

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
GRANT APPLICATION**

*(please fill in the highlighted areas)*

**I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

A. Applicant Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1336

C. City: Ennis State: MT Zip: 59729

Telephone: 406.682.7807 E-mail: pclancey@mt.gov

D. Contact Person: Pat Clancey

Address if different from Applicant:

City:  State:  Zip:

Telephone:  E-mail:

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Montana FWP Region 3 attention Kevin Hughes

Mailing Address: 1400 South 19th

City: Bozeman State: MT Zip: 59715-5496

Telephone: 406.994.2654 E-mail: khughes@mt.gov

**II. PROJECT INFORMATION\***

A. Project Name: Ruby Creek stream channel relocation

River, stream, or lake: Ruby Creek

Location: Township: 9 S Range: 1 W Section: 10

Latitude: 45.059407 Longitude: 111.710047 *within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Madison

B. Purpose of Project:

The primary objective of this project is to relocate the active stream channel away from a vertical eroding stream bank to prevent an historic structure from collapsing into Ruby Creek and causing channel scour and lateral erosion, negatively impacting riparian and aquatic habitat. About 1 horizontal foot of streambank was lost between November 2013 and June 2014 (attached photos).

## C. Brief Project Description:

Ruby Creek is the site of an on-going westslope cutthroat trout restoration project. It was chemically treated in 2012 – 2014 to remove non-native trout. WCT eyed egg introductions are anticipated to begin in 2015, pending the ability of the donor populations to provide eggs. At present, there are no trout in Ruby Creek upstream of a waterfall at stream mile 0.7, near the confluence with the Madison River.

The McAtee Homestead site lies adjacent to Ruby Creek at approximately stream mile 2.5. This site was assessed by GCM Services, Inc. and found to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The homestead cabin is perched at the precipice of a 7-foot vertical stream bank (photos attached). The stream bank is beginning to erode into the footings of the cabin, creating concern that the cabin will begin collapsing into Ruby Creek in the near future, likely causing stream channel and riparian damage and creating an unstable aquatic environment.

One goal within Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Statewide Fisheries Management Plan is to “preserve and protect aquatic habitats”. This project will help meet this goal by eliminating the likelihood of the historic structure toppling into the stream as the bank continues to erode in future years, creating debris plugs which could cause further lateral erosion or down-cutting, and sedimentation.

An environmental assessment has been conducted and permits are in-hand to construct approximately 120 feet of stream channel to direct the stream away from the eroding vertical bank while maintaining stream channel gradient and length and improving stream channel form & function. State statute (MCA 22-3-4) and conditions placed on the project by the Montana State Historic Preservation Office have resulted in modification of the original plan which called for building demolition and bank tapering & vegetating (soil lifts). The modified plan calls for hauling fill material from off-site (rather than using the excavated bank material for fill) and leaving the building and existing vertical stream bank intact. The off-site fill and riparian soils and vegetation excavated during construction of the new stream channel will be used to develop a riparian floodplain at the location of the existing channel and against the vertical bank.

One comment was received during the EA comment period, it is attached. A Decision Notice to proceed with the project will be issued pending securing of additional funding that was identified after project survey & design and permitting.

The entire Ruby Creek Drainage is on public land except for a few hundred feet that are on property owned by the Imerys Talc Mine. The project site is on FWP’s Wall Creek Wildlife Management Area which is managed for wildlife purposes, primarily winter range. Ruby Creek has a measured base flow of about 9 cfs. The work is scheduled to be conducted in March or April, 2015.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 120 feet

## E. Project Budget:

**Grant Request (Dollars):** \$ 2,475

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

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ 12,600 In-kind \$  
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

**Total Project Cost:**     \$ **15,075**

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](http://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?:

The project will help meet the habitat goals of the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan by preventing an historic homestead cabin from collapsing into Ruby Creek, impeding stream flow and causing riparian scour & erosion leading to poor quality aquatic habitat.

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

No

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

No

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

No active maintenance is expected upon project completion. Visual monitoring for vegetation development and new channel stability will be conducted. FWP and U.S. Forest Service crews are expected to be in the area several times per year for 3 – 4 years to conduct activities related to WCT introductions. FWP and U.S. Forest Service crews routinely park at the project site.

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

Unknown cause, possibly natural channel migration; however, there is evidence of historic channel manipulation upstream of this site, including a decayed electrical generation facility and road construction in narrow valley bottom area.

Relocation of the active stream channel away from its present location along the vertical bank and establishment of floodplain/riparian vegetation at that location will reduce the likelihood of the historic cabin catastrophically collapsing into stream, which would likely occur over a period of years.

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

Establishment of proper stream channel form & function, establishment of riparian floodplain, SHPO recognized historic features (homestead & sub-surface artifacts) would remain intact.

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

No. Project is likely to benefit water rights of adjacent owner by preventing any entrained cabin materials from blocking the existing stream channel, causing channel migration and potential headgate damage. The headgate is approximately 1/2 mile downstream of the project site.

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:

Pat Mauricey

Date:

11/25/14

Sponsor (if applicable):

\*Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.

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

E-mail To: Michelle McGree  
[mmcgree@mt.gov](mailto:mmcgree@mt.gov)

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.\*\*\*

Following are supplemental items relative to the project.

One comment received during the Environmental Assessment public comment period, as follows:

Dear Fish Wildlife & Parks,

I support "Alternative B" the relocation of the Ruby Creek channel to save the historic homestead. The plan looks like the best Alternative, and the costs are very reasonable as far as I can see.

Thank You

Bert Otis

PO Box 60

Emigrant, MT 59027

Below are photos of the site showing the proximity of the McAtee Homestead cabin to Ruby Creek, and photos showing the loss of approximately 1 horizontal foot of streambank between November 2013 and June 2014.



Two photos showing the general character of the project site. The active stream channel and riparian floodplain are about 6 – 7 vertical feet below the cabin elevation.



WORK ITEMS (ITEMIZE BY CATEGORY)	NUMBER OF UNITS	UNIT DESCRIPTION*	COST/UNIT	TOTAL COST	CONTRIBUTIONS			
					FUTURE FISHERIES REQUEST	IN-KIND SERVICES	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL
<b>Personnel</b>								
Survey								
Design			\$3,410.00	\$ 3,410.00			\$ 3,410.00	\$ 3,410.00
Engineering								
Permitting								
Oversight	16	hours	\$110.00	\$ 1,760.00			\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,760.00
Project mgt	6	hours	\$65.00	\$ 390.00			\$ 390.00	\$ 390.00
MRD site visit	1	lump	\$390.00	\$ 390.00			\$ 390.00	\$ 390.00
Labor	10	hours	\$45.00	\$ 450.00			\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 6,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 6,400.00
<b>Travel</b>								
Mileage				\$ -				\$ -
Per diem				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Construction Materials</b>								
cobble fill material	70	cubic yards	\$18.00	\$ 1,260.00			1,260.00	\$ 1,260.00
top soil	30	cubic yards	\$24.00	\$ 720.00			720.00	\$ 720.00
coir fabric	120	linear feet	\$4.00	\$ 480.00			480.00	\$ 480.00
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 2,460.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,460.00	\$ 2,460.00
<b>Equipment</b>								
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Mobilization</b>								
RMD, Inc	1	mobile	\$800.00	\$ 800.00			800.00	\$ 800.00
on-site hauling	8	hours	\$75.00	\$ 600.00			600.00	\$ 600.00
willow/sod construction	10	hours	\$165.00	\$ 1,650.00			1,650.00	\$ 1,650.00
rock toe placement	10	hours	\$165.00	\$ 1,650.00	1,650.00			\$ 1,650.00
terrace toe material placement	5	hours	\$165.00	\$ 825.00	825.00			\$ 825.00
seeding disturbed areas	1	lump	\$300.00	\$ 300.00			300.00	\$ 300.00

