

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Future Fisheries Improvement Program

Application Guidelines

Application Dates:	Submission information:
Deadlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 15 (winter cycle)• May 15 (summer cycle) <i>Must be received by midnight</i> Citizen Review Panel Meetings for funding recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-June (summer cycle)• Mid-December (winter cycle) Fish & Wildlife Commission Meetings for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• August (summer cycle)• February (winter cycle)	Email to: FWPFFIP@mt.gov For files over 10MB, use https://transfer.mt.gov and send to mmcgree@mt.gov Mail to: Future Fisheries Improvement Program FWP Fisheries Division P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620 <i>Digital and printed submissions must be signed</i>

Comprehensive Program information and guidance can be found at <https://fwp.mt.gov/ffip>

Program Purpose

To provide funding to enhance, restore, or protect wild fish populations and their habitats. These improvements are intended to benefit fish populations, native species conservation, and angling opportunities.

The Citizen Review Panel recommends that any project involving grazing includes participation and/or investment from the landowner, including development of a grazing management plan early in the process. Fencing costs should be reasonable and competitive. Photopoints are a required and important part of pre-project and post-project assessment.

Project Eligibility

Any individual or group can apply. Projects must evaluate the cause of the problem, incorporate a large-scale view of the project and surrounding area, and benefit the angling public. Project design should incorporate natural stream form and function with the goal of obtaining a condition as close to natural as possible.

Funding Eligibility

Program funds can be used for on-the-ground work, including permitting, construction (and construction oversight), materials, water leasing, and maintenance (up to 10% of the total project cost). Funding cannot be used for administration, travel, coordination, overhead, monitoring, assessment or studies, design alone (must be design/build), contingency, or land acquisition. Projects must have written landowner permission. **If proposing a fish screen project, please consider a maintenance request.**

Review Criteria

Project prioritization includes the magnitude of enhancement to aquatic habitats and fish populations, public access and opportunity, waterbody importance, long term effectiveness, cost/benefit, and cost share. Additional emphasis is placed on projects that are in Eastern Montana, involve mineral reclamation, and/or improve native fish.

Available Funding

The Montana Legislature gives authority for the Program to expend funds. Approximately \$2 million is available for each biennium (two years; four grant cycles). Approved funding varies by grant cycle; over the last five years, the average grant award was approximately \$40,000.

Proposed projects should include cost share. A 50% match is typical. In-kind services or wages of government agency personnel cannot be used as match. Permanent irrigation diversions must have at least a 50% match.



FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

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



I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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: _____

River, stream, or lake: _____

Location: Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ *Within project (decimal degrees)*

County: _____

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

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

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

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

F. Project Budget Summary:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ _____

Matching Dollars: \$ _____

Matching In-Kind Services:* \$ _____

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

Other Contributions (not used as match) \$ _____

Total Project Cost: \$ _____

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). For FWP statement, attach provided template. List any other project partners:

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.*

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.*

- 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?

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

H. Is this project associated with the reclamation of 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: _____ Date: _____

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
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