



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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DECISION RECORD

Transfer of Westslope Cutthroat Trout from South Fork Willow and Cottonwood Creeks to Jumping Creek (Smith River Drainage)

Receiving Waters:

Name: Jumping Creek
Location: T12N, R8E, Sec 5, 8, 18
County: Meagher County

Donating Waters:

Name: Cottonwood Creek
Location: T8N, R7E, Sec 23
County: Meagher County

Name: South Fork Willow Creek
Location: T8N, R7E, Sec 1
County: Meagher County

Fish Species Proposed for Introduction: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes transferring non-hybridized westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) from South Fork Willow and Cottonwood creeks in the Castle Mountains to Jumping Creek in the Little Belt Mountains. Non-native brook trout were removed with piscicides from 3.5 miles of Jumping Creek upstream of a constructed fish barrier in 2008 and 2009 (environmental assessment 2008). For the proposed transfer, eggs would be collected from spawning WCT during spring, fertilized, and incubated to the eye-up stage prior to being outplanted in Jumping Creek. All three streams are within the Smith River Basin and located on Lewis and Clark National Forest. Transfers would continue until a genetically viable population is established, from 2 to 5 years.

Description of Public Notification/Review Process: The Environmental Assessment was put on the web on 3/3/2010. The comment period ended 4/1/2010. There was an internal review and the transfer was approved by the FWP Fish Health Committee.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received

Recommendation: Transfer westslope cutthroat trout as described in the environmental assessment.

George Licknes

11/29/2010

Regional Fisheries Manager

Date