



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

June 28, 2013

To: Governor's Office, Tim Baker, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section	FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit	Wildlife Division	Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202  
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103  
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620  
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624  
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624  
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771  
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624  
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923  
Jack Jones, 3014 Irene St., Butte, MT 59701  
Jack Atcheson, 2309 Hancock Avenue, Butte MT 59701  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Helena  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725  
Big Hole Watershed Committee, P.O. Box 931, Butte, MT 59703  
Montana Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 7186, Missoula, MT 59807  
Dan Vermillion, FWP Commissioner, Livingston MT  
Earnest and Colleen Bacon, 2215 Fishtrap Creek Road, Wisdom, MT 59761  
Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation, 730 N. Montana Street, Dillon, MT 59725-9424  
George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 563, Butte, MT 59703  
Skyline Sportsmen, P.O. Box 173, Butte, MT 59703  
Anaconda Sportsmen, 2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711  
E.T. Bud Moran, Chairman CSKT, PO Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855  
Doug Wasileski, Pyrimad Mountain Lumber, Inc, PO Box 549, Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
Jim Roscoe, American Wildlands HD Prgm., 215 E Helena, ST, Dillon, MT, 59725  
Butch Wales, PO Box 605, Philipsburg, MT 59858  
DNRC, 1300 Maquire Rd, Anaconda, MT 59711  
Marvin Miller, MT Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1300 W Park St, Butte, MT 59701  
Cornelia Hudson, Bureau of Land Management, 1005 Selway Dr, Dillon, MT 59725  
Kevin Chappell, DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620  
Weed Coordinator, MTFWP, 1420 E 6TH Ave, Helena, MT 59620  
Willie A. Sharp, Chairman, BTBC, 1 Agency Square, Browning, MT 59417  
McCoy Oatman, Nez Perce Tribe Exec, Cmt, PO Box 305, Lapwai, ID 83540  
Carolyn B. Smith, Sho-Ban Cultureal Res. Coord., PO Bos 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203  
Chris Marchion, Anaconda Sportsmen Club, 2105 Garfield, Anaconda, MT 59711  
Kim Wilson, Deerlodge, Conservation Coalition, 405 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601  
Jim Miller, Friends of the Bitterroot, PO Box 442, Hamilton, MT 59840  
Bill Orsello, Trails Chair, MT Wildlife Federation, 314 Holter, Helena, MT 59601  
Stephen Flynn, Sum Mountain Lumber, Inc., PO Box 389, Deerlodge, MT

Al Lubeck, 2710 Amherst, Ave, Butte, MT 59701  
Adam Rissien, ORV Coordinator, Wildands CPR, PO Box 7516, Missoula, MT 59807  
Josiah Pinkham, Tribal Arch., Nez Perce Tribe, PO Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540  
Anaconda Deerlodge County Commission, 800 So Main, Anaconda, MT 59711  
Bob Applebee, 102 Trails End Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Brian and Susan Bonner, PO Box 4226, Butte, MT 59702  
Lori Jo Mann, Gramot Co Timber Committee, #9 Mann Ln, Philipsburg, MT 59858  
Sara Johnson, Native Ecosystems Council, PO Box 125, Willow Creek, MT 59760  
Peter N Kurtz, Svens Bikes, 106 E Comercial Ave, Anaconda, MT 59711  
Highlands Cycling, 1454 Dewey Blvd, Butte, MT 59701  
Pete Bengyfield, Western watersheds Project, 623 S Nelson, Dillon MT 59725  
Yvette, Tuell, Environmental Program Manager, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, PO Box 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203  
William Bigday, Cultural Burial Preservation, PO Box 17, Pryor, MT 59066  
Karl, Barnickol, 317 Cabin Grove Lane, St Louis, MO 63141  
Tom Harmon, 1662 Ausburg Dr, Billings, MT 59105  
Peter Frick, PO box 26, Wisdom, MT 59761

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared proposing to restore westslope cutthroat trout in York Gulch and the West Fork Mudd Creek in the Big Hole River drainage. Fish migration barriers are already present in the West Fork Mudd Creek and York Gulch. Restoration efforts would involve removing non-native brook trout upstream of the barriers using rotenone in the formulation of CFT Legumine. The remaining cutthroat trout and tailed frog tadpoles would be salvaged prior to non-native fish removal and held during the treatment of the stream then released. It may be necessary to import non-hybridized cutthroat to these streams from other nearby streams to aid in repopulation due to low densities of cutthroat in York Gulch and the lack of them in West Fork Mudd Creek.

It is my decision to proceed with the proposed action of restoring westslope cutthroat trout to the West Fork of Mudd Creek and York Gulch.

Questions regarding these Decision Notices should be mailed to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration in West Fork Mudd and York Gulch  
Attn: Jim Olsen  
1820 Meadowlark Lane  
Butte, MT 59701

Or e-mailed to: jimolsen@mt.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Flowers', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Patrick J. Flowers  
Region Three Supervisor

**WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT RESTORATION IN 2 SMALL STREAMS IN  
THE BIG HOLE RIVER DRAINAGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
DECISION NOTICE**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region Three, Bozeman  
June 28, 2013**

**Proposed Action**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to restore native westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) to the West Fork of Mudd Creek and York Gulch. Barriers precluding upstream fish movement have already been constructed in both streams. An irrigation ditch connects the West Fork of Mudd Creek to York Gulch upstream of the constructed fish barriers, and fish passage is present between the two. FWP proposes to remove Brook trout present in the streams upstream of the fish barriers using the piscicide rotenone. The non-hybridized WCT present in York Gulch would be captured using electrofishing prior to fish removal, held in non-treated waters, and used to repopulate the stream following brook trout removal. Fish from non-hybridized populations would be used to repopulate the West Fork of Mudd Creek where westslope cutthroat trout are currently not present and may be used in York Gulch where WCT density is very low. Tailed frog tadpoles would be salvaged from the West Fork of Mudd Creek prior to brook trout removal and released back to the stream.

**Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 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 May 3, 2013.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 30 days (through June 4, 2013). The EA was mailed to 60 individuals and groups; legal notice was printed in the Montana Standard (Butte) newspaper. A draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/>. No comments were received.

**Decision**

It is therefore my decision to proceed with the proposed action to restore westslope cutthroat trout to the West Fork of Mudd Creek and York Gulch based on the Environmental Assessment, the lack of public comment, and benefits and risks associated with this project. I find there to be no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project. I therefore conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



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Patrick J. Flowers

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