Montana Updates

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Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Pacific Northwest Fish Screening and Passage Workshop

September 2026

Changes and Updates

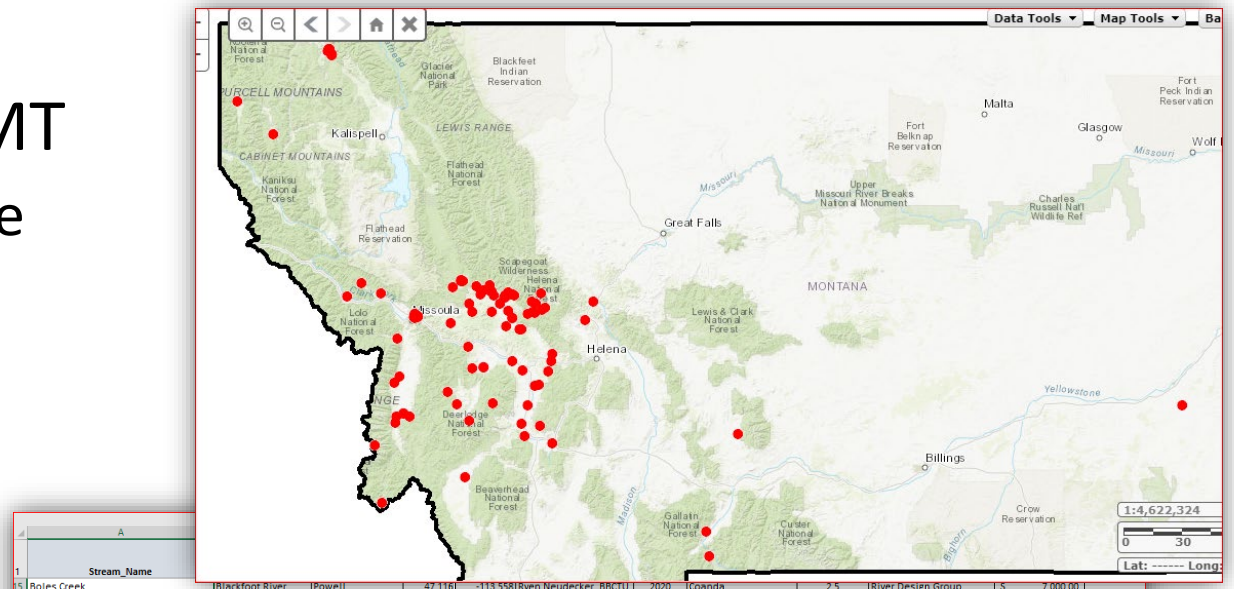
- New to the position
  - Less monitoring (and progress in general) as I am learning the position
- New infrastructure, aging infrastructure, and maintenance
- Funding
- Continued need for screen collaboration

Maintenance Funds and Staff Time (FTE)

- FWP staff met to discuss screen issues, concerns, and needs
- Other groups have identified screen staff
- Needs and opportunities for maintenance funding and FTE
  - Ideas:
    - Using Future Fisheries Funds to help pay for a screen tender?

Collaborative Fish Screen Inventory

- Shared list of fish screens across MT
  - Not comprehensive, but a good base
- More to come…



	Stream_Name											
15	Boles Creek	Blackfoot River	Powell	47.116	-113.558	Ryen Neudecker, BBCTU	2020	Coanda	2.5	River Design Group	$ 7,000.00	
16	Braziel Creek	Blackfoot River	Powell	46.8103	-112.8404	Big Blackfoot TU	2011	Coanda		McNeal Resouces/RDG		
17	Browns Gulch	Upper Clark Fork	Silver Bow	46.0985	-112.62276	Brian Bartkowiak, NRDP	2021	Corrugated Water Screen	1	Confluence	$ 17,500.00	
18	Clark Fork River	Upper Clark Fork	Deer Lodge	46.2462	-112.7518	Andy Fischer, CFC	2020	Corrugated Water Screen	8	River Design Group		
19	Cottonwood Creek	Blackfoot River	Powell	46.82618	-112.98433		1996					
20	Cottonwood Creek	Blackfoot River	Powell	47.122689	-113.30515	Big Blackfoot TU		Vertical flat panel / paddlewheel		McKay, FWP/WW		
21	Cottonwood Creek	Blackfoot River	Powell	47.06327	-113.26431	Big Blackfoot TU						
22	Cottonwood Creek	Clark Fork	Powell	46.3928	-112.6761	Will McDowell, CFC	2011	Watson improved	2.7	Watson Irrigation	$11,000	
23	Cottonwood Creek	Clark Fork	Powell	46.3973	-112.6385	Will McDowell, CFC	2019	Corrugated Water Screen	32	Great West Engineering/ Brent Mefford	$44,000	$25,000
24	Crystal Lakes??	Kootenai River				Jim Dunnigan, FWP		Turbulent fountain	3.5		$ 4,500.00	$ 5,250
25	Deep Creek Phase 1	Tobacco	Lincoln	48.7834	-114.8498	Jim Dunnigan, FWP	2010	Turbulent fountain	3		$ 3,800.00	?
26	Deep Creek Phase 1	Tobacco River	Lincoln	48.7834	-114.8498	Jim Dunnigan, FWP	2010	TF or Farmers				
27	Deep Creek Phase 2	Tobacco	Lincoln	48.7749	-114.8573	Jim Dunnigan, FWP	2013	Farmers Conservation Alliance	2.5		$ 36,000.00	$ 5,000
28	Deep Creek Phase 2	Tobacco River	Lincoln	48.7749	-114.8573	Jim Dunnigan, FWP	2013	TF or Farmers				
29	Dick Creek	Blackfoot River	Powell	47.05442	-113.11894	Big Blackfoot TU	2007	Coanda		Confluence, Gateway, Hydroscreen		$ 57,098

Future Fisheries Improvement Program

Established in 1996

Purpose: Funding for projects that enhance or restore habitats for wild fish

Source: State *(license dollars, energy tax fund)*

Deadlines: 2x per year

Awards: No limit, typically up to $100,000

Eligibility: Anyone (individuals or organizations)

Project types: anything fish habitat related

riparian fencing, channel restoration, fish passage, fish screens, instream flow, + more



Screening and Passage Projects

- Fish passage is a large component of restoration in MT
- Fish screening is becoming more prevalent
  - Number
  - Opportunities with a variety of screens and some lower costs

- Future Fisheries Improvement Program
  - Fish passage improvements are 17% of the projects funded
  - Fish screens are 11% of the projects funded

Other (passage) topics in Montana

- Beaver restoration, including beaver mimicry
  - Working on an FWP guidance paper
- Drought
  - Water availability, temperature
- Bridge stringer program



Future Outlook

- Have a path forward for maintenance help
  - Will take a lot of time and discussions to move forward

- Solid group of fish screen professionals in MT that are great at collaborating and evaluating what works and doesn’t

Questions?

