# 2026 On-the-Ground Project Application Form

## General Information

Project Name: Beaver Mimicry on Cameron Creek

Applicant Name: Bitterroot Water Partnership

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

***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)? 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.

Primary Contact: Damon Tucker | Title: Restoration Program Manager

Address: 162 S. 2nd Street | City: Hamilton | State: MT | Zip Code: 59840

Phone Number: 406-375-2272 | Email: damon@bitterrootwater.org

Signature: Damon Tucker

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

Signatory: Heather Barber | Title: Executive Director

Address: 162 S. 2nd Street | City: Hamilton | State: MT | Zip Code: 59840

Phone Number: 406-375-2272 | Email: heather@bitterrootwater.org

Signature:

***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, signatory and landowner must sign the application. Signatures must be either signed electronically, or wet-signed, scanned and sent electronically.

Landowner Name: SMR Sula Peak Ranch LLC

Landowner Signature: Paul Nelson

Landowner Name:

Landowner Signature:

Landowner Name:

Landowner Signature:

***Explanation:*** Landowner signatures are required. **Signing the application does not obligate the landowner to implement a project.** Instead, it is an indication that the landowner has read the application and agrees, in principle, with the project concept and goals.

Your organization's Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI #) C7ZKKJG1ECN3

***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? 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.

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

Bitterroot Water Partnership has successfully completed stream restoration projects in the Bitterroot valley for over two decades. Our team prioritizes cost-efficient, high-impact restoration projects to maximize our restoration outcomes, and has experience managing these projects. BWP frequently recruits local volunteers for our restoration work, allowing the process to be more affordable and, most importantly, more impactful for the community as well as our streams. Our restoration team has experience implementing a wide variety of projects, managing contractors and specialists, and completing permitting processes for those projects. BWP staff have extensive experience managing project grants from DEQ, DNRC, and cooperative agreements with agencies such as the Bitterroot National Forest as well.

## 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. Use the following examples to help determine when to 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)

# Project Form

A separate Project Form (including providing separate attachments) must be submitted for each project included in your application

**Project Name:** Beaver Mimicry on Upper Cameron Creek

## Required Attachments in Addition to This Form

- [x] Letter of support from the organization that created or sponsored the creation of the DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan or the Tribe that created the EPA-approved Tribal Nonpoint Source Management Plan (*if applicable).*
- [x] Letter of support from EACH landowner associated with the proposed project area (*if applicable).*
- [x] Budget Table (see Microsoft Excel Template).
- [x] **Detailed Project site map(s)** Attach a map or set of maps showing the location and size of proposed activity if a site has been predetermined. 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. (*This is in addition to adding points of the project location to the website on page 4*).

## 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. Please no more than 20 pages.

- [x] Project Design Plans/Drawings
- [ ] Preliminary Engineering Reports / Site Evaluations
- [ ] Landowner Agreements / Construction Permits / Floodplain Permits
- [x] Site photos
- [x] Additional Letters of Support
- [x] Other: Relative Elevation Model of the project area
- [ ] Other:
- [ ] Other:

# Project Area

Please provide as detailed a description of the project area as possible.

List the counties in which the project will be located.

Ravalli

List the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs), sometimes referred to as Sixth Code HUCS, in which the project will take place. Use the following link to help assist you in determining the HUCs: https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/

Cameron Creek - HUC 170102050504

Project Location Map

**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.

BWP completed restoration downstream of the proposed project location in 2012 and 2016, installing a mixture of containerized plants, coir wattles, and woody debris structures to revegetate the area. A lower reach of Cameron Creek is currently being restored by BWP via an existing DEQ grant, #223003. Within this grant, BWP fenced the riparian corridor of approximately 3/4 mile of the stream and will plant as many as 5,000 willow cuttings by the end of 2026. This will remove grazing from the stream section and provide space for the riparian buffer's native shrubs to regrow, arresting erosion and combating the spread of reed canary grass on the stream.

BWP's past projects along Cameron Creek have focused primarily on revegetation along the stream combined with grazing management changes. These efforts have addressed sedimentation in many areas. The project area of this proposal is one of the worst areas of erosion and incision in Cameron Creek though, primarily due to removal of beavers and beaver habitat. While revegetation is a key component of restoration in this 2-mile section, reconnection of the historic wetland/floodplain to the existing channel will be pivotal to continued rehabilitation of the stream. This is why BWP intends to construct beaver mimicry in the area in conjunction with revegetation.

In the past, BWP and Sula Peak Ranch have utilized grazing changes to improve vegetation growth along Cameron Creek's banks. BWP will coordinate with DEQ, Sula Peak Ranch, and other agencies to implement grazing controls on the project site, ensuring restoration treatments have time to establish.

## 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) (*Not required for HAB reduction projects)*

Bitterroot - Bitter Root Water Forum

NA — Letter of support from author, or if the author was contracted, the author sponsor, attached? *(If no, explain why below.)*

The Bitterroot Water Partnership was formerly named Bitterroot Water Forum, and managed the Bitterroot Watershed Restoration Plan's creation.

**IMPAIRMENT LISTINGS:** Projects that address water quality impairments on Montana's 2020 List of Impaired Waters are preferred though not a requirement. Funding may be used for projects that protect waterbodies that are demonstrated to be healthy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters | East Fork Bitterroot River |
| Probable causes of impairment to be addressed | Alteration of stream-side or littoral vegetative covers; sedimentation/siltation, and temperature. |
| Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters | |
| Probable causes of impairment to be addressed | |

**HEALTHY WATERSHEDS:** While project funding is prioritized to addressing known impairments, funding can be used to protect healthy waters from becoming impaired.

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of healthy waterbody to be protected | |
| Description of identified threat | |
| Name of healthy waterbody to be protected | |
| | |
| Description of identified threat | |

# 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 if project site(s) have been predetermined.*)

| Landowner | Contributions to Project | Letter of Support Attached? |
|---|---|---|
| SMR Sula Peak Ranch | Access for restoration implementation/maintenance, letter of support, and assistance supplying woody debris or other materials. | ☑ |
| | | ☐ |
| | | ☐ |
| | | ☐ |

| Project Partner | Contributions to Project | Letter of Support Attached? |
|---|---|---|
| Bitterroot Water Partnership | Will lead design, permitting, implementation, administration, and maintenance of the project. Our local volunteer teams will also provide vital labor during implementation of the project, specifically with BDA installation, planting, browse protection installation, and later maintenance. | ☐ |
| Montana FWP - FFIP Program | BWP will seek supplemental funding for this project from the Future Fisheries Improvement Program. FWP staff have and will be consulted during project planning to ensure native fish habitat is improved and maintained in Cameron Creek. | ☑ |
| | | ☐ |
| | | ☐ |
| | | ☐ |

# 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 2026)? | To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Draft Project Designs ..... | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ |
| *Final Project Designs ..... | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ |
| Consultation With Potential Regulators ..... | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ |
| Necessary Permits ..... | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ |
| Cultural Resources Inventory *(if relevant)* ..... | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ |
| 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 2026).

Initial site visits and scoping have been completed, and further project scoping will be completed this field season with agencies such as Montana FWP. Draft designs for the BDA construction and willow plantings will be completed as well.

Describe any additional project planning and coordination that will need to be completed after the execution of a contract (October 2026).

All planning, surveying, and coordination necessary for the other treatments (brush banks, beaver mitigation devices) will be necessary. The permit application process for all treatments will be completed after contract execution. Annual planning and coordination of the implementation phases, including any adaptive management changes, will also be necessary.

# 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 (Oct 2026)? | 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. Project effectiveness success criteria should be time-bound and assess each project objective quantitatively. Success criteria should clearly define adaptive management thresholds. Examples may include: a minimum 25% decrease in sediment/nitrogen/phosphorus load within 2 years; a 70% survival rate of containerized plantings after one year.

***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:

BWP will consult with the DEQ Project Manager, and implement a project monitoring plan with the following processes:
1. Photopoint monitoring will be completed pre-construction, immediately after construction, and yearly for a minimum of 5 years. Each restoration treatment area will be photographed, as well as indicative areas of the stream to visually measure restoration success.
2. Sediment erosion reduction will be estimated in tons/year for this 2-mile reach of Cameron Creek using BEHI erosion estimate methods.

Adaptive management thresholds:
1. If photopoint monitoring suggests that 50% more living, native plant cover along the stream has not been achieved, BWP will complete further plantings and adjust maintenance to increase planting survival rates.
2. The project goal is to decrease sediment erosion by at least 25%. If erosion surveys suggest this has not been achieved within two years, BWP will implement adaptive measures. This may include pursuing further funding for further restoration treatments.

**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 (and for harmful algal bloom reduction projects, carbon sequestration/emissions 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 Stated 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 d**etailed 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.*

Restoration treatments are detailed below. Yearly work phases are detailed on the "Cameron Creek Planview" attachment. Site photos and example treatments are also attached separately, and referenced in the Cameron Creek Planview.

1. Low-tech, Process-Based Restoration (LTPBR)

BWP will install up to 200 beaver-dam analogues (BDAs) along this 2-mile reach of Cameron Creek. BDAs will be constructed in yearly phases for three years. This effort will provide areas for fine sediments to settle behind structures, raising water elevations and reconnecting the incised, aggrading channel to historic side channels and floodplain/ wetland areas. In the longterm, reconstruction of the historic beaver wetland in this reach will improve both water quality and groundwater storage.

2. Riparian Revegetation

As BDAs are installed, streambanks will be replanted with native riparian species. This will consist of cuttings of native willows, cottonwoods, etc. installed into banks via "dibble bars" or similar tools. This has been a cost-effective technique in lower reaches of Cameron Creek. BWP volunteer teams will plant as many as 5k cuttings per year for at least 3 years. All plantings will have browse protection fencing installed around them to prevent browse by wildlife and livestock until established. Revegetation design will include a 35ft vegetation buffer, as required in the design standards.

3. Address Headcutting

A headcut approximately 3 feet deep has developed where one irrigation ditch returns to Cameron Creek. A rock/log zeedyk structure will be installed to arrest this headcut, avoiding further damage to both the stream bank and the irrigation ditch.

4. Brush Bank Treatments

Some eroded banks are exceptional, as high as 10 feet above the stream. These will need further treatment to mitigate sediment erosion. Brush banks, coir logs, or similar treatments will be installed along with native plants to arrest fine sediment erosion while the LTPBR treatment takes effect long-term. It is estimated up to 200 feet of brush bank treatments may be necessary.

6. Beaver Mitigation Devices

To minimize human-beaver conflict, BWP will install beaver mitigation devices. Devices will be installed at four culverts and 1 irrigation diversion. We will install starter dams (BDAs placed 15-20 feet upstream of infrastructure) and wire fences around structures to prevent beavers from damming these critical areas.

7. Grazing Management

BWP staff will coordinate with the landowner to create a grazing management plan that sustains native plant establishment while also supporting the landowner's grazing needs. This may include riparian fencing and/or adjustments to grazing timing/frequency.

8. Maintenance

Each season, for 3-5 years, BWP staff/volunteers will repair BDAs constructed in-stream. BWP staff will also maintain the beaver mitigation devices for up to 3 years, at which time the landowner will take over maintenance of the devices. Beaver are expected to migrate from up- and downstream of the project area, negating long-term maintenance needs for the beaver dam complex. If riparian fencing is chosen as a form of grazing control, the landowner will maintain said fences once installed.

# 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 per project 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 generates behavior change 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 or training you will complete to promote behaviors or facilitate future efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Additionally, identify the goals of the training/education and outreach activities.

Professional drone / camera photography and video of the restoration site
+ video and photo editing for a 5-8 minute feature video
Project presentation(s) for 50-75 volunteers
2 Community presentations for ~40 people showcasing the restoration project / techniques / impacts - 5 hours
4 e-newsletters featuring the project and it's impact on NPS in the Bitterroot
2-3 social media posts
Webpage / blog creation showcasing project details
2 tabling days at the Hamilton Farmers Market to open discussion on NPS in the Bitterroot and solutions can be employed

Identify the specific target audience and method of delivery. Additionally, describe how the proposed training and/or education and outreach will increase local capacity and interest for addressing/promoting behavior change to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

The target audiences for this outreach are people in the Bitterroot watershed who are most likely to engage with BWP's Mission and restoration work: Wildlife enthusiasts, conservation advocates, outdoor recreationists, community-minded stewards, and streamside landowners. In total, our outreach activities typically reach ~2,000 people.

The activities we propose are entirely designed to help people learn about NPS and, generally, about streamside restoration that can reduce such pollution. There are no skills trainings proposed in this grant.

Rarely does education alone lead to behavior change, though an increased understanding and appreciation of the issues at hand and available solutions can be a precursor to, or foundation for, later behavior change. A community with greater appreciation of these issues or, at minimum a greater curiosity for them, can be more likely to 'change behaviors' or invest in alternative methods when later presented with the appropriate tools and resources to facilitate behavior change.

Describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed activities.

Metrics to evaluate the outcomes of our conservation learning resources include:
- Number of individuals reached (i.e. email open rate, # of newsletters sent, # of people attending the community presentation, etc)
- Similarly, # of webpage visits and # of video views
- Engagement rate - number of people who positively responded to / interacted with our social media posts about NPS/Cameron Restoration

# 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 the Project Administration Task on each project 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 Status Reports, Final Reports and Attachment B Billing Statements according to the format and schedule described below.*

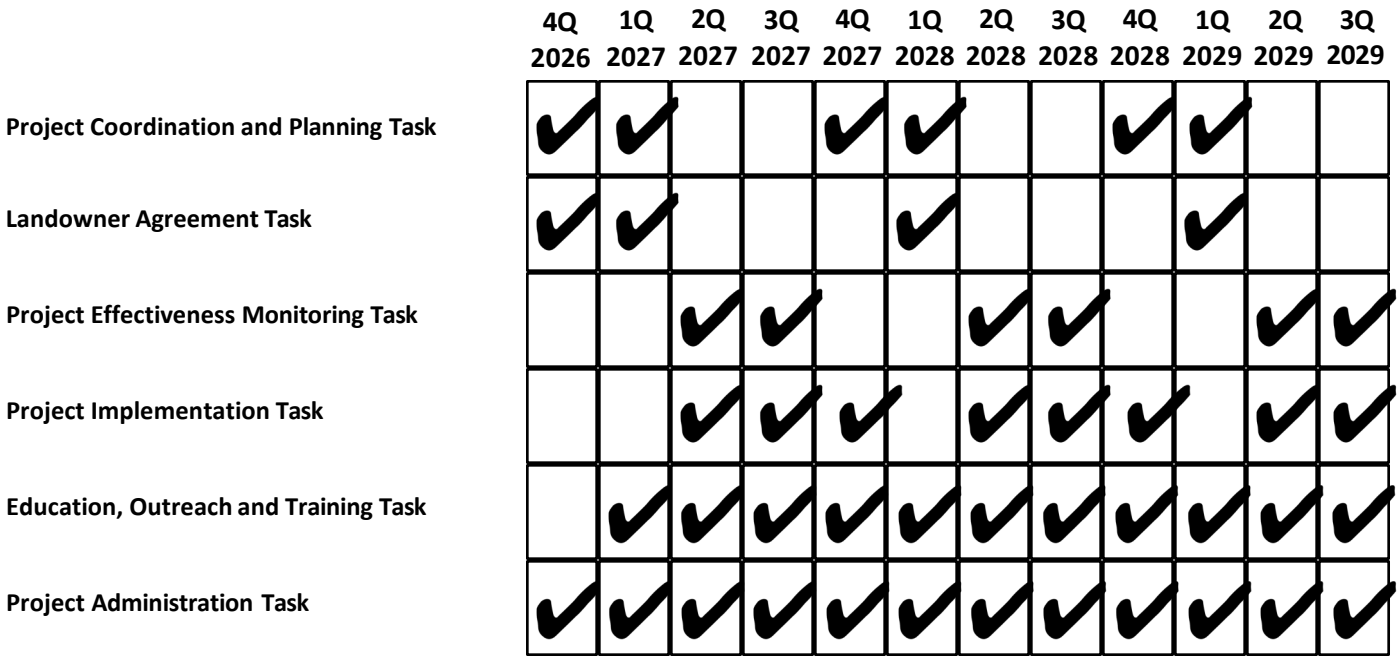
*Report Format*

- *Contractor shall submit each Attachment B Billing Statement, Status Report and Final Report using the most current reporting guidance and templates provided by the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure each Status Report 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*

- *Status Reports: Due June 15th and December 15th of each year the Contract is in effect, and each time an Attachment B Billing Statement is submitted.*
- *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 Status Report, 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.*

## Project Timeline




## Co-Benefit Considerations

DEQ is committed to carrying out nonpoint source pollution reduction projects within engaged communities where the impact stretches beyond improving water quality. DEQ will award additional points in the scoring form where co-benefits extend beyond the project. Below are a few examples of how projects might exemplify co-benefits.

- Project will reduce economic hardship such as from livestock mortalities, cost and energy needs to treat municipal drinking and wastewater treatment, or loss of income from recreation
- Project will benefit underserved markets
- Project will improve or create equitable access to a clean and healthy environment
- Project planning included consultation with Tribal Nations
- Project will improve flood and drought resilience of the landscape
- Project impacts will benefit a downstream community and other natural systems (e.g., drinking water sources, human health, wildlife habitat, etc)

Please use this section to highlight co-benefits your project may have.

Restoration of this reach of Cameron Creek would have several benefits aside from water quality improvements. The beaver mimicry treatments, and rebuilding of beaver habitat in the reach, would reconnect the stream to some of its historic floodplain. This would increase wetland acreage and groundwater storage within the project area, which improves drought resilience of the stream corridor. Over time, the improved groundwater recharge may also improve forage in the surrounding pasture as well.

Re-establishing beaver habitat would also revitalize habitat for the area's native fish and big game species. Historically, Cameron Creek provided habitat for Westslope Cutthroat trout and Bull trout, but current sediment issues and water temperatures have removed this habitat. The area also hosts one of the largest elk herds in the Bitterroot valley. Replanting riparian plant species in this area would provide vital cover and browse for this herd, as well as other big games species prevalent in the area.

**Signature:** Paul Nelson

**Email:** pnelson@jrmiller.com

**Signature:** Heather Mullee (Mar 12, 2026 14:00:17 MDT)

**Email:** heather@bitterrootwater.org

# eMACS_Application_Cameron_Creek_2026

Final Audit Report 2026-03-12

| | |
|---|---|
| Created: | 2026-03-09 |
| By: | Damon Tucker (damon@bitterrootwater.org) |
| Status: | Signed |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAj9l4uqTsA6oh4UKKpqANIyRXw4PcQMLX |

## "eMACS_Application_Cameron_Creek_2026" History

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Agreement completed.

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# BUDGET

**2026 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - On-the-Ground Project Budget Template**

| Project Title: | Beaver Mimicry and Restoration on Cameron Creek | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Instructions** | **Tasks and Potential Deliverables** | **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 Investigations | | | $ 3,305.00 | | | $ 3,305.00 | Consultant and staff labor expenses for initial project planning and investigation paid by DEQ Grant 223003 |
| | Surveying and Design support | $ 20,874.00 | | | | | $ 20,874.00 | Contracting estimate for project-scale wetland evaluations, and design and permitting support for channel culverts and brush bank treatments. |
| | Project Design, Permitting, and Planning | $ 2,580.00 | | | | | $ 2,580.00 | Staff labor for drafting project designs, permitting, and annual planning of restoration phases. |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | *Total* | $ 23,454.00 | $ - | $ 3,305.00 | | | $ 26,759.00 | |
| *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** | | | | | | | |
| | Drafting Landowner Agreement | | | $ 129.00 | | | $ 129.00 | Staff labor, paid by DEQ Grant 223003. |
| | Grazing Management Plan | $ 344.00 | | | | | $ 344.00 | Staff labor to coordinate a grazing management plan with landowner and applicable agencies. |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | *Total* | $ 344.00 | $ - | $ 129.00 | | | $ 473.00 | |
| *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 Plans | $ 360.00 | | | | | $ 360.00 | Staff labor to draft project monitoring and adaptive management plans |
| | Monitoring implementation | $ 1,192.00 | | | | | $ 1,192.00 | Staff labor to implement pre- and post-implementation monitoring, adaptive management, and annual success monitoring. |
| | Written Summary of all Monitoring Activities | $ 168.00 | | | | | $ 168.00 | Staff labor to finalize monitoring findings into a report. |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | *Total* | $ 1,720.00 | $ - | $ - | | | $ 1,720.00 | |
| *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** | | | | | | | |
| | BDA/Planting Materials | $ 14,793.00 | $ 33,576.00 | | BWP/USFS | Y | $ 48,369.00 | Costs include 1600 posts for BDAs, 3k feet of browse protection fence, zeedyk materials, and beaver mitigation materials; in-kind match is browse protection fencing (3000 feet of mesh fence, and 330+ T-posts), native plant cuttings ($1/per, at 15k plants), and woody debris for BDAs from USFS and/or the landowner. |
| | BDA/Planting Labor | $ 16,770.00 | $ 34,094.00 | | Volunteer Crews | Y | $ 50,864.00 | Staff labor for BDA construction, planting, zeedyk construction, and construction oversight; in-kind match of volunteer assistance ($34.79/hour) estimated at 980 hours total. |
| | Construction Oversight | $ 2,350.00 | | | | | $ 2,350.00 | Contractor estimate for oversight of brush bank installation |
| | Brush Bank Construction | $ 20,000.00 | $ 20,000.00 | | Future Fisheries Improvement Program | N | $ 40,000.00 | Design, permitting, and contracting to construct brush bank treatments; BWP will seek funding from FFIP for half the total cost in May 2026. |
| | As-built surveys | $ 336.00 | | | | | $ 336.00 | Staff time completing as-built surveys after each project phase. |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | *Total* | $ 54,249.00 | $ 87,670.00 | $ - | | | $ 141,919.00 | |
| *This task includes costs to develop and improve organizational capacity and to incorporate education and outreach into each on-the ground projects. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.* | **Education and Outreach** | | | | | | | |
| | Volunteer Coordination | $ 430.00 | | | | | $ 430.00 | Staff labor to coordinate volunteers and support project-related events. |
| | Outreach/Publication materials - Print | $ 860.00 | | | | | $ 860.00 | Staff time to create/distribute printed materials, i.e. mailed newsletters, impact report, etc. related to the project and NPS pollution generally. |
| | Outreach/Publication materials - digital | $ 2,279.00 | | | | | $ 2,279.00 | Staff time to create/distribute digital outreach materials - social media posts, e-newsletters, videos, etc. |
| | photo/video/testimony collection | $ 1,075.00 | | | | | $ 1,075.00 | Staff time to collect quality media (photos, videos, interview testimonies) to showcase the activities and outcomes related to NPS/this restoration project |
| | In-Person Outreach | $ 301.00 | | | | | $ 301.00 | Staff time to manage in-person outreach, such as outreach stations at the local Farmers Market or community presentations |
| | *Total* | $ 4,945.00 | $ - | $ - | | | $ 4,945.00 | |
| *Funding applied to Project Administration task must not exceed 10% of the total amount of funding requested per project, or $12,000, whichever is lower. Project admin includes normal business expenses and reporting requirements.* | **Administration** | | | | | | | |
| | Project Administration and Reporting | $ 9,890.00 | | | | | $ 9,890.00 | Staff labor for reporting/DEQ communications and project administration costs. |
| | Draft/Final Report and Billing Statement | $ 172.00 | | | | | $ 172.00 | Staff labor drafting, revising, and submitting the final project report |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | | | | | | | $ - | |
| | *Total* | $ 10,062.00 | $ - | $ - | | | $ 10,062.00 | |
| | | **Funding Request*** | **Non-Federal Match**** | **Other Funding***** | | | **Total Project Cost** | |
| | ***Grand Totals*** | $ 94,774.00 | $ 87,670.00 | $ 3,434.00 | | | $ 185,878.00 | |

*Funding Request - Must not exceed $300,000 and must be at least $125,000 for harmful algal bloom reduction projects

**Non-Federal Match - Can include in-kind materials.
***Other Funding - Include federal match here, or, for example, other funding that is supporting the project but cannot be reported as match on this grant because it is matching another funding source.

****Additional Information - Use to specify non-federal match and other funding sources, or use to justify cost if needed (e.g., hourly rates, rental costs, etc.)

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Watershed Protection Bureau
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Dear 319 Panelists:

I would like to offer my support of the Bitterroot Water Partnership's latest restoration project application on our property, "2026 Bitterroot Headwaters Restoration." BWP has completed successful stream restoration projects on Cameron Creek both up- and downstream of this proposed project for 2027-2029. Each project has improved the stream and habitat on the property substantially, and we have coordinated with BWP on projects around the East Fork Bitterroot as well. We look forward to pursuing further restoration together on Cameron Creek at Sula Peak Ranch.

Sincerely,

Paul Nelson, Ranch Manager, Sula Peak Ranch LLC

FWP.MT.GOV

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Jason Lindstrom
Fisheries Biologist
1801 North First Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

March 6, 2026

RE: Statement of impact for Bitterroot Water Partnership's Cameron Creek project.

This letter is being provided as a statement of impact for the project proposed by the Bitterroot Water Partnership on Cameron Creek in the Bitterroot Headwaters area. As the fisheries biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in the Bitterroot drainage, I am very familiar with the project location. Cameron Creek is a direct tributary to the East Fork Bitterroot River, which is listed as an impaired waterbody on Montana's 303(d) list. While Cameron Creek is not listed as impaired, it suffers from similar issues as the East Fork including elevated water temperatures, sedimentation, and reduced woody stream-side vegetation. The stream supports native westslope cutthroat trout, a species of concern, although poor habitat quality in the lower portion of the drainage limits occupancy in this area.

Historic land use practices have led to severe habitat degradation along much of lower Cameron Creek. Woody riparian vegetation removal and channelization have caused significant down cutting in many areas as well as accelerated bank erosion. Pool habitat necessary to support a quality fishery is limited, as is spawning and rearing habitat for native salmonids. In addition to channel instability, the lack of woody vegetation along much of lower Cameron Creek has led to elevated summer water temperatures further limiting habitat quality.

The low-tech process-based restoration techniques in addition to soft bank treatments discussed in the Bitterroot Water Partnership's application are appropriate to address project objectives. Properly implemented, the beaver dam analog structures and bank treatments, in conjunction with riparian plantings and grazing management, will accelerate the natural recovery of the area. It will help to aggrade the stream bed and reconnect this section of Cameron Creek to a functional floodplain. The project will also help to increase habitat complexity and pool habitat, providing a direct benefit to the fishery.

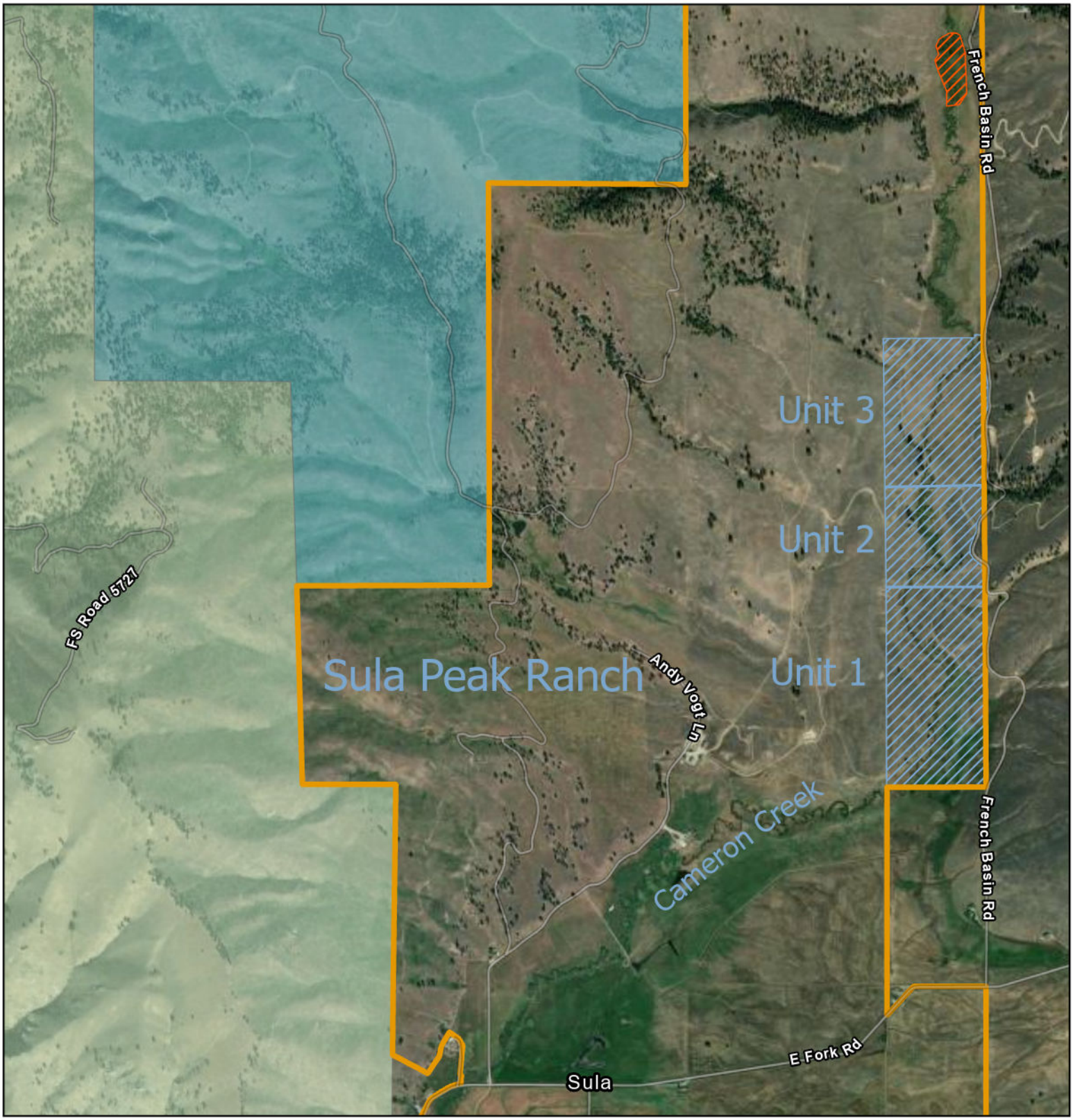
This proposed project complements FWP's management direction for the drainage as described in the current Statewide Fisheries Management Plan 2023-2026, which is to conserve and enhance migratory and resident native trout populations.

Sincerely,

*Jason Lindstrom*

Jason Lindstrom – Fisheries Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Ph# (406) 529-8058
Email: Jason.Lindtrom@mt.gov

# MAPS/ DESIGNS



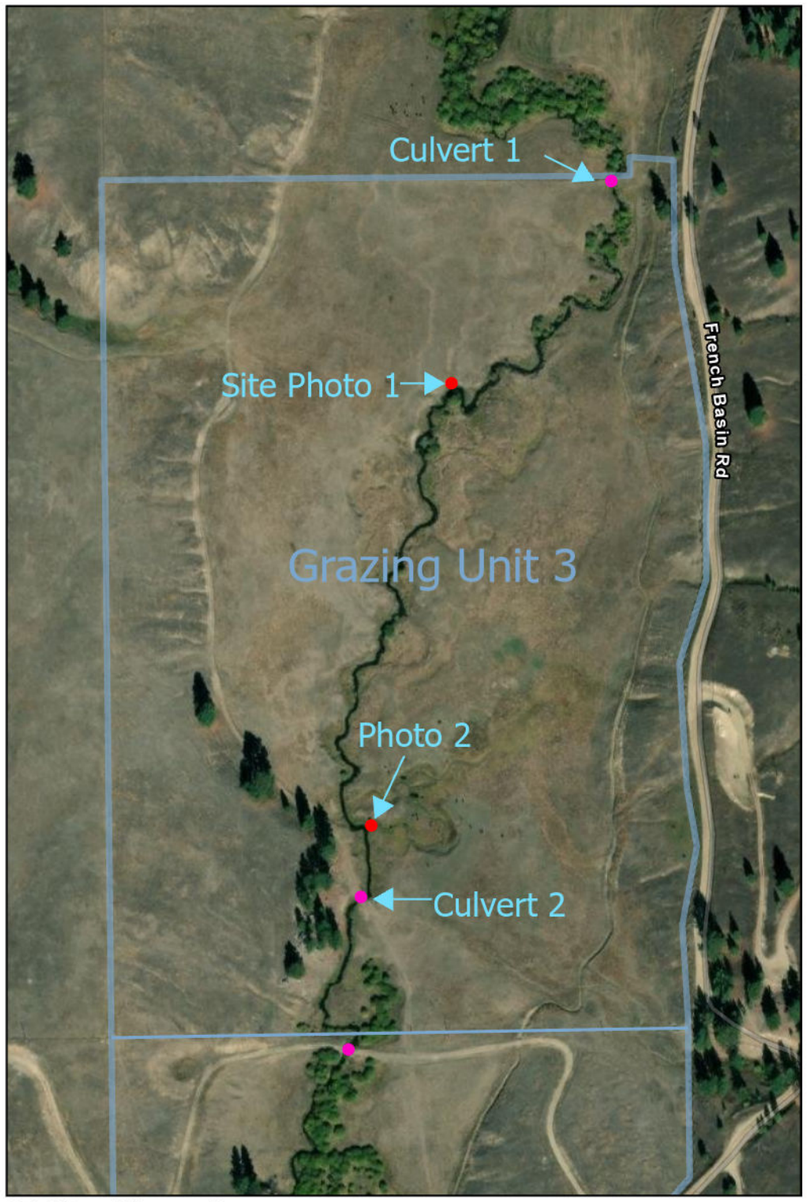

# Upper Cameron Creek Restoration Project Overview

Sula Peak Ranch Boundary | Reference Reach | Project Area | Pasture Fence

Project Coordinates: 45.8671487, -113.9527311
Stream Restoration Possible: 2.5 miles
Wetland/Floodplain Potential: Up to 20 Acres

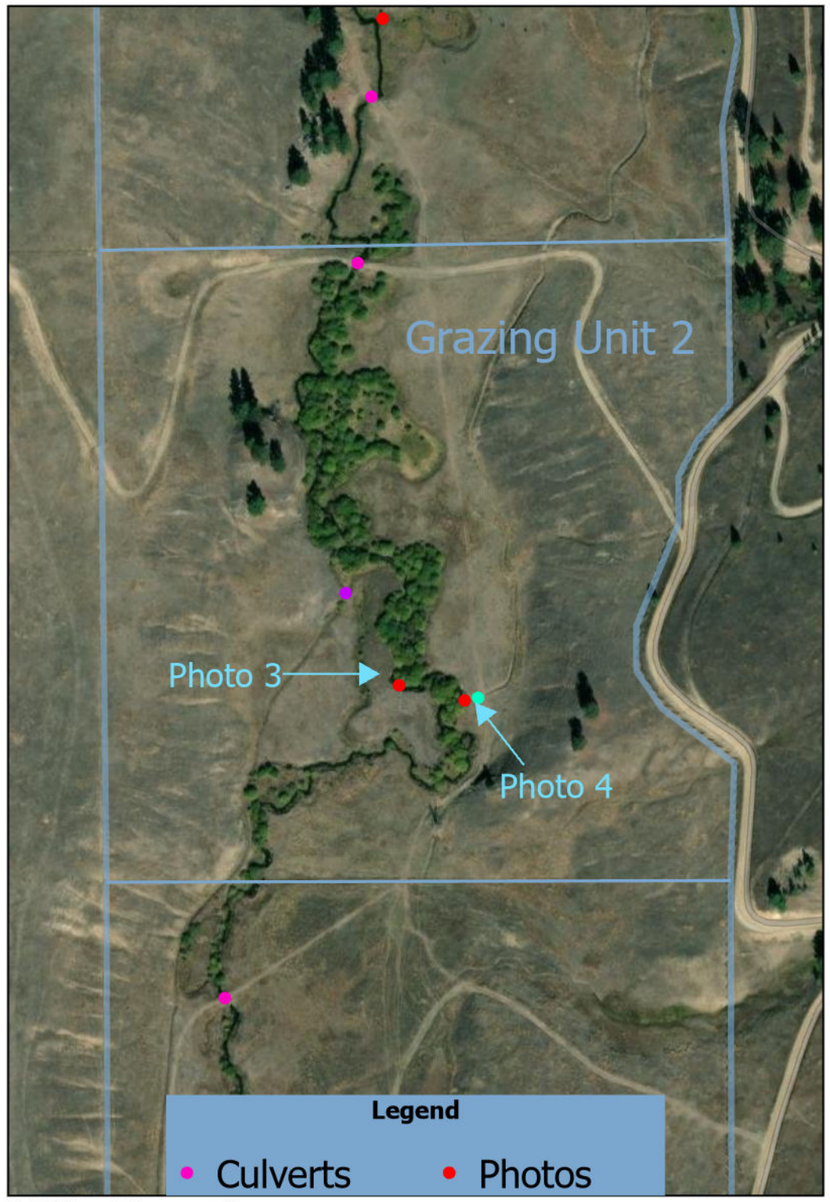
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

BITTERROOT WATER PARTNERSHIP



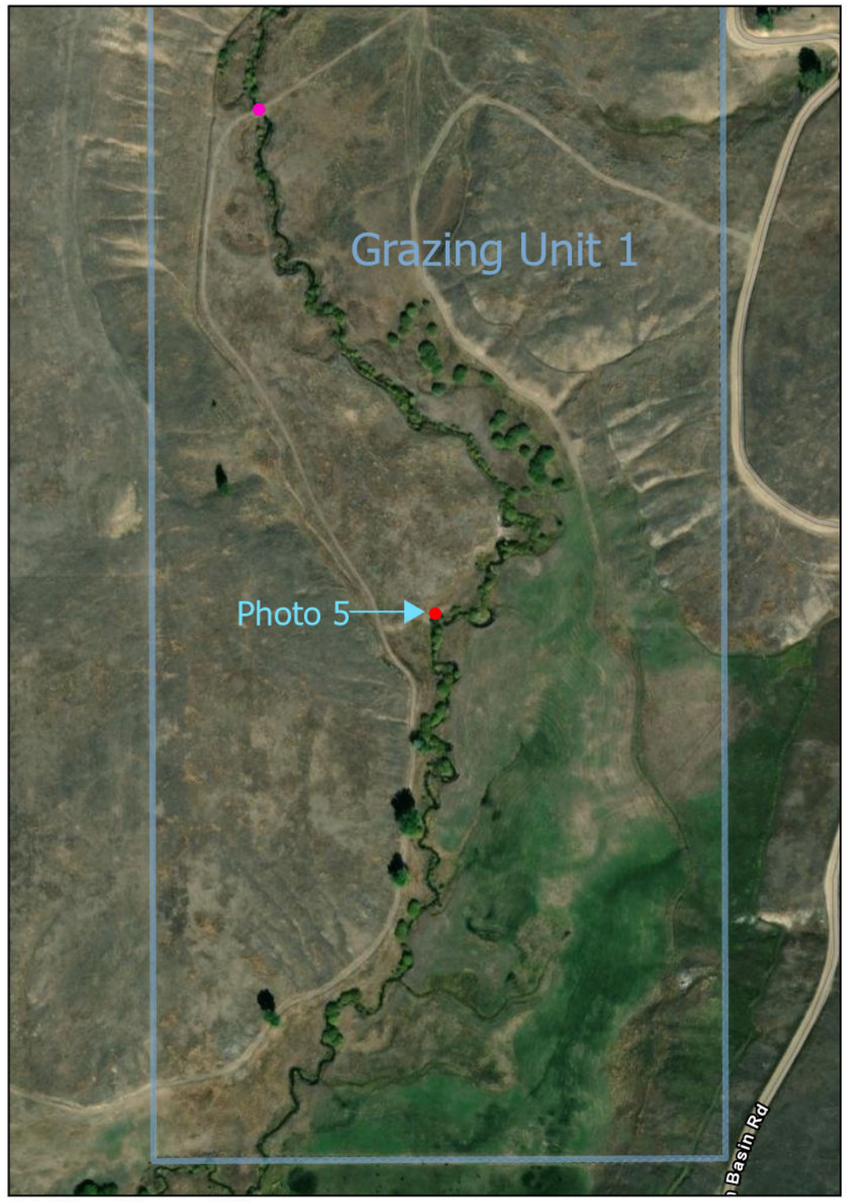

2027 - Phase I

1. 60+ BDA structures in Unit 3
2. 5000+ willows planted in Unit 3
3. Headcut repair in Unit 2.
4. Brush bank treatments on up to 100 feet of bank in Unit 1.



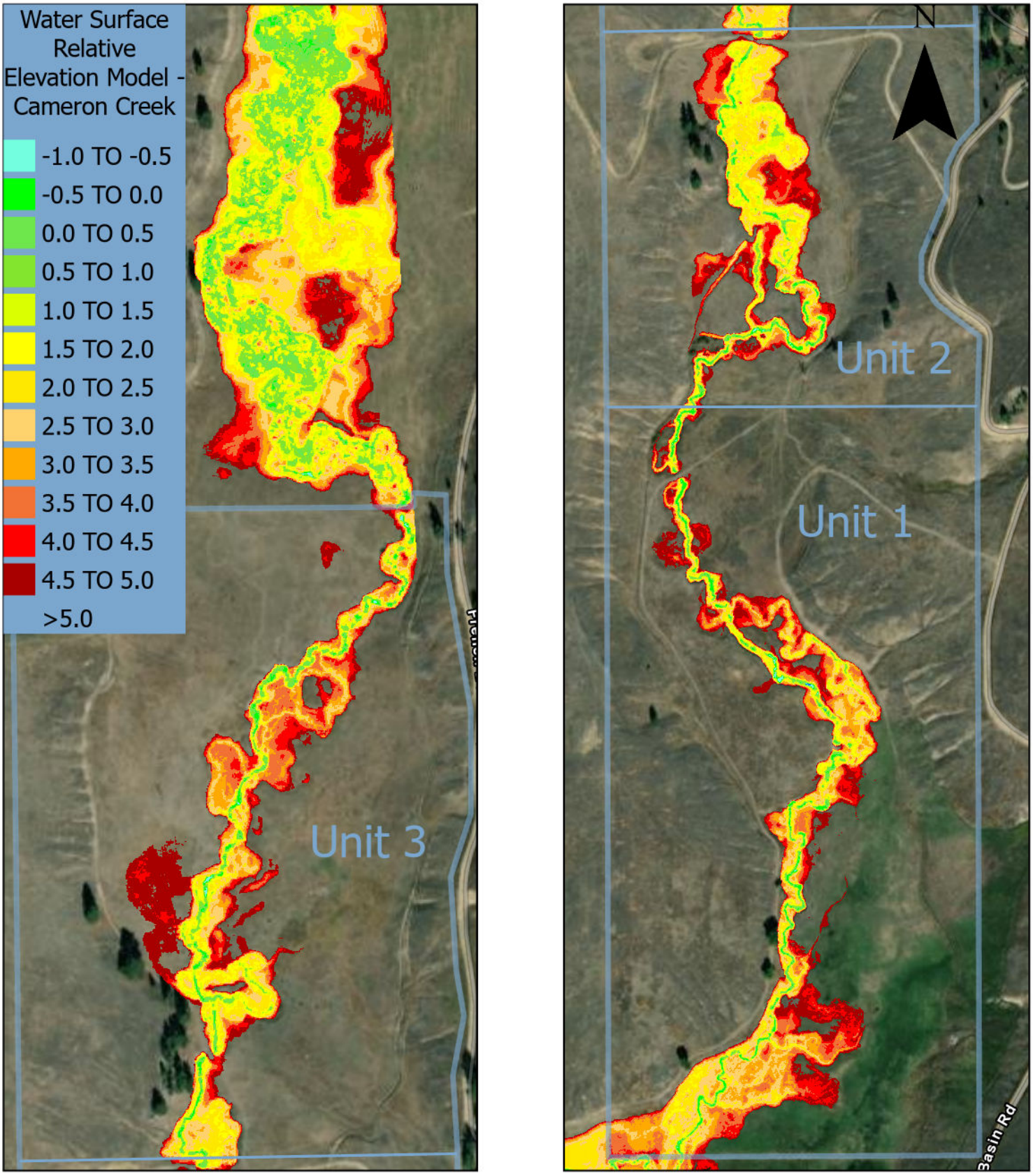

2028 - Phase II

1. 60+ BDAs in Unit 1.
2. 5000+ willows planted in Units 1 and 3.
3. Beaver mitigation devices installed.
4. Brush bank treatments on up to 100 feet of bank in Unit 3.




2029 - Phase III

1. up to 80 BDAs in Units 1, 2, and 3.
2. 5000+ Willows planted across all units.




Relative Elevation Model to estimate inundation under various changes to water surface elevation. If water surface elevation is initially elevated one foot, water inundation would be within the areas in green. Over time, water surface elevation could be raised 2.5-3 feet, regularly inundating the regions in yellow/light orange. Current wetland/beaver habitat is visible in Unit 4, and an approximate reference condition.

# OTHER ATTACHMENTS

**Cameron Creek 2026 Site Photos**

Photo numbers below match locations in the “CameronCreek_2026_Phases_Map” Attachment.

Photo 1, Unit 3: 8-foot tall eroded bank.

Photo 2, Unit 3: Side channel area that could be connected to the main channel using BDAs.

Photo 3, Unit 2: Example of eroding banks that occur in most of the project area.

Site Photo 4, Unit 2: Headcutting at ditch outlet into Cameron Creek.

Photo 5, Unit 1: 10-foot tall, eroded bank.