2026 On-the-Ground Project Application Form

General Information

Project Name: East Fork Bitterroot Restoration on Lazy J Cross Ranch

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)? Y

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: Lazy J Cross Ranch Inc

Landowner Signature: Jim Wetzstein (Mar 12, 2026 10:58:58 AKDT)

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: East Fork Bitterroot Restoration on Lazy J Cross Ranch

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.

- [ ] Project Design Plans/Drawings
- [ ] Preliminary Engineering Reports / Site Evaluations
- [ ] Landowner Agreements / Construction Permits / Floodplain Permits
- [x] Site photos
- [ ] Additional Letters of Support
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] 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/

Jennings Camp - East Fork Bitterroot River (HUC 170102050503)

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.

Please see attached Project Overview Map for locations of the current and past Lazy J Cross projects.

In 2016, BWP investigated restoration potential in this stream reach, as well as downstream. Surveys at that time suggested the lower reach was developing sinuosity in a historically straightened section, making it the priority restoration area. In 2017, BWP installed willow trenches, shrub transplants, and browse protection fence on select point bars and banks to maintain this sinuosity, begin revegetation, and minimize bank erosion. 4,000 feet of riparian fence was also installed 30-40 feet from the stream banks on either side, limiting grazing within the riparian buffer zone. Over the next 10 years, native shrubs expanded quickly. Natural recruitment outside of browse protection or planting areas was substantial. 2022 plant counts by BWP volunteers noted "at least hundreds of most species" naturally establishing outside of browse cages. DEQ sediment assessments of the project estimated a 6.6 tons/year (38%) reduction in bank erosion has occurred. Before/after photos of the 2017 Lazy J project are attached for reference. The high profile nature of this site, given the recreational public access for hunting and fishing, have made it a great demonstration site to showcase riparian restoration.

This 2026 project reach was evaluated in 2016 as well, and considered an optimal next step for restoration on the property. This reach has multiple braided channels, a lower slope grade, and woody debris buildup leading to a more connected floodplain than the lower reach in 2017. A mature cottonwood grove is present on-site and willow stands are present just upstream on another property. These factors, and the natural recruitment success downstream, suggest that riparian fencing to reduce grazing and strategically placed willow trenches will quickly lead to new vegetation growth in the project area.

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 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 in streamside or littoral vegetation cover; sedimentation/siltation; 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?
Lazy J Cross Ranch Inc.	Access for restoration implementation/maintenance, letter of support, and fencing materials match.	☑
		☐
		☐
		☐

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 provide labor for planting willow trenches and installing browse protection fence.	☐
Bob Wetzsteon: grazing lessee on Lazy J Cross Ranch	Assistance procuring plant materials and assistance removing older/damaged fence.	☐
Geum Environmental Consulting	Geum created the 2017 restoration plan used for scoping this project, and provided consulting for initial planning.	☐
		☐
		☐

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).

An initial draft of design plan will be ready by October 2026 for DEQ review and permitting.

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

The majority of final planning will be completed after October 2026, including final designs and applying for necessary permits.

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:

Monitoring for this project will consist of:
1. Photopoint monitoring of several points within the excluded riparian corridor, including photopoints of the willow trench area. Photopoint monitoring will continue for 5+ years to evaluate long-term revegetation success.
2. Estimate of sediment load reduction, in tons/year, of the excluded riparian corridor. BWP will utilize BEHI survey methods to estimate sediment load reduction.
Adaptive Management Thresholds:
1. If plant survival within the willow trench area is estimated at 50% or less, further plantings will be conducted using either willow cuttings or containerized plants.
2. If surveys within the fenced riparian buffer zone indicate that new, native plant growth is 50% or less of the area, BWP will conduct further plantings inside the buffer zone.
3. If the above surveys and photopoints suggest the project will not decrease sediment loading in the area by 25% within 3 years, further planting efforts (such as willow trenches) will be implemented.

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.*

Implementation tasks are listed below. Please see attached maps and site photos for further details. Details of the previous Lazy J Cross project are also attached for reference.

1. Riparian Fencing

Heavily damaged fence along the southern bank will be removed. 6,300 feet of riparian fence will be installed along both banks, and connected to the previous project's fencing. Gates will be installed to maintain public access to the Block Management Area, and for landowner access to irrigation diversions. The fence will average approximately 35-45 feet from each stream bank to provide a riparian buffer zone. 1 mile of total streambank, or 15 acres of riparian buffer will be fenced from cattle grazing. Monitoring of the previous project downstream indicates extensive natural recruitment outside of BWP's planting areas, suggesting that grazing exclusion will be sufficient for revegetation.

2. Willow Trenches

Along the most degraded and vulnerable section of the south streambank, BWP will install up to 15 willow trenches. We will excavate to groundwater (3-4 feet) and install 900+ willow cuttings into the trenches to improve plant regeneration in this area. The willow trenches, existing vegetation, and any subsequent plantings will have browse protection fence installed around them to protect from wildlife browse until the plants are fully established.

3. Grazing Management

BWP will coordinate with the landowner and grazing lessee to develop a grazing management plan within the riparian buffer zone that meets both the lessee and restoration needs. The plan will ensure that grazing management supports establishment of native plant species within the fenced buffer zone.

3. Maintenance

BWP staff and volunteers will handle upkeep of the riparian buffer for at least 3 years. This will include adding more plantings, monitoring project success, controlling weeds within the new riparian buffer, and adding/removing browse protection fence as necessary. Once completed, the riparian fence itself will be considered Lazy J Cross property and will be maintained by the landowner.

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
Project presentation for 10 volunteers
Community presentation for ~40 people showcasing the restoration project/ techniques/ impacts
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
1 'landowner profile' blog, showcasing values and incentives for the landowner to address NPS through restorat ion
3 tabling days at the Hamilton Farmers Market to open discussion on NPS in the Bitterroot and solutions can be employed
Given that these are 'education and outreach' activit ies we do not expect them to produce 'behavior change' but rather an 'increase in knowledge and understanding' of topics like the East Fork of the Bitterroot, non-point source pollution, and the techniques used to address such concerns in the Lazy J Cross restoration project. Increased knowledge and understanding is often a precursor to behavior change.

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.

This outreach targets Bitterroot watershed residents most likely to engage with BWP's restoration work: wildlife enthusiasts, conservation advocates, outdoor recreationists, community stewards, & streamside landowners, reaching about 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/Lazy J 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.

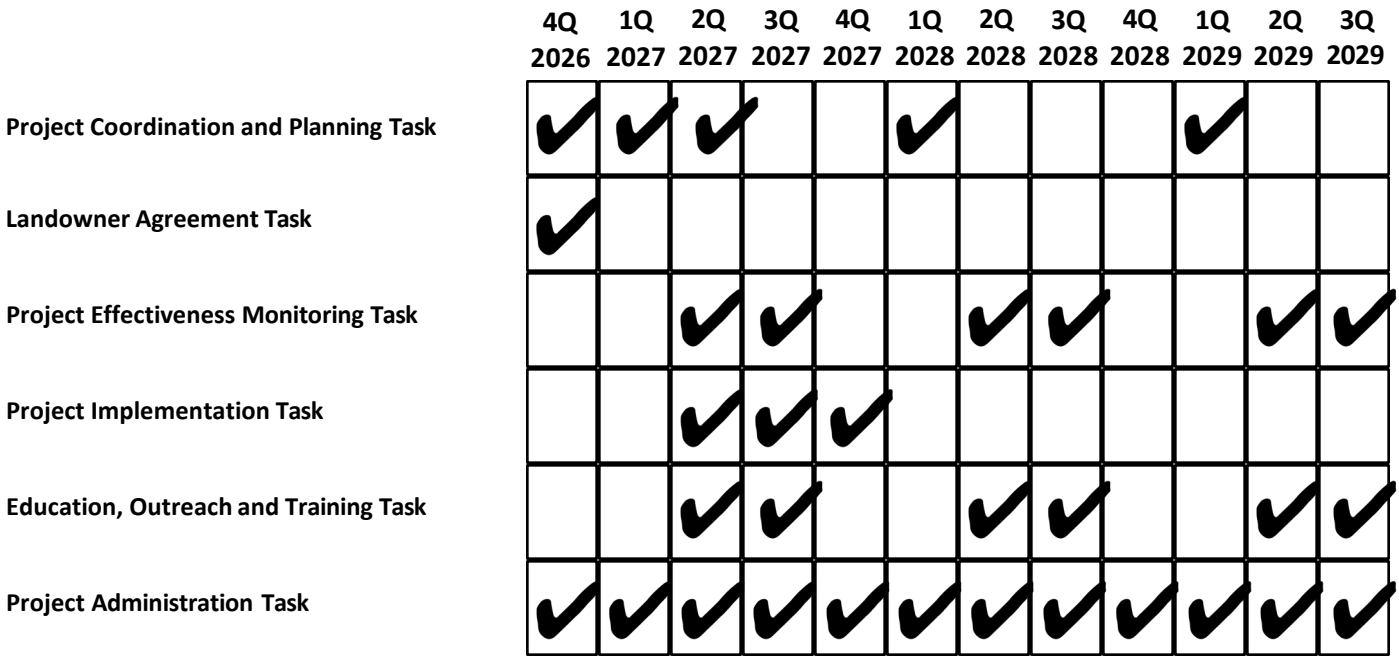
Report Format

- *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.

While the focus of the project is improving water quality, this project will also improve wildlife habitat in the area. The project area lacks streamside cover along most of the streambanks, leading to warming waters that stress native fish. The area is also home to a large herd of elk through much of the year as well as other big game. Improving riparian vegetation here would provide long-term cover and browse for a variety of native wildlife. Lazy J Cross Ranch is also part of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' Block Management Area Program. Bitterroot valley residents fish and hunt along this stretch of the river. Improving habitat in the area would also serve the local community that utilizes Lazy J for outdoor recreation.

Signature: Jill Wetzstein (Mar 12, 2026 10:58:58 AKDT)

Email: jillapplebury@aol.com

Signature: Heather Mullee (Mar 12, 2026 14:00:43 MDT)

Email: heather@bitterrootwater.org

eMACS_Application_LazyJ_2026

Final Audit Report 2026-03-12

Created:	2026-03-09
By:	Damon Tucker (damon@bitterrootwater.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAL1GtY3Osk5C3sCzBm5a8X2RDNuT9nQif

"eMACS_Application_LazyJ_2026" History

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2026-03-09 - 6:14:21 PM GMT

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2026-03-09 - 6:16:54 PM GMT

Email viewed by jillapplebury@aol.com
2026-03-12 - 6:57:10 PM GMT

Signer jillapplebury@aol.com entered name at signing as Jill Wetzsteon
2026-03-12 - 6:58:56 PM GMT

Document e-signed by Jill Wetzsteon (jillapplebury@aol.com)
Signature Date: 2026-03-12 - 6:58:58 PM GMT - Time Source: server

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2026-03-12 - 6:59:47 PM GMT

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2026-03-12 - 8:00:27 PM GMT

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Signature Date: 2026-03-12 - 8:00:43 PM GMT - Time Source: server

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2026-03-12 - 10:40:01 PM GMT

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Agreement completed.

2026-03-12 - 10:40:17 PM GMT

BUDGET

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

Project Title:	East Fork Bitterroot Restoration on Lazy J Cross Ranch							
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**							
	Project planning/design	$ 1,720.00		$ 420.00		Y	$ 2,140.00	includes pre-project coordination with landowners/lessee under DEQ grant 223003
	Permit Application/Meetings	$ 344.00					$ 344.00	Staff labor preparing permit application and meeting with regulators/landowners.
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 2,064.00	$ -	$ 420.00			$ 2,484.00	
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**							
	Landowner Agreement and Grazing Management	$ 258.00					$ 258.00	Staff labor to draft, finalize, and manage landowner agreements and grazing plan coordination.
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 258.00	$ -	$ -			$ 258.00	
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**							
	Drafting Monitoring Plan	$ 430.00					$ 430.00	Staff labor to draft and finalize monitoring plans
	Monitoring Implementation	$ 1,176.00					$ 1,176.00	Staff labor to manage pre-, post-, and annual monitoring for three years after project.
	Final Monitoring Summary	$ 300.00					$ 300.00	Staff labor to prepare and submit final monitoring summary.
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 1,906.00	$ -	$ -			$ 1,906.00	
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**							
	Planting Materials	$ -	$ 3,461.00		BWP/Lessee	Y	$ 3,461.00	Match consists of willow transplants and/or cuttings supplied by the lessee and BWP volunteers, and browse protection fencing materials (900+ feet of mesh and 150 T-posts).
	Planting Labor	$ 688.00	$ 2,087.40		Volunteer Crews	Y	$ 2,775.40	Staff labor to lead volunteer planting days; Match consists of BWP 5-man volunteer team to assist with planting and browse fencing (rated at $34.79/hr/volunteer)
	Riparian Fence Materials/Installation	$ 23,000.00	$ 3,400.00		Lessee/Landowner	Y	$ 26,400.00	Contracting to remove old fence and install new riparian fence; Match includes fencing materials on-site (2, 16' gates at $500 each and 300+ T-posts at $8/per), and lessee equipment operation removing old fence.
	Willow Trench Excavation	$ 2,000.00					$ 2,000.00	Contracting to excavate 200+ feet of willow trenches.
	As-built surveys/photo documentation	$ 258.00					$ 258.00	Staff labor completing as-built surveys post-project.
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 25,946.00	$ 8,948.40	$ -			$ 34,894.40	
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	$ 344.00					$ 344.00	Staff labor to coordinate volunteers and support project-related events.
	Outreach/Publication materials - print	$ 672.00					$ 672.00	Staff time to create/distribute printed materials, i.e. mailed newsletters, impact report, etc. - related to the project and NPS pollution generally.
	Outreach/education materials - digital	$ 1,860.00					$ 1,860.00	Staff time to create/distribute digital outreach materials - social media posts, e-newsletters, videos, etc.
	Photo/video/testimony collection	$ 875.00					$ 875.00	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	$ 250.00					$ 250.00	Staff time to manage in-person outreach, such as outreach stations at the local Farmers Market or community presentations
	Total	$ 4,001.00	$ -	$ -			$ 4,001.00	
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	$ 3,612.00					$ 3,612.00	Staff labor administrating the grant, filing reports and reimbursement requests, etc.
	Draft/Final Report and Billing Statement	$ 172.00					$ 172.00	Staff labor to draft and submit the final grant report
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 3,784.00	$ -	$ -			$ 3,784.00	
		Funding Request*	**Non-Federal Match****	**Other Funding*****			**Total Project Cost**	
	Grand Totals	$ 37,959.00	$ 8,948.40	$ 420.00			**$ 47,327.40**	

*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

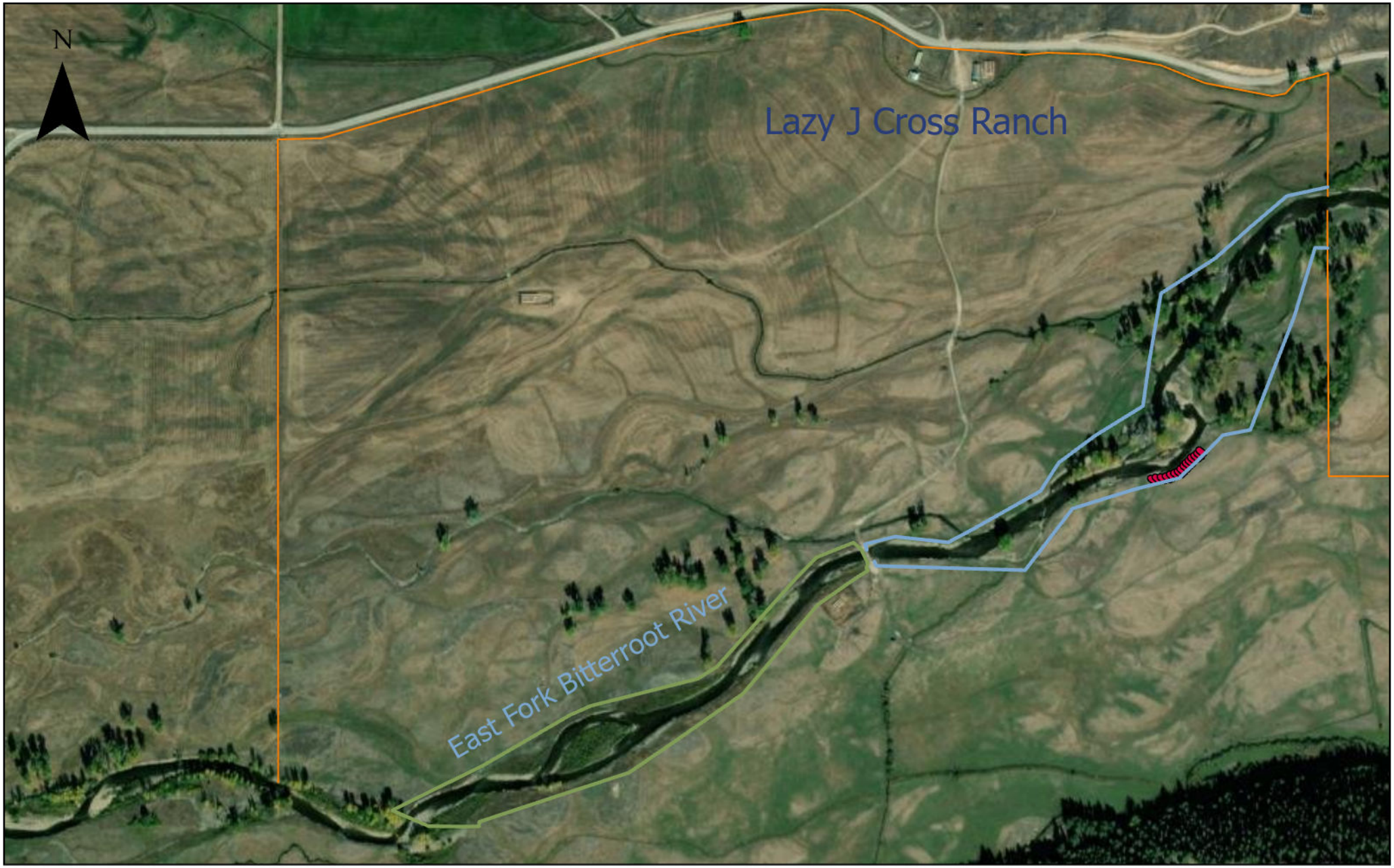
Dear 319 Panelists:

I would like to offer our family's support of the Bitterroot Water Partnership's 319 application for a restoration project on our property, Lazy J Cross Ranch, in Sula, Montana. We collaborated on a similar restoration project downstream along the East Fork Bitterroot that has been very successful. The willows and shrubs planted along the shore have improved big game habitat and the river itself, while protecting our vital grazing pastures from excessive erosion. After seeing the improvements over the years since that project was completed, our family would like to pursue further restoration upstream with the Bitterroot Water Partnership. We have reviewed their project plan as noted in the latest application and support this project.

Sincerely,

Jill Wetzsteon, Landowner, Lazy J Cross Ranch Inc.

MAPS/ DESIGNS



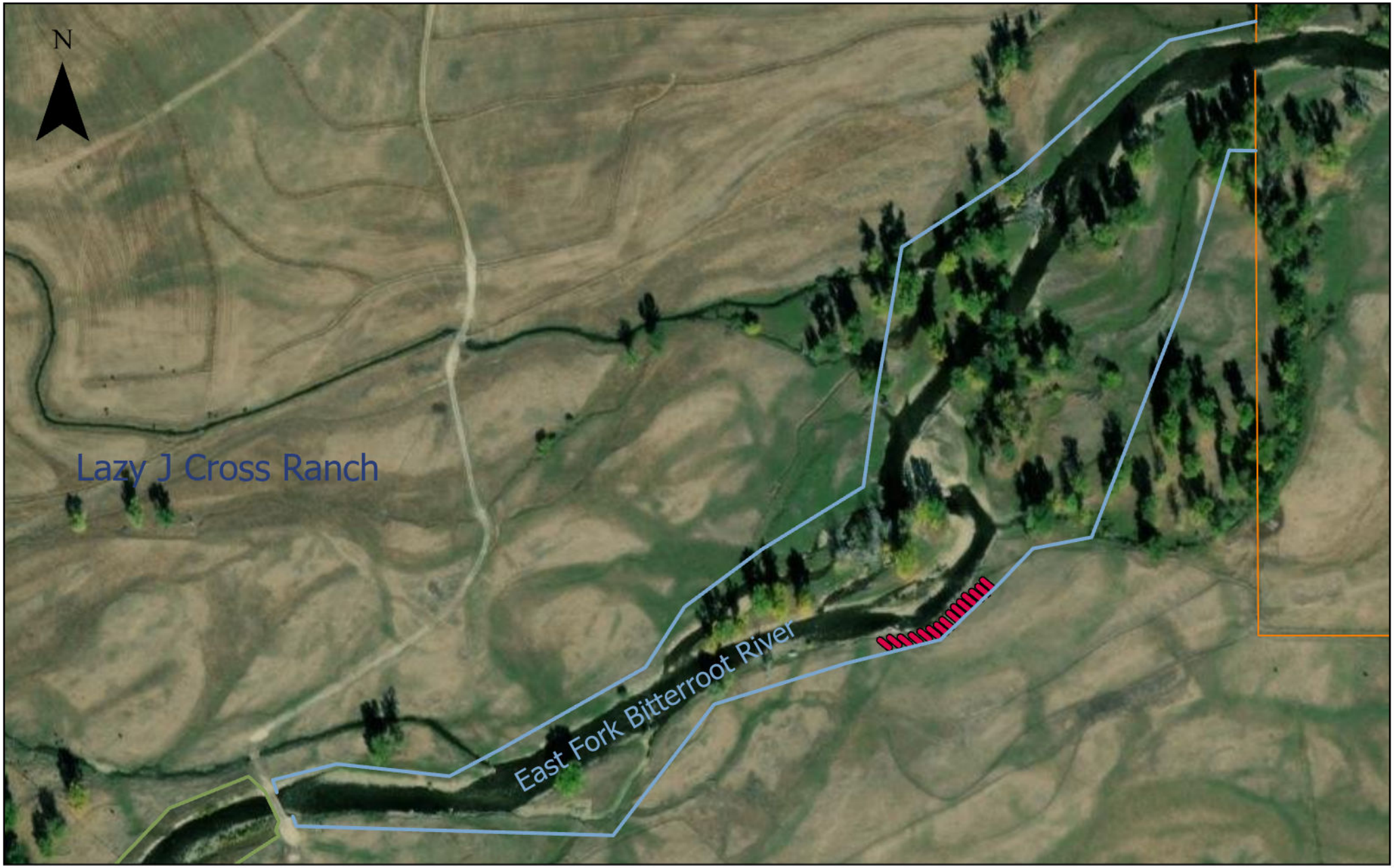
Proposed Fence
Property Line Fence
2017 Restoration Site
Willow Trenches

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Lazy J Cross Restoration Project Overview

East Fork Bitterroot River, near Sula, MT
Project Coordinates: 45.8462397, -113.9435177
Riparian Fence Length: Approx. 6,300 linear feet
Riparian Corridor: 1 mile of streambank protected.
Willow Trenches: 200 feet treated with 900+ willow cuttings

BITTERROOT WATER PARTNERSHIP



Proposed Fence
Property Line Fence
2017 Restoration Site
Willow Trenches

0 0.03 0.05 0.1 Miles

Lazy J Cross Restoration Project Planview

East Fork Bitterroot River, near Sula, MT
Project Coordinates: 45.8462397, -113.9435177
Riparian Fence Length: Approx. 6,300 linear feet
Riparian Corridor: 1 mile of streambank protected.
Willow Trenches: 200 feet treated with 900+ willow cuttings

BITTERROOT WATER PARTNERSHIP

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

Above: 2017 Lazy J Project area in 2020

Above: 2017 Lazy J Project area in 2025.

Above: 2017 Lazy J Project in 2020

Above: 2017 Lazy J Project in 2025.

Lazy J Cross Site Photos – East Fork Bitterroot Restoration 2026, Bitterroot Water Partnership.

Photo	**Location**	**Cardinal Direction**
Photo 1	45.847802, -113.938743	South-Southwest
Photo 2	45.847381, -113.938569	West
Photo 3	45.847381, -113.938569	Northeast
Photo 4	45.847004, -113.939781	North-Northeast

Photo 1 below: View of southern streambank and large meander on the East Fork. Some vegetation regrowth is beginning on the northern bank that could be fenced to speed up establishment.

Photo 2: Southern streambank of project area. Current fence is eroding into the stream. Willow Trench area is outlined.

Photo 3: Same meander from Photo 1, with signs of compaction and heavy browse.

Photo 4, North: View of northern streambank, braided area near the Photo 1 meander. Possible secondary planting area on the eroded bank.