

Project Name	Applicant Name	Amount Requested	Matching Funds	Total Project Cost	Project Location (Zone)
4-Blackfoot River Fisheries Habitat Improvement (TU)	Trout Unlimited	\$39,090	\$190,563	\$229,653	1

Executive Summary

The Upper Blackfoot River in Southeastern Idaho is a stronghold for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) with the presence of all three life history patterns (ad-fluvial, fluvial, and resident). However, YCT have declined from historic numbers, partly because of years of mismanagement of riparian areas and over grazing. Another contributing factor to YCT decline in the Blackfoot watershed is predation by White Pelicans. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has implemented successful measures to reduce pelican predation on adult spawning YCT migrating in the Blackfoot River upstream of the reservoir. Now pelicans are flying farther upstream and are heavily preying upon juvenile YCT in the upper river where habitat conditions have been degraded.

The Blackfoot River on the Allen Property has experienced significant loss of riparian vegetation that has led to the destabilization of streambanks that is creating a large sediment source to the river. The sediment fills in fish habitat and limits aquatic insect productivity. The eroding streambanks also provide little to no overhead cover for fish to protect from bird predation. The Blackfoot River Streambank and Fisheries Habitat Improvement project will address the two major limiting factors for the Upper Blackfoot River fishery: sedimentation and avian predation.

We will work on a two-mile section of the Blackfoot River on the Allen Property and apply bioengineering restoration treatments to over 3,000 feet of streambank. These treatments will greatly reduce erosion. Overhead cover for fish will be improved by installing large root wads and whole clump willow plantings along the streambanks. Increasing streambank stability and complexity will greatly reduce a large sediment source, improve fish habitat, increase aquatic insect production, and provided trout cover from avian predators, such as pelicans.

We have all pieces of the project in place. Several organizations have already committed funds to the project. We are proposing that the Southeast Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Fund be the last funding committed to complete the budget. We are planning on construction during autumn 2019. This is a major stream and riparian restoration project on an important part of the Blackfoot River. It will have immediate results for fish and wildlife, as well as numerous long-term benefits.