



DECISION NOTICE
on
FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT
FLINT CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION PHASE 3A (FWP-DN-FSH-R8-2024-001)

September 17, 2024

Proposed Action: Through the Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP), funding would be provided by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to a project on Flint Creek, in Missoula County.

Flint Creek is a tributary to the Clark Fork River that is essential spawning habitat for brown trout and rainbow trout, as well as a migratory corridor and overwintering habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. This project is part of a multi-phase, long-term effort in the Flint Creek watershed to engage private landowners in projects to restore and reconnect habitats, conserve streamflows, and improve water quality. This project would rebuild and restore eroding streambanks, improve native vegetation communities through plantings in riparian areas, and re-establish a riparian buffer through the use of an alternate grazing management plan with a setback buffer. The goals are to reduce sedimentation and nutrient loading, improve streambank stability and channel habitat complexity, improve floodplain function and groundwater recharge, and increase woody riparian vegetation.

Alternative Considered: No action. The proposed action of funding this project would not occur. The applicant would either not complete the improvements or would obtain funding from other sources.

Montana Environmental Policy Act: FWP is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment. The DEA was available for public comment from August 26, 2024 to September 10, 2024 and was posted on the FWP webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/public-notice>.

Public Comment: No comments were received during the public comment period.

Decision Notice: There are no modifications necessary to the DEA based on public comment. The DEA, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal. This is based on the lack of public comment and the positive benefits of this activity as outlined in the DEA. I find there are no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with these projects. Therefore, I conclude that the DEA is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. FWP will adopt the DEA as the final EA and proceed with the projects as planned.

Thank you for your interest,

Adam Strainer
Fish Habitat Bureau Chief
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks