

# Ninemile Watershed Restoration Projects: Economic Benefits

The mine reclamation and stream restoration efforts of Trout Unlimited’s current Ninemile Restoration projects are expected to provide a number of environmental benefits including improved water quality, fisheries, and riparian wildlife habitat. These projects, supported by numerous funding sources and partners including Missoula County and the Lolo National Forest, also provide the economic benefit of private sector restoration work. The questions below explore where these restoration dollars come from and how they are spent to benefit the local and regional economy.

## 1. What are the funding sources for these projects for design and implementation?

The majority of the funding for the two active Ninemile Restoration projects comes from Missoula County, through the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Reclamation and Development Grants Program. Additional state, federal and private funding sources support these projects and are listed below.

<b><u>St Louis Creek Project</u></b>		<b><u>Mattie V Creek Project</u></b>	
DNRC Reclamation & Development Grant, awarded to MC	\$300,000	DNRC Reclamation & Development Planning Grant, awarded to MC	\$50,000
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Future Fisheries Program	\$65,000	DNRC Reclamation & Development Grant, awarded to MC	\$130,000
319 Nonpoint Source Grant	\$15,000	US Forest Service	\$50,000
US Forest Service	\$102,000	MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Future Fisheries Program	\$41,000
Trout and Salmon Foundation	\$3,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$271,000</b>

## 2. What percentage of the project budgets are spent in the private sector?

The majority of the project budgets are spent in the private sector. About 10% of project budgets goes to Missoula County staff and Trout Unlimited staff for project management. Budgets do not include salaries or overhead for US Forest Service staff specialist time, which are in-kind donations to the projects. Project budgets allocated to the private sector are:

- St Louis Creek Project: 90% (approximately \$468,000)
- Mattie V Creek Project: 90% (approximately \$244,000)

**3. Approximately how many jobs are created through these projects? Are the contractors local or regional?**

It is difficult to assess the number and duration of jobs created by these projects, in part because such a variety of services are contracted, each requiring different numbers of workers for different durations of project work. Weeks per contracted service provides a general sense of the quantity of work these projects provided. Numbers of workers for each contractor varies greatly from day to day and task to task, and thus is not included in this general assessment.

Efforts were made to hire local or regional contractors. The majority of the contractors are based near Missoula or in western Montana.

Below is a list of contracted services for each project including approximate time spent on these projects (in weeks) and business locations for each contractor.

**Mattie V Creek**

Project Planning and Design	60 days	Telesto Solutions (Missoula, MT)
Weed Spraying	1 day	Rocky Mountain Environmental Restoration (Missoula, MT)
Surveying	10 days	Morrison Maierle Inc (Missoula, MT)
Engineering Design	20 days	Morrison Maierle Inc (Helena, MT)
Soils Survey	4 days	Watershed Consulting (Missoula, MT)
Revegetation Design	2 days	Geum Consulting (Hamilton, MT)
Equipment Operation	60 days	Rock N River Excavating (Missoula, MT)
Boulder Hauling	2 days	Little Bear Construction (Drummond, MT)

**St Louis Creek**

Weed Spraying	2 days	Rocky Mountain Environmental Restoration (Missoula, MT)
Surveying	4 days	Morrison Maierle Inc (Missoula, MT)
Engineering Design	30 days	Private consulting firms (Missoula, MT)
Revegetation Design	5 days	Reclamation Research Group (Bozeman, MT)
Mine Waste Removal	80 days	Oxbow Earthworks (ID)
Stream Restoration	30 days	Local contractors (Missoula, MT)
Environmental Safety	30 days	Kicking Horse Environmental (ID)

**4. Are there other economic benefits (direct or indirect) resulting from these projects?**

Additional economic benefits include the purchase of supplies and services to support the project work as well as the out-of-town contactors' living expenses. Examples from these projects and contractors include:

- Hotel stays for equipment operators
- Diesel purchase for equipment
- Misc materials purchase – Ace Hardware, Quality Supply
- Food and drink for laborers and operators
- Seed and plant purchase – local/regional plant nurseries

**For more information on these projects, visit:  
[www.co.missoula.mt.us/rural/StreamProtection](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/rural/StreamProtection)**