



## FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

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



### I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Clark Fork Coalition

Mailing Address: PO Box 7593

City: Missoula State: MT Zip: 59807

Telephone: (406) 542-0539 E-mail: andy@clarkfork.org

B. Contact Person (if different than applicant): Andy Fischer

Address: Same as above

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

Telephone: (406) 552-7513 E-mail: andy@clarkfork.org

C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if different than applicant): Karelee Kelley, 2-Bar Ranch, Melvin R Beck Ranch LLC

Mailing Address: 91 Race Track Rd

City: Deer Lodge State: MT Zip: 59722

Telephone: Available upon request E-mail: None

### II. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Name: Sager Lane Diversion Project

River, stream, or lake: Upper Clark Fork River

Location: Township: 7N Range: 9W Section: 33

Latitude: 46.317187 Longitude: -112.736246 *Within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Powell

B. Purpose of Project: *(high level, focus on why the project is important)*

The purpose of the project is to restore fish and recreational passage at the Sager Lane Diversion through the replacement of an aging pin and plank structure with 4 rock weirs. The project also involves moving and upgrading the existing pumps and bypass channel closer to the river. A new rotating drum screen will be incorporated into the new pump intake system to reduce fish entrainment. The project will benefit primarily brown trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

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

This project is part of a larger effort in partnership with Trout Unlimited and the Natural Resource Damage Program that began in 2018 to address fish and recreational passage at 8 locations on the mainstem Clark Fork River between Deer Lodge and Warm Springs. To date 4 diversions upstream of Sager Lane have been addressed and this 5<sup>th</sup> project will open 7.6 miles of upstream passage.

The Sager Lane Diversion project is located on the Clark Fork River approximately 6 miles south of Deer Lodge, MT and immediately upstream of the Sager Lane bridge. The current diversion dam is a full-spanning pin-and-plank style concrete and timber weir. Metal supports are manually raised seasonally (July-September) to support check boards that form a dam approximately 3 feet high across the entire river. The dam is supported by a concrete apron and abutments used to check up the water surface for pumps located west of the bridge. Tarps are also used to seal the dam during low stream flows which can significantly dewater the river below the diversion. This diversion presents a formidable recreational obstacle when raised and poses a complete seasonal fish passage barrier. The pumps are located about 100 yards down the ditch on the far side of Sager Lane at the intersection with Dempsey Creek.

This project involves replacing the existing diversion structure with four rock weirs, relocating and upgrading the existing pump station closer to the diversion, and constructing a bypass channel back to the CFR. The new bypass channel will eliminate the need to send excess irrigation water from the Clark Fork River down the Dempsey Creek channel. The goal of the project is to 1) improve fish passage, 2) prevent entrainment and 3) enhance streamflows. This project will benefit trout moving upstream and downstream to cold water refuges and reduce the severity of dewatering at this location.

Construction is scheduled for fall of 2024 depending on permitting timelines and contractor availability.

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

The current irrigation diversion is a complete fish passage and recreational barrier. The ditch also degrades water quality by sending excess water in the lower reaches of Dempsey Creek. Flows of less than 10 cfs have been measured below this diversion. This issue will be corrected by piping a section of open ditch and moving the pump station closer to the river (water conservation) and creating a new bypass channel that will return any excess flow directly back to the Clark Fork River downstream of the diversion (improved water management).

- E. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent): 200 ft  
Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g., stream miles opened): 7.6 Miles

- F. Project Budget Summary:

**Grant Request (Dollars):** \$ 50,000

Matching Dollars: \$ 100,000

Matching In-Kind Services:\* \$ 0

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

Other Contributions (not part of this app) \$ 199,620.57

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 349,620.57

- 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 support letters or statements of (e.g., landowner consent, community or public support). For FWP statement, attach provided template. List any other project partners:

FWP and landowner letters of support 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 landowners will sign a 20-year agreement outlining how the new diversion will be operated and the project benefits will be maintained. The Natural Resource Damage Program through their operations and maintenance program for the Upper Clark Fork fish screens will monitor performance of the fish screen and provide maintenance and cleaning as needed.

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 is not a project component.

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?

Post project streamflow and temperature monitoring will occur. In addition, post project surveys will be conducted to ensure the project was installed according to the design specs and standards.

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

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

Westslope cutthroat trout and brown trout. This section of river is also listed as critical habitat for bull trout, although their abundance in this section of the river is quite low.

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

The project will remove a major fish passage barrier in the Upper Clark Fork River and prevent fish entrainment by screening the pump intake on the ditch. Brown trout populations in this section of the river are at historic lows according to recent FWP surveys. This project will provide these fish with additional flow and passage during the summer months, both improve habitat conditions on site and allowing fish to move to more suitable habitat during periods of drought.

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

Fish will benefit from improved passage upstream and downstream during the summer drought periods when they move to cold water refuges in nearby tributaries such as Racetrack and Dempsey Creeks. Fish populations will also benefit from lower entrainment risks in the ditch due to screening and less chance of mortality due to improved water flows in the river.

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

The project is located at a popular boating and fishing access location. Anglers will gain better access to a section of river that presents a major recreational barrier and safety concern when the diversion dam is in operation. Plans are being developed by FWP to relocate the boating access downstream of the diversion on State of Montana property. Access for walk-in anglers from Sager Lane to the State of Montana property immediately downstream of the project will be maintained and eventually enhanced when the boat launch site is improved.

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

The proposed improvements to the irrigation system will facilitate better access to the State of Montana property known as the Clark Fork River Ranch. Currently an open ditch along the road restricts access to the State property to the north to a single pull in parking spot. This area is heavily used by waterfowl hunters, big game hunters, floaters, hikers and bird watchers. Reconfiguration of the irrigation infrastructure will result in an improved layout and parking area for the public at this location to access the river and public land. FWP is developing plans to improve this site for fishing, hunting and other recreational access.

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

No. All property owners adjacent to the project are involved and supportive of the project. There are also no other immediately adjacent irrigation diversions that will be impacted and no proposed changes to the water rights associated with the pump system.

- 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?

The project is located in the Clark Fork River Operable Unit and this location has not been remediated. Contamination sampling is being conducted by the engineer to determine if removal of contaminated soils will be necessary at any locations where stream bank disturbance will occur. Stream bank disturbance will be minimized and will be contained primarily to the ~200' of streambank where the rock weirs/rip rap for the diversion are being installed. Any contaminated material will be hauled off site to the ARCO repository in Opportunity in coordination with DEQ. This will ensure that when future remediation occurs at this location, the diversion can be left in place.

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

Date: 5/14/2024

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 <a href="mailto:FWPFFIP@mt.gov">FWPFFIP@mt.gov</a> (electronic submissions must be signed) For files over 10MB, use <a href="https://transfer.mt.gov">https://transfer.mt.gov</a> and send to <a href="mailto:mmcgree@mt.gov">mmcgree@mt.gov</a>
--	---

Upper Clark Fork Sager Diversion  
**BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

026-2024

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
<b>Personnel***</b>								
Survey	15	hours	\$180.00	\$ 2,700.00			2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00
Design	112	hours	\$180.00	\$ 20,160.00			20,160.00	\$ 20,160.00
Engineering	56	hours	\$180.00	\$ 10,080.00			10,080.00	\$ 10,080.00
Permitting	56	hours	\$180.00	\$ 10,080.00			10,080.00	\$ 10,080.00
Oversight	56	hours	\$180.00	\$ 10,080.00			10,080.00	\$ 10,080.00
Project Management	400	hours	\$63.46	\$ 25,384.00			25,384.00	\$ 25,384.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 78,484.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,484.00	\$ 78,484.00
<b>Travel</b>								
Mileage	500	site visits/meetings	\$0.67	\$ 335.00			335.00	\$ 335.00
Per diem				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 335.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 335.00	\$ 335.00
<b>Construction Materials****</b>								
Rock Weirs (5' boulders)	51	EA	\$350.00	\$ 17,850.00	17,850.00			\$ 17,850.00
MDT Class 2 Rock Riprap	135	CY	\$150.00	\$ 20,250.00	20,250.00			\$ 20,250.00
Check Structure w/Headwall, Gate, Culvert	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00			5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
1/2" Steel Rotary Screen Structure	1	LS	\$4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00			4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00
4' Red Rotary Screen	1	LS	\$5,800.00	\$ 5,800.00			5,800.00	\$ 5,800.00
2 stage 1500 GPM Pump 145 TDH	3	EA	\$23,563.75	\$ 70,691.25		70,691.25		\$ 70,691.25
75HP VFD panels	3	EA	\$14,761.44	\$ 44,284.32		29,308.75	14,975.57	\$ 44,284.32
21" 80# PIP PVC Pipe	420	LF	\$42.00	\$ 17,640.00			17,640.00	\$ 17,640.00
Pump Tye in with check and butterfly valves	3	EA	\$2,670.00	\$ 8,010.00			8,010.00	\$ 8,010.00
20" Stub outs	1	LS	\$3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00			3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00
21" Coupler	1	EA	\$1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00			1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00

Upper Clark Fork Sager Diversion  
**BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

026-2024

Culvert Bands	2	EA	\$98.00	\$ 196.00			196.00	\$ 196.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 199,821.57	\$ 38,100.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 61,721.57	\$ 199,821.57
<b>Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization</b>								
Mobilization	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00			10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Temporary Diversion	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00			15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Demolition and Removal	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	5,800.00		4,200.00	\$ 10,000.00
Earthwork- Rock Weirs	610	CY	\$15.00	\$ 9,150.00	6,100.00		3,050.00	\$ 9,150.00
Earthwork- Pumps	650	CY	\$10.00	\$ 6,500.00			6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Earthwork- Bypass Channel	681	CY	\$5.00	\$ 3,405.00			3,405.00	\$ 3,405.00
New Meter Service	3	LS	\$2,850.00	\$ 8,550.00			8,550.00	\$ 8,550.00
Concrete Pad for VFD panels	1	LS	\$1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00			1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
Wiring	1	LS	\$3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00			3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Contamination Removal	131	CY	\$25.00	\$ 3,275.00			3,275.00	\$ 3,275.00
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 70,980.00	\$ 11,900.00	\$ -	\$ 59,080.00	\$ 70,980.00
<b>TOTALS</b>				\$ 349,620.57	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 199,620.57	\$ 349,620.57

**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:

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

**APPLICATION MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Resource Legacy Fund	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	Y
State of MT, Natural Resource Damage Program	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	Y
	\$ -			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

(contributions not associated with the application)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Resource Legacy Fund	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	Y
State of MT, Natural Resource Damage Program	\$ -	\$ 124,620.57	\$ 124,620.57	Y
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ -	\$ 199,620.57	\$ 199,620.57	



STATE OF MONTANA

Upper Clark Fork Sager Diversion

BROKEN CIRCLE RANCH COMPANY INC

Dempsey Creek



BECK MELVIN RANCH LLC

E-Sager-Ln

E-Sager-Ln

Sager Lane Pump Diversion

PAULEY WILLIAM O

Clark Fork River

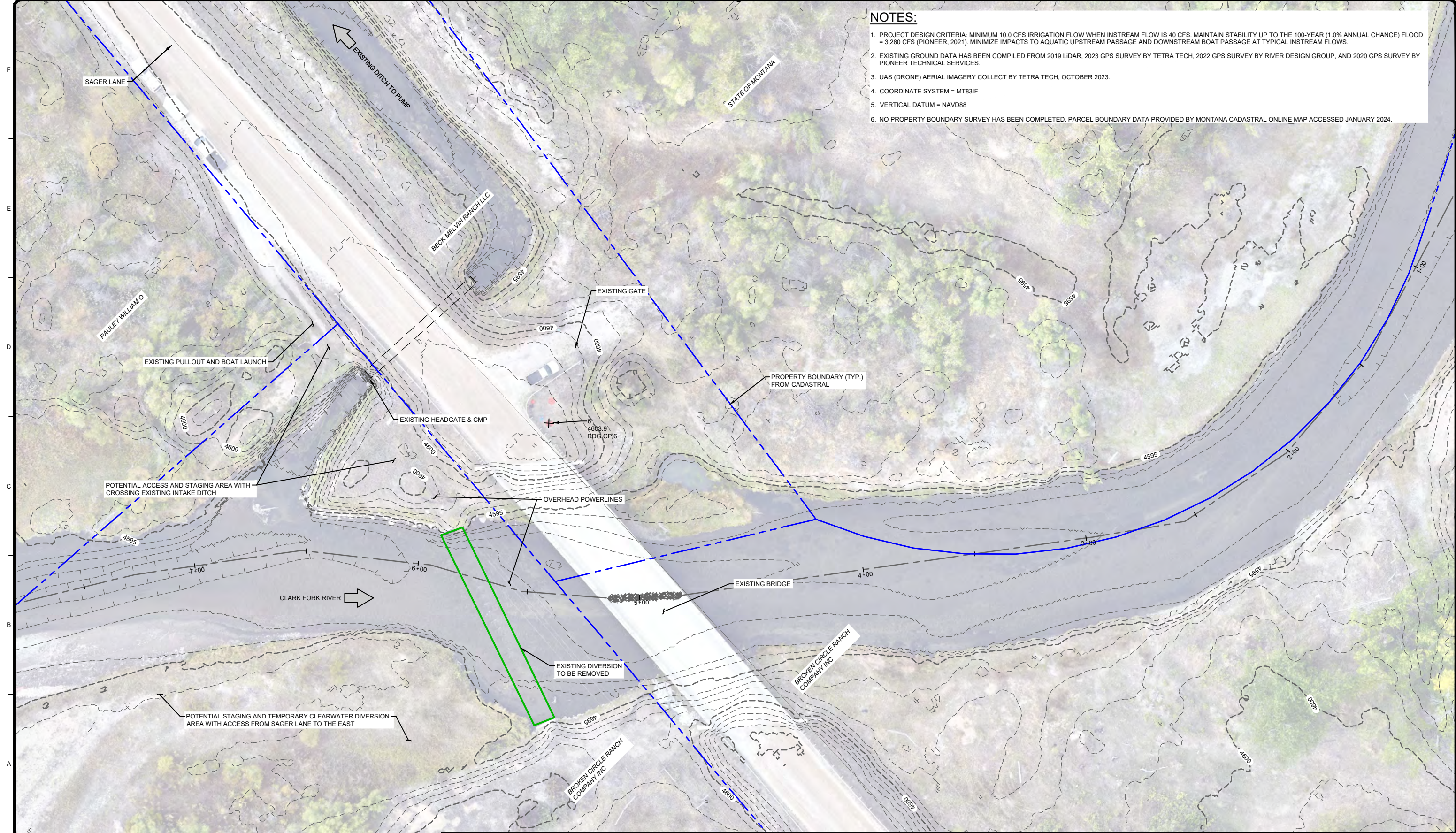
BROKEN CIRCLE RANCH COMPANY INC

200 Ft



**NOTES:**

1. PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA: MINIMUM 10.0 CFS IRRIGATION FLOW WHEN INSTREAM FLOW IS 40 CFS. MAINTAIN STABILITY UP TO THE 100-YEAR (1.0% ANNUAL CHANCE) FLOOD = 3,280 CFS (PIONEER, 2021). MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO AQUATIC UPSTREAM PASSAGE AND DOWNSTREAM BOAT PASSAGE AT TYPICAL INSTREAM FLOWS.
2. EXISTING GROUND DATA HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM 2019 LIDAR, 2023 GPS SURVEY BY TETRA TECH, 2022 GPS SURVEY BY RIVER DESIGN GROUP, AND 2020 GPS SURVEY BY PIONEER TECHNICAL SERVICES.
3. UAS (DRONE) AERIAL IMAGERY COLLECT BY TETRA TECH, OCTOBER 2023.
4. COORDINATE SYSTEM = MT83IF
5. VERTICAL DATUM = NAVD88
6. NO PROPERTY BOUNDARY SURVEY HAS BEEN COMPLETED. PARCEL BOUNDARY DATA PROVIDED BY MONTANA CADASTRAL ONLINE MAP ACCESSED JANUARY 2024.



1/26/2024 10:38 AM - C:\A-G\CLARK FORK COALITION\117-9145002 - SAGER LANE IRRIGATION IMPROV\MT07-CAD\SHEETFILES\EXISTING.DWG



**TETRA TECH**  
 www.tetratech.com  
 825 W. Custer Ave.  
 Helena, Montana 59602  
 PHONE: 406-443-5210 FAX: 406-442-7182

**DRAFT**  
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

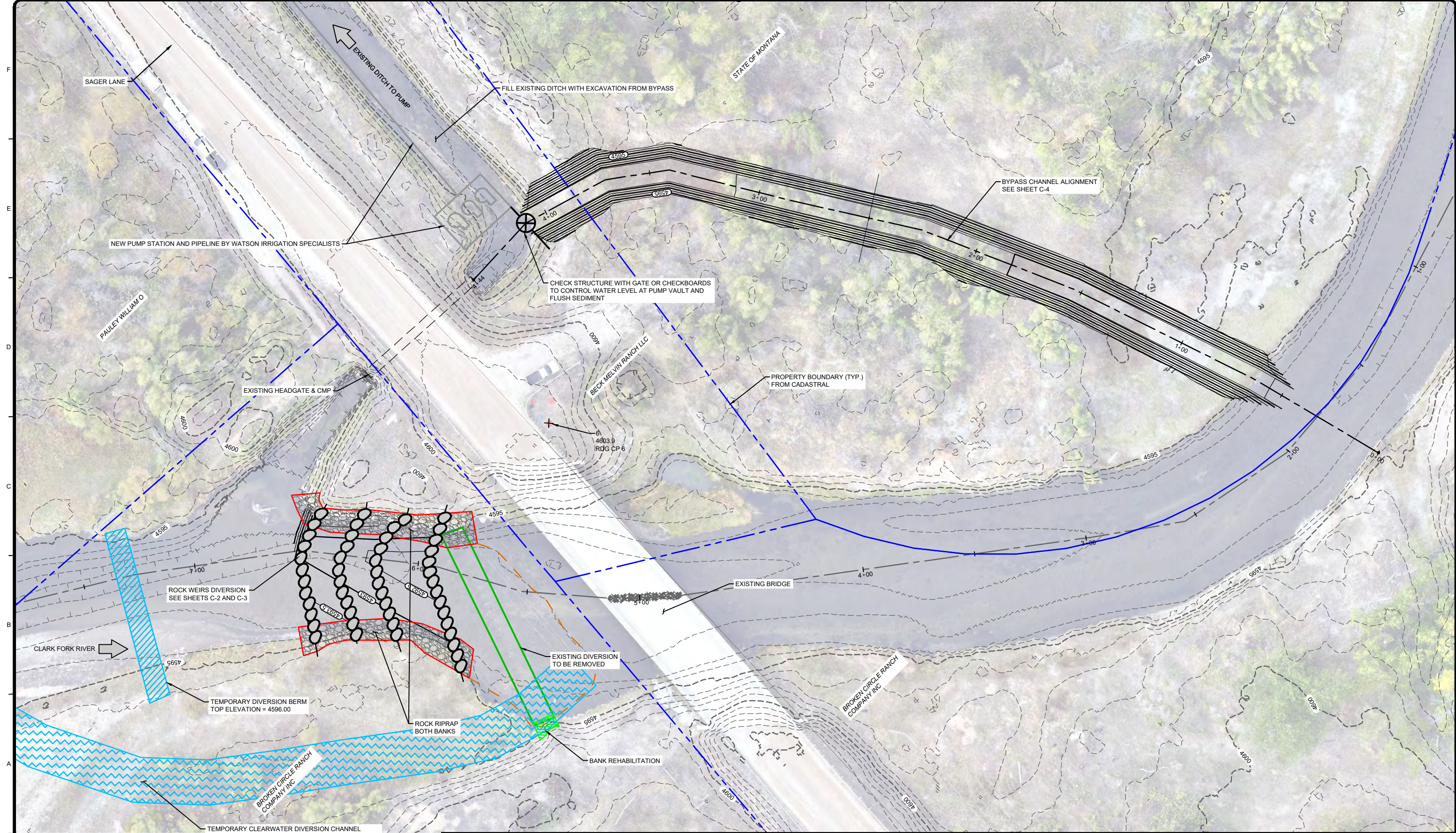
MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

CLARK FORK COALITION  
 SAGER LANE DIVERSION IMPROVEMENTS  
 DEER LODGE, MT

**EXISTING SITE AND ACCESS PLAN**

Project No.: 117-9145002  
 Designed By: MDB  
 Drawn By: DYW  
 Checked By: ###

**G-1**



1/26/2024 12:20 PM - C:\A-G\CLARK FORK COALITION\117-9145002 - SAGER LANE IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS\CAD\SHEETFILES\DIVERSION.DWG



TEMPORARY CLEARWATER DIVERSION CHANNEL  
 BOTTOM WIDTH = 20'; SIDE SLOPES = 2:1 (H:V)  
 UNIFORM SLOPE FROM UPSTREAM ELEVATION 4593.00  
 TO DOWNSTREAM ELEVATION 4592.00

**TETRA TECH**  
 www.tetratech.com  
 825 W. Custer Ave.  
 Helena, Montana 59602  
 PHONE: 406-443-5210 FAX: 406-442-7182

DRAFT  
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

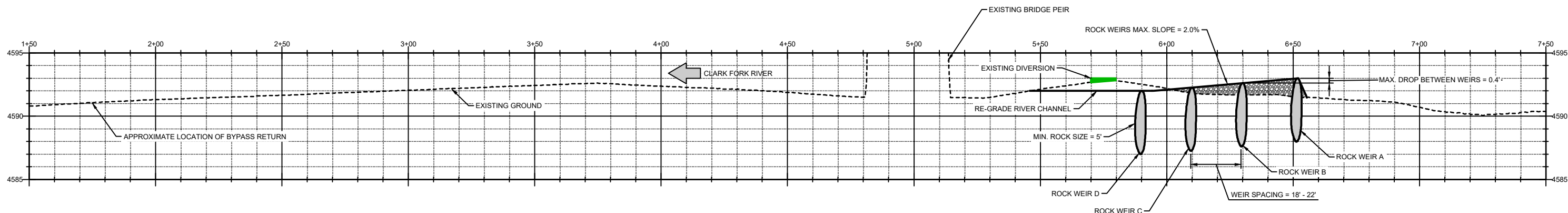
CLARK FORK COALITION  
 SAGER LANE DIVERSION IMPROVEMENTS  
 DEER LODGE, MT

**DIVERSION & BYPASS PLAN**

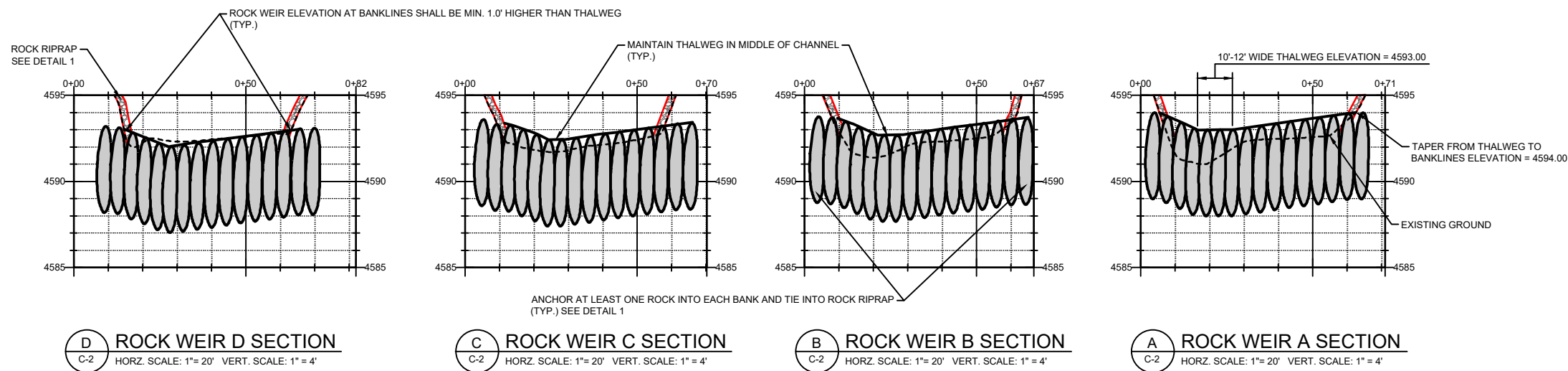
Project No.: 117-9145002  
 Designed By: MDB  
 Drawn By: DYW  
 Checked By: ###

C-1





**CLARK FORK RIVER DIVERSION PROFILE**  
 HORZ. SCALE: 1"= 20' VERT. SCALE: 1"= 4'

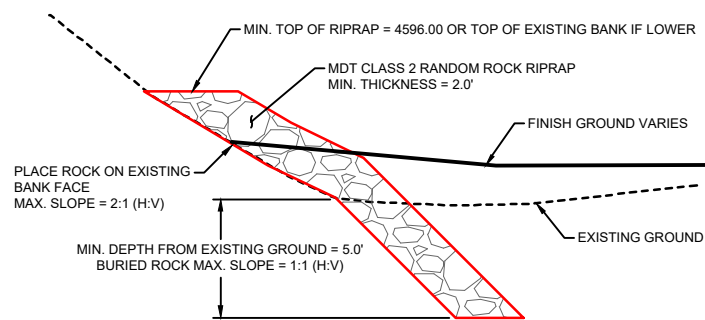


**D ROCK WEIR D SECTION**  
 C-2 HORZ. SCALE: 1"= 20' VERT. SCALE: 1"= 4'

**C ROCK WEIR C SECTION**  
 C-2 HORZ. SCALE: 1"= 20' VERT. SCALE: 1"= 4'

**B ROCK WEIR B SECTION**  
 C-2 HORZ. SCALE: 1"= 20' VERT. SCALE: 1"= 4'

**A ROCK WEIR A SECTION**  
 C-2 HORZ. SCALE: 1"= 20' VERT. SCALE: 1"= 4'



**1 ROCK RIPRAP STABILIZATION DETAIL**  
 C-2 NOT TO SCALE



www.tetratech.com  
 825 W. Custer Ave.  
 Helena, Montana 59602  
 PHONE: 406-443-5210 FAX: 406-442-7182

**DRAFT**  
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

CLARK FORK COALITION  
 SAGER LANE DIVERSION IMPROVEMENTS  
 DEER LODGE, MT

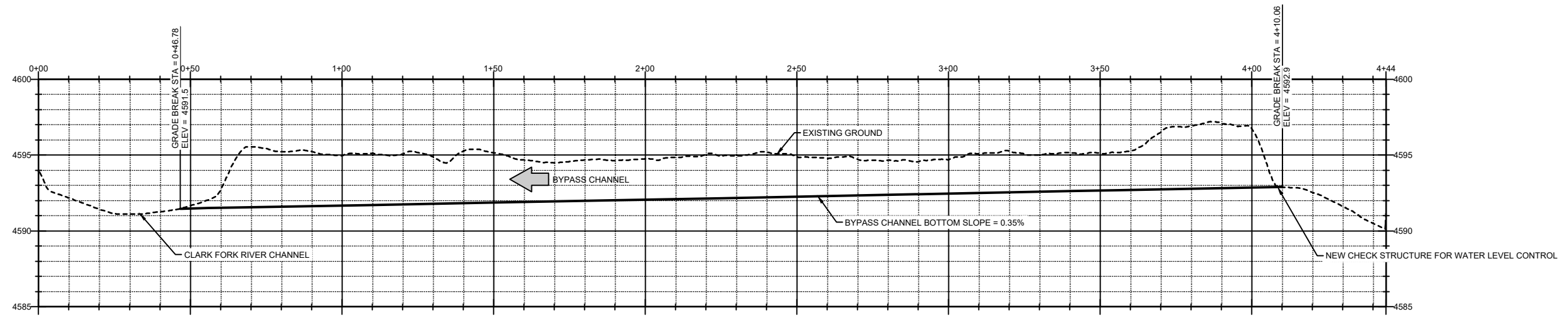
Project No.: 117-9145002  
 Designed By: MDB  
 Drawn By: DYW  
 Checked By: ###

**ROCK WEIRS PROFILE & SECTIONS**

**C-3**

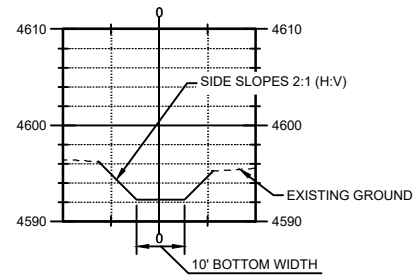
1/26/2024 11:44 AM - C:\A-G\CLARK FORK COALITION\117-9145002 - SAGER LANE IRRIGATION IMPROV\MT07-CAD\SHEETFILES\DIVERSION.DWG

Copyright Tetra Tech



**BYPASS CHANNEL PROFILE**

HORZ. SCALE: 1" = 20' VERT. SCALE: 1" = 4'



**BYPASS CHANNEL TYPICAL SECTION**

HORZ. SCALE: 1" = 20' VERT. SCALE = 1" = 10'

1/26/2024 11:34 AM - C:\A-G\CLARK FORK COALITION\117-9145002 - SAGER LANE IRRIGATION IMPROV\MT07-CAD\SHEETFILES\DIVERSION.DWG

**TETRA TECH**  
 www.tetratech.com  
 825 W. Custer Ave.  
 Helena, Montana 59602  
 PHONE: 406-443-5210 FAX: 406-442-7182

**DRAFT**  
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

CLARK FORK COALITION  
 SAGER LANE DIVERSION IMPROVEMENTS  
 DEER LODGE, MT

**BYPASS CHANNEL  
 PROFILE & SECTIONS**

Project No.: 117-9145002  
 Designed By: MDB  
 Drawn By: DYW  
 Checked By: ###

**C-4**



# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

## Future Fisheries Improvement Program

### *Appendix: FWP Statement*

Project Title: Sage Lane Pumps

Please describe the potential impact of the project, including the priorities of the Fisheries Division and the importance to Montana's anglers.

This project will provide both biological and recreational benefits for a section of the Clark Fork River where dramatic brown trout population declines have been observed. Recovering the brown trout fishery of the Upper Clark Fork River is a stated goal of Fish, Wildlife and Parks along with other agency partners working on the Clark Fork River. This project is a priority project needed to accomplish this goal. The project will have benefits for in-stream flows, recreational float traffic passing the site, and the Upper Clark Fork River brown trout fishery.

This section of the Clark Fork River suffers from severe dewatering in most years. Flows below the site are often measure under 10 cubic feet per second (CFS) in mid to late summer months. The modest water conservation benefits from this project will be impactful for this section of the river. Additionally, the proposed bypass channel will keep bypassed flows in the stream for an additional 0.3 miles of stream length. Bypassed flows are currently sent back to the river via the Dempsey Creek channel that comes into the river 0.5 miles downstream of the diversion.

Anglers and other recreationists floating this stretch of the Clark Fork River will benefit from this project. The current structure is impassable without portage when the pin and plank is erected. The structure also poses a risk to float traffic even when not erected. The metal pins lay flat on the concrete apron when not erected, but at base flows these pins are close enough to the surface to impact boats and potentially cause damage. The site is navigable at these flows if a floater is familiar with the structure, but for unfamiliar floaters it can be a hazard. The proposed structure will address these current issues.

This site is not currently a traditional entrainment risk due to the water being removed by pumping. However, the upgraded structure will allow fish to be returned to the river in a direct bypass channel. More importantly the current structure is a partial fish barrier when erected and a complete barrier at low flows. The proposed diversion design using a rock weir approach along with water savings will likely allow for passage of all species at nearly all flows through the site. Passage will be critical for general fish movements, but also likely key for fish trying to reach refuge habitat during times of low flows in the Clark Fork River.

Please feel free to reach out with additional questions about the benefits of this project.

Name of FWP Biologist Caleb Uerling Date: 5/8/2024

*Please attach to the FFIP application and materials and submit according to listed deadlines.*



May 8, 2024

ATTN: FWP Future Fisheries Review Committee

RE: Landowner Letter of Support for Sager Lane Diversion Project

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written in support of the "Sager Lane Diversion Project" grant application submitted to the FWP Future Fisheries program by *Clark Fork Coalition* (CFC) in partnership with the Montana Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) and Trout Unlimited (TU) to improve the irrigation diversion and screen the pump intake to improve fish passage in the Upper Clark Fork River near Deer Lodge.

We are landowners and water right holders that irrigate from the Clark Fork River at the Sager Lane Pump Diversion. Our diversion and pump system is aging and requires significant annual maintenance.

We support this FWP Future Fisheries grant proposal and will work with CFC, NRDP, TU and contractors to access this site and look forward to working with these partners on implementing this important project.

Sincerely,

Karlee Kelley  
Signature

5/8/24  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name or Entity

2341 Bowman Rd  
Address Deer Lodge, MT 59722

May 8, 2024

ATTN: FWP Future Fisheries Review Committee

RE: Landowner Letter of Support for Sager Lane Diversion Project

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written in support of the "Sager Lane Diversion Project" grant application submitted to the FWP Future Fisheries program by **Clark Fork Coalition** (CFC) in partnership with the Montana Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) and Trout Unlimited (TU) to improve the irrigation diversion and screen the pump intake to improve fish passage in the Upper Clark Fork River near Deer Lodge.

We are landowners and water right holders that irrigate from the Clark Fork River at the Sager Lane Pump Diversion. Our diversion and pump system is aging and requires significant annual maintenance.

We support this FWP Future Fisheries grant proposal and will work with CFC, NRDP, TU and contractors to access this site and look forward to working with these partners on implementing this important project.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Beck Peterson

Signature

5-11-24

Date

Melvin R. Beck Ranch LLC

Name or Entity

4790 Greenhouse Rd.

Address