



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 4 Headquarters

4600 Giant Springs Road

Great Falls, MT 59405

DECISION RECORD

Transfer of Westslope Cutthroat Trout from Chamberlain Creek (Belt Creek Drainage) to Lange Creek (Sun River Drainage)

Receiving Water:

Name: Lange Creek; Location: T21N R10W Sec 11

Water Code: 20-3200

County: Lewis and Clark County

Donating Water:

Name: Chamberlain Creek Location: T14N R8E Sec 25

Water Code: 17-1424

County: Cascade

Fish Species Proposed for Introduction: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) propose transferring non-hybridized juvenile and adult westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*) to currently fishless Lange Creek (Sun River Drainage) from Chamberlain Creek (Belt Drainage). Lange Creek, a tributary to Gibson Reservoir in the Sun River Drainage is currently fishless because of a 200 foot waterfall just upstream of its confluence with Gibson Reservoir. Lange Creek has approximately 4 miles of habitable stream above the barrier. All of Lange Creek above the barrier is on Lewis and Clark National Forest. From 150 to 300 fish will be transferred by helicopter over a two to three year period. A minimum of 150 fish is required to reduce potential impacts of inbreeding depression in the new population. Fish from Chamberlain Creek have tested negative for potential fish diseases. No more than 10% of the estimated population's fish \geq 6 inches and no more than 20% of the population's fish $<$ 6 inches will be moved.

Description of Public Notification/Review Process: The Environmental Assessment was posted on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Public Notices Website on 6/24/2008. The comment period ended 7/24/2008. There is also a separate internal review process where the proposed transfer has to be approved by the FWP Fish Health Committee prior to being implemented.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received.

Decision: No significant impact on the human or physical environment are associated with this project, except to help ensure the long-term persistence of the westslope cutthroat trout in Chamberlain Creek by replicating that population in Lange Creek. Therefore, I decide to proceed with the transfer of westslope cutthroat trout as described in the Environmental Assessment and conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment based on no public comment. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

George Liknes

George Liknes
Region 4 Fish Manager
Great Falls, Montana

August 22, 2008

Date