

Gallatin River habitat improvement
**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**
(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Gallatin River Task Force

B. Mailing Address: PO Box 160513

C. City: Big Sky State: MT Zip: 59716

Telephone: (406) 993-2519 E-mail: headwaters@gallatinrivertaskforce.org

D. Contact Person: Andrea Saari, Development Director or Kristin Gardner, Executive Director

Address if different from Applicant: Same as applicant

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Moose Creek River Access and Trout Habitat Improvement Project

River, stream, or lake: Upper Gallatin River

Location: Township: 5S Range: 4E Section: 36

Latitude: 45.3566 Longitude: -111.172 *within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Gallatin

B. Purpose of Project: _____

The Gallatin River is an economic driver in southwest Montana. Visitors come to the area for the blue ribbon fisheries, rafting, access to public land and wilderness, and winter recreation. As the number of visitors to southwest Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem increases, the pressures on the natural resources are increasing. The purpose of this project is to enhance public access to the Gallatin River, while simultaneously restoring riparian habitat. By restoring the riparian habitat, habitat for the threatened Westslope Cutthroat trout and other aquatic inhabitants will be protected. By enhancing public access, the project ensures that future generations will experience a wild and healthy Gallatin River.

The Moose Creek Pilot Project will serve future restoration work along the Gallatin River corridor. Success at this site will ensure additional sites, such as Deer Creek and Greek Creek, receive necessary restoration treatment. Elements from the planning and design phase from Moose Creek will be transferred to future restoration sites, which will provide a cost savings for future projects.

The CGNFS currently manages the Upper Gallatin River as Wild and Scenic. The Task Force, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, American Rivers and additional groups across the state are part of the collaborative group Montanan's for Healthy Rivers. Together, they are working to promote the official designation of the Gallatin River as Wild and Scenic.

C. Brief Project Description:

The Moose Creek Pilot Project has four main goals and objectives:

- 1) To improve fish and aquatic insect habitat by preventing further erosion.
- 2) To engage a wide range of diverse watershed stakeholders in project funding and implementation.
- 3) To mobilize volunteers to assist with restoration work and annual maintenance
- 4) To promote the designation of the Upper Gallatin River, from the Yellowstone National Park border to the Spanish Creek confluence, as Wild and Scenic.

To accomplish this, river access will be limited to a new boat ramp, with vegetation and fencing installed to limit the options of river access. Willow and other appropriate riparian vegetation will be planted in denuded areas. The Task Force will incorporate education and outreach about the science, labor, and funding that is necessary to conserve public resources, and foster a sense of community stewardship of Montana's rivers.

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

Number of feet of streambank and acres affected:

- 1) 723 feet of streambank stabilization
- 2) 8,177 square feet of floodplain plantings (0.42 acres)
- 3) 855 feet of trails developed
- 4) 4,393 square feet for installation of a boat ramp
- 5) Design and permitting completed Spring 2016, with groundbreaking Summer 2016
- 6) Project completion by Fall 2017

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 46,760

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$ 30,000
 (salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$ 83,800
 (attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 318,230

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 fish biologist 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, rainbow trout, brown trout, and mountain whitefish.

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

As the attached photographs indicate, the streambanks along the Moose Creek campground are heavily eroded and stripped of vegetation. Consequently, there is increased erosion and sediment-loading, which impacts the presence of fish. Restoring streambanks and vegetation will improve wild fish habitat.

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

From macroinvertebrate samples collected in July 2014 (2015 data pending), data suggests that there is low richness in stonefly taxa, which affects the food web for resident fish along this stretch of the river. Slight impairment to the stonefly group is likely due to altered channel morphology, disrupted riparian function, and/or unstable streambanks. Stabilizing the streambanks with rip-rap, replanting riparian vegetation, designating foot paths, and directing river access to designated entry points through the installation of a pedestrian access point and boat ramp will reduce erosion. By reducing erosion, the aquatic macroinvertebrate populations will benefit, which will create an increased food source for trout along this stretch of the Gallatin, which will improve fish populations.

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

Yes; by stabilizing the riparian zone, streambanks, and river access points, erosion and sediment-loading will be reduced and benefit the wild fish populations, while simultaneously enhancing public access for fishing, rafting, and kayaking.

E. The project agreement includes a 20-year maintenance commitment. If you are unable to meet this commitment, please explain why:

The Task Force is entering into a long-term partnership for maintaining the Moose Creek Flat Recreation Area with CGNFS. A portion of the maintenance will happen through the Task Force's Conservation and Education & Outreach programs, which includes mobilizing volunteers for data collection, river clean-ups, and other needs as they may arise.

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

The Upper Gallatin River is an ecologically and recreationally important river in Southwestern Montana valued for its Class 1 fisheries, wildlife, scenic viewing, rafting, and kayaking. The river primarily runs through public land managed by the Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF). In the past, forest management in the CGNF has focused on campgrounds and trails rather than river access. This lack of river access management is evident in increasing visible signs of human impact including eroded streambanks, trampled riparian vegetation, and excessive trails to the river. In addition to visible signs of degradation, macroinvertebrate populations collected by the Task Force have indicated negative impacts from fine sediment and habitat loss. With the recent and projections in population growth and tourism in the area, river use will similarly increase, threatening the aforementioned resource values of the river. Recognizing the dire need of rehabilitation and increased river access management, the Task Force is partnering with the CGNF to plan and implement projects to protect the treasured values of the river and provide improved river access. Through collaborative partnerships with CGNF, environmental engineering firm RESPEC, riparian restoration engineers TREC, local marketing group Outlaw, outdoor retail giant Patagonia, and local and visiting river lovers and users, the Task Force is taking a multi-faceted approach to complete the permitting and design process, create public awareness and fundraise for the project, and recruit volunteers to assist with the on-the-ground restoration work and long-term care for the site. By involving diverse stakeholders and partners, the project will physically restore and enhance habitat, while fostering a sense of long-term public stewardship of the Moose Creek Flat Recreation Area.

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

Visitors and residents of southwest Montana will benefit from this project. The Gallatin River is an internationally recognized trout fishery, and the Moose Creek Campground and Day Use Area is an important access point for many people who come to southwest Montana. An ecologically intact and natural river access point is an important part of everyone's experience, which includes the biological, aesthetic, and social experience.

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

No; restoration work at the Moose Creek Flat Recreation Area will not affect water or property rights of adjacent landowners. All restoration work will be on public land and will benefit public access and riparian habitat through streambank stabilization, riparian plantings, and enhanced river access for boaters and pedestrians.

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

The Moose Creek Flat Recreation Area is a CGNF overnight campground site, as well as a day use area for picnickers, fishers, rafters, kayakers, wildlife watchers, and many other recreational users. Commercial raft companies, who are currently permitted through CGNF, use this site as a launching site, as well as take-out site. Other than what has already been established through CGNFS permitting, there will be no development of commercial recreational use.

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

There is no past mining activity at this site.

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:

Andrea Saari

Date:

11/30/15

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
(electronic submissions **MUST** be signed)**

**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.*****

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

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	6	hrs	\$105.00	\$ 630.00			630.00	\$ 630.00
Design	100	hrs	\$110.00	\$ 11,000.00		11,000.00	11,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Engineering	100	hrs	\$110.00	\$ 11,000.00		11,000.00	11,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Permitting	50	hrs	\$40.00	\$ 2,000.00	2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
Oversight	60	days	\$280.00	\$ 16,800.00	1,960.00	12,640.00	5,000.00	\$ 19,600.00
Labor				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 41,430.00	\$ 3,960.00	\$ 34,640.00	\$ 27,630.00	\$ 66,230.00
Travel								
Mileage				\$ -				\$ -
Per diem				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Materials***								
Boat Ramp	1	lump sum	\$50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00				\$ -
Streambank & Floodplain Plantings	1	lump sum	\$140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	35,000.00			\$ 35,000.00
Interpretive Sign	1	lump sum	\$4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 194,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00
Equipment								
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mobilization								
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS				\$ 235,430.00	\$ 38,960.00	\$ 34,640.00	\$ 27,630.00	\$ 101,230.00

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

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

***The Future Fisheries Review Panel recommends a maximum fencing cost of \$1.50 per foot

***Custer Gallatin National Forest Service has committed \$83,000 in labor, oversight, and permitting administration and coordination contributions for the Moose Creek project.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS (do not include requested funds)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL	Verified? (Y/N)
Patagonia World Trout Initiative Grant	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Y
		\$ -	\$ -	
RESPEC Consulting	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	Y
Gallatin River Task Force	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 22,630.00	\$ 52,630.00	Y
Outlaw Partners	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	Y
Gallatin River Task Force Project Donations	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	
Foundation Grants (American Rivers, Steele-Reese, NFWF)	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	
Government Grants	\$ -	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	
Yellowstone Club Community Foundation Grant	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	Pending Dec 2015
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 206,630.00	\$ 252,630.00	



Above: Road construction and campground renovation has had an impact on vegetation cover throughout the campground. Due to its proximity to Highway 191, it is important to revegetate and consistently manage for noxious and invasive weeds.

Left: Looking upstream to the north, much of the streambank has eroded due to unmanaged foot access and boat launching. This natural beach will be the location for the proposed boat ramp.

USGS 06043500 Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway
440 CFS at 6 AM

Photos taken 12 April 2015 by Andrea Saari



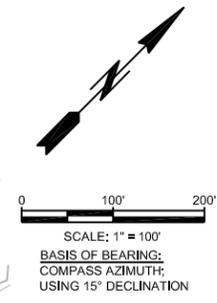
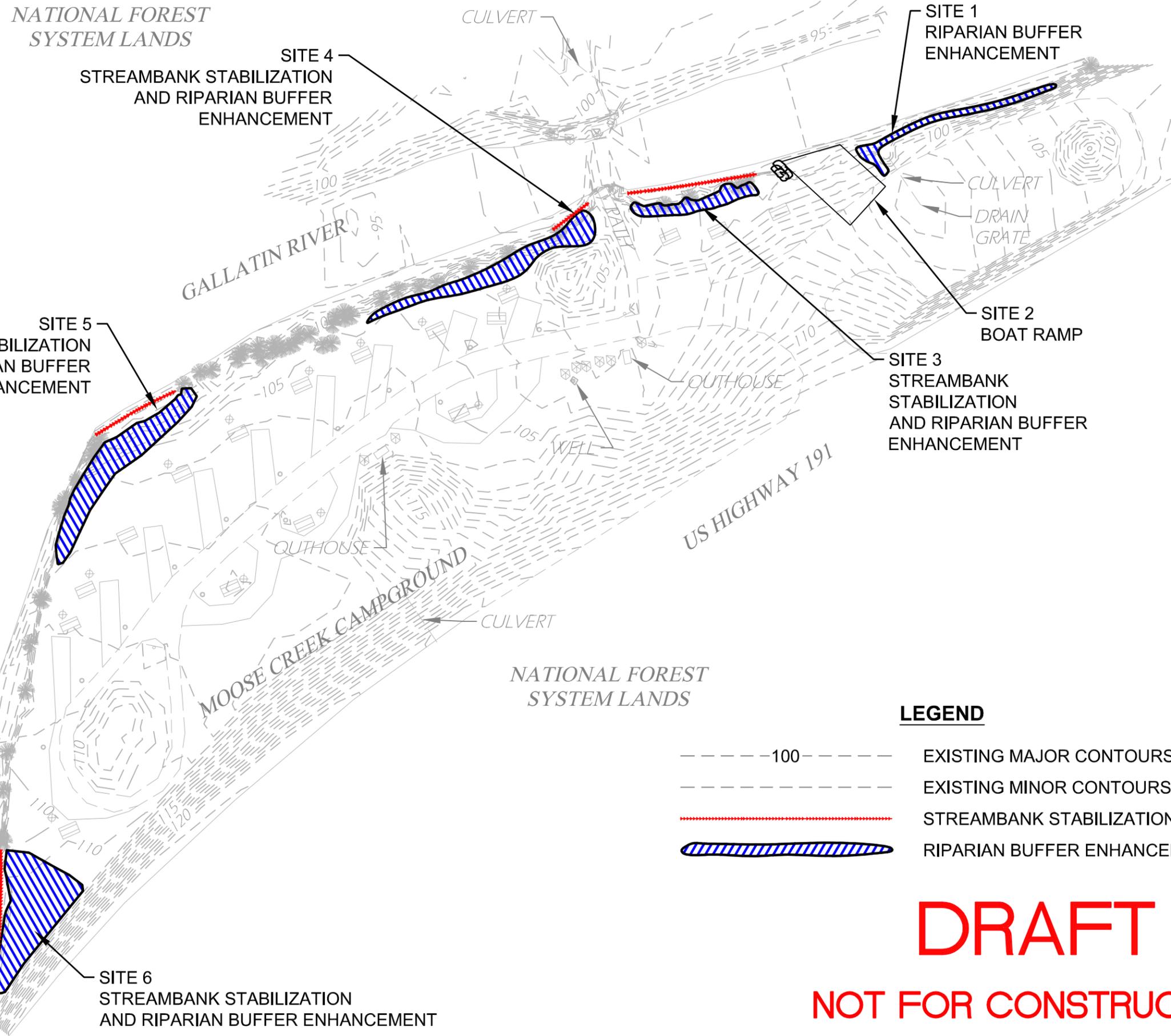
Above left: Loose soil has a negative impact on macroinvertebrates. Heavy machinery will be used to re-stabilize banks and volunteers will assist willow plantings and construction of foot paths and jack-rail fencing to direct river access.

Above right and direct left: Many visitors use Moose Creek as an access point to the Gallatin River, including rafters, kayakers, fishers, campers, picnickers, and many more.

USGS 06043500 Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway
2,750 CFS at 6 AM

Photos taken by Rich Addicks on 27 May 2015

NAME: G:\RESPEC\02605 - GALLATIN RIVER ACCESS SITES\CAD\SHSHEETS\02605_S_STRUCTURES.DWG
 PLOT DATE: July 29, 2015 6:26 PM, BY: JUDY ROSENBAUM



LEGEND

----- 100 -----	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOURS
-----	EXISTING MINOR CONTOURS
.....	STREAMBANK STABILIZATION
	RIPARIAN BUFFER ENHANCEMENT

DRAFT
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

	3810 VALLEY COMMONS DR. SUITE 4 BOZEMAN, MT 59718 PHONE (406) 284-2525	REVISION _____ _____ _____
	DESIGNED: JD/ML DRAWN: JR CHECKED: JD/ML DATE: 07/29/2015	STAMP
MOOSE CREEK FLAT RIVER ACCESS IMPROVEMENT - PHASE 1		PROPOSED STRUCTURES PLAN VIEW
SHEET NUMBER: 6		SHEET 6

File Code: 2320/2530

Date: November 24, 2015

Michelle McGree
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Fisheries Division
1420 E. Sixth Ave.
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

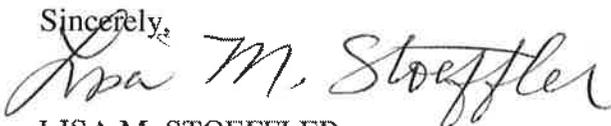
Dear Ms McGree,

I am writing to express the our strong support for the Gallatin River Task Force's grant application for support Moose Flat Day Use Area river access improvement and stream bank restoration project. As you know, a healthy and accessible Gallatin River is an unmeasurable resource for residents and visitors of Big Sky.

The Bozeman Ranger District and the Gallatin River Task Force have recently developed a partnership to jointly work on projects benefiting the watershed health of the Gallatin River watershed. The Custer Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman Ranger District, is responsible for the management of the Gallatin River watershed on National Forest lands. These responsibilities include the protection and management of natural and cultural resources, providing for safe and enjoyable public recreation and access, public health and safety, maintaining recreation sites, trails, and public infrastructure, and providing information and environmental education. Jointly with the Gallatin River Task Force we are starting two projects to assist in meeting those responsibilities: a stream bank restoration and river access improvement project at the Moose Flat Day Use Area, and a comprehensive mapping project of river access sites and access roads along the Gallatin River from Red Cliff Campground downstream to the National Forest Boundary.

I am excited and optimistic about the our partnership with the Gallatin River Task Force since it will allow the Bozeman Ranger District to expand opportunities for watershed and recreational improvements within the Gallatin River watershed. The Gallatin River Task Force's considerable experience providing watershed education, water quality monitoring, and implementing watershed improvement projects is a valuable contribution to conservation efforts in the Gallatin River watershed.

Sincerely,



LISA M. STOEFFLER
District Ranger





November 30, 2015

Ms. Michelle McGree
Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Ms. McGree:

RE: Gallatin River Task Force Moose Creek Flat Project

Over the past 20 years, the Bozeman and Big Sky area has experienced rapid growth and increased use of the Gallatin River. As more people experience and enjoy the Gallatin River, signs of overuse have started to appear, including streambank erosion at several sites along the river where floaters put-in and take-out and at points used to access the river for wade fishing. To address these emerging concerns, the Gallatin River Task Force led a study in 2015 to document existing recreational access along 39 miles of the Gallatin River between the Yellowstone Park boundary and Spanish Creek. The Gallatin Canyon River Access Site Assessment report identified 111 access sites. For each access site, the type of use was documented and proposed improvements were developed. Through this process, the Moose Creek Flat Campground was identified as one of the top priorities for recreational access site improvements.

The Moose Creek Flat Campground is currently used to launch rafts from trailers, along with carry-in paddle rafts and kayaks and wade fishing. Unmanaged use at this site has led to streambank erosion, riparian degradation and increased sediment inputs to the river. The Moose Creek Flat Project involves development of a boat ramp, improved wading access, restoration of eroding streambanks and riparian vegetation enhancements. This project will help reduce sediment inputs to the river from eroding streambanks and from areas that have been degraded through unmanaged recreational access. In addition, it is anticipated that developing a boat ramp at this site will reduce the use of other undeveloped access points and thereby reduce streambank erosion and riparian degradation at those sites.

The Moose Creek Flat Project will help improve fish habitat by reducing sediment loads from streambank erosion and improving riparian conditions. This project will also improve access to the river for both wade fishing and for floating. RESPEC is a committed project partner with the Gallatin River Task Force and we would appreciate your support of this exciting project.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dunn
Watershed Hydrologist



patagonia
SERVICE CENTER

8550 White Fir Street
Reno, NV 89523

(775) 747-1887
Fax (775) 746-6816

October 5, 2015

Andrea Saari
Gallatin River Task Force
PO Box 160513
Big Sky, MT 59716

Hi *Andrea*,

On behalf of Patagonia's World Trout Grants Council, I'm pleased to send you this \$5,000. conservation grant check to support the Task Force's trout habitat and river access improvement project. We appreciated your collaborative approach to Moose Creek restoration project which includes the many stakeholders that use the creek and the measurable on-the-ground outcomes involved in the project.

Good luck and keep up the great work!

Cheers,

Ron Hunter
Patagonia Environmental Programs
Reno, NV

cc World Trout Grants Council

November 26, 2015

Fay Augustyn
Intermountain West Blue Trails Manager
American Rivers
1536 Wynkoop Street Suite 320 Denver, CO 80202

Re: Gallatin River Moose Creek Flat Project

I am writing to express my support for the Gallatin River Moose Creek Flat improvement project.

The Gallatin is one of America's great rivers and very popular with recreational floaters and fisherman. Signs of degradation are visible and will continue to deteriorate.

As a 25 year resident and frequent user of the area I think this would be a fantastic project for grant funding and would also be money well spent.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will find this project as valuable as we do.

Warm Regards,

Eric Becker
President
GEYSER WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS
Big Sky Montana
406.539.6291
ericbecker@3rivers.net



November 20, 2015

To:
Fay Augustyn
Intermountain West Blue Trails Manager
American Rivers
1536 Wynkoop Street Suite 320 Denver, CO 80202

Dear Fay,

I am writing this letter of support for the Moose Creek Restoration Project that is currently being proposed by Blue Water Task Force in Big Sky, Montana.

I have lived in the Gallatin River watershed and have been a boater, fisherman and enthusiast for this river for 18 years. During my tenure in this region I have witnessed a dramatic increase in usage of the Gallatin River and believe the need for organized access points is critical. Currently there are countless rouge access points causing considerable damage to stream bank, flora, fauna and creating dangerous traffic situations on Highway 191.

Southwest Montana is slated to have a dramatic double digit increase in population in the upcoming years with no end in sight for development and growth; this will likely continue to increase the demand on the watersheds in this region including the Gallatin. Funding for the Moose Creek Restoration Project is critical and money well spent to preserve one of the finest rivers in the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Eric Ladd
406-570-0639
eric@theoutlawpartners.com
<http://www.theoutlawpartners.com/>