

Project Name	Applicant Name	Amount Requested	Matching Funds	Total Project Cost	Project Location (Zone)
1-Blackfoot River Watershed Restoration (IDFG)	Idaho Department of Fish & Game	\$510,000	\$1,174,340	\$1,684,340	1

Executive Summary

The Blackfoot River Watershed Restoration Project is one part of a landscape level project to improve habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and numerous wildlife species, centered on the headwaters of the Blackfoot River. The entirety of the Watershed Project will occur on the Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area. Project goals are to:

- enhance the essential migration corridor for YCT;
- restore in-stream habitat complexity on the first six miles of the Blackfoot River; reconnect the river to its floodplain; restore side channel and oxbows;
- enhance 200 acres of aspen and lodgepole habitats and 20 acres of sagebrush steppe habitat through conifer removal
- restore 200 acres of wet meadow and riparian habitat on the Blackfoot River WMA.

Expected outcomes of the project are:

- a four-fold increase in YCT survival and abundance;
- increased stream bank stability, actively eroding banks reduced to <10%, reduced sedimentation and decreased in-stream water temperatures;
- increased aspen productivity and stand health; expansion of willow, wet meadow and riparian habitats;
- maintenance of sagebrush steppe habitat;
- removal of invasive reed canarygrass from riparian habitat.

Project monitoring will include:

- pre- and post- project YCT populations; redd counts;
- pre- and post-project creel surveys for angler success;
- water temperature;
- aspen, riparian and sagebrush steppe photopoints;
- noxious weed mapping.
- aerial imagery

Species expected to benefit are Yellowstone cutthroat trout, moose, elk, mule deer, waterfowl, sandhill crane, sage grouse, leopard frog and numerous other game and non-game species. Public benefits will include increased opportunities for anglers, hunters and other’s seeking wildlife based recreation. The project supports the goals of six State of Idaho species or other management plans, including the State Wildlife Action Plan. Project development, implementation and oversight will be conducted by IDFG, and the project will be implemented in a 100 Tree Preliminary Project in 2019 and the remainder in three successive phases from 2020-2022. Because the project will be designed and implemented in-house and with local materials, cost benefits are expected to be significantly improved over traditionally contracted projects. Project is durable, with all aspects expected to be maintained indefinitely either through natural processes (river restoration) or through active management (continued conifer removal and annual invasive weed control). HIT funds requested will provide 30% of the cost of the Blackfoot River Watershed project on the WMA (total project cost \$1,684,340). In the context of the larger landscape project, HIT funds requested will provide 23% of the estimated \$2,234,340 total project cost.