

MT DNRC WRD Flint Creek Main Canal Diversion Replacement and Fish Screen Installation (Granite County). RRGL Ranked 6

The Flint Creek Water Project (FCWP) is owned by the DNRC and operated by the Flint Creek Water Users' Association. The Project comprises a 16,040 acre-feet on-stream reservoir and five delivery canals, totaling 46.6 miles in length.

- Original Construction – 1939
- Trans basin transfer – East Fork of Rock Creek to Flint Creek Drainage
- 27,180 Shares (acre-feet) marketed annually
- Approx 25,000 acres irrigated
- Affects approximately 38% of land currently irrigated in the Phillipsburg Valley
- East Fork of Rock Creek identified as Critical Bull Trout Habitat

The reservoir and a portion of the main canal are built on Federal land and operated by means of a Special-Use Permit issued by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to the State of Montana DNRC. In 1998, Bull Trout were listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as threatened. To comply with the ESA, the State is required to provide the necessary protections to prevent the taking of bull trout.

Originally constructed for agricultural purposes, this project now provides multiple benefits to agriculture, fish and wildlife, and recreation. It provides vital habitat for the bull trout, a Federally-listed threatened species and to the westslope cutthroat trout, a sensitive species. Additionally, seepage from the reservoir recharges the groundwater system allowing the year-round flow of downstream creeks, which otherwise could run dry during periods of drought.

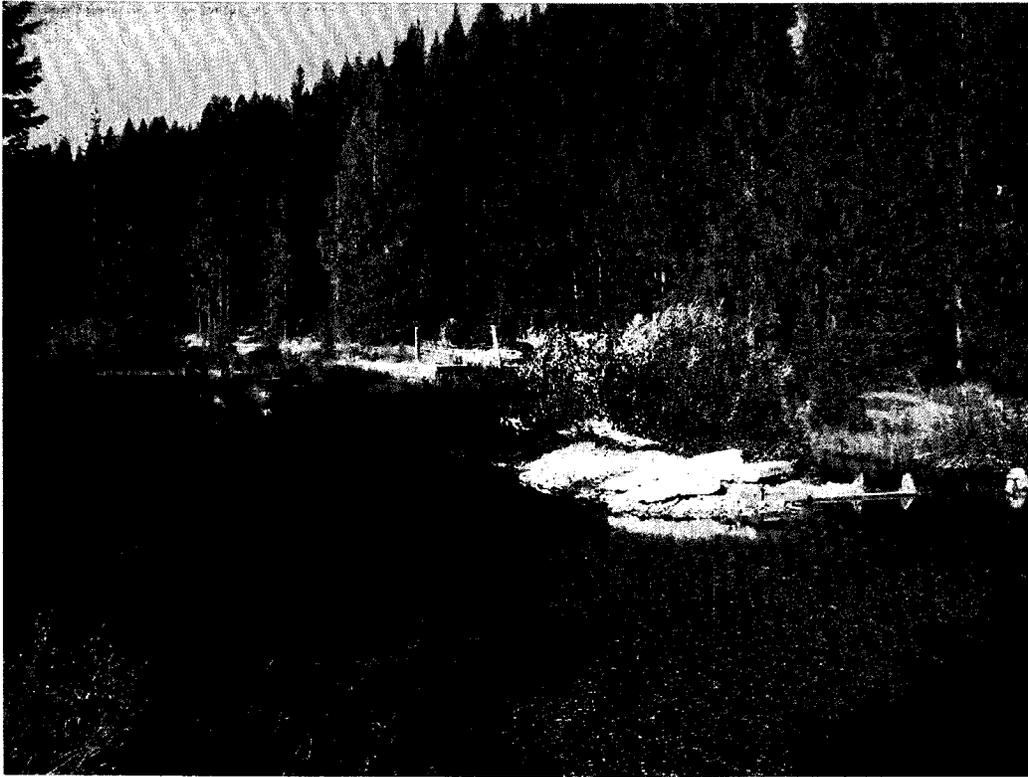
This project will restore trout and other non-game native fish in the EFORC. EFORC fisheries will benefit in two ways: 1) the Project will construct a fish screen to prevent fish from entering the Flint Creek Main Canal (FCMC) from the East Fork of Rock Creek; 2) the Project will also allot a five cfs bypass flow regimen to go past the East Fork Diversion and remain in the East Fork of Rock Creek when water is diverted into the main canal. The total project budget is estimated to be \$1,482,947. Construction for this project is planned for the fall of 2012. The DNRC State Water Projects Bureau is currently requesting the RRGL grant of \$100,000 to help fund the project. The proposal meets criteria 3 (a), (b), and (c) of the water storage statute (Section 85-1-701-704 MCA).

Proposed funding includes the following:

Proposed Project Budget		
Funding Source (grant/loan or cash reserves)	Amount	Committed/Uncommitted
RRGL Grant	\$100,000	Uncommitted
DNRC CARDD Planning Grant	\$25,481	Uncommitted (will apply in 2011)
DNRC (In-Kind)	\$81,947	Committed
DNRC Contracted Services/Survey (In-Kind)	\$9,500	Committed
DFWP Future Fisheries Grant	\$100,000	Uncommitted (will apply in 2011)
Natural Resource Damage Program Grant 1	\$370,000	Committed
Natural Resource Damage Program Grant 2	\$217,500	Uncommitted (will apply in 2011)
USFWS FRIMA Grant 1	\$300,000	Committed
USFWS FRIMA Grant 2	\$289,000	Committed

Note: Committed monies must have a written letter committing funds to the project.

Estimated Total Project Cost \$1,482,947



East Fork of Rock Creek – Canal Headgates and diversion



Vertical Plate Fish Screen Structure – Oregon. Similar size / capacity to proposed structure