

Future Fisheries Improvement Program

Future Fisheries Improvement Program Funding

Summer 2024

1. **022-2024 Flint Creek Phase 3A Riparian Restoration (Granite County)**. Flint Creek is a tributary to the Clark Fork River that is essential spawning habitat for brown trout and rainbow trout. It is also a migratory corridor and overwintering habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Several projects have been completed on Flint Creek and this project is part of a multi-phase, long-term effort in the Flint Creek watershed to engage private landowners in projects to restore and reconnect habitats, conserve streamflows, and improve water quality. This project would rebuild and restore eroding streambanks, improve native vegetation communities through plantings in riparian areas, and re-establishing a riparian buffer through the use of an alternate grazing management plan with a setback buffer. The goals are to reduce sedimentation and nutrient loading, improve streambank stability and channel habitat complexity, improve floodplain function and groundwater recharge, and increase woody riparian vegetation. The project is located upstream of Phase 1 (2021) and Phase 2 (2023).

Project Name	Flint Creek Phase 3A Riparian Restoration
Request	\$60,000.00
Match	\$32,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$278,790.00
% FFIP Request	22%
Construction Schedule	Summer 2025
Requested Items	Construction Materials, Equipment and Labor
FWP Notes	FWP supports funding the project. No administrative or budget concerns. We recommend clarification on fencing.
Panel Recommendation	\$60,000.00
Commission Decision	

2. **023-2024 Granite Creek Tributary Aquatic Passage (Missoula County)**. Granite Creek is a tributary to Lolo Creek, which includes bull trout critical habitat. The stream also supports westslope cutthroat trout, brook trout, and brown trout. This project would improve passage in a large tributary of Granite Creek that is seasonally disconnected while also reducing chronic stream sedimentation by upsizing a 42"x24" culvert to a 11' bottomless arch culvert. The project would build upon long-term restoration efforts in Lolo Creek that included addressing fish passage barriers and undersized culverts, decommissioning certain forest roads, and installing large wood jams in certain stream sections. Since 2006, these projects reduced overall sediment inputs and improved instream habitat.

Project Name	Granite Creek Tributary Aquatic Passage
Request	\$63,170.00
Match	\$136,428.00
Total Project Cost	\$199,598.00
% FFIP Request	32%
Construction Schedule	Summer 2024
Requested Items	Equipment and Labor

FWP Notes	FWP supports funding the project. No administrative or budget concerns.
Panel Recommendation	\$63,170.00
Commission Decision	

3. **024-2024 Kamperschroer Spring Creek Spawning Enhancement (Beaverhead County).** Kamperschroer Spring Creek is a spring-fed tributary to the Big Hole near Wise River that contains brown and rainbow trout. The Big Hole River has seen significant trout population declines over the past six years. Additional high-quality spawning and rearing habitat could help reverse these declines. In the project area, existing channel dimensions are not adequate to flush fine sediment and where there is depth and suitable flows, the substrate is too large or too fine for redd construction. This project would narrow more than 1,600 feet of stream channel in specific areas, with the goal of creating the proper channel velocities and water depths for spawning trout. Sediment would be transported through the creek while retaining gravels. The specific activities include importing or excavating bed material and placing it along the stream, installing locally salvaged sod mats to create proper stream width, and filling the channel with spawning gravels. Willow transplants would also be used.

Project Name	Kamperschroer Spring Creek Spawning Enhancement
Request	\$63,076.00
Match	\$43,800.00
Total Project Cost	\$106,876.00
% FFIP Request	59%
Construction Schedule	Late Summer 2024
Requested Items	Contracting Support (admin not allowed), Permitting, Construction Oversight, Travel (not allowed), Equipment and Labor
FWP Notes	FWP supports funding the project. Some budget items are not allowed by program guidance and rule, including administration and travel costs.
Panel Recommendation	\$63,076.00 (reallocated budget items to allowable expenses)
Commission Decision	

4. **025-2024 Threemile Reservoir Dam Maintenance (Lewis and Clark County).** Threemile Reservoir is located west of Helena in the Upper Missouri River watershed, along Threemile Creek. It is 84 acre-feet in size and contains genetically unaltered westslope cutthroat trout. Under the Montana DNRC High Hazard Dam Program, the reservoir is required to address maintenance issues, as part of the dam operating permit. The maintenance issues include tree-clearing, engineering design, and excavation/compaction of soils. Without improvements, the operating permit could be revoked, leading to a reduction of reservoir capacity by half at full pool and dewatering of the reservoir at peak irrigation season. This would result in the loss of important fish habitat. The proposed work is broken into 3 phases, with phases 1 and 2 included in this application (installation of monitoring equipment, removal of trees and bushes and refilling and compacting the root zones, reseeding, erosion control, etc.). Maintenance issues include the removal of 500-1000 trees and shrubs on the downslope face of the dam, excavation of tree stumps and roots, fill and compaction of soils, long-term management or resolution of dam seepage issues, and re-establishment of native grasses for erosion control. Public fishing is not allowed, but a primary purpose of the waterbody is to protect the cutthroat trout population and potentially use it as a brood or wild egg source for the Upper Missouri River basin.

Project Name	Threemile Reservoir Dam Maintenance
Request	\$75,000.00
Match	\$112,400.00
Total Project Cost	\$326,051.00
% FFIP Request	23%
Construction Schedule	2024-2026
Requested Items	Design, Construction Management, Excavation
FWP Notes	FWP supports funding the project. Administrative budget clarification recommended.
Panel Recommendation	\$75,000.00
Commission Decision	

5. [026-2024 Upper Clark Fork Sager Diversion \(Powell County\)](#). In the project area, on the Upper Clark Fork River, westslope cutthroat trout and brown trout are present. It is also critical habitat for bull trout, but their abundance is low. The Sager Lane Diversion is located on the Upper Clark Fork River approximately 6 miles south of Deer Lodge, upstream of the Sager Lane bridge. It spans the entire river and is a pin-and-plank type of concrete and timber weir structure. Metal supports are raised seasonally (July-September) to support check boards that form a dam approximately 3 feet high. The structure also includes a concrete apron and abutments, as well as tarps to seal the dam during periods of low water. It is a complete seasonal fish passage barrier. Pump irrigation is also a component of the site, in conjunction with a ditch that sends excess water down Dempsey Creek before returning to the Clark Fork. This project is part of a larger effort to address fish passage on the Upper Clark Fork River, and is considered #5 of 8 diversions to address. This project would replace the existing diversion structure with four rock weirs, as well as relocate and upgrade the pump station so it is closer to the diversion and has a bypass channel back to the river (eliminating the need to divert water through Dempsey Creek). A rotating drum screen will be incorporated into the new pump intake system to reduce fish entrainment. The goals of the project are to improve fish passage, prevent entrainment, and enhance streamflows with a focus on both native and non-native fisheries.

Project Name	Upper Clark Fork Sager Diversion
Request	\$50,000.00
Match	\$100,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$349,620.57
% FFIP Request	14%
Construction Schedule	Fall 2024
Requested Items	Construction Materials, Equipment and Labor
FWP Notes	FWP supports funding the project. No administrative or budget concerns.
Panel Recommendation	\$50,000.00
Commission Decision	

6. [027-2024 Upper Douglas Fish Passage \(Powell County\)](#). Douglas Creek is a tributary to lower Nevada Creek in the Blackfoot River watershed that supports an isolated population of westslope cutthroat trout with high conservation value. In the project area, Douglas Creek has complete fish passage barriers due to irrigation reservoirs, and cutthroat trout cannot access the upper reaches of Douglas Creek. This project would construct fish passage structures at two of the three reservoirs (middle, upper) and reconnect the

migratory corridor, creating connectivity through six miles of habitat on Douglas Creek. The ladders are considered 'fishways' and would be composed of boulder step pools (and weir plates). By establishing fish passage, this project would benefit westslope cutthroat trout by increasing the resiliency of a secure population with high conservation value.

Project Name	Upper Douglas Fish Passage
Request	\$75,000.00
Match	\$257,405.00
Total Project Cost	\$339,946.00
% FFIP Request	22%
Construction Schedule	Unknown
Requested Items	Construction Materials, Equipment and Labor
FWP Notes	FWP supports the project. No administrative or budget concerns.
Panel Recommendation	\$75,000.00
Commission Decision	