



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

2300 Lake Elmo Drive  
Billings, MT 59105

## NOTICE OF DECISION

November 1, 2006

TO: Environmental Quality Council  
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks\*  
Director's Office  
Parks Division  
Fisheries Division  
Wildlife Division  
Mike Volesky, Governor's Office\*  
Sarah Elliott, Press Agent, Governor's Office\*  
Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
Montana State Library\*  
George Ochenski  
Montana Environmental Information Center  
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation  
FWP Commissioner Shane Colton  
(Vacant), DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office  
County Commissioners  
Other Local Interested People or Groups and:  
Bill Avey, USFS, Big Timber (wavey@fs.fed.us)  
Scott Barndt, USFS, Bozeman (sbarndt@fs.fed.us)  
Scot Shuler, USFS, Livingston (swshuler@fs.fed.us)  
Scott Bosse, GYC, Bozeman (sbosse@greateryellowstone.org)  
Other Local Interested People or Groups

\* Sent electronically

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) proposing moving Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) from portions of Upper and Lower Deer creeks damaged by fire to Harvey, Thiel, and/or Barlow creeks (Carbon County) was circulated to interested agencies, groups, and persons from October 12 through October 27, 2006. The EA was also posted on the FWP website.

Only the Montana Historical Society responded, noting the low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted. They asked to be contacted if we inadvertently discover any cultural materials during this project—and we will.

After reviewing this proposal and the corresponding comment, it is my decision to proceed with this project to transfer YCT from fire damaged areas in the Upper and Lower Deer creek drainages to Harvey, Thiel, and/or Barlow creeks, and use these YCT to recolonize the Deer creeks when the stream habitat stabilizes.

Sincerely,

Gary Hammond  
Regional Supervisor