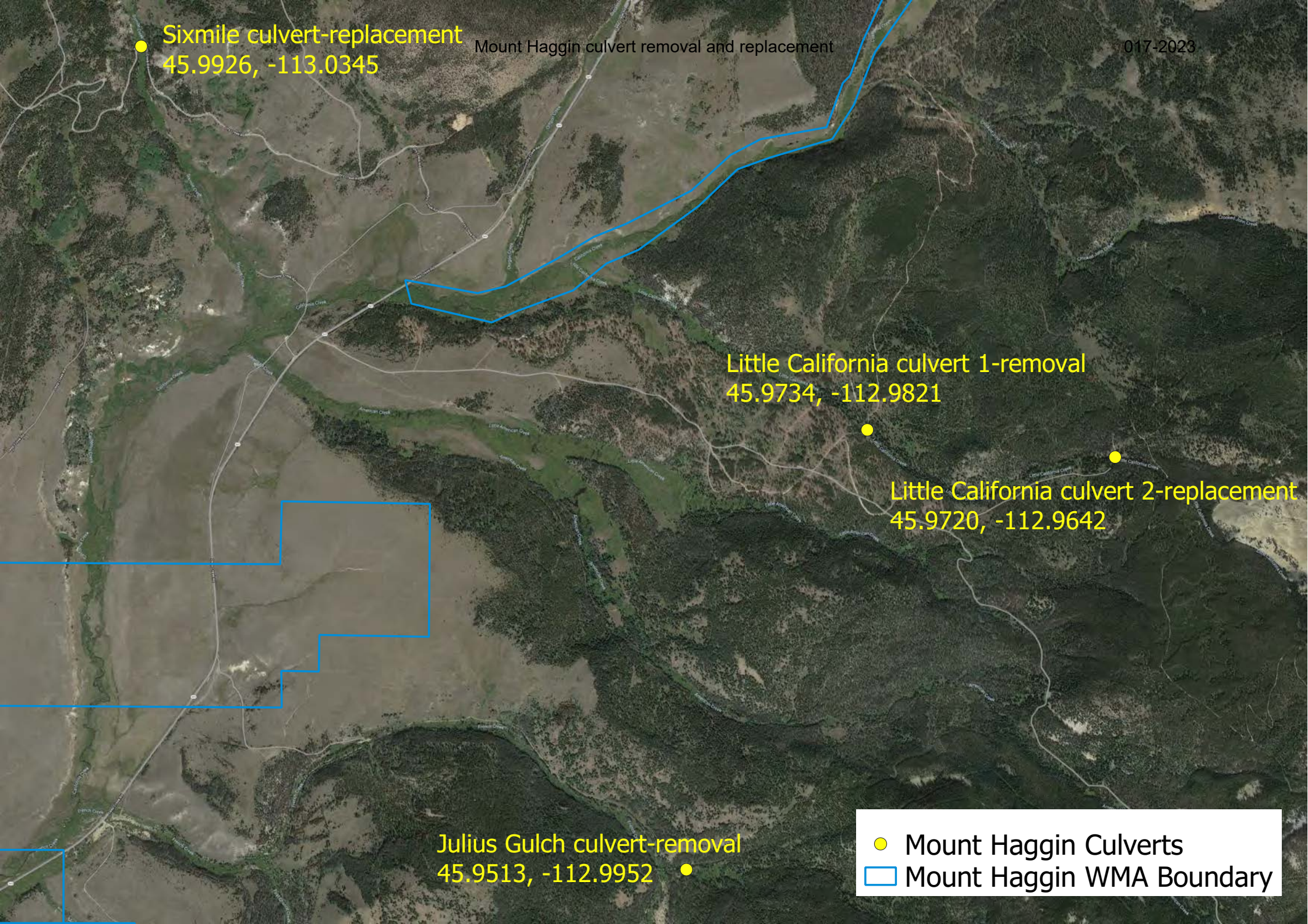
CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
United States Fish and Wildlife Service-MT Partners for Hish and Wildlife Program	$ -	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	Yes
BHWC	$ -	$ 786.00	$ 786.00	Yes
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTALS	$ -	$ 50,786.00	$ 50,786.00	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

(contributions not associated with the application)

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


Mount Haggin culvert removal and replacement
017-2023
Mount Haggin Culverts
French Creek Watershed
Haggin WMA Boundary
Big Hole Watershed Boundary
Anaconda
Butte
Wise River
BIG HOLE
WATERSHED COMMITTEE
Conservation Through Consensus
0
2.5
5 mi


Sixmile culvert-replacement
45.9926, -113.0345
Mount Haggin culvert removal and replacement
017-2023
Little California culvert 1-removal
45.9734, -112.9821
Little California culvert 2-replacement
45.9720, -112.9642
Julius Gulch culvert-removal
45.9513, -112.9952
Mount Haggin Culverts
Mount Haggin WMA Boundary

Mount Haggin culvert removal and replacement

017-2023

Sixmile culvert-replacement
45.9926, -113.0345

Little California culvert 1-removal
45.9734, -112.9821

Little California culvert 2-replacement
45.9720, -112.9642

Julius Gulch culvert-removal
45.9513, -112.9952

Mount Haggin Culverts
Mount Haggin WMA Boundary

Mount Haggin WMA Culvert Removal and Replacement: Photos

NOTE: These are the best available photos we have at the moment. Due to the early and late winter of 22/23, we have not been able to get in and access these sites to gather better photos of each crossing. Once conditions allow, we will resend updated and better photos showing existing conditions.

Figure 1. Little California Creek 1-Removal

Figure 2. Little California Creek 2-Replacement

Figure 3. Julius Gulch-Removal.

Figure 4. Sixmile Creek-Replacement

Figure 5. This is a recently completed culvert replacement on Oregon Creek, just downstream of Sixmile Creek. We will use this culvert as an example and reference to the Sixmile Creek replacement. Note the well-mixed alluvium in the culvert bottom and the abundance of fine sediments. This was a considered decision to allow for low summer surface water to flow over the fines instead of through the interstitial spaces of the larger gravels and rocks; to allow for fish passage. We intend to execute the same strategy on the Sixmile replacement.

Figure 6. The upstream inlet to the recently completed Oregon Creek culvert replacement (disregard the green rotenone treatments). Note the step-pools leading to the inlet. We will use this step-pool configuration as a reference while installing the Sixmile culvert and to catch appropriate grades.

ROWE EXCAVATION

Big Hole Watershed Committee - Culverts

2/27/2023

Wise River, MT.

Estimate only

LITTLE CALIFORNIA CULVERT #1 REMOVAL - QUANTITY TABLE					
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	U/M	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Travel to project, excavation, removal, & haul off-site culvert	1	LS	$6,500.00	$6,500.00
				Project Subtotal:	**$6,500.00**

LITTLE CALIFORNIA CULVERT #1 REPLACEMENT - QUANTITY TABLE					
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	U/M	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Travel to project, excavation & installtion of 36" x 60' squash culvert	1	LS	$11,000.00	$11,000.00
				Project Subtotal:	**$11,000.00**

JULIUS GULCH CULVERT REMOVAL - QUANTITY TABLE					
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	U/M	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Travel to project, excavation, removal, & haul off-site culvert	1	EA	$8,500.00	$8,500.00
				Project Subtotal:	**$8,500.00**

SIXMILE CULVERT REPLACEMENT - QUANTITY TABLE					
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	U/M	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Travel to project, excavation & installtion of 60" x 60' squash culvert, create step pools, and install outlet protection, & place native gravel in culvert.	1	LS	$29,000.00	$29,000.00
				Project Subtotal:	**$29,000.00**

LS = Lump Sum LF = Linear Feet EA = Each SY = Square Yard CY = Cubic Yard AC = Acre SF= Square Foot HR = Hour BF = Board Foot

NOTE*

Does not include seeding, permits, engineering, surveying, fence removal, fence repair, or compaction testing.
Backfill material shall come from immediate vicinity.
Estimate based off emails and photos, have not seen project sites.

PROJECTS TOTALS:	**$55,000.00**
30% CONTINGENCE:	**$16,500.00**
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	**$71,500.00**

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Montana Partners for Fish & Wildlife
420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725

May 9, 2023

Michelle McGree
Future Fisheries Improvement Program
1420 E 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena Montana
59620-0701

Dear Michelle,

Please accept this letter of support for The Big Hole Watershed Committee's Mount Haggin Culverts Project. I have had the pleasure of working with the Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC) for over two decades and appreciate their stewardship and accomplishments to enhance and conserve the Big Hole Watershed. This proposal continues those efforts by addressing multiple fish passage barriers to native fish in the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Currently, there are four undersized and perched culverts that restrict upstream movement to the newly introduced native Arctic graying and Westslope cutthroat trout. This project proposes to completely remove two culverts (Little California Creek 1 and Julius Gulch) and replace the other two culverts (Sixmile Creek and Little California Creek 2) that will provide access to approximately 8.4 miles of upstream habitat.

The USFWS Montana Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program (PFW) has collaborated with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, private landowners and the BHWC for many years to implement watershed scale conservation and identify long-term strategies that protect and maintain resiliency in the Big Hole Watershed. We have identified the Big Hole watershed as a conservation focus area due to its unique assemblage of wildlife species, intact habitats and potential to implement conservation at a landscape scale. For this project we have secured $50,000 from National Fish Passage Funding that we will commit to this project. I am confident as a partner that your support for these efforts is building a better future for SW Montana. Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

James P Magee

James Magee
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
MT Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 3 Headquarters
1400 South 19th Street
Bozeman, MT 59715

May 12, 2023

Future Fisheries Review Panel
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Review Panel,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) supports the Big Hole Watershed Committee in their application for FFIP funding for the fish passage projects in the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area. Prior to state ownership, the Louisiana Pacific Timber Company installed a large system of roads on Mount Haggin to extract timber in the 1970s. Many of the culvert crossings were undersized and sometimes poorly placed resulting in the creation of partial or complete fish barriers in tributaries. Those barriers reduced the amount of habitat accessible to fish. The Big Hole Watershed Committee has been an effective and efficient partner on projects around Mount Haggin for the past 10 years. They are proposing to replace several of the existing culverts with structures that will facilitate fish passage. These actions will provide access to many miles of additional habitat for native fish, many of which have recently been reintroduced to area streams. I hope you will support the Big Hole Watershed Committee in their grant application to improve fish passage on Mount Haggin.

For questions or concerns, please reach out to the following FWP personnel:

Jim Olsen, Fisheries Biologist (406-533-8451, jimolsen@mt.gov)
Jen Smitham, Region 3 Public Comment Coordinator (406-495-3262, jsmitham@mt.gov)

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marina Yoshioka
Region 3 Supervisor

FWP.MT.GOV THE OUTSIDE IS IN US ALL.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 3 Headquarters
1400 South 19th Street
Bozeman, MT 59715

May 12, 2023

Future Fisheries Review Panel
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Review Panel,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) supports the Big Hole Watershed Committee in their application for FFIP funding for the fish passage projects in the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area. Prior to state ownership, the Louisiana Pacific Timber Company installed a large system of roads on Mount Haggin to extract timber in the 1970s. Many of the culvert crossings were undersized and sometimes poorly placed resulting in the creation of partial or complete fish barriers in tributaries. Those barriers reduced the amount of habitat accessible to fish. The Big Hole Watershed Committee has been an effective and efficient partner on projects around Mount Haggin for the past 10 years. They are proposing to replace several of the existing culverts with structures that will facilitate fish passage. These actions will provide access to many miles of additional habitat for native fish, many of which have recently been reintroduced to area streams. I hope you will support the Big Hole Watershed Committee in their grant application to improve fish passage on Mount Haggin.

For questions or concerns, please reach out to the following FWP personnel:

Jim Olsen, Fisheries Biologist (406-533-8451, jimolsen@mt.gov)
Jen Smitham, Region 3 Public Comment Coordinator (406-495-3262, jsmitham@mt.gov)

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marina Yoshioka
Region 3 Supervisor