Montana FWP and Dillon BLM
Dyce Creek Brook Trout Relocation EA - DRAFT
MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action**. Brook trout will be removed from portions of the East and West forks of Dyce creek for up to 5 years via electrofishing and, where feasible, fish traps. Most captured brook trout will be relocated to main Dyce Creek below a barrier constructed to prevent upstream fish passage. For some areas where translocation might not be feasible, due to logistics, some brook trout may be buried on-site. This action will benefit the remnant native westslope cutthroat population.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action**. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) will conduct this action in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Dillon Field Office and the Forest Service (Beaverhead/Deerlodge Forest). FWP has statutory authority for the stewardship and management of the state's fish resources, including native fish. BLM will take the lead for this project in collaboration with FWP.

3. **Name of Project.** Relocation of nonnative brook trout from the headwaters of Dyce Creek (Beaverhead drainage in Beaverhead County) to conserve native westslope cutthroat trout populations

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency).** Not applicable.

5. **If Applicable:**
   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: August 15, 2004

   Estimated Completion Date: November 30, 2009 for initial relocations, after which success will be re-evaluated and decisions made on whether to conduct additional relocations.

   Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 100%

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township).** The relocations will be conducted in Beaverhead County, Montana. Relocation activities will occur in T6S; R12W, Sections, 11, 12, 14, 22, 23, 26 and 35.

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:** Note: About 10.5 miles of stream in Dyce Creek would be affected.

	Acres		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	0
Residential	0		
Industrial	0	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland	0
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	0	dry cropland	0
		forestry	0
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	0	rangeland	0
		other	0

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

   See Attachment A - Map.

9. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Dillon Field Office, Forest Service (Beaverhead/Deerlodge Forest), and one private landowner manage lands adjacent to this stream; however, FWP has the authority for managing fish in these streams. The BLM, FS, and private landowners have been contacted regarding this project. BLM and FS may assist with brook trout removal and temporary pruning of vegetation along the stream channel to allow fish crews access to conduct brook trout translocations. The Dillon Field Office of the BLM has prepared an EA for construction of a barrier and temporary brush clearing.

   (a) **Permits:** No permits are required.

   (b) **Funding:**

   Funding will be provided by each agency as in-kind services within existing operations; however, the BLM may receive additional funding for this project.

Agency Name	Funding Amount (Per year)	
FWP – Fish Management Program	$ 1,500	(about 18 person-days)
BLM – Dillon Field Office	$ 3,000	(about 35 person-days)
FS- Beaverhead Deerlodge	$ 1,500	(about 18 person-days)

Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities: See #9 above.

10. **Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:**
Genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) are primarily restricted to limited habitats within headwaters of tributary streams where they occur in the Missouri River basin. Some of these isolated WCT populations are threatened by brook trout displacement, competition, and predation. Genetically pure WCT occupy the East and West Forks of Dyce Creek and main Dyce Creek immediately below the confluence of these two forks. Brook trout have been documented in the lower portions of the East and West Forks and in the upper portion of the West Fork, as well as main Dyce Creek below the confluence of the East and West forks. The BLM is planning to install a barrier to upstream fish movement immediately below the junction of the East and West Forks (see map in Attachment A; and BLM EA# MTO-50-04-04). Brook trout will be removed by backpack electrofishing throughout the portions of Dyce Creek located upstream from the constructed fish barrier and, where feasible, relocated to the lower portions of the drainage below the constructed barrier to upstream fish passage. Standard electrofishing methods will be followed to minimize trauma to WCT. Monitoring of WCT populations will continue from 1-3 years following removal and relocation of brook trout to determine the success of brook trout removal and its affect on WCT populations.

11. **Dyce Creek** is a tributary to Grasshopper Creek, a tributary to the Beaverhead River**.** A barrier to upstream fish movement will be constructed during the summer of 2004 (Bureau of Land Management EA # MTO-50-04-04**).** The westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) population in upper Dyce Creek has been determined to be genetically pure (MFISH 2003) and is currently restricted to the headwater portions of the drainage. Brook trout have displaced WCT from the lower portions of the drainage. Surveys by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and BLM biologists indicate that WCT are found in the mid- to upper reaches of the East and West Forks and their recruitment is poor due to the presence of brook trout. Brook trout removal via electrofishing will provide temporary relief to the existing WCT population from competition and predation and may, if total removal of brook trout can be achieved, provide long-term relief. Other options to protect these populations (such as piscicide treatments) are being evaluated, should complete removal of brook trout via electrofishing and trapping prove impossible. Preservation of these WCT populations is important. It is estimated that westslope cutthroat trout are genetically unaltered in only 2.5% (McIntyre and Reiman 1995) to 10% (Shepard et al. 2002) of their historical range and conservation of genetic diversity in WCT requires preservation of many populations (Allendorf and Leary 1988). These actions follow recommendations made in the Conservation Agreement for Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Montana (1999) to protect existing WCT populations. The Fish and Wildlife Service recently completed a status review that determined that WCT were not warranted for listing as a threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999). A court ordered review of this decision in 2003, and the FWS again found the WCT not warranted. Recovery actions like this project may preclude Federal listing in the future and will aid recovery regardless of their listing status. The status review (1999) cited efforts like this proposed action as part of on-going actions that made this subspecies not warranted for listing under ESA.

12**. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:** Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest, Dillon Field Office of the BLM, FWP Region 3, WCT Technical Committee.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES

Will the proposed action result in:

IMPACT	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

No land resources will be disturbed by the brook trout removal. All work will be done from existing roads and crews would hike in and along stream channels. Small (2 foot diameter) deep (2 feet) pits may be dug in a few locations to bury brook trout carcasses.

2. AIR

Will the proposed action result in:

IMPACT	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2a. Most electrofishing removals will be done using battery-powered backpack shockers. However, small backpack or boat mounted motorized generators may be used occassionally to generate electricity to capture

fish. These generators will be operated less than 5 hours a day for a maximum of 10 days in the drainage and these generators are similar to or smaller than a lawnmower engine.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT.				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown.	None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)			X			3l
m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3l. In this stream workers will be in the creek and some very minor pruning of brush along and over the stream channel will occur. No vegetation will be killed. Roads parallel both the East and West forks for almost all the proposed treated length and crews will walk in or along the stream channels during treatments.

4. VEGETATION

Will the proposed action result in:

IMPA					Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
Unknown. Unknown.		None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?			X			4f
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4a. Minor brushing will be done along this stream prior to electrofishing to increase efficiency of electrofishing. This brushing will consist of removal of overhanging vegetation with chainsaws and clippers that will allow crews to work up the stream channel. Re-growth of pruned vegetation following treatments will probably be fast and pruning may actually enhance vegetation growth.

4f. Minor human trampling impacts might occur in wetlands adjacent to the stream channel, but these impacts will be short-term impacts. Vehicles will stay on designated roadways.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE

Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT.				Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
	□Unknown.□ Unknown.	None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			X			5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?			X			5f
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			5g
h. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5b and 5f. The goal of the project is to remove and relocate nonnative brook trout to preserve and enhance populations of native westslope cutthroat trout. Brook trout numbers will be temporarily reduced or eliminated in areas where they are removed and may increase slightly in areas to which they are relocated. We do not anticipate that brook trout abundance will increase dramatically in relocation areas because in most cases habitat in these areas are probably nearly saturated with brook trout. Brook trout populations may rebound in areas from which they are removed 2-3 years after their removal. However, by conducting removals two to three times within a year period over several years we might effectively eliminate brook trout, or at least reduce their numbers and competition with WCT for at least 5 years. Brook trout are common throughout the Beaverhead drainage and the small areas of suppression should have no effect on species survival, and minimal impact on angling opportunities, even if they are eliminated in the removal reach. The drainage where this stream is located has a healthy brook trout population within the drainage. This proposed action should have a positive impact to the WCT population. WCT is a Montana Species of Special Concern.

5g. Standard electrofishing methods will be followed to minimize trauma to WCT. Electrofishing has been shown to stress fish during sampling; however, they generally recover quickly. Impacts from sampling and relocations are anticipated to be short-term and electrofishing impacts to WCT will be more than offset by

positive effects of reducing or eliminating brook trout. Some brook trout may be killed, but most will be relocated below the barrier. Brook trout may experience some stress during transport below the barrier.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS

Will the proposed action result in:						
IMPACT.					Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
Unknown. Unknown.		None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. Small motorized generators may be used occassionally to provide electricity to capture fish. Generators will be operated less than 5 hours a day for a maximum of 10 days in the drainage. Generators are similar to or smaller than a lawnmower engine.

7. LAND USE

Will the proposed action result in:						
IMPACT.					Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
Unknown. Unknown.		None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

No change in land use will occur with this action.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS

Will the proposed action result in:

IMPA					Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
Unknown. Unknown.		None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

Will the proposed action result in:

IMPACT.					Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
Unknown. Unknown.		None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES

Will the proposed action result in:	IMPA				Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
	Unknown.	None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Define projected revenue sources						
f. Define projected maintenance costs.						
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

This action will require a maximum annual commitment of 15 days (with four to five two-person crews) over five years. Past experience has suggested that about seven treatments are needed to eradicate brook trout from streams. It is anticipated that based on the current distribution of brook trout in the treatment portion of this drainage that two to three treatments may be undertaken in each of the first two years. Treatment crews will consist of existing personnel from the BLM, Montana State University, Forest Service, and Montana FWP. Other fisheries projects may be postponed to accomplish this removal. Monitoring to determine the success of brook trout removals on the population of westslope cutthroat trout will be done for 1 to 3 years following either successful eradication or after five years, whichever occurs first.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION

Will the proposed action result in:

IMPACT.					Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
	Unknown.	None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				11c
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11c. Angler harvest in the East and West forks of Dyce Creek will be reduced since WCT cannot be legally harvested. However, other opportunities for harvest exist in many nearby streams. Angler opportunity will not change, since anglers will still be allowed to fish for WCT, but will be required to release captured WCT. Angler pressure might actually increase, if anglers prefer to angle for WCT. Restoration of WCT diversifies angling opportunities since this native species is now rare in the upper Missouri basin within Montana.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Will the proposed action result in:

IMPACT.					Can Impact Be Mitigated.	Comment Index
	Unknown.	None	Minor.	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
IMPACT.					**Can Impact Be Mitigated.**	**Comment Index**
Unknown. **Unknown.**		**None**	**Minor.**	**Potentially Significant**		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
It is not anticipated that significant public controversy will arise from this type of physical removal and relocation of brook trout to benefit WCT.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, CONTINUED

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Alternative 1) The **"No Action" Alternative** would result in a higher possibility that the WCT population in this stream would become extirpated. There would be no impacts on angler harvest. Alternative 2) The only other viable technique for removal of brook trout would be chemical treatment using a piscicide. This alternative would likely generate more public controversy.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency: Standard electrofishing protocols will be used to mitigate potential impacts on fish populations.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Description of water body and action:

Drainage		County	Location	Miles of Suppression	Water Code
Dyce Creek	Grasshopper-Beaverhead	Beaverhead	T6S, R12W Sections 11,12,14,22,23,26,35	Approximately 4.0 miles which would protect about 10.5 miles of WCT	012340

It is estimated that westslope cutthroat trout are genetically unaltered in only 2.5% (McIntyre and Reiman 1995) to 10% (Shepard et al. 2002) of their historical range and conservation of genetic diversity in westslope cutthroat requires preservation of many populations (Allendorf and Leary 1988).WCT are often restricted to limited habitat and many existing populations are currently threatened by brook trout displacement, competition, and predation.

Dyce Creek is a tributary to the Grasshopper Creek, which is a tributary to the Beaverhead River. Surveys by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and BLM biologists indicate that WCT are only found in the mid to upper reaches of this stream and their recruitment success is poor due to the presence of brook trout. A barrier to upstream fish movement will be constructed early in the summer of 2004 (Bureau of Land Management EA # MTO-50-04-04**).** Genetic testing by Montana FWP has confirmed that WCT populations in upper Dyce Creek, including the East and West forks are genetically pure (i.e. no evidence of introgression has been found). This WCT population is currently at relatively low numbers and their distribution is restricted by limited habitat and invasion and displacement by brook trout in portions of their current range in the Dyce Creek drainage. To conserve this WCT population brook trout will be removed by backpack electrofishing from the East and West forks of Dyce Creek and main Dyce Creek and by trapping spawning adults as they leave ponds located in the West Fork. Removal efforts will concentrate in the upper and lower portion of the West Fork, the lower portion of the East Fork, and the upper portion of main Dyce Creek. Brook trout removal via electrofishing will provide temporary relief to the existing WCT population from competition and predation and may, if total removal of brook trout can be achieved, provide long-term relief. Other long-term options to protect these populations are being evaluated, should complete removal of brook trout via electrofishing and trapping prove impossible. Standard electrofishing methods will be followed to minimize trauma to WCT. Monitoring of the WCT population will continue from 1-3 years following removal and relocation of brook trout to determine the success of brook trout removal and its affect on WCT populations.

These actions follow recommendations made in the Conservation Agreement for Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Montana (Montana FWP 1999) to protect existing WCT populations. Shepard et al. (2002) found that removal of brook trout from White's Creek, a tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir on the Missouri River system in Montana, allowed a depressed extant WCT population in that stream to dramatically rebound. The Fish and Wildlife Service recently completed a status review that determined that WCT were not warranted for listing as a threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999).

A court ordered review of that decision in 2003 again found them not warranted. Recovery actions like this may preclude Federal listing and will aid recovery regardless of listing. The status review cited efforts like this proposed action as part of on-going actions that made this subspecies not warranted for listing under ESA. In conclusion, this effort will use physical removal and relocation of brook trout to conserve and enhance the existing population of WCT that is presently at relatively high risk of becoming extirpated without this removal effort. The only practical alternative for removing these nonnative brook trout is using piscicides such as rotenone or antimycin which is not being proposed at this time.

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

   No EIS is required. Effects of this action are expected to be minor.

2. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

   Public comment will be solicited by publishing a notice in the Dillon and Butte newspapers announcing this project and by posting this EA on FWP's web site. The Cutthroat Trout Steering Committee, made up of citizen and agency representatives, generally supports removal and relocation of brook trout to conserve extant native WCT populations.

3. Duration of comment period, if any.

   Comments will be solicited for at least 20 days after initial announcements are provided to the public. Please address comments to Brad Shepard, 1400 South 19th, Bozeman, Montana 59718: 406-994-3243; bshepard@montana.edu

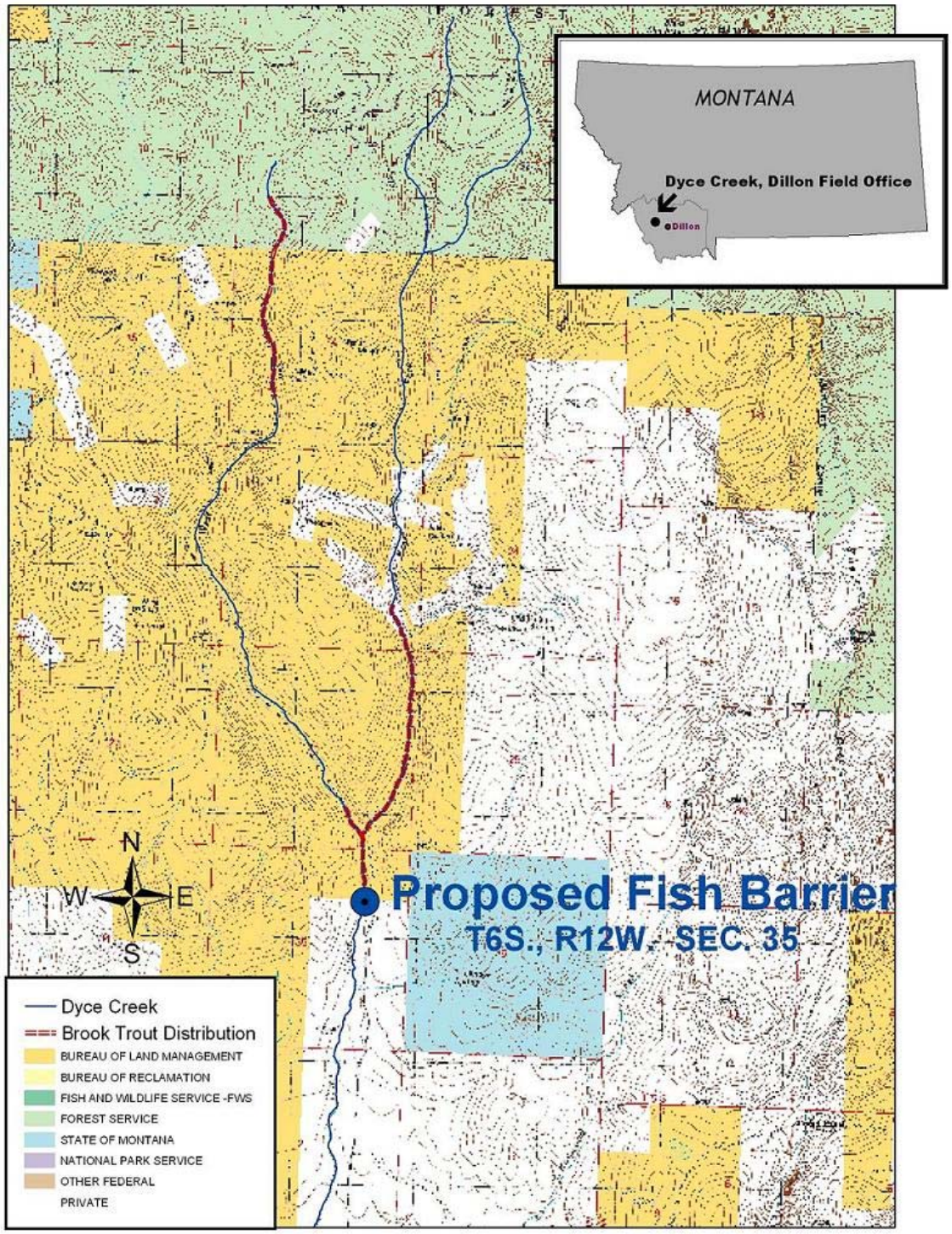
4. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

   Paul Hutchinson, Dillon Field Office – BLM, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana 59725; (406) 683-8052; Paul_Hutchinson@blm.gov; with assistance from Brad Shepard, 1400 South 19th, Bozeman, Montana 59718: 406-994-3243; bshepard@montana.edu

5. Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:

   Dick Oswald, FWP Biologist; Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest; Dillon Field Office of the BLM; FWP Region 3, and WCT technical committee.

Dyce Creek


MONTANA
Dyce Creek, Dillon Field Office
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Proposed Fish Barrier
T6S., R12W., SEC. 35
Dyce Creek
Brook Trout Distribution
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE -FWS
FOREST SERVICE
STATE OF MONTANA
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OTHER FEDERAL
PRIVATE