



Montana Trout Unlimited Chapter Mini-grant Guidelines

Introduction. In 2002, the state council created three investment funds from which earnings can be used to fund specific MTU projects that further MTU's mission "to conserve, protect and restore Montana's coldwater fisheries and their habitat." The earnings from these funds are meant to fund projects that are outside MTU's annual budget. Two of these funds, the Habitat Protection and Enhancement Fund and the Steve Bryant Wild Trout Stewardship Fund, may be tapped for chapter projects. To request funding, chapters shall submit the Mini-Grant Application Form along with a brief written proposal and proposed budget to the state council chairman or executive director. Proposals are then circulated to the full executive committee for review and decision.

As of March 2004 grant funding is limited, but MTU's intention is to grow the funds over time. We recommend chapter presidents contact MTU's executive director or outreach director to check on the availability of funds before putting together a proposal.

Project eligibility. Only TU chapters or affiliates in Montana are eligible for funding. Chapter presidents or the presiding officer of a chapter or affiliate must sign each proposal.

Habitat Protection and Enhancement Fund

This fund is for projects that:

- Improve water quality.
- Improve riparian protection, including habitat restoration and acquisition of key conservation properties.
- Enhance stream flows, including investments in water-use efficiency and acquisition or leasing of water and water rights.
- Enhance watershed health
- Protect important trout habitat from harm.
- Advocate for policy (within the limits of 501 (C)(3) tax status) affecting the conservation, protection and restoration of wild trout and their habitats.

Steve Bryant Wild Trout Stewardship Fund

This fund is for projects that:

- Provide educational activities that foster understanding of the biological, cultural and economic values of wild trout.
- Provide education to landowners for conserving wild trout, water quality, streamflows and trout habitat.
- Communicate important conservation messages to the public, elected officials, policymakers and TU members.
- Support research specifically designed to accomplish or contribute to the conservation, protection or restoration of wild trout and their habitats.
- Benefit Montana's native trout and grayling.

Application deadlines:

October 15

March 15

Guidelines for Application

Chapters shall submit grant applications to the council chairman or executive director prior to the appropriate grant cycle deadline. Completed applications will include:

- Chapter Mini-grant Application Form (attached)
- Budget form (attached)
- A brief narrative (2 page maximum) with the following elements
 - Project location and description
 - Project goals and objectives
 - Post project monitoring plans

The application will be reviewed to determine if it meets the criteria for the grant fund being applied for.