

The Buckhouse Outfall Stormwater Treatment Retrofit Project is a project to improve the quality of stormwater that drains to the Bitterroot River. This project involves the installation of a stormwater treatment system to clean stormwater runoff before it reaches the river.

The stormwater outfall pipe, located at Buckhouse Bridge, collects and drains the Reserve Street Corridor. Currently, this drainage includes extremely high traffic Reserve Street without any pretreatment before it reaches the Bitterroot River. When people dump substances in the storm drains, clean dumpsters, alleys and sidewalks this all goes into the stormwater system. When there are accidents or spills of hazardous materials, gasoline, oil, hydraulic fluid, all of this goes into the storm drain system as well. In addition the stormwater drainage carries a significant amount of sediment as a result of sanding operations during the winter season.

The Buckhouse outfall pipe currently dumps pollutants such as heavy metals including lead and copper, bacteria, sediments, warm water from street runoff, and trash such as cigarette butts and plastic bottles directly into the Bitterroot River. Any mess created by people in the streets gets washed into the River. The impacts of the untreated stormwater extend to public health and safety and also the natural system health of the Bitterroot River.

The location of this stormwater outfall is in a highly visited swimming hole on the Bitterroot River. The new Lolo to Missoula trail will be located in this area and this section of river is located at the entryway into Missoula from the south. This stretch of river is used by swimmers, boaters, and anglers. The pollution could have a significant impact on aquatic life including fishery habitat. The effects of this stormwater outfall extend to the economic industry associated with the Bitterroot River. Improving the quality of stormwater runoff is paramount.



BUCKHOUSE BRIDGE OUTFALL-STORMWATER TREATMENT RETROFIT

The proposed project takes action to clean the stormwater before it reaches the Bitterroot River. The proposed solution involves using technology to remove sediment and pollutants. This system will treat a majority of stormwater runoff events.

The Montana Department of Transportation and the Missoula Valley Water Quality District are seeking grants for this project. Your input in the form of a letter of support will be included in the grant application to demonstrate support for the project.

