#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members of the UCFRB Remediation and Restoration Advisory Council

FROM: Doug Martin, NRDP

DATE: April 24, 2025

SUBJECT: May 8, 2025, Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet on **Thursday, May 8, 2025,** at the Deer Lodge Elks Club, 230 Main Street, Deer Lodge. The meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. There will also be a remote option via Microsoft Teams to attend the meeting. See Remote/ Hybrid Meeting Procedures for link and procedures attached.

Meeting materials are attached and can be downloaded from the NRDP website at: <a href="https://dojmt.gov/nrdp/ucfrb-advisory-council/">https://dojmt.gov/nrdp/ucfrb-advisory-council/</a>. Below is a summary of the major agenda items.

Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans Training: NRDP Staff

NRDP staff will provide Council members and attending public with a review of how the aquatic and terrestrial priority areas were determined, how restoration projects are prioritized and selected, how projects are developed and designed, how construction contractors are chosen, and how projects are paid for. This will be an interactive presentation.

Prior to the meeting we suggest the Council members and interested public review:

Final Upper Clark Fork River Basin Long Range Priorities and Fund Allocation Guidance Plan (2011),

Section 5 of the <u>Final Upper Clark Fork River Basin Interim Restoration Process Plan</u> (2012), and

Section 6 of the <u>Final Upper Clark Fork River Basin Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans (2024)</u> Note Section 6 starts on PDF page 191.

These documents provide a good background for the discussion.

Phone: 406-444-0205

Fax: 406-444-0236

nrdp@mt.gov

## Blacktail Creek Aquatic Restoration Project: Jim Ford, NRDP

The Council will receive an update on the Blacktail Creek aquatic restoration project. In October of 2024, this project was presented to the Council for their consideration of whether to recommend contingency funding to fill a funding shortfall. The Council asked that this consideration be deferred until Spring 2025 to allow efforts to seek matching funds.

Please review the attached PowerPoint slides prior to the meeting. This priority aquatic project located at the lower end of the Blacktail Creek watershed is estimated to cost ~\$330,000 more than is in the watershed allocation. More than 10% of contingency funding is needed to proceed with this project. NRDP along with project partners have reduced project costs and are seeking matching funds for this project from federal, state, and partner resources. NRDP will present what matching funds have been obtained and what matching fund applications are still pending. In addition, the amount of project partner in-kind and project cost share will be provided. The Council will make a recommendation to the Governor on the use of contingency funding.

## **Remote/Hybrid Meeting Procedures:**

\* This meeting is open to the public via in-person, telephone or the Microsoft Teams meeting app or webapp.

### Procedures NRDP staff, and public shall follow to make this meeting a success:

NRDP staff will be the meeting host/moderator and assist in running this meeting.

This meeting will be recorded for the purpose of public record, the meeting recording will be posted publicly to NRDP's website. As such, all meeting participants shall announce their name before speaking every time they speak for continuity purposes. If participants do not announce their name, the moderator will need to interject and ask the speaker to give their name. This is especially important for those participants who are joining by telephone, as we will only be able to see a telephone number.

## **Public Procedures to Participate:**

Members of the public may observe/listen to the meeting and attend for purposes of public comment either in person, by using the Teams link or by telephone. Meeting agenda and backup materials, including the slideshow presentation, can be found at: <a href="https://dojmt.gov/nrdp/ucfrb-advisory-council/">https://dojmt.gov/nrdp/ucfrb-advisory-council/</a>

All public comments and questions will be held upon conclusion of presentations.

Members of the public participating via Teams may raise their hand (for directions see links at the end of this document) and wait to be addressed by the moderator or politely interject and wait for acknowledgement by the moderator, to provide comment or ask a question, **please do not talk over others**. Comments/questions will first be taken from the public attending the meeting in-person and then those participating remotely via Teams or telephone. If your question is asked or addressed before you are acknowledged, please lower your hand. Everyone will get a chance to speak if they wish to do so.

**NOTE:** If you try to speak without being recognized by the moderator, your comment/question may not be heard. Also, it has come up that the raise your hand feature in Teams is not always available depending on how you join the meeting. If you do not have the ability to raise your hand, please politely interject and ask the moderator to speak, only when the question/discussion portion of the meeting is opened by the moderator.

Any oral public comment provided is a public record that is recorded, archived, and available on the Internet.

NRDP will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please call Meranda Flugge at 406-444-0229 or email at <a href="meranda.flugge@mt.gov">meranda.flugge@mt.gov</a> as soon as possible but no later than 3:00 PM Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## Thursday, May 8th, 2025, AC Meeting Access information:

## Microsoft Teams Need help?

## Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 283 263 750 593

Passcode: bU2fN3C3

## Dial in by phone

<u>+1 406-318-5487,,47087193#</u> United States, Billings

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 470 871 93#

## Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: <u>291818717@t.plcm.vc</u>

Video ID: 113 184 925 2

More info

## **UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN**

# REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Deer Lodge Elks Club 230 Main Street, Deer Lodge Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:00 p.m.

## **AGENDA**

Kristie Beal, Chair Missoula	1:00 – 1:10	Introductions, NRDP Update and Meeting Overview – Kristie Beal, AC Chair, and Doug Martin, NRDP
Steve Hill Anaconda	1:10 – 2:30 Refresher	UCFRB Aquatic/Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans –
Mike Paffhausen Butte		<ul><li>Background</li><li>How are projects identified, prioritized &amp; implemented</li></ul>
Mick Ringsak Butte		P. 11' C' /C.
Margery Christiansen Fairmont	2:30 – 2:40	Break
Bryon Nelson Deer Lodge	2:40 – 3:10	Blacktail Creek Projects Update  • Whether to recommend allocation of aquatic priority
Maggie Schmidt Deer Lodge		<ul> <li>contingency funding to the Blacktail Creek watershed to complete these projects – Action Item</li> <li>UCFRB Advisory Council Questions</li> </ul>
Sonja Nowakowski, Dept. of Environmental Quality		<ul> <li>Public Questions</li> <li>UCFRB Advisory Council – Motion</li> </ul>
Bill Schenk, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks		<ul><li>Public Comment on Motion</li><li>UCFRB Advisory Council Vote</li></ul>
Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation	3:10 – 4:00	Field Tour Sager Lane Diversion Project / Warm Springs Creek Fish Study - Optional
Michael Dolson, Chairman Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes		Additional Public Comment/Other/Adjourn
McKenzie Novak, NPS U.S. Dept of Interior		

Note: Full Council mailing materials are posted on the NRDP website at: <a href="https://doimt.gov/lands/council-meetings/">https://doimt.gov/lands/council-meetings/</a>.

# BLACKTAIL CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

# ACTION ITEM

# BLACKTAIL CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT OVERVIEW

# **BTC Specific Restoration Actions** (Section 3.2.2.3)

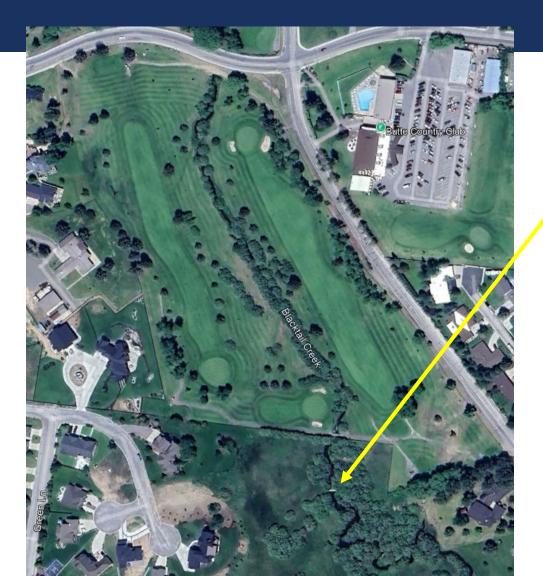
- Fish Passage
- 2. Fish Entrainment
- 3. Water Quantity
- 4. Riparian Habitat
- 5. Instream Habitat

## **Two-part project:**

- Head-cut/fish passage (sewer line);
- 2) Geomorphic stabilization portion (BCC)

NOTE: Permitted as one project to save money

# HEAD-CUT/FISH PASSAGE PART OF THE PROJECT



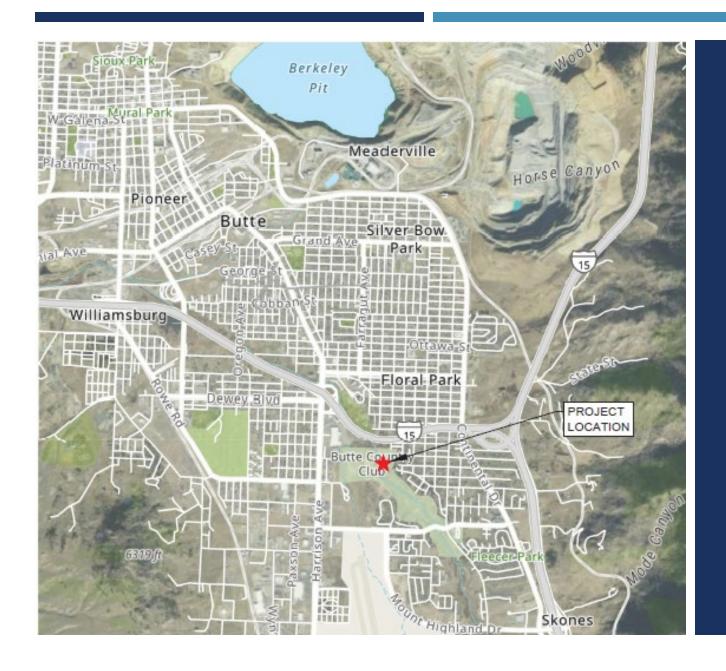
Goal: Upstream and downstream fish passage.

Construction two rock weirs and step pools to provide upstream and downstream fish passage.

Streambanks stabilization and revegetation.



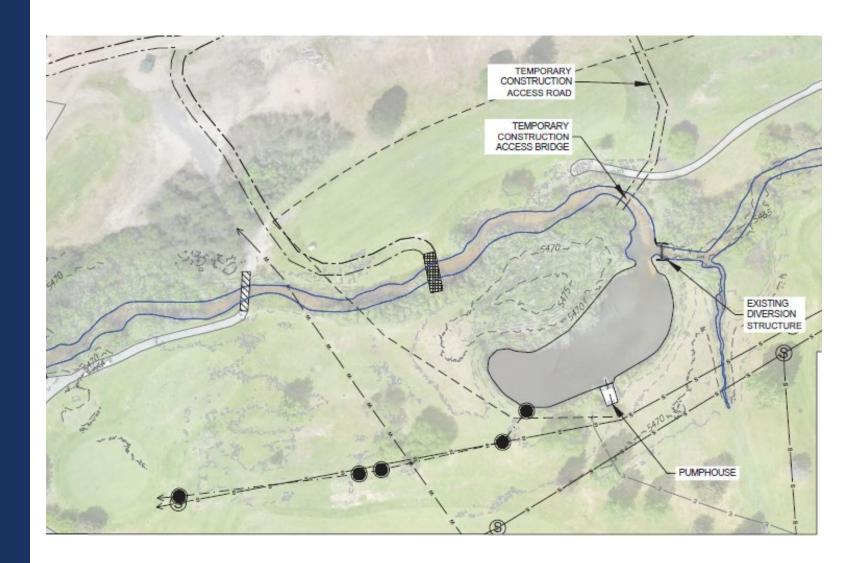
# HEAD-CUT/FISH PASSAGE PORTION OF PROJECT



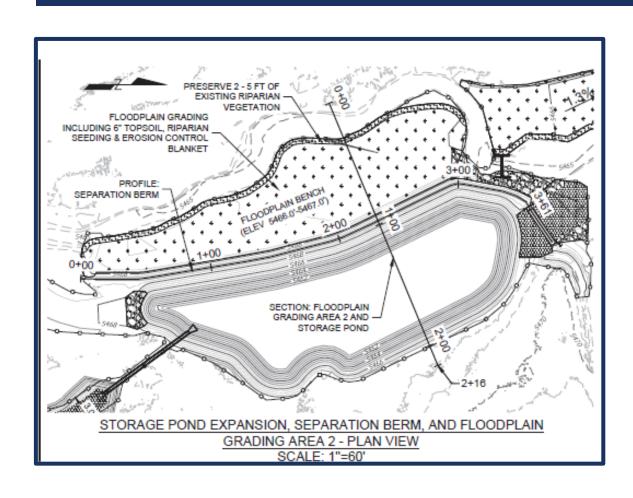
# GEOMORPHIC STABILIZATION PORTION OF THE PROJECT

# GEOMORPHIC STABILIZATION PORTION

- Current situation is geomorphology unstable.
- It provided habitat for non-native trout to breed.
- The irrigation pond and the existing diversion inhibits fish migration.

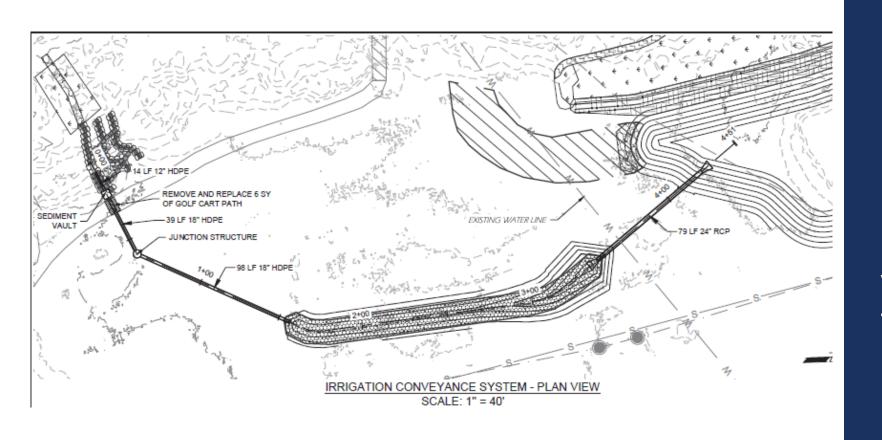


# GEOMORPHIC STABILIZATION PORTION



Reconstructed stable floodplain

 Move irrigation pond off the creek to reduce fish movement between the pond and creek and allow better fish migration



# GEOMORPHIC STABILIZATION PORTION

NEW DIVERSION
WITH FISH SCREEN
TO OFFLINE
IRRIGATION POND

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

**May-June 2025** 

Bid

**Aug.-Sep. 2025** 

**Mobilization** 

**Apr. 2026** 

Project substantially completed

Contracting

June 2025

Construction

Nov.-Mar. 2026

# OTHER FUNDING SOURCES INVESTIGATED

- Bonneville Power Administration This project has been included in a match fund request for the fish screen portion of the project. (BPA did not provide funds for and Montana projects)
- NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants (\$3M minimum)
- NOAA Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants (grants are for passage of fish that move between freshwater and marine habitat, or between freshwater and the Great Lakes.)
- USFWS MT Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (funding changes on Federal level)

## OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

## **Monetary Contributions**

- MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks NRDP received a \$30K Futures Fisheries grant for this project.
- George Grant Trout Unlimited \$2K grant
- Butte-Silver Bow County Is supplying~\$8K of construction materials
- Department of Environmental Quality NRDP applied for a \$75K 319 Grant in March 2025. Will know in mid-May.
- NRDP Butte Area One There is a proposal for \$100K from the BAO account. Will know in mid-May

## **Non-monetary Contributions:**

- Butte-Silver Bow County staff time in permitting, construction, and operation and maintenance.
- Butte Country Club Staff time with construction oversight and long-term operation and maintenance.
- Studies (formally the Clark Fork River Watershed Education Program) Staff time implementing educational tours and community outreach as is done for other Silver Bow Creek-related projects.

Funding Sources		Notes
Current BTC allocation	\$531,000	
FWP - Future Fisheries	\$30,000	Grant allocated (\$75,000 requested)
TU - George Grant	\$2,000	Grant allocated
Butte Silver Bow	\$8,000	Construction materials. In-kind time (\$4,000) time for permitting, and O&M
Butte Country Club	\$	In-kind time on design, permitting, and O&M (\$5,000)
DEQ - 319	?	\$75,000 requested. Will know mid-May
BNRC - BAO Request	?	\$100,000 requested. Will know mid-May
Sub-total =	\$571,000	
Engineers Estimate	\$900,000	with construction management and floodplain permitting following completion
Shortfall =	\$329,000	

# NRDP STAFF RECOMMENDATION

NRDP recommends funding the remaining balance of this project from the aquatic contingency allocation.