

**Fishtrap Diversion
Improvement Project
Environmental Assessment Decision Notice**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
October 15, 2010**

Proposed Action

1. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is proposing to install a rock grade control, headgate and measuring device on Fishtrap Creek—a tributary to the Big Hole River. The intent of this project is to improve the infrastructure that will allow better control and management of the irrigation system, reduce impacts to the channel and stream banks, and to improve fish passage for Arctic grayling and other native and sport fish.

The project site is located on property owned by Ernest and Colleen Bacon (T2N, R13W, Section 30). The Project is located approximately 20 miles north of the community of Wisdom in Deerlodge County

Montana Environmental Policy Act

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 September 8, 2010.

Public comments on the proposed action were taken for 33 days (through October 10, 2010). The EA was mailed to 35 individuals and groups, and legal notices were printed in the *Montana Standard* (Butte, MT) and the *Dillon Tribune*. The EA was also posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/>

Summary of Public Comment

No public comment was received during the 33-day review period.

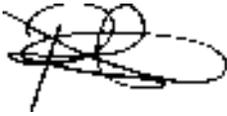
Final Environmental Assessment

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, public comment, and the need to preserve fluvial Arctic grayling and its habitat in Fishtrap Creek and the Big Hole River, it is my decision to proceed with the Fishtrap Creek Diversion Improvement Project, enhancing fish passage and providing the infrastructure to improve instream flow conservation efforts on Fishtrap, a tributary to the Big Hole River.

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