

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Swan Ecosystem Center

B. Mailing Address: 6887 MT Hwy 83

C. City: Condon State: MT Zip: 59826

Telephone: 406-754-3137

D. Contact Person: Scott Eggeman

Address if different from Applicant: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: 406-793-7401

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Gerald Clark - Clark Family Trust

Mailing Address: 57991 Bigger Staff Lane

City: Charlo State: MT Zip: 59824

Telephone: 406-644-2281 or 406-529-6825

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Owl Creek Restoration

River, stream, or lake: Stream

Location: Township 19 Range 16 Section 02

County: Missoula

B. Purpose of Project: _____

The purpose of this project is to restore Owl Creek to a functioning stream channel capable of transporting flows and sediment and providing high quality fish habitat for a 98% genetically pure population of native westslope cutthroat trout. The design will address other limiting factors including the removal of a fish passage barrier and stream temperature by incorporating a stream simulation culvert design and isolating the on-stream wetlands from the main Owl Creek channel. All unnecessary road fills that are currently impacting the channel, floodplain and riparian functions will be removed and disturbed areas will be recontoured and stabilized. Disturbed floodplain surfaces will also be reclaimed and existing stream banks will be replanted with native riparian vegetation to add complexity and bank stability.

C. **Brief Project Description:**

Owl Creek is a tributary to the Swan River in the southeast portion of the Swan River Basin in Western Montana. The Swan River Basin is classified as a core area for Bull trout, and Owl Creek provides high quality habitat for native populations of 98% genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. Restoration of Owl Creek will include the removal of one fish passage barrier that currently obstructs natural stream flow and proper flood plain function. Removal of the barrier will reduce stream temperatures, improve spawning and rearing habitat for Westslope cutthroat trout and restore connectivity with nine miles of upper channel and tributaries. In addition, restoration will improve sediment transportation and native riparian vegetation. The proposed project is estimated to cost ~\$104,500.00, with \$33,500 currently secured, not including \$20,000 already invested in LiDAR and project design. Project implementation will include in-stream restoration of 1,110 linear feet of stream channel, including three adjoining tributaries, and removal of ~250 foot dam that serves as an access road to the property. Materials include: 19 wood habitat structures, four step pools, 10 rock energy dissipaters, 395 feet of single vegetated soil lifts, 245 feet of double layer vegetation soil lifts, 655 feet of constructed riffle, and 270 feet of sod mat brush trench. One 24' arch pipe (171" span x 110" rise) will also be installed. Required equipment includes one excavator, two tracked dump trucks, one front end loader, one skid steer and one chain saw. Native grass seeding and willow sprigging will take place by hand or by using an ATV to broadcast seed.

1,110 linear feet of main Owl Creek channel and three adjoining tributaries will improve fish passage to the upper nine miles of stream.

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

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars):

\$ 27,500.00

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars):

\$ 18,500

In-kind \$

(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars):

\$ 36,000 + \$20,000 pending

In-kind \$ 2,500

(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost:

\$ 104,500.00

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?:

This project will remove a fish passage barrier and several on-stream wetlands in addition to connecting spawning and rearing habitat above and below the existing barrier. Rebuilding the tributary channels and replanting native riparian vegetation along the stream channels will stabilize banks and provide shading and structure adding to the complexity of the creek and cooling water temperatures.

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

Yes, the proposed project will remove a fish passage barrier on private lands opening up 9 miles of potential rearing and spawning habitat upstream and connecting it with spawning and rearing habitat below the current barrier. The project will increase abundance of a 98% pure population of westslope cutthroat trout and improve stream conditions for bull trout downstream of the project. Additional improvements to the resource include a decrease in sedimentation, narrowing and recontouring the stream channel, replanting native riparian vegetation adding stability and complexity.

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

Yes, public fishing opportunity will increase due to increased population abundance, improved fish habitat, and connectivity to additional spawning and rearing habitat for native westslope cutthroat trout. All immediately adjacent lands are public US Forest Service lands and open to fishing.

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

We currently have a 20 year landowner agreement (USFWS Wildlife Extension Agreement) with the Clark Family Trust outlining our commitment to maintenance and monitoring.

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

The existing creek channel has been altered with the installation of an undersized culvert and gravel fill to provide road access to the eastern portion of the property. Road fill has impeded natural stream flows and degraded the main stream and tributary channels. Previous grazing practices denuded existing natural riparian vegetation, creating bank instability.

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

Improved fish habitat and increased population abundance to westslope cutthroat trout above and below the restoration site on public lands.

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

No, the surrounding property owner is USDA Forest Service and the proposed project will not divert or store water.

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:

Scott Eggemeier

Date:

5/29/13

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.*****