

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Environmental Quality Council

**FROM:** Bruce Rich

**SUBJECT:** Response to questions associated with the Future Fisheries Improvement Program brought up during EQC's May 1 Meeting

**DATE:** 14 May, 2012

Several questions about the Future Fisheries Improvement Program brought forward by members of the Environmental Quality Council during the May 1 meeting required some additional research prior to providing a response. The questions and FWP's responses are as follows:

1. A restoration project located on Magpie Creek involving the enhancement of upstream fish passage through a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) road crossing has been rumored to be in disrepair. Does this project need repair and, if so, what is being done about it?

FWP's response: This project was completed during the spring, 2006 and involved the construction of a rock riffle located downstream of a perched culvert. The culvert is on a USBR road crossing located on the east side of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The intent of the project was to raise the water elevation of the stream downstream of the culvert outlet to allow adult trout migrating from the reservoir to reach the culvert entrance. The project proved successful upon initial completion and continues to be functional in spite of a significant flood event that occurred during the spring of 2011. Our Future Fisheries program officer and our local fisheries biologist inspected the site in early March 2012 and found the project to be fully intact. Additionally, the local FWP fisheries biologist observed rainbow trout readily passing through the culvert on April 25, 2012. The project currently is functional and does not need any repair at this time.

2. What is the distribution of the type of applicants over the history of the Program and are project proposals equally competitive based on who the applicant is?

FWP's response: The distribution of applicants, by generalized type, over the history of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program is shown in the Table below. An independent citizen review panel, appointed by the Governor, initially reviews Program applications and formulates funding recommendations. These recommendations are then forwarded to our

EQC  
July 19, 2012  
Exhibit 9

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission (whose members also are appointed by the Governor) for final funding decisions. Neither of these independent bodies would appear to have cause for bias when reviewing applications to the Program.

APPLICANT TYPE	# of projects	Percent of total
Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)	152	24.1
Landowner with FWP help	83	13.2
Landowner with Trout Unlimited help	82	13
Landowner	77	12.2
Landowner with consultant help	48	7.6
Landowner with watershed group help	40	6.3
Landowner with conservation district help	31	4.9
US Forest Service	26	4.1
Landowner with US Fish & Wildlife Service help	22	3.5
Landowner with NRCS help	12	1.9
Walleye Unlimited	11	1.7
Mt Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	8	1.3
Others	38	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>630</b>	

3. What is the number of cancelled projects associated with the Program and what are the reasons for those cancellations?

FWP response: Of the 630 projects that have been approved for Program funding since 1995, a total of 97 projects has been cancelled (15% of total). The reasons for these cancellations vary greatly, but the five most common reasons include –

- The applicant used other sources of funding to complete the project.
- The landowner was unwilling to sign a Future Fisheries project agreement.
- The applicant could not secure the matching funding identified in the application.
- The landowner was not fully on board with the project and backed out after the project was approved for Program funding.
- The scope of the project significantly changed after funding was approved, requiring the applicant to re-apply.

4. Identify the number of projects and amount of approved funding for projects located in eastern Montana versus projects located in western Montana for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011. Where do these projects originate?

FWP response: The geographic distribution of projects approved from 2009 through 2011 is shown below. We have found that the definition of eastern Montana varies greatly among individuals, so we broke the table into three generalized categories identifying some common definitions of eastern Montana – The first category includes projects located east of Interstate 15. In very general terms, Interstate 15 tends to be a breaking line between the mountains and the prairie. The second category broke the state into approximate geographic halves by

biologists, fewer watershed groups and fewer sportsmen's groups expending effort to develop restoration projects.

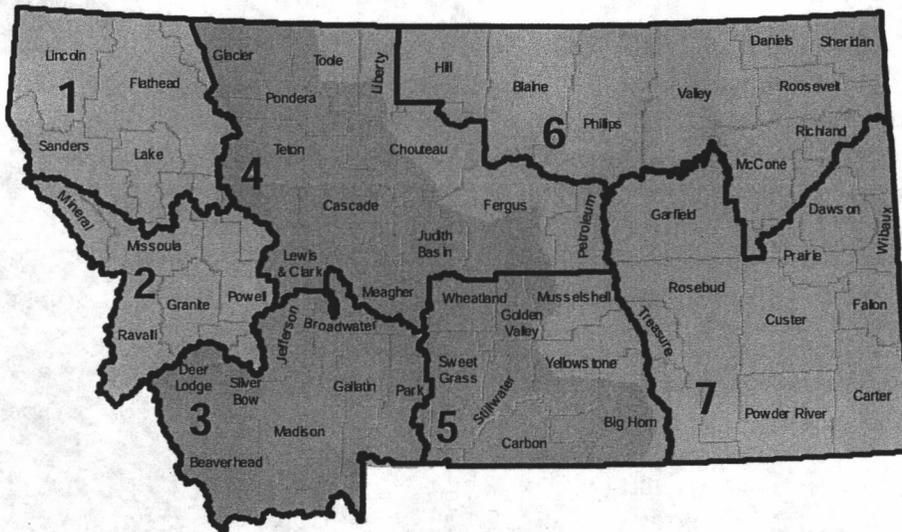
A third reason for fewer projects being developed in eastern Montana is that this part of the state contains some of our larger river systems. These large scale waters result in much more complex and extensive projects that are time intensive, expensive, and difficult to develop.

A final reason is that approximately 77% of the current appropriations directed into the Future Fisheries Improvement Program are legislatively ear-marked for projects that will benefit bull trout or cutthroat trout. Some cutthroat trout are found east of the geographic center of the state, but these populations are much less numerous than those on the west side. Bull trout are found only West of the Divide as are the numerical majority of cutthroat trout.

5. Who would an individual contact if they wanted to initiate a restoration project?

FWP's response: Anyone or any entity with a good project that benefits wild fish is eligible to apply for Program funding. Individuals interested in applying are encouraged to contact their local fisheries biologist through our Regional Offices for help and information. Program brochures and applications have been distributed to all of our Regional Offices, as well as to all conservation district offices located across the state. Applications and information about the Future Fisheries Improvement Program also can be readily obtained through FWP's website at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/fish/futureFisheries/>. Additionally, information can be obtained by calling our Program Officer, Mark Lere, at 444-2432 or email at [mlere@mt.gov](mailto:mlere@mt.gov).

## FWP Administrative Regions with Fishing Districts in Color



Western District=Blue, Central District=Green, Eastern District=Orange

## Contact FWP

**TELEPHONE DEVICE FOR THE DEAF – 406-444-1200**

**STATE HEADQUARTERS**  
 MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
 1420 East 6th Avenue  
 PO Box 200701  
 Helena, MT 59620-0701  
 406-444-2535  
 FAX: 406-444-4952

**REGION 1**  
 490 North Meridian Rd  
 Kalispell, MT 59901  
 406-752-5501

**REGION 2**  
 3201 Spurgin Rd  
 Missoula, MT 59804  
 406-542-5500

**REGION 3**  
 1400 South 19th  
 Bozeman, MT 59718  
 406-994-4042

**HELENA Area Resource Office (HARO)**  
 930 Custer Ave W  
 Helena, MT 59620  
 406-495-3260

**BUTTE Area Office Resource (BARO)**  
 1820 Meadowlark Ln  
 Butte, MT 59701  
 406-494-1953

**REGION 4**  
 4600 Giant Springs Rd  
 Great Falls, MT 59405  
 406-454-5840

**LEWISTOWN Area Resource Office (LARO)**  
 2358 Airport Rd  
 Lewistown, MT 59457  
 406-538-4658

**REGION 5**  
 2300 Lake Elmo Dr  
 Billings, MT 59105  
 406-247-2940

**REGION 6**  
 54078 US Hwy 2 W  
 Glasgow, MT 59230  
 406-228-3700

**HAVRE Area Resource Office (HVARO)**  
 2165 Hwy 2 East  
 Havre, MT 59501  
 406-265-6177

**REGION 7**  
 352 I-94 Business Loop  
 PO Box 1630  
 Miles City, MT 59301  
 406-234-0900

**INTERNET—[fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)**  
 A variety of information is available from FWP's award winning World Wide website. Fishing, Hunting, State Parks, Recreation, Wild Things, Habitat, Education, Montana Outdoors magazine and Inside FWP are just a few of the areas filled with helpful information. The site also provides links to various agencies, organizations, and news and weather services.

# Western Fishing District



Western District

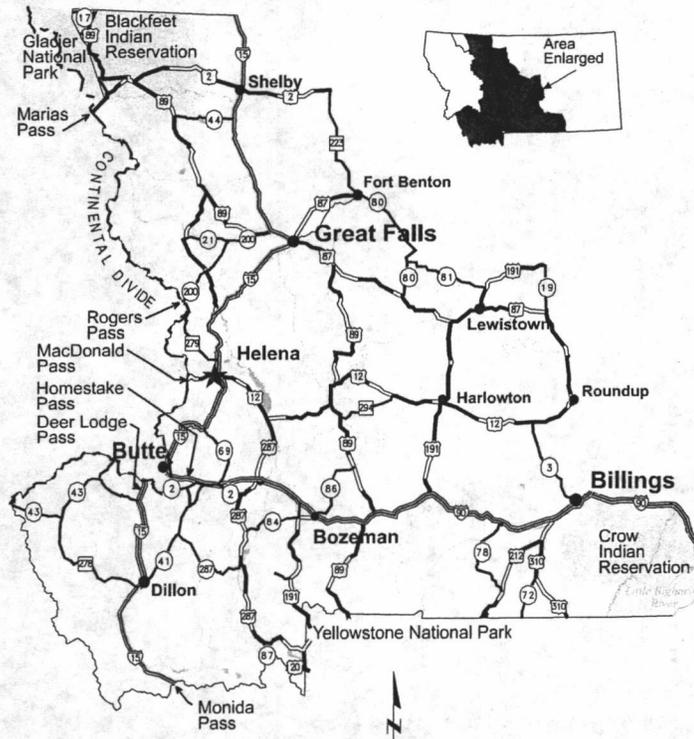
Areas excluded from fishing districts.  
 Additional regulations may apply.  
 Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

**The Western Fishing District includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.**

For additional information about fishing in this district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.:

Kalispell.....	406-752-5501
Missoula.....	406-542-5500
TDD (Telephone Device for the Deaf).....	406-444-1200

# Central Fishing District



Areas excluded from fishing districts.  
 Additional regulations may apply.  
 Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

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 Miles

Central District

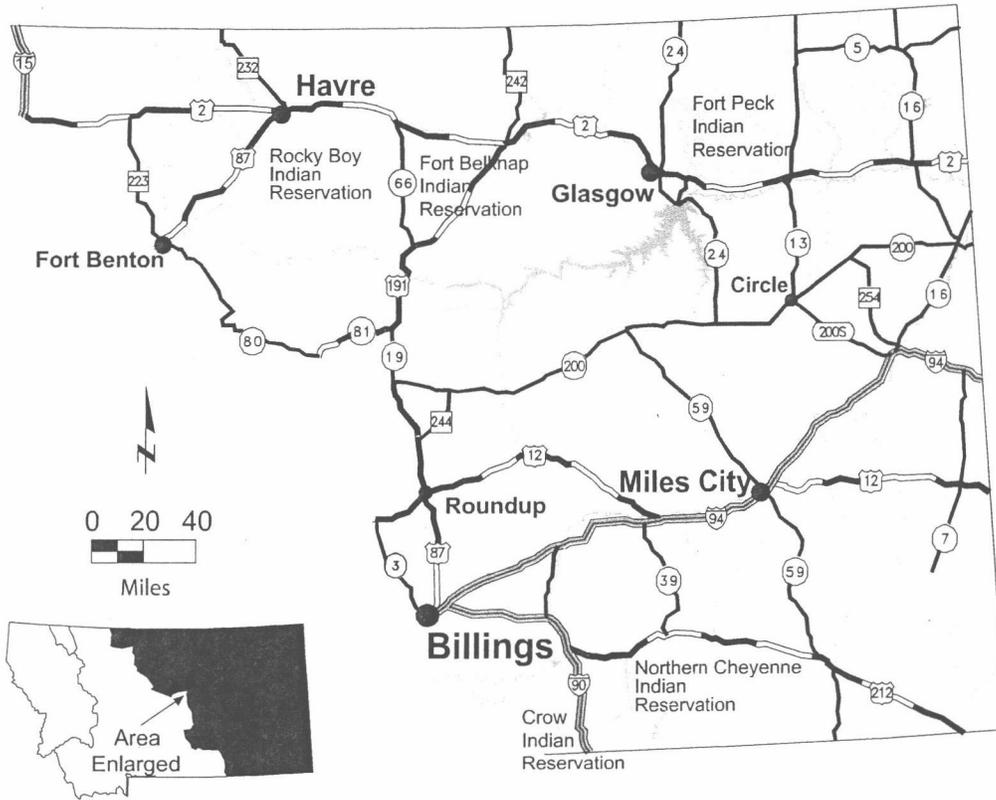
**The Central Fishing District includes all waters in Montana east of the Continental Divide, (including the Belly and St Mary's River drainages) and west of the following described boundary:** Interstate 15 from the Montana-Canada border south to its junction with Hwy 2 at Shelby, then east on Hwy 2 to Chester, then south on Hwy 223 to State Route 80 at Fort Benton, then southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, then easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 191, then northeasterly along U.S. Hwy 191 to its junction with State Route 19, then south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 87 at Grassrange, then south on U.S. Hwy 87 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 12 at Roundup, then west on U.S. Hwy 12 to its junction with State Route 3 at Lavina, then south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 90 at Billings, then easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the first crossing of the Little Bighorn River, then southerly along the west bank of the Little Bighorn River to the Montana-Wyoming border.

**Note:** Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding the boundaries in this fishing district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.:

Billings.....	406-247-2940
Bozeman.....	406-994-4042
Butte Area Office .....	406-494-1953
Great Falls .....	406-454-5840
Helena Area Office .....	406-495-3260
Lewistown Area Office .....	406-538-4658
TDD (Telephone device for the deaf) .....	406-444-1200

## Eastern Fishing District



Areas excluded from fishing districts.  
 Additional regulations may apply.  
 Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

### Eastern District

The Eastern Fishing District includes all waters lying east of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District, page 44.

**Note:** Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding the boundaries of this district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.:

Billings.....	406-247-2940
Glasgow.....	406-228-3700
Great Falls.....	406-454-5840
Havre Area Resource Office.....	406-265-6177
Lewistown Area Office.....	406-538-4658
Miles City.....	406-234-0900
TDD (Telephone device for the deaf).....	406-444-1200