

Company Profile - Stream Restoration



406-847-2328

Family Owned and Operated since 1987

John Fitchett- President

Brad Fitchett- Director of Operations

Company Profile – Stream Restoration Index

Cover Page.....Page 1
Index.....Page 2
Overview.....Page 3
Key Personnel.....Page 4
References.....Page 5-6
Stream Restoration Experience/Examples.....Page 7-11
Temporary Bridge Experience/Examples.....Page 12
Equipment.....Page 13
Contact Us.....Page 14

Overview

About Us:

Elk Creek Contracting, Inc. was founded in 1987 and has been in the Forest Management and Excavation business since. ECC has been in the Stream Restoration industry since 1994. ECC has completed dozens of Stream Restoration and Rehabilitation projects in Montana and Idaho. ECC takes pride in completing these projects, above and beyond the expectations of the agencies and/or private firms that have designed and originated these projects. The combination of experience, highly qualified operators and the right kind of machinery works effectively and efficiently ensuring good results in a timely manner. Stream Restoration has been a very fulfilling and satisfying endeavor, with the outcome of the projects being very impactful and positive for the environment, public and watershed systems. ECC has a long history of successful projects in Stream Restoration and all work fields.

Safety and Insurance:

Safety is a priority for our company. All employees attend annual safety and CPR/first aid training as administered by the Montana Logging Association. Prior to beginning any project, we host a “Pre-work Safety Meeting”, informing each operator of all potential project hazards, as well as the expectations and goals for the project. Daily meetings, under the supervision of the project manager, at the start of the workday review any issues relating to the day’s work ahead. Our employees are familiar with and abide by OSHA regulations. All machines are equipped with OSHA approved safety cabs. Machines and vehicles are equipped with high band radios for operator-to-operator communication as well as for emergency contact with 911 and Life Flight services. Operators wear hard hats, ear, and eye protection. First Aid/Safety kits, oil spill kits, and fire extinguishers are always on-board machines. No machines are left unattended unless blades, rippers and booms are grounded. Appropriate notification/warning signs are provided and posted by our project manager wherever needed. It is with safety in mind that Elk Creek Contracting employs operators who have had many years of experience running heavy equipment in adverse conditions.

ECC has an extensive written safety plan that all employees and key personnel review, sign off on and abide by. Our safety plan provides detailed information about operator responsibility for each machine and while on any job site. We hold our employees to a high standard and make sure they are comfortable in every situation before starting any new project.

ECC is fully insured with broad form liability insurance, along with loss and liability coverage for its vehicles and machines. In addition, workers’ compensation insurance is provided for all employees. (Certificates provided upon request).

Key Personnel

Key Personnel:

John Fitchett:

President/Owner
Elk Creek Contracting, Inc.
406-847-2328 ex.1
elkcreekcontracting@gmail.com

John founded Elk Creek Contracting in 1987, starting out with forest management and excavation. In 1994 John began merging the company into the Stream Restoration field as well. Since 1994 John has been on site for all the Stream Restoration projects as either an operator or managing the projects. These years of experience enhancing, rehabilitating, and restoring streams has given him a very extensive knowledge and experience in the Stream Restoration field.

Brad Fitchett:

Director of Operations
Elk Creek Contracting, Inc.
406-847-2328 ex.2
brad.fitchett@elkcreekcontracting.com

Brad has been working on Stream Restoration Projects since 2008. Both in the operator seat and managing the projects, Brad has extensive Stream Restoration experience and knowledge. Brad is also in charge of all the company contracts, finances, and executing bids, proposals, and submittals. Working closely with the project coordinators, agency officials or private parties involved with the Stream Restoration projects, Brad has been successful in keeping good working relationships with all parties.

References

Mike Miller:

Watershed Coordinator
Re-tired Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group
406-847-2357
mmiller@blackfoot.net

We did multiple jobs under the supervision and instruction of Mike, some examples are as follows;
"Springer Restoration"-Heron, MT 2012. This job consisted of 1000' of bank stabilization, many root wad placements, debris jams, J hooks and soil lifts.
"Crow Creek (Phase 1)"- Thompson Falls, MT 2008, and many more. This job consisted of 2000' of major bank stabilization, realignment of channel, J hooks, vanes, cobble structures and fish habitat enhancement.

Craig Neesvig:

Hydrologist
United States Forest Service- Cabinet Ranger Station
406-291-7303
cneesvig@fs.fed.us

We have worked under the supervision and instruction of Craig on multiple stream restoration jobs, some examples are as follows;
"Chapel Slide" Trout Creek, MT (Vermillion) 2013. This job consisted of rechanneling and major repair on the Vermillion River.
"Miners Gulch Stream Restoration and Riparian Project" Trout Creek, MT (Vermillion) 2016. This job consisted of installing and removing three temporary access bridges across live streams. Rechanneling and major repair on the Vermillion River, along with large rock veins, debris jams, root wad placements and floodplain enhancement.

Ken Bouwens

Panhandle Region Fishery Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
208-770-3766
ken.bouwens@idfg.idaho.gov

We have worked under the supervision of Ken on multiple stream restoration and FWP jobs, some examples are as follows;
"Twin Creek Stream Restoration Project"- Clark Fork, ID 2016. This job consisted of rechanneling and repairing Twin Creek in Northern Idaho. We constructed multiple large rock veins, large debris jams, riffles, log step pools and excavating 3' of material from underneath the main county road bridge.
"Johnson Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project" – Clark Fork, ID 2019. This job consisted of excavating a new stream channel, using excavated material to plug an old existing channel. We lined the new channels banks with Rip Rap and improved the floodplain in multiple locations.

John Muhlfed:

Hydrologist/ Designer
River Design Group
406-862-4927
jmuhlfeld@riverdesigngroup.net

We have worked under the supervision of John for years on multiple stream restoration projects some examples are as follows;

"Granite Creek #1". 2008. This job consisted of building approximately ½ mile of new stream channel with many rock vanes, cobble structures, J hooks, debris jams, log vanes and step pools. When the entire new stream was constructed, we diverted the stream away from the old channel into the newly constructed channel in hopes of water flowing all year long to help with the Bull Trout spawning efforts.

"Granite Creek #2" 2009. This job consisted of building an 800' plastic lined clear water diversion. We diverted the water away from the one-year-old stream bed to enable us to do some bank stabilization work, repair some structures and line the bottom of almost 800' of the streambed with clay to help stop a water sinking problem.

"Granite Creek Egg Take Facility Rebuild". 2011. This job consisted of removing all the old step pools and egg take facility at the confluence of Granite Creek and Sullivan Springs on the south side of Pend Oreille Lake. We built all new rock vanes, step pools and constructed a new bomber proof berm to keep Sullivan Springs and Granite Creek separated to the proper spot of confluence. We built an all-new concrete egg take facility. We constructed some debris jams and did some bank stabilization on Granite Creek. This project also required us to build two different clear water diversions, and we had to install a temporary bridge over Sullivan Springs.

Brita Olsen

Watershed Coordinator
Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group
406-203-4725
brita@lcfwg.org

We have worked under the supervision of Brita on multiple stream restoration projects some examples are as follows;

"Miners Gulch Stream Restoration and Riparian Project" Trout Creek, MT (Vermillion) 2016. This job consisted of installing and removing three temporary access bridges across live streams. Rechanneling and major repair on the Vermilion River, along with large rock veins, debris jams, root wad placements and floodplain enhancement.

"Simms Meander Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project" Trout Creek, MT (Vermillion) 2021. This job consisted of installing and removing three temporary access bridges across live streams. Rechanneling whole portions of the river, installing large rock veins, debris jams, root wad placements and floodplain enhancement.

More References are available upon request.

Stream Restoration Experience/Examples

Below are some examples of our most previous years of Stream Restoration projects. Prior years are available upon request.

Graves Creek-Fish Trap – Montana

Date: 2008
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted hauling in rocks and rip rap. Building access to the stream and building a large rock vane in Graves Creek to accommodate Avista's fish trap.

Granite Creek #1 – Idaho

Date: 2008
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of building approximately ½ mile of new stream channel with many rock vanes, cobble structures, J hooks, debris jams, log vanes and step pools. When the entire new stream was constructed, we diverted the stream away from the old channel into the newly constructed channel in hopes of water flowing all year long to help with the Bull Trout spawning efforts.

Reishus-Pilgrim Creek – Montana

Date: 2008
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of 1500' of bank stabilization, debris jams, J hooks, vanes, and cobble structures. Materials were a mix of hauled in and onsite natural resources. Our excavators used all the materials to form a more habitable environment for fish and secured the banks and floodplains.

Crow Creek – Montana

Date: 2008
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of 2000' of major bank stabilization, realignment of channel, J hooks, vanes, cobble structures and fish habitat enhancement. Vegetation was planted after all bank and floodplain work was done to ensure the stabilization down the road.

Granite Creek #2 – Idaho

Date: 2009
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of building an 800' plastic lined clear water diversion. We diverted the water away from the one-year-old stream bed to enable us to do some bank stabilization work, repair some structures and line the bottom of almost 800' of the streambed with clay to help stop a water sinking problem.

Graves Creek Bank Stabilization – Montana

Date: 2009
PBS & J, Bozeman
Mike Rotar
406-587-7275, ext. 225

This job consisted of 300' of bank stabilization and fish habitat enhancement.

Reishus Repair – Montana

Date: 2009
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of repairs to a large project from the previous year. We installed more soil lifts, singles and doubles, debris jams, channel reshaping, cobble structures and root wad placements.

Gold Creek – Idaho

Date: 2010
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job was on the south side of Pend Oreille Lake. It consisted of some stream bed shaping, installing big rock in stream to enhance fish habitat, and placing big rocks to stop ATV travel. Rob Rung from the Idaho Fish Wildlife & Parks was the inspector.

Springer – Montana

Date: 2011
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of a 300' clear water diversion, bank stabilization with debris jams, single and double soil lifts, root wads, channel shaping and cobble structures.

Granite Creek Egg Take Facility Rebuild - Idaho

Date: 2011
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of removing all the old step pools and egg take facility at the confluence of Granite Creek and Sullivan Springs on the south side of Pend Oreille Lake. We built all new rock vanes, step pools and constructed a new bomber proof berm to keep Sullivan Springs and Granite Creek separated to the proper spot of confluence. We built an all-new concrete egg take facility. We constructed some debris jams and did some bank stabilization on Granite Creek. This project also required us to build two different clear water diversions, and we had to install a temporary bridge over Sullivan Springs.

Springer Restoration – Montana

Date: 2012
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of 1000' of bank stabilization, many root wad placements, debris jams, J hooks and soil lifts. We also planted 1000's of willows in the soil lift.

Chapel Slide – Montana

US Forest Service
Craig Neesvig
406-291-7303

This job consisted of constructing a mountainous access road to drop into the restoration area. We then hauled in 60'+ rootwads, 4-5' boulders and riprap. These materials were then delivered to our in creek excavators who worked on rechanneling and major repair on the Vermilion River. We constructed rock vanes, debris jams, log jams, riffles, and completed extensive floodplain improvements.

Grouse Creek – Idaho

Date: 2013
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of root wad placements, debris jams, rock veins, J hooks, soil lifts and large clear water diversion.

Upper Pack River - Idaho

Date: 2014
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of soil lifts, rock veins, J hooks, reshaping channel, and a clear water diversion.

Miners Gulch Stream and Riparian Restoration Project – Montana

Date: 2016
US Forest Service
Craig Neesvig
406-291-7303

This job consisted of rechanneling and major repair on the Vermilion River, along with large rock veins, debris jams, root wad placements and floodplain enhancement.

Twin Creek Restoration Project - Idaho

Date: 2016
Avista/ Idaho Fish and Game
Ken Bouwens
208-277-6029

This job consisted of rechanneling and repairing Twin Creek in Northern Idaho. We constructed multiple large rock veins, large debris jams, riffles, log step pools and excavating 3' of material from underneath the main county road bridge.

Lost Trail Stream Restoration Project – Montana

Date: 2017
Rehbien Enterprises
Tyler Rehbien
406-883-5472

This job consisted of building a completely new channel for the stream. We constructed debris jams, riffles, vegetated wood matrix's and filled in the old channel. This whole job was done using a GPS excavator and Bulldozer.

Crow Creek Phase 2 Restoration Project – Montana

Date: 2019
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This job consisted of improving channel morphology, floodplain connectivity and fish habitat by creating 625 feet of newly constructed stream channel. We constructed debris jams, riffles, vegetated wood matrix's, planted willows and dogwood and made major floodplain improvements. We hauled in riprap, large rock and transferred onsite material to floodplains. A temporary access bridge was installed and then removed after the scope of the project was complete.

Johnson Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project – Idaho

Date: 2019
Avista/ Idaho Fish and Game
Ken Bouwens
208-277-6029

This job consisted of improving and altering the channel location for a less erosive path of the tributary. We constructed a temporary access trail through the floodplain and delivered riprap with a track driven dump truck to minimize any unnecessary compaction and disturbance. We built floodplains and used riprap for bank stabilization.

West Fork Fishtrap Creek Road Realignment Project – Montana

Date:2020

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group

Brita Olsen

406-203-4725

This job consisted of excavating out an old roadway that was in the floodplain, and constructing a new road outside of the floodplain. We obliterated the old road, graded the floodplain, and transplanted the vegetation wherever possible.

Emma Creek Road Project – Montana

Date: 2020

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group

Brita Olsen

406-203-4725

This job consisted of excavating out multiple large culverts in high producing streams and rebuilding banks and floodplains to the hydrologist's specifications. All native rock, vegetation and debris were used to construct mini rock vanes and floodplains.

Simms Meander Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project – Montana

Date:2021

US Forest Service

Craig Neesvig

406-291-7303

This project consisted of building a temporary access road through the Vermillion River. We installed and later removed three temporary access bridges to cross active streams. We hauled in 60'+ rootwads, large rock, and riprap. All materials were delivered to creek excavators who constructed log jams, rock vanes, debris jams, and riffles. Large sections of the Floodplain were excavated, and material used to build up structures and old channel flows.

Beatrice Road Project – Montana

Date:2022

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

Jessie Grossman

406-291-8213

This project consisted of obliterating multiple miles of mountain road in a critical watershed area. We pulled out many large culverts in high producing streams and rebuilt banks and floodplains to the hydrologist's specifications. All native rock, vegetation and debris were used to construct mini rock vanes and floodplains.

Temporary Bridge Experience/Examples

Stimson Lumber Company

Date: On-going
Bruce Rowland
406-370-5657

We have an on-going contract with Stimson Lumber Company, that consists of all their road maintenance in Northwest Montana, and parts of North Idaho. We have installed and removed Temporary bridge across active large streams, small stream, soft spots, and old bridges many times over the years. We also have installed numerous low water fords and culvert replacements.

Miners Gulch Stream and Riparian Restoration Project – Montana

Date: 2016
US Forest Service
Craig Neesvig
406-291-7303

This Stream Restoration project required multiple temporary bridges to be installed to access the scope of the work site. We installed a 16' all metal temporary bridge, a 30' all metal temporary bridge and a 55' all metal temporary bridge. This temporary bridge system allowed us to cross flawlessly with trucks, equipment and materials needed for the project.

Crow Creek Phase 2 Restoration Project – Montana

Date: 2019
River Design Group
John Muhlfeld
406-862-4927

This Stream Restoration project required a temporary bridge to be installed to access the scope of the work site. We installed a 16' all metal, temporary bridge directly onto native soil. This bridge allowed us to cross flawlessly with trucks, equipment and materials needed for the project.

Simms Meander Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project – Montana

Date: 2021
US Forest Service
Craig Neesvig
406-291-7303

This Stream Restoration project required multiple temporary bridges to be installed to access the scope of the work site. We installed a 16' all metal temporary bridge, a 30' all metal temporary bridge and a 55' all metal temporary bridge. This temporary bridge system allowed us to cross flawlessly with trucks, equipment and materials needed for the project.

Forest Management

We use temporary bridges nearly every year in our forest management operations. These bridges work great for trucks and equipment to cross streams safely and causing the least disruption to the native ground possible.

Elk Creek Contracting, Inc. is equipped with three, all metal one-piece temporary bridges. We have a 16' bridge, 30' bridge, and 55' bridge.

Equipment

All of Elk Creek Contracting, Inc's equipment is up to date, mechanically sound and maintained by our professionals and mechanics. This ensures proper operation and the highest efficiency out of each piece of equipment.

We are equipped with the following equipment that is all used in different types of Stream Restoration projects.

Excavators

- 1 - 80,000lb excavator with a hydraulic thumb
- 1 – 70,000lb excavator with 65' long boom and manual thumb
- 2 - 60,000lb excavators with progressive hydraulics thumbs
- 1 - 30,000lb excavator with a progressive hydraulic thumb
- 1 – 12,000lb excavator with a hydraulic thumb

Bulldozers

- 1 – D7 size Bulldozer with rippers
- 1 – D5 size Bulldozer with rippers

Skid-Steers

- 1 – Track driver Skid-Steer
- 1 – Wheel driven Skid-Steer

Vibratory Compactors

- 1 – 84" Vibratory wheel compactor
- 1 – 48" Vibratory wheel compactor
- 1 – Plate compactor powered by a 60,000lb excavator

Off Road Trucks

- 1 – Morooka Track driven dump truck
- 1 – International 4x4 dump truck

Dump Trucks

- 2 – Peterbilt 12-yard dump trucks
- 1 – Peterbilt 12-yard dump truck with rock box and high lift gate
- 1 – Peterbilt 6-yard dump truck

Water Trucks

- 1 – Peterbilt 4000-gallon water truck

Graders

- 1 – 160H road grader with rippers

Side Dump Trailers

- 2 – 20-yard side dump trailer with proper tractors to pull them

Contact Us



406-847-2328

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406-847-2328**

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Heron, MT 59844

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269 Hwy 200
Heron, MT 59844

John Fitchett:

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Brad Fitchett

Director of Operations

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