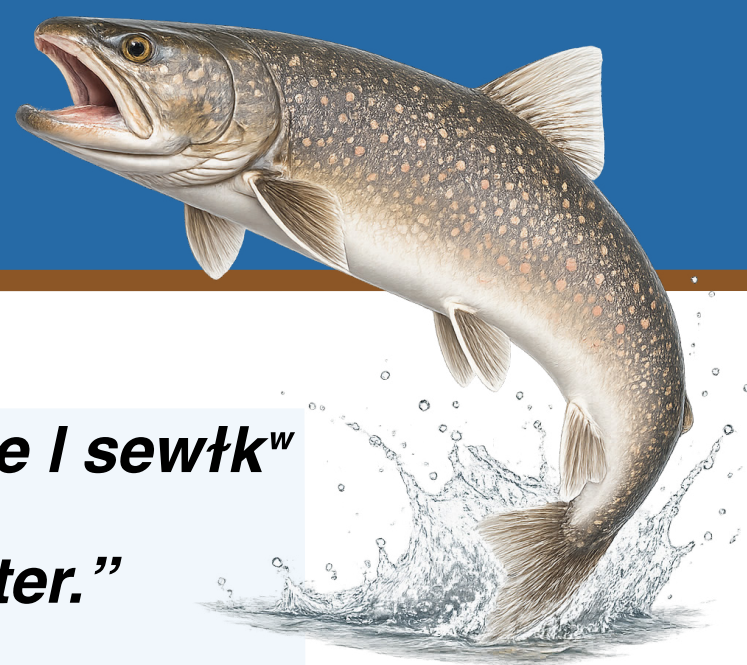




Upper S Diversion Fish Ladder

Along the Mainstem of the Jocko River

In Environmental Review



WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

The Upper S Fish Ladder Project proposes improvements to the existing S Canal Diversion on the Jocko River near Arlee. The project aims to improve upstream and downstream fish passage, improve river conditions, and support healthier fish movement within the Jocko River system.

The existing diversion facility was originally built to deliver irrigation water to the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP). While the facility currently includes a fishway, the system requires fish handling and limits natural fish movement through this section of river.

The project would modernize the facility with volitional fish passage infrastructure, allowing fish to move more freely upstream and downstream through the river system, along with sediment transport features designed to support more natural river conditions while continuing to provide irrigation delivery.

The project also includes improvements to the nearby Upper S and Hungry Man campgrounds to help offset temporary impacts to recreation during construction.

PROJECT FEATURES

- Modernized fish passage infrastructure
- Improved upstream and downstream fish movement
- Reduced fish handling and maintenance operations
- Passage for fish, amphibians, sediment, and natural debris
- Streambank and river channel restoration
- Improvements to Hungry Man and Upper S campgrounds
- Coordination with downstream fish passage at Jocko K Diversion

WHY IT MATTERS

Healthy rivers depend on connected ecosystems. Improving fish passage and river function within the Jocko watershed helps support native fish populations, wildlife movement, and long-term watershed health.

The project contributes to broader restoration efforts aimed at improving ecological connectivity and supporting healthier river systems throughout the watershed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

The project is currently under environmental review and planning. Current work includes engineering, environmental studies, permitting, and development of proposed fish passage and river restoration improvements.

TIMELINE

Construction anticipated for 2027 if no delays occur

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Temporary campground closure of Upper S campground
- Recreation impacts during construction
- Increased road traffic and dust
- Active construction equipment and crews
- Temporary construction activity near the river corridor

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

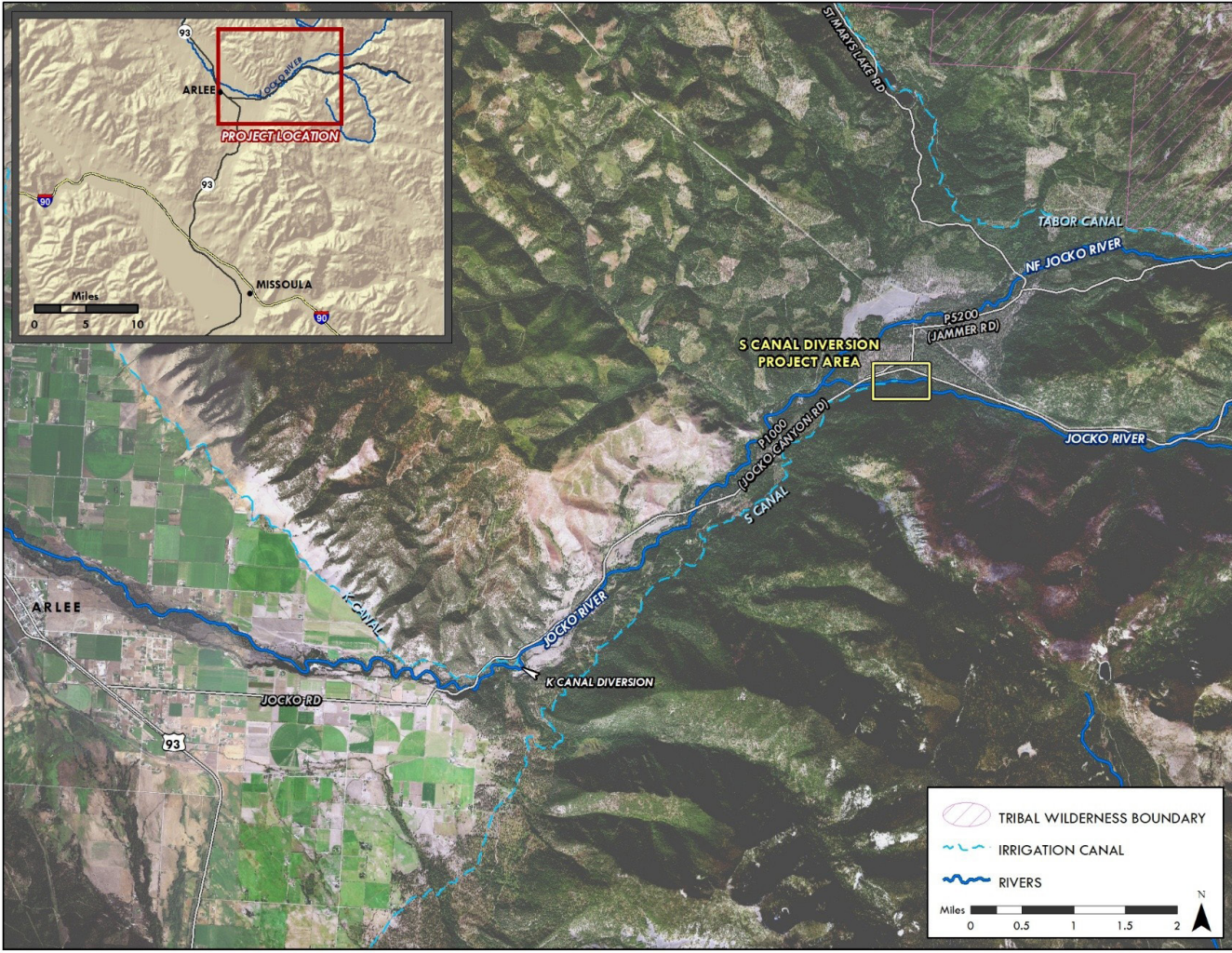
Water was the foundation of a sustainable way of life—sustaining the people, the land, and the fish for generations. Projects like this work to restore that balance.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS & IMPROVEMENTS

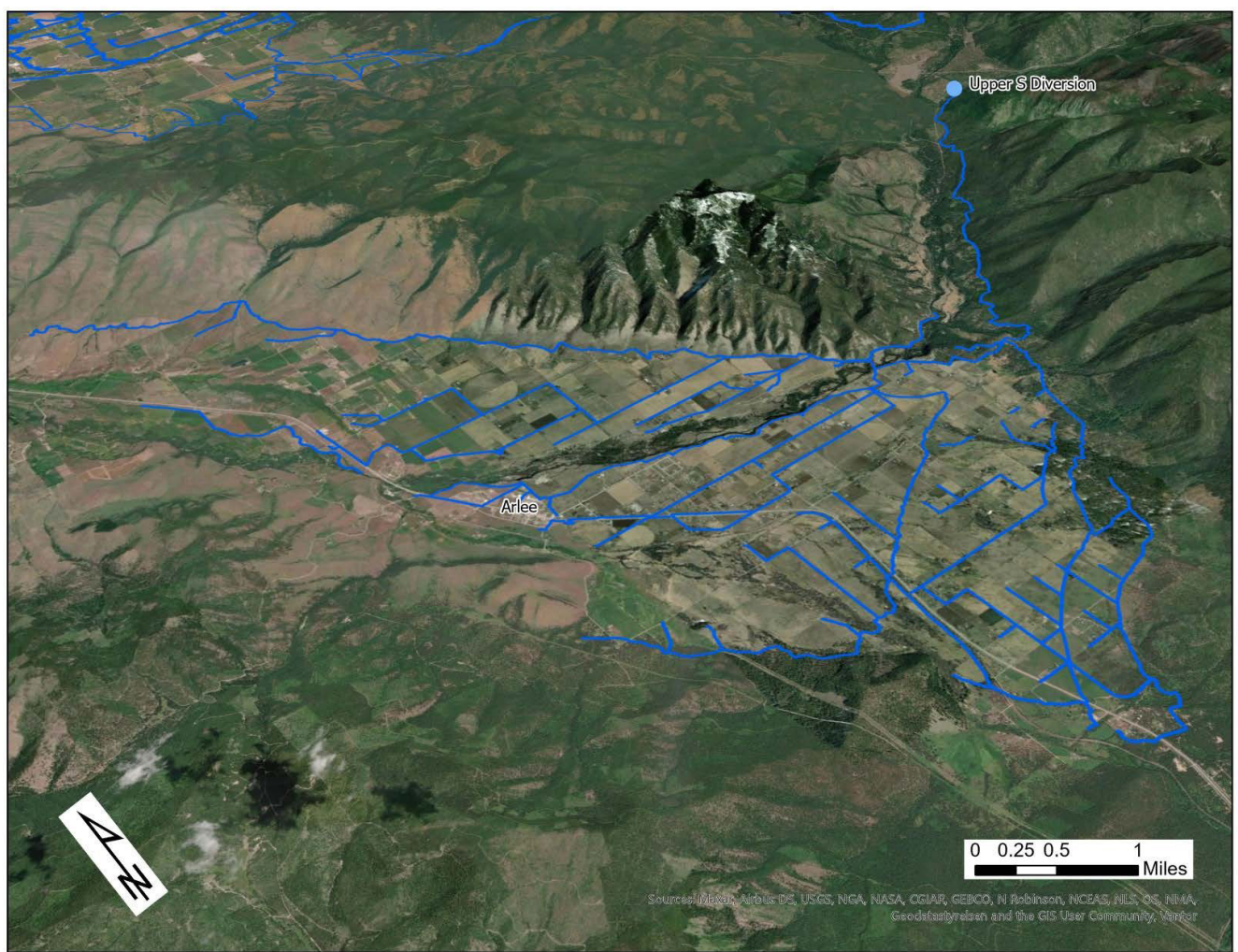
To maintain public safety, the Upper S Campground would be temporarily closed during construction activities. Improvements to the Upper S and Hungry Man campgrounds are planned to help offset recreation impacts associated with the project.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

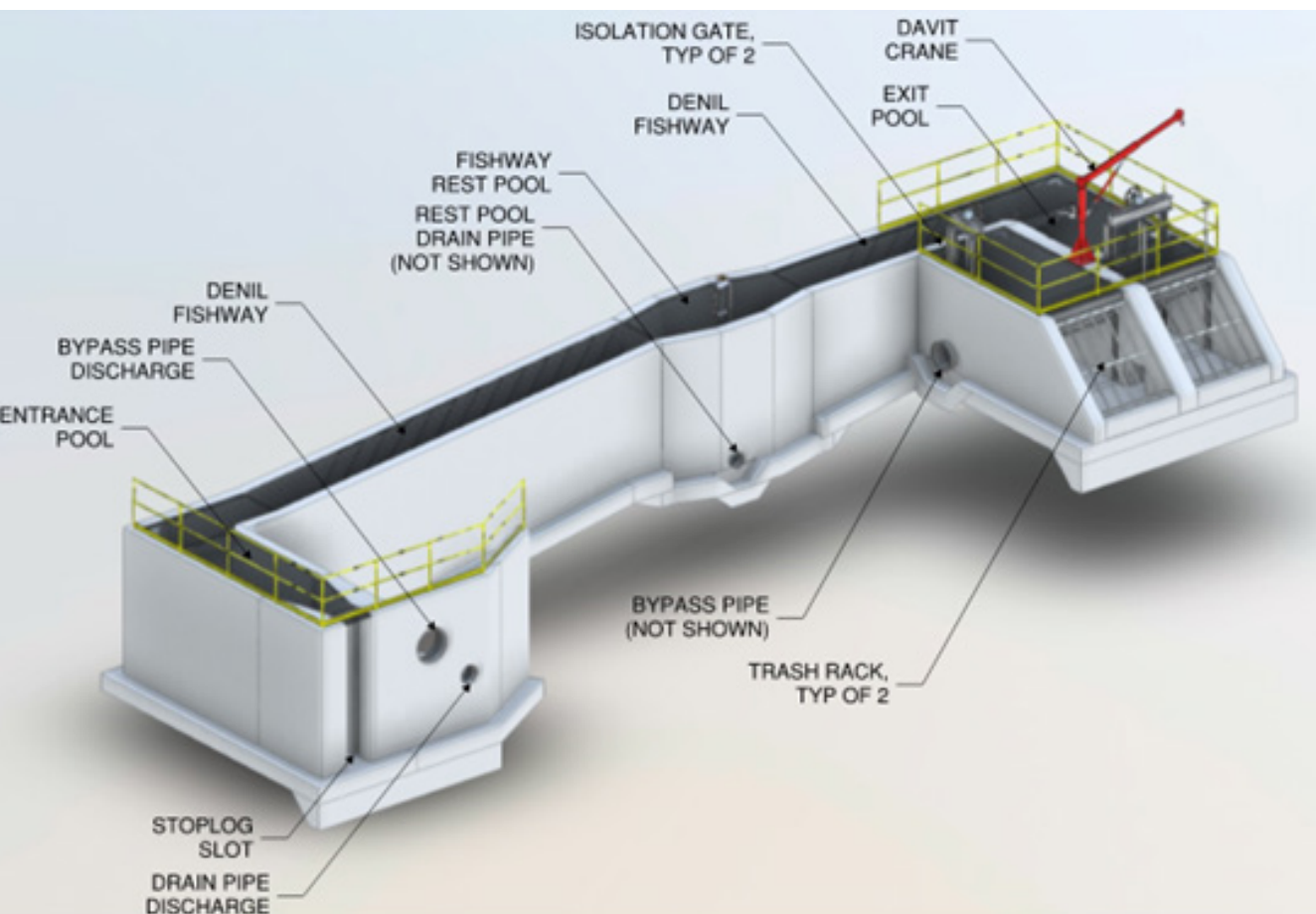
- Construction of a new permanent group shelter at Upper S Campground
- Replacement of the existing Hungry Man Camp pit toilet with a new vaulted toilet
- Recreation and facility improvements supporting long-term public use



The Upper S Fish Ladder Project is located approximately 9 miles east of Arlee along the mainstem of the Jocko River and is accessed from Jocko Canyon Road (P-1000 Road) near Upper S Campground.



Arlee Irrigation Service Area supplied by the Upper S Diversion.



Proposed Denil fishway structure, a fish passage system designed to help fish move upstream around the existing diversion facility