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: Ryen Neudecker

Address if different from Applicant:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): United States Forest Service—George Liknes, Fisheries biologist

Mailing Address: 1569 US HWY 200

City: Lincoln State: MT Zip: 59639

Telephone: 406.362.7003

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Stonewall Creek Restoration Project

River, stream, or lake: Stonewall Creek

Location: Township 15N Range 9W Section 27,22

County: Lewis & Clark

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to promote and restore aquatic habitat conditions that support populations of pure westslope cutthroat trout by restoring an impaired reach of Stonewall Creek and the adjacent floodplain and riparian area.

C. Brief Project Description:

Stonewall Creek is a 1st order tributary to Keep Cool Creek, a third order tributary to the upper Blackfoot River. Stonewall Creek drains the western slopes of Stonewall Mountain then flows south 7.65 miles through a mixture of USFS, DNRC and private lands and supports genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout populations on USFS lands. The stream segment of Stonewall Creek (~4,300 feet) that is a focus for this project has been impacted by placer mining and sections of Stonewall Creek are confined by tailings piles, have limited floodplain connectivity and lack a functioning riparian area. This project seeks to restore a heavily disturbed reach of Stonewall Creek and ensure connectivity with a functioning floodplain following natural channel design principles. Specific project objectives include:

- Reestablish floodplain connectivity and functionality
- Implement revegetation techniques to set the stage for natural recruitment of riparian vegetation
- Improve existing instream and riparian habitat conditions for westslope cutthroat trout populations by emulating reference reach conditions.

This project that has been identified as a priority under the ***Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program***—a program identified in 2009 by the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The channel is classified as a "B" type channel and through the project reach is confined and isolated from a floodplain surface by tailing deposits. Large wood recruitment has been limited by proximity of source materials to the channel and because the diversity of instream habitat is strongly correlated with mature, deciduous and coniferous trees on the channel margins, this reach of Stonewall Creek lacks the necessary instream habitat to adequately support trout. When comparing the reference reach with the impaired section, when pools do exist, they are much shallower, shorter and devoid of the necessary diversity. Electrofishing surveys confirmed that westslope cutthroat trout populations declined 46% when comparing the impaired and reference reach estimates.

Project specifics involve restoring a 4,300 foot reach of Stonewall by removing the adjacent tailings piles, adding large woody debris complexes to begin to mimic reference conditions and restoring the adjacent floodplain to foster a fully-functional, maintenance free stream channel. A variety of treatments will be implemented and design specifics, including repository locations are identified in the Stonewall Creek Design Report. Instream habitat complexity will be enhanced through the addition of large woody debris structures to provide cover and habitat diversity, mechanisms for energy dissipation and pool maintenance. Treatments will be native materials designed to mimic naturally occurring components of a healthy, functioning stream channel and floodplain ecosystem. Floodplain treatments include a variety of vegetation cover types that integrate plant species composition with geomorphology and hydrology and account for processes that support plant community development over time. Floodplain treatments will include the use of swales, microtopography, coarse wood, planting and seeding.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 4,300 feet

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): $ 41,000

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): $ _____ In-kind $ 5,780
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): $ $253,720 In-kind $23,550
(attach verification)

Total Project Cost: $ 324,050

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?:

Pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout

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

By rehabilitating the riparian area and restoring the channel/floodplain interaction and processes impaired by previous placer mining operations, the project will promote and restore aquatic habitat conditions that support native trout.

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

Yes, by providing angling opportunities on-site. There is access throughout the upper reaches of Stonewall Creek.

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

Yes, by increasing wild trout habitat in the upper Blackfoot watershed. The public has legal access on US Forest Service Land, campgrounds are available, and dispersed camping sites adjacent to Stonewall Creek are utilized for outdoor activities.

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

BBCTU has entered into a Participating Agreement with the USFS. They have agreed to maintain the project in perpetuity.

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) expanding suitable habitat conditions for pure westslope cutthroat trout; 2) improved water quality (temperature) 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. All water and property rights on project lands and those adjacent to the proposed project will not be adversely affected.

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?:

Yes. The project area has been severely impacted by historic placer mining. SHPO concurrence has already been obtained for the proposed project.

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: Ryan Nendecker Date: 11-24-14

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.*****

Stonewall

016-2015

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

(Revised 11/24/2014)

Stonewall Creek restoration

WORK ITEMS (ITEMIZE BY CATEGORY)	NUMBER OF UNITS	UNIT DESCRIPTION*	COST/UNIT	TOTAL COST	CONTRIBUTIONS			
					FISHERIES REQUEST	IN-KIND SERVICES	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL
Personnel								
Survey	50	hours	$150.00	$ 7,500.00			$ 7,500.00	$ 7,500.00
Design	90	hours	$90.00	$ 8,100.00			$ 8,100.00	$ 8,100.00
Engineering	60	hours	$90.00	$ 5,400.00			$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00
Permitting	30	hours	$40.00	$ 1,200.00		$1,200		$ 1,200.00
Oversight	150	hours	$90.00	$ 13,500.00		4,000.00	9,500.00	$ 13,500.00
Labor	120	hours	$55.00	$ 6,600.00			6,600.00	$ 6,600.00
Travel								
Mileage	1000	miles	$0.58	$ 580.00		580.00		$ 580.00
Construction Materials								
Trees (18'-24', 18" diameter)	670	each	$65.00	$ 43,550.00		$23,550	$20,000	$ 43,550.00
Mine Waste Removal & Disposal	39,975	CY	$3.00	$ 119,925.00	22,000.00		$97,925	$ 119,925.00
Repository Clearing & Grubbing	4.5	acres	$1,000.00	$ 4,500.00			4,500.00	$ 4,500.00
Containerized Plants (installed)	1885	each	$4.00	$ 7,540.00	3,000.00		4,540.00	$ 7,540.00
Soil import & placement	3400	cubic yards	$20.00	$ 68,000.00			68,000.00	$ 68,000.00
Browse Protectors	1885	each	$3.00	$ 5,655.00	2,000.00		3,655.00	$ 5,655.00
Equipment								
Hydraulic Excavator	100	hours	$140.00	$ 14,000.00	7,000.00		7,000.00	$ 14,000.00
Track Truck	50	hours	$130.00	$ 6,500.00	3,000.00		3,500.00	$ 6,500.00
Skidsteer	50	hours	$90.00	$ 4,500.00	2,000.00		2,500.00	$ 4,500.00
Mobilization								
Mob/demob	1	lump sum	$7,000.00	$ 7,000.00	2,000.00		5,000.00	$ 7,000.00
			TOTALS	$ 324,050.00	$ 41,000.00	$ 29,330.00	$ 253,720.00	$ 324,050.00

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL
USFS	$ 23,550.00	$ 213,720.00	$ 237,270.00
BBCTU	$ 5,780.00	$ -	$ 5,780.00
NAWCA	$ -	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00

Photo 1-2: Examples of past mining activity impacting Stonewall Creek.

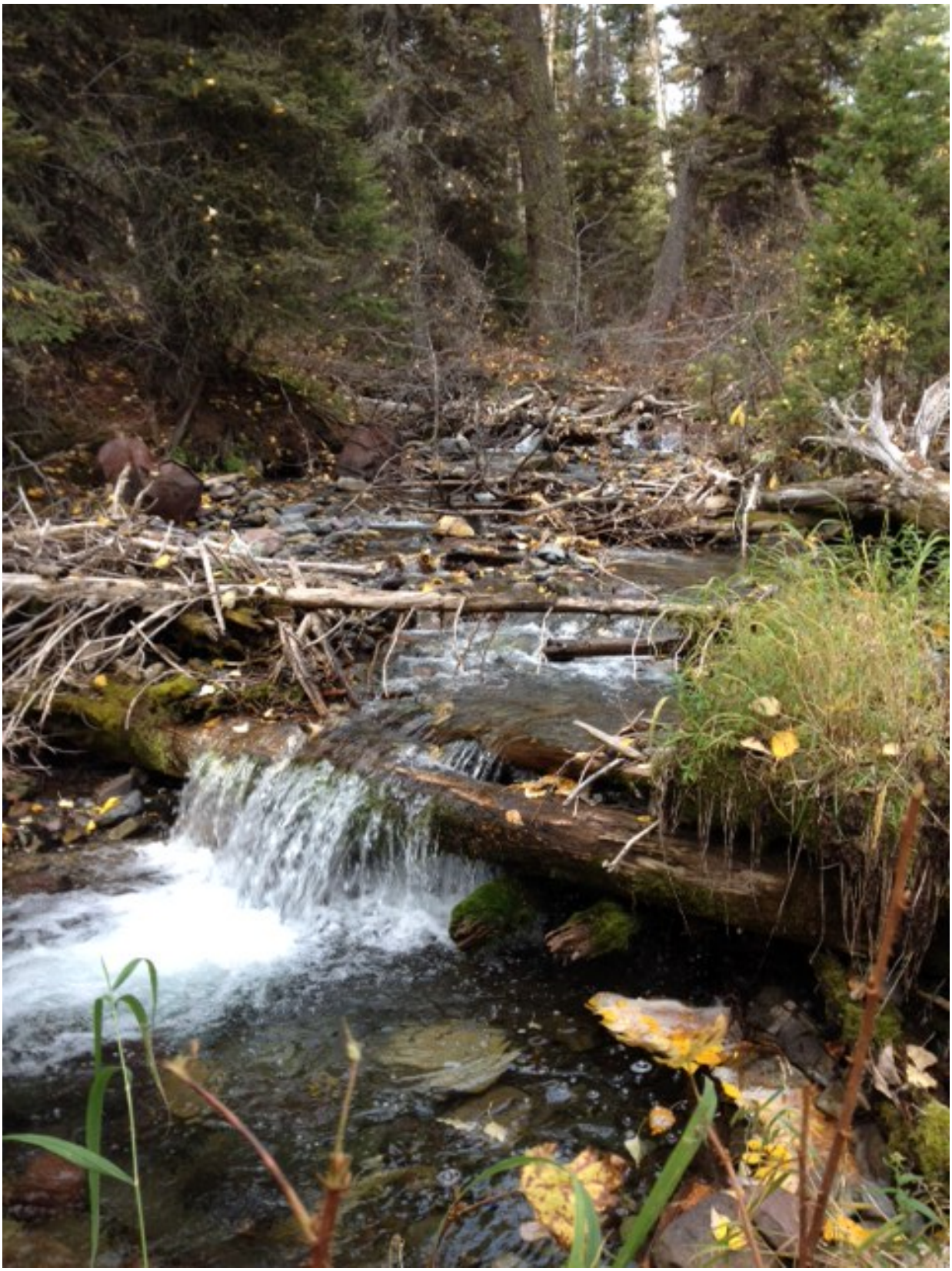

Photo 3: Reference condition in Stonewall Creek

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Helena National Forest Lincoln Ranger District | 1569 Highway 200 Lincoln, MT 59639 (406) 362-7000

Date: November 21, 2014

Future Fisheries Citizens Panel
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks,
Habitat Bureau
Fisheries Division
1420 East 6th Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Members of the Future Fisheries Citizen Panel:

RE: Stonewall Creek Restoration Project Grant Proposal

The Helena National Forest has been working with The Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in a comprehensive effort to improve native fish habitat, correct connectivity issues, and reduce anthropomorphic sediment delivery to streams and rivers in the upper Blackfoot drainage. One of the current projects that I'm truly excited about is a project approximately 4,300 feet in length on Stonewall Creek that would restore fisheries habitat and develop a floodplain that was severely impaired from placer mining operations. Large piles of waste rock incise the stream channel on this westslope cutthroat trout water. Little woody debris is present in the project reach compared to the reference reach downstream, which holds nearly twice as many fish on a lineal basis. The size structure of the fish population in the reference reach is also more desirable with larger sized fish present than in the project reach because of the habitat characteristics. Additionally the creation of a floodplain, now nonexistent, will benefit the drainage's hydrology. Plans will utilize placement of log drops/debris complexes simulating those in the reference reach, which will create complex habitat, increase pool habitat and natural channel dynamics to restore channel features.

This project is a high cost restoration project to repair historic mining impairments; the grant request is substantial, but represents only 13% of the total project budget. The additional funds secured significantly leverage the grant request for Future Fisheries Funds for a native species in a portion of the watershed where habitat improvements will guarantee their persistence and viability for generations. Please support this grant request for $41,000 that will allow this project to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions about this proposed project that was developed to benefit native fisheries resources in the Blackfoot River drainage, please contact me anytime at 406.362.7003.

Sincerely,

George Liknes

GEORGE LIKNES
Aquatic Program Leader

cc: Mike Seawall, Acting District Ranger
Dave Callery, Watershed Program Manager
R. Neudecker, Big Blackfoot Chapter Trout Unlimited

To: Michelle McGree

From: Ron Pierce, Fisheries Biologist Blackfoot River Basin

Date: 11-26-2014

Subject: Future Fisheries Applications

In addition to writing the Douglas Creek FF application, I've reviewed five TU-related Future Fisheries application from my work area. These five projects include three on the USFS lands (Theodore Creek, Yukon Creek, Stonewall Creek), one project in cooperation with the University of Montana (Shanley Creek), and one found entirely on private land (West Fork of Jacobsen Creek). From my review, all projects are worthy of support; all have some native fish value.

The FS projects are important because they represent an ongoing broad-level effort to correct road impacts at regional scale of the upper Blackfoot Basin. These are legacy projects that should specifically benefit westslope cutthroat trout. The Shanley Creek project is an opportunity to correct lingering riparian/fisheries issues on the U of M Bandy Ranch. The West Fork of Jacobsen Creek should complete stream restoration work on that property.

Please let me know if you have any questions.