

**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
