United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Helena National Forest

Lincoln Ranger District
1569 Highway 200
Lincoln, MT 59639
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File Code: 2300

Date: November 28, 2012

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Future Fisheries Funding

This letter is written in partnership as the Helena National Forest and Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited (BBCTU) are working together on projects for watershed and fisheries improvement on the Lincoln Ranger District and the Blackfoot Watershed of the Southwestern Crown of the Continent landscape.

In 2010 the Southwestern Crown of the Continent landscape was selected as one of ten projects in the nation for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. This program and funding has allowed for partnerships of conservation organizations and the U.S. Forest Service to identify projects/priorities for restoration and implement them. The goals are to restore forest and aquatic ecosystem function; to improve landscape-level biodiversity, resiliency, and adaptability; to enhance recreational experiences; and to reduce risks for those living in the wildland-urban interface.

Two projects with additional needs for funding as part of this effort are Klondike and South Fork of Poorman. These projects will be completed through a partnership agreement with BBCTU taking the lead in managing these projects, contracting survey & design work, as well as implementation. Both projects are fisheries habitat improvement & waterhsed restoration in both bull trout and cutthroat trout waters. The South Fork of Poorman watershed is considered to be critical habitat for bull trout. Without additional funding, these projects will not be completed and other funding sources would need to be identified and pursued.

Our partnership with BBCTU to accomplish restoration work on the ground is tremendous in many ways including: their professional expertise in advising and guiding priorities and work to the right places, building public support and bridging projects to tie together across land ownerships in a wholistic watershed restoration approach, hiring contractors and work to create jobs locally, and in increasing the capacity of the U.S. Forest Service in accomplishing more on the ground by leveraging funds to do so.

The Helena National Forest values this partnership with BBCTU and we are pleased to propose these projects in partnership for funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amberdawn Kamps

AMBERDAWN KAMPS
District Ranger