

THE CHERRY CREEK NATIVE FISH INTRODUCTION PROJECT: SUCCESES AND PROBLEMS AFTER TWO YEARS OF PISCICIDE TREATMENT^{AFS}

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The Cherry Creek Native Fish Introduction Project is a cooperative effort between Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Gallatin National Forest, and Turner Enterprises, Inc. to establish westslope cutthroat trout in a large (> 50 connected stream mi) tributary of the Madison River, as prescribed in the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding and Conservation Agreement for Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Montana. The project was initiation in 2003 after four years of delay by administrative and legal challenges. *In situ* bioassays were conducted to determine travel time and lethal concentration of Fintrol (i.e., antimycin). To remove non-native fish, Fintrol was applied to Cherry Lake (105 ac-ft, 35-ft max depth) from a raft, and to 11 mi of stream in two forks of upper Cherry Creek using constant flow stations at

specific points along the stream. Backpack sprayers were used to treat shallow lake margin and off channel areas. A total of 11.3 gal of Fintrol was used in 2003 and 2004. Exposed fish succumbed readily to Fintrol, but fish persist in the lake. Gillnets are being used to continue removal from the lake. Natural waterfall barriers on each of the forks prevent fish from invading treated areas, and an existing irrigation weir was dammed to isolate the next portion of the drainage scheduled for treatment in 2005 and 2006.