

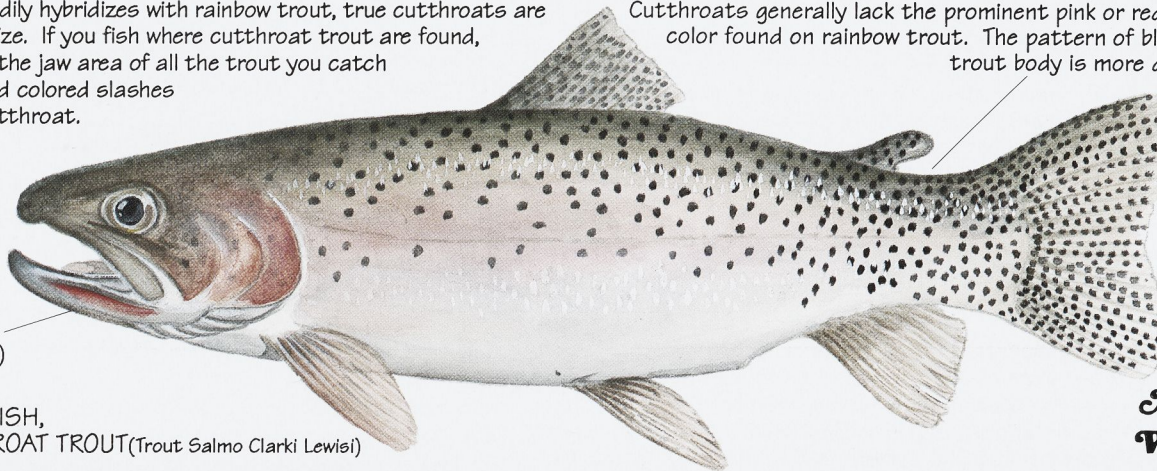
WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO IDENTIFY A CUTTHROAT TROUT ?

Since the cutthroat readily hybridizes with rainbow trout, true cutthroats are often difficult to recognize. If you fish where cutthroat trout are found, check the underside of the jaw area of all the trout you catch for the distinguishing red colored slashes characteristic of the cutthroat.

Cutthroats generally lack the prominent pink or red midside band of iridescent color found on rainbow trout. The pattern of black spots on the cutthroat trout body is more dense on its upper body and tail area, while rainbow trout have a more uniform spotting pattern.

small, irregularly shaped black spots, sparse on belly

cutthroat slash...
one on each side
(weak on juveniles)



MONTANA'S STATE FISH,
the WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT (Trout *Salmo Clarki Lewisii*)



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

HELP A NATIVE MONTANAN SURVIVE. RELEASE CUTTHROAT TROUT YOU CATCH

Illegal harvest has a significant impact on the recovery of cutthroat populations. Check the printed Montana Fishing Regulations for special **rules requiring catch-and-release fishing** for cutthroats and/or all trout in many rivers & streams.

EVERYONE CAN DO THEIR PART BY RELEASING CUTTHROATS.

HELP A NATIVE MONTANAN SURVIVE. RELEASE CUTTHROAT TROUT YOU CATCH

WHY ARE CUTTHROAT TROUT POPULATIONS IN TROUBLE ?

Most avid trout anglers know that cutthroats are generally the easiest of Montana's seven trout species to catch. For example, Yellowstone National Park research showed that each cutthroat trout in a section of the Yellowstone River was caught an average of 9.2 times per year. In a Montana study, a 12-inch cutthroat was caught, tagged, released and recaptured within three hours, while an 18-inch cutthroat was caught nine times in a seven-month period. Several other studies have found cutthroats don't necessarily grow wiser as they grow older and larger. Unfortunately, it is the larger cutthroats, those that are most important for reproduction, that are also the most vulnerable ones.

Still, the cutthroat's plight is not solely a result of its behavior. People, whether it be through fishing or changing the environment, have had a profound effect on cutthroat populations in our rivers and streams. As we have altered the habitat of the native cutthroat, its habitat has deteriorated. Heavy sediment loads, low stream flows and spawning runs blocked by dams and culverts have each contributed to reduced populations of cutthroat trout in Montana.

Past introductions of rainbow and brook trout into native cutthroat waters have also affected cutthroats. Cutthroats not only don't compete well with these species, they will often spawn with rainbow trout to produce a hybrid species. The inability to compete for food and shelter and their readiness to spawn with other species have served to further deplete cutthroat trout numbers.

Catch-and-release fishing can provide more than just the satisfaction anglers experience when they let their quarry go. It can benefit the future health of the resource, but only if it is done correctly.

HOW TO CATCH-AND-RELEASE

ANGLERS PLANNING TO RELEASE CUTTHROAT OR ANY FISH SHOULD:

- Avoid the use of bait. Artificial lures and flies cause far less mortality to released fish.
- Use barbless hooks that make the hook-removal fast and easy.
- Play the fish as rapidly as possible... not to its total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing a hook.
- Remove the hook gently...don't squeeze fish or put fingers in its gills.
- If deeply hooked, cut the line as close to the mouth as possible. Do not yank the hook out. Many fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright facing upstream and move it slowly back & forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

MONTANA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

109 West Callender - P.O. Box 474

Livingston, MT 59047

(406) 222-9091 - mspf@mcn.net

September 25, 2002

To: State Parks Futures Committee II
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

From: Bob Raney, Executive Director
Montana State Parks Foundation
P.O. Box 474
Livingston, MT 59047

Re: Comments: Draft Report and Recommendations
State Parks Futures Committee II – July 29, 2002

The Montana State Parks Foundation (MSPF) attended and participated in all 8 meetings of the Parks Futures Committee II (PFCII). We have a long and active history in parks policy, funding, and management in both the legislature and public arenas dating back to 1989. We were actively involved in development and promotion of most of the law that has been the subject of the PFCII meetings and this draft Report and Recommendations. We made numerous presentations to the committee including a Power Point presentation on the history, intent and success of these laws.

MSPF does not believe this Draft Report and Recommendations, dated July 29, 2002 fulfills the mandate of the Executive order creating the committee for the following reasons:

1. The committee does not represent a broad spectrum of Montana citizenry, with only one member representative of park advocacy (Our Montana, whose history is really Parks Division advocacy) and none representing conservation interests or recreation users. Many of the members of the committee did not know if they had ever been to a state park, let alone display much interest in the attributes, needs and purpose of the parks.
2. The committee failed to review and comment on the relationship between the 320 Fishing Access Sites and the 42 state parks, whose designations are interchangeable by a simple bureaucratic decision.
3. The committee failed to review the intent and purpose of 23-1-126/127 MCA that requires the Parks Division to accomplish its maintenance needs before adding capital improvements. The parks system is collapsing under the weight of too much development and therefore cannot accomplish simple maintenance tasks such as clean toilets, trash collection and weed control. Example: The August 26, 2002 Billings Gazette quotes Tongue River State Park Manager Bob Peterson: "We've got a brand new multi-million dollar facility and not being able to keep it up is a bit of a worry." "For Peterson it means cuts to maintenance – toilets don't get cleaned as often, weeds go uncut and garbage won't be hauled every day," according to the Gazette.

Yet, the Division continues to build. (See attachment one – photos of Hell Creek State Park) It is not as though the cash flow problem is new either – as the same Gazette article quotes Parks Division manager Doug Monger “We’ve been spending out of our savings account. Revenues are flat and costs have been increasing. The parks division has been borrowing about \$200,000/year from its savings account.”

4. The committee did not seek input from resources outside the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, except for comments by MSPF and at very poorly attended public meetings. Senior Citizens, low income advocacy groups, land owners, area businesses, local chambers of Commerce, educators, advocacy groups, former disgruntled FWP employees, and others were not sought out by the committee, and few attended the poorly advertised meetings. Very few legislators or local government officials attended or provided input.
5. The tourism industry was overly represented with two members of the committee coming directly from Travel Montana. They, along with most of the committee, strongly advocate using our state parks for the benefit of the tourism industry while significantly raising fees on Montana residents to use their own parks. Another member makes his living in the travel industry. The chairperson of the committee owns and operates a video production business that has been paid as a contractor for FWP promotional and “educational” services.
6. The committee pursued many angles to increase revenue for the Parks Division, but never considered prioritizing spending to avoid fee (TAX) increases on Montana citizens nor to ensure maintenance has priority in department policy, as required by law. The committee often acknowledged that adding and increasing fees are likely to keep many Montanans from enjoying their parks, yet proceeded to recommend doing just that.
7. The committee never kept its agreement with the public that they would secure an understanding with the Crow Tribe and the Friends of Chief Plenty Coups before supporting the repeal of 23-1-130 MCA that gives priority to Chief Plenty Coups State Park for funding.
8. The committee really didn't do much besides accepting the "vision" of Montana's future park system as recommended by the Parks Division, including funding, staffing and programs as well as repealing existing statutes and proposing new laws.
9. Neither the Legislative Audit Report that brought about the PFCII nor the PFCII committee itself investigated weed management. If they had, they would have been dismayed. As noted in the Bozeman Chronicle on September 10, 2002 – “FWP this year cut its funding for Madison county (fishing) access-site weed control from \$2,400 to \$800. That’s barely enough to pay for the pesticides and not nearly enough to pay for its application, according to county officials.” Yet, the Division is building shower houses, "educating" tourists and planning new visitor centers.

Following is a section-by-section review of the report:

Introduction

The report notes that the Legislative Audit Division conducted a performance audit of the Parks Division programs in 2001. However, the report fails to note that the Audit Division did not review the statutory requirement of 23-1-126/127 MCA that mandates priority be given to

maintenance of existing facilities rather than to additional development or improvements. This gross omission misleads the public into thinking the parks division is complying with the law, which it is not. Thus, the parks division continues with development that it cannot maintain and the Legislative Audit report and Futures Committee report omit this seminal information (See exhibit one - Hell Creek)

Futures Committee Members

The report notes that the committee represents a variety of interests across the state. While that may be true, their interests had little to do with state parks. Only 3 of the 9 members had expressed much interest in the state parks system prior to being appointed to the committee. Only one recreational advocacy group, Our Montana, was represented. Our Montana has a history of working hand in glove with the Parks Division and generally parrots the Division positions. In addition, geographical distribution of committee members was less than fair.

Purpose

The report notes that the committee is to make recommendations to the Governor and the 2003 Legislature regarding changes, challenges and trends that have arisen since 1989. However, the report only addresses the subjects that the Parks Division chose to present to the committee for consideration. The committee did not embark upon any investigative exercise on these subjects on their own accord. For example, it is noted that since 1990 fees were raised to defray rising costs. Yet little discussion was held regarding the more than \$30 million in capital improvements made since 1990 or the cost of maintenance of these improvements. The park manager at Cooney recently lamented in the Billings Gazette on August 25, 2002, "We've got a brand new multi-million dollar facility and not being able to keep it up is a bit worrisome." "For Peterson it means cuts to maintenance – toilets don't get cleaned as often, weeds go uncut and garbage won't be hauled every day," according to the Gazette.

The committee never investigated the relationship between capital expenditures, rising costs and lack of maintenance and therefore never made substantial recommendations on managing priorities until maintenance is brought up to date and fits within the existing parks revenue stream.

Instead, the committee went along with the Parks Division recommendations to increase revenue from fees and many other sources. No consideration was given to cutting planning, architectural design or management staff in the Helena and regional offices to save money while performing a major backlog of maintenance. Instead, as noted in the 3% reductions ordered by Governor Martz in June 2002, (see attachment 2)) the agency immediately went to reducing maintenance and weed management – and continued on with development activities.

The committee never investigated or reported on the effectiveness of the Primitive Parks Act (23-1-116 to 118 MCA) in reducing park costs, preventing additional fees (TAXES) on Montana residents or its effects on future budgets. Instead, they agreed with the department to return to the standard practice of letting the agency make the decisions on what should be developed, at what cost and how citizens should pay for the development that will take place with the removal of the act. The committee has witnessed first hand how little public participation there is, yet chose to support repealing a law they mostly agreed with in favor of allowing the agency to

develop future plans by bureaucratic fiat or administrative rules – both are processes that have virtually no ability for the citizens to override or contest agency decisions. The committee never investigated the effectiveness of the Good Neighbor Policy (23-1-127 MCA) nor Maintenance priority – maintenance defined (23-1-127 MCA see attachment 3) to see if the Parks Division was living up to the law putting maintenance ahead of development, which it is not.

The committee performed little investigation as to why costs continue to rise, why the division has been spending more than it takes in for several years and why the department cannot live within its budget. A simple review of recent capital expenditures (while ignoring needed maintenance) would have produced the answer. Further the committee accepted the department's rhetoric that fees and tax income have remained flat – which is a bogus statement. The Division was given 6.5% of the bed tax in 1995 for maintenance, a sum that has risen by a quarter million in the last 7 years and now exceeds \$700,000 per year in NEW revenue since the first Futures Committee met. If fee income is flat, it is because many citizens are refusing to pay the ever-increasing fees enacted by the Division.

A Deliberative Process

The committee meetings were facilitated by the Montana Consensus Council. However, the Consensus Council was not brought into the process until after the committee members were appointed and the first meeting had been held. The Consensus Council should have been brought in from the beginning, including screening who was appointed to the committee to insure that points of view contrary to the Division were presented and investigated instead of rubber stamping the Division agenda.

The report notes that the committee visited 10 state parks. The 10 parks, however, were flagship parks where maintenance is reasonable. They never visited weed-infested places like Pirogue Island or under maintained parks like Hell Creek. They never visited Sluice Boxes Park where trail maintenance is non-existent. The committee never reviewed the appropriateness of multi-million dollar developments such as at Hauser Lake and Ulm Pishkun (only 2,000 visitors per month in summer of 2002)

It should be noted that the web site provided for the committee's use was never up to date. Agendas and meeting places were changed without notice to the public.

History and Status of the State Park System

No comment.

Parks Mission and Vision Statement

Mission – No comment.

Vision – A dream not based in fiscal reality. Thus the committee never based its recommendation on fiscal reality.

Statutory Framework

The report notes that in its deliberations the committee primarily focused on the Primitive parks Act. The Division's keen interest in this subject is two-fold: First, the agency seeks to have free hand at development as they have done in other, non-primitive designated parks; and second, to

be able to charge Montana residents fees simply to ENTER their own parks. Because the Division, pre-determined the decisions at which they wanted the committee to arrive, the most important statutes of the times, the Good neighbor policy and Maintenance priority, were generally ignored by the committee.

The Primitive Parks Act (See attachment 4 for text of law)

The committee recognized the intent and established benefits of the act and included them in the report:

- Stopped incremental development
- Saved on capital costs and prevented rising long term operation and maintenance costs
- Provides no-fee parks for Montana citizens

Then the committee found disadvantages to the act that were in fact the intent of the Legislature when the law was enacted:

- The report states the act limits flexibility to address change. However, the only real problems seem to have existed at Headwaters Park near Three Forks - and that was addressed by the 2001 Legislature.
- The report states the act restricts options for maintaining existing development. This statement is erroneous in that the act provides for whatever is needed to maintain existing facilities. Other law mandates that maintenance of existing parks is the department's primary responsibility.
- The report states "primitive" is not an appropriate description for some of the sites. We agree. "Parks with statutorily limited development and no resident fees" would be more appropriate.
- The report states the act does not acknowledge the potential benefits of developed zones with-in primitive landscapes. A primary purpose of the act is to do just that - prevent development within natural, primarily undeveloped landscapes as a way of providing Montanans with recreational options. Many Montanans enjoy natural, primarily undeveloped parks, and thanks to the Primitive Parks Act, they have some they can go to. Those seeking higher-end, more developed parks can go to the other, more highly developed parks. This statement is just another Division attempt to justify more development. The purpose, of course, is to return these parks to development and fee (TAX) driven management.
- The report states the act may conflict with the Good Neighbor policy, but does not state how. Therefore, one cannot comment on the accuracy of their statement. (See attachments 3 and 4 for text of the laws.)

After many hours of consideration, the committee could not figure out how to continue with the Primitive Parks Act and please the department at the same time. They therefore followed the department's recommendation to return determination on development and fees at these parks to the bureaucracy, thereby negating all the benefits they previously recognized, benefits that are especially valuable to both Montanans and the state budget in these tough financial times.

The committee became advocates for additional fees (TAXES) upon Montana residents by recommending removal of free access to these primitive parks even though the Legislature provided for maintenance of these parks when the law was enacted in 1993. Because the Division complained about losing the fee revenue in 1993, the Legislature provided far more

than enough revenue for their maintenance by giving the Division 6.5% of the bed tax to cover it. The committee ignored this fact, just as the Division has ignored it since the laws were enacted. Maintenance at the Primitive Parks is many hundreds of thousands of dollars less than the money appropriated from the bed tax for that purpose – in fact little of the money is used for the Primitive Parks because Primitive parks take very little money to operate and maintain and have almost no capital costs, except at Headwaters Park.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends repealing 23-1-130, MCA, which designates Chief Plenty Coups Park and Pictograph Cave Park as the Division's priority for protection, preservation and restoration. While MSPF has no problem doing this, the department failed to comply with the committee's position that this not be done until the Division worked it out with the Friends of Chief Plenty Coups and the Crow Tribe. The Division did not do this, yet it is a recommendation by the committee in this report.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends replacing the Primitive Parks Act with agency-generated administrative rules. The report lists nine items that are to happen with the repeal of the law – all of which are feel good suggestions that merely mean returning to department driven development and fee driven management. The committee held its meetings for 8 months across the state and saw only a handful of citizens in attendance, most of who were recruited by the department. It is therefore extremely puzzling that the committee would recommend returning to department driven development and fee policies when it is clear from the lack of citizen participation that there will be virtually NO citizen oversight of agency plans. 150 legislators reviewing Department policy produces a lot more citizen generated policy than any department sponsored review program. No citizens attending the meetings recommended repealing the primitive parks Act – to the contrary, any public members who spoke were in favor of keeping the act. MSPF deplores this Committee recommendation and the weak supporting statements that go with it.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends statute change to require that at least one FWP Commissioner have demonstrated interest in parks and recreation. The Commissioner appointments are politically driven. We doubt limiting a Governor's choice of Commissioner based on such a statement will have any impact on who is selected or upon commission proceedings. The department and Governors have a history of stretching catch phrases such "a demonstrated interest in parks and recreation" to appoint whomever they wish to public panels to get the results they hope for.

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Planning Principles

The committee uses a lot of language to arrive at recommendations to maintain the status quo – once the Primitive Parks Act is repealed. The report recommends the agency use planning guides developed by federal government agencies. Simply review this entire Futures report and one will find that most of the language comes directly from government documents and planning materials – all of which ignore the legislative process and let the agency plan and build based on

its own internal decisions. Thus, continuation of development while ignoring maintenance is inevitable. There is little career advancement based in maintaining toilets – but time after time, clean toilets, clean, litter-free parks, and control of noxious weeds are demonstrated to be the highest priorities of the citizens who own, use, and pay for these parks.

Further, the committee recommends exploring public/private partnerships, involvement of concessionaires and private corporations, and other parties for implementation of park plans. MSPF sees this as commercialization and privatization of public lands and access to them and opposes such activities.

Park Resources

A meaningless section. No comment.

Recommendation 4

This section does little but reinforce present parks division policy on outreach to “customers” and promotion of the parks. However, there is a gem buried in this section – further develop the relationship between parks and fishing access sites. MSPF has long endorsed the policy change to call many fishing access sites “stream side parks.” Another good idea emerges for development of more linear parks, such as the Smith River Park, and rails to trails.

Distribution and Acquisition of State Parks

The committee recognized a need for additional state parks, especially in northeast Montana. However, they never made any sort of statement to the public or department about getting it done nor what time frame. The committee seemed worried about the cost of maintaining a new park yet never questioned the policy of having a parks division manager in Region 6 when there isn't even a park yet – couldn't he maintain it? Recommendations to the department mean nothing that is why law is needed. MSPF has recommended, as allowed by Montana law, the acquisition of several new parks, none of which were addressed by the committee.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends criteria that the division should use for acquiring new parks. Since they are merely recommendations to the division, they carry no weight. MSPF opposes the committee's recommendation to consider a site's potential for generating revenue as criteria for selecting it as a new park

Recommendation 6

The committee supports a new park in Region 6. So does MSPF. In fact, MSPF supports 4 new parks across Montana for the next biennium, including one in FWP region 6, two on the Rocky Mountain Front and one in the Terry Badlands. We believe the committee should have put a time frame and policy priority position on this acquisition and necessary minimal improvements.

OTHER PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 7

FWP should develop thematic links among parks. MSPF has no comment other than "don't do it until maintenance is caught up."

Recommendation 8

The committee recommends fostering the economic values of our parks and increasing the "value added experience" of visitors. They added language to adopt strategies to minimize development and long-term costs. MSPF views this recommendation as bureaucratic language for development-based policy supported by fee based management. We believe our parks and their assets are for public enjoyment and public dollars should be used for that purpose, not for promotion of tourism and new fees for the division.

Recommendation 9

FWP should have an MOU with the Heritage Commission. MSPF has no comment.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that the Parks Division should work with the Montana Promotional Division to develop a marketing strategy for our parks. MSPF believes this is a waste of taxpayer money. Many park managers complained they are already full of visitors in the summer months and that they cannot keep up with the maintenance. How can it be prudent to spend money to bring more people to the parks when they cannot be accommodated under the present policy of management? How is it prudent to promote visitation when the division cannot consistently keep the toilets clean? Spending for promotion is a poor prioritization of resources.

Recommendation 11

The committee states the department is understaffed and should seek assistance from other agencies, groups and volunteers. MSPF does not know how the committee reached the decision that the department is understaffed, other than the department says so. Perhaps the department is understaffed to accomplish all its goals, but may be over staffed to do what is within budget constraints, fiscal reality and legislative demands. Since the committee never made recommendations prioritizing the myriad of department activities, one cannot help but wonder what it is that the department is understaffed to do and why?

Recommendation 12

No comment

Recommendation 13

The committee recommends that FWP review its Tribal relationships and seek opportunity for shared decision-making and government-to-government relations. The committee also said it would recommend repealing the act designating Chief Plenty Coups Park as top priority after the Division talked it over with the Friends of Plenty Coups and the Crow Tribe. The department did not talk it over with either and the committee made the recommendation anyway. So much for government-to-government relations!

FUNDING**Recommendation 14**

Principles to guide funding. This section seems to be about providing the department with guidelines for getting rid of parks and for raising fees. MSPF objects to both. The committee

says parks should be self sufficient, which is a new concept in Montana that leads the citizen owners of the parks into becoming “customers” of the division. The committee says the parks should be supported by public funds, yet every dime already is public funds. What is the message? The report notes at this point that the financial resources of the Parks division are allocated according to Appendix E. However, Appendix E does not have a category for capital expenditures – an important figure to know. And finally, the committee recommends increased funding whenever economic conditions allow. At MSPF, we are befuddled that a citizens committee would recommend, and trust, a government agency to raise its own revenue based on its own determination of need.

Recommendation 15

Budget Priorities. MSPF generally agrees with the committee’s listing of budget priorities. However, we find the expression “enhance the experience of visitors” as bureaucratic language for development and more FTE to provide services. We would list priorities as follows”

- First – maintain existing facilities and parks.
- Second – add necessary facilities for public health and safety wherever needed.
- Third – add new primitive parks, acquire in holdings in present parks, and add necessary maintenance features.

RATIONALE FOR FUNDING INCREASE

This section reveals the lack of investigation into department spending by the Futures Committee. The committee even acknowledges that the “funding needs” are the department’s assessments and not theirs. The committee never held in-depth discussion on how capital improvements over the last decade have driven annual operations and maintenance costs steadily and alarmingly upward. Upward to the point the department admits to having been in deficit spending for several years – all the while continuing to spend heavily on capital improvements and driving up annual costs. The committee never considered halting capital programs until O&M is stabilized.

Then, with a simple statement that acknowledges their lack of knowledge on the FWP budget, the committee presents 14 strategies (basically tax increase ideas) “assuming there is a demonstrable need to increase funding for the state parks system.”

MSPF would like to emphasize this point – the committee never arrived at any “demonstrable” need for increased funding based on budget analysis. In fact, the committee never even received a document showing the “needs” until an hour before they adjourned their 8 months of meetings, and then never reviewed the document – just attached it to their report and to this draft.

MSPF partially agrees with two of the strategies noted in this section:

- The parks division should create a parks “trust.” We agree in that the parks trust should be a maintenance only trust fund, the interest from which could only be used to maintain parks. However, the department testified against just such a bill brought forth by the Montana State Parks Foundation in 1993, which would have established a Parks Maintenance Trust
- MSPF does not support any tax increase through this document. However, the strategy to use bed tax for parks maintenance is one we side with – it was MSPF's proposal and

efforts in 1993 that resulted in the department receiving the present 6.5% of bed tax for parks maintenance and we are agreeable to raising this percentage through re-prioritization of bed tax spending – provided the money is restricted to maintenance.

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Recommendation 16

We wonder how deeply the committee thought about this proposal. It appears they are advocating for a mini re-organization of government agencies that will create a new agency. It will be formed by consolidating “the planning and administration of outdoor, culture, and history related recreation and tourism into one agency to save money, avoid duplication of efforts and increase effectiveness.” It makes no comment on how this would be done. **But, we do know the committee is talking about our parks and fishing access sites being managed for tourism.**

MSPF opposes such reorganization for numerous reasons:

- State parks should not be considered a tool of the tourism industry. They are owned, operated and maintained with tax revenue put up by Montana citizens. The parks should be managed for their use and enjoyment first. The secondary benefit is that tourists may, and do, use them. At least 70 % of park usage is by Montanans - management should be for them.
- MSPF does not believe it is the duty of the parks division to be involved in business development. More importantly for private enterprise – FWP should not compete with them for concessions, lodging, camping, book sales and services.
- History has shown such reorganizations in Montana government have increased the size of bureaucracy.

The committee proposes this new recreation and tourism agency serve as a recreation extension service to help the private sector develop outdoor, cultural, and historic heritage tourism businesses, and to coordinate with various travel related businesses and travel related government groups and programs. MSPF objects to using park funds for these purposes.

It is in this section that the committee proposes establishment of linear parks along historic trails and rivers. MSPF supports this effort.

Recommendation 17

The committee recommends development of a uniform policy on the commercial use of state parks. MSPF supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 18

The committee recommends more money be spent on law enforcement in parks to protect public health and safety and park resources. MSPF finds this to be a waste of taxpayer money. We do not believe Montana needs the creation of yet another police force. In the areas where vandalism is a problem or when public disturbances occur, the department should contract with local police. MSPF believes stopping capital improvements beyond those recognized statutorily as maintenance-related projects can deter much future vandalism. Further if there is any law

enforcement that is needed, it is to force DFWP to comply with the Good Neighbor Policy and Maintenance defined (See Attachment 3)

Table 1, Table 2

A review of table 1 and 2 shows a majority of the committee recommended a dozen different tax increases. MSPF does not support tax increases, especially when little evidence of need has been presented and reviewed for accuracy.

Appendix C

The committee recommends clarifying in statute legislative intent for the management of our parks system. That intent is already clearly stated in the MCA. The Parks Division fails to comply with existing law that it disagrees with and would most likely do the same with any new law that it did not concur with. The committee would abandon existing statutes and create a new law to allow the division to develop rules to do a laundry list of bureaucratic activities – the result of which is to abandon legislative oversight and sound existing law.

Appendix F – MSPF cannot respond until the 2003 budget is displayed by FWP to see how much they have programmed for capital improvements.

Appendix G – Maintenance Categories at Montana State Parks

This list of needs and funding contains everything from bona-fide maintenance to dreams of new interpretive centers. It is impossible to determine how much is really maintenance related and how much is growth – even big growth - in unnecessary, wishful, infrastructure. It is obvious that what MSPF believes is maintenance related, as laid out in statute, is not the same as that of the Parks Division, as laid out by their expenditures.

Appendix H – Potential Pilot Project on Entrance Staffing to improve revenue collections and overall park operations.

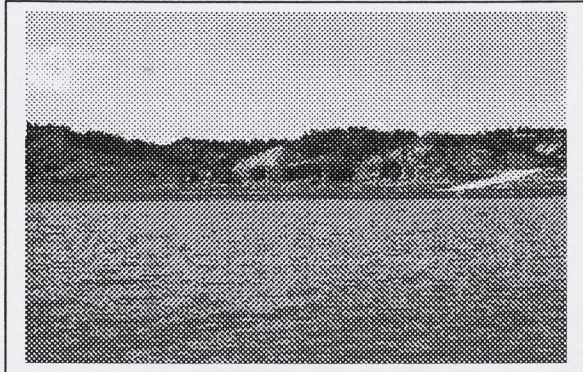
Careful review of this document shows that in the chosen 7 parks, increased revenue collections are to be \$114,000. Necessary capital costs to carry out this pilot project are \$21,000. The project requires 4.09 new FTE at a cost of \$94,000 per year. We tax the citizens \$114,000 and get \$20,000 in profit (after capital costs are paid off) from this new tax to spend on maintenance or whatever FWP chooses. MSPF believes this is a terrible return on citizen's money and is merely an FWP employment program based on increased taxation of Montana citizens.

End of MSPF comments.

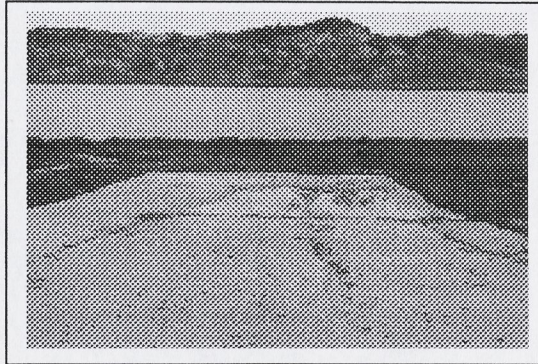
FIVE ATTACHMENTS FOLLOW:

Attachment 1 – Hell Creek State Park

The Park from afar.



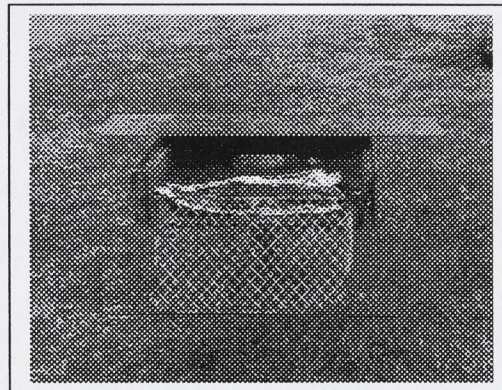
Hell Creek boat ramp to nowhere.



Maintenance?



Leftover dinner waiting for you!

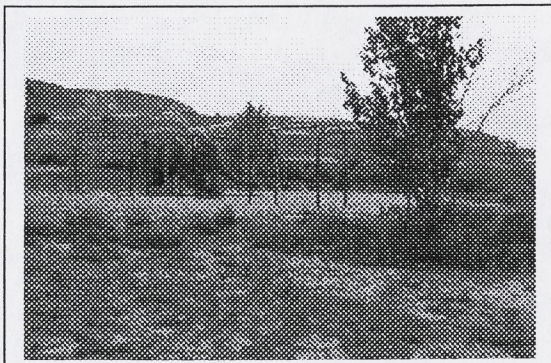


Hell Creek is a perfect example of the maintenance/development policy followed by MDFWP. Hell Creek is for motor boaters - the main ramp has been closed for two years. Hell Creek is a campground - with no maintenance - its present toilets are filthy, trash and weeds are everywhere, BBQ grills are destroyed, fire rings are full of trash, ground cover is destroyed.

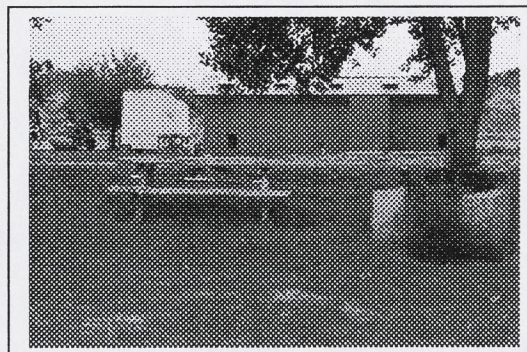
YET, Hell Creek is getting a new \$300,000 shower house

(To go with the new swing set, perhaps)

New Swings



Broken table, weeds, new shower house!



Attachment 2 – DFWP budget cuts, summer 2002

FWP proposed budget cuts – general fund revenue

Source: Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning - June 2003

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Savings with 3 percent reduction: \$8,455

Savings with 10 percent reduction: \$28,182

Jobs to be cut: None

Major program cuts at 10%: Reduce funding for off-highway vehicle safety programs (\$256), Lewis and Clark preparation (\$8,38), Reduce weed control activity (\$6,000) and reduce operations and maintenance work at state parks (\$13,548).

DFWP has its priorities wrong and are operating outside the intent of the law.

During the special session of 2003, the parks division handed out a paper showing where it will make reductions if additional money is taken away:

Return parks to Owning agency (COE, UofM, DNRC, Bozeman): **4 parks** for a savings of \$51,000

Close parks outright: **6 parks** for \$21,000 savings (The Futures Committee II activities alone cost over \$30,000 in the last year)

Close gates – Lock latrines – no trash collection: **5 parks** for a savings \$58,000

Close except for 3 month season: **7 parks** for a savings of \$260,000

Please note there is no reference to reducing management, planning and engineering staff in Helena or in the regions, promotion efforts, magazine, travel, memberships, and etc.

Reduce the parks and parks maintenance staff and etc, but not the Parks bureaucracy and its expenditures. Does this meet the demands of law? NO!!!

Attachment 3 - Good Neighbor Policy and Maintenance Defined

23-1-126. Good neighbor policy -- public recreational lands. (1) The good neighbor policy of public land use, as applied to public recreational lands, seeks a goal of no impact upon adjoining private and public lands by preventing impact on those adjoining lands from noxious weeds, trespass, litter, noise and light pollution, streambank erosion, and loss of privacy.

(2) In order to implement the good neighbor policy expeditiously, the legislature finds it necessary to require the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to place maintenance as a priority over additional development at all state parks and fishing access sites.

(3) The restriction in subsection (2) does not apply to:

(a) development and improvement projects for which the legislature has appropriated funds prior to October 1, 1999;

(b) activities directly related to the historic preservation, restoration, or protection of assets in state parks;

(c) at the discretion of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, projects on the Missouri reach of the Missouri-Madison hydropower project or the Clark Fork basin hydropower project, undertaken pursuant to the federal energy regulatory commission's hydropower relicensing requirements and in conjunction with private entities, political subdivisions of the state of Montana, and federal agencies;

(d) at the discretion of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, projects on Fort Peck reservoir undertaken in conjunction with the U.S. army corps of engineers; or

(e) partnership projects as designated within the park master plan.

(4) Any development in state parks and fishing access sites beyond those defined as maintenance in 23-1-127 must be approved by the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 1999.

23-1-127. Maintenance priority -- maintenance defined. With regard to state parks and fishing access sites, implementation of the good neighbor policy requires that priority is to be given to maintenance of existing facilities, rather than to development or improvement. As used in 23-1-126 and this section, "maintenance" means:

(1) placing, cleaning, and stocking of latrines;

(2) garbage and litter removal;

(3) fence installation and repair of existing fences;

(4) weed control;

(5) implementation of safety and health measures required by law to protect the public;

(6) upkeep of established trails, roads, parking areas, boat docks, and similar facilities existing in state parks and fishing access sites on October 1, 1999;

(7) in-kind replacement of existing facilities, including electric lines or facilities, or replacement of those existing facilities with facilities that have less impact on the state park or fishing access site;

(8) erosion control;

(9) streambank stabilization;

(10) erection of barriers necessary to preserve riparian vegetation and habitat;

(11) minimal signage necessary to inform users of appropriate state park or fishing access site use and applicable regulations and of historical, natural, cultural, geographical, and geological features in the area;

(12) measures necessary to ensure compliance with the federal Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, when applicable;

(13) planting of native trees, grasses, and shrubs for habitat stabilization and privacy shielding;

(14) installation of fire rings, picnic tables, and trash collection facilities; and

(15) other necessary activities and expenditures consistent with the good neighbor policy and the intent of 23-1-126, 23-1-128, and this section, including new trails, new boat ramps, and necessary new access roads into and within the state park or fishing access site.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 474, L. 1999.

Attachment 4 - Primitive Parks Act

23-1-116. Primitive parks established. Because of their unique and primarily undeveloped character, the following state parks and management areas are designated as primitive parks and are subject to the provisions of 23-1-115 through 23-1-118:

- (1) Big Pine management area;
- (2) Thompson Falls state park;
- (3) Wild Horse Island state park;
- (4) Lost Creek state park;
- (5) Painted Rocks state park;
- (6) Ackley Lake state park;
- (7) Sluice Boxes state park;
- (8) Deadman's Basin state park;
- (9) Pirogue Island state park;
- (10) Medicine Rocks state park;
- (11) Headwaters state park;
- (12) Council Grove state park;
- (13) Beaverhead Rock state park;
- (14) Natural Bridge state park; and
- (15) Madison Buffalo Jump state park.

23-1-117. (Temporary) Limit on development of primitive parks. (1) Except as permitted in Headwaters state park for the limited purposes provided in subsections (3) through (5), the only development allowed in primitive parks designated in 23-1-116 is:

- (a) necessary improvements required to meet minimum public health standards regarding sanitation, which may include necessary access to outhouses, vaults, and water;
- (b) improvements necessary to ensure the safe public use of existing boat ramps;
- (c) addition of gravel to existing unpaved roads and the resurfacing of paved roads when necessary to ensure safe public access;
- (d) establishment of new hiking trails or improvement of existing hiking trails; and
- (e) installation of minimal signage indicating that the park is a designated primitive park in which development has been limited and encouraging the public to help in maintaining the park's primitive character by packing out trash.

(2) The following development of designated primitive parks is prohibited:

- (a) installation of electric lines or facilities, except when necessary to comply with subsection (1)(a);
- (b) installation of recreational vehicle sanitary dumpsites where they do not presently exist; and
- (c) creation of new roads and paving of existing but previously unpaved roads.

(3) The orientation area at Headwaters state park may be rebuilt and expanded in order to prepare for and manage increased visitation expected for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, to include:

- (a) an unstaffed information kiosk;
- (b) sanitation facilities;
- (c) additional parking; and
- (d) additional signage to inform visitors about the history and uses of the park and services in the surrounding area.

(4) The existing parking area at the confluence of the Madison and Jefferson Rivers in the Headwaters state park may be improved, but not enlarged, using parking features that can be removed. Low-profile interpretive signs may be installed in place of existing signage.

(5) Interpretive and directional signage may be installed at Headwaters state park to educate visitors about the history and significance of the site and to orient visitors to the features of the park and the surrounding area. (Effective January 1, 2004)

23-1-118. Elimination of resident user fee -- fee for nonresident use -- penalty. (1) In recognition of the right of Montana residents to use primitive parks without regard to their ability to pay, a Montana resident is not required to pay a user fee for the use of any primitive park designated in 23-1-116, except that the department may charge camping fees at Thompson Falls state park and Headwaters state park.

(2) A nonresident who wishes to use a primitive park is required to pay the state park user fees chargeable under 23-1-105.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 501, L. 1993.

Attachment 5

The World newspaper, Coos Bay, Oregon. September 18, 2002 (**emphasis added**)

Editorial: Nothing fair about these fees

What more evidence do federal lawmakers need to persuade them to eliminate day-use fees on U.S. Forest Service land?

Repeated protests over the past several years have done nothing to dissuade Congress from continuing the pilot program originally set up to raise money for operations and maintenance. It's been six long years and still they are ignoring growing opposition to the program.

The very people who stand to gain from those fees have become skeptical of the program. A recent independent survey of the Forest Service's employees in this region found that 38 percent just plain oppose it. **The majority of the agency's workers have serious concerns over whether the program treats low income people with fairness. Simply, it doesn't.**

If a local family can't afford to pay, they can't play on the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area or access any adjoining state-owned beaches. They can't hike in dozens of historically popular trails from Florence to Brookings.

While those fees may provide 20 percent of the agency's regional budget, the pay-to-play program discriminates and there's just no reason federal lawmakers should continue to ignore that. It's an issue of simple economics.

The fee mostly hurts local residents, poor local residents. These are the people most likely to visit the South Coast's popular forest trails and Oregon over and over again. These are the people who can't afford to vacation far from home.

These are the people already paying to subsidize those lands through property taxes and income taxes that maintain the roads, other surrounding infrastructure and even law enforcement - all of this in a region plagued by unemployment, underemployment and chronically low wages.

There's another issue to consider, too. Lawmakers are dismissing the fact that this region for decades has sent billions of dollars in timber receipts east - a practice likely to continue as long as the agency harvests trees.

Still, Congress persists on squeezing even more money from South Coast residents. **Disguising this added tax as a user fee doesn't make it any more palatable.** Local residents still must pay every time they want to hike the dunes or go beachcombing, and that's pretty hard to swallow.

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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620-0701

FWP PRESS PACKAGE

UPPER MADISON RIVER WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RECOVERY PROJECT

DECEMBER 5, 1996

This Press Package includes the following information on FWP's proposed Upper Madison River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery Project.

- 1) Press Release: **FWP Proposes Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery Effort in Upper Madison River**
- 2) FWP Quick Facts: **Who, What, When, Where, How, & Why**
- 3) FWP Fact Sheet: **Headwater Tributaries Proposed for Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery**
- 4) FWP Fact Sheet: **Questions & Answers**
- 5) Info Graphic: **Upper Madison River Drainage Map**
- 6) FWP Flyer: **Help a Native Montanan Survive**
- 7) Contacts for Comment

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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620-0701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--DECEMBER 5, 1996

Contact: Tom Palmer--406-444-3051

FWP PROPOSES WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RECOVERY EFFORT IN UPPER MADISON RIVER

FWP Director Pat Graham announced today the agency is considering a wide-ranging proposal to recover Montana's state fish, the westslope cutthroat trout, in the whirling-disease plagued upper Madison River drainage.

The Upper Madison River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery Project would seek to restore the native trout to headwater portions of tributaries with hopes of developing a fishable cutthroat trout population in the upper Madison River.

Graham said the project offers an opportunity to reestablish the westslope cutthroat trout to its native range. Some of these native, wild fish also would be expected to migrate downstream to the Madison River to fill a portion of the niche left by the decline in rainbow trout caused by whirling disease. Public meetings to discuss the project proposal are being arranged for January.

"We have identified headwater portions of 30 upper Madison River tributaries where we believe the risk of whirling disease transmission is low. We would work to bring back Montana's native westslope cutthroat trout in at least 10 of the streams by 2001 with a goal of completing the project by 2006." Graham said. "Ultimately, we believe native cutthroat trout should grow in the small streams past the stage where they are most susceptible to whirling disease and then naturally migrate downstream to the Madison River."

Graham said the proposal calls for non-native fish to be removed from the headwater areas to reduce potential competition with newly stocked westslope cutthroat trout and for barriers to be placed in streams to attempt keep out both non-native fish and fish that may be carrying whirling disease.

The initial westslope cutthroat trout recovery effort would begin in the spring of 1997 and focus on the potential recovery of Soap and Gazelle creeks, both tributaries to the West Fork of the Madison River; and on Standard Creek and an unnamed spring creek. Standard Creek flows into the Madison River about two miles below the West Fork and the spring creek reaches the Madison about four miles above the West Fork. At this time, researchers believe whirling disease is not likely to be in these streams and that the streams are relatively free of tubifex worms. The streams will be examined before recovery work begins. Costs are projected at \$216,000 for 1997-98, and about \$200,000 for each of the following two years.

Whirling disease, a parasitic and potentially fatal infection of trout and salmon for which there is no known cure, has caused a 90 percent decline in the Madison River's rainbow trout population. The disease is caused by a microscopic, water-borne, protozoan parasite which has a complicated two-host lifecycle. The parasite attacks the cartilage of young trout, causing skeletal deformities that sometimes result in the characteristic tail-chasing in young, infected fish.

Under the proposal, tributaries selected for westslope cutthroat trout restoration must show a low incidence or be free of whirling disease. They similarly must show low or no tubifex worm populations. The thread-like tubifex worm is a linch-pin host in the whirling disease parasite's lifecycle.

The long-term goals of the westslope cutthroat recovery effort would be to: (1) protect or establish genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout in headwater areas of tributaries of the upper Madison River by 2006; and (2) develop a fishable westslope cutthroat trout population in the Madison River. Officials emphasized that this project would be conducted in concert with FWP's on-going efforts to identify clues for rainbow survival in the Madison River.

With 30 streams in the upper Madison River drainage identified as potential candidates for westslope cutthroat trout restoration, Graham said the entire proposal is too big for FWP to carry out alone. He said FWP is presently seeking cooperation and support from the U.S. Forest Service, the federal Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Power Company, the Montana State University, private landowners, and conservation organizations. Graham said the need for multi-agency cooperation and citizen partnerships was one of the primary points raised during Gov. Marc Racicot's Westslope Cutthroat Trout Workshop, which was held in Helena in September.

The push to recover westslope cutts in the upper Madison River was in part prodded by information gathered by FWP researchers who, with the diminished rainbow trout population, have picked up increased numbers of catchable cutthroat trout in the river. These cutthroat trout were likely recruited from headwater tributaries. Electofishing data collected from the 3-mile-long Pine Butte section, which is open to catch-and-release fishing, show an incidental count of about 40 catchable cutthroat trout in 1996 where fewer than six were counted in years prior to 1991, when rainbow numbers began to decline.

That's a hopeful sign for Dick Vincent, FWP whirling disease coordinator. "I've always thought our way out of the whirling disease problem would be through the wild trout's life history," Vincent said. "We are still searching for a resistant strain of rainbow trout, but we might do best right now to follow the clues nature's providing. Because cutthroat trout spawn, hatch, and begin their lives in tributary streams they may simply avoid being infected at an early age when they are most vulnerable to whirling disease."

By comparison, Madison River rainbow trout generally spend their entire lives in the mainstem of the Madison where they can be immediately and continually exposed to whirling disease, Vincent said.

Vincent and other researchers surmise that the proposed recovery plan could produce a Madison River fishery composed of brown trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout survivors. "Under the proposal, the Madison could become a tri-level wild trout fishery," he explained. "Brown trout would continue to hold their own and perhaps expand, while the westslope cutthroat trout would pull in some of the slack left by the rainbow trout.

While we will continue our work on rainbow trout in both the upper and lower drainage, I don't think the rainbow can recover its former numbers in the near future. We're not expecting to see a one-for-one replacement of rainbow with cutts, but we would expect a partial replacement."

The westslope cutthroat trout shares the title of Montana's state fish with Yellowstone cutthroat trout. It was once widely distributed and abundant in the Clark Fork, Kootenai and upper Missouri river drainages of Montana. Today, the westslope is found in less than 5 percent of its historic range in the upper Missouri River drainage. While westslope cutthroats are doing better west of the Continental Divide they are still greatly reduced in both their numbers and their range.

Graham said before restoration work commences, each stream will undergo examinations and surveys to determine if they are truly capable of supporting wild populations of westslope cutthroat trout. Most projects will be evaluated in an environmental assessment.

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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620-0701
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--DECEMBER 5, 1996

FWP QUICK FACTS

MADISON RIVER WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RECOVERY PROJECT

WHO?

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks--in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the federal Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Power Company, Montana State University, private landowners, and conservation groups--is considering a proposal to recover Montana's state fish, the westslope cutthroat trout, in the whirling-disease plagued upper Madison River drainage.

WHAT?

The Madison River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery Project would seek to restore westslope cutthroat trout in the headwater portions of the upper Madison River tributaries with hopes of developing a fishable population of westslope cutthroat trout in the Madison River. The long-term goals of the effort are to: (1) protect or establish genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout in headwater areas of tributaries of the upper Madison River by 2006; and (2) develop a fishable westslope cutthroat trout population in the Madison River that would partially replace rainbow trout lost to whirling disease. Officials emphasized that this project would be conducted in concert with FWP's on-going efforts to determine if there are some possible clues for rainbow survival in other Madison River locales in both the upper and lower drainage.

WHEN & WHERE

The initial westslope cutthroat trout recovery effort would begin in the spring of 1997. Streams identified as candidates for restoration in 1997 include: Soap and Gazelle creeks, both tributaries to the West Fork of the Madison River; and on Standard Creek and an

unnamed spring creek, both upper Madison River tributaries. At this time, researchers believe whirling disease is not likely to be in these streams and that the streams are relatively free of tubifex worms. The streams will be extensively examined before recovery work begins. Twenty-six additional upper Madison River tributaries have been identified as potential candidates for westslope cutthroat trout recovery. FWP hopes to reestablish westslope cutts to least 10 of the candidate streams by 2001.

HOW?

The project would seek to study, protect, and enhance westslope cutthroat trout in the headwater portions of upper Madison River tributaries in a number of ways including: habitat restoration, barrier construction, removal of non-native trout, and reintroduction of westslope cutts. Under the proposal, tributaries selected for westslope cutthroat trout restoration must show a low incidence or be free of whirling disease. They similarly must show low or no tubifex worm populations. The thread-like tubifex worm must be present in the system in order for the complicated whirling-disease parasite to complete its lifecycle. Before restoration work commences, each stream will undergo extensive examinations and surveys to determine if they are truly capable of supporting wild populations of westslope cutthroat trout. Most projects will be evaluated in an environmental assessment.

WHY?

For two primary reasons:

- (1) The westslope cutthroat trout is Montana's state fish and an important part of Montana history, culture, and outdoor heritage. They evolved as aggressive feeders, a necessary adaptation for a species native to the cold, pristine, and relatively unproductive waters of Montana. Today, the range of westslope cutthroat trout is greatly reduced. This "species of special concern" is found in less than 5 percent of its historic range in the Missouri River drainage, and less than 10 percent of its historic range statewide. FWP is taking positive steps to preserve and expand the habitat and the populations of our state fish to keep the management of westslope

cutts in Montana's hands, and to ensure that the fish need not be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

- (2) Whirling disease has caused a 90 percent decline in the Madison River's rainbow trout population. Researchers like FWP Whirling Disease Coordinator Dick Vincent believe that because cutthroat trout begin their lifecycle in tributary streams they may simply avoid being infected at an early age when trout are most vulnerable to whirling disease. While biologists are not expecting to see a one-for-one replacement of rainbow trout with cutthroat trout, they do expect a partial replacement, with cutts filling part of the niche left by the rainbow-trout decline. Biologists are already picking up increased numbers of catchable cutthroat trout in the upper Madison River, fish likely recruited from headwater tributaries. Electrofishing data collected from the 3-mile-long Pine Butte section, which is open to catch-and-release fishing, show an incidental count of about 40 catchable cutthroat trout in 1996 where fewer than six were counted prior to 1991.

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FWP FACT SHEET **Upper Madison River** **Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery Project**

Headwater Tributaries Proposed for Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery

Thirty headwater portions of upper Madison River tributaries have been identified as potential candidates for westslope cutthroat trout restoration. Most of the headwater tributaries appear to provide ideal cutthroat trout habitat.

The proposal seeks to examine the streams and then, where appropriate, reestablish the westslope cutthroat trout and recruit the native fish to the Madison River to fill a portion of the niche left by the decline in rainbow trout. FWP would work to restore the westslope cutthroat to at least 10 of the streams by 2001 and complete the project by 2006.

Only one stream--Soap Creek--has been confirmed to still hold a limited population of westslope cutthroat trout. A second stream, Horse Creek, which flows in the Madison about a mile below Palisades, is suspected to support a small population of westslope cutts.

Initially identified as possible streams for immediate westslope cutthroat trout recovery are Soap and Gazelle creeks, both tributaries to the West Fork of the Madison River; and Standard Creek and a small, unnamed spring creek. Both streams flow into the Madison River in the West Fork vicinity. At this time, researchers believe whirling disease is not likely to be in these streams and that the streams are relatively free of tubifex worms. The streams will be extensively examined before recovery work begins.

Here is a rundown on the proposal for these four streams:

Soap Creek

The primary goal in Soap Creek would be to protect and enhance the existing genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout population in the stream's upper reaches. A waterfall-like barrier would be constructed on the stream that to allow young cutthroat trout--the progeny of the resident population--to migrate downstream into the Madison.

By impeding a trout's movement upstream, the barrier would attempt to ensure that the headwater population remains genetically pure and free from Madison River fish that may be carrying whirling disease. Soap Creek would also undergo some stream rehabilitation, including the removal of introduced fish species.

Gazelle Creek

In **Gazelle Creek**, which flows into the West Fork about 3 miles below Soap Creek, the project goal would be to establish a genetically pure population of westslope cutthroat trout. The creek contains a natural waterfall barrier. Previously introduced Yellowstone cutthroat trout and rainbow trout would be removed from the creek above the falls and the stream would be restocked with genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout.

Standard Creek and the unnamed spring creek

Standard Creek flows from the Gravelly Range and into the Madison River about two miles below the West Fork. The **spring creek** reaches the Madison about four miles above the West Fork. These waters contribute to the flows of FWP's 20-year-old Snoball study area that extends from the mouth of Squaw Creek to Windy Point. The goal would be to determine how well the headwater-spawned westslope cutthroat trout function in the mainstem of the Madison River. The proposal calls for the creeks to be stocked with genetically pure young-of-the-year westslope cutts in August 1997. In a sense, these streams would serve as a project control to determine if stocking is successful and if the stocked fish contract whirling disease. The research would also focus on how many fish migrate downstream to the river and if the migrant fish survive in the river. These fish could return to the tributaries to spawn. Barriers to prevent spawners from returning to the upper reaches of Standard Creek could be constructed at a later date.

Other upper Madison River tributaries under consideration for westslope cutthroat trout restoration include the following creeks that flow into the west side of the river: Sheep, Mile, Meridian, Tepee, Freezeout, Lake, Bogus, Horse, Quaking Aspen, Wall, Bobcat, English George, Hyde, Ruby, Dry Hollow, Wigwam, and Eightmile. Candidate streams that flow into the river's east side include these creeks: Trout, Pine Butte, Papoose, Squaw, Moose, Wolf, Corral, Indian, and Jack.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--DECEMBER 5, 1996

FWP FACT SHEET

Questions & Answers

UPPER MADISON RIVER

WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RECOVERY PROJECT

- Q: Does this westslope cutthroat trout proposal mean that FWP fish managers have given up on rainbow trout in the Madison River.*
- A:* No. FWP is currently looking into other rainbow enhancement opportunities on the Madison River. For instance, in the "slide area" below Quake Lake, rainbow trout appear to be surviving well. FWP intends to establish a research site below Quake Lake to determine if there are some possible clues for rainbow survival in other Madison River locales in both the upper and lower drainage.
- Q: Will this project replace the Madison River's lost rainbow trout numbers with cutthroat trout?*
- A:* While biologists are not expecting to see a one-for-one replacement of rainbow trout with cutthroat trout, they do expect a partial replacement. FWP researchers surmise that the proposed recovery plan could produce a Madison River fishery composed of brown trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout that manage to survive whirling disease infection. The Madison could become a tri-level wild trout fishery, where brown trout would continue to hold their own and perhaps expand, while the westslope cutthroat trout would fill part of the niche left by the rainbow-trout decline. It is doubtful that the rainbow trout will recover its former numbers in the Madison River in the near future.
- Q: If rainbow trout managed to stage a comeback in the upper Madison River, would they eventually out compete westslope cutthroat trout?*
- A:* Yes. However, biologist believe that the current population of about 300 rainbow trout per mile could increase considerably without negatively affecting an associated westslope cutthroat trout population. With whirling disease present in the upper Madison River, biologist believe this is an unlikely scenario.
- Q: Are westslope cutthroat trout native to the Madison River?*

A: Yes. In fact, prior to 1920 the Madison River supported wild, native fish populations of westslope cutthroat trout, grayling, and mountain whitefish. By 1930, however, introduced rainbow trout and brown trout were well established in the Madison River.

Q: *How large will these westslope cutthroat trout grow to be in the Madison River?*

A: Westslope cutthroat trout have growth rates comparable to rainbow trout. Anglers could expect to see 16- to 18-inch cutthroat trout in the Madison River by the year 2000. Researchers are already seeing cutthroat trout of this size in the river.

Q: *Will westslope cutthroat trout fishery produce a catch rate comparable to Madison rainbow trout?*

A: We believe it could because: (1) cutts are generally easier to catch than rainbows so, one-for-one, a cutthroat trout should produce a better catch rate than a rainbow trout; and (2) Madison River catch-and-release studies show about a 15 percent mortality on released rainbow trout. The release mortality on cutthroat trout studied on other streams is less than 5 percent. This suggests, as far as catch-and-release anglers are concerned, that the Madison could support fewer cutthroat per mile than it did rainbow trout and yet still produce a very respectable sport fishery

Q: *Does FWP intend to restore all 30 streams it has identified as potential candidates for westslope cutthroat trout restoration?*

A: Not necessarily. The streams have been identified as *potential* candidates for restoration. Each stream will undergo extensive examinations and surveys to determine if they are truly capable of supporting wild populations of westslope cutthroat trout. Soap Creek, Gazelle Creek, Standard Creek, and an unnamed spring creek have been initially identified as candidates for restoration in 1997. FWP hopes to complete a total of at least 10 streams by 2001. Other prime candidate streams will be surveyed and subsequently accepted or rejected for restoration based on their ability to support westslope cutthroat trout. Most projects will be evaluated in an environmental assessment.

Q: *What will this project cost?*

A: Costs are projected at \$216,000 for 1997-98, and about \$200,000 for each of the following two years. These costs are projected for recovery efforts on Soap, Gazelle, Standard Creek, and the nearby spring creek.

Q: *The project calls for stocking of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. Where will these fish be found?*

A: FWP maintains a brood stock of wild westslope cutthroat trout at its hatchery in Anaconda. Wild westslope cutts may also be spawned from nearby "donor" populations.

Q: *Why does this proposal focus on the upper Madison River drainage?*

A: Most of the headwater portions of the upper river's tributaries appear to provide ideal cutthroat trout habitat and most of the streams are still connected to the mainstem river. Montanans have an opportunity to not only reestablish the westslope cutthroat trout to its native range, but to recruit these native, wild fish to the Madison River to fill a portion of the niche left by the decline in rainbow trout caused by whirling disease.

Q: *How many upper Madison River headwater tributaries still hold westslope cutthroat trout?*

A: Of the 30 tributaries identified as potential candidates for westslope cutthroat trout restoration, only one stream--Soap Creek--has been confirmed to still hold a limited population of westslope cutthroat trout. A second stream, Horse Creek, which flows in the Madison about a mile below Palisades, is suspected to support a small population of westslope cutts.

Q: *Is this worth the effort?*

A: We believe it is for several reasons: (1) The westslope cutthroat trout--Montana's state fish--is a "species of special concern" in Montana where it is found in less than 10 percent of its historic range. Westslope are an important part of Montana history, and culture, and outdoor heritage. They evolved as aggressive feeders, a necessary adaptation for a species native to the cold, pristine and relatively unproductive waters of Montana. FWP is taking positive steps to preserve and expand the habitat and the populations of our state fish to keep the management of westslope cutts in Montana's hands, and to keep the fish off of the Endangered Species list. (2) Whirling disease has caused a 90 percent decline in the Madison River's rainbow trout population. While a resistant strain of rainbow trout may yet be discovered, FWP biologists believe the westslope cutthroat trout's natural lifecycle may allow these fish to simply avoid being infected at critical early ages when they are most vulnerable to whirling disease. (3) While researchers doubt that the rainbow trout population will recover to pre-1991 numbers, biologists are already picking up increased numbers of catchable cutthroat trout in the upper Madison River, fish likely recruited from headwater tributaries.

Q: *How many westslope cutthroat trout per mile is this project expected to produce?*

A: While such projections are impossible to make at this point, we would anticipate that as more tributaries along the upper Madison produce westslope cutts, the river's westslope cutthroat trout population would improve accordingly.

Q: *What is a westslope cutthroat trout?*

A: The westslope cutthroat is one of a dozen subspecies of cutthroat trout found in the Columbia and Missouri drainage and the Rocky Mountains. The scientific name for westslope cutthroat trout is *Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*. The North American trout share the genus name *Oncorhynchus* with the Pacific salmon. The species (*clarki*) and subspecies (*lewisi*) names for westslope are a reminder of the great explorers Lewis and Clark, the first Europeans to describe the subspecies.

Q: *Are westslope cutthroat trout threatened or endangered?*

A: No. Westslope cutthroat trout are not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are considered a "species of special concern" by the state of Montana. One reason for the state taking a proactive role in westslope cutthroat trout management is to ensure that it will not be necessary to list westslope cutthroat as threatened or endangered.

Q: *Where are westslope cutthroat trout found?*

A: Historically, westslope cutthroat were found in the Missouri River upstream of Fort Benton as well as its tributaries including the Judith, Milk and Marias rivers. West of the Continental Divide they were found in the Clark Fork and Kootenai river drainage in Montana and extending downstream into Alberta, Idaho and the extreme eastern portion of Washington. By far the majority of their historic distribution is in Montana.

Today, the range of westslope cutthroat trout is greatly reduced. They are found in less than 5 percent of their historic range in the Missouri River drainage. While they are faring better west of the Divide, they still inhabit less than 10 percent of their historic range. In most waters where they are found, it is believed their numbers are reduced from historic population levels.

Q: *What has caused the decline of westslope cutthroat trout?*

A: It is difficult to generalize about what has caused the decline of Montana's state fish. Several factors are believed to have contributed to its decline. The introduction of non-native fish, such as rainbow, brown, and brook trout is a significant factor. Rainbow trout hybridize with cutthroat trout and produce fertile offspring, which exacerbates the loss of the cutthroat species with replacement by hybrids. Brown trout

have commonly displaced cutthroat in larger rivers and brook trout have become the most common small-stream trout.

Because cutthroat trout are comparatively easy to catch, over-fishing has played a role in the species decline. But, perhaps most damaging to the fish has been habitat alterations caused by a variety of human activities that have changed the character of many streams. These changes combined with the competition from non-native trout are believed to be the major causes of the decline of westslope cutthroat trout.

Q: Where are westslope cutthroat currently found?

A: There are a few small populations still found in the Missouri River drainage, but there are not any strong populations found east of the Continental Divide. West of the Continental Divide, the strongest population is still found in the South Fork of the Flathead. There are other populations found scattered throughout the Clark Fork and Kootenai river drainages.

Q: Why should Montanans be concerned about westslope cutthroat trout?

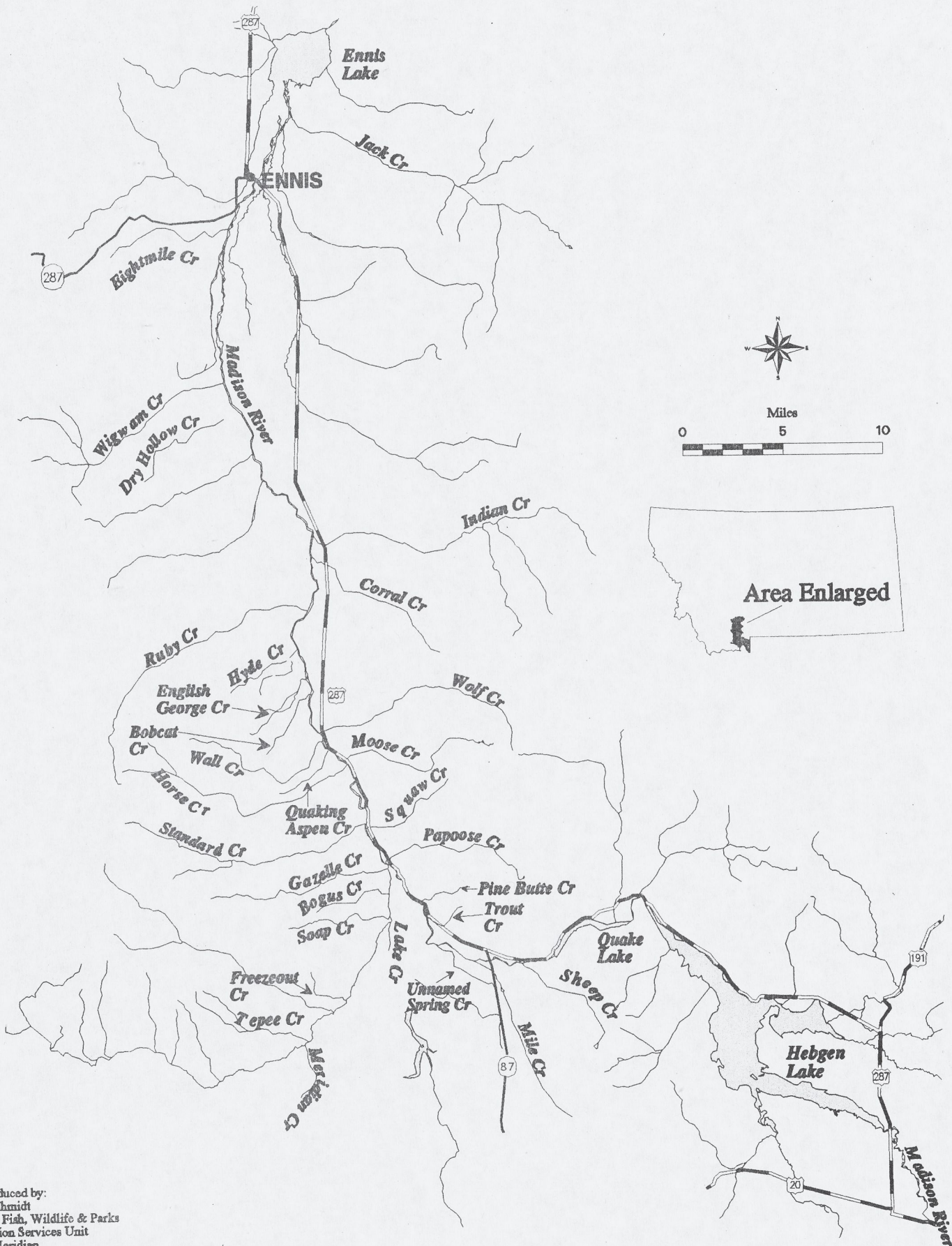
A: As their scientific name indicates, westslope are an important part of Montana history and culture. Westslope are a great sportfish. They evolved as aggressive feeders, a necessary adaptation for a species native to the cold, pristine and relatively unproductive waters of Montana. Due to the aggressive nature of their feeding habits, many Montanan anglers--young and old alike--remember the cutthroat as their first catch. Today, the cutthroat remains a great fish for young anglers to pursue in our streams and high mountain lakes. More experienced anglers have come to admire the cutthroat for their beauty. The familiar flash of gold under the water surface when a cutthroat rises to a dry fly is one of the highlights of many Montana fishing trips.

Q: What is the state doing about the plight of the westslope cutthroat trout?

A: In September 1996, Gov. Marc Racicot sponsored the state's first Westslope Cutthroat Trout Workshop. The governor urged participants to develop special actions to preserve and expand the habitat and the populations of these special native trout. But even before that workshop Montana moved to establish in all streams and rivers catch-and-release regulations for westslope cutthroat trout in the central portion of Montana. This regulation was adopted to protect the upper Missouri River westslope cutthroat trout populations. FWP has taken a proactive approach to ensure that westslope will remain an important part of Montana's sportfishing future.

###

UPPER MADISON RIVER WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RECOVERY PROJECT



Map produced by:
 Angie Schmidt
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 Information Services Unit
 490 N. Meridian
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 (406)-751-4570
 December 2, 1996
[/home/spot/gbi/angie/madrivcr.cmp](http://home/spot/gbi/angie/madrivcr.cmp)



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620-0701

FWP CONTACTS FOR COMMENT

UPPER MADISON RIVER WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RECOVERY PROJECT

DECEMBER 5, 1995

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
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| 2. Larry Peterman
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| 3. Chris Hunter
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| 4. Dick Vincent
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| 5. Bruce Rich
406-994-4042 | Regional Fisheries Manager | Bozeman |
| 6. Brad Shepard
406-994-3243 | Fisheries Biologist/Researcher | Bozeman/MSU |
| 7. Ron Aasheim
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| 8. Tom Palmer
406-444-3051 | Information Officer | Helena |

Letter to the Editor

Re: Fish Access Site Review

Montana's fishing access sites are public treasures.

For hundreds of thousands of anglers, the easily spotted brown and white signs that dot Montana's highways and byways are a kin to a good neighbor's welcome, a sure sign that access to Montana's waters will be offered for a long time to come.

Even the fish on the sign is smiling.

So, when reports emerged recently that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks was conducting an inventory of the 25,000 acres in its Fishing Access Site system, many inquired to ask to why. Many more offered some straight forward advice: keep them all open for public use now and in the future.

FWP is listening.

I want to assure Montanans, and the 350,000 anglers who annually fish in Montana, that FWP has no intention to close or sell any public treasure that provides access to Montana's waters, or that provides for other recreation.

Of all the services managed by FWP, ensuring access to Montana waters is among the most vital. Since 1974, Montana's resident and nonresident anglers have provided the funding to acquire fishing access sites. Continued support from anglers, in the form of annual fishing-license purchases, helps FWP to not only maintain sites, but it also allowed FWP to add 17 fishing access sites to the system over the past four years. System-wide maintenance costs for more than 320 fishing access sites, however, are rapidly outpacing incoming revenues.

In the normal course of FWP business, periodic inventories are conducted of the land it administers. In September, FWP and the FWP Commission agreed to review all lands in the Fishing Access Site program. The intent of the review is to explore operations- and maintenance-cost reductions and to determine if all lands meet the needs of the program and the mission of the agency.

We believe most, if not all, of the lands in the fishing access site system are aligned with FWP's mission to provide for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and

In recent weeks, several Montana newspapers ran news stories and editorials regarding FWP's inventory of lands in its Fishing Access Site program. Fish, Wildlife & Parks would like to offer the attached response for your op-ed page. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued interest in Montana's fish, wildlife and parks.

future generations. If FWP discovers that a fishing access site holding here and there is not contributing to our mission, as director of FWP, it would be irresponsible of me to ignore an opportunity to make this Montana agency better, healthier and more responsive to the job Montanans expect us to tend to.

We want to make sure that FWP's Fishing Access Site program remains healthy and inviting to Montanans and to our visitors. We won't sell, or otherwise remove, any lands that help us carry out our mission, but we ought not hold land that can neither benefit from FWP stewardship nor contribute to FWP's mandate.

Both the Parks and Fisheries divisions, which jointly manage FWP's Fishing Access Site program, will review the inventory prior to its submission to the commission in November. The public will have ample opportunity to comment on any proposed action, should one arise. Any proposal to sell or transfer land in the system would only be made if the inventory reveals that the land is not, and likely will never, contribute to FWP's mission and mandate.

We know Montanans share FWP's desire to continue to champion the best fishing access site system in the nation. And we're confident that Montanans share our sense of responsibility to spend their money wisely, and to only spend it where it's sure to make an important contribution to Montana's special quality of life.

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Task Force on Privatization
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

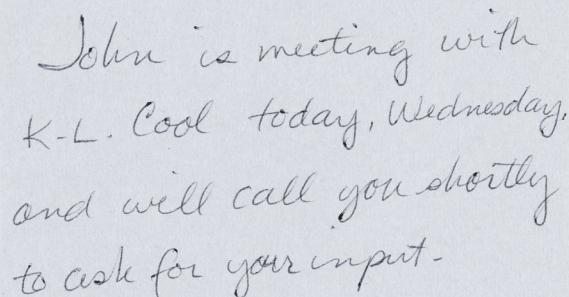
April 10, 1990

John Bailey, Chairman
Dan Bailey's Fly Shop
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Bud Lilly
2007 Sourdough Road
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PO Box 8000
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John is meeting with
K-L. Cool today, Wednesday,
and will call you shortly
to ask for your input.

I. HATCHERIES

1. We recommend that any new hatcheries be built with private money. Two possible options:

A. Have new hatcheries built by private interests to government specifications with a lease back provision. This would keep the Fish Wildlife and Parks from having to make the initial capital investment.

B. Have the hatchery built and managed by private interests. This eliminates the Department's initial capital investment, and reduces management requirements. This could also allow the private interests to expand the hatcheries beyond the Fish Wildlife and Parks' needs.

2. Explore the possibilities of selling existing hatcheries with a lease back provision.

Both options allow the hatcheries to contribute to the local tax base.

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Both options allow the hatcheries to contribute to the local tax base.

II. LICENSING PROCEDURES

We recommend that the licensing process be automated and privatized. The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks could contract with private enterprises to lease computer hardware and software or to have private enterprises supply license dealers directly. The Montana Lotto is an example of this system successfully applied. This system could allow instant access to Montana Department of Motor Vehicle and Department of Revenue information to ensure that applicants meet residency requirements. This system would give the Fish Wildlife and Parks instant information on licenses sold. It would allow game wardens to concentrate more time in the field by eliminating their duties of delivering licenses and checking licenses for residency requirements. It would save Department employees' time in keying in license information, as well as simplifying license handling and recordkeeping for license dealers. Some preprinted licenses would probably be maintained for small license dealers.

III. MONTANA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE AND VIDEO PRODUCTION

1. Magazine: We recommend that the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks retains editorial control of Montana Outdoors Magazine, but contracts with the private sector for editing, graphic design, and printing. The magazine would benefit from a larger professional staff, as well as being able to negotiate more reasonable costs by working with private companies' cycles of slack time in production and printing.

2. Videos:

A. We recommend the purchase of video footage from the private sector, encouraging private individuals to enter this market.

B. We recommend the utilization of private production facilities so that Fish Wildlife and Parks does not have to enlarge its production facilities as demands increase.

C. We recommend that the Department of Education, which already manages a video collection, take over management of the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks' video library.

IV. CAPITAL PROGRAM

1. We recommend that any new building projects be built to Fish Wildlife and Parks' specifications by private companies with a lease back provision.

2. We recommend the exploration of the selling of existing facilities; ie. regional headquarters and state headquarters in Helena with a lease back provision.

This allows the Department at the end of its lease to leave facilities which no longer fit its needs, without the liability of unsalable property. This provides the Department with a better cash flow by not tying up large sums of money in capital projects. The overall budget can be reduced, and still allow additional money for other projects to maintain and enhance the fish and wildlife of Montana.

V. EASEMENTS

We recommend giving priority to buying easements versus the outright purchase of land. We highly approve of the Fish Wildlife and Parks' move in this direction. Easements allow the Department to control land use but still allow the land to be utilized privately and to be kept in the local tax base. In this system, actual ownership of the land remains with the land owner, the Department only purchases the rights needed to accomplish the goals targeted for that area.

VI. SNOWMOBILES

The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks has taken an innovative approach to snowmobile management, which we applaud. We encourage the Department to continue to work with the snowmobile association, allowing the recreationists to take a greater responsibility for trail management and administration. This allows for more local control and immediate feedback, and allows the people who benefit most a greater voice in how it is administered. It also prevents the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks from having to expand its administrative staff.

VII. STATE PARKS

We encourage the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks to sell all state parks which it considers nonessential. We have not gone into greater depth on State Parks because of the future Commission on State Parks.

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Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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*This report shows revisions
made after John's meeting
with KL Cool.*

This committee wishes to commend the efforts the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks has made in the past to privatize many of its functions. It was a pleasure discussing with the various division chiefs the concept of privatizing additional functions under their management. The FWP should be commended for the excellent letter to Wayne Phillips, Office of the Governor, on October 13, 1989 identifying areas which have already been privatized and additional areas to privatize.

We are in favor of all of the additional areas of privatization which the FWP has already identified, plus we believe the following additional seven areas could benefit the FWP and further the Governor's wish for increased privatization in state government.

I. STATE PARKS

The State park system must be upgraded, improved and prioritized to provide an acceptable level of management to the parks selected for retention by the Futures Committee. We encourage the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks to sell all state parks which it considers nonessential to the State park system. We request that the Futures Committee explore private management of state parks. We have not gone into greater depth on State Parks because of the State Parks Futures Committee.

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Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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VII. SNOWMOBILES AND ATV'S

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2. We recommend that the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks take the same innovative approach to ATV management as they have to snowmobiles.

Allen A. Elser
Management Bureau Chief
Fisheries Division
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
Helena, MT.

Dear Allen,

Thank you for including me as a cooperator on 1984 fishing regulations. The interest and the use your division is giving regulations as a management tool is very encouraging.

The improvement in fish populations on streams where special regulations have been applied the last few years has been dramatic. It is certainly obvious that additional regulations and the extension of the regulations to other streams will enhance the sport fishing in Montana.

The increased use of those streams with special regulations is testimony that anglers are more interested in catching fish than keeping fish. Very few anglers keep fish for a way to beat food bills. They keep them because they started that way

and are reluctant to change. The managers and conservation groups should be involved in educational programs that encourage the positive and not the negative.

I was quite dismayed to note that special regulations on the Gallatin were modified. It would seem logical to be more restrictive before reverting to the old harvest philosophy.

The extension of special regulations to the Yellowstone river south of Livingston was a major step. A Catch and Release with artificial lures only should be assigned to a suitable section as soon as possible.

Copies

Jerry Wells

Biologist

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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Bozeman, MT 59715

Art Coffin

Montana State Conservation Chv FFF

908 So. Wilson

Bozeman, MT 59715

March 17, 1970

Mr. Bud Lilly
Bud Lilly Trout Shop
39 Madison Avenue
West Yellowstone, Montana

Dear Mr. Lilly:
Let's analyze some of the scientific evidence that relates to the stocking of catchable rainbow trout in the Madison River.

We know that nearly 100% of these stocked trout disappear in less than one year's time from the date of stocking. If the stresses of being placed into a wild population on trout have such a lethal effect upon the domestic trout, one almost has to assume that the effect must be much the same upon the wild trout population. Fortunately, it does not produce 100% mortality in the wild trout population, but the wild trout population is undoubtedly much less than it would be if no stocking were done. Increased stocking of catchable trout would very likely reduce the wild trout population by an even greater extent.

We know that a long range program of stocking trout of inferior strains will produce genetic damage to the hardy, wild strains of trout.

In the history of the program of stocking catchable rainbow trout in the Madison River, never has the fishing during a given season been better than that of a previous season. To me, this steady decline of fishing does not let me regard this program as even being a success, let alone being an unqualified success, as its proponents would have us believe.

Let's take a look at the results we would very likely achieve if all stocking were discontinued in the Madison. We would save about 50,000 to 70,000 catchable trout which could be utilized where they are needed, somewhere where there is little or no natural reproduction, and where the harvest of these fish would be a desirable percentage of the number stocked. We would eliminate the adverse effect that the stocked trout have upon the wild trout population with the resulting increase in size and number of fish in the river. This increase might be astonishing.

Let's assume that the stresses of the present stocking program have reduced our wild trout population to a half or a third of what it should have been during the poor water flow years of the early 1960's. While the lower Madison River has had a tripling of its population, the population has remained constant in the upper Madison River. We have every right to believe that trout populations should also triple in the upper Madison River with improved flows, and that the trout populations should double or triple if all stocking of catchable trout is stopped. This could conceivably give us many times the present trout population in the Madison River, just by scrapping a program that has been an unqualified failure by all standards.

I hope that the implications of the possible results will affect you as greatly as they do me. We have two courses open to us. You can stock more trout and probably produce even lower trout populations in the Madison River, or you can stop all stocking with a resulting increase in trout that might be as high as tenfold.

Sincerely,

Dick McGuire

Dick McGuire

DM:kk

Ennis, Montana
March 24, 1970

Dear Bud;

We had a little success with the last efforts that we made with our Fish & Game Commissioners and I think that we should follow it up at the next Commission meeting in April. I think that we should get someone like Charles Brooks from West Yellowstone, and two or three others from other cities to address the commissioners. I think that it might produce results.

I have thought about the present plan for the Madison River. There are two major flaws in it. First it is to be in effect for only one year and second, it will not give us an area that is free of stocked fish even though Dick Vincent thinks that it would.

We have had a study on the Madison River for several years while stocking has been going on. I think that the variables would be small enough to eliminate all stocking for at least three years and compare the results to those already made. I think that the results would be more significant than those made with partial contamination of the area with stocked fish. We already know that we don't want the stocking to continue and I don't think that it is necessary for the proposed study by the Fish & Game Department.

I think that we could then start promoting this area as wild trout water. I am sure we could get a lot of support and a lot of publicity on the wild trout thing.

I attended the organizational meeting of T U in Bozeman. I received favorable comment there and I am sure that we could get help on ~~the~~ getting stocking stopped from the newly organized Madison-Gallatin Chapter and probably the other chapters in Montana. Maybe you could give a little shove to someone in TeU.

I see that the piece ~~ation~~ I wrote has made several of the newspapers, but so far I have not received any comment of any kind. I guess that I will though in some way or another.


If you think that this idea is sound, let me know and we will get it rolling.

Sincerely

Dick

Dick

P.S. I tied up several of these flies only I weighted them slightly.



April 7, 1970

Frank Dunkle, Director
State Fish and Game Department
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Frank:

If we take a look at basic wildlife management, we find certain facts. Given any area, we find that it has a certain carrying capacity. Hunting or fishing pressures have little effect upon this carrying capacity of a specific area, unless they are very high.

There are different things that determine carrying capacity. In Montana's big game herds, the main factor is winter ranges. Harvest of game animals by hunters is used to reduce these herds to numbers which the winter range can carry.

I have over simplified the statements above, because there are almost always an aggregation of limiting factors which determine the carrying capacity of a given range or stream. In game animals, there is almost always competition between the different species; and how well a particular species competes with all others for the limited range, determines its numbers, within the carrying capacity of the given range.

The point I am trying to stress is that any given range or stream has features which determine its carrying capacity. The number of birds, animals, or fish that are present year after year as breeding stock is almost constant though the seasonal numbers may vary radically.

Four years ago, we met with you and other members of your department. We met to discuss the Madison River and how we might improve the carrying capacity of the river. At least you approached the issue from this view, though the general public probably did not know that such a thing as carrying capacity existed.

The conclusion reached by your department was that the extremely low water in the Madison River during March, April, and May was the limiting factor that had the trout population of the Madison River down to its present level, which is far below that of years in the not too distant past.

Frank Dunkle
Page 2
April 7, 1970

We have corrected the water flows and stabilized them to a large extent by correcting the outflows from Hebgen Dam during this critical period of the year. This was possible because of the excellent co-operation on the part of the Montana Power Company and the U.S. Forest Service.

Unfortunately, the trout population of the Upper Madison River has changed very little. Apparently then, water flows were not the only factors which limited the carrying capacity of the Upper Madison River. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the trout population of the Lower Madison River tripled in the first two years of improved water flows, and has shown even further increase in the third year.

This puts us back almost where we were four years ago. We still have to find the limiting factor that is preventing us from improving the carrying capacity of the Upper Madison River.

We have been stocking the upper Madison River with many catchable rainbow trout each year for nearly 20 years. In 1968 and 1969, a total of 140,000 or 70,000 per year were stocked. We know from the present stream study that nearly 100% of these trout do not survive for as long as one year from the date of stocking. We know that only a small percentage are harvested by fishermen, because fishing pressure on all Montana streams can only be classified as light. Therefore, the mortality of these stocked trout is caused by the stresses of being thrust into all of the competition provided by the wild trout population in the river. This wild population is a limiting factor which determines the survival of the domestic trout. It limits the numbers of domestic trout to almost zero. It is not too big a jump to believe that this repeated application of large numbers of domestic trout is a limiting factor which determines the number of wild trout which survive from year to year in the Madison River. It could very well be that the stocking of catchable rainbow trout in the Upper Madison River is the limiting factor which determines its present low carrying capacity.

Probably the biggest factor favoring this theory is the absence of other theories. No one has yet proposed any other possible limiting factors that might explain the present low carrying capacity of the Madison River.

There is a slight amount of evidence supporting this theory from stream study on the Madison River. Very few stocked trout get into Blaine Spring Creek Channel of the Madison River. The trout population in this channel, in relation to the amount of water, is far greater than that for the rest of the river. Also, there is a greater mortality than expected in the older classes of wild trout in the Upper Madison River during the summer months. This is not conclusive evidence, but it points towards the possibility of undesirable effects of stocking large numbers of domestic trout.

Frank Dunkle
Page 3
April 7, 1970

If we were to get into the finances of stocking domestic trout and analyze the figures, we would discontinue stocking for that reason alone in streams where there is good natural reproduction, such as the Madison River. Each trout planted costs 15 cents. Less than one in four is harvested, which brings the cost to over 60 cents each. The fishing license for a non-resident is only one dollar a day after the first day. If he catches more than two domestic trout, he must be subsidized by the other fishermen in the state. A resident with the four dollar license gets his money back by catching 6 domestic trout during a season from streams like the Madison. It is common knowledge that a small percentage of the fishermen catch most of the fish during a season. These are skilled fishermen. I don't think it at all necessary to subsidize these persons, yet this is what we are doing when we stock fish in unfavorable places for them, such as the Madison River. Lakes where there is little or no natural reproduction are especially desirable places to stock domestic trout. Many times we find excellent survival, growth, and most important, a high recovery percentage by fishermen. Excellent fishing is provided where there would be little or none without stocking trout. It is not difficult to figure out where we should be stocking trout if we bother to look at evidence available.

Everything I have discussed in this letter is as factual as I can present it using my style of writing. Most of the information has been compiled by the the professional persons of Montana's Fish and Game Department. There is much supporting evidence available from studies carried out in other states.

What we have to decide is whether we are going to try to find the limiting factor which determines the carrying capacity of the Upper Madison River, or whether we keep things just as they are now. I have been proposing that stocking of catchables be discontinued for many years because I became aware of the undesirable results that were affected in streams of other states. I reasoned that if stocking catchable trout in streams that have high natural reproduction was undesirable in other states, it was very probably undesirable in Montana's Upper Madison River.

What I propose now is to discontinue stocking trout in the Madison River for a period of three years. We have known trout populations in a given stretch of the Madison River. We can see if the population increases during this period of an absence of stocking catchables. If water flows are maintained, I think that the other variables will not affect the study too greatly. Your proposal to eliminate stocking in given areas is likely to be ineffective. I believe that you will get a fairly uniform distribution of stocked trout through the area you wish to keep free of stocked trout. I know of no area that has been without its "garbage holes", those holes that have been filled with domestic trout. Stocking has been done at access sites that are as much as ten miles apart, yet the distribution of planted trout seems to cover everywhere except Spring Creek Channel.

Frank Dunkle
Page 4
April 7, 1970

I hate to see any more years pass without improvement of the carrying capacity of the Madison River. I think that the complete elimination of all stocking of trout is the surest way to prove or disprove the theory that domestic trout are the limiting factors on our wild trout population. Stocking catchables has never improved fishing on a lightly fished river where there is good natural reproduction, so we don't have to worry about fishing successes decreasing if it is stopped. There are going to be persons who are uninformed that will disagree, but as long as they stay uninformed, they are not going to change. We have reached the point where we may have to shatter some beliefs that have been held by some persons for a long time. It is more important to improve the fishing for everyone than to be shackled by practices that prove more unsound with each passing year.

Again, I implore you to stop all stocking of trout in the Upper Madison River for a period of three years. I am confident that the results will be positive and no one will ever again wish to stock this area.

Sincerely,

Dick McGuire

DM:kk

MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT PLAN
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
STATE RECREATIONAL WATERWAY SYSTEM

JULY 30, 1965

APPROVED BY THE MONTANA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

August 18, 1965

PERSPECTIVE

There are three purposes for a State Recreational Waterway System.

1. the maintenance and improvement of Montana's prime streams as free-flowing, productive waters;
2. the improvement of certain potential prime streams so that they may eventually be added to the system;
3. to encourage and obtain optimum multiple recreational use through the development and maintenance of the recreational features of streams in the system. High quality fishing is an important feature of these streams, so "optimum multiple recreational use" implies, throughout this program, uses that are compatible with and non-detrimental to fishing.

The primary objectives are mutually dependent. One cannot succeed without the other. Maintenance without beneficial public use is wasteful. Optimum public use will provide the additional support to maintain the streams in the system in their free-flowing, productive condition. As the system is accepted, additional public support should demand improvement in streams with potential for possible inclusion in the system.

DESIGNATION

The Big Hole, Madison, Missouri, West Gallatin, and Flathead rivers and Rock Creek (near Missoula) should be surveyed for possible designation in the near future. These streams have sections classified as blue-ribbon fisheries and have the recreational qualities which make portions of them worthy of consideration for inclusion in the system.

Official designation of the system by the Commission should give the criteria for choice of streams and give the proposed management and development plans for these streams.

Criteria used in selecting streams for the system should be based on a combination of the following:

1. Blue-ribbon fisheries
2. Recreational potential
3. Historic and scenic qualities
4. Recreational economic opportunities
5. Hunting areas
6. Waterfowl habitat
7. Freedom from pollution
8. Adequate public access
9. Stream protection potential
10. Popular request and interest

REVIEW AND STUDY PERIOD

As the Recreational Waterway System becomes popular, pressure will develop to add streams to the system. Naming of a stream that does not meet the criteria specified by the Commission could jeopardize the entire program. In order to protect the program all stream designation requests must be reviewed for 90 days. After this time the Commission can so designate or allot the department an additional study period.

RECREATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Recreation, Parks and Research Division should take immediate steps to incorporate the concept of this system into the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan. This should include major emphasis on land inventory, acquisition and development of facilities adjacent to streams in the system. This will serve to focus public attention on the system and will utilize Land and Water Conservation Act funds to perpetuate the program. By giving the system this emphasis and explaining to Montanans the reasons, everyone will realize the importance the state places on its prime streams.

LEGISLATION

1. Contact the State Legislative Council to determine how proposed legislation will affect the Waterway System.
2. Research state laws to determine the restrictions of federal projects.
3. Investigate state laws needed to protect the Waterway System.
 - a. Enlargement of Stream Bill
 - b. Minimum flows
 - c. Legal recognition of the Stream System
 - d. Dam construction
 - e. Water pollution
 - f. Ownership of stream beds and banks
 - g. Land acquisition, leasing, easements, etc., including financing
 - h. Legal recognition of recreation as a beneficial use of water
 - i. Powers to regulate incompatible recreational uses of waters

FISHERIES RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

To properly carry out the objectives of this program the Fisheries Division must work out a fisheries research and management program with emphasis on the system. This would include the following:

1. Water quality control and improvement - sources and effects of pollution and remedial measures
2. Habitat maintenance and improvement - sources and effects of habitat changes and remedial measures
3. Land use practices and their effects on 1 and 2
4. The fisheries management and research program should include plans for properly evaluating effects of angler harvest
5. The emphasis should be placed on wild trout production and will affect the overall fisheries management program.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following subjects could be very important to the success of this program:

1. An optimum recreation environment should be explored fully. This idea involves an expansion of the ideas of blue-ribbon streams into a complex of blue-ribbon recreation drainages. This involves hunting, skiing and other non-water-oriented outdoor recreation.
2. To promote the Stream System, up-to-date information on the economics of hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation in Montana must be obtained.

* * * * *

FISH and GAME ... news ...



Montana Fish and Game Department

Helena, Mont., Zip No. 59601

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 1970

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION TAKES STAND ON ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGULATIONS SHORTENED FOR 1970 FISHING SEASON
DEER, ELK REGULATIONS SET IN MARCH
SHEEP LICENSES WILL BE AVAILABLE WITHOUT DRAWING
ZOO PERMITS MUST BE RENEWED WITH INSURANCE

* * * * *

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION TAKES STAND ON ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Montana Fish and Game Commission has taken a firm stand that the playgrounds of tomorrow will not be built upon the refuse of today - at least not in Montana. During their business meeting in Butte, January 13, the commissioners took stock of their role in the future of Montana and adopted a policy that calls for orderly development of natural resources with emphasis on maintaining high quality environmental standards.

Fish and Game Department Director, Frank Dunkle, said that the commission, acting within their capacity as the official outdoor recreation agency of Montana, recognizes both the nations' need for expanding development, and the blight that such development may cause without proper guidance.

Following are excerpts from the policy which express the salient features:

" The Fish and Game Commission adopts the policy of supporting the orderly and completely planned development of any natural resource oriented industry that considers and respects all aspects of an area's ecology and environmental quality.

" The Fish and Game Commission supports the surface mining for coal and bentonite, the dredge mining for gold and the drilling for oil when that development is accompanied by mandatory reclamation dedicated to restoring the surface of the land to the highest possible level of productivity. To this end the Montana

Fish and Game Commission will work cooperatively with any and all companies to insure that new developing mineral and oil extraction complexes are planned to have the least possible disruption of an area's present fish and wildlife ecology and that this development be designed to insure the maintenance of the highest environmental quality technologically possible. Recognizing the complete lack of environmental protection now associated with present mineral and oil exploration and mining claim maintenance procedures, the Fish and Game Commission supports efforts to make mineral exploration, including oil and gas, more compatible with environmental quality maintenance..."

" The Fish and Game Commission recognizes the need of the nation for forest products; however, it also recognizes that logging and roading must be less disruptive if our wildlife populations are to prosper. To accomplish true multiple use of Montana's forest lands, the Montana Fish and Game Commission will work cooperatively with all forest land managers, public and private, to insure that existing wildlife values are respected. Since the Fish and Game Commission is the official recreation agency of Montana, it feels an additional responsibility to assess the true value of forest roads that are partially financed as general access roads with recreation benefits..."

" It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission to work for total involvement in all phases of water resource planning and development, beginning with the recognition of fish, wildlife and recreation as legal beneficial users of water without diversion.

It is obvious that this involvement on the part of the Fish and Game Commission is essential to insure the stability of the habitat or the environments that produce our fish and wildlife resource. It is further apparent that this involvement is improbable within our present system of financing. Therefore this commission urges the developers and extractors of Montana's natural resources to recognize their responsibility to the land that is the source of their products, and to those who would use them after us, and support this policy of cooperation both morally and financially.

Ennis, Montana
February 5, 1970

Bud Lilly
Sour Dough Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Dear Mr. Lilly:

I request that you discontinue all stocking of trout in the Madison River. If you would take the time to check the persons who fish the Madison River, I am sure that you would find a majority of fishermen in favor of this plan. There are some local persons in Ennis who will never favor discontinuing the stocking program and these people will always have this view regardless of any number of facts to the contrary.

I have been requesting that the stocking program on the Madison River be terminated for over 10 years. Each year, more information is acquired that supports this view. Also, there are many places where these thousands of fish could be planted, where they would prove helpful rather than detrimental.

I will give some of the reason why the stocking program should be terminated in the Madison River.

A number of studies have shown that repeated stocking of catchable sized trout have reduced the wild trout population to almost zero, in a number of streams. The domestic strains of trout do not survive from one year to the next. Their mortality rate is 98% or more from one year to the next in most streams. Only a small percentage of catchable trout are actually recovered. It is rarely that as much as 40% recovery is achieved. It is far less than this on the Madison River.

Recent studies have shown that there is extremely high natural reproduction in the Madison River. The fry and small fish are present in great numbers in the autumn and through most of the winter. Great losses occur during the early spring. This mortality has approached 100% in years of poor water conditions. During the last couple of years when we have had good water flows in this critical period, the mortality has been greater than expected. I don't have the figures, but I believe the figures to be 80 to 90%. Normal winter mortality is about 60% in many streams studied. The probable cause of this higher than normal mortality, is the stocking of catchable sized trout.

As with game animals, winter food supplies determine the number of fish that a stream can support. Sixty percent of all trout that a stream supports in the summer succumb to the forces of nature during the winter and spring. One reason for this is lower water flows in winter. Less water means less food. The game animals that do survive a winter, often barely do so. In many cases, it would take very slight changes in food supply, the competition, or the weather to effect the opposite. The same is true in regard to the smaller trout. These small fish less than two years of age are faced with extremely capable competition from others of their own age group as well as the older fish in the

stream. By March or April their numbers have been reduced by over half and those that have survived so far, have barely done so. In past years, at this time, most of the normal water flows have been taken to begin filling Hebgen Dam. When the water flows were drastically reduced at this critical period the food supplies were at the same time greatly reduced. Available food is directly proportional to water flows during a given season of the year. This lowering of the river also eliminates much of the cover for the smaller fish. If this is not enough, then thousands of catchable sized trout are dumped into the river. The end result, is that there are several times as many fish in a given portion of the river as the stream could normally support under the conditions that prevail. The wild fish in the stream have been just barely surviving and are in a normal hungry condition with little reserve energy or flesh. Suddenly, they find their range greatly reduced and their numbers greatly increased. The stocked fish are in good flesh and are larger than the wild fish of the same age. In the fierce competition that continues, nearly all of the wild fish of this age classification cease to exist before the warmer weather can cause greater water flows and increased food supplies. Many of the domestic fish survive this period, because they were in good flesh when planted in the stream. Had they been planted in the fall, they would have been the first to die, as they could not normally compete with the wild fish in a stream. Normal mortality of stocked catchable rainbow trout in the Madison River is at least 98% in the first year they are planted.

During the last two springs, we have had much better flows than in the preceding period of about 20 years. Studies have shown that the trout population of the lower Madison River has tripled during this period. At the same time, trout populations on the middle section of the Madison River have remained fairly consistent. The one difference that one must note is that no stocking has been done on the lower Madison River during this period, while about 70,000 catchable rainbow trout have been stocked each year in the middle section of the Madison River which is that portion from Quake Lake to Ennis Lake. I think that this study alone should warrant dropping the Madison River from the present stocking program.

The trout that are raised in most hatcheries have been changed greatly from the wild strains from which they were developed. They are truly domestic trout and are as different from wild trout as domestic fowl are from wild fowl. Many of the characteristics that make them ideally suited for rearing in hatcheries, make them just as unsuitable for survival in the wild. No one who raises livestock would continue to breed inferior stock with their good stock. Yet, the continual stocking of inferior strains of trout will eventually dilute the hardy wild strain until it too, is an inferior strain of trout. There is no question that natural reproduction is tremendous in the Madison River. Let us not continue to oppose the forces that make this our greatest trout stream. Our hopes lie in keeping the lines of our hardy wild trout pure.

At the present time, no one has shown that planting catchable trout actually provides more trout for the fisherman. It may at first appear so, but all facts uncovered to date have proved the opposite. It is amazing to me that a program that has proved itself completely unsound on the Madison River is continued, especially when some stocking programs in lakes and some streams have proved beneficial.

Think what good these 70,000 catchable trout could do somewhere else. The fishing on the Madison River would be improved, and at the same time, fishing elsewhere could be made much better. I think that you should take into consideration the available facts rather than the wishes of an uninformed few to make a decision which is of such vital interest to so many people.

Sincerely,

Dick McGuire

Dick McGuire

DM:kk

Ennis, Montana
January 10, 1979

Dear Bud:

I was glad to hear from you, especially since you appear to have a clear picture of the problems we face in trying to promote and preserve the fishing in our area.

The truly tough problem that we have to face is water flow. I think that I have mentioned to you that the Forest Service owns all of the land surrounding Hebgen Lake and have complete control of the water storage in the lake. The Montana Power Company must make an agreement with the Forest Service regarding water levels in the lake at certain times of the year etc. The present contract between the Forest Service and the Montana Power Company specifies that the lake be nearly full on June 15th. This is the reason for the low water flows during April and May and March, with the resulting extremely high mortality of the younger age classes of fish. The lake must be raised to within 4 feet of full by this date I believe. I have tried to get a copy of this agreement a number of times without success. I feel fortunate now that I have been able to see this document. I know quite a few other persons who have tried without success to view it.

As you know, we have had good flows the last few years. The reasons are generally not known. What has happened is this; The Montana Fish and Game Dept. asked the Power Company and Forest Service for these more uniform water flows and both of them granted the request. Legally either or both could refuse and nothing could be done to maintain the water flows necessary for the survival of our trout. We have had much greater than normal moisture content in the snowpack the past two years when these more desirable water flows were maintained. As soon as we get normal or below normal snow in the mountains, I expect to see the requests for uniform water flows denied us by the Forest Service first and possibly by the Montana Power Company. We are fortunate that the Montana Power Company is trying hard to get good publicity, but the Forest Service is great at doing something like I have just mentioned and putting the blame on someone else. They will probably deny that they have a contract with the Montana Power Company. They have denied this contract in the past. I have seen it, so I know that it exists.

As you can see from the above, we may be faced with a serious problem of which I do not have the answers. Maybe you are in a position where you can get help from someone to avoid what appears inevitable to me. I just hope that the alarm that I have is groundless.

You are fortunate that you are in business in a community where at least a few of the other people are trying to improve or preserve the great fishing that we have. I only know one other person in Ennis that is up to date on things and would really try to do something constructive. For the most part, our guides are promoting bait fishing, and a limit of fish for each person they take out. Our Motel Operators don't want to have any regulations different from the rest of the state for fear they might lose one of the fish hogs who stays in their establishment. I have been trying to promote flyfishing only because this could do more for everyone from a monetary standpoint than anything else anyone could ever dream up. If we had the flyfishing only for all of the Madison River to Ennis Lake, it would be very simple to get the other regulations we might desire.

also
Trout stocking
Program

I am still opposed to floating the whole of the Madison River. I would prefer no floating to floating all of the river. I don't mind making the easy money that the float fishing provides. Before the whole river was opened, I only floated about 40% of the time. Now it is 100% of the time. I find it difficult to teach anyone much while floating and there is too much exposure to tackle to get much good fishing while wading the float areas. The wading for beginning fishermen was very simple before the boats. One or two spots would nearly always provide more than enough action for even the poorest novice. Many times the expert has difficulty finding good action unless he hits the stream at just the right time of day etc., now. I don't like the idea of living here on the Madison River and having to go to another stream to find some good dry fly action without the use of a boat, or having to go above the West Fork of the Madison where the boats are rather ineffective. I have run into quite a few other persons with the same feeling. I do not know what the general consensus is. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Sincerely

Dick
Dick McGuire

Bozeman
showed she died of
abrasions, contusions, lacerations and fractures.

Warwick lettered for three years as a member of the Bobcat football team. He played defensive end.

Ennis Official Says Madison Understocked

BUTTE (AP) — A representative of the Ennis Commercial Club has told the Montana Fish and Game Commission that fishing conditions on the Madison River are deteriorating because not enough trout are being planted in the stream.

Lou Chamberlin, Ennis, appeared before the commission at its meeting in Butte Tuesday.

Chamberlin said the river used to be planted annually with trout but in recent years the Fish and Game Commission has failed to keep it adequately stocked.

"Our purse strings are hurting over there," he said. "This is a stream highly valuable to the entire state and all of America."

He said a rainbow trout plant of 70,000 "didn't even make a drop in the bucket."

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6:15	3 Misterogers	10:30
6:30	2 Hastings Corners; 4, 5 Beverly Hillbillies; 6 Flying Nun	11:00
6:45	3 Friendly Giant	11:30
7:00	2 Wonderful World of Girls; 3 What's New; 4 News Special; 5 Hee Haw; 6 Courtship of Ed- die's Father	12:00
7:30	3 Dressing by Design; 6 Room 222	
8:00	2 Rowan and Martin Bite the Hand that Feeds Them; 3 To Save To-	

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SLEEPY HOLLOW MOTEL

MR. AND MRS. H. W. DAVIS

P. O. BOX 315
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

59758

January 4, 1980

Dear Bud:

Received your letter of Dec. 26, forwarded to me here in Blackfoot, but didn't get it until Jan 2 so am answering it at once in the hope you'll get answer before departing for California.

After reading your letter, and without giving it too much thought or research additionally because of time factor, I am inclined to accept the theory of the Fish and Game Department and would add my endorsement, for what that is worth. The only fly-in-the-ointment that I could foresee would be the lack of cooperation from Montana Power Co. in the water outflow from Hebgen Dam. It would seem proper that the Fish and Game could reach a mutual agreement with them in this matter. I wasn't overly impressed with the sudden filling of the last 6" to 12" of Hebgen storage last June and then the excessive outflow at runoff time--I thought it could have been accomplished over a longer period of time, but unfortunately I do not possess all the facts, so can't make a logical "case" of it.

Comparisons between the Madison above and below Meadow Lake looks logical and I'm for giving it a try for a few years anyhow. If it is unsuccessful the old system could always be reactivated.

However, I feel that we should definitely try to get a firm commitment on fish planting in Hebgen and the Gallatin. I'm not too familiar with the Gallatin, except in the Park, so can't recommend anything there, but I have some definite thoughts on Hebgen and I'll toss them in here for consideration and discussion prior to any official request that the Club might go on record to the F.& G.

I'd like to see stocking schedules on Hebgen changed. First, I am against the dumping of large quantities of fingerlings (2"-5") just prior to Opening date in May. The appearance of larger fish close inshore following the plants (as well as gulls and pelicans) make me believe we are presently engaged in a fish and bird feeding program. I'd like to see a cessation or drastic curtailment of the fingerling stocking. In lieu of this, I'd like to see the stocking of large catchables (12" or more), with the majority of the plants being made in late Fall, to enable the trout to scatter and become a bit "wild" during the Winter months of light fishing pressure. Records of other F.& G. in other states indicate about 20% survival of the fingerlings, but about 80% survival of the larger sizes. We could receive considerably less in numbers of fish planted by taking larger fish and still end up with more fish surviving. At the same time, by removal of the fingerling "feed" for the large fish we might be encouraging the big fish to forage the fingerlings of the large Chub population of Hebgen more heavily. I also feel that because of the tremendous number of licenses sold in W.Y. area

"Your Pleasure Is Our Business"



TELEPHONE 646-7707
AREA CODE 406

SLEEPY HOLLOW MOTEL

MR. AND MRS. H. W. DAVIS

2.

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

P. O. BOX 315

59758

that we should be entitled to heavier stocking in Hebgen than we have had in the past. Our research in the recreational use of Hebgen by Forest Service records indicate that since 1955 the use has increased by more than 10 times while the number of pounds of fish planted has actually decreased during the same time. I don't think that any study has been made regarding the capacity of Hebgen Lake to support increased fish population. Maybe this should be done also.

Additionally, another problem has made its presence felt during the past five years. This is the silting occurring in the South Fork where it empties into the South Fork arm of Hebgen. Because of the continued erosion or undercutting of the huge bank of sand about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile upstream from where the power line crosses (Molly' Nipple?) we have lost most of the feed and cover in the stream well down into the lake. Where once we had fairly large rocks all the way downstream from the power line crossing, we now have only a moving sand bottom. Where formerly we had a hole 8 to 10 feet deep all the way from the mouth of Basin Creek well down into the lake, it can now be waded in most places with hip boots. Evening migrations of fish into this area for feed in late July, all of August and September, was practically non-existent last Fall, and summer. I feel this is because the sand has covered the insect population of the stream, as well as covering the natural cover (rocks, moss banks, etc.). Additionally, fine moving sand is continually in the water---you can actually pick up a container of water and find the sand in it at any time. The Forest Service (Paul Hoskins and Howard Challinor (sp?)) are aware of the condition as I had a conference with them on it this summer. The bank of sand that is causing the problem is the one that has sluffed off enough to require the Forest Service to lose the road at that point and require the road to be moved about 100 feet East. I suggested that a new channel could be cut in the South Fork, eliminating the serpentine bend that undercuts this bank, at considerable less cost than trying to riprap the bank itself. I believe that if this source of sand was eliminated the water flow would again cut the deposited sand now downstream and carry it further out into the lake rehabilitating a former hot fishing spot, and improve fishing throughout the South Fork Arm. (Ask Dave Bascom about this!) The Forest Service states that although the land is Forest Service land, not part of the Bar N Ranch, that they cannot undertake any sort of alteration of stream flow or stream bed without express permission of the F. & G.---a joint effort. I'd like to see the F. & G. contacted on this but don't have the contacts for it. Perhaps you can advise me.

I agree that we should make a report to the Trouters membership. I can't feel proud because of the club's progress under my presidency, since except for organization I frankly don't feel we have accomplished a Hell of a lot. I don't have any information on the prospects for next year on fishing, regulations, etc., but will assist in any way you might suggest. If you and Cal (as VP and Sec.) want to make this up you have my permission and support. If you feel I should do it, please let me know at once, and better send along some info for it to me.

Your Pleasure Is Our Business



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SLEEPY HOLLOW MOTEL

MR. AND MRS. H. W. DAVIS

3.

P. O. BOX 315
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

59758

Bud, we both appreciated hearing from you, and send our very sincere best wishes to you, Pat, and the youngsters. Hope you had a good Holiday season, and that your California trip is a safe, profitable, and enjoyable one. On your return (or on the trip out) why not include a stop at the Davis domicile here in Blackfoot (286 S. Shilling Ave.----Tel. #785-3307) and we can hoist a couple and chew this over in person? We'd love to have you and have a couple of extra bedrooms too!

Anyhow, if you want me to make up this report to the Troutier membership, will you send me a little more information on how you feel we should present the picture properly to solicit the letters from the members to the F. & G. as you suggested.

Hope you get this before end of January!

Regards,

Marge and I haven't done much so far in outside activities. We have snowmobiled locally a couple of times. We will have to go up to W.Y. for snowshovelling when they have more snow, but haven't been back up yet since our November departure. We are hoping that we can make a trip up to Omak, Washington to visit Johnny and his wife, Dee, perhaps in late January. John is in Forestry work at Omak for the State of Washington and indicates he likes it a lot. Has been there since September when he was discharged from the service. Omak is about 170 miles northwest of Spokane on the Okanogan River---not far from Canadian line. We do most of our snowmobiling on weekends, so if you're planning a stop here we would appreciate a phone call or note regarding the date so we can be sure to be home. Don't disappoint us!

"Your Pleasure Is Our Business"

Ennis, Montana
February 11, 1970

Dear Bud:

I had my secretary send you a copy of the last letter that I wrote to the F & G. This was the one that I mailed to the Fish and Game Department and the F. & G. Commissioners. I just wanted to let you know what my approach was to the problem, and at the same time, it might give you a little additional information. It is basically what I have been writing since 1960 though we are finally getting some substantiating proof from the biologists. The one thing that I left out of the letter that is of considerable importance is the many diseases that are present in hatchery fish that are often transmitted to wild fish in a stocking program. This is something that I thought of. There are probably many other reasons for discontinuing stocking the Madison River and some of our other good streams that have lots of natural reproduction. If you have additional information or come accross some, please send it to me. I am sure that if we keep bombarding the F & G department with the right kind of letters, we are sure to get action.

I have two other proposals that might interest you. One is that we eliminate the floating above West Fork of the Madison, and between McAtee and Varney, and the other is that we try to reduce limits. The best way that I can think of to reduce the limit, would be to allow only one trophy size fish in possession of a fisherman. By this, I mean a fish of over a certain size such as 17 inches or some other figure. I think that this would be far more effective than just a 5 fish limit or some such thing. This is something that we should
(over)

I think that it might be easier to get than just a reduced number.

February 22nd is fine for a meeting. I am leaving for California today or tomorrow so I won't be able to do much promoting.. I will do what I can though. I should be back about the 20th. If you are going to be here, just let me know by dropping me a card. I'll get it when I get back and have things ready.

Sincerely

Dick
Dick

STATE OF MONTANA



DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

Helena, Montana 59601

August 5, 1969

Mr. C. W. Dunbar, Secretary
West Yellowstone Trouters
P. O. Box 368
West Yellowstone, Montana 59758

Dear Mr. Dunbar:

The poundage records of plants in Hebgen Lake quoted in your letter of June 22, 1969 are basically correct but you have not included some late fall plants made each year. Prior to 1966, Hebgen Lake was scheduled for about 70,000 catchable-sized rainbow trout (7-9 inches) each year. In 1966 this was changed to 150,000 sub-catchables from 4 to 6 inches. This change was based on a several-years study of Canyon Ferry which showed we could put more fish into the anglers' creel for the same amount of money by planting sub-catchables than we could by planting catchables. In 1967 the Hebgen plant totaled 147,400 rainbow, ranging from 6 to 10 inches; in 1968 there were 172,000 rainbow planted during the period May through August and an additional 98,000 surplus sub-catchables were planted in late September and early October.

Your figure of 18,000 pounds planted as of mid-June this year is probably correct. The reason the weight is down this year is that the early plants in Hebgen were 4-inch rather than 5- or 6-inch fish as they have been in the past. According to people at the federal hatchery, the fish are smaller this year because of certain dietary problems they have experienced at the station. This year, as in the past, the Hebgen planting program calls for any late fall fish that become available, above the 150,000 sub-catchables.

The figure of 12,000 fisherman days on Hebgen in 1955 is probably close to correct. The Fish and Wildlife Service estimated 10,140 man-days of fishing in Hebgen in 1952. Our 1965 mail survey indicates

Mr. C. W. Dunbar
August 5, 1969
Page 2

about 20,400 fisherman days, and although it has probably increased somewhat since then I do not believe that your present estimate of 100,000 man-days could be possible. Possibly your estimate includes all recreation days - boating, water skiing and just driving by and looking at the reservoir - rather than only man-days of fishing.

We will have a 1968 estimate of fishing pressure for the major waters of Montana out by the end of this month which will be used in reviewing and somewhat revising our planting schedule this fall. If substantial increases in the pressure on Hebgen are shown, we would not be adverse to increasing the number of sub-catchables on the Hebgen stocking program; however, we cannot recommend stocking catchables in Hebgen because we know we can do a better job dollar for dollar with the smaller fish.

Sincerely,

Arthur N. Whitney

ARTHUR N. WHITNEY *by pl*
FISHERIES DIVISION CHIEF.

ANW/pl
CC - J. Gaffney

Hugh G. King
Chairman
Montana State Fish and Game
Commission
Frenchtown, Montana 59834

Dear Mr. King;

A recent article in western Montana newspapers stated that a request was made to increase the numbers of planted rainbow trout in the Madison river from Ennis Lake upstream. Also it was requested that a plant of brown trout be made.

The rivers of the United States are few, where wild trout flourish and anglers have the pleasure of knowing they can catch a wild trout.

The Madison river is a nationally famous river and has demonstrated, that with care and proper management, it will reproduce wild trout to its fullest capacity.

Montana State F & G. Dept. fisheries biologist have stated through the press that intensive electro-fishing by them, show increasing numbers of wild trout in the Madison river in the sections of the stream studied. The greatest increase in these numbers of wild trout appear to be in those sections not receiving planted rainbow trout.

Streams that are managed to be wild trout rivers on their ability to do so, are great in two ways. They provide trout fishing that is unique in the world and it is consistent with good game management.

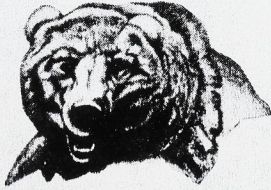
The economic value of the Madison river of Montana, will be considerably greater if this river is allowed to produce wild trout and managed with this objective.

It is my hope that you will not allow additional rainbow planting in the Madison where wild trout can be produced to the capacity of the river.

Sincerely;

Bud Lilly
Box 387
West Yellowstone,
Montana

STATE OF MONTANA



DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

8695 Huffine Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715

February 20, 1980

Mr. Dick McGuire
Ennis, MT 59729

Dear Dick:

After the recent water symposium put on by industry, I believe it's very important to educate the various sportsman's groups, T.U. groups, conservation groups, etc. on impending threats to instream flow preservation.

Other concerns worthy of discussion before the next legislative session are the fishing access program, river preservation needs and opportunities, fishing license increase, etc.

Since the Foundation's job is partly educational, it would be a significant action to provide funding to sponsor a one-day water and river preservation workshop. Rooms could be provided for an individual from the various groups invited. Although costly, this would provide incentive to attend!

The program could be organized by such groups as T.U., the Northern Rockies Action Groups, Wildlife Federation or perhaps selected individuals whoever feels they can set up the meeting.

The cost would be perhaps \$1500 to provide approximately 25-30 rooms and have a luncheon provided. Perhaps some group such as a T.U. group might co-sponsor this with the Foundation.

Perhaps this could be discussed at a Foundation Executive Committee meeting prior to the T.U. Council meeting on the 14th of March. In any event, it's important we have a meeting to decide what direction we should be going with the Foundation.

Where do we stand with the election results? Stop by and let's have a cup of coffee when your in town.

Sincerely,

LEROY ELLIG
REGIONAL SUPERVISOR

By: Ron Marcoux
Regional Fisheries Mgr.

LE:RM:jtb

cc: Frank Johnson
Bob Foukal

Ennis, Montana
February 25, 1970

Dear Bud:

Those local bad guys don't bother me personally. What really bothers me is the effect that they have on our F & G Department. We apparently get so little correspondence supporting the popular side that we represent, that their same old broken record song must fall on receptive ears.

I know how to shut them up, but I don't like to embarrass them as it is very difficult to do. I usually tell them that they are such poor fishermen that if they can't find a garbage hole and catch some stockers on worms they would get skunked. I guess that this truth hurts. I think that it is probably the biggest reason for them to continue to support the "plants." Of course, this is neverthe reason that they give.

When you are writing about some of these things that we have been dicussing, I think that we should try to make it a point to try to educate the commissioners to some of the factors that are unique to our area and especially the Madison River. We have just to keep pounding them with facts and maybe they will begin to look at things from our point of view finally.

One of the things that I feel is of prime importance, and we must put this point accross to both the F & G Department and the appointed commissioners, is that the Madison River is fished more by non-residents than by residents. No other river in the state even approaches this statis. All others are fished almost entirely by residents if you look at the figures proportionally. I don't know what the figures are for some of the other rivers, but I don't think that any of them exceed 20% for non-residents. Maybe you know some of these figures and could fill me in on them. This corner of the state should be administered separately and rules and regulations that are tailored to our resident fisherman should not be also applied to the non-resident majority of our area. Even most of the resident fishermen that come here or at least a good percentage of them are from all parts of the state and should not be confused with local resident fishermen. We should have regulations that will produce quality fishing asrthis is the kind of fishing that has put us in this unique position. We have never been able to separate this area from the others as the F & G Department personel have a mania for trying to set all regulations for trout fishing the same over the entire state. There is no doubt that it would make their job easier, but if they do, then we suffer. I don't know if we can convinee them otherwise, but I can certainly try. Our future depends upon it. The sad thing about the regulations we need, is that they are less liberal than those acceptable to the rest of the state. The few businessmen who would most benefit by things that could be done are the ones who block them from being done. If you know anyway to reach these near sighted individuals such as tried to disrupt us the other day, kindly let me know. Facts run off them as though they had armorplate. It is kind of a slow process waiting for them to die of old age.

Sincerely

Dick [McGuire]



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

February 5, 2008

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section	FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit	Wildlife Division	Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Jack Jones, 3014 Irene St., Butte, MT 59701
Greater Yellowstone Coalition, P.O. Box 1874, 13 S. Willson, Suite 2, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Wilderness Association, 117 ½ W. Park St. #6, Livingston, MT 59047
Wilderness Society, 503 W. Mendenhall, Bozeman, MT 59715
American Wildlands, P.O. Box 6669, Bozeman, MT 59771
Gallatin Wildlife Association, Glen Hockett, P.O. Box 5276, Bozeman, MT 59717
Madison-Gallatin Chapter Trout Unlimited, Rick Arnold, P.O. Box 52, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Trout Unlimited, Bruce Farling, P.O. Box 7186, Missoula, MT 59807
Federation of Flyfishers, 215 E Lewis St., Livingston, MT 59047
Yellowstone National Park, Todd Koel, P.O. Box 168, YNP, Wyoming, 82190-0168
Bud Lily, 16 W. Birch, Three Forks, MT 59752
Western Watershed Project, PO Box 1612, Boise, ID 83701
MEIC, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Headwaters Fish & Game, Randy Newburg, P.O. Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941
Headwaters Fly Fishers, Rick Weisend, 81801 Gallatin Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718
FOAM, Robin Cunningham, P.O. Box 311, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730
George Grant Trout Unlimited, Josh Vincent, 480 E. Park Suite 200, Butte, MT 59701
Lewis & Clark Trout Unlimited, Bill Barringer, 81 Yellowstone Rd, Whitehall, MT 59759
Skyline Sportsman, PO Box 173, Butte, MT 59701
Beaverhead Outdoors Association, Dave Walton, 911 S. Washington, Dillon, MT 59725
Loren Giem, 204 Silverbow Lane, Twin Bridges, MT 59754
Big Hole River Foundation, P.O. Box 3894, Butte, MT 59702
Big Hole Watershed Committee, PO Box 931, Butte MT 59703-0931
Beaverhead County Commission, 2 South Pacific St. CL#4, Dillon, MT 59725

Beaverhead Watershed Committee, 250 Fox Ridge Drive, Dillon, MT 59725
Beaverhead Outdoors Association, PO Box 1401, Dillon, MT 59725
Beaverhead Conservation District, 420 Barrett Street, Dillon MT 59725-3588
Ruby Valley Conservation District, P.O. Box 295, Sheridan, MT 59749
Pintler Audubon Society, P.O. Box 432, Twin Bridges, MT 59754
Ruby Watershed Council, P. O. Box 295, Sheridan, MT 59749
Madison County Commission, P.O. BOX 278, Virginia City, MT 59755
Jim Bower, DNRC, 2705 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804
Paul Hutchinson, Bureau of Land Management, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, MT 59725
Ruby River Properties, c/o Ethyl Corp., 330 S. 4th St. Richmond, VA 23219
Rob Miller, PO Box 184, Alder, MT 59710
Rodger Peters, 6000 HWY 324, Dillon, MT 59725
Big Hole Grazing Association, c/o Dave Smith, P.O. Box 521, Twin Bridges, MT 59754
Carter Kruse, Turner Enterprises, 1123 Research Dr., Bozeman, MT 59718
District Ranger, USFS Madison Ranger District, 5 Forest Service Rd, Ennis, MT 59729
Snowcrest Ranch, Dave Dixon, P.O. Box 136, Alder, MT 59710
Maloney Ranches, Inc., P.O. Box 139, Alder, MT 59710
Dan Downing, Wise River Ranger District, P.O. Box 100, Wise River, MT 59762
Steven Kujala, Beaverhead- Deerlodge National Forest, 420 Barrett St., Dillon, MT 59725

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for a proposed project that would remove nonnative brook trout from Green Hollow Creek to benefit an Arctic grayling brood population. The removal of brook trout would serve to reduce the likelihood of disease transfer from brook trout, which are carriers of several common fish diseases, to an Arctic grayling brood stock located within the drainage. It would also reduce competition between brook trout and Arctic grayling for space and food resources. FWP is proposing to removal nonnative brook trout from the stream using electrofishing and trapping methods. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks did not receive any public comments during a 30 day comment period ending January 21, 2008.

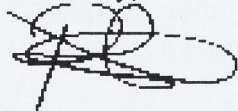
It is my decision to proceed with the proposed projects, with no changes to the Draft Environmental Assessments.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be mailed to:

Jim Magee
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
730 N. Montana Street
Dillon, MT 59725
Or e-mailed to: mageejames@mt.gov

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor

Green Hollow Creek Brook Trout Removal Project
Environmental Assessment Decision Notice
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
February 5, 2008

Proposed Action

The proposed action is the removal of nonnative brook trout from the headwaters of Green Hollow Creek using mechanical methods including electrofishing and trapping. The removal of brook trout would serve to reduce the likelihood of disease transfer from brook trout, carriers of several common fish diseases, to an Arctic grayling brood stock located within the drainage. It would also reduce competition between brook trout and Arctic grayling for space and food resources. The project would include about 1.3 miles of stream located entirely on private property.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on December 21, 2007.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 30 days (through January 21, 2008). The EA was mailed to 32 individuals and groups, and legal notices were printed in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* and the *Dillon Tribune*. The EA was also posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/>.

Summary of Public Comment

There were no public comments received during the 30 day review period.

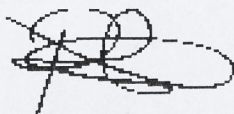
Final Environmental Assessment

There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment based on public comment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, no public comment, and the need to preserve and protect the Arctic grayling brood population in Green Hollow II reservoir, it is my decision to proceed with the effort to remove nonnative brook trout from the proposed project reach of the Green Hollow Creek.

I find there to be no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project. Therefore, I conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



THREE MEN--THREE RIVERS

A DOCUMENTARY FILM PROPOSAL

16MM--COLOR

28 MINUTES

SUBMITTED BY: MIKE GURNETT
MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION UNIT

Mike's

THREE MEN--THREE RIVERS

INTRODUCTION:

IN LATE JUNE, ONE HUNDRED BOATS A DAY WILL PASS THE MELROSE BRIDGE ON THE BIGHOLE RIVER. THE RIVER'S NAME SEEMS SYNONYMOUS WITH DEEP RUNS, JOHN BOATS, BROWN TROUT AND GOOD-OL-BOYS. RANCHERS, LAWYERS, WELDERS AND DOCTORS WILL ALL BECOME ONE--BECOME FISHERMEN. THEY WILL LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON IN THEIR PICKUPS, DOORS OPEN IN THEIR MERCEDES AND COOK STOVES BURNING IN THEIR CAMPS AS THEY RACE THE IMAGE OF TROUT TAKING THEM INTO THEIR BACKING. ANGLERS FLOATING THE CANYON--CASTING SOFA PILLOWS. THEY RARELY ASK: "WHY SUCH A STRANGE NAME FOR A FLY?" "WHY GERMAN BROWN TROUT?"

IF THE BIGHOLE IS FOR "GOOD-OL-BOYS" THEN THE MADISON IS OUR "WALL STREET RIVER." IT SEEMS FITTING THAT THE SAME PRESIDENT FROM WHOM THE RIVER GETS ITS NAME ALSO APPEARS ON OUR \$5000.00 BILLS. THIS WIDELY PUBLICIZED PLACE HAS LONG BEEN THE DESTINATION OF THE NONRESIDENT ANGLER AND THE TOPIC OF MANY A COCKTAIL PARTY CONVERSATION. PEOPLE FROM MANHATTAN, MONTANA TO MANHATTAN, NEW YORK WILL WADE SIDE BY SIDE TO FISH THIS FAMOUS FORTY-MILE RIFFLE. EACH WILL CAST TO A RISING FISH AND RARELY ASK: "WHY RAINBOW TROUT?"

TO THE EAST, A BOY AND HIS FATHER WAIT FOR THEIR GUIDE TO MAKE THE SHUTTLE. TO THE GUIDE--IT'S ANOTHER DAY. TO THE SON--A GREAT PLACE TO PRACTICE HIS WIND-UP AND SEND A FLAT ROCK FAST BALL ACROSS THE WATER. TO THE FATHER--THE DREAM OF PLAYING THE "YANKEE STADIUM" OF FLY FISHING IS ABOUT TO COME TRUE. HE KNOWS THAT THIS IS A TOUGH PLACE TO PLAY. HE KNOWS THAT THE POTENTIAL REWARDS ARE HIGH. THEY MAY LAND A YELLOWSTONE RIVER CUTTHROAT AND NOT GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT. THEY MAY FLOAT THROUGH THE "ALLEN SPUR GAP" AND NEVER STOP TO ASK: "WHAT IF?"

THREE MEN--THREE RIVERS

PURPOSE:

IF MONTANA HAD ONE GREAT RIVER WITH ONE SPECIES OF TROUT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE NEED TO ASK THESE UNASKED QUESTIONS. MOST ANGLERS WOULD KNOW THE ANSWERS. BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ONE GREAT RIVER, WE HAVE MANY. WE DO NOT HAVE ONE SPECIES OF TROUT, WE HAVE SEVEN. BECAUSE OF THIS DIVERSITY PERHAPS FISHERMEN HAVE BECOME COMPLACENT. WE KNOW HOW TO CATCH FISH. WE EVEN KNOW A FEW LATIN NAMES WHEN WE DESCRIBE TO OUR FRIENDS HOW WE DO IT. THE VOID SEEMS TO BE IN THE VERY BASIC PERCEPTION OF THE RESOURCE-- WHY ARE THESE FISH WILD AND WHAT DO THEY NEED TO STAY THAT WAY?

ALDO LEOPOLD WROTE: "THE CREATIVE PART OF RECREATION ENGINEERING IS DEALING WITH PERCEPTION." WE PROPOSE TO PRESENT A MOTION PICTURE THAT WILL HEIGHTEN THE FISHERMAN'S PERCEPTION OF AND APPRECIATION FOR WILD TROUT IN QUALITY WATER. WE INTEND TO PERSONALIZE THREE RIVERS THROUGH THE ACCOUNTS OF VARIOUS CONSERVATION EFFORTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON THEIR BEHALF. WE WILL TRACE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VARIOUS SPECIES OF TROUT FOUND IN THESE RIVERS TODAY.

WE PLAN TO BUILD COMPASSION FOR THE BIGHOLE, MADISON AND YELLOWSTONE RIVERS SIMILAR TO NORMAN MACLEAN'S TREATMENT OF THE BLACKFOOT RIVER. FISHING THE BLACKFOOT ISN'T THE SAME AFTER YOU HAVE READ "A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT."

THREE MEN--THREE RIVERS

TREATMENT:

THE FILM WILL BE THE STORY OF THREE WORLD-CLASS TROUT FISHERIES. THESE WORLD-FAMOUS RIVERS ATTRACT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO THEIR BANKS EACH YEAR, THUS CONTRIBUTING GREATLY TO THEIR AREA'S ECONOMY. EACH OF THESE RIVERS HAS HAD ONE PERSON FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHO HAS DEDICATED MUCH OF HIS LIFE TO "HIS" RIVER. EACH OF THESE MEN WAS IN BUSINESS ON HIS RIVER. EACH OF THESE MEN MADE SURE THAT HIS RIVER WAS A BETTER WILD TROUT FISHERY THAN BEFORE HE CAME.

WE PLAN TO INTRODUCE EACH OF THESE MEN TO THE AUDIENCE. THEN WE WILL USE THEIR STORY AND THEIR RIVER TO INFORM THE VIEWER ABOUT SUBJECTS WE WOULD LIKE TO COVER--I.E., BUD LILLY, THE MADISON RIVER, HATCHERY TROUT VS. WILD TROUT. ALTHOUGH WE WILL BE LISTENING TO BUD LILLY NARRATE AS WE WATCH HIM FISHING THE MADISON, THE INFORMATION IS GENERIC TO ALL RIVERS AND ALL WILD TROUT POPULATIONS IN MONTANA.

WE PLAN TO EXPLORE DIVERSE TOPICS--FROM THE EVOLUTION OF WILD TROUT IN MONTANA TO THE EVOLUTION OF THE ANGLER; FROM THE ECONOMICS OF A RIVER TO FREE-FLOWING WATER; FROM NATIVE FISH, SUCH AS THE GRAYLING, TO HOW DAN BAILEY GOT KIDS INTERESTED IN FISHING. WE PLAN TO PRESENT THIS INFORMATION BY UTILIZING THE FOLLOWING RIVERS AND THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AS EXAMPLES:

GEORGE GRANT BEGAN FISHING THE BIGHOLE RIVER IN 1925. OVER THE YEARS IT IS ESTIMATED THAT HE RAISED \$50,000.00 FOR RIVER CONSERVATION THROUGH THE DONATION OF HIS SPECIAL HAND-TIED FLIES. AN ESTIMATED \$20,000.00 OF THAT HAS GONE TO THE BIGHOLE RIVER COALITION. AT 84 YEARS OLD, THIS BUTTE NATIVE TIES FLIES DAILY IN ORDER TO FILL THE DEMANDS OF COLLECTORS. IN THIS SECTION OF THE FILM WE WILL ADDRESS THE SALMON FLY HATCH, GRAYLING, WATER FLOWS AND THE ECOLOGY OF A RIVER.

THREE MEN--THREE RIVERS

TREATMENT CONTINUED:

BUD LILLY HAS FLY FISHED MONTANA'S RIVERS FOR OVER 50 YEARS AND WAS A GUIDE ON THE MADISON RIVER FOR 35 YEARS. THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER AS A SCHOOL TEACHER, GUIDE, AND OUTFITTER AND OWNER OF HIS OWN FLY SHOP IN WEST YELLOWSTONE, BUD HAS STRIVED TO HELP PEOPLE ENJOY THE "TOTAL EXPERIENCE" OF FISHING. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE "MONTANA AMBASSADORS" PROGRAM AND SEVERAL CONSERVATION GROUPS. THOUGH HE IS PERSONALLY AN ARDENT CATCH AND RELEASE FLY FISHERMAN, HE STATES: "WE'VE LEARNED THAT BAITFISHING KILLS TOO MANY FISH TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE ON A CATCH-AND-RELEASE STREAM... I HOPE THAT WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT JUST BECAUSE WE FLY FISH WE ARE NOT ENTITLED TO THINK OF OURSELVES AS SOMEHOW "BETTER" THAN OTHER FISHERMEN... WE HARVEST OTHER THINGS--SATISFACTION, PLEASURE, AND PEACE--FROM STREAMS WHETHER WE KILL FISH OR NOT." IN THIS PORTION OF THE FILM WE WILL ADDRESS THE EVOLUTION OF THE ANGLER, THE TRANSITION FROM HATCHERY TROUT TO WILD TROUT AND THE TOTAL EXPERIENCE OF BEING ON A RIVER.

CHARLES WATERMAN, AUTHOR OF "MIST ON THE RIVER: REMEMBRANCES OF DAN BAILEY" IS AVAILABLE TO TELL THE DAN BAILEY STORY AS IT PERTAINS TO THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER. BAILEY CAME TO MONTANA BECAUSE HE LOVED TO FISH. DUE TO SEVERAL FACTORS--WHICH WATERMAN REFERS TO AS "TIMING"-- BAILEY, THE NAME DAN BAILEY AND THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER BECAME SYNONYMOUS. "I DIDN'T INTEND FOR THE BUSINESS TO GET THIS BIG," BAILEY ONCE SAID. "I JUST WANTED TO GO FISHING." HOWEVER, HIS BUSINESS DID GROW AND DAN BAILEY BECAME A KEY PLAYER IN THE POLITICS OF KEEPING THE YELLOWSTONE FREE-FLOWING. IN THIS PART OF THE FILM WE WILL ADDRESS THE ECONOMICS OF A RIVER, YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT AND HOW BAILEY ENCOURAGED CHILDREN WHO WANTED TO GO FISHING.

THREE MEN--THREE RIVERS

SUMMARY:

THIS WILL BE THE STORY OF WILD TROUT IN MONTANA. WE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE A FILM THAT CAUSES FISHING TO SEEM MORE COMPLICATED, SOPHISTICATED OR CONTROVERSIAL. WE DO INTEND TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF APPRECIATION ALL ANGLERS HAVE FOR THEIR TROUT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES BY OFFERING INFORMATION THAT WILL MAKE THEM MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE RESOURCE.

WE WILL NOT FOCUS ON THE MEN AS MUCH AS USE THEIR STORIES TO PROVIDE A COHESIVE THREAD THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPT. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT INCLUDING THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL BROADEN THE AUDIENCE AND EXTEND THE SHELF LIFE OF THE PRODUCTION.

NOTICEABLY, WE WILL NOT BE DIRECTLY MENTIONING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE WORKED FOR OUR AGENCY. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE LESS WE TALK ABOUT OURSELVES--THE BETTER OUR STORY IS TOLD.

WE FEEL THAT ANGLERS, OUTFITTERS, GUIDES, LANDOWNERS, AND VISITORS ALIKE CAN LEARN A GREAT DEAL ABOUT OUR RIVERS BY LEARNING SOMETHING ABOUT THESE MEN. WE HOPE TO ELEVATE THE USER'S PERCEPTION OF MONTANA'S UNIQUE FISHERY. WE PROPOSE TO PRODUCE A 16MM COLOR FILM, 28 MINUTES IN LENGTH TITLED: THREE MEN--THREE RIVERS.

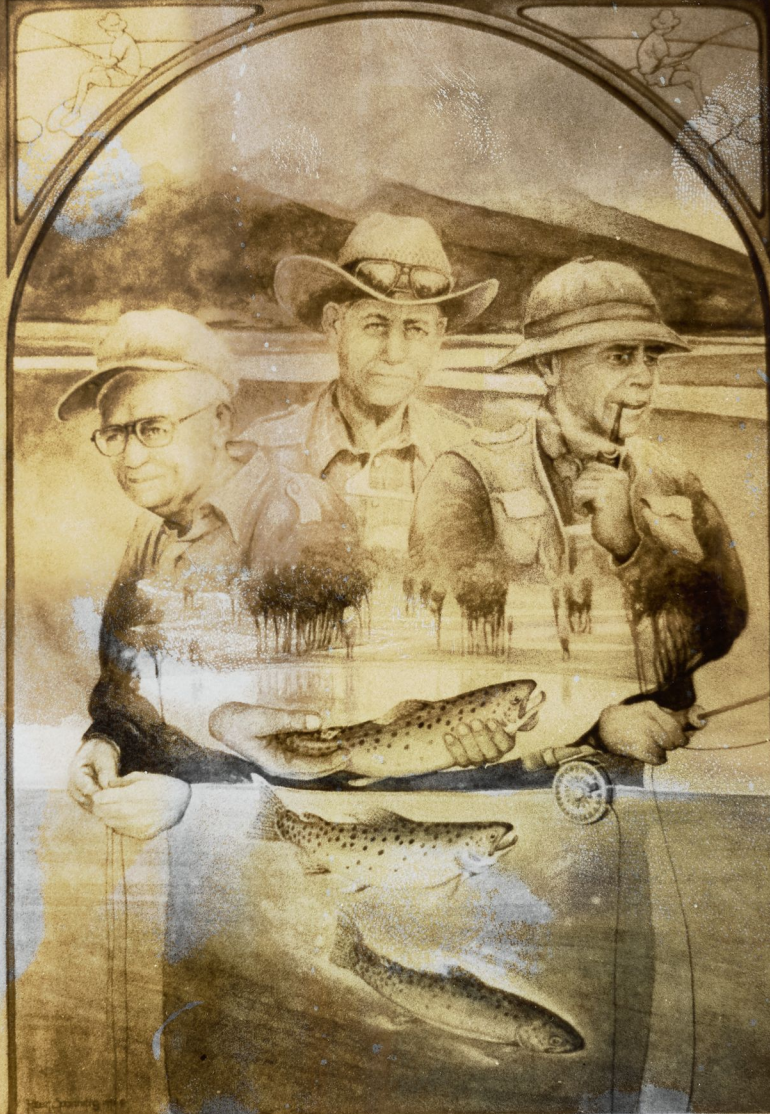


Three Men

George Grant

Bud Lilly

Dan Bailey



Big Hole

Madison

Yellowstone

Three Rivers

Illustration by Robert Spinning

Three Men

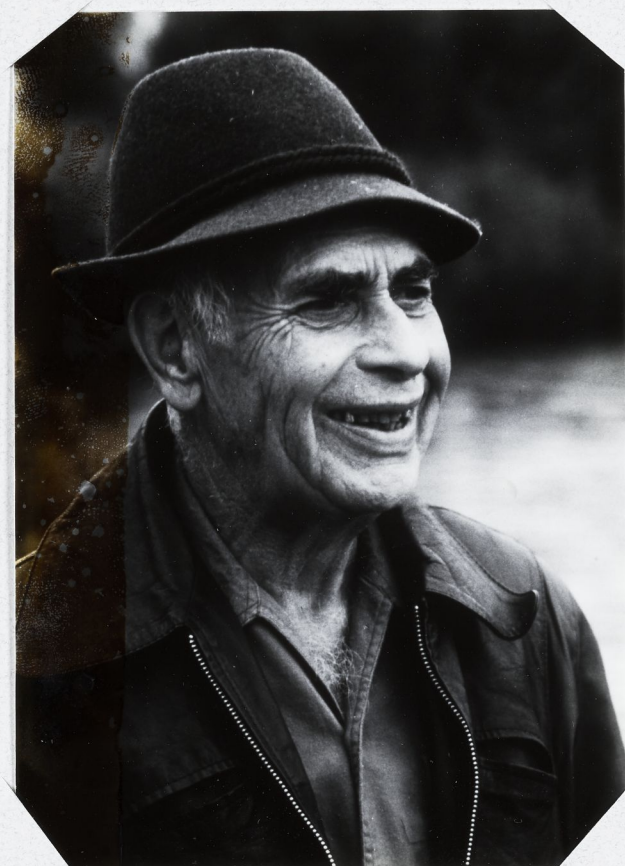
Three Rivers



George Grant
the Big Hole




Bud Lilly
the Madison



Dan Bailey
the Yellowstone

“Just as important,
it still will be possible to go
to these beautiful places and not fish.
Simply to escape the noise,
escape the crowds, escape the hurry
of our contemporary life
...if just for a little while.
To simply BE in these wild and
still-natural provinces is to touch
something eternal.
It's to be a part of a universal dance
where the music lasts forever.”



Three Men

George Grant

Bud Lilly

Dan Bailey



Big Hole

Madison

Yellowstone

Three Rivers

Illustration by Robert Spornberg

Three Men

Three Rivers

Private Screening — Premiere Showing

Hosted by

Governor & Mrs. Marc Racicot

Governor's Mansion

2 Carson Street

Helena, Montana

March 15, 1993

Three Men

Three Rivers

A 30-minute documentary which explores the lives of three men and their influence on three rivers:

George Grant — the Big Hole

Bud Lilly — the Madison

Dan Bailey — the Yellowstone

To fully appreciate three of the world's finest rivers, one must also understand the commitment of these three men.

1/2 inch VHS copies.....\$24.95 ea.

Postage and handling.....\$ 3.55 ea.

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P. O. Box 9211
Helena, MT 59604

WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE FILM

"Three Men--Three Rivers" is a documentary production of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Who are the three men, and which are the three rivers?

The three men are George Grant, Bud Lilly, and Dan Bailey, and the three rivers are the Big Hole, the Madison, and the Yellowstone.

Why did your department make such a film?

If Montana had one great river with but a single species of trout, such a film might not be needed. But we do not have one great river; we have many. We do not have one species of trout; we have seven. Because of this diversity and wealth of opportunity, perhaps fishermen and women have become complacent. We know how to catch fish. We even know a few Latin names when we describe to our friends how we did it. The void seems to be in the very basic perception of the resource--why are these fish wild, and what do they need to stay that way? The film is about individual commitment to Montana and a way of life.

How did you treat the rivers in the film?

We concentrate on the unique and powerful relationship between the rivers and the men. For the Big Hole, we focus on the timeless natural rhythms of the river and the curious and captivating story of the salmon fly hatch. Then we contrast that energetic piece of film with a lyrical sequence on the Madison and wild trout. The Yellowstone is the longest free-flowing river in the continental United States; we show how the river changes along its course, and display some magnificent scenery along the way.

And the men?

Each of these men was in business on his river. Each made sure that his river was a better wild trout fishery than it was before he came. George Grant began fishing the Big Hole in 1925. Over the years, he has raised over \$50,000 for river conservation through donation of his hand-tied flies. Bud Lilly has been a guide on the Madison for 35 years. He says, "We harvest other things--satisfaction, pleasure, and peace--from streams whether we catch fish or not." Charles Waterman, who wrote "Mist on the River: Remembrances of Dan Bailey," tells Mr. Bailey's moving story. Simply put, Dan Bailey came to Montana because he loved to fish. He devoted much of his life to preserving the Yellowstone's wild character.

Where is "Three Men--Three Rivers" available?

To borrow it at no charge, contact your local Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, or the FW&P Film Center, 930 Custer Avenue West; Helena, MT 59620. Half-inch VHS copies are available for purchase through the Montana Parks and Wildlife Interpretive Association, P.O. Box 9211; Helena, MT 59604.

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



May 21, 1990

Mr. Bud Lilly
2007 Sourdough Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Dear Bud,

Thank you for having me into your home to discuss the beginnings of our "Wild Trout" film. Thursday evening, after our son was in bed, I began browsing through "A Trout's Best Friend." As you stated, many of the things that we would like to cover in the film are in this book as well as in your first one.

The first thing that I noticed when reading "A Trout's Best Friend" is the great value of your early day information. I believe that the honesty and humor conveyed in your passage regarding Ma Wiedman lend a tremendous amount of credibility to your efforts. Also, I am enjoying several descriptions of events such as both Ed Zern and his twenty inch brown trout jumping and running.

Another section that is food for a great deal of thought is your introduction to the second book. We can discuss how (if at all) to best utilize your friend Horace and his last fish.

I would like to return to Bozeman during the week of June 4, to begin the off camera recording of your narrative. Hopefully, we could get out on the Madison and film some fishing after the recording. I will give you a call in order to check your schedule.

One thing that I did not mention to you during our visit is that you will have every opportunity to review your narrative. I want to make sure that I do not make a change during the editing that alters the point you are making.

Thank you for your interest in our project. I am really looking forward to working on this project with you. Also, thanks again for the book.

Sincerely yours,

A Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Documentary

Three Men, Three Rivers

A 30-minute documentary which
explores the lives of three men and
their influence on three rivers:

George Grant—the Big Hole
Bud Lilly—the Madison
Dan Bailey—the Yellowstone

To fully appreciate three of the
world's finest rivers, one must also
understand the commitment of these
three men.

Three Men, Three Rivers

Produced by: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Written by: Marshall Riggan
Narrated by: Bernard Kates
Additional photography by: Bob Landis
Original music by: Susan Ring

Distributed by:
Montana Parks and Wildlife Interpretive Association
P.O. Box 9211 Helena, MT 59604

30 Minutes



Directed by
Mike Gurnett

$$\sqrt{25}$$