

**2008 - 2011 Secure Rural Schools
Public Law 110-343
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE
SHOSHONE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Project Status: Proposed

Funding Fiscal Year: 2011 - 4th year

2. Project Name: Holmes Ditch Fish Screen Project

3a. State: Wyoming

3b. County: Wyoming - Fremont

4. Project Submitted by: Cory Toye, Trout Unlimited (TU)

5. Date: 03/01/2011

6. Contact Phone:

7. Contact E-Mail:

8. Project Location

a. National Forest: Shoshone

b. Forest Service District: Dubois

c. Location (Township-Range-Section)

42-106-20

9. Project Goals and Objectives:

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) Install a fish screen on the Holmes Ditch to prevent the entrainment of all native and wild fish.

b. Detailed:

The Holmes Ditch provides irrigation for several small users along Highway 26, 7 miles west of Dubois. Local landowners involved with the Dubois Angling and Wildlife Group (DAWGS) are concerned about fish loss due to entrainment in this ditch. Anecdotal evidence from water users suggests the ditch entrains large numbers of fish which ultimately leads to their demise. The large head gate at the diversion site is decrepit and no longer functions properly. Water users can no longer control the amount of water diverted into the system and cannot turn the water completely off during periods of nonuse. In lieu of a properly working head gate, heavy equipment is brought to the diversion site to block the canal with gravel and sediment obtained from the river channel. In the spring, the heavy equipment returns to remove the gravel and allow water into the ditch. The bi-annual maintenance on the structure is extremely disruptive to the associated river channel.

The Wind River is a valuable fishery and considered part of the crucial and aquatic enhancement priority areas by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD). The primary challenges to the fishery that are listed in the WGFD Strategic Habitat Plan for the drainage include the presence of barriers to fish movement, fish loss into irrigation ditches, and the fragmentation of stream habitat through dewatering or barriers. Preventing the entrainment of fish into the Holmes Ditch will improve the fishery in the Wind River and its associated tributaries on the Shoshone Forest including, but not limited to: Long Creek, Bench Creek and Sheridan Creek. Eliminating the loss of fish to the irrigation ditch will allow fish to move freely from mainstem Wind River habitat without the risk of being displaced from the system. Protecting the existing population will improve the fishery and angling opportunities on the forest by maintaining higher population numbers of fish.

This project will also serve as an example for other water users within the drainage of the opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to improve irrigation operations and fish habitat. Throughout the Wind River drainage, numerous diversions exist that could entrain fish. Screening efforts will improve the fishery while providing infrastructure improvements for more efficient irrigation operations. Over 50 miles of the Wind River and its tributaries will benefit from this project.

TU and other project partners have many fish screens throughout the state, including one on Bull Lake Creek, near Crowheart. The screens have eliminated ditch entrainment for fish and require little to no maintenance for the water users.

11. State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes

If Yes, specify: If Yes, specify: The diversion structure is located on private land immediately upstream from the private land where the irrigation water is put to use.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (check at least 1)

Restores water quality

13. Project Type:

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1) Watershed Restoration & Maintenance, Forest Health Improvement, Fish Habitat Restoration

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1)

14. Identify what the project will accomplish

1 Number of structures maintained/improved

1 Miles of stream/river restored/improved

50 Miles of fish habitat restored/improved

Describe other accomplishments

This project will serve as an example for similar projects in the future. Installing a fish screen and new head gate could lead to more opportunities for conservation and agriculture partnerships to improve fishery health.

15: Estimated Project Start Date:

10/01/2011

16: Estimated Project Completion Date:

05/01/2012

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

Trout Unlimited
Shoshone National Forest
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Dubois Angling and Wildlife Group (DAWGS)
Natural Resources Conservation Service

18. Identify benefits to communities.

(max 12 lines)

Provide an example of local proactive maintenance of wild and native populations through non-traditional partnerships.

Improve the wild and native fishery within the upper Wind River and its tributaries for increased angling opportunities on public land.

19. How does this project benefit federal lands/resources? (max 12 lines)

During the irrigation season, fish of all types and age classes are entrained into the Holmes Ditch. A fish screen will prevent the loss of fish to the system and contribute to the health of the fishery on the Shoshone Forest by maintaining and protecting the existing population. Reducing the loss to the system will ultimately improve the fishery within the Wind River and its associated tributaries which will lead to more angling opportunities for the public and a more robust population of wild and native fish.

20. What is the proposed method(s) of accomplishment? (check at least 1)

Contract, Volunteers

21. Will this project generate merchantable timber? No**22. Anticipated Project Costs**

a. Please fill out a project cost form for each fiscal year the project will be funded

b. Is this a multi-year funding request?

24. Monitoring Plan (Input or attach below)

a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community

goals outlined above.

TU and the WGF will monitor the fish screen to ensure the project is working correctly and efficiently for water users.

TU, along with the WGF will use electro-fishing equipment during the fall of 2011 to quantify fish loss data for the ditch. The ditch will be monitored to ensure entrainment is eliminated.

The RAC money will not be used for monitoring. Any issues that may arise through monitoring efforts of the project will be handled by TU and the WGF

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

TU, WGF

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks:

d. Identify remedies for failure to comply with terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

If other is selected, explain:

Project Recommended by:
Chairperson, RAC

Project Approved by:
Forest Supervisor, Shoshone National Forest

Project Cost Analysis

Item	<i>Column A</i> Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	<i>Column B</i> Requested Title II Contribution	<i>Column C</i> Other Contributions	<i>Column D</i> Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	0	0	0	0
b. NEPA/CEQA	0	0	0	0
c. ESA Consultation	0	0	0	0
d. Permit Acquisition	0	0	0	0
e. Project Design & Engineering	10000	0	0	10000
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	0	0	0	0
g. Contract/Grant Administration	0	0	0	0
h. Contract/Grant Cost	15000	0	15000	30000
i. Salaries	0	0	0	0
j. Materials & Supplies	0	25000	75000	100000
k. Monitoring	0	0	5000	5000
l. Other				
	0	0	0	0
Partner Indirect Costs	0 0	0 0	0 5000	0 5000
m. Project Sub-Total	25000	25000	100000	150000

n. FS Indirect Costs	0	0	0	0
Total Cost Estimate	25000	25000	100000	150000



[HolmesZoomIn.jpg](#) [OverviewHolmesTU.jpg](#)