

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
GRANT APPLICATION**  
*(please fill in the highlighted areas)*

**I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

A. Applicant Name: Jim Olsen

B. Mailing Address: 1820 Meadowlark Lane

C. City: Butte State: MT Zip: 59701

Telephone: 406-533-8451

D. Contact Person:

Address if different from Applicant:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name: Joel Webster and John Tierney (see attached letters for contact info)

Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

**II. PROJECT INFORMATION\***

A. Project Name: Johnson Creek Riparian Fence

River, stream, or lake: Johnson Creek and Cat Creek

Location: Township: 1N Range: 11W Section: 18

County: Silverbow

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to protect the riparian area of Johnson Creek from the impacts of livestock grazing.

C. Brief Project Description:

Johnson Creek is home to a non-hybridized population of westslope cutthroat trout (WCT). Cat Creek also harbors WCT but they are slightly hybridized (96% WCT). Brook trout are also present in Johnson Creek but not in Cat Creek. Johnson and Cat creeks are primarily located on public land (BLM and Forest Service) but the downstream reaches are located on private property. Two of the landowners on the lower reaches of stream would like to exclude livestock grazing on their property. Neither owns livestock, but there are problems with trespass cattle on their property. These cattle have unrestricted access to the property because the road lacks cattle guards and gates and enclosure fences. Cattle grazing the adjacent public property during the summer months trespass onto private property. Once on the private property they congregate in the riparian area because of the cover of the willows and water. This has led to the trampling of the banks and over-widening of the stream channel. The willows in this reach also show signs of livestock impacts (i.e., mushroom shaped). The landowners would like to exclude grazing from the riparian area by constructing a riparian fence that would tie into existing fences and prevent livestock access to the stream on their property. To do this 150 ft of jackleg fence would have to be constructed to cross the wet riparian area. Jackleg fence will be necessary because of the wet ground and the variable topography in the riparian zone. Once out of the riparian area, the fence would consist of treated wood post and 4 strand wildlife friendly wire at 16 (smooth), 22, 28 and 40 inches (barbed) and run parallel to the stream (see attached map). There would be approximately 2,200 ft of wire fence with 3 gates installed to exclude the riparian area from grazing. A cattle guard would be installed on an access road leading to the private property. A cattle guard is necessary at this site because 3 different absentee landowners use the road for property access.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: Approximately 0.5 miles of stream will be excluded from livestock grazing

E. Project Budget: \$11,470

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ \$9,470

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$ (salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ \$1,000 In-kind \$ \$1,000 (attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ \$11,470

- 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 ([wfp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc](http://wfp.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

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

No

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

No

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

There will be no interference with water or private property rights as a result of this project; both property holders have given their consent to the project (see attached letters).

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

The public benefits from this project through reduced livestock caused impacts to the stream and riparian area and the conservation of native westslope cutthroat trout in Johnson and Cat creeks.

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

The habitat in Johnson Creek is degraded due to livestock grazing in the riparian area. The landowners do not own any livestock and have no intention of grazing their lands in the future. They agree to not introduce any stock into the areas inside the riparian fence for the duration of their agreement with FWP. Livestock exclusion will allow impacted areas to heal naturally through time. It is expected that in 5-10 years the areas most impacted from grazing will have fully recovered.

F. correct the cause?

What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project

The fence will require periodic maintenance. The landowners agree to maintain the fence through the duration of their agreement with FWP.

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

No, the project is located on private land and there is no public access associated with the fence. However, both landowners are willing to allow public access to the stream if permission is asked. Also, the project is located within 1/4 mile of the National Forest so public fishing opportunities are nearby.

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

There should be improvements in the fish population of Johnson Creek as habitat conditions improve through time.

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

By removing livestock grazing in the riparian area of this reach of Johnson Creek the stream banks should become more stable. The stream should through time narrow and the stream banks should contribute less fine sediment. The riparian vegetation should also have fewer livestock impacts and provide improved shade and cover for fish the stream.

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

**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:

5-30-13

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.\*\*\*

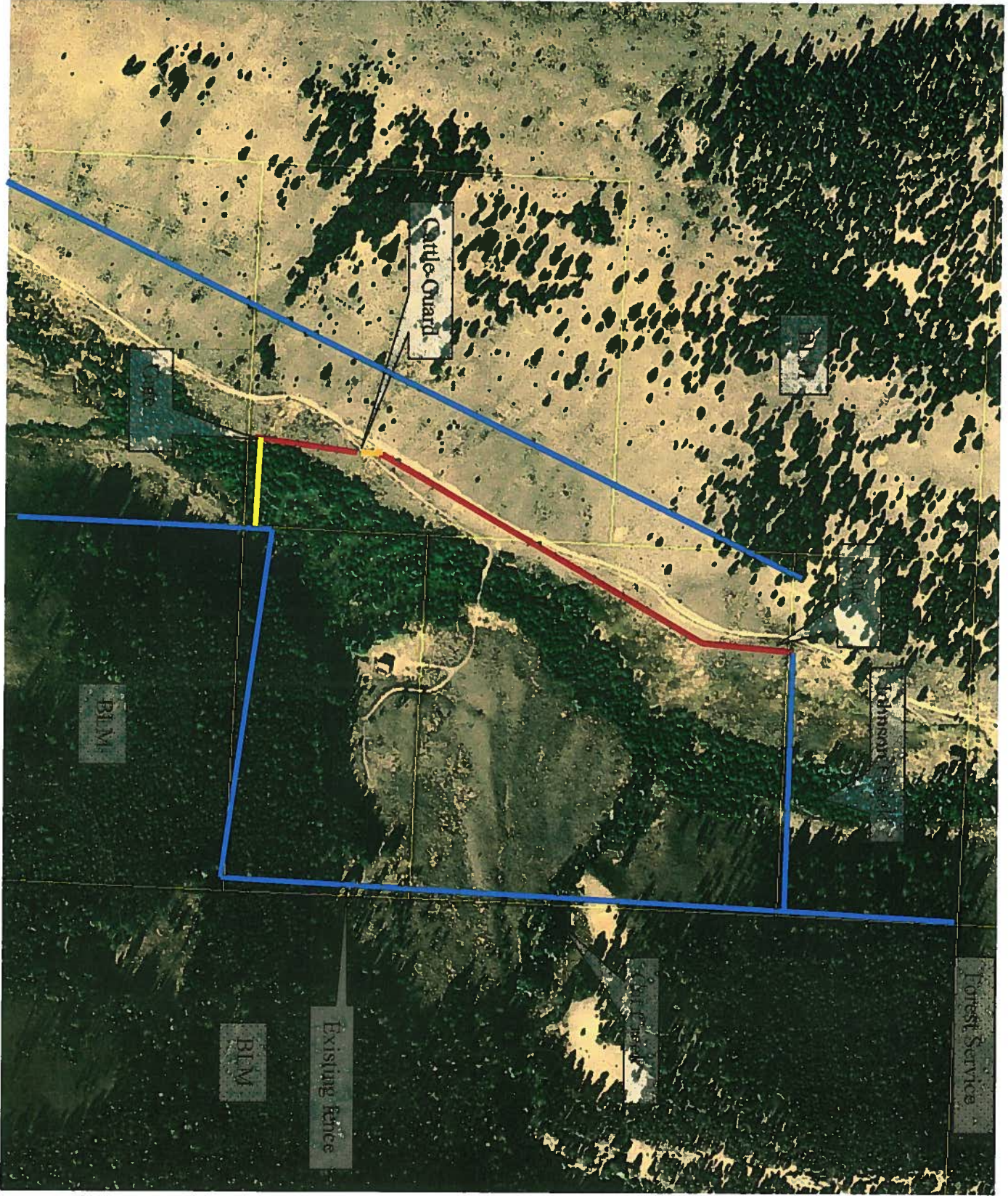


Figure 1. Proposed riparian fence (red (wire) and yellow (jackleg)) on Johnson Creek. Blue lines are existing fence.

Revised August 7, 2009

**BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**  
(Revised 5/31/2013)

WORK ITEMS (ITEMIZE BY CATEGORY)	NUMBER OF UNITS	UNIT DESCRIPTION*	COST/UNIT	TOTAL COST	CONTRIBUTIONS			TOTAL
					FUTURE FISHERIES REQUEST	IN-KIND SERVICES	IN-KIND CASH	
<b>Personnel</b>								
Survey			\$	-				-
Design			\$	-				-
Engineering			\$	-				-
Permitting			\$	-				-
Oversight			\$	-				-
Labor			\$	-				-
<b>Travel</b>								
Mileage			\$	-				-
Per diem			\$	-				-
<b>Construction Materials</b>								
Treated wood post and 4 strand fence installed /(ft)	2200 ft		\$2.60 \$	5,720.00	5,720.00			5,720.00
Jackleg Fence	7 21 ft pannel		\$300.00 \$	2,100.00	100.00	2,000.00		2,100.00
Cattle guard	1 12 ft cattle guard		\$3,500.00 \$	3,500.00	3,500.00			3,500.00
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
<b>Equipment</b>								
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
<b>Mobilization</b>								
Mobilization	1		\$150.00 \$	150.00	150.00			150.00
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
			\$	-				-
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<b>TOTALS</b>			\$	11,470.00	9,470.00	\$	2,000.00	\$ 11,470.00



May 22, 2013

Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Habitat Protection Bureau  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Future Fisheries Review Panel:

I own property along Johnson Creek, a tributary of the Big Hole River near Dickie Bridge. I strongly support the installation of a fence on my property to exclude cattle from the riparian zone and to help improve the health of Johnson Creek and its fisheries.

Johnson Creek is being impacted by a chronic problem with trespass cattle that are congregating in the riparian area during the summer months, leading to the trampling of the banks and over-widening of the stream channel. I want to see fish habitat improved in Johnson Creek and I am a strong supporter of MT FWP's effort to conserve Westslope cutthroat trout within the watershed. A riparian fence that functions as a livestock enclosure would meaningfully improve trout habitat conditions along this section of the stream.

I am willing to contribute \$500 and time towards this project, and I will happily allow fishing access to anglers who request permission to access Johnson Creek from my property. I do not own any livestock, have no intention of grazing my lands in the future and will not intentionally graze within the fenced area.

Sincerely,



Joel Webster  
8 Carriage Way  
Missoula, MT 59802



May 21, 2013

Jim Olsen  
Fisheries Biologist, Big Hole  
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1820 Meadowlark Lane  
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Jim:

As a landowner on Cat creek and Johnson creek in the Big Hole river drainage, I am writing this letter to express my desire to fence both Cat creek and Johnson creek to prevent damage to vegetation and stream banks from grazing livestock. A fence would prevent trespass cattle from adjacent public property and would limit the impact on soil erosion, loss of vegetation, and loss of shading in the riparian zone for the westslope cutthroat trout in the streams.

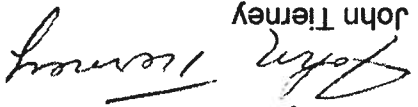
As a lifelong Montanan, I also know how important it is to have access to fish streams on private property and I would allow access to anyone who asked to fish on my property.

I am also willing to contribute funds and my time to this project. I am willing to repair existing fencing and put \$500 dollars toward completion of the project.

Lastly, if we put up a fence it would be to keep livestock out and not to have a private fenced grazing area for our own livestock.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
John Tierney