

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION All sections must be addressed, or the application will be considered invalid



I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Α.	A. Applicant Name: Clark Fork Coalition (Brian Chaffin, Executive Director)											
	Mailing Address: 140 S. 4th St. W. #1											
	City: Missoula	State:	MT	Zip: 59801								
	Telephone: <u>406-550-5503</u>	_ E-mail:	E-mail: <u>brian@clarkfork.org</u>									
В.	Contact Person (if Adam Switalsk	i – Clark Fo	ork Coalition P	roject Mgr.								
	Address: 140 S. 4th St. W. #1											
	City: Missoula	State:	MT	Zip: <u>59801</u>								
	Telephone: <u>406-396-1941 (cell)</u>	E-mail:	adam@cla	rkfork.org								
C.	Landowner and/or Lessee Name The Nat (if different than applicant):	ure Conse	rvancy									
	Mailing Address: 257 W Front St # B											
	City: Missoula	State:	MT	Zip: <u>59802</u>								
	Telephone: <u>406-214-2036</u>	E-mail:	skloetzel@	<u>thc.org</u>								
PR	OJECT INFORMATION											
A.	Project Name: Gold Creek Tributaries Aqu	uatic Organ	ism Passage ((AOP) Project								
	River, stream, or lake: Gold Creek											
	Location: Township: <u>14N, 15N</u> R	ange:	17W	Section: 11, 25, 26								
	Latitude: <u>46.98889</u> L	ongitude:	-113.70560	Within project (decimal degrees,								
	County: Missoula											
В.	Purpose of Project: (high level, focus on why t	the project is	s important)									

II.

Gold Creek Tributaries Aquatic Passage

The purpose of this project is to increase the native fish populations in Gold Creek and the Lower Blackfoot River. Gold Creek is an important tributary of the Blackfoot River and includes designated Bull Trout Critical Habitat. Gold Creek supports high densities of westslope cutthroat trout populations, providing important spawning and rearing habitat for these and other salmonid species. We will work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to improve fish and other aquatic organism passage and reduce chronic sedimentation in 3 tributaries of Gold Creek that are seasonally disconnected by Forest Service roads. We will upsize 3 undersized culverts to much larger, 102-in culverts with stream simulation bed material that will allow for year-round fish and other aquatic organism passage. Additionally, the installation of two hydraulic culvert upgrades and two overflow culverts will significantly increase flood capacity, reduce chronic stream sedimentation, and greatly reduce the risk of catastrophic failure Which could further impact fish habitat and populations.

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

The proposed collaborative project would take place on Gold Creek – the largest tributary to the lower Blackfoot River. Gold Creek and its tributaries historically supported a productive coldwater fishery consisting of native and introduced salmonids. Fisheries values are highlighted by high westslope cutthroat trout densities and Bull Trout Critical Habitat designation by the USFWS. Gold Creek provides thermal refuge for the lower Blackfoot River bull trout during periods of river warming.

Gold Creek has historically contained native cutthroat trout and threatened bull trout. However, following decades of industrial logging and road construction, only remnant populations of bull trout remain, west-slope cutthroat trout populations have been reduced, and several non-native trout species have colonized the area's streams. In 1996, Montana FWP installed 66 habitat structures in the lower 3 miles of the creek resulting in 61 new pools. More recently, the Nature Conservancy has restored several stream crossings and has decommissioned roads in the watershed.

The goal of this project is to increase native fish populations, improve water quality, and improve recreational fishing in the Gold Creek watershed and Lower Blackfoot River. On Spring Creek and two other unnamed tributaries, five stream crossings were found to be undersized and acting as seasonal barriers to fish and other aquatic organisms (see maps and photos). These crossings are on Nature Conservancy lands that are actively being transferred to BLM ownership. The roads are seasonally open and managed by the Forest Service. *The project is planned for implementation in the fall 2025.*

A BLM Engineer designed three, 102-inch aquatic organism passage (AOP) culvert upgrades on two tributaries of Gold Creek - Spring Creek and an unnamed tributary. The new culverts will replace 24-in culverts and were designed to withstand a 100-year flood event. They will be filled 1/3 full of stream simulation material. Rock bands will provide grade control and channel structure. Baffles welded in the pipe will maintain the rock bands and stream simulation material in place. Streambanks and vegetation clump transplants will be installed at the entrance and exit of the culvert to ensure stream connectivity.

Upsizing these culverts will allow for fish and/or other aquatic organism passage through the culvert. Fish will be able to access more spawning and rearing habitat (juvenile feeding, shelter, growth). Aquatic organisms will be able to more easily move along the stream such as the Rocky Mountain tailed frog, signal crayfish, or western pearl shell mussel. The Spring Creek fish population was extirpated 20+ years ago due to cumulative effects of industrial logging and fire, but high-quality habitat exists above the barrier culverts. Installing AOPs could allow for the recolonization of the stream by native fish once the barriers are removed.

Two other road-stream crossings are proposed for 48-inch and 60-inch hydraulic upgrades. Hydraulic culverts will be installed because there is limited aquatic habitat upstream of the roads. They were also designed to withstand a 100-year flood event, reduce chronic stream sedimentation, and reduce the risk of catastrophic failure. Finally, two 24-in overflow culverts, and an 18-inch ditch relief culvert to be installed to drain areas adjacent to the stream crossings. The 24-inch culverts will be re-purposed from where the AOPs are being installed.

The Clark Fork Coalition will conduct public outreach and engagement on this project, including social media posts, newsletter articles, and hosting field trips for local community members and government agencies to showcase the benefits of restoration work on aquatic habitat, water quality, and watershed health. This will include information on how this project will increase the amount of available fish habitat and improve the quality of habitat. These improvements will lead to increased fish populations and improved angler opportunities in Gold Creek and in the Lower Blackfoot River.

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

The construction of Forest Service roads into the watershed seasonally disconnects 3 tributaries of Gold Creek. Additionally, a legacy of industrial logging and high intensity forest fires added sediment to streams, reduced overstory canopy cover, and created additional stressors on fish populations. While the forest is naturally receiving from deforestation from logging and forest fires, upsizing these culverts will provide year-round stream connectivity for fish and other aquatic organisms and increase hydraulic capacity to withstand a 100-year flood.

E.	Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent):	3 miles of Gold Creek tributaries									
	Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g., stream mile opened):	s 3 stream mi. _opened									
F.	Project Budget Summary:										
	Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 43,585										
	Matching Dollars: \$ 208,860										
	Matching In-Kind Services:* \$										
	*salaries of government employees <u>are not</u> considered matching co	ontributions									
	Other Contributions (not part of this app) 25,000										
	Total Project Cost: \$ 277,445										
G H.	Attach itemized (line item) budget – <i>see budget template</i>										
	X Extent of the project, including context (relation to major landn	nark or town)									
	X Indication of public and private property	,									
	Riparian buffer locations and widths (if applicable) and grazing	locations									
I.	Attach project plans:										
	X Detailed sketches or plan views with the location and propose	d restoration									
	X Pre-project photographs (GPS location strongly recommended	1)									
	If water leasing or water salvage is involved, attach a supplem (<u>https://myfwp.mt.gov/getRepositoryFile?objectID=36110</u>)	ental questionnaire									
J.	Attach support letters or statements of (e.g., landowner consent, co FWP statement, attach provided template. List any other project part	mmunity or public support). For tners:									
	This project is a collaborative project with the Clark Fork Coalition, t Management, The Forest Service, and Montana Fish Wildlife and P	he Bureau of Land arks.									

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

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

Yes	No
X	

The Clark Fork Coalition has been implementing and maintaining stream restoration projects since 2009. We are committed to our protection and restoration work and have staff dedicated to maintaining and monitoring the effectiveness of these projects. We will inspect the culverts after the first two runoffs to ensure there are not any head cuts, failure of weirs, or loss of stream simulation material. If any problems are identified, we will fix by hand or mechanically if necessary. We will also monitor noxious weeds and treat if necessary.

Will grazing be part of or adjacent to the project? If so, describe or attach land management plans,
B. 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 currently allowed or planned in this area.

Will the project be monitored to determine if goals were met? If so, what are the short-term andC. long-term plans to assess benefits and lessons learned? Were pre-project data collected? Will monitoring information be shared with FWP?

The BLM has surveyed the proposed stream crossings for fish and other aquatic organism passage. One proposed AOP upgrade site was found to be seasonal barriers to adult and juvenile fish passage. Several research studies have found that the removal or up-sizing of culverts has restored fish and other aquatic organism connectivity. It is assumed that culvert upsizing to a stream simulation culvert will allow year-round fish passage. Spring Creek is currently unoccupied by fish but may be recolonized following the installation of two AOP culverts. The BLM will electroshock the creek in the future to see if the stream was recolonized.

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

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

The project will benefit the coldwater fish community in Gold Creek. Westslope cutthroat trout are the predominant fish species, but the project will also enhance habitat for Threatened bull trout, brook trout, brown trout, and other coldwater species.

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

Currently, only one unnamed tributary has fish present above the barrier culverts. Additionally, sediment produced on Forest Service roads are chronically delivering sediment at stream crossings. Three 24-inch culverts will be upsized to 102-in culverts with stream simulation material. This will allow for lower velocity, more roughness, and year-round fish and other aquatic organism passage.

This project will increase the amount of available spawning and rearing habitat in tributaries of Gold Creek. Potentially, this project will allow for the re-colonization of Spring Creek – currently un-occupied by fish but is suitable fish habitat. Additionally, two hydraulic upgrades will be installed to reduce chronic sediment delivery associated with these road crossings and reduce the risk of catastrophic failure. Reducing stream sedimentation will improve the quality of spawning habitat.

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

By increasing the amount of spawning and rearing habitat in Gold Creek and its tributaries, it is expected to increase west-slope cutthroat and other trout species population densities. Additionally, it may help in the recovery of the relic Threatened bull trout population. With higher densities of fish, angler success is expected to increase. The entire project area is open to angling. Wild fish populations downstream on the Lower Blackfoot River are also expected to benefit through enhanced wild trout recruitment.

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 entire project area lies on The Nature Conservancy land and is open to angling. Wild fish populations are expected to increase as a result of the project, leading to more opportunities for angling success. The proposed project will increase trout abundance, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout conservation, and overall health, productivity and resiliency of Gold Creek at a larger scale. These benefits will ultimately benefit public fishing opportunities in the lower Blackfoot River.

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

Overall public benefits from this project will include increased salmonid population resilience, increased fish density, and benefits to the survival of Threatened bull trout. Most of these culverts are also at risk of catastrophically failing and delivering large amounts of sediment into streams. Upsizing them will minimize this risk and maintain good water quality for downstream users.

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

The project will not interfere with the water or property rights of adjacent landowners. The entire project will take place on TNC property.

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

No, there is planned development of commercial recreational use at the site of the project.

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

No, the project is not associated with mine reclamation.

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: 5/15/2025

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	Email:	Future Fisheries Coordinator
	Fish Habitat Bureau		FWPFFIP@mt.gov
	PO Box 200701		(electronic submissions must be signed)
	Helena, MT 59620-0701		For files over 10MB, use <u>https://transfer.mt.gov</u> and send
			to mmcgree@mt.gov

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

PROJEC	T COSTS		CONTRIBUTIONS							
WORK ITEMS (Itemize by Category)	NUMBER OF	UNIT DESCRIPTION *	COST/UNIT	TOTAL COST	FUTURE FISHERIES	MATCH (Cash	OTHER (Not part of this application)	TOTAL		
Personnel***		•								
Culvert survey, design, and oversight (Forest Service Engineer, Hydrologist, and Fish Bio)	1	lump sum	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00			\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00		
CFC Project Management (coordination, oversight, and outreach)	200	hours	\$ 50.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00		
				\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		
			Sub-Total	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 22,000.00		
Travel							1			
Mileage	1000	miles	\$0.700	\$ 700.00				\$ -		
Per diem				\$ -				\$ - 0 700.00		
O sur strangting Material State			Sub-Total	\$ 700.00	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00		
	20		£04.05	¢ 040.40		048.40		¢ 040.40		
18 DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 10 GA	38	LINEAR FOUT	\$24.95	\$ 948.10		948.10		\$ 948.10 \$ 120.00		
	1		\$120.00	\$ 120.00		120.00		\$ 120.00 \$ 4.032.00		
48" D Bande	42	Ench	\$90.00	\$ 4,032.00		4,032.00		\$ 4,032.00 \$ 300.00		
60" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE 16 GA	50		\$200.00	\$ 200.00		5 825 00		\$ 200.00 \$ 5.825.00		
60" D Bands	1	Fach	\$220.00	\$ 3,025.00		220.00		\$ <u>3,023.00</u> \$ <u>220.00</u>		
102" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE 16 GA	136		\$206.48	\$ 28.081.28	9.085.11	18 996 17		\$ 28.081.28		
102" D Bands	3	Fach	\$413.00	\$ 1,239,00	3,000.11	1 239 00		\$ 1,239,00		
2' Baffles Installed	8	Each	\$1,500,00	\$ 12,000,00		12 000 00		\$ 12,000,00		
2 Dames Installed	1	Each	\$1,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	1	\$ 50.00		\$ 12,000.00 \$ 50.00		
	1	Each	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00 \$ _		
			Sub-Total	φ - \$ 52.715.38	\$ 9.085.11	\$ 43,630,27	ls _	φ <u>-</u> \$ 52,715,38		
Equipment Labor and Mobilization			oub rotar	φ 02,710.00	φ 3,000.11	φ 40,000.2 <i>1</i>	<u> Ψ </u>	\$ 52,710.00		
MOBILIZATION	5	LUMP SUM	\$2 200 00	\$ 11,000,00	\$ 2,200,00	\$ 8 800 00	I 1	\$ 11,000,00		
CONSTRUCTION SURVEY AND STAKING	5	LUMP SUM	\$2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	÷ 2,200100	• 0,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00		
SOIL EROSION & POLLUTION CONTROL (stream diversions, storm			,	,,				, , ,		
water protection, and the bare soil rehab.)	5	LUMP SUM	\$3,500.00	\$ 17,500.00		\$ 17,500.00		\$ 17,500.00		
CLEARING AND GRUBBING, DISPOSAL METHOD - SLASH (F), STU	5	LUMP SUM	\$1,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 7,500.00		
REMOVAL OF EXISTING PIPE, DISPOSAL METHOD SALVAGE	6	EACH	\$600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,600.00		
ROADWAY EXCAVATION & EMBANKMENT	385	CUBIC YARD	\$30.00	\$ 11,550.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 7,950.00		\$ 11,550.00		
STRUCTURE EXCAVATION & BACKFILL	5	LUMP SUM	\$5,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 25,000.00		
PLACED RIPRAP, CLASS 2	84	CUBIC YARD	\$95.00	\$ 7,980.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 6,080.00		\$ 7,980.00		
CRUSHED AGGREGATE SURFACING, COMPACTION METHOD 1	120	CUBIC YARD	\$65.00	\$ 7,800.00		\$ 7,800.00		\$ 7,800.00		
INSTALL 18" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA	38	LINEAR FOOT	\$50.00	\$ 1,900.00		\$ 1,900.00		\$ 1,900.00		
INSTALL 24" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA	64	LINEAR FOOT	\$50.00	\$ 3,200.00		\$ 3,200.00		\$ 3,200.00		
INSTALL 48" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA	42	LINEAR FOOT	\$50.00	\$ 2,100.00		\$ 2,100.00		\$ 2,100.00		
INSTALL 60" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16	50		¢150.00	¢ 7,500,00		¢ 7,500,00		¢ 7,500,00		
INSTALL 100" DIAMETER BOUND CORRUCATED STEEL DIRE 16.0	50		\$150.00	\$ 7,500.00	¢ 17.600.00	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00 \$ 17,600.00		
INSTALL 102 DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 G	44	LINEAR FOUT	\$400.00	φ 17,600.00	\$ 17,600.00	ъ —		\$ 17,600.00		
BAFFLES, 16 GA	92	I INFAR FOOT	\$400.00	\$ 36,800,00		\$ 36 800 00		\$ 36 800 00		
EQUIPMENT RENTAL, HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR WITH THUMB	20	HOUR	\$150.00	\$ 3.000 00	\$ 600 00	\$ 2.400.00		\$ 3.000.00		
STREAMBED SIMULATION MATERIAL BED CLASS 2	95	CUBIC YARD	\$50.00	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 1.500.00	\$ 3.250.00		\$ 4,750.00		
CHANNEL ROCK FOR BANKS, CLASS CR-2	65	CUBIC YARD	\$150.00	\$ 9,750.00	1,223.00	\$ 9,750.00		\$ 9,750.00		
CHANNEL ROCK FOR ROCK WEIRS, CLASS CR-2	70	CUBIC YARD	\$150.00	\$ 10,500.00		\$ 10,500.00		\$ 10,500.00		
Weed treatment (2 herbicide applications)	1	Lump Sum	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	1	,	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		
				\$ -						
			Sub-Total	\$ 202,030.00	\$ 34,500.00	\$ 154,530.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 202,030.00		

T	OTALS \$	277,445.38 \$	43,585.11 \$	208,860.27	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 277,445.38
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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)				
Bureau of Land Management	\$	-	\$	203,860.38	\$	203,860.38	Y				
The Nature Conservancy	\$	-	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00	Y				
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
TOTALS	\$	-	\$	208,860.38	\$	208,860.38					

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS											
(contributions not associated with the application)											
CONTRIBUTOR		IN-KIND		CASH		TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)				
BLM staff time for survey, design, construction surveying, construction oversight, and weed treatment	\$	25,000.00	\$	-	\$	25,000.00	Y				
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
TOTALS	\$	25,000.00	\$	-	\$	25,000.00					

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Future Fisheries Improvement Program

Appendix: FWP Statement

Project Title: Gold Creek AOP Project

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

Gold Creek supports a mixed fishery of rainbow trout, westslope cutthroat trout, brown trout, and brook trout. Gold Creek is a high priority tributary in the lower Blackfoot River basin because of its significant multi species sport fishery value and its importance as a source of trout recruitment to the mainstem river. Although recent surveys have documented the apparent extirpation of the local bull trout population, subadult bull trout from the Blackfoot River still use lower Gold Creek for seasonal refugia and rearing opportunities. The ongoing conversion of former private timberland to USFS and BLM ownership provides immense public value and creates tremendous angling opportunity throughout Gold Creek and West Fork Gold Creek.

Gold Creek has been a focal area for habitat restoration since the 1990s due to basin-wide impacts from past land uses. The long-term recovery of the drainage will require passive and active restoration, and this proposal contributes to that effort. The project is expected to increase connectivity in the watershed and contribute to the ecological health of the Gold Creek system. This project is consistent with management direction in the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan that calls for improving habitat to support ecosystem function and improving trout recruitment to the mainstem river through connectivity improvements in tributaries.

Name of FWP Biologist Patrick Uthe

Date: 5/6/2025

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

Gold Creek Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Project

Maps



Overview map. Missoula is approximately 25 miles southwest of the project area.



Map 1: Two AOPs and two hydraulic upgrades on Spring Creek.



Map 2: One AOP and two hydraulic upgrades on two unnamed tributaries of Gold Creek.

Gold Creek Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Project

Photos





Photos of Spring Creek – WTC have been extirpated in the last 20+ years, but removing fish barriers may re-colonize this tributary of Gold Creek.



Inlet and outlet of the uper Spring Creek culvert. It will be replaced with a102-inch AOP.



Inlet and outlet of the lower Spring Creek culvert. It will be replaced with a102-inch AOP.



Inlet and outlet of the lower noname creek culvert. It will be replaced with a102-inch AOP.



Inlet and outlet of the upper noname creek culvert. It will be replaced with a 60-inch hydraulic culvert.



Inlet and outlet of the a second noname creek culvert. It will be replaced with a 48-inch hydraulic culvert.



The Nature Conservancy in Montana Tel (406) 443-0303 32 South Ewing Street Helena, MT 59601

Fax (406) 443-8311

nature.org/montana

April 29, 2025

Future Fisheries Improvement Program C/O Michelle McGree P.O Box 200701 1420 E. 6th Avenue Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. McGree,

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports the Clark Fork Coalition's (CFC) grant application for the project "Gold Creek Tributaries AOP Culvert Replacements". The Nature Conservancy is the current landowner of the property; however, the lands are in the process of being transferred into Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ownership and management. CFC and the BLM have permission to replace these stream crossings on our lands during this transition.

The Clark Fork Coalition is applying for grant funds from the Future Fisheries Improvement Program to work with the BLM to improve aquatic organism passage in tributaries of Gold Creek - an important westslope cutthroat trout fishery and bull trout Critical Habitat. Additionally, a remnant population of bull trout is present in the headwaters of Gold Creek. Improvements to Gold Creek will benefit fisheries in the lower Blackfoot River as well.

The proposed project to replace 3 undersized culverts with 8-foot AOP culverts will provide year-round stream connectivity for fish and other aquatic organisms and would increase hydraulic capacity. Additionally, the installation of two hydraulic culvert upgrades and two over-top culverts will significantly increase flood capacity, reduce chronic stream sedimentation, and greatly reduce the risk of catastrophic failure.

The BLM is providing the bulk of funding towards these projects through Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds. Funds from the Future Fisheries Improvement Program provide required non-federal match and are essential to completing these on-the-ground aquatic restoration projects. TNC will also be providing \$5,000 in matching funds for this project.

Thank you for supporting this important conservation project. Please contact me if you have any questions at skloetzel@tnc.org or 406-214-2036.

Sincerely,

Jov-K.Khutel

Steven Kloetzel Western Montana Land Steward The Nature Conservancy in Montana



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Missoula Field Office 3255 Fort Missoula Road Missoula, MT 59804 https://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas



5/5/2025

Future Fisheries Improvement Program C/O Michelle McGree P.O Box 200701 1420 E. 6th Avenue Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. McGree,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supports the Clark Fork Coalition's grant application for Gold Creek Tributaries AOP Culvert Replacements. The Clark Fork Coalition is applying for grant funds from the Future Fisheries Improvement Program to work with the BLM to improve aquatic organism passage in tributaries of Gold Creek – an important westslope cutthroat trout fisheries and bull trout Critical Habitat. Additionally, a remnant population of bull trout is present in the headwaters of Gold Creek.

The proposed project to replace 3 undersized culverts with 8.5-foot AOP culverts will provide year-round stream connectivity for fish and other aquatic organisms and would increase hydraulic capacity. Additionally, the installation of two hydraulic culvert upgrades and two overflow culverts will significantly increase flood capacity, reduce chronic stream sedimentation, and greatly reduce the risk of catastrophic failure. Improvements to Gold Creek will benefit fisheries in the lower Blackfoot River.

The Clark Fork Coalition and Bureau of Land management have signed a multi-year agreement to actively restore the Gold and Belmont watersheds. Planned cooperative projects include upsizing AOP culverts, installing large wood jams, and storing/ decommissioning roads and stream crossings. The Missoula Field Office of the BLM is providing the bulk of funding towards these projects through Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds. Funds from the Future Fisheries Improvement Program provide required non-federal match and are essential to completing these on-the-ground aquatic restoration projects. Additionally, these funds will help to further leverage resources and partnerships to achieve greater outcomes in the watershed.

Thank you for the funding opportunity and your continued work for conservation of natural resources. Please do not hesitate to contact me at ecarey@blm.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Erin Carey Missoula Field Manager



\\ILMMTBF3DS1\BF\USERS\BJONES\MY DOCUMENTS\DWG\DWT\IMPROVEMENT SHEETS\#### - COVR.DWG



C:USERSIDVBAKERIONEDRIVE - DOI/DESKTOP/WORKING FILE\GOLD CREEK MINI-AOPS\AUTOCAD\06_IMPROVEMENT SHEETS\GENNOTESWORKLIST-GOLD CRK.DWG

P'							PROJECT SUMMARY						
PAY ITEM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	SPRING CRK AOP #1	SPRING CRK AOP #2	GOLD CRK TRIBUTARY AOP	GOLD CRK TRIBUTARY CMP	GOLD CRK ROAD CMP	PROJECT TOTAL	NOTES	U.B. DEPARTNENT OF THE IN BUREAU OF LAND MANADE			
15101	MOBILIZATION	LS						ALL	INCLUDES TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL.	\vdash			
15201	CONSTRUCTION SURVEY AND STAKING	LS						ALL	LICENSED SURVEYOR REQUIRED. ELECTRONIC POINT FILES IN VARIOUS FORMATS AVAIALBLE UPON REQUEST.				
15730	SOIL EROSION & POLLUTION CONTROL	LS						ALL	SEE GENERAL NOTES.	L L		S	
20101	CLEARING AND GRUBBING, DISPOSAL METHOD - SLASH (F), STUMPS (C)	LS						ALL	SALVAGED TOPSOIL, SOD, STEMS, AND SLASH TO BE PLACED ON DISTURBED AREAS. STUMP TO BE BURIED OR INCORPORATED INTO ENGINEERED STREAM BANK CONSTRUCTION.	ES AC	ENTS	L NOTE	
20302	REMOVAL OF EXISTING CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, DISPOSAL METHOD SALVAGE	EACH	1	2	1	1	1	6	SALAVAGED PIPE TO BE REUSED ON SITE	TAR	E ME	NERA	
20410	ROADWAY EXCAVATION & EMBANKMENT	CY	150	15	120	100		385	EXCESS MATERIAL FROM STRUCTURAL EXCAVATION MEETING FP-14 704.06 MAY ALSO BE USED. IN-PLACE QUANTITY NOT ADJUSTED FOR SHRINK/SWELL.	IBU	-LAC	& GE	
20806	STRUCTURE EXCAVATION & BACKFILL	LS						ALL	EXCESS MATERIAL FROM STRUCTURAL EXCAVATION MEETING FP-14 704.06 MAY ALSO BE USED FOR ROADWAY EMBANKMENT	A T R	E E	MARY	
25101	PLACED RIPRAP, CLASS 2	CY	20	24	20	10	10	84	COMMERCIAL SOURCE. EXCESS MATERIAL FROM EXCAVATION MEETING MATERIAL MEETING FP-14 SUBSECTION 705.02 MAY BE SALVAGED AND USED			SUMI	
30207	CRUSHED AGGREGATE SURFACING, COMPACTION METHOD 1	CY	40	30	30		20	120	COMMERCIALLY SOURCED MATERIAL MEETING FP-14 SUBSECTION 703.06. GRADATION TO BE APPROVED BY CLARK FORK COALITION REPRESENTATIVE.	DC	IULV IULV	JECT	
60201A	INSTALL 18" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA THICKNESS	LF			38			38	PAY ITEM INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF STRUCTURE ONLY. STRUCTURE TO BE FURNISHED THE CLARK FORK COALITION		0	PRO	
60201B	INSTALL 24" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA THICKNESS	LF	28	36				64	PAY ITEM INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF STRUCTURE ONLY. STRUCTURE TO BE SALVAGED FROM ADJACENT STREAM CROSSING				
60201C	INSTALL 48" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA THICKNESS	LF					42	42	PAY ITEM INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF STRUCTURE ONLY. STRUCTURE TO BE FURNISHED BY THE CLARK FORK COALITION. PAY ITEM INCLUDES BEDDING MATERIAL.	/ED	, , ,		
60201D	INSTALL 60" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA THICKNESS	LF				50		50	PAY ITEM INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF STRUCTURE ONLY. STRUCTURE TO BE FURNISHED BY THE CLARK FORK COALITION. PAY ITEM INCLUDES BEDDING MATERIAL.	APPROV			
60201E	INSTALL 102" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE, 16 GA THICKNESS	LF			44			44	PAY ITEM INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF STRUCTURE ONLY. STRUCTURE TO BE FURNISHED BY THE CLARK FORK COALITION. PAY ITEM INCLUDES BEDDING MATERIAL.	ATE			
60201F	INSTALL 102" DIAMETER ROUND CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE W/ BAFFLES, 16 GA THICKNESS	LF	44	48				92	PAY ITEM INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF STRUCTURE ONLY. STRUCTURE AND BAFFLES TO BE FURNISHED BY THE CLARK FORK COALITION. CONTRACTOR TO INSTALL BAFFLES. PAY ITEM INCLUDES BEDDING MATERIAL.	N			
62201B	EQUIPMENT RENTAL, HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR WITH THUMB	HOUR	4	4	4	4	4	20	WORK TO BE LOCATED ADJACENT TO CULVERT INSTALLATIONS AND DONE AT DIRECTION O CLARK FORK COALITION REPRESENTATIVE.	REVISIO			
64801	STREAMBED SIMULATION MATERIAL BED CLASS 2	CY	30	35	30			95	COMMERCIAL SOURCE. MATERIAL FROM THE EXCAVATION MEETING THE GRADATION FOR BED CLASS 2 MAY BE SALVAGED AND USED.	YR K	++-	\vdash	
64803A	CHANNEL ROCK FOR BANKS, CLASS CR-2	CY	20	25	20			65	COMMERCIAL SOURCE. MATERIAL FROM THE EXCAVATION MEETING THE GRADATION FOR CHANNEL ROCK, CLASS CR-2 MAY BE SALVAGED AND USED.	Ŵ	++-	125	
64803B	CHANNEL ROCK FOR ROCK WEIRS, CLASS CR-2	CY	20	30	20			70	COMMERCIAL SOURCE. MATERIAL FROM THE EXCAVATION MEETING THE GRADATION FOR CHANNEL ROCK, CLASS CR-2 MAY BE SALVAGED AND USED			3/20/20	
GENER	AL NOTES:											DATE	
SPECIFICATIONS: CONSTRUCT THE PROJECT IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND BRIDGES ON EEDEDAL HIGHWAY DRO LECTS (EP. 14) AND ADDI ICARLE SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS				TEMI FORI	RAFFIC CONTROL: SUBMIT A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN TO THE CLARK IN REPRESENTATIVE FOR APPROVAL AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO INTENDED USE.	RIOR	DISTRICT	ISSUE					
DEWAT	ERING & EROSION CONTROL PLAN: SUBMIT A SO WITH A DEWATERING PLAN TO THE CLARK FORK	L EROS COALIT	SION AND	SEDIMEN	IT CONTROL TIVE FOR AF	PLAN PROVAL	WEL WEL	<u>DING</u> : WE DER IS RE	LD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STRUCTURAL WELDING CODE, AWS D1.1. A CERTIFIED QUIRED.	OF THE INTE	MANAGEMINE IN MONTANA ISSOULA FIE	TRUCTION	
AT LEA SPECIF STREA INTO T	ST THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK ICATIONS FOR DETAILS. CONSTRUCT TEMPORAR M AS NECESSARY TO PERFORM WORK. DO NOT F HE LIVE STREAM.	. See S Y Meai YUMP W	ECTION 1 NS TO DIV ATER FRO	57 OF THI 'ERT THE OM EXCA'	E SUPPLEME FLOW OF TH VATIONS DIF	ENTAL HE LIVE RECTLY	IN-ST OR A REM PRIO	REAM WO S DESCRII OVE FISH / PR TO AND	RK: ALL IN-STREAM WORK WILL BE DONE BETWEEN JULY 15TH AND SEPTEMBER 1ST, SED IN PERMIT. ALLOWANCE SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE OWNER TO CAPTURE AND AND OTHER AQUATIC ORGANISMS FROM WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION WORK AREA DURING WORK ACTIVITIES.	U.S. DEPARTMENT	BUREAU OF LANU I DISTRICT: WESTER DESIGN OFFICE: MI	ISSUED FOR: CONS	

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SHEET 2 OF <u>31</u>







































