



FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

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



I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant Name: Fergus County - John Anderson
- Mailing Address: 712 W. Main Street
- City: Lewistown State: MT Zip: 59457
- Telephone: (406) 535-5006 E-mail: rdsupervisor@co.fergus.mt.us
- 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: Little Casino Creek Urban Road Crossing
- River, stream, or lake: Little Casino Creek
- Location: Township: 15N Range: 18E Section: 15
- Latitude: 47.0610 Longitude: -109.4206 *Within project (decimal degrees)*
- County: Fergus

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to replace an existing, dilapidated & unsafe public road crossing on Little Casino Creek within the City of Lewistown. The existing structure is a concrete and timber bridge that is failing due to age. This project will use a concrete box culvert to replace the crossing while maintaining fish passage and natural habitat conditions through the crossing, as the bridge has accomplished historically.

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

Little Casino Creek is a small, 1st-order spring tributary of Big Spring Creek. The creek has been highly manipulated as it runs through the City of Lewistown, including being straightened, lacking floodplain access, and having numerous onstream reservoirs. Additionally, there are 5 road crossings on the lower 1,000 feet of creek. Still, the creek provides important habitat and recreational value. There are healthy resident fish populations of numerous nongame species, including Montana Species of Concern northern redbelly dace, and the creek is used as a spawning tributary for both rainbow and brown trout from nearby Big Spring Creek.

This project focuses on the lowest of the road crossings. The 3rd Avenue bridge crossing is failing primarily due to age. Safety concerns have forced the closure of the crossing to vehicle traffic. Although the exact date is uncertain, many of the current crossings were installed 60+ years ago and while structurally they are nearing the end of their lifespan, they have and continue to function well hydraulically and from an aquatic habitat perspective. In order to maintain the health of the drainage and the fish and aquatic organisms present, it is vital that Little Casino Creek remain connected to the broader Big Spring Creek network.

The 3rd Avenue bridge crossing is to be replaced with a concrete box culvert sized to pass anticipated 100-year flow events, meet local floodplain ordinance criteria, and maintain aquatic organism passage. The new crossing will span the bankfull channel and accommodate natural streambed conditions and sediment transport. This crossing would be valuable in that it would maintain fish passage and connected habitats that are important to recreationally valuable trout species and benefit local populations of Montana Species of Concern.

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

Little Casino Creek has been heavily manipulated and confined historically to accommodate urban development. The baseline habitat conditions within the project location are poor. That said, the historic bridges have functioned well hydraulically and provided open passage of fish and aquatic organisms to access the higher quality habitat upstream and move freely in and out of Big Spring Creek. The project will ensure that fish passage is maintained and critical tributary habitat remains connected to the broader Big Spring Creek drainage network.

- E. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent): 50 feet
 Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g., stream miles opened): 3,000 feet

F. Project Budget Summary:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Grant Request (Dollars): | \$ 32,625.00 |
| Matching Dollars: | \$ 21,718.68 |
| Matching In-Kind Services:* | \$ |
| <i>*salaries of government employees are not considered matching contributions</i> | |
| Other Contributions (not part of this app) | \$ 11,980.40 |
| Total Project Cost: | \$ 66,324.08 |

- 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:

Support Letters are 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.

Yes ☒ No ☐

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

The crossing will continue to be monitored and maintained as part of the City and County's road and bridge obligations.

- 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 management will not be part of this project.

- 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. In the short-term, the crossing will be monitored to ensure installation success and immediate project goals are met (safe public road crossing and natural stream function through the crossing). In the long-term, the crossing will be monitored to ensure adequate hydraulic function and fish passage. FWP will contribute to the fish monitoring and any hydraulic monitoring will be shared with FWP. FWP does have fish survey data dating back to 2000 and it is understood that FWP will continue to occasionally monitor the fishery in the creek and should be able to assess any changes to the fishery. A primary goal of the project is to maintain fish and aquatic organism passage and fisheries monitoring should be able to evaluate whether goals are met. Passage friendly culverts are known to have numerous documented benefits over traditional round culvert crossings and it would be useful to have a project locally demonstrate the habitat benefits such that the approach could be replicated in other area road crossing projects.

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

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

Recreationally important brook trout, rainbow trout, and brown trout occur in Little Casino Creek. Additionally, numerous native and nongame species occur in Little Casino Creek, including Rocky Mountain sculpin, longnose sucker, mountain sucker, white sucker, longnose dace, fathead minnow, and northern redbelly dace, which is a Montana Species of Concern (SOC). All of the species listed would benefit from this project by ensuring fish passage and interconnected habitats between Little Casino Creek and Big Spring Creek.

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

This project will protect wild fish habitat by maintaining fish passage through Little Casino Creek. Interconnected stream networks are vital to maintain healthy fish populations, species diversity, trophic relationships, and ensure habitat diversity that meets various life history requirements for a broad range of fish species. This project will accomplish its goal of protecting and enhancing wild fish habitat by safeguarding fish passage through the replaced road crossings and maintaining access to interconnected habitats.

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

This project would be expected have similar benefits to fish populations both in the short and long-term. For both area and resident fish populations in Little Casino Creek, the expected benefits would occur via maintaining access and connection to the broader Big Spring Creek drainage providing the wide range of habitat diversity and complexity necessary for maintaining robust, healthy populations. This translates to angler success via maintaining important tributary spawning, nursery, and rearing habitat for recreationally important trout populations, which then recruit to Big Spring Creek and provide continued angling opportunity. Additionally, maintaining connectivity for the nongame portion of the fishery is important to the food-web dynamics in the Big Spring Creek drainage and the growth and condition of the trout fishery which anglers enjoy.

- 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.

Public fishing is possible at the project via public right-of-ways, although use is light. The primary public fishing benefit occurs by maintaining spawning access to a tributary that provides spawning, nursery, and rearing habitats for recreationally important wild trout that contribute to and live in Big Spring Creek (~8-10k angler-days per year). There is also some public fishing upstream of the project that would benefit. Lastly, healthy wild fisheries, and the public's ability to fish for them, rely on access to diverse, connected habitats that meet various species needs at each stage in their life history - this project seeks to maintain those attributes in Little Casino Creek.

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

The local schools use Little Casino Creek for various outdoor education activities, including FWP guided fish and spawning surveys, these would benefit from the project maintaining connected habitats. The general public benefits by conserving and protecting Montana Species of Concern in place. Local residents benefit by providing a more aesthetically pleasing and natural crossing compared to a traditional round culvert.

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

No, this project has no impacts to existing water rights. The construction will occur entirely within the road right-of-ways at each crossing and impacts to the property rights of adjacent landowners would not be expected.

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

No, this project would have no impact as the work occurs within the public right-of-way.

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

No, this project has no associations to 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.

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: John C. Anderson Date: 11-15-2023

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

Little Casino Creek fish passage
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

012-2024

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 | 8 | surveyor 2 | \$131.00 | \$ 1,048.00 | | 1,048.00 | | \$ 1,048.00 |
| Design | 4 | Struct Engineer 3 | \$146.00 | \$ 584.00 | | 584.00 | | \$ 584.00 |
| Engineering | 8 | Pro Engineer 5 | \$177.00 | \$ 1,416.00 | | 1,416.00 | | \$ 1,416.00 |
| Permitting | 4 | RD supervisor | \$55.00 | \$ 220.00 | | | 220.00 | \$ 220.00 |
| Oversight | 8 | Pro Engineer 2 | \$131.00 | \$ 1,048.00 | | 1,048.00 | | \$ 1,048.00 |
| Maintenance | | | | \$ - | | | | \$ - |
| | | Sub-Total | | \$ 4,316.00 | \$ - | \$ 4,096.00 | \$ 220.00 | \$ 4,316.00 |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Mileage | 4 trips | 720 miles | \$0.64 | \$ 460.80 | | 460.80 | | \$ 460.80 |
| Per diem | 4 days | 4 people | \$54.00 | \$ 216.00 | | 216.00 | | \$ 216.00 |
| Lodging | 2 nights | 2 people | \$105.00 | \$ 210.00 | | 210.00 | | \$ 210.00 |
| | | Sub Total | | \$ 886.80 | \$ - | \$ 886.80 | \$ - | \$ 886.80 |
| Construction Materials**** | | | | | | | | |
| box culvert | 45 ft | 8'x4'x45' | \$725.00 | \$ 32,625.00 | 32,625.00 | | | \$ 32,625.00 |
| pavement | 1800 square ft | 60'x30' | 4.50 SQ ft | \$ 8,100.00 | | 8,100.00 | | \$ 8,100.00 |
| 3/4 Gravel | 22 cyds | 60' x30' | \$6.00 | \$ 132.00 | | 132.00 | | \$ 132.00 |
| fill | 80 cyds | abutments | \$2.00 | \$160.00 | | 160.00 | | \$ 160.00 |
| | | | | \$ - | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | \$ - | | | | \$ - |
| | | Sub-Total | | \$ 41,017.00 | \$ 32,625.00 | \$ 8,392.00 | \$ - | \$ 41,017.00 |
| Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization | | | | | | | | |
| 320 excavator | 16 hrs | | \$100.52 | \$ 1,608.32 | | 1,608.32 | | \$ 1,608.32 |
| 259 skid steer | 8 hrs | | \$78.88 | \$ 631.04 | | 631.04 | | \$ 631.04 |
| crane | 6 hrs | | \$185.00 | \$ 1,110.00 | | 1,110.00 | | \$ 1,110.00 |
| rigger | 11 hrs | | \$85.00 | \$ 935.00 | | 935.00 | | \$ 935.00 |
| Mob in/out | 2 hrs | | \$1,650.00 | \$ 3,300.00 | | 3,300.00 | | \$ 3,300.00 |
| tandem dump | 8 hrs | | \$94.94 | \$ 759.52 | | 759.52 | | \$ 759.52 |
| superviosr | 4 hrs | | \$55.00 | \$ 220.00 | | | 220.00 | \$ 220.00 |
| Foreman | 80 hrs | | \$38.78 | \$ 3,102.40 | | | 3,102.40 | \$ 3,102.40 |
| Operator | 80 hrs | | \$34.02 | \$ 2,721.60 | | | 2,721.60 | \$ 2,721.60 |
| laborer | 80 hrs | | \$32.65 | \$ 2,612.00 | | | 2,612.00 | \$ 2,612.00 |
| laborer | 80 hrs | | \$32.65 | \$ 2,612.00 | | | 2,612.00 | \$ 2,612.00 |
| truck driver | 8 hrs | | \$32.65 | \$ 261.20 | | | 261.20 | \$ 261.20 |
| Admin. | 8 hrs | | \$28.90 | \$ 231.20 | | | 231.20 | \$ 231.20 |
| | | | | \$ - | | | | \$ - |
| | | Sub-Total | | \$ 20,104.28 | \$ - | \$ 8,343.88 | \$ 11,760.40 | \$ 20,104.28 |
| TOTALS | | | | | \$ 32,625.00 | \$ 21,718.68 | \$ 11,980.40 | \$ 66,324.08 |

Little Casino Creek fish passage
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

012-2024

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:

APPLICATION MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

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

| CONTRIBUTOR | IN-KIND | CASH | TOTAL | Secured? (Y/N) |
|---------------|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Fergus County | \$ - | \$ 21,718.68 | \$ 21,718.68 | Y |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| TOTALS | \$ - | \$ 21,718.68 | \$ 21,718.68 | |

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

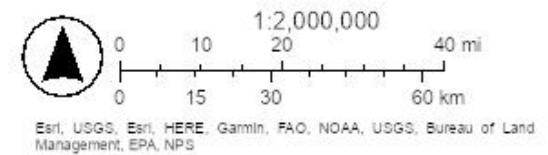
(contributions not associated with the application)

| CONTRIBUTOR | IN-KIND | CASH | TOTAL | Secured? (Y/N) |
|---------------|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Fergus County | \$ - | \$ 11,980.40 | \$ 11,980.40 | Y |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| TOTALS | \$ - | \$ 11,980.40 | \$ 11,980.40 | |

Site Location - Lewistown 3rd Avenue Bridge



11/15/2023



3rd Avenue Bridge

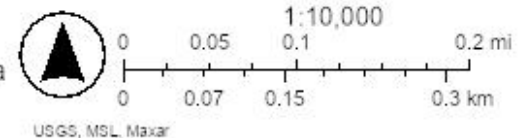


11/15/2023

■ Montana Public Lands
 World Imagery
 Low Resolution 15m Imagery

High Resolution 60cm Imagery
 High Resolution 30cm Imagery
 Citations

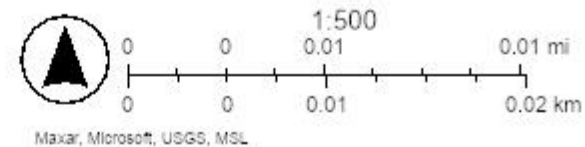
2.4m Resolution Metadata



3rd Avenue Bridge - detail



11/15/2023





View from downstream looking up toward existing crossing.



View of Little Casino Creek looking downstream toward 3rd Avenue Bridge crossing.



View from 3rd Avenue Bridge looking upstream.



View from 3rd Avenue Bridge looking downstream.



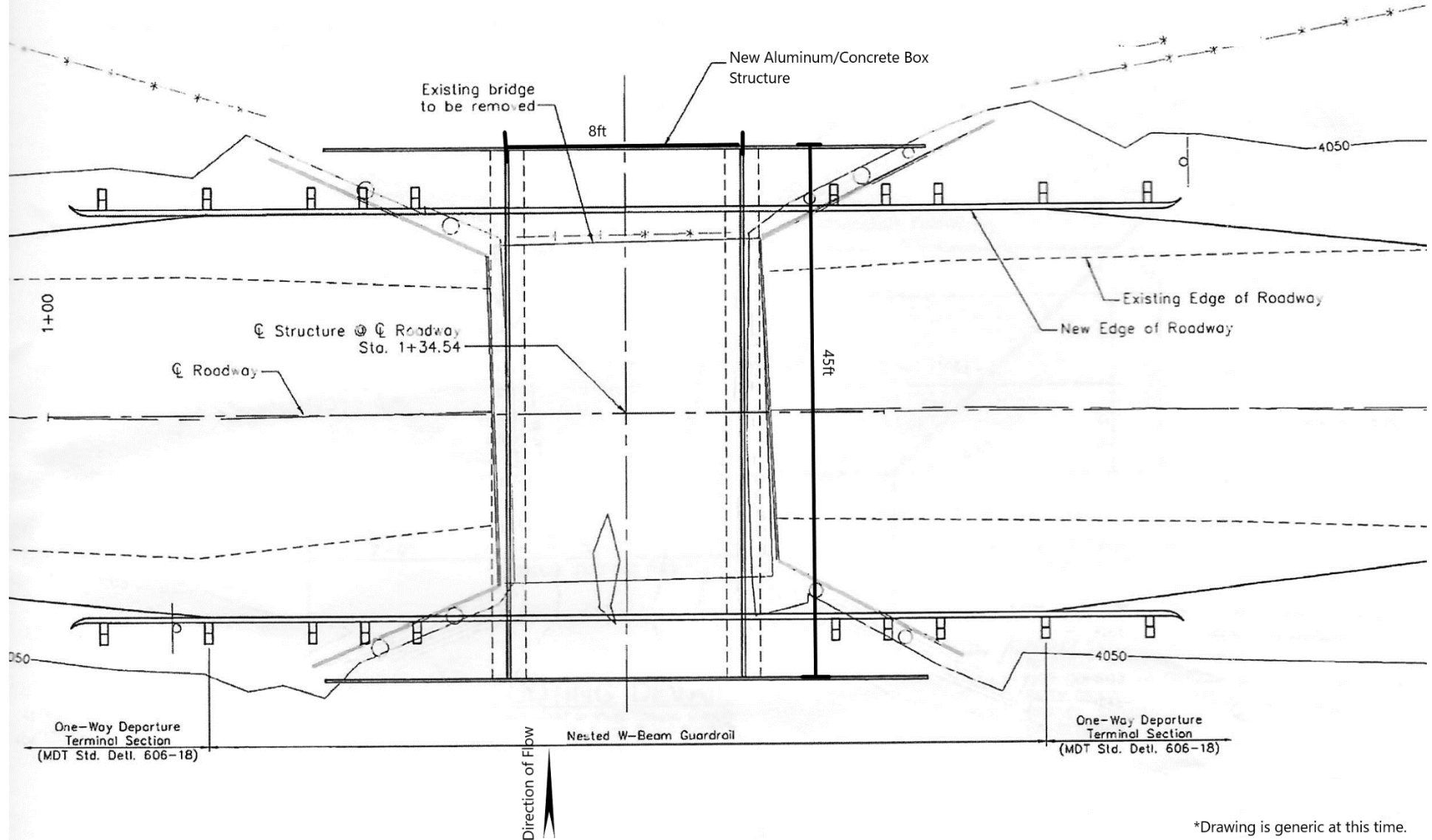
View of 3rd Avenue Bridge.



View of existing crossing degradation.

GENERIC BOX CULVERT PLAN VIEW

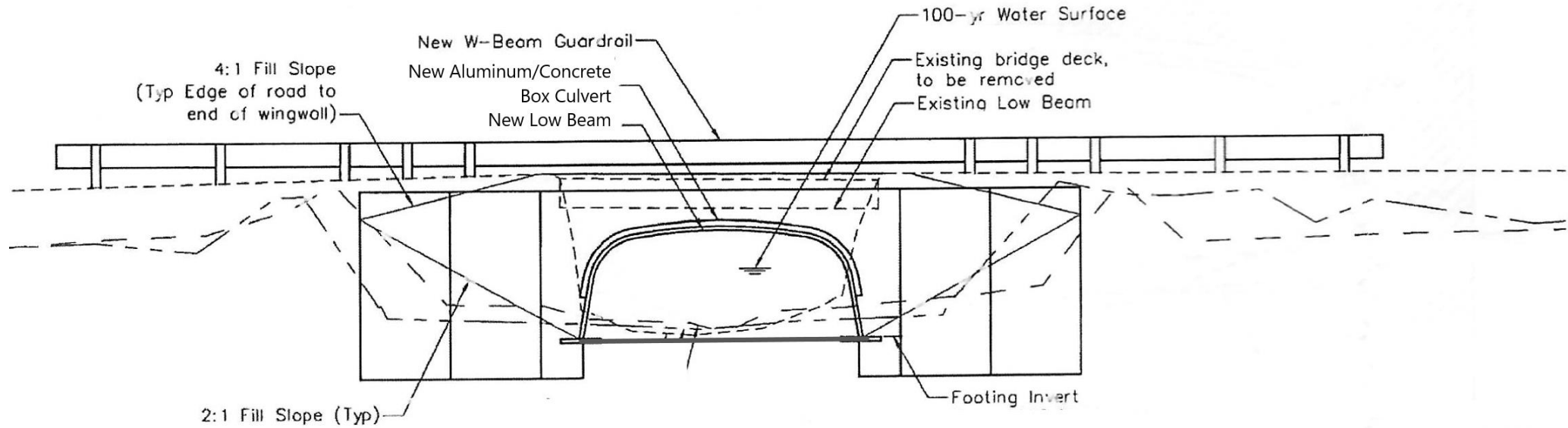
3rd Avenue Bridge - Little Casino Creek



*Drawing is generic at this time.
Final design may differ

GENERIC BOX CULVERT ELEVATION VIEW

3rd Avenue Bridge - Little Casino Creek



*Drawing is generic at this time.
Final Design may differ



FWP.MT.GOV

THE OUTSIDE IS IN US ALL.

Michelle McGree
Future Fisheries Program
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Clint Smith
Fisheries Biologist – Lewistown Area
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

SUBJECT: Winnett ACES application to the Future Fisheries Program – Rowton Bank Restoration

DATE: November 9, 2023

Dear Ms. McGree,

I, as the Montana FWP Lewistown Area Fisheries Biologist, am pleased to express support for the Fergus County application to the Future Fisheries Program for the Little Casino Creek Urban Crossings project. FWP works closely with Fergus County's Road and Bridge Department in a permitting/advisory role and provides technical support and collaboration on road & bridge projects that may impact fish and aquatic resources.

The proposed project to replace the existing road crossing is necessary due to the failing state of the bridge on 3rd Avenue and others someday soon. The old crossings have been adequate from a fish passage perspective and Little Casino Creek is surprisingly productive given its appearance and history of manipulation. The creek, due to its spring nature, provides quality spawning habitat for Big Spring Creek trout and efforts to ensure that continues by replacing the road crossings with fish-friendly structures is important. Additionally, Little Casino Creek is home to a population of northern redbelly dace, a Montana Species of Concern. Efforts to maintain connectivity throughout Little Casino Creek would be expected to benefit the northern redbelly dace populations as well.

Big Spring Creek provides a gem of a trout fishery but unfortunately its tributaries have been ignored, abused, and degraded. Maintaining the quality attributes of Little Casino Creek and ensuring connectivity continues between it and Big Spring Creek is certainly a management priority for me in the Lewistown Management Area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Clint Smith
Lewistown Area Fisheries Biologist

November 15, 2023

To whom it may concern:

My name is Brett Shelagowski, I teach Biology at Lewistown Junior High. I am writing to show my support for the grant to replace the crossing on Little Casino Creek. I am able to walk my students down to Little Casino Creek in a normal class period to observe brown trout spawning in the creek. We have also worked with FWP fisheries biologist with electrofishing to gather data on the creek and have the biologist show the students this effective technique to collect fish. Ensuring fish to access the upper stretches of the creek will allow my students to better study science in my classes.

Another support from me for replacing the bridge is that it would have less impediment for the trout of Big Spring Creek and their movements into Little Casino Creek to more easily travel further upstream, giving them more area to reproduce and help the population of Big Spring Creek. I guide fly fisherman on Big Spring Creek in the summer and having a healthy population of trout in the creek will benefit everyone who comes to fish this Central Montana resource.

If you have any additional questions for me in regards to my support for this culvert replacement project, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett A. Shelagowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B'.

Brett Shelagowski

Brett Shelagowski
606 Stoddard Street
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 945-7050
mi.brett.mt@gmail.com

November 13, 2023

Future Fisheries Coordinator
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Fisheries Division
1420 E Sixth Ave
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Future Fisheries Coordinator:

The Lewistown Planning Department is pleased to support the application for funding from the Future Fish Program to replace deteriorating and unsafe bridges in the City of Lewistown.

The crossings of Little Casino Creek should be replaced with culverts or bridges that do not diminish the natural streambed substrate for fish spawning or the habitat for wild fish populations of the Big Spring Creek watershed (Little Casino Creek is a major tributary of Big Spring Creek). Moreover, appropriately designed and installed culverts or bridges must not negatively impact flooding in this mapped flood zone of Lewistown.

I highly recommend funding from the Future Fisheries Improvement Grants Program to replace the Little Casino Creek crossings. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Osterman
Planning Director
406-535-1775
planning@ci.lewistown.mt.us



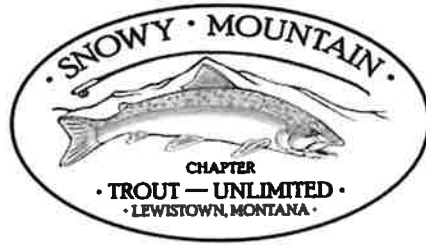
November 14, 2023

Dear Clint Smith,

The Friends of the Lewistown Trails reviewed your proposed "Little Casino Creek Urban Road Crossing" project at our meeting today. Our group works with the City of Lewistown to maintain and improve the Lewistown Trail System. The trails provide access to some of the better fish habitat on Little Casino Creek. We support your efforts to maintain fish passage on Little Casino Creek, both to help sustain the Big Spring Creek trout fishery and to maintain the aquatic fauna in Little Casino Creek. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Kevin Myhre
Chairman
Friends of the Trails



Future Fisheries Committee,

The Snowy Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited based in Lewistown, MT is committed to maintaining or enhancing wild trout populations and their habitats in Central Montana and especially Big Spring Creek.

We support efforts to obtain Future Fisheries Improvement Program funding for the Little Casino Creek Urban Road Crossing Project. Replacing these two bridges is essential for human safety. It is imperative that this project also provides fish passage for trout to continue to spawn in this tributary of Big Spring Creek. Obtaining this funding will ensure this is done.

Sincerely,

Mike Chapman
Snowy Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited, President

BIG SPRING CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL**Lewistown Montana**

November 14, 2023

Clint,

The Big Spring Creek Watershed Council (BSCWC) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the consideration of the Little Casino Creek Urban Road Crossing project as a Future Fisheries Improvement Program endeavor. We are a Lewistown based forum to promote cooperative resource management within the Big Spring Creek Watershed.

We support your efforts to receive this funding to ensure that the bridge replacements at these two creek crossings are constructed in a manner that provides optimum fish passage from Big Spring Creek to this tributary which is used for trout spawning.

We understand that the County Road and Bridge department has yet to submit a project design and that it may include replacing these bridges with culverts. Receiving this funding would result in the installation of open-bottomed arch culverts or concrete boxes which would be much better in maintaining fish passage and natural habitat conditions.

Sincerely,

Anne Tews
Acting Chairman
BSCWC