



Bison Range Reach Restoration Project (BRR)

Lower Jocko River near the CSKT Bison Range

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

The Bison Range Reach Restoration Project is restoring a section of the Jocko River near the CSKT Bison Range that was altered over many years by levees, river straightening, and agricultural development.

Before the river was altered, the Jocko River moved naturally throughout the valley, creating wetlands, side channels, and important habitat for fish and wildlife. Over time, portions of the river were confined against the valley wall and disconnected from the floodplain, reducing habitat diversity, groundwater connections, and cold-water refuge for native fish species.

The project aims to restore the river to a more natural shape and reconnect it to the floodplain while improving wetlands, riparian habitat, and habitat for Bull Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, wildlife, and other native species.

PROJECT FEATURES

- Restoration of the Jocko River and floodplain
- Wetland and riparian habitat restoration
- Improved habitat for native fish and wildlife
- New side channels and off-channel habitat
- Willow planting and revegetation work
- Groundwater and floodplain restoration
- Support for cultural and traditional plant habitats

WHY IT MATTERS

The Jocko River is an important river system for native fish, wildlife, wetlands, and the overall health of the watershed. This project helps restore natural river and floodplain processes that support colder water, healthier habitat, and long-term ecological resilience

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

Construction and restoration activities are ongoing throughout the project area as crews continue Phase 2 of the restoration project. Current work includes new channel construction, streambank stabilization, floodplain restoration, willow planting, revegetation, and habitat improvement activities for fish and wildlife.

TIMELINE

- Phase 1 — Completed (2025)
- Approximately 40% of river and floodplain restoration work completed.
- Phase 2 — Underway (2025–2027)

K'emt šey še nk'úlex' qe sq'yúlex' ti?e l sewtk'

“By that, we were wealthy from the water.”

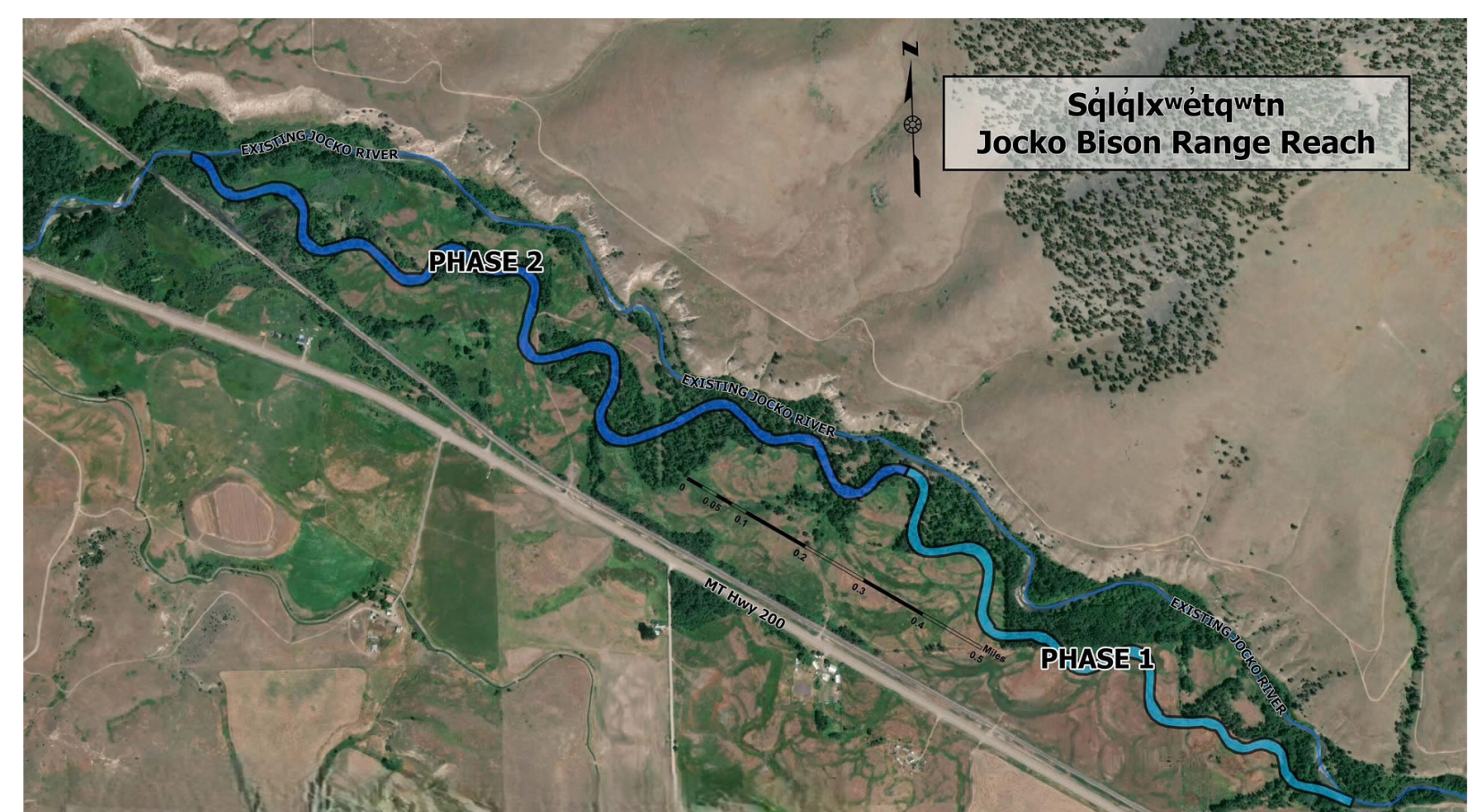
— Pend d'oreille elder Mitch Smallsalmon

Water was the foundation of a sustainable way of life—sustaining the people, the land, and the fish for generations. The Jocko River Bison Range Reach Restoration Project works to restore that balance.



WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION

- Active construction and restoration work
- Temporary closures in work areas
- Increased truck and equipment traffic
- Excavation and earthmoving activities
- Ongoing floodplain and habitat restoration
- Long-term river and wildlife improvements underway



Map of the Bison Range Reach Restoration Project showing completed Phase 1 restoration work and current Phase 2 construction and restoration areas along the Jocko River.



The project includes new river channel construction, restoration of the historic floodplain, and the creation of more than 30 acres of wetland habitat within the project area.



Fish rescue operations during fall 2025 helped protect native fish during active restoration work. Similar efforts are expected during future construction phases