

Lower Poorman Creek Fish Passage Project

Project Objective: Restore a migratory corridor and reduce sediment impacts for populations of native trout by upgrading an undersized stream crossing on Poorman Creek that created a barrier to aquatic organism passage and caused channel impairments.

Project Details: Poorman Creek is a third-order tributary to the Big Blackfoot River entering near river mile 108. This stream was designated critical bull trout habitat in 2010 and supports bull trout spawning and rearing and populations of genetically pure fluvial westslope cutthroat trout. This project involved upgrading a stream crossing near stream mile 3.0 that impacted fish passage and delivered excessive instream sediment. Following stream simulation guidelines and principles, the existing crossing consisting of two undersized, paired culverts were replaced with a new bridge. The stream channel through the project area was also restored and the riparian area was revegetated.

Accomplishments: Restored fish passage to ~2.0 miles of instream habitat, corrected channel impairments and reduced sediment loading in the project area.

Project Partners: United States Forest Service, Lewis & Clark County, MT Dept of Transportation, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Laird Norton Foundation, Blackfoot Challenge & Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



Historic undersized paired culverts on Poorman Creek near stream-mile 3.0 replaced with a free-span concrete bridge in 2009.