

## 6120-2006-903 Therriault Creek Habitat Restoration

**State(s):** Montana

**Managing Agency/Organization:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Type of Organization:** Federal Government

**Project Status:** Completed

**Project type:** WNTI Project

**Project action(s):** Watershed, In-stream and riparian habitat, Genetic diversity

**Trout species benefitted:** Bull Trout

**Population:** Bull Trout Kootenai River, Therriault Creek drainage

The WNTI NFHAP funded project is located in the Kootenai Focus Area designated by MT Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The project will restore the riparian vegetation adjacent to the Therriault Creek stream and wetland restoration project in the Therriault Creek watershed. The project will support regional fish habitat improvement goals, enhance existing partnerships, and continue to improve the native trout population in the drainage (westslope cutthroat, bull trout). The project is a locally driven initiative to expand on the existing private/public partnership initially established when the creek was restored to its original ecological condition (2006).

This enhancement project will improve the already constructed 9,550-ft. stream channel and adjacent wetlands. The stream provides important habitat for bull and westslope cutthroat trout. The project is integral to an overall watershed improvement efforts in the Kootenai focus area and use of WNTI/NFHI funding.

### The problem:

The stream and wetland restoration project was completed in 2005. In 2006, the project withstood a 25-year flood event with some damage to plugs and vegetation. Maintenance activities are needed at the site to maintain the credibility and profile of the completed project.

### The objective:

The project compliments other native fishery habitat improvement projects in adjacent drainages in the Kootenai. The project provides additional spawning and rearing habitat for the Kootenai bull trout population in addition to other wetland dependent wildlife. Enhancement activities at the site will guarantee the long-range success of the project.

### The method:

Implement priority revegetation treatments using microtopography creation; woody debris enhancement; and use of streambank bioengineering techniques.

An annual Therriault Creek Riparian and Revegetation Maintenance and Monitoring report describes the results of effectiveness and monitoring of revegetation activities. Details on the Therriault Creek riparian revegetation project includes: revegetation strategies and treatments; effectiveness monitoring methods; and an adaptive management framework. Three types of monitoring are necessary components of the integrated monitoring and adaptive management program. These include: baseline, as-built, and effectiveness monitoring.

### **Objectives:**

- The project will restore the riparian vegetation adjacent to the Therriault Creek stream and wetland restoration project in the Therriault Creek watershed.

### **Partners:**

- Kootenai River network, Montana Partners for fish and Wildlife
- NRCS, Montana FWP, Vredenburg Ranch, River Design Group

### **Funding Source(s):**

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Project cost:** \$91,475.00

**Start Date:** 07/01/2010 **Completion Date:** 10/30/2010

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