

## Moose Creek Fish Passage Project

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**Project Objective:** Enhance genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout by removing all of the existing man-made barriers to migration in Moose Creek and allow year round connectivity to the Blackfoot River.

**Project Details:** Moose Creek is a first-order tributary to the upper Big Blackfoot River and flows ~four miles through National Forest Land, except for a small section of private land near the mouth. The stream supports a genetically pure population of fluvial westslope cutthroat trout. This project involved removing and/or replacing two undersized culverts that created a barrier to fish passage and caused channel impairments. Following stream simulation guidelines and principles, the lower culvert was upgraded to a bottomless arch pipe and the upper culvert was permanently removed. The upgraded stream crossings allowed for aquatic organism passage, adequate hydrologic capacity for at least a 100-year flood event, and stream channel function.

**Accomplishments:** Fish passage has been restored throughout the Moose Creek drainage and channel incision and erosion problems in the project area have been corrected.

**Project Partners:** United States Forest Service-Tri-County RAC, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Chutney Foundation, & Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

