2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings MT 59105
August 13, 2010

NOTICE OF DECISION
for Addendum to Yellowstone Cutthroat Restoration in Sage Creek

TO: Environmental Quality Council
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

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

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*
Montana Parks Association/Our Montana (land acquisition projects)
Richard Moore, DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office
County Commissioners
Other Local Interested People or Groups
* (Sent electronically)

An Addendum to an Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled *Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Restoration in Sage Creek* issued in April 2008 was prepared to identify several modifications to the original project proposal. This project involves chemically removing rainbow and brook trout from Sage Creek in the Pryor Mountains and replacing them with pure Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. Modifications to the original project include expanding the length of stream to be treated on private and Forest Service lands and coordinating with the Crow Nation to treat the section of Sage Creek on the Crow Reservation.

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A draft of this Addendum was circulated for 30 days to interested agencies, groups and persons, a news release was sent to regional newspapers, and an article on the project was published in the Billings Gazette on July 15, 2010. The Addendum was also posted on the Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) website.

No comments were received on the original EA in 2008. One written and two oral negative comments were received on the Addendum from anglers who like catching and being able to harvest brook trout from Sage Creek. The cutthroat fishery in Sage Creek will be managed as a recreational fishery with a standard daily and possession limit of 5 trout, one over 18 inches so anglers will still be able to harvest trout from Sage Creek. An important aspect of this project is to increase interest and support for Yellowstone Cutthroat trout by providing a stream where anglers can harvest this special native trout species. This project involves coordination with a number of private landowners who own land along Sage Creek and are supportive of the project.

After reviewing this proposal and corresponding comments, it is my decision to proceed with this project to remove rainbow and brook trout from Sage Creek and replace them with a recreational fishery for pure Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. If you have any 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

Gary Hammond
Regional Supervisor