

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION***All sections must be addressed, or the application will be considered invalid***I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**A. Applicant Name: Katelin KilloyMailing Address: 720 ½ N. Montana St.City: Dillon State: MT Zip: 59725Telephone: _____ E-mail: Katelin.Killoy@mt.gov

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if different than applicant): Tom MitchellMailing Address: 1500 Old Stage Rd.City: Dillon State: MT Zip: 59725Telephone: 406-683-6403 E-mail: N/A**II. PROJECT INFORMATION**A. Project Name: Governor Creek Streambank RestorationRiver, stream, or lake: Governor CreekLocation: Township: 5 South Range: 15 West Section: 35 & 26Latitude: 45.36043 Longitude: -113.42348 *Within project (decimal degrees)*County: Beaverhead

B. Purpose of Project: _____

The purpose of this project is to increase healthy riparian habitat along Governor Creek, a tributary of the Big Hole River within the Arctic Grayling Big Hole CCAA. This project will repair five unstable outside banks along Governor Creek and install willow stakes and Carex sod mats.

The Objectives of the project include the following:

1. Improve bank stability.
2. Reconnect the floodplain to the stream.
3. Maintain or improve cover of deep rooting species.
4. Improve water quality and temperature.

C. Brief Project Description (attach additional information to end of application). Please include the anticipated construction schedule:

High flow events and vegetation disturbances from grazing have aggravated five outside banks resulting in poor streambank stability, reduced pool development, and high-risk potential for avulsion channel formation. The loss of deep binding roots from preferred native vegetation has resulted in approximately 530' feet of eroded bank channel along Governor Creek that is disconnected from the water table. Consequently, the vegetation communities along the five outside banks are dominated by shallow rooted introduced grasses that are inadequate for maintaining streambank integrity. This project will restore the streambank by sloping the bank to the appropriate dimension and planting mature Salix and native Carex sod mats to improve channel function, bank stability, and reduce sediment loss.

As part of the Arctic Grayling CCAA, FWP surveys streams for incision, lateral erosion, bank stability, riparian vegetation, and deep rooting species. Governor Creek has been over-widened due to low cover of deep rooting species, and heavy lateral erosion.

Scope of Work:

- Repair 593' of streambank on five separate streambanks.
- Willows will be transplanted every 25' and the banks sloped to a minimum of 2:1.
- Wetland sod with 50% or more sedge species (e.g., Carex utriculata, etc.) will be transplanted on the newly excavated sod bench.

This project builds on a watershed scale restoration effort for Arctic Grayling in the Big Hole River through the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances Program (CCAA). The CCAA works with private landowners to address threats and implement conservation measures that benefit Arctic grayling and other native fish species.

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

Historic livestock and wildlife overgrazing contributed to reduced cover of deep rooting species. This project will correct the cause by improving current conditions and establishing a vegetative community which will maintain improved conditions in the future.

E. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent): 593'

Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g., stream miles opened): N/A

F. Project Budget Summary:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 16,400.00

Matching Dollars: \$ 23,500.00

Matching In-Kind Services:* \$ _____

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

Other Contributions (not part of this app) \$ _____

Total Project Cost: \$ 39,900.00

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 FWP fisheries support). List any other project partners:

FWP fisheries support letter pending internal review.

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.

Yes ☒ No ☐

**If it is a water leasing project, describe the length of the agreement.*

This project is part of the Landowners Site Specific Conservation Plan (SSP) through the Big Hole Arctic Grayling CCAA. The SSP address threats to Arctic Grayling on the landowner's property including riparian health. The SSP is a 10-year agreement that will be renewed in 2025. The landowner has implemented numerous conservation projects for Arctic Grayling in good faith and successfully improved habitat, stream flows and connectivity that have benefited Arctic grayling and other native and sportfish. The landowner has signed both MFWP and USFWS landowner agreements (20 and 10-year agreements, respectively).

- 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.*

The landowner, Tom and Bea Mitchell Family Trust, is enrolled in the Arctic Grayling Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program in the Big Hole (CCAA). In cooperation with the CCAA program, the landowner has continually worked with FWP on irrigation withdrawals, improved irrigation efficiency, grazing schedules, and fish passage in compliance with their SSP.

- 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?

The project will be monitored every three years as a part of the CCAA program using NRCS Riparian Assessment Method (NRCS 2004). In September 2023 a Riparian Assessment was completed pre-project along with a wetland delineation of freshwater emergent wetlands within the proposed project area. The wetland delineation was completed using the on-site inspection method for areas less than 5 acres in size as described by the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory, 1987). The Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0) was used in conjunction for the on-site method (Environmental Laboratory, 2010). Riparian Assessments are often shared in presentations.

Additionally, FWP annually monitors grayling abundance and genetic diversity downstream of the project area. Ongoing large-scale restoration efforts in the Big Hole River have positively influenced the overall grayling population and provides resilience to drought and other threats identified in the State of Montana's Upper Missouri River Arctic Grayling Conservation Strategy (2022).

Lastly, this project is anticipated to maintain or improve adequate stream temperatures. On Governor Creek there is a Tru Track to monitor water temperature and stream stage and there is a thermograph to additionally monitor water temperature.

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

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

Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*), a designated Species of Concern by the State of Montana.

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

Improved riparian health of Governor Creek enhances grayling habitat by increasing tree cover and reducing sediment inputs into the stream. Additionally, increased tree cover helps to maintain cold water for Governor Creek as a tributary of the Big Hole River. Lastly, the project reduces the risk of stream avulsion, which would reroute the stream along a path with reduced riparian vegetation.

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

Improved riparian health of an upper Big Hole River tributary will benefit Arctic grayling by maintaining cold water in important conservation reaches. This provides the public an opportunity to appreciate and catch a unique Montana species. Without streambank restoration, Governor Creek could become a source of fine sediment inputs and warm water into the Big Hole River.

- 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.

This project will increase public opportunity of a quality fishing experience by improving conditions for Arctic grayling persistence in the Big Hole River.

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

This project is part of an ongoing, large-scale habitat improvement program in the Big Hole River which has positively influenced grayling population levels since its inception. Improved riparian health of Governor creek equates to improved spawning and rearing conditions for grayling that migrate large distances within the Big Hole River, and more opportunity for the public to appreciate and catch a unique Montana species. Additionally, a stable and healthy grayling population eliminates the need to protect Arctic Grayling under the ESA, which would place restrictions on land-use and angling.

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

No. Project will not interfere with any water rights or property rights.

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

No. The project is located on a working ranch. There will be no development of commercial recreational use.

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.

Applicant Signature: Katelin Killoy Date: 10/12/2023

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
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Governor Creek Streambank Restoration
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

009-2024

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	0	n/a		\$ -				\$ -
Design	5	hrs; provided by FWP	\$0.00	\$ -				\$ -
Engineering	0	n/a		\$ -				\$ -
Permitting	4.5	hrs; provided by FWP	\$0.00	\$ -				\$ -
Oversight	40	hrs; provided by FWP	\$0.00	\$ -	-			\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
		Sub-Total		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel								
Mileage	0		\$0.37	\$ -				\$ -
Per diem	0		\$0.00	\$ -				\$ -
		Sub-Total		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Materials****								
				\$ -				\$ -
Willow Transplants	22	Mature Willow	\$250.00	\$ 5,500.00		5,500.00		\$ 5,500.00
Sod Mats	1500	Square Yard	\$2.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
Willow Stakes	1500	Square Yard	\$2.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
		Sub-Total		\$ 11,500.00	\$ -	\$ 11,500.00	\$ -	\$ 11,500.00
Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization								
Tracked Excavators (three)	102	hrs;	\$200.00	\$ 20,400.00	8,400.00	12,000.00		\$ 20,400.00
Tracked Dump Truck (one)	80	hrs;	\$100.00	\$ 8,000.00	8,000.00	-		\$ 8,000.00
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Governor Creek Streambank Restoration
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

009-2024

			Sub-Total	\$	28,400.00	\$	16,400.00	\$	12,000.00	\$	-	\$	28,400.00
TOTALS				\$	39,900.00	\$	16,400.00	\$	23,500.00	\$	-	\$	39,900.00

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 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.

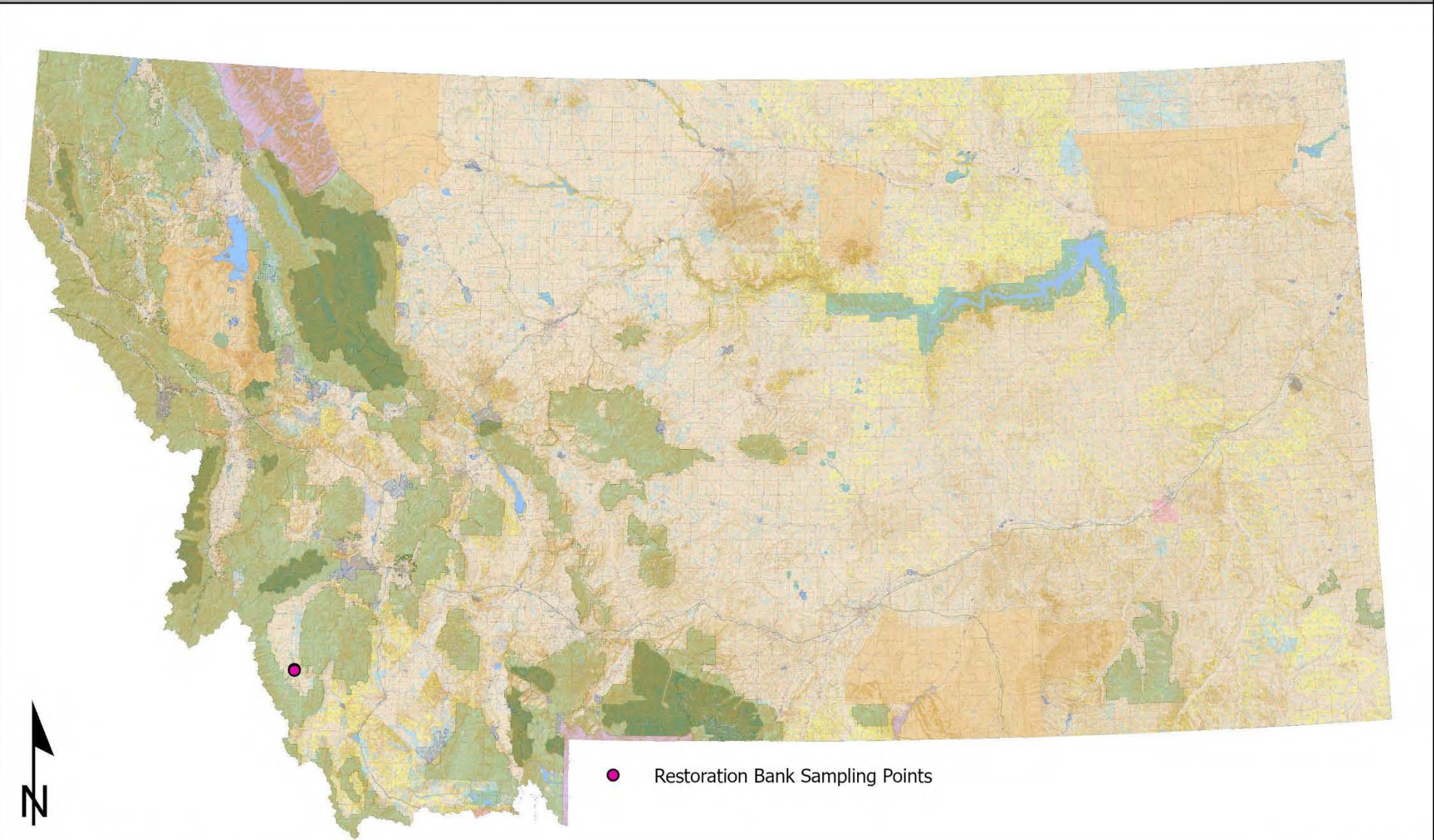
Additional details:

APPLICATION MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS				
(do not include requested funds or contributions not associated with the application)				
CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
SWG	\$ -	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,500.00	Y
	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ -	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,500.00	

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

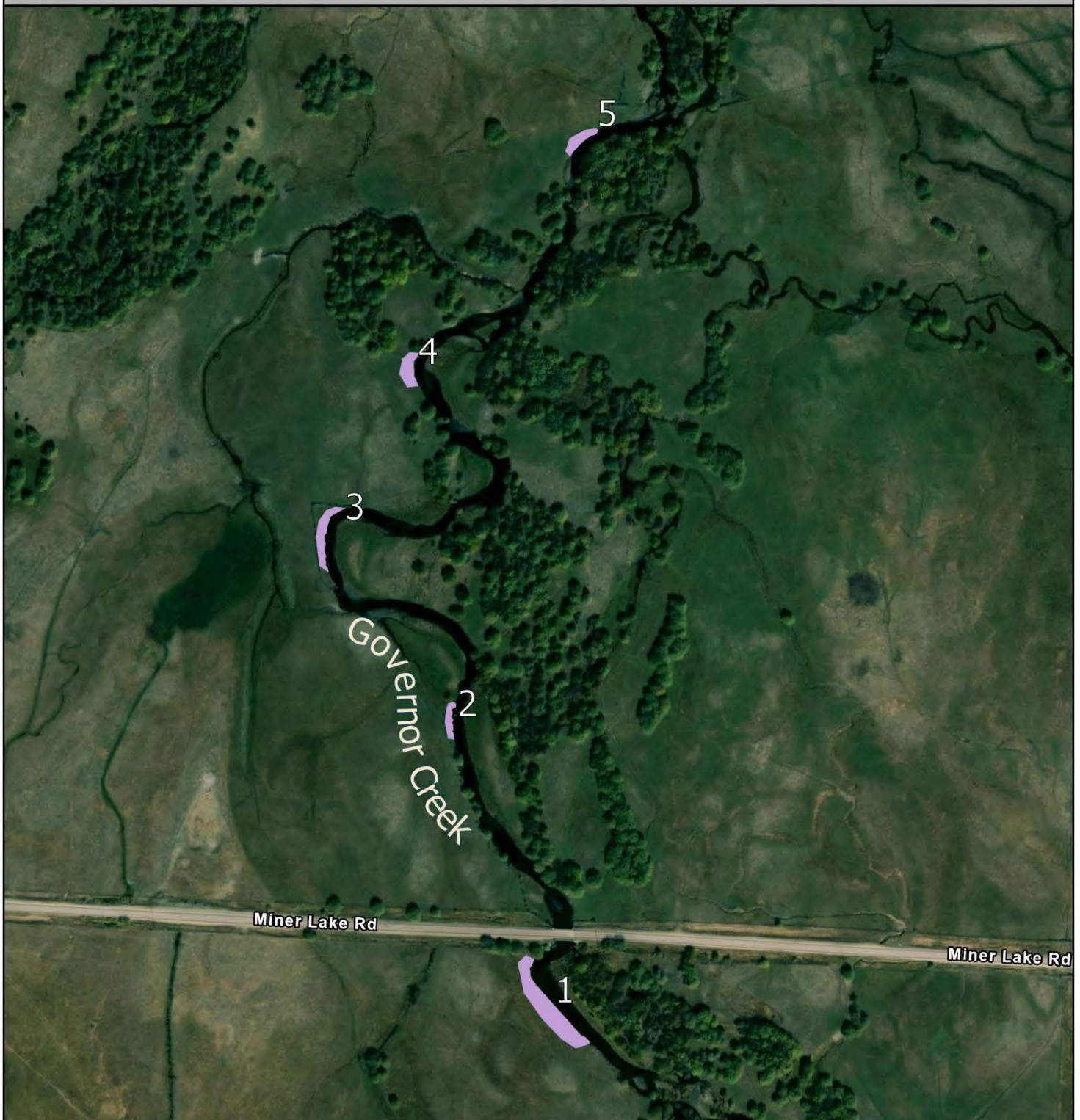
Bank Restoration on Governor Creek

MONTANAFWP



Governor Creek Softbank Restoration Project

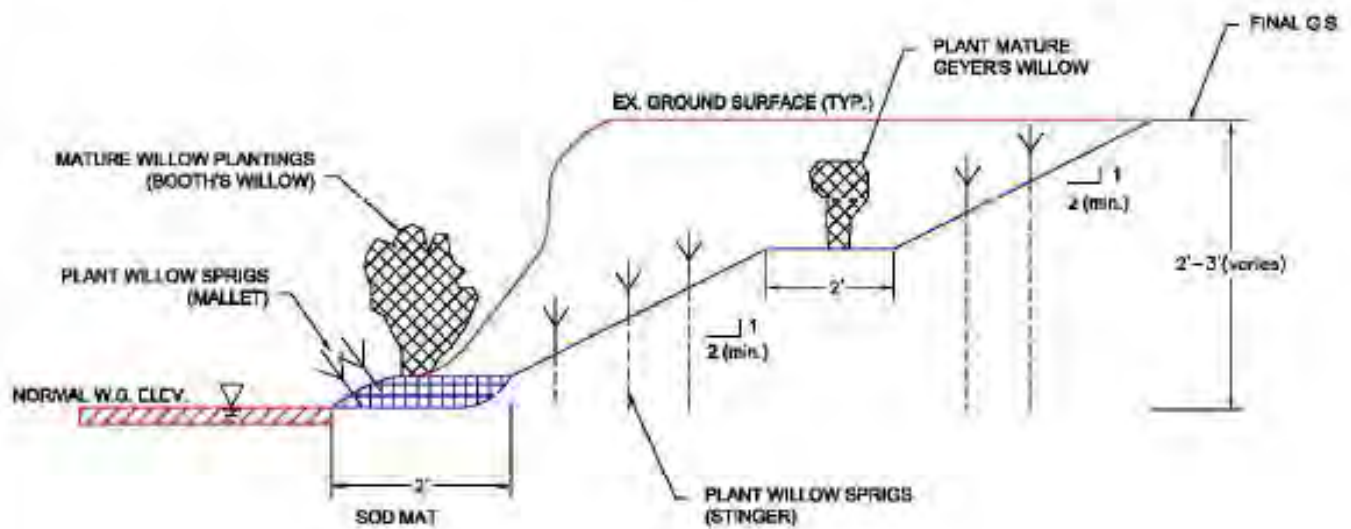
MONTANA FWP



Legend

-  Restoration Banks
-  Restoration Location





TYP. BANK RESTORATION CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1" = 3'

P. Jagoda 7/21/20

DRAWN BY DATE

P. Jagoda 7/21/20

CHECKED BY DATE

REVIEWED BY DATE

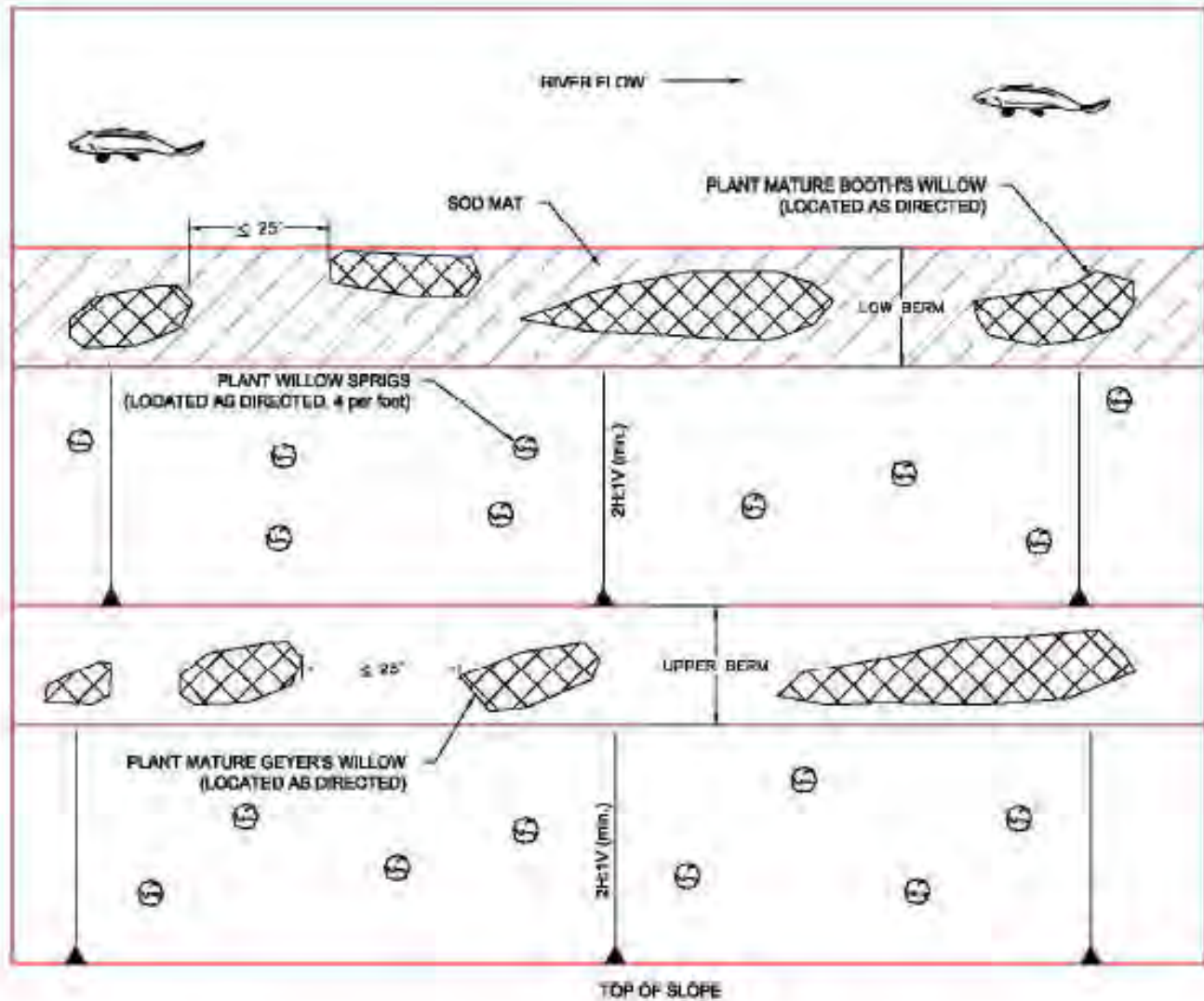
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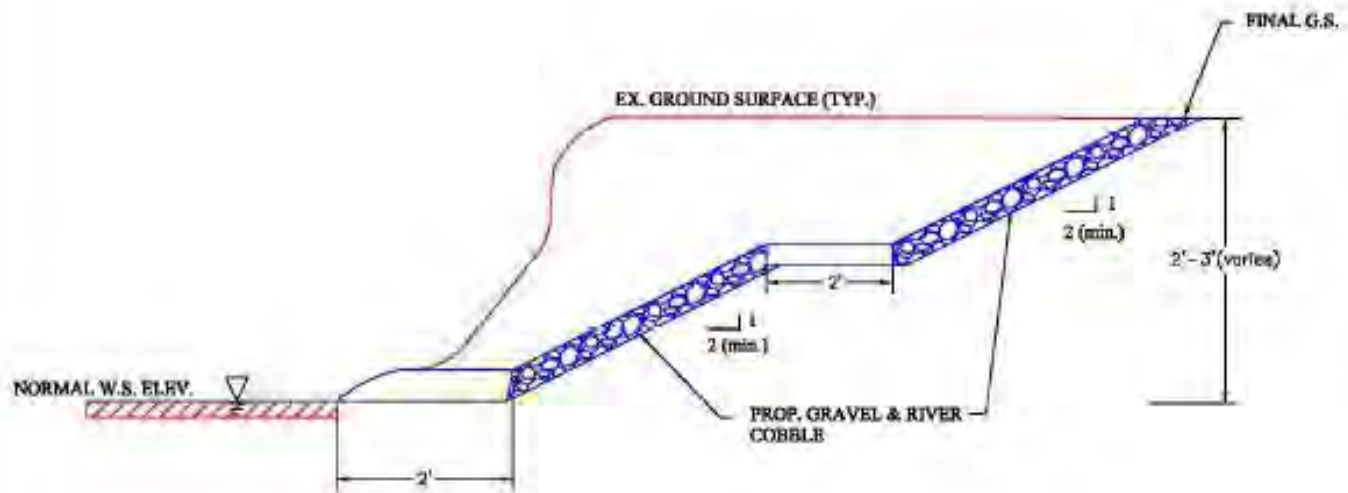


**MONTANA FISH,
WILDLIFE & PARKS**



TYP. BANK RESTORATION - PLAN VIEW

SCALE: 1" = 3'



TYP. BANK RESTORATION CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1"=3'

BY: J. J. J. 8/10/20

DRAWN BY: DATE:

BY: J. J. J. 8/10/20

CHECKED BY: DATE:

REVIEWED BY: DATE:

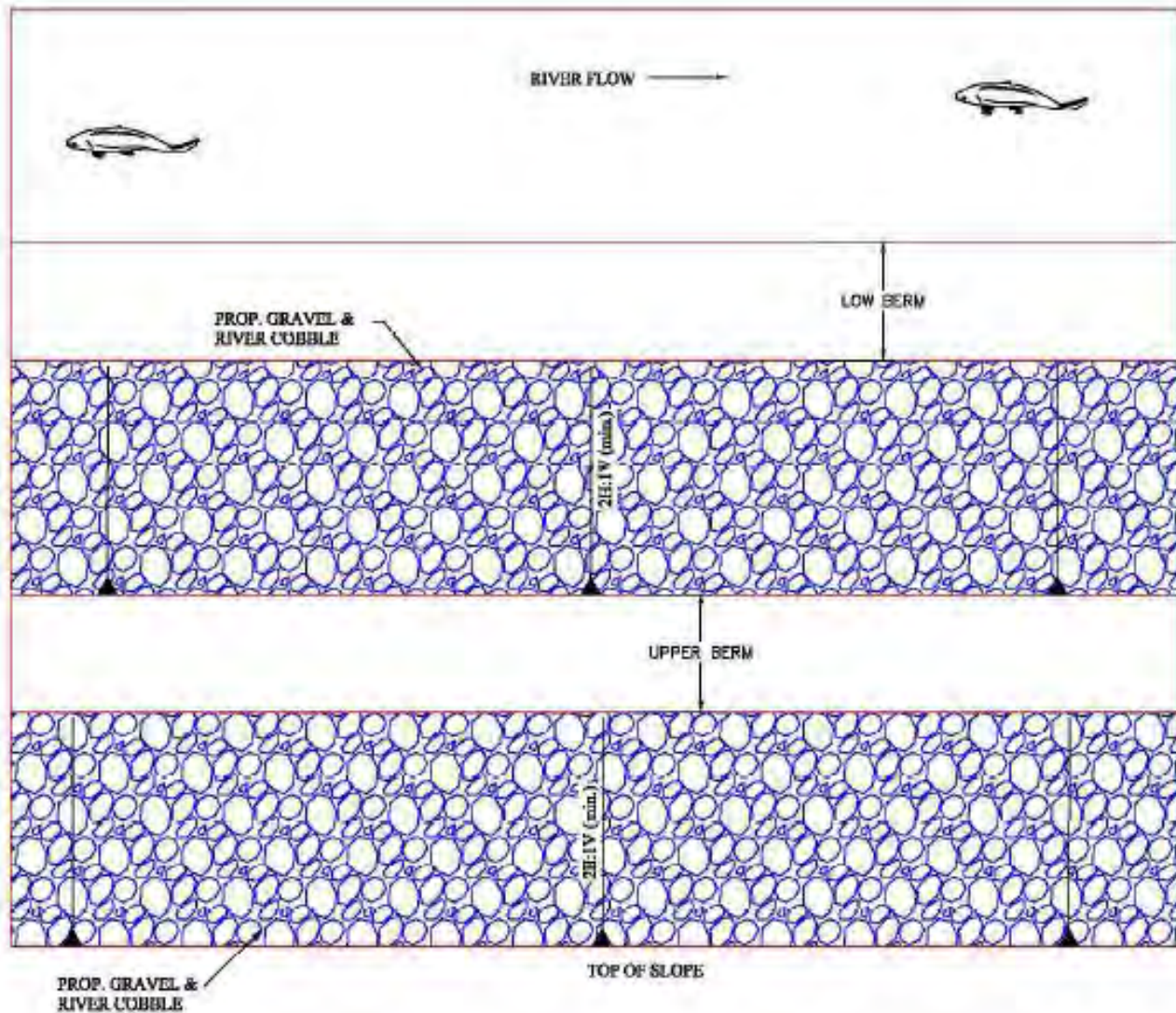
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APPROVED BY: DATE:



**MONTANA FISH,
WILDLIFE & PARKS**



TYP. BANK RESTORATION - PLAN VIEW

SCALE: 1" = 3'



Figure 1: Upstream view of bank 1 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 2: Downstream view of bank 1 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 3: Upstream view of bank 2 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 4: Downstream view of bank 2 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 5: Upstream view of bank 3 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 6: Downstream view of bank 3 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 7: Upstream view of bank 4 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 8: Downstream view of bank 4 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 9: Upstream view of bank 5 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.



Figure 10: Downstream view of bank 5 along Governor Creek with planned bank restoration.

Grazing Plan

Land Unit Description

The enrolled property currently includes a total of 2,178 acres (Figure 1). Approximately 10 acres are roads, residential buildings, and residential yard; 1,880 acres are upland areas dominated by domestic meadow grass, or sagebrush/ Idaho Fescue rangeland, and 288 acres are riparian areas. Nearly all the land is grazed, with the exception of the residential area.

The ranch is fenced into eleven pastures; pastures 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 11 are pastures with a mix of upland and riparian areas (Figure 2). The remaining pastures are upland only. The owners of H Lazy J Ranch graze their own cattle on pastures 4-9 and 11, and lease pastures 1, 2, and 10 to the neighboring Jackson and Lapham Ranches (the lessees). The Jackson's operate a family owned cattle ranch and graze one herd of yearlings in pasture 10. Lapham owns a herd of about 100 steers in pastures 1 and 2. The Jackson Ranch is enrolled in the CCAA.

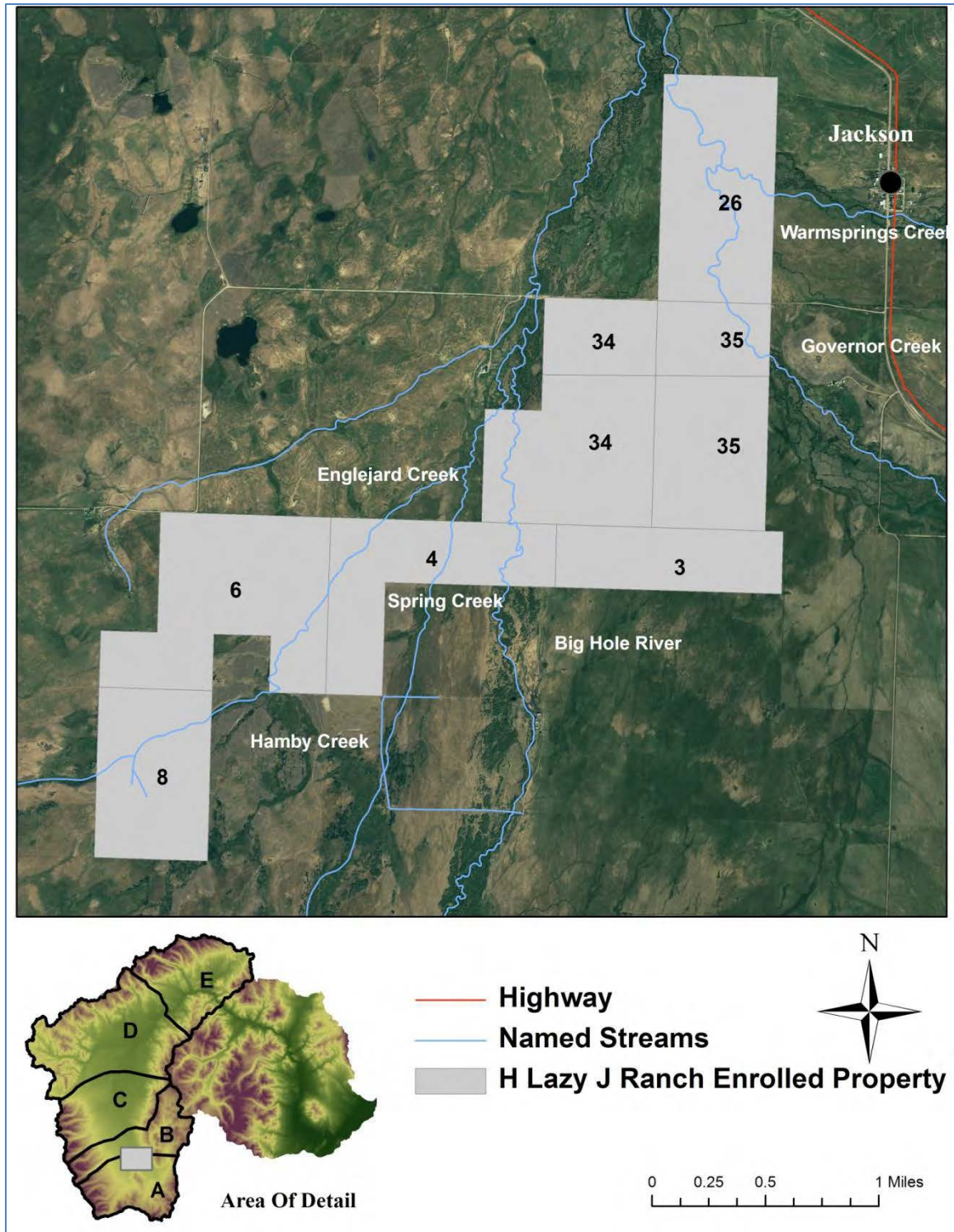


Figure 1. H Lazy J Ranch enrolled in the Big Hole CCAA, MT

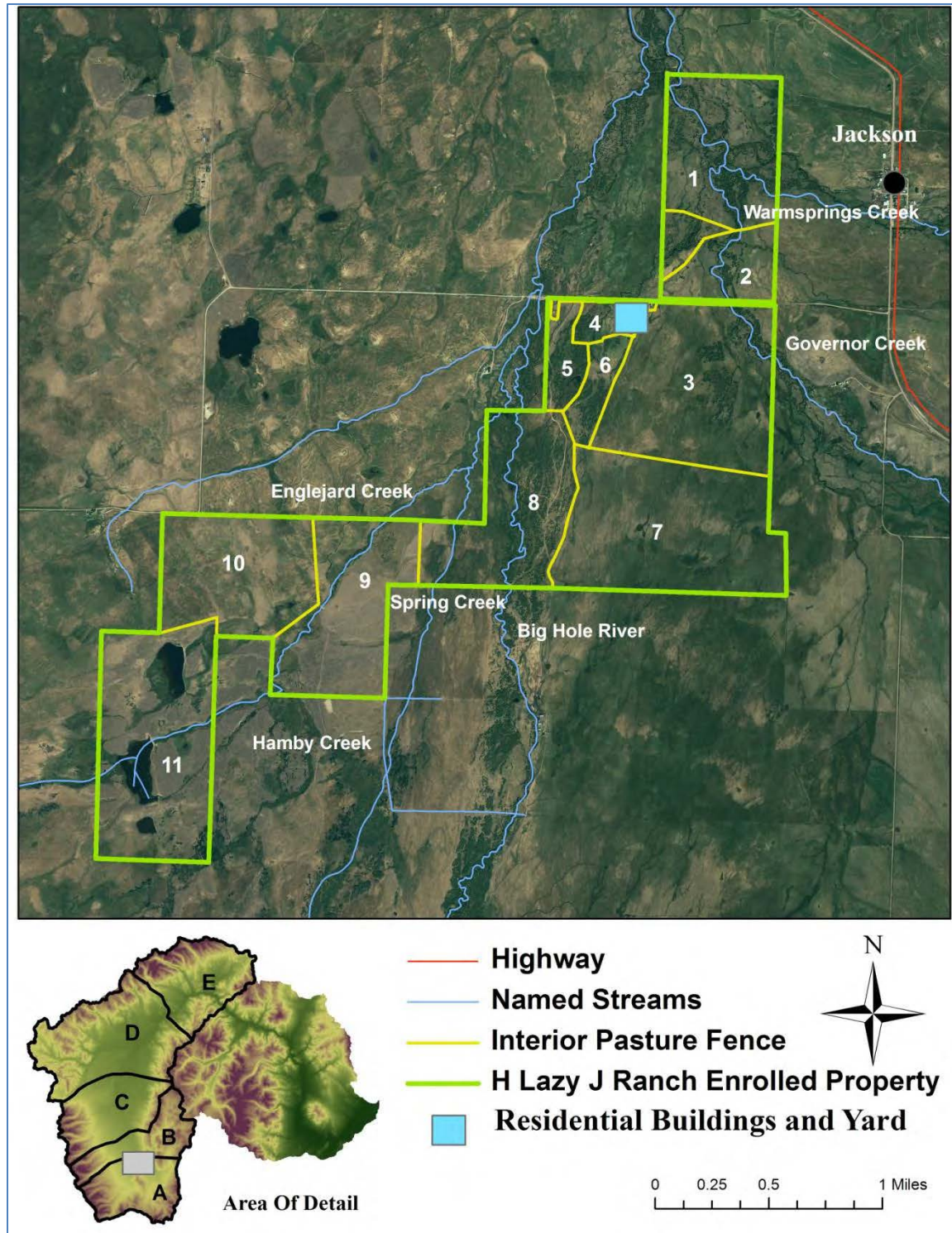


Figure 2. H Lazy J Ranch labeled pasture map.

Action 1: To Enhance Riparian Habitat by Implementing a Grazing Management Plan

As part of this site-specific plan, the H Lazy J Ranch shall comply with the following Grazing Management Plan for the six riparian pastures on the enrolled property. These pastures include both upland and riparian areas. The Grazing Management Plan was developed cooperatively with FWP and the landowner. The Grazing Management Plan meets CCAA requirements and landowner needs. By constructing several riparian fences, cattle distribution and forage utilization will improve, and altering the season and duration of use on pastures, riparian and upland health should improve.

The Grazing Management Plan was developed for three livestock herds. Herd 1 (H Lazy J cattle) consists of 100 cow\calf pairs and uses a 7-pasture rotation system that includes pastures 4-9 and 11. Herd 2 (Lapham cattle) consists of 100 steers and uses pasture 1 and 2 after riparian and cross fencing is constructed to create a 3 pasture rotation grazing system. Herd 3 (Jackson Ranch cattle) consists of X yearlings grazing pasture 10 in a twice through system with three months rest between treatments.

Herd 1:

Herd 1 (H Lazy J Ranch cattle) will rotate through pasture 3-8, and 11. Specific grazing strategies for the riparian pastures are as follows (see also table X). Herd 1 cattle will graze in pasture 3 with access to Governor Creek (Reach E) until a riparian fence is installed in 2011 to create a riparian pasture in the north east corner (Figure X). A 4-strand barbed wire fence will run approximately 0.4 miles along the western edge of Governor Creek just upstream of the Miner Lake Road Bridge (Figure X). This will create a 27-acre pasture that can be grazed by herd 1, in conjunction with the remaining acres in pasture 3, for a limited time. This fence will be constructed in 2011. Periods of rest will be incorporated in the grazing schedule for the riparian pasture.

A spring creek that rated “Sustainable” (Reach D) and the Big Hole River which rated “At Risk” (Reach A) are fenced within the same pasture (pasture 8). A short duration, low intensity deferred grazing approach will be applied to this pasture. One hundred cow/calf pairs will graze pasture 8 from September to October. This pasture will have all growing season to recover, and set seed before grazing occurs. Banks will be stable, and dry. High elk numbers in this pasture all summer will account for some browse and grazing before cattle are brought in. This grazing approach will begin in 2010. The remaining pasture requires no change in management because they have no riparian areas, or the riparian areas rated “Sustainable”.

Pasture Number	Grazing Schedule
3	2011: Riparian Fence installed, graze pasture 3 as normal. Use new riparian pasture 3a in late fall for 2 weeks
8	100 cow/calf pairs graze for 30 days, Sept - Oct
11	Continue current grazing

Herd 2:

In the past, Herd 2 (Lapham cattle) has grazed pastures 1 and 2 for the entire season (June through October). A new fence (0.66 miles) will be constructed to break these two pastures in to 4 different pastures (Figure X). With a four pastures system, yearlings will be rotated through each pasture, eliminating the season long use of the entire pasture. This fence will be constructed in 2010.

Herd 3:

Herd 3 will graze pasture 9 on the H Lazy J Ranch in conjunction with pastures on the Jackson Ranch. Yearling cattle will move south off of Jackson Ranch property in to pasture 9 in early June after vegetation green-up. They will stay in this pasture for 3-4 weeks, and then continue south on to Jackson Ranch property. In the fall (October), these

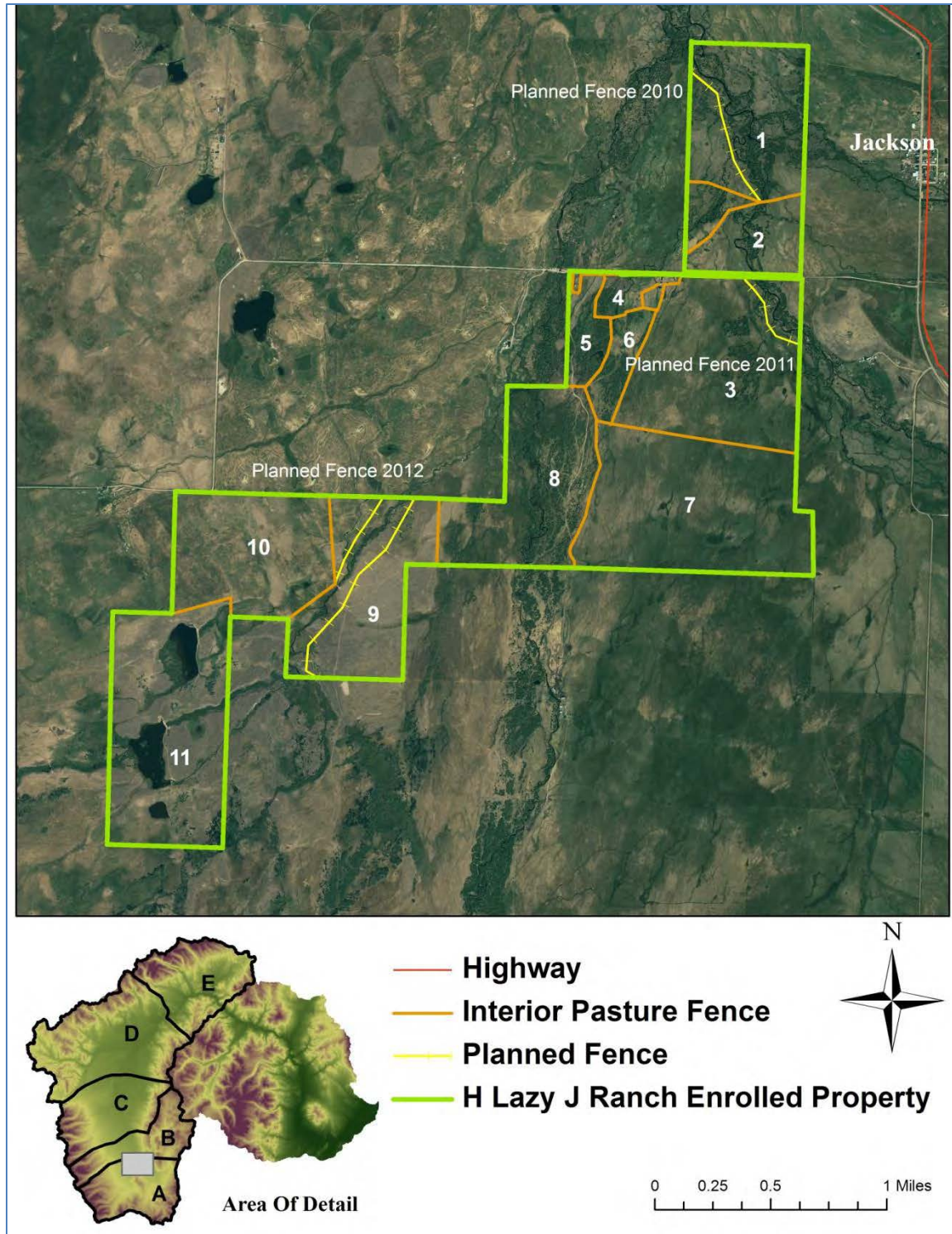


Figure X. Planned riparian and pasture fence to be constructed on H Lazy J Property.

yearlings will move north in to pasture 9 for another 3-4 weeks to graze the regrowth before moving north on to Jackson Ranch property for the rest of the year.

In 2012, H Lazy J is willing to construct a riparian fence along Englejard creek in pasture 9 to protect the stream from livestock damage (Figure X). This fence would be narrow and fence out

only the riparian area with one or two crossings or water gaps. A total of about 1.5 miles of new fence would be needed to complete this, and it would include using 0.25 miles of existing fence and potentially removing or relocating 0.37 miles of fence. New grazing strategies will be developed in pasture 9 after the fence is constructed in 2012 based on altered pasture size and riparian conditions.

If this plan results in detrimental effects to overall riparian health of the stream reaches which will be monitored annually through grazing utilization plots, photo points and reassessed every 5 years using the NRCS methodology, alternative grazing schedules shall be developed. To account for annual variation in logistics and weather, the H Lazy J Ranch may adjust the dates of pasture use, but the general timing and duration must remain as recommended.

Expected Result:

The expected result of implementing this Grazing Management Plan for the H Lazy J Ranch is that the riparian habitat on the enrolled property will maintain “Sustainable” condition in Reach B and D and improve in Reaches A, C, E, F, and G from “At Risk “ to “Sustainable” as defined by the NRCS within 15 years.

Action 2: To Enhance Riparian Habitat: Construction of riparian fence.

H Lazy J Ranch will install approximately 2.56 miles of riparian fence within 3 years (2010-2012). Fence will be constructed in three different pastures (1, 3, and 9) to facilitate the grazing plan.

Expected Result:

The installation of the riparian fence will reduce impacts to the riparian corridor and provide the infrastructure needed to implement the Grazing Management Plan. The result will be improved riparian and channel health and better utilization of upland forage by cattle.

FWP.MT.GOVTHE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

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

November 15, 2023

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

Dear Future Fisheries Improvement Review Panel,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) supports the proposed Governor Creek Streambank Restoration Project as submitted by Katelin Killoy, FWP Riparian Ecologist. The proposed project will improve riparian conditions in a degraded tributary to the Big Hole River within the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) Arctic grayling recovery zone. Restoration will reduce fine sediments and water temperatures on a significant tributary to the upper Big Hole River. Montana's Upper Missouri River Arctic Grayling Conservation Strategy (2022) states that FWP will pursue 0.75 miles of streambank restoration on the Big Hole River and its tributaries per year.

Since the 1990s, FWP and our partners have worked with private landowners along the upper Big Hole River to improve habitat for Arctic grayling. Collectively, these programs have increased summer flows in the mainstem river, stabilized and revegetated streambanks throughout the Big Hole River, and ultimately increased the distribution and abundance of Arctic grayling. These landowner relationships were formalized in 2006, with the creation of the CCAA program. The success of these programs continues to build as more landowners observe successful collaborations on neighboring properties. The landowner on Governor Creek at the proposed project site has been involved in the CCAA for nearly two decades and contributed greatly to grayling recovery through his cooperation and willingness to work with FWP staff.

In the Big Hole River, Arctic grayling exist almost exclusively in the mainstem, and tributaries located on private land. The success of the Big Hole Arctic Grayling recovery program is due to successful relationships with landowners. Big Hole River grayling occupy a large distribution and are highly migratory. As such, it is necessary to improve conditions of all tributaries within identified conservation areas.

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

Ryan Kreiner, Region 3 native species biologist (406-683-9310, RKreiner@mt.gov)
Jen Smitham, Region 3 public comment coordinator (406-495-3262, jsmitham@mt.gov)

Sincerely,

Warren Hansen
Acting Region 3 Supervisor

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

November 15, 2023

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

Dear Future Fisheries Improvement Program Review Panel,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks supports the proposed streambank stabilization using soft techniques along Governor Creek in the Big Hole River drainage. Governor Creek is an important tributary to the Big Hole River and has historically supported grayling. The project will have few negative effects and will greatly enhance streambanks stability in the areas. The Mitchells are enrolled in the Big Hole Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program and actively participate in Arctic grayling conservation efforts.

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

Jim Olsen, Big Hole River fisheries biologist (406-533-8451, jimolsen@mt.gov)

Jen Smitham, Region 3 public comment coordinator (406-495-3262, jsmitham@mt.gov)

Sincerely,

Warren Hansen
Acting Region 3 Supervisor