

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited

B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1

C. City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854

Telephone: 406.240.4824

D. Contact Person: Rylen Neudecker

Address if different from Applicant: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name
(if other than Applicant): Jay Stitt

Mailing Address: _____

City: Helmville State: MT Zip: 59843

Telephone: 406.793.5577

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Braziel Creek Restoration Project

River, stream, or lake: Braziel Creek

Location: Township 12N Range 10W Section 10

County: Powell

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to restore approximately 540 feet of Braziel Creek to provide for a fully functional stream and riparian area capable of supporting westslope cutthroat trout. The project also involves a riparian vegetation and grazing management plan.

C. Brief Project Description: _____

Braziel Creek drains a small watershed located along the southeastern foothills of Hoodoo Mountain, just south-southeast of Helmville. Approximately 4 miles in length, it generates an estimated base-flow of 0.5-1.0 cfs before entering Nevada Creek at mile 24.5 about 2.0 miles downstream of the Nevada Creek reservoir. The upper 2.1 miles of Braziel Creek flows through BLM and the lower 1.8 miles of stream flows through private ranch land. Braziel Creek currently supports populations of westslope cutthroat trout and sculpin.

In 2010, the Blackfoot Restoration Partners--which included Future Fisheries, initiated a project on a reach of Braziel Creek that suffered from channelization, ice gorging, impeded fish passage, and over-widened stretches resulting from heavy grazing pressure. These impairments contributed to excessive sedimentation, thermal issues and a lack of functional fish habitat. The overall project goal was to enhance, protect and expand populations of westslope cutthroat trout within the context of a restoration project on private land. Project specifics involved channel reconstruction, installing a fish screen, a water lease, and upgrading an existing diversion and stream crossing to accommodate fish passage. A grazing management plan was also implemented. Fish population monitoring in 2011 and 2012 found a substantial increase in post-restoration westslope cutthroat trout abundance (10 fish/100 ft pre-project compared with 35 fish/100 ft post-project-FWP unpublished data).

The recent channel work on Braziel Creek resulted in a new B-type stream type that consolidated flows, reconnected the floodplain and improved the sediment transport characteristics of the channel. This initial project also highlighted the need to continue our efforts downstream as record floods in 2011 caused channel erosion and aggradation downstream of the phase 1 restoration project on the Jay Stitt property. As detailed in the attached report, fish habitat in this section of Braziel Creek is degraded and generally limited due to the loss of pool habitats, channel incision, bank erosion and habitat simplification. Braziel Creek has also been manipulated to flow cross-valley which has resulted in significant sediment accumulation and distributed flow paths—all of which impede fish passage.

This proposed project phase seeks to address the limiting factors impacting populations of westslope cutthroat in Braziel Creek by restoring ~540 ft of Braziel Creek and implementing a riparian revegetation and grazing management plan. Due to the existing gradient of ~3.4%, a "B" type step-pool channel is planned through the majority of the project with a small section of a C-type channel where the gradient warrants the transition. All proposed structures will be composed of native materials including alluvium, coarse wood, willow cuttings, clump willows transplants and wetland sods.

Project objectives include:

1. Reestablish a self-maintaining, natural channel for specific valley type
2. Restore channel to proper pattern, pattern and dimensions to improve fish habitat and water quality
3. Restore riparian vegetation in order to recover riparian function and habitat forming processes by establishing a suitable riparian (no disturbance) buffer along Braziel Creek.
4. Incorporate grazing management plan to protect healthy riparian and channel function

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated:

This project will improve spawning, rearing and over-wintering habitat on approximately 540 ft of Braziel Creek and the surrounding riparian and upland areas.

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 10,700

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ [redacted] In-kind \$ 1,350
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ 20,370 In-kind \$ 200
(attach verification) Landowner=\$5,700;USFWS-\$8,000; Chutney Foundation-\$6,670

Total Project Cost: \$ 32,620

- F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template
- G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).
- H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

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

Westslope cutthroat trout

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

Braziel Creek in the proposed project reach currently lacks sufficient spawning and rearing habitat, but has high potential to these functions once restored to its proper pattern, profile and channel dimensions. Currently, Braziel Creek supports westslope cutthroat trout in the upper reaches and we anticipate even greater use of the lower reaches once the project is completed and the channel has recovered.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes, by providing off-site recruitment to Nevada Creek and angling opportunities on-site.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Yes, by increasing wild trout habitat in the Blackfoot River drainage. The public will also have legal streamside access via adjacent BLM lands and throughout sections of Nevada Creek.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

The landowner has committed to signing a 20-year agreement and will maintain riparian fences.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Already answered.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

This project involves the continuation of the Blackfoot River Restoration program and the restoration of westslope cutthroat stream. Public benefits include: 1) increasing the amount of fishable water, 2) improved water quality (temperature and sediment reductions) on-site and downstream, and 3) contribute to the recovery of westslope cutthroat trout.

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

No

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

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

No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. 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:

Sponsor (if applicable):

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

Mail To:

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701**

**Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.
Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.**

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****

