

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

(Please fill in the highlighted areas)

all sections (IA, IB, IC, etc.) must be addressed or the application will be considered invalid

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 E-mail: ryen@montanatu.org

D. Contact Person: Ryen Neudecker

Address if different from Applicant: See above

City: State: Zip:

Telephone: E-mail:

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Wade & Dianna Stitt

Mailing Address: 1604 Lower Braziel Creek Rd

City: Helmville State: MT Zip: 59843

Telephone: 406.793.5762 E-mail: NA

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Nevada Creek Restoration Project

River, stream, or lake: Nevada Creek

Location: Township: 12N Range: 10W Section: 11

Latitude: 46.482714 Longitude: 112.493202 *within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Powell

B. Purpose of Project: _____

The purpose of this project is to build upon a large-scale restoration project along a highly visible reach of Nevada Creek by restoring channel stability, aquatic habitat function and riparian health.

C. Brief Project Description:

Nevada Creek is a large third-order tributary to the middle Blackfoot River and supports populations of westslope cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, brown trout and many other fish species. Nevada Creek is also listed on the total maximum daily load (TMDL) 303(d) list for nutrients, siltation, suspended solids and thermal modifications. In 2010, a 4,400 foot stretch of channel downstream of the Nevada Creek reservoir that suffered from eroding banks, lacked instream complexity and was deficient of a suitable riparian vegetation community was restored. Sediment analysis indicated that 0.21 tons of sediment per foot was being lost each year pre-project. Streambank stability and habitat considerations were addressed through native materials of toe wood with woody transplants and log vanes to direct the thalweg off the banks, reduce near bank shear stress and eliminate existing high bank dimensions. A grazing management plan was also developed with the landowner that manages livestock in a manner consistent with the protection of the investment. Monitoring data post-project has shown a dramatic recovery in both instream and riparian habitat conditions and trout populations have shown a positive recovery. With this proposed phase 2 project, we are focused on expanding work along Nevada Creek to build upon the success of phase one by restoring 3,500 feet of channel. Data analysis estimates that over 215 tons of sediment is being generated in the project area from unstable stream banks. Project objectives include:

1. Improve the habitat for salmonids by increasing overhead and in-stream cover
2. Restore proper channel dimensions within the over-widened, entrenched stream corridor
3. Reduce sediment supply by stabilizing stream banks using native materials such as wood/brush fascines, willow cuttings and transplants
4. Restore floodplain connectivity and functionality
5. Implement revegetation techniques to set the stage for natural recruitment of riparian vegetation
6. Implement a grazing management system to protect the riparian area.
7. Continue to build on the educational opportunities of working on a highly visible tributary within the Blackfoot watershed.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 3,500

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 47,000

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ 5,000 In-kind \$ 6,760

(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ 129,425 In-kind \$ 15,250
 (attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 203,435.00

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, brown trout and rainbow trout

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

The proposed reach along Nevada Creek lacks suitable habitat to support trout populations. By addressing bank erosion issues, improper channel dimensions and lack of floodplain connection and riparian function we anticipate a dramatic improvement in instream and riparian habitat conditions.

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

Yes: Fisheries monitoring data completed on the reach of Nevada Creek restored in 2010, has shown an increase in both size and numbers of trout populations. See data chart included within this application.

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

Yes: Public access is available and the site is easily accessed. Due to the monitoring data of the phase 1 project, we have seen a significant increase in the number of trout and thus we anticipate adding close to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of fishable habitat on Nevada Creek.

E. The project agreement includes a 20-year maintenance commitment. Please discuss your ability to meet this commitment.

The landowner has agreed to sign a 20-year landowner agreement that includes a riparian grazing management plan.

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

The channel was historically straightened and the lack of a functional riparian area has caused the channel to erode and downcut.

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 habitat for rainbow and brown trout and 3) improved water quality conditions.

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

No

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:

Ryan Neudecker

Date:

November 21, 2016

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 rejected and returned to applicant.
 Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be signed and received by the Future Fisheries Program Officer in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.

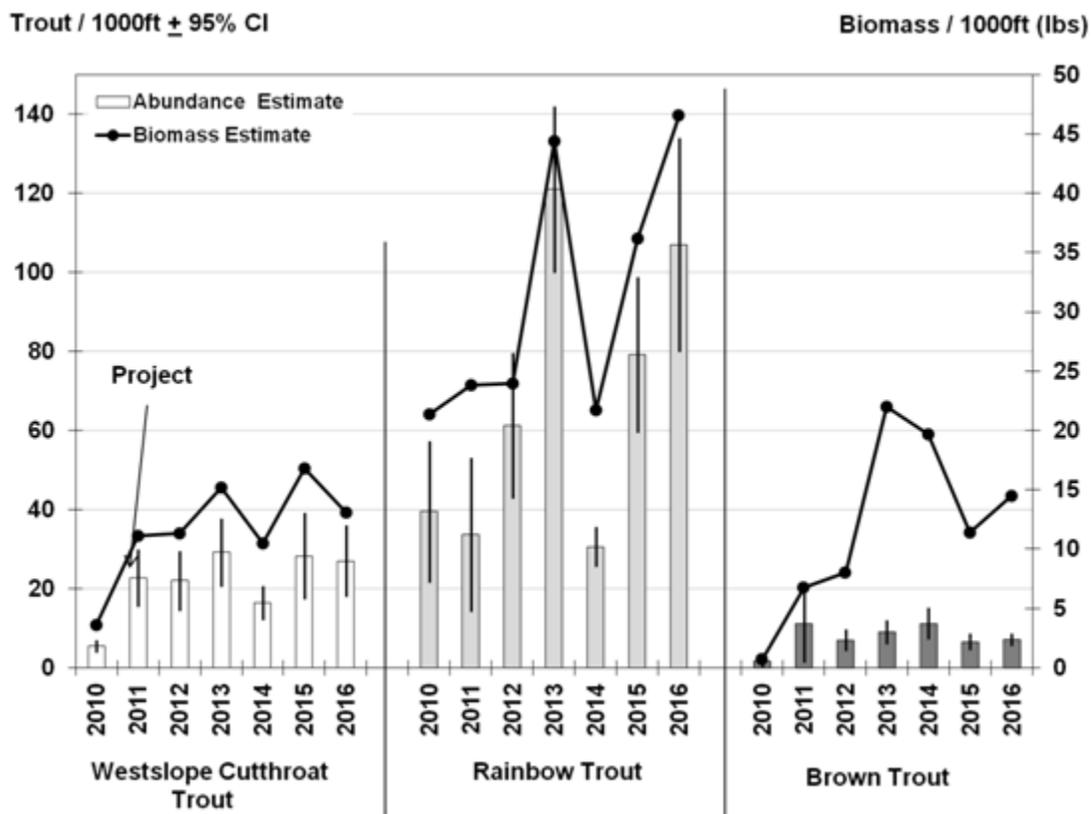


Figure 1: Trout population data from phase 1 of Nevada Creek.

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	60	hrs	\$100.00	\$ 6,000.00			6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Design	120	hrs	\$110.00	\$ 13,200.00			13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00
Engineering	50	hrs	\$100.00	\$ 5,000.00			5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Permitting	40	hrs	\$40.00	\$ 1,600.00		1,600.00		\$ 1,600.00
Oversight	150	hrs	\$100.00	\$ 15,000.00			15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Oversight	100	hrs	\$40.00	\$ 4,000.00		4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 44,800.00	\$ -	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 39,200.00	\$ 44,800.00
Travel								
Mileage	2000	miles	\$0.58	\$ 1,160.00		1,160.00		\$ 1,160.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 1,160.00	\$ -	\$ 1,160.00	\$ -	\$ 1,160.00
Construction Materials****								
Transplants	50	each	\$25.00	\$ 1,250.00		1,250.00		\$ 1,250.00
Willow Cuttings	15000	each	\$1.00	\$ 15,000.00	5,000.00		10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Fence	7000	ft	\$1.50	\$ 10,500.00	2,000.00		8,500.00	\$ 10,500.00
Water Gap	2	each	\$500.00	\$ 1,000.00			1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Brush	30	CY	\$100.00	\$ 3,000.00		1,500.00	1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Wood	100	CY	\$250.00	\$ 25,000.00		12,500.00	12,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 55,750.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 15,250.00	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 55,750.00
Equipment and Labor								
Hydraulic Excavator	410	hrs	\$135.00	\$ 55,350.00	23,000.00		32,350.00	\$ 55,350.00
Tracked Skidsteer	150	hrs	\$90.00	\$ 13,500.00	5,000.00		8,500.00	\$ 13,500.00
Track Truck	175	hrs	\$125.00	\$ 21,875.00	8,000.00		13,875.00	\$ 21,875.00
Labor	200	hrs	\$45.00	\$ 9,000.00	4,000.00		5,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 99,725.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 59,725.00	\$ 99,725.00
Mobilization								
All Equipment	1	lump Sum	\$2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00			2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
TOTALS				\$ 203,435.00	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 22,010.00	\$ 134,425.00	\$ 203,435.00

****Design and oversight consultant was seleted through a competitive Request for Proposals process**

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS (do not include requested funds)

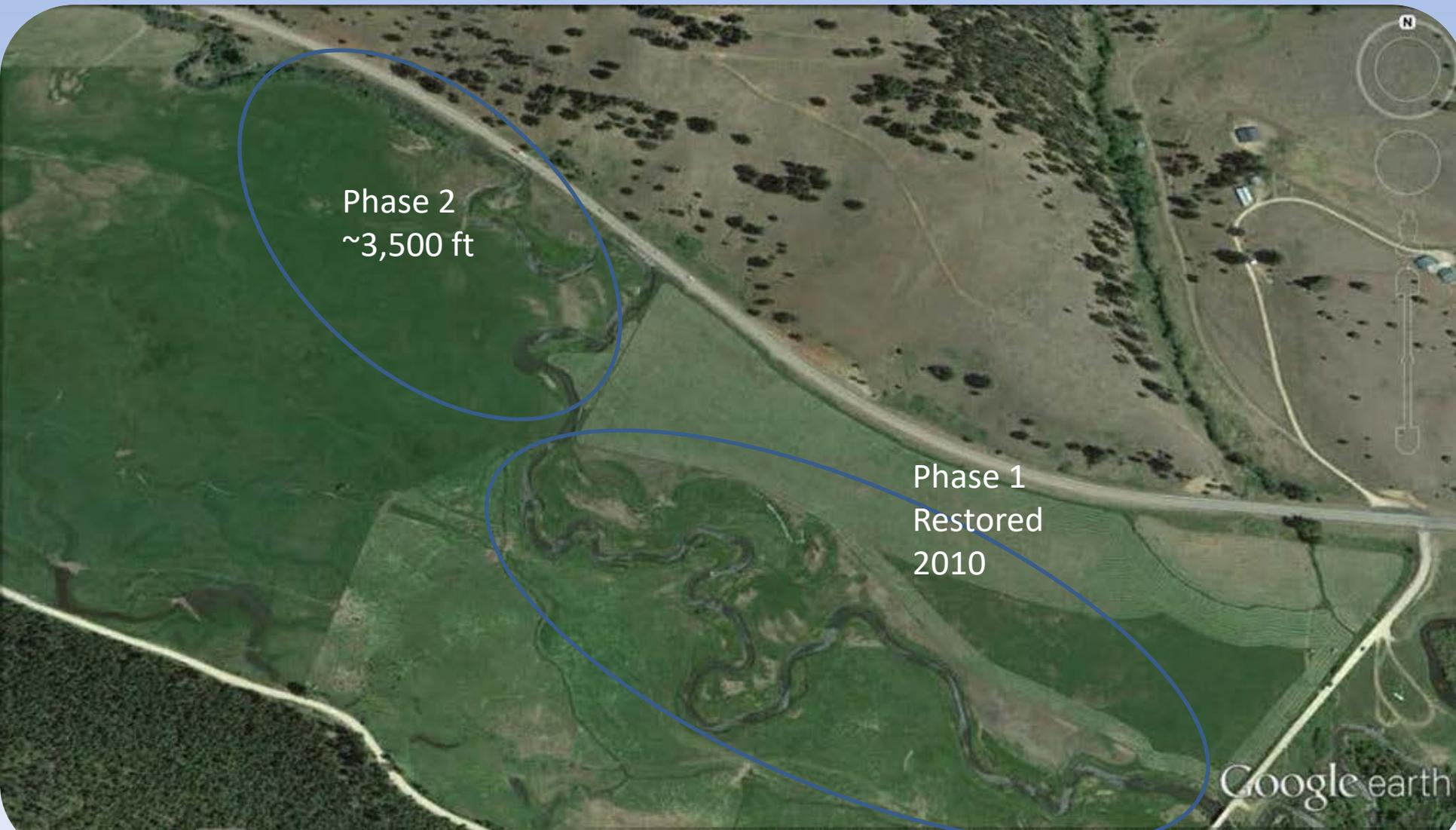
CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Landowner	\$ 15,250.00	\$ -	\$ 15,250.00	Yes

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Bring Back the Natives	\$ -	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 29,000.00	Yes
USFWS Partners Program	\$ -	\$ 26,425.00	\$ 26,425.00	Yes
DEQ 319 Program	\$ -	\$ 74,000.00	\$ 74,000.00	Yes
Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited	\$ 6,760.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 11,760.00	Yes
TOTALS	\$ 22,010.00	\$ 134,425.00	\$ 156,435.00	

Nevada Creek

Restoration Overview



Phase 2
~3,500 ft

Phase 1
Restored
2010

Bank erosion rates reduced significantly during phase 1



Estimated 1,220 tons of sediment/year lost through project reach ~3.5 orders of magnitude more than a C4 reference condition

Native shrubs popping throughout phase 1 project reach

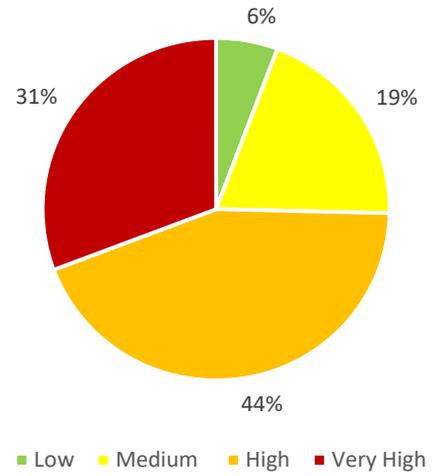


Example of existing condition along Nevada Creek Phase 2

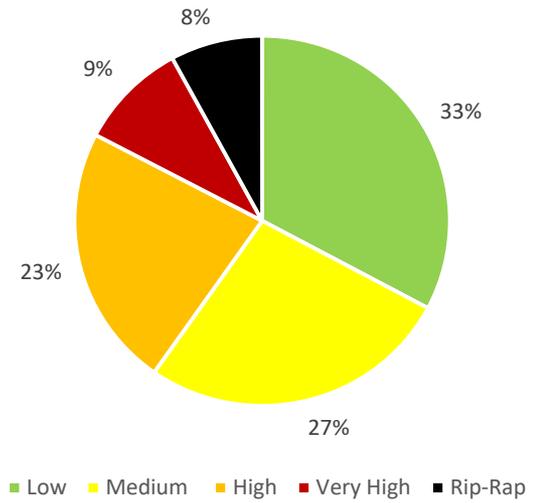




Bank Erosion by Rating



BEHI Rating Proportion





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Montana Partners for Fish & Wildlife
POB 66
Ovando, MT 59854



November 23, 2016

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Future Fisheries Funding Program
1320 E. 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59620

RE: BBCTU Nevada Creek Restoration Project

Dear Program Review Members:

I am submitting this letter in support of the Future Fisheries grant application submitted by the BBCTU and partners. This important project detailed within the application are a collaborative effort between many partners including a private landowner, BBCTU, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MTFWP), DEQ, Blackfoot Challenge and the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

The proposed projects will complement numerous efforts in the Blackfoot Watershed during the past 29 years and this watershed wide, community based conservation and restoration effort has resulted in population increases of almost 800% for westslope cutthroat and bull trout in comparison to baseline numbers, the strongest indicator we have for the health of our watershed.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife has a long history of working with the associated private landowner and other partners collaborating to restore the cold water fishery of the important tributaries feeding the Blackfoot River. We support the proposed project in that we will be able to continue our efforts of restoring native trout by addressing limiting factors within the watershed by working with committed landowners.

I encourage your strong consideration of this proposal and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information at (406)793-7402.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy Gazda, Assistant State Coordinator