



WHIP 2026 Grant Cycle Application Summary Briefs

Note- This is an AI generated summary of project applications to provide limited background information on proposed projects, and may have slight inaccuracies.

Arctic Grayling Habitat Conservation and Enhancement: This large-scale, multi-ranch conservation initiative seeks to improve instream flows, restore riparian health, and enhance habitat connectivity for Arctic grayling by implementing conservation measures such as headgate installation, ditch re-grading, riparian fencing, fish passage improvements, stockwater upgrades, and wetland restoration.

Bangtail Creek Restoration – Phase II: Restores riparian and stream habitat by excluding livestock, stabilizing eroding banks, reshaping channel structure, building floodplain benches, planting willows, and improving stream processes to benefit Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, riparian birds, amphibians, and upland wildlife.

Big Hole Spring Creek Spawning Channel: Restores 1,600 feet of spring creek habitat by narrowing and stabilizing channel form, reconstructing spawning riffles, increasing hydraulic diversity, and enhancing riparian vegetation to improve spawning and rearing habitat for trout and wildlife.

Boone & Crockett Conifer Encroachment Project: Removes encroaching conifers, treats invasive grasses, and improves wildlife-friendly fencing to restore grassland, shrubland, and aspen habitat, increase forage, improve migration corridors, and reduce wildfire risk for elk, deer, sheep, birds, and carnivores.

Blackfeet Wildlife-Friendly Fence Program: Converts 150 miles of fencing on tribal lands to wildlife-friendly designs to restore connectivity for elk, bison, pronghorn, and moose, re-open access to habitat, and support long-term tribal wildlife refuge planning.

Bob Marshall Wilderness Plant Management: Treats 3,000 acres of invasive weeds, monitors 750 miles of trails, and restores campsites to protect native vegetation, improve habitat resilience, and support species such as grizzly bear, wolverine, trout, pollinators, and alpine wildlife.

Ettien Ridge Fuels Reduction Project: Removes dense young conifers, piles and burns slash, and expands prescribed fire treatments to restore 73 acres of ponderosa pine winter range, improve forage, reduce wildfire risk, and enhance habitat for elk, deer, and bighorn sheep.

Browns Gulch Beaver-Based Restoration: Installs beaver-dam analogs to raise water tables, expand wet meadow vegetation, increase late-season flows, improve aquatic habitat, and prepare for future beaver reintroduction supporting trout, mussels, amphibians, and riparian wildlife.

Clark Fork Grass Valley Restoration: Upgrades a diversion structure, installs fish screens, adds pneumatic gates, and constructs a rock ramp to reconnect 200 miles of aquatic habitat for bull trout, cutthroat trout, and migratory fish while improving riparian areas and public safety.

Flathead Ridge Ranch Weed Treatment: Treats 529 acres of invasive weeds using backpack, drone, and ground spraying to restore native grasslands, improve big game forage, strengthen wildlife corridors, and prepare for future burning and reseeding efforts.

Haines Homestead Fencing & Spring Repair: Repairs a failing spring system and replaces 4 miles of fencing with wildlife-friendly designs to protect forage, restore water availability, reduce ungulate mortality, and enhance year-round habitat for elk, deer, moose, and upland wildlife.

Great Burn Habitat Restoration: Treats invasive weeds, restores riparian and alpine habitats, reduces campsite impacts, and monitors ecological conditions to protect habitat for grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx, trout, pollinators, mountain goats, and backcountry wildlife.

Hound Creek & Middle Creek Headwaters- Sieben Ranch: Improves 18,000 acres of habitat by upgrading water systems, reducing riparian grazing, treating weeds, removing conifers, and improving fencing to restore fish habitat, forage quality, and big game movement corridors.

Lane Ranch Grazing Management: Implements virtual fencing and rotational grazing across 37,000 acres to protect riparian areas, control invasive annual grasses, restore native vegetation, and improve habitat for grouse, pronghorn, elk, deer, and grassland birds.

Lower Boulder Conifer Removal: Removes juniper and Douglas-fir from 80 acres of sagebrush habitat and treats weeds while providing wood for riparian restoration, improving habitat for sagebrush birds, pollinators, and big game.

Mountain Bluebird House Project: Adds 50 new nest boxes, repairs existing structures, and expands nesting corridors to increase secure breeding habitat and support bluebird population growth across open grasslands.

Missouri River Riparian Cottonwood Restoration: Plants cottonwood, dogwood, and willow on one acre of degraded riparian land to rebuild overstory and understory

vegetation, improve water quality, stabilize banks, and enhance habitat for birds, turtles, deer, and fish.

Lower Grant Creek Restoration: Reconstructs 2,500 feet of stream channel, restores wetland and riparian vegetation, improves water quality, excludes cattle, and enhances habitat for trout, amphibians, birds, and wetland wildlife.

Musselshell Floodplain Enhancement: Realigns a river channel, stabilizes banks, removes embankments, and relocates irrigation infrastructure to reconnect floodplains, improve warmwater fish habitat, and restore riparian vegetation.

Spanish Creek Wetland Restoration: Builds 80 beaver-mimicking structures, plugs drains, plants riparian species, and prepares for beaver reintroduction to expand wetlands, cool streams, store water, and benefit trout, grayling, amphibians, birds, and big game.

Upper Jefferson Channel Restoration: Reactivates side channels, improves fish passage, stabilizes banks, and enhances spawning habitat to strengthen trout and whitefish populations and restore riparian ecosystems.

Winnett ACES Grazing Systems Project: Installs grazing infrastructure, restores native grasslands, removes conifers, enhances mesic habitats, and improves wildlife-friendly fencing across 55,000 acres to boost sage-grouse, grassland bird, pronghorn, and big game habitat.
