



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105
June 11, 2009

NOTICE OF DECISION *Island Lake Environmental Assessment*

TO:

Environmental Quality Council
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Mike Volesky, Governor's Office*
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council
Montana State Library
Montana Environmental Information Center
FWP Commissioner Shane Colton*
County Commissioners
Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen
Yellowstone River Trout Hatchery

David Moore, DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office
Sarah Elliott, Press Agent, Governor's Office*
Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office
Montana Wildlife Federation
George Ochenski
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation
Other Local Interested People or Groups
4K Guest Ranch
Darin Watschke, USFS, Billings
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

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| Director's Office | Lands Section |
| Parks Division | Design & Construction |
| Fisheries Division | Legal Unit |
| Wildlife Division | Regional Supervisors |

* (Sent electronically)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for stocking Yellowstone cutthroat trout into Island Lake on the West Fishtail Creek drainage near Fishtail, Montana. This action is proposed to enhance angling opportunities at Island Lake. The lake currently supports a limited brown trout fishery that would be supplemented by adding cutthroat trout. Current water management at the lake prevents fall spawning brown trout from successfully reproducing in the lake, but spring spawning cutthroat may be able to develop a self-sustaining population in the lake. The draft was circulated to interested agencies, groups, and persons, was submitted as a Legal Notice in local newspapers, and was posed on the FWP website for 30 days. No comments were received.

After reviewing this proposal and receiving no comments, it is my decision to proceed with the stocking of Yellowstone cutthroat trout into Island Lake. If you have questions regarding this decision notice or wish a copy of the final EA, you may email me at ghammond@mt.gov, or call me at 247-2951.

Thank you for your interest,

Gary Hammond
Regional Supervisor