

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION
WINTER 2026 FUNDING CYCLE**

Montana ARM Rule 12.7.1203

(1) Eligible projects that have been approved by the review panel will be reviewed, evaluated and ranked by a committee that includes at least two department personnel with a background in fishery biology and an understanding of the habitat requirements of fish and one member of the review panel.

The Committee’s ranking of the Future Fisheries Projects approved for funding by the Citizen Review Panel during the Winter 2026 funding cycle are as follows:

FINAL SCORES						
Project #	Project Name	Program cost (\$)	Total cost (\$)	Total Points (of 300)	Review Adjusted Score (of 100)	Review Rank
005-2025	Upper O’Brien Creek Restoration Project	\$44,222.00	\$231,472.86	254	85	1
001-2025	Big Hole Tributary Reconnection, Phase 2 - Alder Creek	\$107,425.00	\$260,130.00	239	80	2
008-2025	Christian Creek Fish Barrier	\$23,420.00	\$48,420.00	239	80	3
007-2025	Tenmile Creek Fish Barrier	\$23,420.00	\$48,420.00	237	79	4
004-2025	Marshall Creek Culvert Removal and Habitat Restoration	\$12,930.00	\$25,820.00	208	69	5
003-2025	Madison River Side Channel Restoration - Hyde Creek	\$100,000.00	\$304,144.08	206	69	6
006-2025	Lower Racetrack Creek Restoration Project	\$75,000.00	\$277,678.00	179	60	7
002-2025	Lower Grant Creek Restoration	\$50,000.00	\$390,000.00	168	56	8

Rankings are based on: 1) benefits to native fish; 2) public benefits; 3) importance of the waterbody; 4) long-term effectiveness; 5) benefits relative to cost; and 6) cost share. **The ranking committee and Citizen Review Panel recommends that all prioritized projects receive final funding approval according to the Program cost (above).**