



2024 Nonpoint Source Application - On-the-Ground Projects

General Information

Project Name Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant Name Trout Unlimited

Is your organization registered with the Montana Secretary of State? ☒ Y ☐ N

Explanation: Each applicant must be registered with the Montana Secretary of State to do business in the state of Montana. Registration with the Secretary of State may be completed via the following website: <https://sosmt.gov/business/>

Is your organization registered with the federal System for Award Management (SAM)? ☒ Y ☐ N

Explanation: Each applicant is required to register with SAM. To register or check your organization's status, go to <https://sam.gov/content/home>. If you get an "Unsupported Browser" error, copy, and paste the link into a Google Chrome browser window.

Your organization's Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI #)

Explanation: Each applicant is required to have a current UEI number. The UEI number replaces the old DUNS number. If your organization had a DUNS number, you should have received a notification from the federal government indicating that your DUNS number has been changed to a UEI number. If you did not receive this notification, or if you never had a DUNS number, you will need to go to the federal government's System for Award Management (SAM - <https://sam.gov/content/home>) to obtain your UEI number. DEQ recommends starting this process early as it is very time-consuming, requires providing documentation-sometimes with follow-up requests for additional information, and can take up to 2 months to complete. If you need assistance, you may contact the federal help desk at 866-606-8220 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. EST.

Does your organization have adequate liability insurance for the risks associated with your project? ☐ N ☒ Y

Explanation: Each applicant must have or obtain liability insurance coverage meeting the requirements stated in the Draft Sample Contract and/or requirements negotiated based on the appropriate level of risk associated with the project.

Primary Contact Tess Scanlon **Title** Project Manager

Address 312 N. Higgins St. 200 **City** Missoula **State** MT **Zip Code** 59802

Phone Number 406-552-2168 **Email** TScanlon@tu.org


Signature Tess  Digitally signed by Tess
Date: 2024.04.05 16:57:28 -06'00'

Explanation: This is the person who DEQ would routinely contact to discuss project progress, billing, etc.

Signatory Tess Scanlon **Title** Project Manager

Address 312 N. Higgins St. 200 **City** Missoula **State** MT **Zip Code** 59802

Phone Number 406-552-2168 **Email** TScanlon@tu.org

Signature Teresa Scanlon  Digitally signed by Teresa Scanlon
Date: 2024.03.11 14:37:14 -06'00'

Explanation: This is the person who can legally sign contracts and other binding documents on behalf of the applicant (e.g., a board chair)

Note: The primary contact and the signatory must both sign the application. Signatures must be either signed electronically, or wet-signed, scanned and emailed.

Describe the technical and administrative skills your organization will use to effectively and efficiently complete your proposed project(s).

Budget Form

Please fill out the On-the-Ground Project Budget Template (Excel file). Cells highlighted in yellow may be edited to fit the needs of your particular project. DEQ uses a template to construct nonpoint source grant contracts. The Budget Template contains tasks and typical deliverables that match up with the grant contract template. Please see the Example Contract and Scope of Work Template for a more detailed look at typical task requirements and deliverables.

Project Form

A separate Project Form (including providing separate attachments) must be submitted for each project included in your application. y lump and when to split projects.

Splitting Examples (fill out multiple Project Forms)

- Stream restoration work occurring on two separate streams..
- Two projects with significantly different sets of project partners.
- Two projects that address substantially different pollution sources (e.g., one project move a corral off of a streambank, and another removes mine tailings, with both projects being on the same property).

Lumping Examples

- Contiguous stream restoration work spanning multiple land parcels.
- Three projects that address similar sources of pollution on a single land parcel (e.g., moving a corral off a stream, implementing a grazing management plan, and relocating a manure storage facility out of the floodplain, all on the same ranch)

Required Attachments

Letter of support from the author of the DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan or EPA-approved Tribal Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

Letter of support from EACH landowner, lessee, or land manager associated with the proposed project area.

Budget Table (see attached Microsoft Excel Template).

Project Form

Detailed Project site map(s) Attach a map or set of maps showing the location and size of proposed activity. The map scale must be between 1:1,000 and 1:12,500. The map(s) must have an aerial photo background (e.g., USDA NAIP photography, Google Earth imagery, etc.). The map(s) must show the latitude, longitude, site name, and landowner for the activity site. The map(s) should also identify waterbodies affected by the pollution that the activity is designed to address.

Optional Attachments

Attach additional items and information that could help reviewers better understand your project. Information could describe public health risks, opportunities to leverage other funding sources, etc. However, application reviewers may have limited time available, and excessively long, optional attachments might not get reviewed. Do not attach copies of TMDL documents, TMDL implementation evaluations, Watershed Restoration Plans, Tribal Nonpoint Source Plans, or large comprehensive studies. The following attachments may be included.

Project Design Plans/Drawings

Preliminary Engineering Reports / Site Evaluations

Landowner Agreements / Construction Permits / Floodplain Permits

Site photos

Additional Letters of Support

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Project Name

PROJECT AREA: Use the tools below to provide as detailed a description of the project area as possible.

List the counties in which the project will be located.

List the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs), sometimes referred to as Sixth Code HUCs, in which the project will take place. If you need assistance in determining the HUCs, please contact DEQ.

In addition to providing your own project site map, please go to the following website and follow the instructions to add your project location to the map.

<https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/42f4a668285c4ef6aa94b1623f10df57>

Connection to a Previous or Ongoing Project

Is this project tied to a previous or ongoing project? If so, please describe the connection.

Project Purpose

Select the watershed restoration plan or tribal nonpoint source plan that your project will help implement (please type in if missing from list).

Letter of support from author entity attached? (If no, explain why below.)

IMPAIRMENT LISTINGS: Unless addressing healthy watersheds (see below), all projects must address probable causes of impairment on a waterbody identified in the 2020 List of Impaired Waters.

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed

HEALTHY WATERSHEDS: While the majority of the project funding is dedicated to addressing known impairments, a limited amount of funding can be used to protect non-impaired waters (healthy waters) from becoming impaired.

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected

Description of identified threat to non-impairment status

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected

Description of identified threat to non-impairment status

Project Partners

Identify each of the project partners and describe their contribution to the project. Include landowners, land managers, project designers, funders, and your own organization. Indicate whether each partner, other than your organization, has provided a letter of support. (Note: each landowner must provide a letter of support.)

Landowner	Contributions to Project	Letter of Support Attached?
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Project Partner	Contributions to Project	Letter of Support Attached?
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Project Coordination and Planning Task

This task would include completion of all applicable planning tasks from the list below, as well as coordination and oversight of the efforts of all project partners.

Identify the status of the following project planning tasks, where applicable.

	Completed?	Copy Attached?	To Be Completed Pre-Contract (Oct 2024)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
*Draft Project Designs				
*Final Project Designs				
Consultation With Potential Regulators				
Necessary Permits				
Cultural Resources Inventory (<i>may be relevant</i>)				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				

***See Call for Applications Section 5.1 for minimum design standards.*

Describe any additional project planning that *will have been completed prior to execution of a contract (October 2024).*

Describe any additional project planning and coordination that will need to be completed after the execution of a contract (October 2024).

Landowner Agreement Task

DEQ includes the following language in every nonpoint source contract involving on-the-ground activities:

Contractor shall submit signed landowner agreement(s) verifying that Contractor and DEQ staff may access the project site, at reasonable times and with prior notification, for the purposes of project planning, implementation, and post-implementation monitoring. The agreement(s) must ensure appropriate operation and maintenance of all structures, vegetation, and management measures for the life of the project (typically 10 years). If grazing will be allowed within the project area, the agreement(s) must include a sustainable management plan for livestock grazing, designed to protect and enhance riparian function. If a signed landowner agreement does not meet the above-stated minimum requirements, Contractor shall negotiate an amended agreement with the landowner that ensures appropriate operation and maintenance of all structures, vegetation, management measures, and includes a sustainable management plan for any livestock grazing for the life of the project (typically 10 years).

Identify the status of the following landowner agreement tasks, where applicable.

	Completed?	Copy Attached?	To Be Completed Pre-Contract (Aug 2024)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
Draft Landowner Agreement(s)				
Final Landowner Agreement(s)				
Grazing Management Plan				
Other:				
Other:				

Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task

If you will be conducting any on-the-ground implementation work, you will be required to complete the monitoring activities described in the task language below, as applicable. Describe below how you plan to determine the effectiveness of your project.

If you are applying for nonpoint source grant funding for project design only, and not for project implementation, you may either skip this task, or describe below which parts of this task you intend to complete:

Example Task Language

Contractor shall, in consultation with the DEQ Project Manager, develop a reasonable method or set of methods for evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the project in addressing water quality issues. Contractor shall complete a monitoring plan to guide monitoring activities. Contractor shall complete the following monitoring activities:

- *Estimate the sediment load reductions (tons/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *Estimate the nitrogen load reductions (pounds/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *Estimate the phosphorus load reductions (pounds/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *For projects designed to address pollution from pollutants other than nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the project in addressing water quality issues.*
- *Contractor shall collect data, as directed by the DEQ Project Manager, to be used in estimating sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus load reductions achieved through implementation of restoration activities and management practices designed to address these pollutants.*
- *Use the following measures to evaluate the sustainability of restoration activities and management practices:*
 - *[Vegetation mortality rate.]*
 - *Pre- and post-construction photo point monitoring consistent with the “Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Guide to Photo Monitoring” methodologies, or a similar published photo point monitoring method accepted by DEQ. The U.S. Forest Service provides additional photo point monitoring guidance in the “United States Forest Service Photo Point Monitoring Handbook”.*
 - *[Riparian survey.]*
 - *[Other.]*

Please describe any additional monitoring you intend to do as part of the project.

Project Implementation Task

Provide a detailed description of the solution you are proposing to implement to address a nonpoint source pollution problem. Describe the practices you intend to design and/or implement to solve the problem (what, where, when, how much or how many). Describe the anticipated maintenance needs (what, where, who, how long). Refer to the minimum design standards in the Call for Applications. ***Please fill out this section to the best of your ability, even if you are only seeking funding for project design.***

Education, Outreach and Training Task

To get good projects on the ground, trained staff and board members and educated, enthusiastic landowners are required. To promote the development of future projects, DEQ encourages project sponsors to use up to \$5,000 of funding to support training and conduct education and outreach. Example training topics might include: project management, public procurement, technical writing, GIS, water quality monitoring, web design, public speaking, human resource management, photo journalism, UAV (drone) piloting, financial management, and restoration techniques. Education and outreach activities might include targeted landowner outreach, conducting project site tours for local landowners, tabling at community events, holding a watershed festival, providing stipends and travel reimbursements for speakers and participants to attend a nonpoint source pollution prevention workshop, or generating articles for social media. The primary requirement for training and outreach is clearly explaining how the activity will support efforts to address nonpoint source pollution. Funding may not be used to pay for food and beverages, or for honorariums and gifts.

Describe the education and outreach activities you will complete to promote or facilitate future efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Identify the specific target audience.

Describe how the proposed training and/or outreach will increase local capacity and interest for addressing nonpoint source pollution.

Identify the goals of the education and outreach and describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed activities.

Project Administration Task

Please use the task description below as a guide when calculating your budget for project administration. DEQ typically includes these requirements in every nonpoint source grant contract, with only minor variation. Funding applied to Project Administration must not exceed 10% of the total amount of funding requested, or \$12,000, whichever is lower.

Example Task Language

Contractor shall oversee and be accountable for the completion of all tasks. Contractor shall maintain regular contact with the DEQ project manager. Contractor shall prepare and submit Mid-Year, Interim, Annual, and Final Reports and Attachment B Billing Statements according to the format and schedule described below.

Report Format

- *Contractor shall submit each Attachment B Billing Statement, Mid-Year Report, Interim Report, Annual Report, and Final Report using the most current reporting guidance and templates provided by the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure each Mid-Year, Interim, Annual, and Final Report contains adequate documentation to justify accompanying reimbursement requests and match reporting, to the satisfaction of the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure that the Final Report is a standalone document describing all contract activities and containing copies of all contract deliverables (even if the deliverables were previously submitted).*

Reporting Schedule

- *Mid-Year Reports: Due June 1st of each year the Contract is in effect.*
- *Annual Reports: Due December 1st of each year the Contract is in effect.*
- *Interim Reports: Due whenever reimbursement is requested outside of the normal Mid-Year, Annual and Final reporting periods while the Contract is in effect.*
- *Draft Final Report: Contractor shall submit a complete draft Final Report for DEQ review and comment at least 15 days prior to the contract expiration date.*
- *Final Report: Contractor shall submit a Final Report, addressing DEQ comments on the draft Final Report, on or before the Contract expiration date.*
- *Attachment B Billing Statements: Contractor shall submit an Attachment B Billing Statement with each Mid-Year, Interim, Annual, or Final Report submitted to DEQ while the Contract is in effect. To maintain cash flow, Contractor may submit interim Attachment B Billing Statements as frequently as monthly during the term of the Contract. However, each interim Attachment B Billing Statement must be accompanied by an Interim Report.*
- *Exception to the Reporting Schedule: The Final Report and associated Attachment B Billing Statement will replace the last required Mid-Year or Annual Report.*

Project Timeline

4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q 4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q 4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q
2024 2025 2025 2025 2025 2026 2026 2026 2026 2027 2027 2027

Project Coordination and Planning Task

Landowner Agreement Task

Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task

Project Implementation Task

Education, Outreach and Training Task

Project Administration Task

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice can be defined as: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work

DEQ is committed to carrying out the nonpoint source pollution reduction projects in an environmentally just manner. We encourage applicants to apply the principles of environmental justice in their development and implementation of nonpoint source pollution prevention projects. Below are a few examples of how applicants might apply these principles. DEQ will award additional points in the scoring form for projects that address environmental justice.

- Project planning included consultation with Tribal Nations
- Project will benefit socially or economically disadvantaged communities
- Project will occur in a community that has not previously received nonpoint source pollution reduction grant funding
- Project will address nonpoint source pollution in a community that has been disproportionately burdened by impacts from legacy pollution (e.g., SuperFund sites, legacy mine waste, etc)

Please use this section to highlight connections your project may have to addressing environmental justice. .

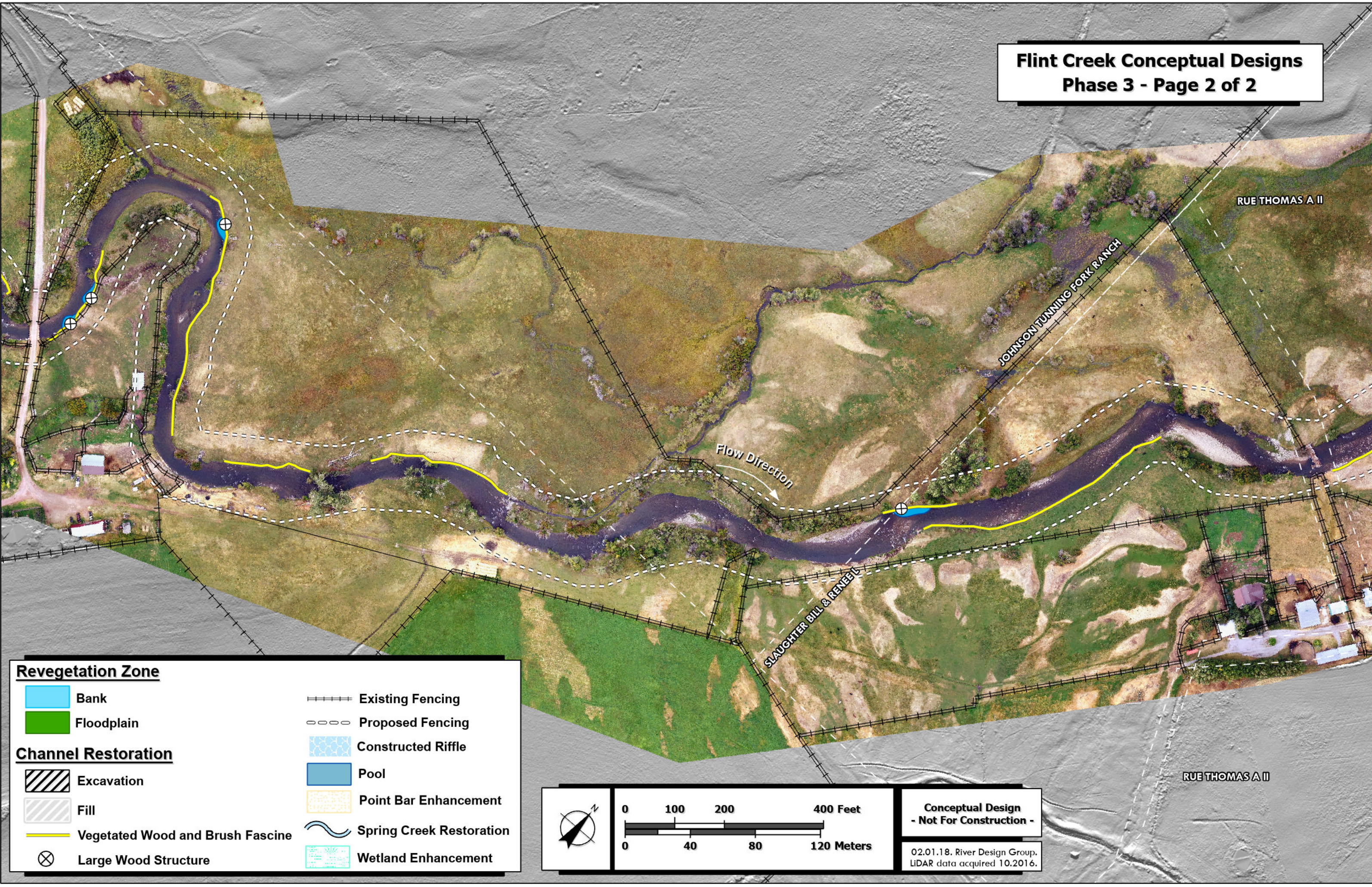
BUDGET

2024 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - On-the-Ground Project Budget Template

Project Title:		Flint Creek Phase 3 Restoration Project						
Instructions	Tasks and Potential Deliverables	319 Funding Request*	Non-Federal Match**	Other Funding***	Match Source	Match Secured? (Y/N)	Total Project Cost	Additional Information****
This task includes completion of all planning tasks and coordination and oversight of the efforts of all project partners. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	Project Planning							
	Preliminary site investigation data and site maps	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00		NRDP	Y	\$ 18,000.00	In progress
	Required Permits	\$ -		\$ 8,000.00		Y	\$ 8,000.00	
	Draft Project Designs	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	NRDP	Y	\$ 20,000.00	In progress
	Final Project Designs	\$ -		\$ 20,000.00		Y	\$ 20,000.00	Under Contract
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ -	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 38,000.00			\$ 66,000.00	
This task includes costs for developing and managing landowner agreements and developing grazing management plans as applicable. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	Landowner Agreements							
	Draft Landowner Agreement	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -				\$ 1,500.00	
	Final Landowner Agreement	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -				\$ 1,000.00	
	Grazing Management Plan	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -				\$ 1,000.00	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 3,500.00	
This task includes costs for developing and implementing a monitoring plan to evaluate effectiveness to reduce nonpoint source pollution. See example contract template or application instructions for required monitoring activities. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	Effectiveness Monitoring							
	Draft Monitoring Plan	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,000.00			\$ 2,500.00	
	Final Monitoring Plan	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00			\$ 2,000.00	
	Written Summary of all Monitoring Activities	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -				\$ 1,000.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 5,500.00	
This tasks includes all costs for implementation of the plans developed in the Project Planning task. If you are requesting funding for design only, leave this task blank. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	Project Implementation							
	Materials	\$ 36,250.00		\$ 20,000.00			\$ 56,250.00	Based on quantities and cost estimates for similar work in the area (Phase 2) \$90/ton for wo
	Heavy Equipment and Labor Costs	\$ 143,750.00		\$ 30,000.00			\$ 173,750.00	Based on cost estimates for Phase 2 work Excavator @\$180/hr (400hrs); Dump Truck @ \$150
	Construction oversight			\$ 25,000.00			\$ 25,000.00	Based on cost estimate for Phase 2 for RDG CO support
	As-built surveys			\$ 5,000.00			\$ 5,000.00	
	Photo documentation			\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00	
	Landowner recommendation letter	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -	\$ 81,500.00			\$ 261,500.00	
This task includes costs to develop and improve organizational capacity and to incorporate education and outreach into on-the ground projects. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	Education and Outreach							
	Volunteer Coordination	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,500.00			\$ 2,500.00	
	Event/Tour Planning	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,000.00			\$ 3,000.00	
	Outreach/Publication materials	\$ 2,000.00					\$ 2,000.00	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00			\$ 7,500.00	
319 Funding applied to Project Administration must not exceed 10% of the total amount of 319 funding requested, or \$12,000, whichever is lower. Project includes normal business expenses and reporting requirements.	Administration							
	Mid/Annual/Interim Reports and Billing Statements	\$ 7,111.11					\$ 7,111.11	Total Admin is 10%
	Draft/Final Report and Billing Statements	\$ 7,111.11					\$ 7,111.11	
	Communication with DEQ	\$ 7,111.11					\$ 7,111.11	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ 21,333.33	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 21,333.33	
	Grand Totals	\$ 213,333.33	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 124,000.00			\$ 365,333.33	

*319 Request - Must not exceed \$300,000
**Non-Federal Match - Can include in-kind materials.
***Other Funding -Use this space for funding that will be used to support creation of task deliverables, but will not be reported as match.
****Additional Information - Use to justify cost if needed. (Hourly rates, rental costs, etc.)

MAPS/ DESIGNS



Revegetation Zone

- Bank
- Floodplain

Channel Restoration

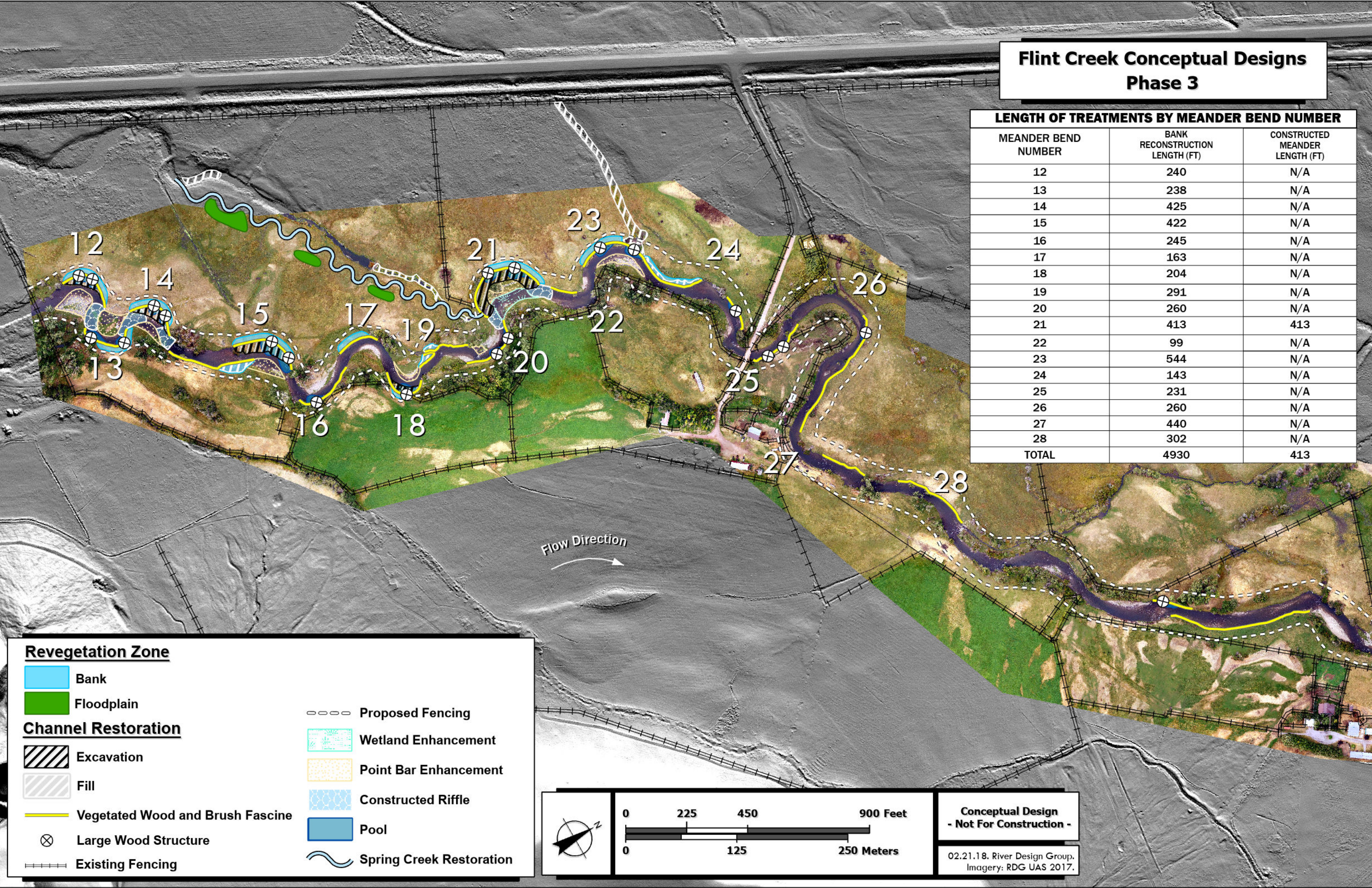
- Excavation
- Fill
- Vegetated Wood and Brush Fascine
- Large Wood Structure
- Existing Fencing
- Proposed Fencing
- Constructed Riffle
- Pool
- Point Bar Enhancement
- Spring Creek Restoration
- Wetland Enhancement



Conceptual Design
- Not For Construction -
02.01.18. River Design Group.
LiDAR data acquired 10.2016.

Flint Creek Conceptual Designs
Phase 3

LENGTH OF TREATMENTS BY MEANDER BEND NUMBER		
MEANDER BEND NUMBER	BANK RECONSTRUCTION LENGTH (FT)	CONSTRUCTED MEANDER LENGTH (FT)
12	240	N/A
13	238	N/A
14	425	N/A
15	422	N/A
16	245	N/A
17	163	N/A
18	204	N/A
19	291	N/A
20	260	N/A
21	413	413
22	99	N/A
23	544	N/A
24	143	N/A
25	231	N/A
26	260	N/A
27	440	N/A
28	302	N/A
TOTAL	4930	413



Revegetation Zone

- Bank
- Floodplain

Channel Restoration

- Excavation
- Fill
- Vegetated Wood and Brush Fascine
- Large Wood Structure
- Existing Fencing

Proposed Fencing

- Wetland Enhancement
- Point Bar Enhancement
- Constructed Riffle
- Pool
- Spring Creek Restoration

0 225 450 900 Feet

0 125 250 Meters

Conceptual Design
- Not For Construction -

02.21.18. River Design Group.
Imagery: RDG UAS 2017.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program

March 27, 2024

Dear DEQ Nonpoint Source Program Review Panel,

The WestSlope Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to express our support of this grant application for the Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project that will restore a 0.5-mile reach of degraded habitat conditions in Flint Creek. Flint Creek is a valuable fishery for our membership that offers good angling opportunities for those seeking to fish within one to two hours from Missoula. It is also an important spawning tributary to the Upper Clark Fork River which is a popular fishing destination for Chapter members.

We support the proposed project that aims to reduce streambank erosion and re-establish a riparian habitat buffer and native vegetation along the stream corridor by reconstructing banks, planting native shrubs, and establishing an alternate grazing management plan with riparian fencing. We know of many projects like the one proposed that have improved fisheries and ecosystem health. We trust Trout Unlimited and the Natural Resource Damage Program to deliver similar outcomes and, as a result of this project, improve degraded water quality and habitat conditions in Flint Creek. In the long-term, these improvements will benefit fisheries and wildlife populations throughout the area, including the Clark Fork River downstream.

We look forward to partnering with Trout Unlimited to engage anglers and other members in this stream restoration project. We will help coordinate volunteers to plant willows and other native shrubs for the project in Flint Creek.

Thank you for your consideration to fund this project and accepting this letter that expresses our support.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Dwyer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brandon Dwyer

President, WestSlope Chapter of Trout Unlimited

STATE OF MONTANA, NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE PROGRAM



March 21, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Trout Unlimited (TU) Proposal titled: **“Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project”** Department of Environmental Quality, FY2024 (Round 2) 319 Nonpoint Source Program funding opportunity.

319 Grant Program Review Committee:

This letter is written to affirm our partnership in and support to the **“Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project”** application submitted to Montana Department of Environmental Quality 319 Grant Program by Trout Unlimited. The Montana Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) is a project partner with TU and will be contributing funds to the design of this project.

Aquatic and riparian resources of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin (UCFRB) have been injured by hazardous substances, released from mining and mineral-processing operations in the Butte and Anaconda areas. In 1983, the State of Montana (State) filed a lawsuit against the Atlantic Richfield Co. for injuries to the State’s natural resources in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin. The State settled this lawsuit which established the UCFRB Restoration Fund. The UCFRB Restoration Fund is State of Montana money administered by the NRDP and must be used to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources.

The UCFRB Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans (Restoration Plans) list Flint Creek as a priority tributary for habitat restoration. Projects such as the Flint Creek Phase 3 Restoration Project will help meet the goals of the Restoration Plans by improving habitat for species such as Bull Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and Brown Trout and help increase trout recruitment to the mainstem Clark Fork River.

NRDP is excited to support TU’s application by participating in the design of this project. Together, NRDP and TU are pursuing this and other habitat restoration and fish passage projects with private landowners in partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and other partners in Flint Creek. This collaborative approach is restoring fragmented native fish habitats, improving water quality in a popular recreational fishery, and recruiting fish to a highly impaired reach of the Clark Fork River.

NRDP believes that our support and commitment to the proposed project will significantly increase the success of the project, including improved water quality and enhanced ecosystem resiliency for long-term benefits to fish and wildlife in the UCFRB.

STATE OF MONTANA, NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE PROGRAM



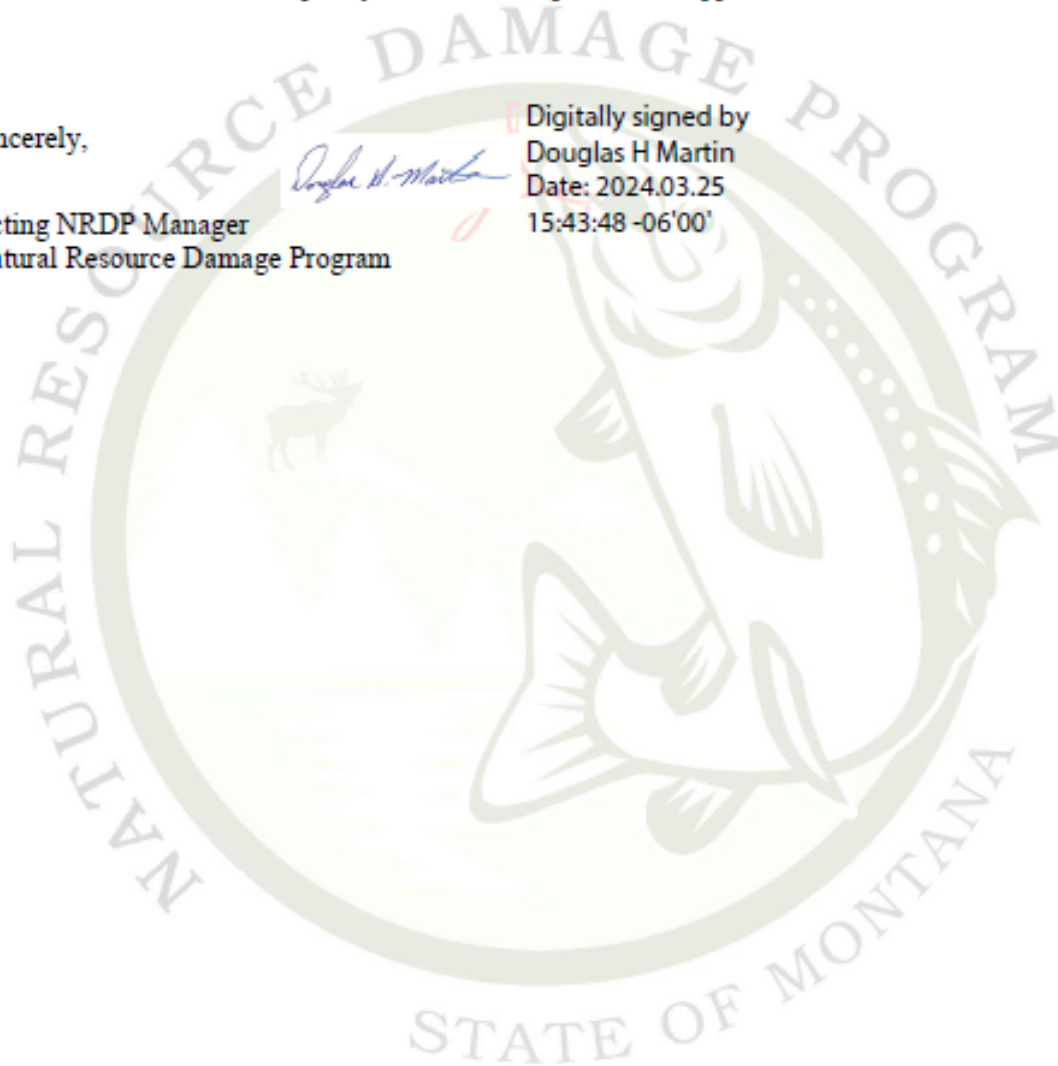
Thank you for considering TU's application. NRDP agrees to the submittal and content of the application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information. We look forward to working with TU to ensure the success of this project and to continue to facilitate water quality and habitat improvement opportunities in the UCFRB.

Sincerely,

Acting NRDP Manager
Natural Resource Damage Program

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas H. Martin".

Digitally signed by
Douglas H Martin
Date: 2024.03.25
15:43:48 -06'00'





April 1st, 2024

MT Department of Environmental Quality Nonpoint Source Program
1520 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Dear DEQ Nonpoint Source Program Review Committee,

Granite Headwaters Watershed Group (GHWG), an associate committee of the Granite Conservation District (Granite CD), strongly supports Trout Unlimited's proposal to implement the **Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project**. Our mission is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the watershed while protecting the rural character of the area where we live. We think the proposed project aligns with our mission and addresses natural resource improvements that are needed in our watershed.

Our group is comprised of community members and other stakeholders. We have developed relationships and partnered with entities on important projects in the watershed since 2006. Our group authored the state-approved Flint Creek Watershed Restoration Plan in 2014.

The Flint Creek Watershed Restoration Plan identifies Flint Creek streambank erosion as an impairment to water quality. One of the goals in the plan is to "reduce streambank erosion and nutrient loads by restoring and enhancing the riparian zone". Last year, GHWG sent out a residential survey and hosted two public meetings to gather up to date information about natural resource issues and opportunities in our watershed. Again, streambank erosion in lower Flint Creek was identified as a priority concern.

For these reasons, we support TU's Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project. It is a collaboration between TU and working ranch lands that will restore riparian habitat and eroding stream banks in Flint Creek. This approach will benefit natural resources and the environment and furthermore help achieve one of the goals in the Flint Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. This is the right project in the right place, and we feel that TU has demonstrated they have the "right stuff" to execute it successfully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Miller".

Mike Miller

President, Granite Headwaters Watershed Group



Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks - Region 2
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500
03-18-2024

Nonpoint Source Program
Montana Dept of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Subject: Letter of Support - Flint Creek Phase 3 DEQ 319 Grant Program - 319 Nonpoint Source Program

To the DEQ Non-point Source Grant Program Review Panel:

On behalf of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, please consider this letter as written confirmation of our full support of the proposed Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project, as well the Montana Department of Environmental Quality 319 Nonpoint Source Program Grant Application. Flint Creek provides significant ecological value. It offers essential spawning habitat for wild brown trout and rainbow trout and a migratory corridor and over-wintering habitat for native westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Evidence from recent Montana FWP studies shows that Flint Creek and its tributaries are a key source of juvenile westslope cutthroat trout recruitment and is an important spawning migration corridor for fish from the Clark Fork River. The Clark Fork River has a diminished fishery from impacts of past mining and smelting activities as well as other limiting factors. Flint Creek is also a valued recreational fishery with high trout densities that provide high-quality angling opportunities.

A history of land use practices in the Flint Creek valley including channel modifications, riparian vegetation removal/reduction and sedimentation have adversely affected water quality as well as aquatic and riparian habitat. The proposed restoration project on the Johnson and Conn properties address these limiting factors and will enhance the ecosystem resiliency of Flint Creek. The proposed project to implement an alternative grazing management plan, stabilize and revegetate banks and the

floodplain should mitigate the adverse impacts of these land use disturbances. This includes reduction of sediment and nutrient loads that reduce the water quality in Flint Creek.

This project will create conditions that help sustain the native and wild fish populations of Flint Creek. The project will also provide improved recreational opportunities for anglers and wildlife enthusiasts, which in turn will support the local communities and economic sectors of tourism and outdoor recreation.

We encourage you to reach out to Brad Liermann, *Rock Creek/Flint Creek Fisheries Biologist*, Bradley.Liermann@mt.gov, 406-825-5525, as the primary contact person with any questions or concerns about on this project. Thank you very much for consideration of this funding application of this important project and we look forward to its swift completion.

Sincerely,



Kendra McKlosky
Acting Region 2 Supervisor



Quentin Kujala
Chief of Conservation Policy



JOHNSON TUNING FORK RANCH
5687 Montana Highway 1
PO Box 9
Hall, MT 59837

April 1, 2024

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program
1520 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Trout Unlimited "Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project"

To the Montana DEQ Nonpoint Source Program Project Grant Review Committee:

My great grandfather, Frank Johnson, homesteaded a tract on Flint Creek in 1876 along a reach near Hall, Montana on which Trout Unlimited proposes a habitat restoration project. Five generations of our family have raised sheep and cattle along Flint Creek and have used the creek for crop irrigation and livestock drinking water. Our family has strived to preserve the banks and bed of the creek through multi-generations, however, the combined effects of flooding, ice scouring and livestock use have increased sedimentation and degraded the stream channel. The Flint Creek corridor provides important fish and wildlife habitat and has allowed for the beneficial uses of creek water for irrigation and stock water.

Flint Creek is important to our ranching operation and to our greater community. As may be attested by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, our family has traditionally shared the portion of Flint Creek which flows through our ranch with the general public for fishing and hunting as well as overall enjoyment of the natural environment. We routinely receive notes of gratitude from folks from around the world for the opportunity to fish Flint Creek. We believe the streambank stabilization and native vegetation restoration will contribute to the overall improvement of water quality and fish populations in the creek. With it, we will be implementing an alternative grazing management plan for the creek corridor on our property that will protect the project investment and help preserve the water resource for years to come.

As a steering committee member for the local Granite Headwaters Watershed Group, I believe this project aligns with our shared goals of promoting responsible land stewardship and preserving the natural heritage of our community. This project should not only benefit the environment but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of our ranching operations by ensuring clean water and healthy habitats.

We have been working with Trout Unlimited and the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program on planning for this restoration project for several years. We appreciate the effort made by these entities to involve the landowners and engage the community on this, and other, similar

conservation projects.

Our ranch endorses and supports the Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project. Please consider funding support for this important work. We look forward to the potential to work with you on this project.

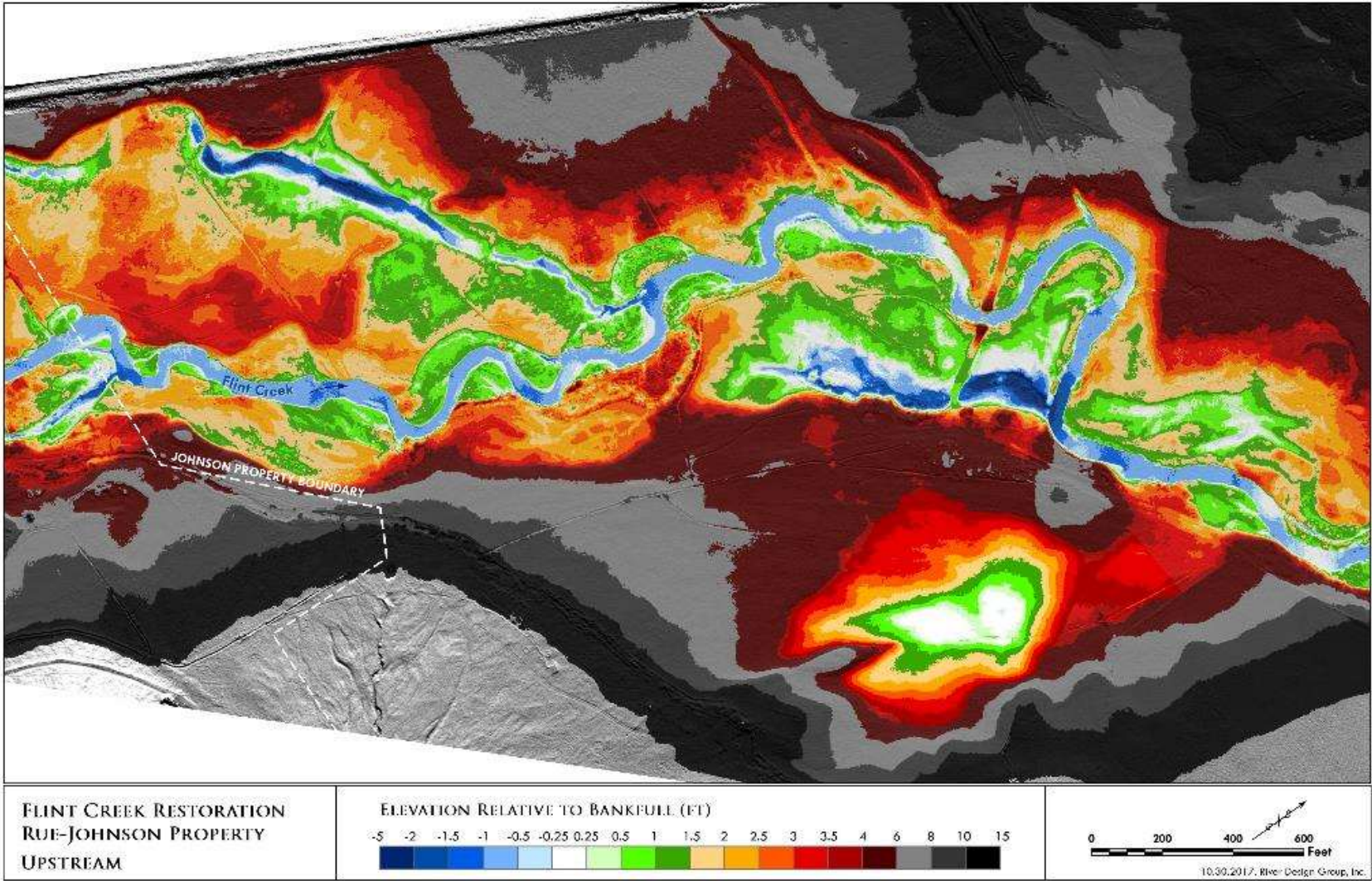
Sincerely,
JOHNSON TUNING FORK RANCH



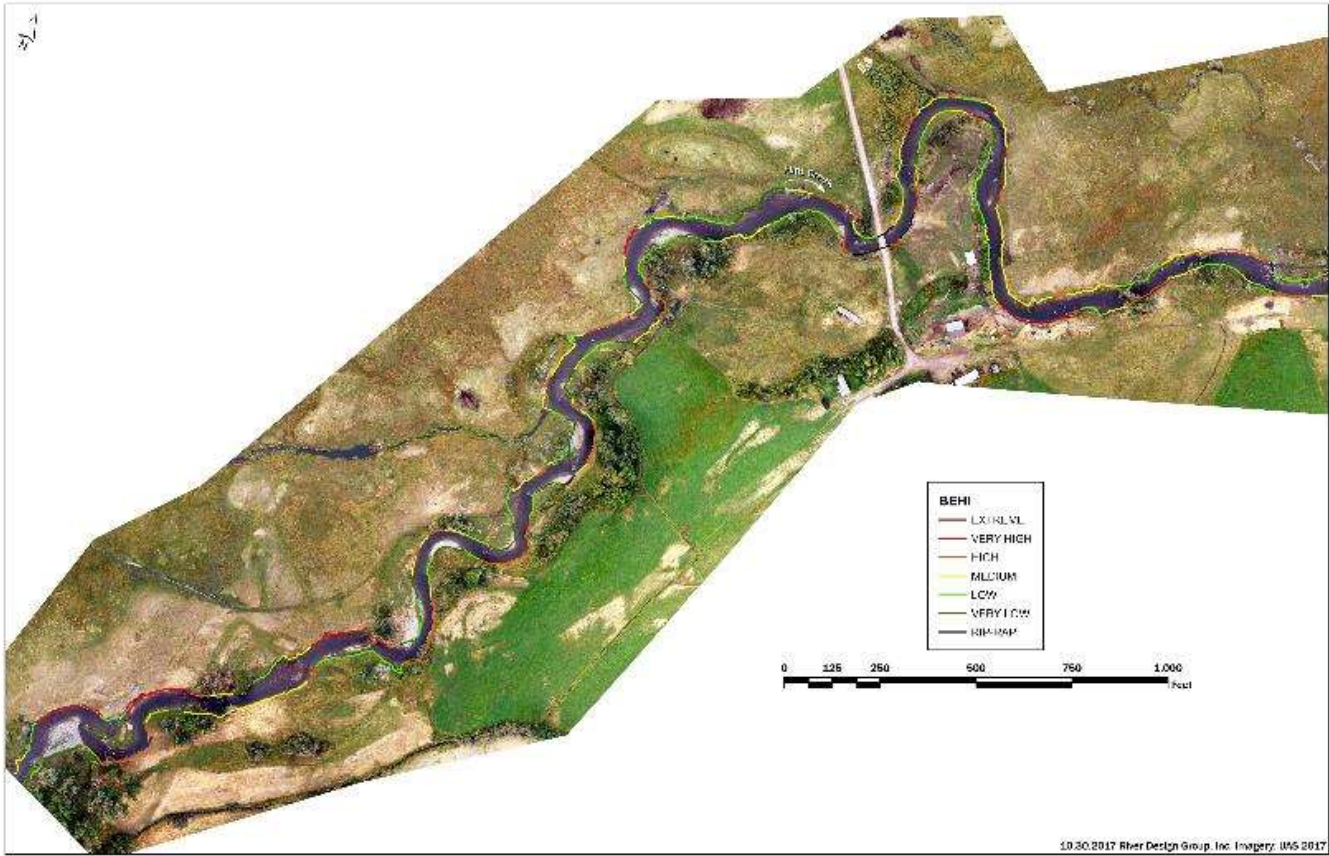
By: Charles R. Johnson, President

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

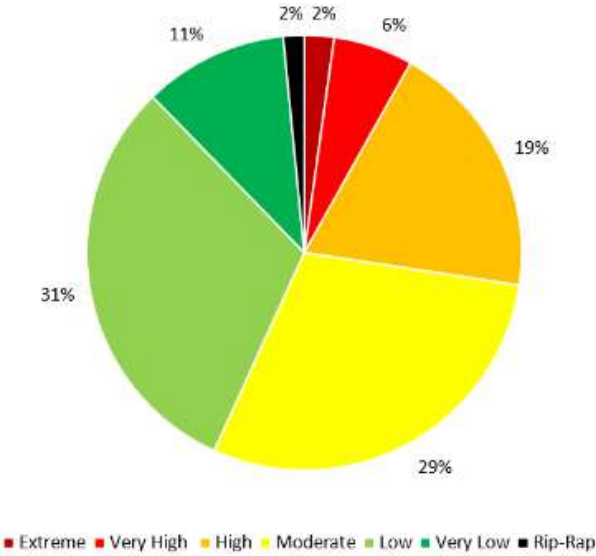
Relative Elevation Model



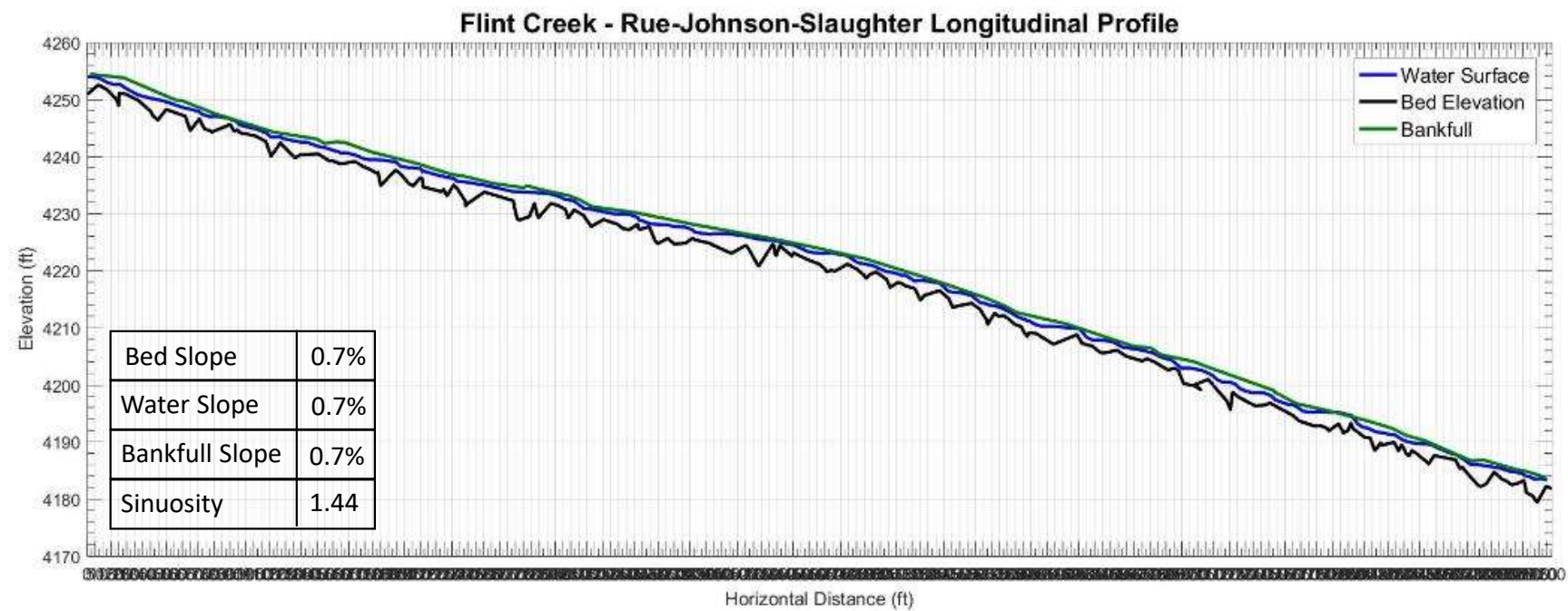
BEHI & Long Pro



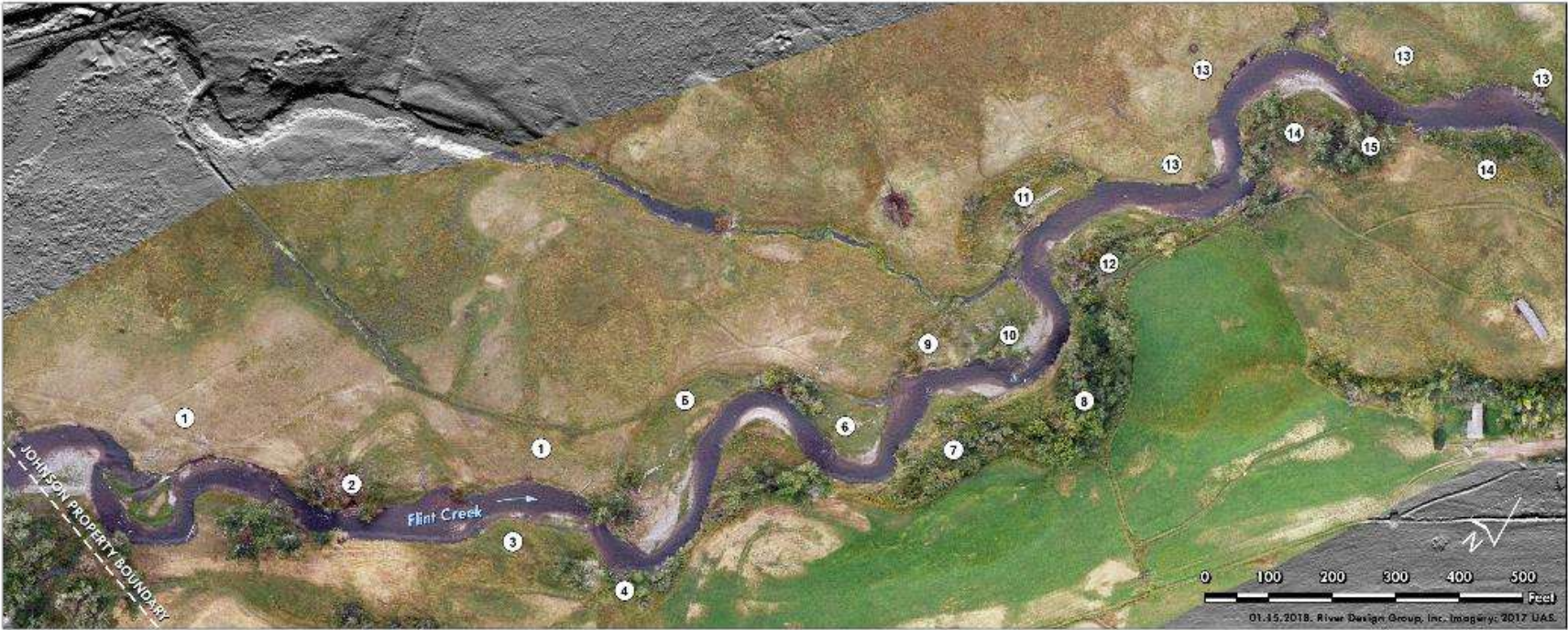
Flint Creek Rue Johnson Upper Site



Long Pro & BEHI



Vegetation Mapping (Rue Johnson)



FLINT CREEK RESTORATION - JOHNSON PROPERTY
RIPARIAN VEGETATION ASSESSMENT

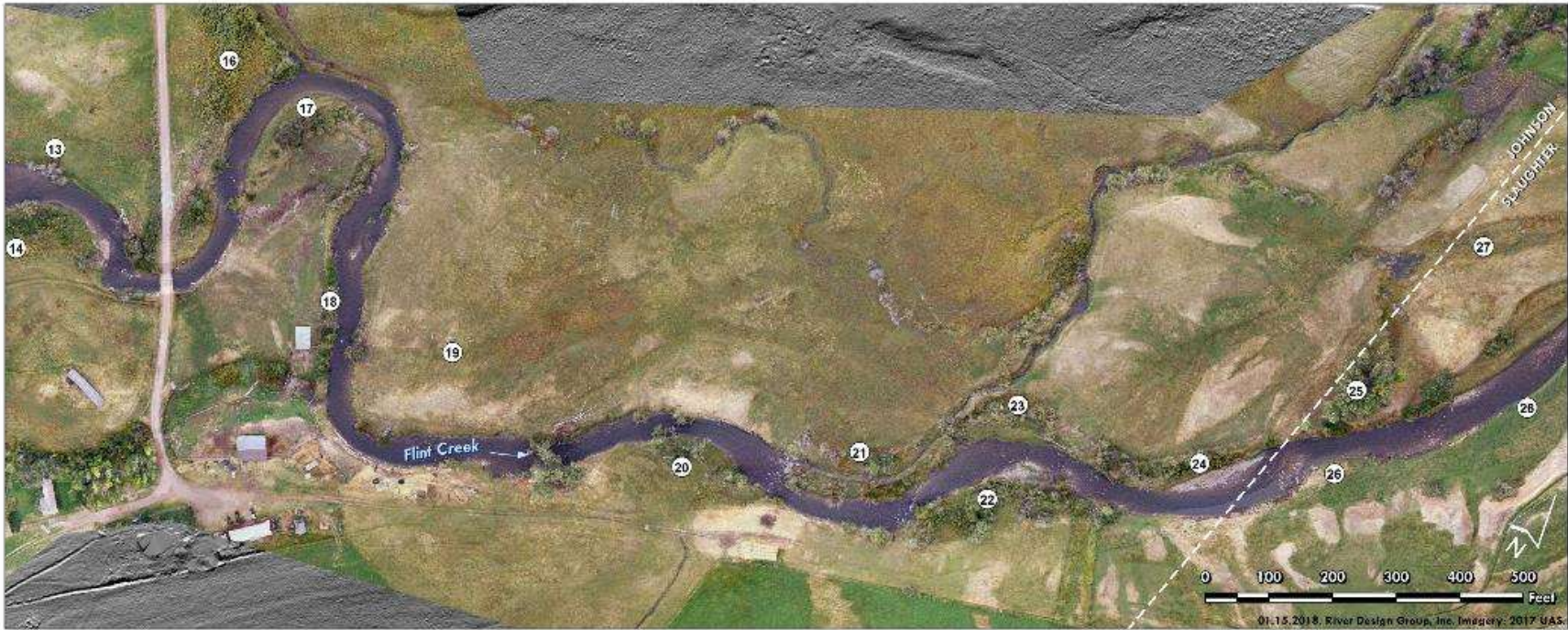
Vegetation Overview

The Flint Creek riparian corridor through the Johnson, Slaughter, and Rue properties is characterized by cattle grazing impacts. While the upstream Johnson and Slaughter ownerships exhibit higher banks and less woody vegetation on streambanks in general than the downstream property, some low elevation areas contain a diverse canopy of native riparian vegetation.

The Rue property riparian landscape exhibits woody and herbaceous vegetation communities consistent of a connected stream and floodplain environment. Multiple species of willow, along with dogwood, cottonwood, aspen, and river birch are common overstory components. High grazing impacts, however, limit seedling and sapling survival, resulting in an even age class distribution skewed toward older individuals.

Number	Description
1	High eroding bank; cattle grazed. Dominated by pasture grasses, Rocky Mountain iris, Canada thistle.
2	Sandbar willow regeneration (5-7 ft. tall), protected from browse with fence and a cottonwood, alder and dogwood thicket.
3	Good floodplain elevation, browsed sedges and rushes.
4	Cottonwood and willow stand in connected floodplain location.
5	Abandoned channel location, dominated by sedge, standing water at time of assessment.
6	Great floodplain elevation, dominant species include sedge, Baltic rush, sandbar willow, cottonwood seedlings. Cattle browse is evident.
7	Thicket of multiple species of willow, browsed on periphery.
8	Mature and healthy cottonwood gallery.
9	Decadent willow stand, Canada thistle in understory.
10	Sandbar willow regeneration, all saplings are browsed. Some alder, and a Canada thistle monoculture on high elevation location.
11	Old meander location with cattail and sedge in understory of decadent willow stand; cottonwood on high spot in interior of meander.
12	Sandbar willow and cottonwood.
13	High streambanks with few and sparse decadent willow and alder. Mostly grazed pasture grasses, Canada thistle, Rocky Mountain iris, tansy, clover. Some grazed sedges in low-lying areas.
14	Mature but browsed thicket of willow, rose, dogwood, alder. Browse is especially severe on willow saplings and vegetation on streambank.

Vegetation Mapping (Rue Johnson)



FLINT CREEK RESTORATION - JOHNSON/SLAUGHTER PROPERTIES
RIPARIAN VEGETATION ASSESSMENT

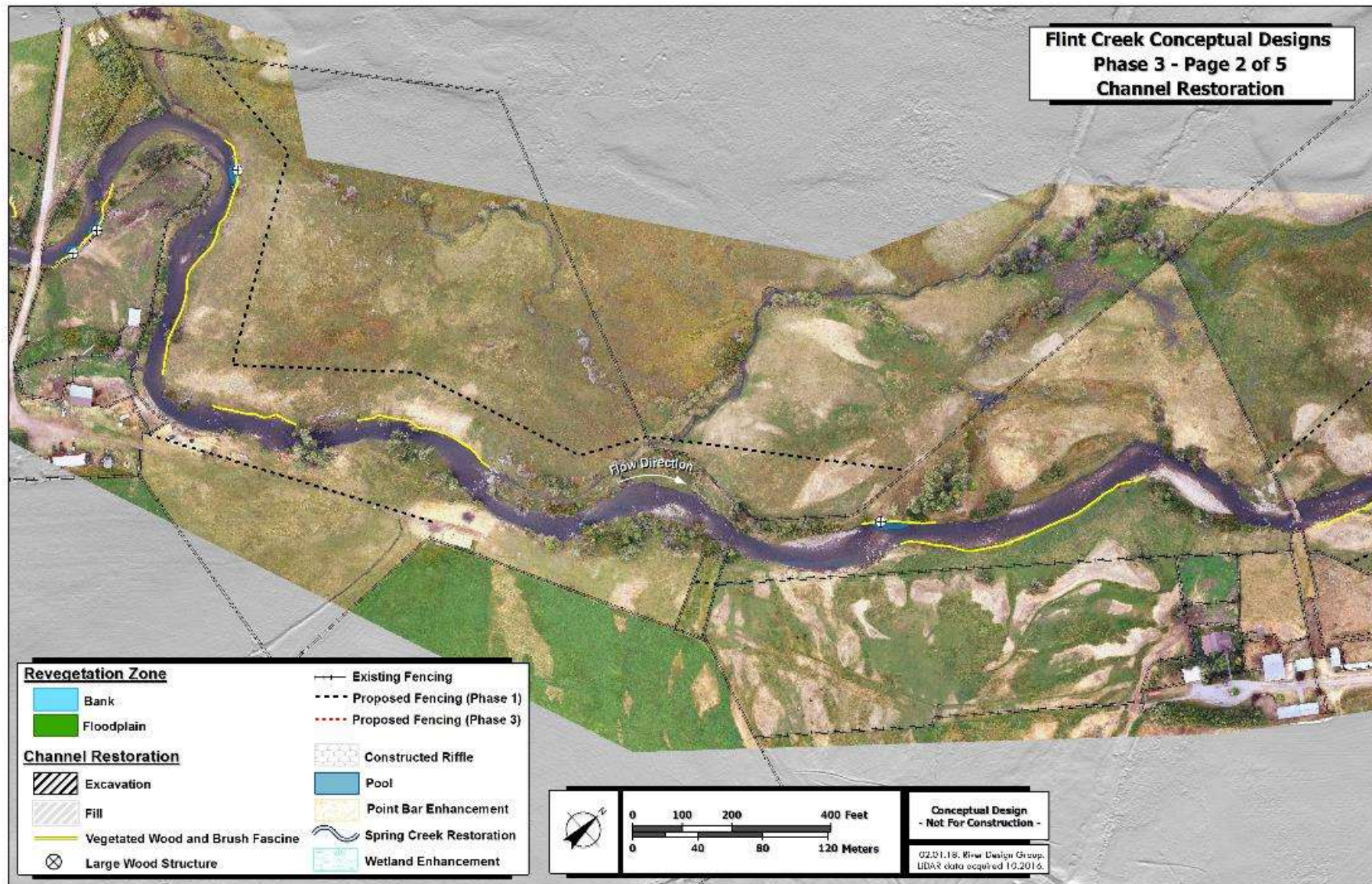
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Number	Description
13	High streambanks with few and sparse decadent willow and alder. Mostly grazed pasture grasses, Canada thistle, Rocky Mountain iris, tansy, clover. Some grazed sedges in low-lying areas.
14	Mature but browsed thicket of willow, rose, dogwood, alder. Browse is especially severe on willow saplings and vegetation on streambank.
15	Mature cottonwood stand on high elevation location between riparian shrub thickets.
16	Willow stand in great condition, diverse age class represented by 8-16 ft. tall shrubs.
17	Browsed sedge and sandbar willow saplings on low elevation on inside meander bend; Thicket of bebb and sandbar willow, rose, black currant on interior of meander bend.
18	Large rose, currant and willow shrubs on bank without cattle access.
19	Pasture land, grazed up to streambanks with few and scattered decadent willow individuals.
20	Scattered cottonwood trees, mature individuals and no regeneration. Grazed pasture grasses in understory.
21	Wetland swale, standing water in areas, with sedges, multiple willow species, and alder.
22	Willow stand in good condition mostly 10-20 ft tall sandbar willow; some bebb willow.
23	Well developed scrub shrub wetland community, elevations are at bankfull.
24	Willow and dogwood community. Willow is mostly sandbar. Grazed on edges of thicket.
25	Mature forested community: Overstory of cottonwood, with alder, willow, and young cottonwood in understory.
26	Grazed pasture grasses and Canada thistle.
27	Old meander location, likely is activated at high flows. Dominated by sedges and rushes, and the occasional willow.

**Flint Creek Conceptual Designs
Phase 3 - Page 2 of 5
Channel Restoration**



Riparian Habitat Assessment for Flint Creek and Boulder Creek Granite County, Montana

Environmental Services Contract #SPB-12-2177V

Task Order 1.28



Prepared for

Natural Resource Damage Program
Montana Department of Justice
1301 East Lockey
Helena, MT 59620

Prepared by

Watershed Consulting, LLC
P.O. Box 17287
Missoula, MT 59808

with

Great West Engineering, Inc.
2501 Belt view Drive
Helena, MT 59604



January, 2015

Figure 1. Project Area

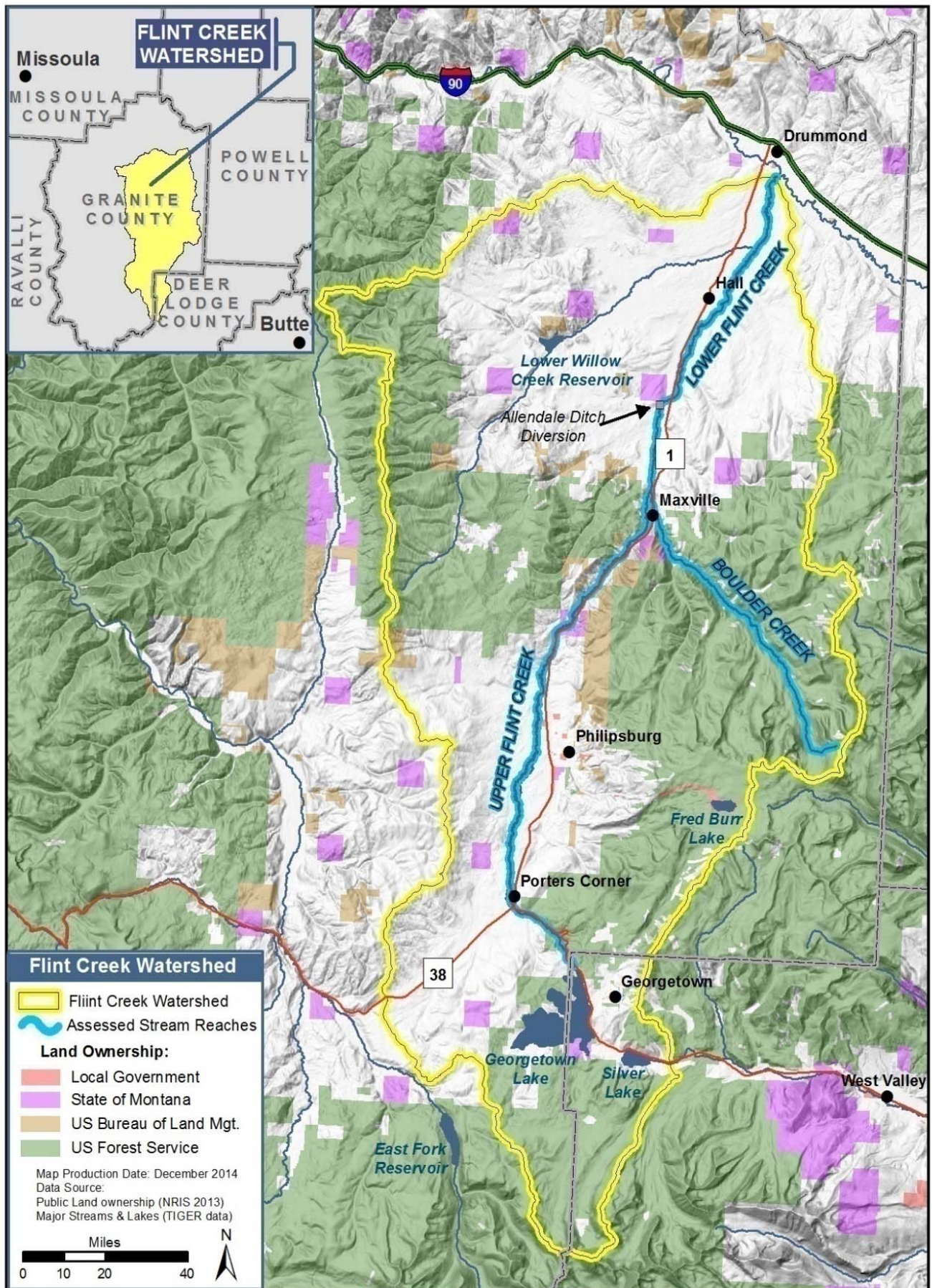
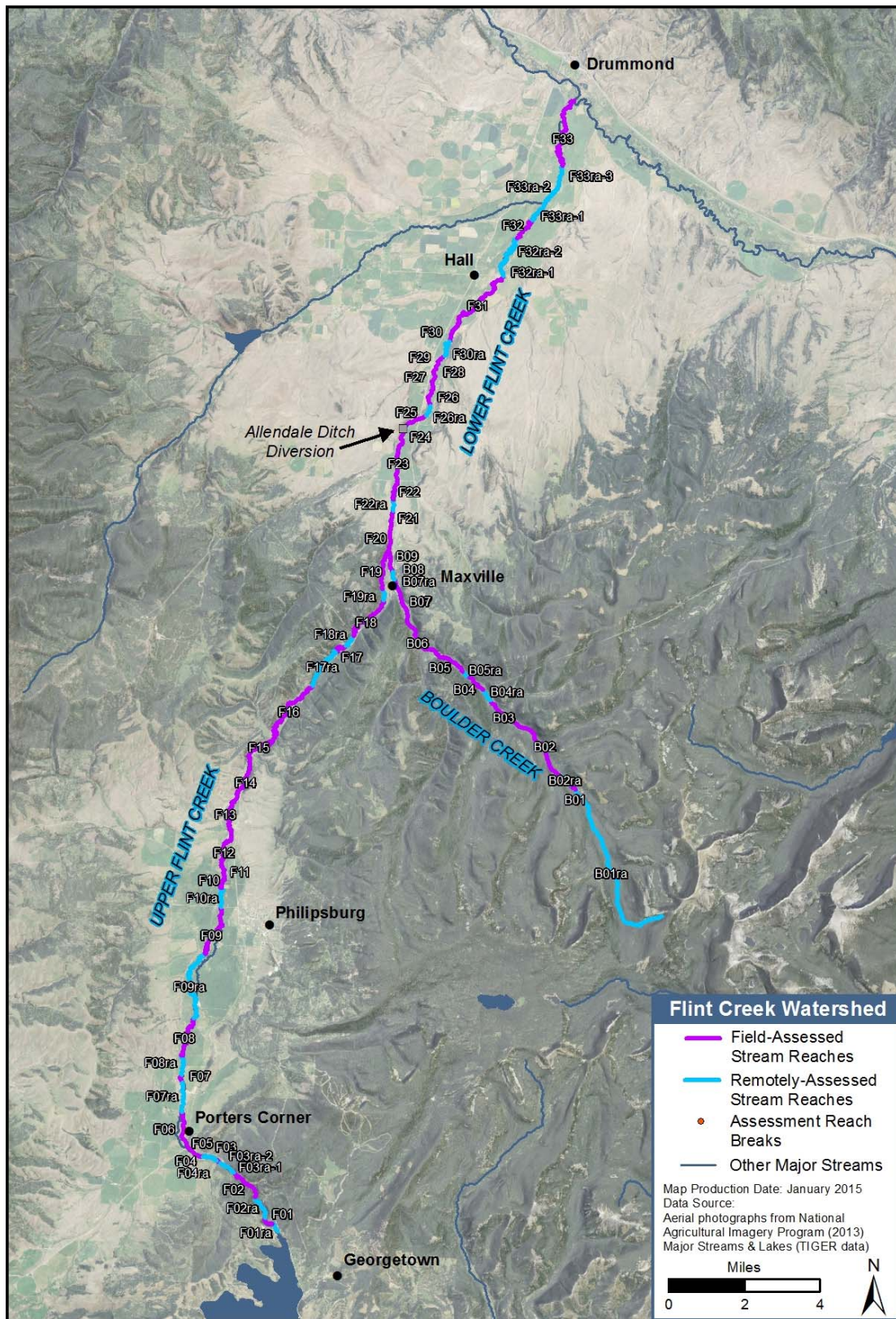


Figure 2. Remote and field assessed subreaches



intermixed with mature and sapling woody riparian vegetation including alder, willows and cottonwood galleries in the lower extent of the subreach. The riparian area is fenced but some browse was observed from horses and mules on the property, as well as wildlife. Browse intensity overall was light and cottonwood and willow regeneration was high.

One irrigation diversion was noted on site, which was determined to likely be a high entrainment concern. Armored banks, decreased understory cover and a lack of woody debris in the channel were noted as limiting factors for fish habitat.

Restoration Potential

- Conservation of streamside fencing
- Stabilization of high and bare banks on river right with bioengineering techniques, willow staking



Armored bank on river right to protect property at F30.

Typical bank conditions in F30

4.1.46 Subreach F31

Percentage of Linear Bank Erosion (%)	Erosion rating	NRCS Score (%)	NRCS rating	Fish Habitat Score (%)	Fish Habitat Rating	Restoration Priority Ranking
16	Moderately High	53	At Risk	57	Fair	High

Subreach F31 is 14,771 feet in length and is classified as a Rosgen C4c channel type based on a width/depth ratio of 19.4 and gravel dominated channel bed with some cobbles, as calculated in the field and a slope of 0.6%, and sinuosity of 1.4, which were calculated from aerial imagery in GIS.

This subreach is comprised of several ownerships with similar riparian and fish habitat characteristics and similar restoration priority concerns. Grazing patterns are consistent

throughout the ownerships and have significant impacts on the riparian vegetative community. The stream has moderate to high levels of lateral bank erosion, particularly on outside meander bends. These conditions have led the stream to be over-widened in many areas, perpetuated by cattle-trampled banks and minimal woody riparian vegetation. Lacking robust vegetation, banks of outside bends were regularly found cleaving off and falling into the stream. Mid-channel bars indicate a stream out of balance with its sediment and in places excessive algae was noted growing in the channel.

In the downstream-most ownership by the lumber operation, streambanks are heavily rip-rapped to protect structures and the stream may have been straightened in the past. Banks in this southernmost ownership do not exhibit the active erosion observed upstream and are stable. The stream has ready access to its floodplain on the river right.

The corrals just east of the Tuning Fork road crossing is a heavy cattle-use area with active bank erosion throughout and, in places, high eroding banks and no woody riparian vegetation. Between the Tuning Fork road and this high use area, a small length of riparian fencing on both banks provides some relief from grazing pressures and riparian vegetation is dramatically improved. This fencing is likely installed due to concern over downstream structures near the stream.

Bank vegetation is dominated by escaped pasture grasses, with sporadic clumps of willows and river birch. Rose and hawthorne are also present throughout, an indication of the heavy browse pressure in this subreach. Cottonwood stands are small and far between, comprised primarily of mature individuals with heavy cattle use underneath them. Downstream of these cottonwood stands, piles of woody debris against banks are providing some stabilization as well as improving fish habitat conditions. Fish habitat is otherwise fair throughout this subreach, with a noticeable lack of overhanging vegetation and deep pool habitat.

Two irrigation diversions were found in this subreach. The uppermost diversion was closed and determined to be old, but still leaking water and likely posing an entrainment problem. The lower diversion, also showing its age was determined to be a high risk for entrainment.

Restoration Potential

- Riparian fencing or fencing of cottonwood and willow stands to promote regeneration
- Grazing management including off-site water, decreased intensity on riparian areas
- Fish screens or removal of diversions

9.0 APPENDIX 3: SUBREACH EROSION SUMMARY DATA

SubReach ID	Reach Length (ft)	Linear Bank Erosion (ft)	Total Bank Erosion (ft ²)	Percentage of Linear Bank Erosion (%)	Primary Erosion Source
F01ra	1486	NA	NA	NA	NA
F01	1752	304.5	9775	8.69	HS
F02ra	3701	NA	NA	NA	NA
F02	5682	364.5	1117.5	3.21	NBS
F03ra-1	2228	NA	NA	NA	NA
F03ra-2	388	NA	NA	NA	NA
F03	774	91	173	5.88	NBS
F04ra	2872	NA	NA	NA	NA
F04	1532	147	534.5	4.80	I
F05	1569	60	250	1.91	I
F06	6073	2863	5619	23.57	LS-P/LS-B
F07ra	5197	NA	NA	NA	NA
F07	1638	653	960	19.93	RI
F08ra	4025	NA	NA	NA	NA
F08	9561	3766	9309.5	19.70	LS-P/LS-B
F09ra	17987	NA	NA	NA	NA
F09	12820	3630	5480	14.16	LS-P/LS-B
F10ra	4317.6	NA	NA	NA	NA
F10	3017	435	601.5	7.21	CR
F11	2217	137	159	3.09	CR
F12	9258	1521	2029	8.21	CR/LS-P
F13	9150	1704	2433.5	9.31	CR/LS-P
F14	5947	1476	8840	12.41	RI
F15	8690	2663	5127.5	15.32	RI
F16	15002	4736	23906	15.78	HS/RI
F17ra	10632.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
F17	3528	773	860	10.95	CR
F18ra	2715.5	NA	NA	NA	NA
F18	9480	492	8037.5	2.59	NBS, RI
F19ra	2106.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
F19	6221	0	0	0.00	none
F20	3454	1.5	15	0.02	CR
F21	2292	80	40	1.75	CR
F22ra	1670.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
F22	3212	418	731.5	6.51	LS-P/LS-B
F23	5577	1449	4754.5	12.99	LS-P/LS-B
F24	3451	515	2384	7.46	RD/HS
F25	3045	1388	2319.5	22.80	LS-P/LS-B
F26ra	1613.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
F26	3168	950	875	15.00	CR
F27	2634	70	139	1.33	LS-P
F28	1020	298	511	14.61	LS-P/LS-B
F29	1945	422	884	10.85	CR/LS-B
F30ra	3385.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
F30	1628	159	114.5	4.88	CR
F31	14771	4663	9670	15.78	CR/LS-B
F32ra-1	4161.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
F32ra-2	5696.5	NA	NA	NA	NA
F32	5134	1679	3165.5	16.35	CR/LS-B
F33ra-1	5033.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
F33ra-2	3972.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
F33ra-3	2855.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
F33	14783	4906	12647	16.59	CR/LS-B

SubReach ID	Reach Length (ft)	Linear Bank Erosion (ft)	Total Bank Erosion (ft ²)	Percentage of Linear Bank Erosion (%)	Primary Erosion Source
B01ra	26762	NA	NA	NA	NA
B01	1215	245	775	10.08	RD
B02ra	2321	NA	NA	NA	NA
B02	10152	30	67.5	0.15	I
B03	6502	30.5	81	0.23	CR
B04ra	1871	NA	NA	NA	NA
B04	2979	771	1036	12.94	NC
B05ra	1330	NA	NA	NA	NA
B05	4952	846	1624	8.54	CR
B06	8155	317	669	1.94	NBS
B07	6034	196	496	1.62	HS
B07ra	1303	NA	NA	NA	NA
B08	779	59	81	3.79	CR
B09	2600	10	5	0.19	NBS

Code	Description	Code	Description
RD	Road Erosion	I	Geomorphic incision
BR	Bridge Erosion	NC	New channel has formed in area that lack riparian vegetation
CR	Cropland Encroachment: Lack of Riparian Veg	C	Corrals
LS-B	Livestock Browse: Lack of Riparian Veg	RE	Recreation Access
LS-P	Physical Livestock Erosion	RI	Riparian buffer removed, lack of veg
TP	Trampled by livestock, no real height of erosion	NBS	
HS	Hillside erosion, channel cutting into valley walls		