

Project Name	Applicant Name	Amount Requested	Matching Funds	In-kind Contributions	Total Project Cost	Vote
<b>IDFG- Blackfoot River Watershed Restoration</b>	Idaho Department of Fish & Game	\$250,000	\$477,000		\$727,000	<b>Consensus to fund</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blackfoot River Watershed Restoration Project Phase 3 is the final phase 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 Phase 3 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 final 11,000 feet of the Blackfoot River; reconnect the river to its floodplain; and finalize all remaining aspects of the Watershed Project
- enhance 100 acres of aspen and lodge pole habitats and 20 acres of sagebrush steppe habitat through conifer removal
- restore riparian cottonwood forests
- 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, riparian and cottonwood habitats;
- maintenance of sagebrush steppe habitat;
- removal of invasive reed canary grass 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 include increased opportunities for anglers, hunters and other's seeking wildlife based recreation. The project supports the goals of eight State of Idaho management plans, including the State Wildlife Action Plan and Idaho Forest Action Plan. Project development, implementation and oversight will be conducted by IDFG staff and contract engineering, and the project will be completed in 2022. Because the project will include in-house oversight, competitive bidding and construction with supplied local materials, cost benefits are expected to be improved over totally 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 weed control).

HIT funds requested (\$250,000) will provide 35% of the Phase 3 project cost of \$721,000; 2019 awarded and 2020 requested HIT funds will provide 37% of the cost of the Blackfoot River Watershed project on the WMA (total project cost \$2,043,264). In the context of the larger landscape project, HIT funds will provide 29% of the estimated \$2,600,000 total project cost.