



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

May 27, 2015

PO Box 200701
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620

Future Fisheries Citizen Panel
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Panel Members,

I am writing to submit for your consideration a Future Fisheries application to construct a small bridge to span Spokane Creek, a tributary to Hauser Lake near Helena, MT. Please find enclosed a Future Fisheries application and supporting materials.

This proposed project is a final piece to a larger scale stream rehabilitation project that was completed in spring, 2014. That project involved stream habitat rehabilitation on approximately 1,700 feet of Spokane Creek on the Balukas and McMasters properties. Habitat treatments reduced width:depth ratio at base flows, improved pool habitat, improved stream bank vegetation, and improved conveyance of flooding flows.

During construction of the stream project, it was discovered that a location initially selected to place a bridge for access to a horse arena was inadequate as the area was too wet to allow horse access. A second location was chosen, which is a good location to place a bridge, but the bridge does not adequately span the stream and is difficult to seasonally remove. This proposal is to construct a permanent bridge that adequately passes flooding flows and allows access to the horse arena.

Funding for the larger stream rehabilitation project was provided primarily by PPL Montana (now NorthWestern Energy) mitigation funding, at a cost of \$64,482. The FFIP also provided \$1,400 for riparian fencing on the McMasters property (expected fence construction summer 2015). We are asking for \$6,600 from FFIP to build a bridge to span the stream.

Approximately one year post construction, we are already seeing the benefits of the stream habitat project through increased fish observations, improved stream bank vegetation development, and improved water conveyance during snow melt-off. We view this bridge project as an appropriate supplement to the overall habitat project to insure proper stream function while meeting the needs of the landowner.

Thank you for considering this application.

Sincerely,

Eric Roberts
Helena Area Fish Biologist

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Eric Roberts, Helena Area Fish Biologist

B. Mailing Address: PO Box 200701

C. City: Helena State: MT Zip: 59620

Telephone: 406-495-3272 E-mail: eroberts@mt.gov

D. Contact Person: Eric Roberts, Helena Area Fish Biologist

Address if different from Applicant:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone: 406-495-3272 E-mail: eroberts@mt.gov

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name
(if other than Applicant): Martin and Valerie Balukas

Mailing Address: 5540 Keir Lane

City: Helena State: MT Zip: 59602

Telephone: 406-475-3439 E-mail:

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Spokane Creek horse bridge

River, stream, or lake: Spokane Creek

Location: Township: 10N Range: 2W Section: 1

Latitude: 46.64865 Longitude: -111.79979 *within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Lewis & Clark County

B. Purpose of Project:

Construct a permanent bridge crossing over Spokane Creek to a horse arena on the other side of the stream.

C. Brief Project Description:

In spring of 2014, approximately 1,700 feet of Spokane Creek was treated to reduce width:depth ratio, improve stream bank vegetation, and improve conveyance of flooding flows (funded through PPL Montana mitigation funds). Much of the stream work on Spokane Creek (approximately 1,500 feet) occurred on the Balukas property. In the months prior to the stream habitat project, a high flow event washed out a bridge that had previously spanned the stream to access a horse arena. During construction of the habitat treatments, one site was selected to place a bridge that could be removed seasonally to accommodate high winter stream flows (Spokane Creek is a lower elevation stream and flooding flows primarily occur during melt-off or rain on snow events in the winter). However, in the months following construction, it was discovered that the selected bridge location would be too wet for horses to access the arena (the owner has dressage horses, and cannot walk through muddy/marshy areas), so another location was selected to place the temporary bridge. This second location is a good area for a bridge crossing, however seasonally removing the bridge at this site is difficult, nor is the bridge long enough to adequately span the floodplain.

This proposal is to permanently build a bridge at the second location to allow access to the horse arena. The bridge will be constructed with recycled treated 25 foot long bridge stringers placed on 2'x2'x6' concrete ecology blocks. The bridge will span 25 feet across Spokane Creek and placed at an elevation to adequately pass flooding flows and debris. FWP has bridge stringers for use on the project, and the landowner has agreed to purchase the bridge decking.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 15 feet

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 6,600

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$ 1,250
 (salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ 375 In-kind \$
 (attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 8,225

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?:

Rainbow trout, brown trout

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

Project will reduce the risk of a bridge washing downstream and jeopardize stream habitat treatments downstream, or cause damage to downstream infrastructure (there is a vehicle bridge on the downstream neighbors).

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

The intent of the larger habitat project completed in 2014 was to improve fish habitat. Improving the bridge crossing reduces the risk of wash out and allows the stream treatments to function as intended. Other types of stream crossings (i.e. culverts) would be more costly to construct and maintain, and could impede fish passage.

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

There will be limited change to public opportunity to fish. A county bridge crosses Spokane Creek on the south boundary of the Balukas property where the public can access the stream. Construction of a permanent bridge will allow the public to easier pass through via stream access law without trespassing.

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

The landowner has committed to maintenance and upkeep of the bridge. FWP is already annually monitoring the previously constructed habitat work, and will also monitor the bridge to insure the project is working as intended.

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

Much of the habitat degradation in the area was a result of a large washout at the county road crossing during a rain on snow event in the early 2000s. This area of degradation was addressed with the completed stream treatments in 2014; the proposed bridge lowers the risk of compromising stream function and allows habitat treatments to function as intended.

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

There will be a decreased risk of bridge washout and reduced impedance to stream function as a result of the bridge.

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

There will be no change to water or property rights. The project may improve property rights of the downstream neighbor due to reduced risk of the bridge washing into his property.

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

No. The project will allow the landowner to access the horse arena, while allowing the stream to function as intended.

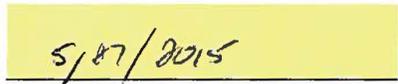
- J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

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**

**E-mail To: Michelle McGree
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.*****

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
Personnel								
Survey				\$ -				\$ -
Design				\$ -				\$ -
Engineering				\$ -				\$ -
Permitting				\$ -				\$ -
Oversight				\$ -				\$ -
Labor	20	hours	\$50.00	\$ 1,000.00	1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Travel								
Mileage				\$ -				\$ -
Per diem				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Materials								
Treated bridge stringers	50	feet	\$25.00	\$ 1,250.00		1,250.00		\$ 1,250.00
Rough cut decking 2"x2"x16'	25	boards	\$15.00	\$ 375.00			375.00	\$ 375.00
Concrete ecology blocks	8	blocks	\$50.00	\$ 400.00	400.00			\$ 400.00
Pit run	20	cubic yards	\$26.00	\$ 520.00	520.00			\$ 520.00
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 2,545.00	\$ 920.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 2,545.00
Equipment								
Excavator	12	hours	\$150.00	\$ 1,800.00	1,800.00			\$ 1,800.00
Skid Steer	8	hours	\$80.00	\$ 640.00	640.00			\$ 640.00
Dump truck/trailer	3	hours	\$80.00	\$ 240.00	240.00			\$ 240.00
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 2,680.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,680.00
Mobilization								
Mobilization	1		\$2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -

			\$	-				\$	-	
		Sub-Total	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	-	\$	2,000.00
TOTALS			\$	8,225.00	\$	6,600.00	\$	1,250.00	\$	375.00
			\$		\$		\$		\$	8,225.00

*Units = feet, hours, inches, lump sum, etc.

**Justification for in-kind labor (e.g. hourly rates used for calculations). Describe here or in text.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL	Verified? (Y/N)
FWP	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	
Martin and Valerie Balukas	\$ -	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
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Figure 1: Aerial photo of the Balukas property.

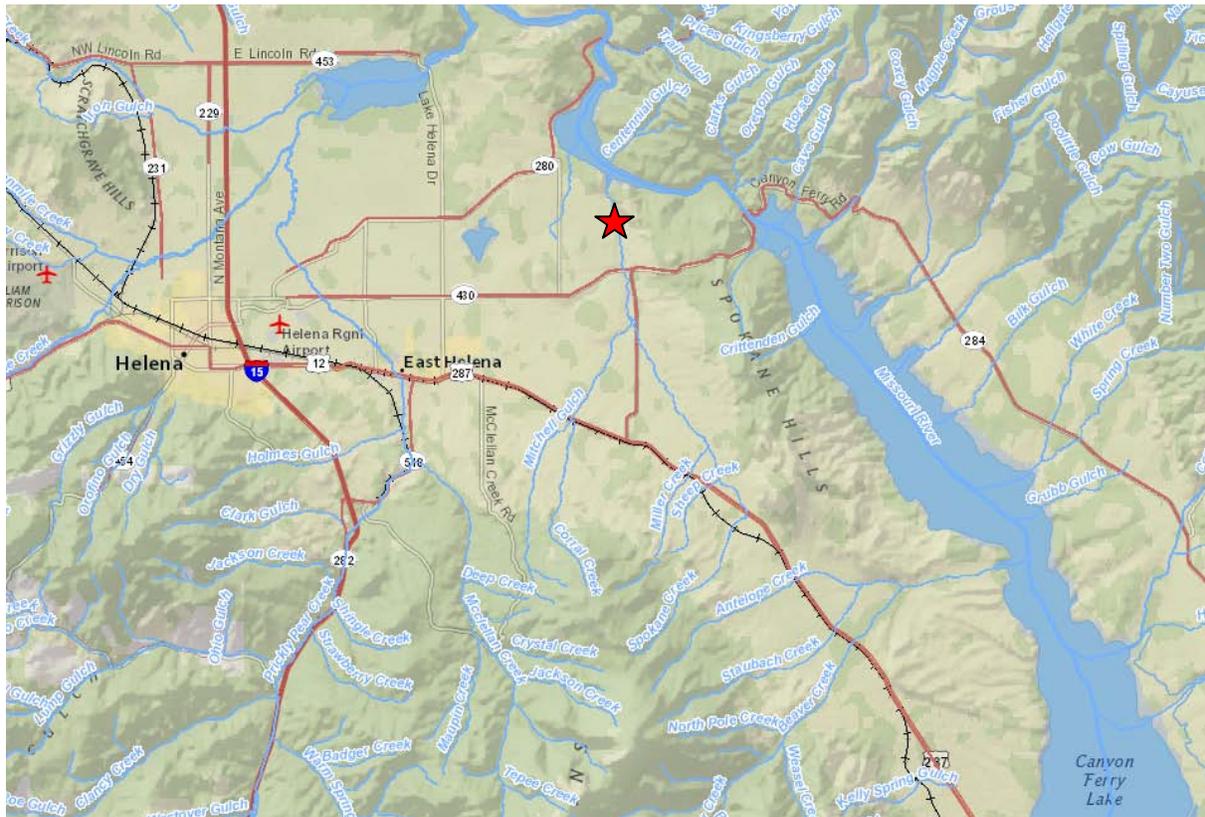


Figure 2: Regional map for FFIP Spokane Creek Bridge. Red star denotes project location.



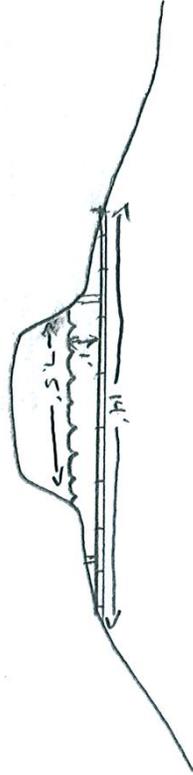
Figure 3: Photo of the temporary bridge currently in place. Permanent bridge will be placed in the same location. The horse arena is in the upper right portion of the photo.



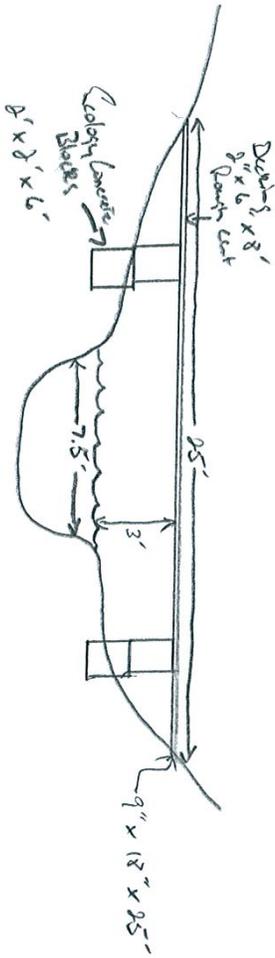
Figure 4: Photo of the temporary bridge.

*Not to Scale

Spokane Creek - Baliseas
Temporary Bridge (Existing)



Spokane Creek - Baliseas
Proposed Bridge



Concrete Leakoff
Block
8' x 8' x 6'

