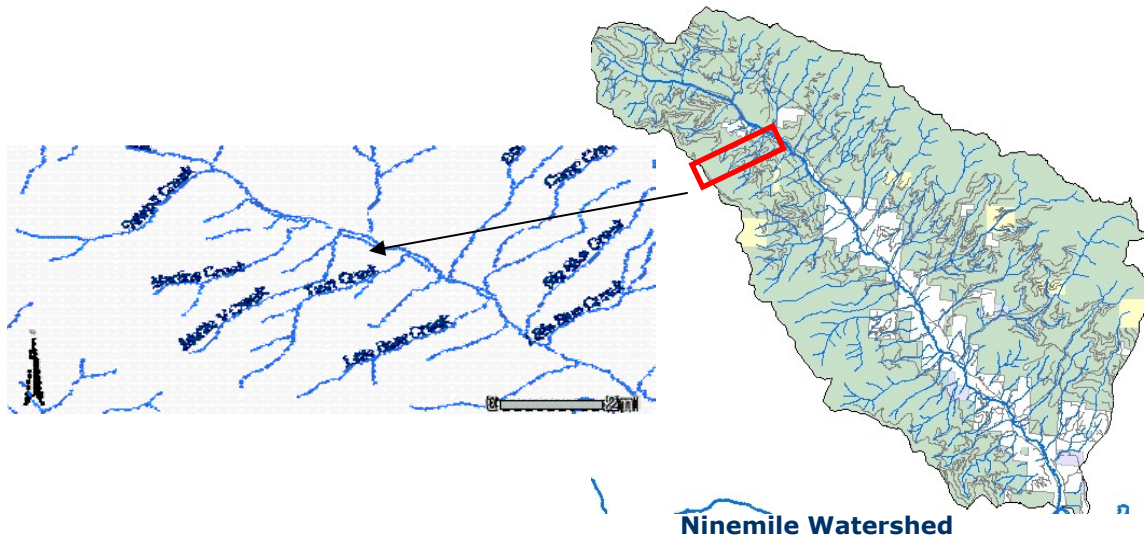


## Mattie V Creek – Fact Sheet



Mattie V Creek is located approximately 17 miles up Ninemile Creek from the Clark Fork River. The watershed area is about 1.2 square miles and contains 4.3 miles of stream channels. Around 95% of land within the watershed is managed by the Lolo National Forest. The remaining acreage is in private ownership, near the lowermost section and confluence with Ninemile Creek.

Mattie V Creek has a long history of mining and has been heavily altered. Pursuant to the large scale dredging of mainstem Ninemile Creek in the 1940s, records show that Mattie V Creek was mined consistently from 1976 to 1995. Lower Mattie V Creek was diverted several times, most recently into a short, steep ditch, and was routed through two settling ponds before reaching Ninemile Creek. While the upper reaches of the stream are in good condition with complex fish habitat, the mining reach on Mattie V Creek had subsurface flows, multiple fish barriers and was dominated by non-native brook trout.

Reclamation of the site started in July 2010. A local contractor, Rock N River Excavating of Missoula, cleared, grubbed, and stripped the site of trees, roots, and other material, which were stockpiled for later use. Using excavators and bulldozers, they salvaged 1,500 cubic yards of topsoil from the site and then removed 12,000 cubic yards of dredge tailings, which were used to fill existing mining pits and create a 200 foot wide floodplain. With oversight by Trout Unlimited and Lolo National Forest, contractors constructed 400 feet of new streamchannel, with an average gradient of 8.5%. In the fall of 2010, the new streambanks will be revegetated with bioengineering techniques utilizing coconut fiber logs, willow cuttings and sod mat transplants.

The total project cost is approximately \$200,000, with the following breakdown: \$40,000 for survey and design; \$110,000 for the equipment contract; \$15,000 for materials; \$10,000 for planning and oversight; and \$25,000 for revegetation activities and site cleanup.