

# BRTU Grant Application Process

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Any entity with a good on-the-ground project that benefits wild fish and their habitat can apply for funding through the BRTU Fisheries Improvement Program. You are strongly urged to contact your local fisheries biologist prior to submitting an application. The local biologist typically knows the limiting factors associated with fish populations in their management area.

Applications must be completed in full, and must include detailed budget information as provided on the Budget Template. Applicants applying for riparian fencing projects should review the additional [fencing documents](#) to ensure their proposal does not adversely affect other wildlife species:

<http://fwpiis.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=31900>

BRTU Fencing Guidelines the **Electric Fencing Report**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=31901>

A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences: How to Build Fences with Wildlife in Mind, and the Wildlife Friendly Fencing Video.

Future Fisheries applications may be submitted at any time. All applications must be sent to:

**Bitterroot Trout Unlimited**  
**Habitat Protection Department**  
**PO Box 262**  
**Hamilton, MT 59840**

Need help?

Contact

President: Bill Bean

[fishaus@montana.com](mailto:fishaus@montana.com)

(H) 406-363-6158

Greg Chester

[Gchester55@aol.com](mailto:Gchester55@aol.com)

(406) 363-0033

or write to BRTU at the address shown above.

Below is some of the additional information from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

<http://fwpiis.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=40083>

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Design Information Guidelines for Application Submittal

An outline that is intended to provide assistance to applicants submitting project proposals to the Future

## Fisheries Improvement Program

THE FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 4, 2008

FENCING GUIDELINES TO PROVIDE FOR WILDLIFE  
MOVEMENT AND LIVESTOCK CONTAINMENT

PURPOSES:

1. To build fence which secures property boundaries.
2. To build proper type of fence either to hold livestock in or keep livestock out, while allowing for as much free movement by wildlife as possible, as well as easy passage for recreationists.
3. To build fence that is long lasting; easy to maintain and reasonably priced. Initial higher price to install fence is acceptable if done for purpose of reducing fence maintenance.

GUIDELINES:

A. PROPERTIES WITH HIGH OR CONTINUOUS LIVESTOCK  
PRESENCE:

\*STANDARD FENCE is 4 wires (3 of barbwire plus a bottom barb-less 2-strand wire).

\*Bottom wire at least 18" above the ground.

\*Top wire no more than 42" above the ground.

\*No stays.

\*Posts at 16.5' intervals (wooden posts preferred).

\*Gates at points of wildlife concentration or movement.

OR, a lay-down fence in appropriate places. See accompanying diagram for lay-down fence.

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EXCEPTIONS to STANDARD FENCE are allowed, but there must be a written justification. The Future Fisheries Review Panel will base funding recommendations on the proposed justification.

A fence may need to change due to topography and wildlife use. For example, a wire fence may change to a wooden rail fence where it crosses a creek since wildlife movement along the creek will be less hindered by the rail fence. Or putting in several gates in close succession because of known wildlife movements where the gates can be left open during the proper season.

B. PROPERTIES WITH LOW, INTERMITTENT OR NO LIVESTOCK  
PRESENCE.

\*STANDARD FENCE is 3 wires of barb-less two-strand wire (or high tensile smooth wire if appropriate).

\*Bottom wire at least 18" above the ground.

\*Top wire no more than 42" above the ground.

\*No stays.

\*Posts at 16.5' intervals (wooden posts preferred).

Gates at points of wildlife concentration or movement

OR, a lay-down fence in appropriate places.

EXCEPTIONS to STANDARD FENCE are allowed, but there must be a written justification. The Future Fisheries Review Panel will base funding recommendations on the proposed justification.

C. INTERNAL FENCES: Generally, only reason for internal fences is for livestock control. STANDARD FENCE:

\*3 wires of barbwire.

\*Bottom wire at least 18" above the ground.

\*Top wire no more than 42" above the ground.

\*No stays.

\*Posts at 16.5' intervals (wooden posts preferred).

\*Fence able to lay-down when not needed.

\* Electric fence, see accompanying document entitled "EVALUATION OF HIGH TENSILE ELECTRIC FENCE DESIGNS ON BIG GAME MOVEMENTS AND LIVESTOCK CONTAINMENT"

EXCEPTIONS to STANDARD FENCE are allowed, but there must be a written justification. The Future Fisheries Review Panel will base funding recommendations on the proposed justification.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

Jackleg/rail fence: 12' centers; 42" off the ground for top rail; 30" from ground for rub rail

Human walk-through gates

Ladders over fence for recreational passage

Electric fence: no more than four wires. See accompanying document entitled "EVALUATION OF HIGH TENSILE ELECTRIC FENCE DESIGNS ON BIG GAME MOVEMENTS AND LIVESTOCK CONTAINMENT"