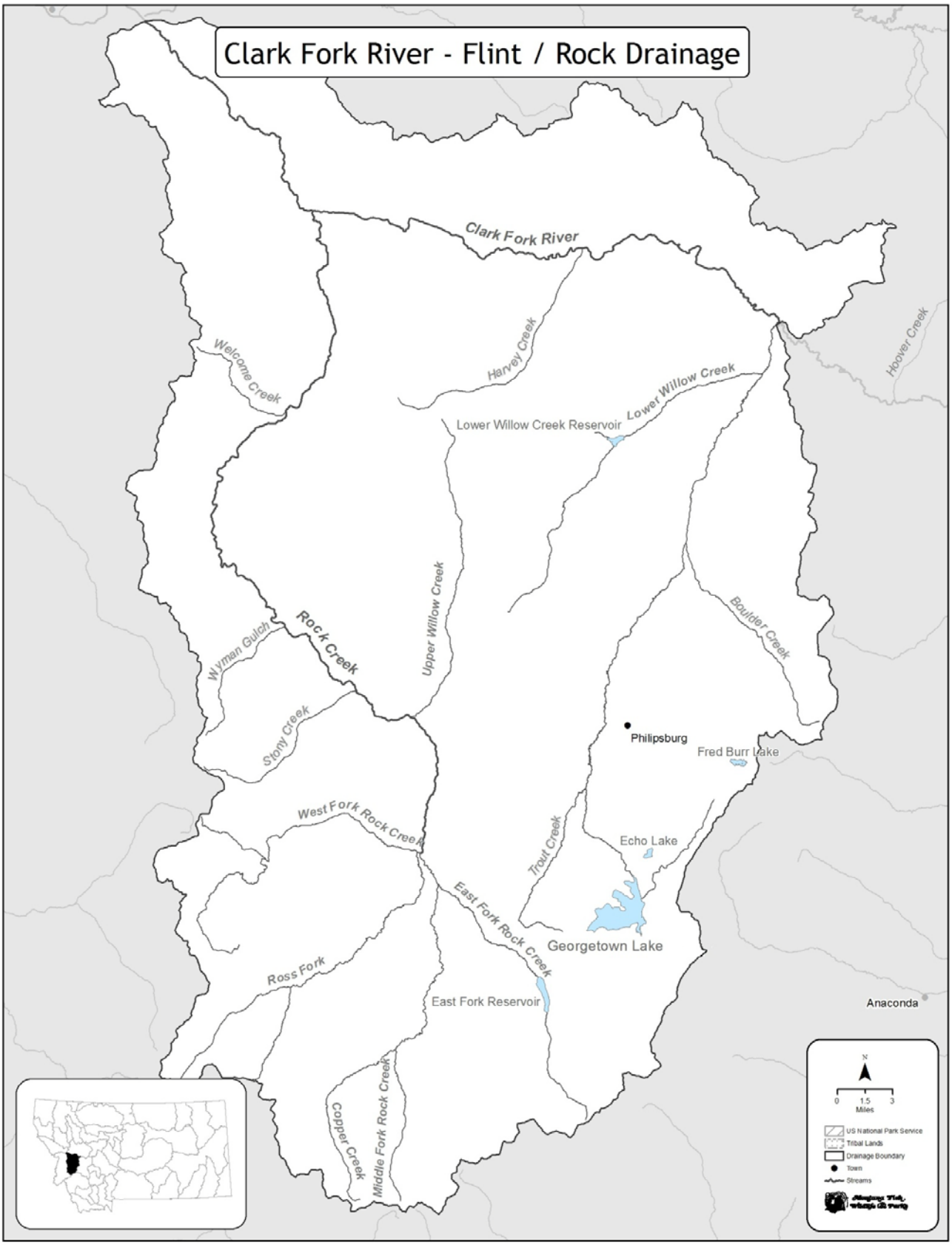
Clark Fork River - Flint / Rock Drainage
Clark Fork River
Welcome Creek
Harvey Creek
Hoover Creek
Lower Willow Creek
Lower Willow Creek Reservoir
Upper Willow Creek
Boulder Creek
Wyman Gulch
Rock Creek
Stony Creek
Philipsburg
Fred Burr Lake
West Fork Rock Creek
Trout Creek
Echo Lake
East Fork Rock Creek
Georgetown Lake
Ross Fork
East Fork Reservoir
Anaconda
Copper Creek
Middle Fork Rock Creek
N
0 1.5 3
Miles
US National Park Service
Tribal Lands
Drainage Boundary
Town
Streams

CLARK FORK RIVER FLINT/ROCK DRAINAGE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Clark Fork Flint/Rock Creek drainage includes three distinct sub-drainages: Flint Creek, Rock Creek, and the section of the Clark Fork River from its confluence with Flint Creek to its confluence with the Blackfoot River. At the mouth of Flint Creek near the town of Drummond, the Clark Fork flows through a wide valley with the surrounding lands used primarily for agriculture. A few miles downstream, the Clark Fork Valley narrows and the river in this reach is confined by the I-90 Interstate and the railroad. Below the mouth of Rock Creek near the town of Clinton, the Clark Fork Valley widens again, allowing the river to flow more freely with less impact from transportation corridors, until it reaches the mouth of the Blackfoot River.

Flint and Rock Creeks are major tributaries to the Clark Fork River. Flint Creek enters the Clark Fork River near the town of Drummond. Flint Creek Dam impounds North Fork Flint Creek and forms Georgetown Lake, a hydropower reservoir, about 9 miles south of Philipsburg. Below Flint Creek Dam, the creek flows through agricultural lands used primarily for cattle and hay production. Water diverted from Flint Creek is a major source of water used for irrigation in the drainage. Rock Creek enters the Clark Fork River approximately 5 river miles upstream of the town of Clinton and 34 river miles downstream of Drummond. The headwaters of Rock Creek begin at the Continental Divide with mainstem Rock Creek beginning at the confluence of three major tributaries: Middle Fork Rock Creek, Ross Fork Rock Creek and West Fork Rock Creek. From its headwaters, Rock Creek flows approximately 52 river miles to its confluence with the Clark Fork River. The USFS is the primary land owner in the drainage, although significant portions of the valley bottom is owned by private landowners in the upper and lower reaches of the drainage.

There are 46 natural lakes and reservoirs, totaling 4,468 surface acres, in the Flint-Rock drainage including many mountain lakes. The largest flatwater body is Georgetown Lake which impounds North Fork Flint Creek and is approximately 2,080 surface acres. East Fork Reservoir is the next largest flatwater body and impounds East Fork Rock Creek. The reservoir serves as storage for irrigators in the Flint Creek Valley. A majority of the water stored in reservoir is diverted into the Flint Creek Canal just below the reservoir and delivered to irrigators in the Flint Creek Valley via a trans-basin diversion into Trout Creek, a tributary of Flint Creek. This water is used by irrigators throughout the Flint Creek Valley, but most of the water users are located in the lower Flint Creek drainage and gain access to the water via the Allendale diversion and ditch. Mountain lakes can be found throughout the Rock Creek drainage but the majority is found in the headwaters of the drainage, including several in the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness. The Flint Creek drainage also has many mountain lakes with the highest density being in the Flint Mountain Range.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Clark Fork River

The portion of the Clark Fork River in the Flint-Rock Creek drainage has a long history of mining- related impacts associated with mining and smelting operations in the Butte and

Anaconda area. These operations negatively impacted the river's fishery resources and have led to this river being one of the more underused rivers in western Montana.

The Clark Fork River is managed as a wild trout fishery, emphasizing natural reproduction. The Upper Clark Fork is home to ten native fish species including bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish, longnose and largescale sucker, northern pikeminnow, peamouth, longnose dace, redside shiner, and sculpin (Cottus spp.). Nonnative fish species inhabiting the Upper Clark Fork include brown trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Brown trout are the primary recreational fish in the Clark Fork River downstream of Flint Creek, although westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout are also common. Information is lacking on the abundance and life histories of mountain whitefish and non-game native fishes. Efforts are needed to describe these species and monitor their trends.

Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout are at low densities in the mainstem of the Clark Fork River downstream of Flint Creek. Spawning and rearing streams for bull trout include Harvey Creek, Boulder Creek, and Rock Creek and its tributaries. Westslope cutthroat trout are found in several tributaries to this section of the Clark Fork. Densities of cutthroat are lower in the mainstem reach from Flint Creek to Bearmouth than downstream of Bearmouth. Many westslope cutthroat trout populations are found in tributaries to the Clark Fork River below Flint Creek. Some of these tributaries are physically and biologically connected to the mainstem and help with maintaining the fluvial population in the river. Others tributaries have barriers and block the return of adults to their natal streams. However, these barriers do protect the tributary populations from introgression with rainbow trout and rainbow/westslope cutthroat trout hybrids, and prevent colonization by nonnative species.

Angling occurs year-round on the Clark Fork River but is most popular in the early spring, summer and fall. Opportunities exist for both wade and float angling and while fly-fishing is the most popular form of use, artificial lures and bait fishing are also common. Beavertail Pond provides a flatwater fishing opportunity and attracts a significant amount of angling pressure. Beavertail pond is managed as a put-and-take trout fishery for kids and family fishing.

Flint Creek

Flint Creek is a major tributary to the Clark Fork River that serves as an important recreational fishery. Fishing pressure is not as high as found in other important recreational fisheries in the area including Rock Creek, Georgetown Lake and the Clark Fork River. Poor public access to much of Flint Creek is one reason for the low fishing pressure.

Flint Creek is managed as a wild trout fishery, emphasizing natural reproduction. Brown trout are the most abundant salmonid and are the primary recreational fish. Native westslope cutthroat and bull trout are present in the drainage, however bull trout are only found in the Boulder Creek drainage and mainstem Flint Creek. Westslope cutthroat trout are found in the mainstem and in many tributaries of Flint Creek. Several westslope cutthroat trout populations in the drainage are protected from hybridization with rainbow trout by fish passage barriers. The largest genetically-pure population is located in the Lower Willow Creek drainage, above Lower Willow Creek Dam. Other native fish species found in the Flint Creek Drainage include mountain whitefish, largescale and longnose suckers, northern pikeminnow, longnose dace, redside shiner, and sculpin (Cottus spp.). Nonnative fish species present in the drainage include

brown, rainbow, and brook trout. Information is lacking on the abundance and life histories of mountain whitefish and non-game native fishes. Efforts are needed to describe these species and monitor their trends.

Georgetown Lake is the largest flatwater body in this drainage and is one of the most popular trout fisheries in the state. It is managed as a put-and-grow fishery for rainbow and brook trout and as a wild kokanee salmon fishery. Georgetown Lake routinely ranks in the top 10 in Montana for angling pressure and is equally as important as both a summer and winter ice-fishing destination. Irrigation and flood control are other uses of Georgetown Lake that influence water management in this system.

Other lakes stocked in the Flint Creek drainage include Lower Boulder Lake, Stewart Lake and Echo Lake. Both Stewart and Echo Lakes can be accessed by road while Lower Boulder is a back country lake. Many other high mountain lakes in the Flint Creek drainage provide fisheries but are sustained by natural reproduction. Several other lakes in the drainage are fishless and will likely be managed as fishless in the future to provide habitat to conserve other native populations (e.g., amphibians).

Rock Creek

Rock Creek is one of twelve renowned "Blue Ribbon" rivers in Montana and is one of the state's most popular rivers for recreation. The river's exceptional fish populations and abundant public land (allowing for excellent public access), combined with its proximity to Missoula, contribute to its popularity.

Rock Creek is managed as a wild trout fishery, emphasizing natural reproduction and is also a stronghold for native bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Other native fish species found in the drainage include mountain whitefish, largescale and longnose suckers, northern pikeminnow, longnose dace, and sculpin (Cottus spp.). Nonnative fish species present in the drainage include brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, and grayling. Brown trout provide a majority of the sport fishery in the Rock Creek drainage, although westslope cutthroat are abundant in the upper mainstem and also provide an excellent fishery. Rainbow trout once provided a majority of the recreational fishery throughout the drainage until whirling disease became prevalent and their numbers decreased in the early 1990s. Rainbow trout are still abundant in the lower portion of the drainage and provide a significant recreational fishery, although their densities are much lower now than was observed before whirling disease. The decline in rainbow trout densities is even more pronounced in the upper drainage where they now make up only a small portion of the fishery. Brown trout have increased throughout the mainstem and replaced rainbow trout as the most abundant salmonid. Information is lacking on the abundance and life histories of mountain whitefish and non-game native fishes. Efforts are needed to describe these species and monitor their trends.

Bull trout are found throughout mainstem Rock Creek and comprise a large meta-population with fish moving throughout the drainage to complete their life history. This population also contributes bull trout to the Clark Fork River. Spawning and rearing tributaries are found throughout the drainage with most of the stronger populations located closer to the headwaters. The largest bull trout population in the drainage is found in East Fork Reservoir. This population is an adfluvial population that uses East Fork Rock Creek for spawning and rearing and juveniles

eventually outmigrate to the reservoir where they reside as sub-adults and adults. A large amount of spawning also occurs annually in a portion of East Fork Rock Creek routinely inundated by stored water from East Fork Reservoir. This spawning is likely a consequence of East Fork Rock Creek being intermittent approximately a half mile above the reservoir, eliminating upstream passage during summer low flow periods. The amount of recruitment that is provided to the reservoir from the inundated reach is unknown.

Westslope cutthroat trout are also found throughout the Rock Creek drainage, and similar to bull trout, are a meta-population with fish moving throughout the drainage and Clark Fork to complete their life history. Spawning and rearing tributaries are found throughout the drainage. Most tributaries in the Rock Creek drainage that maintain enough stream flow for fish to spawn and rear also sustain a westslope cutthroat trout population. Fluvial westslope cutthroat trout are found throughout the mainstem and are most abundant in the upper portion of the drainage. Rock Creek above Windlass Bridge consistently maintains high enough densities to provide an excellent recreational fishery. Westslope cutthroat trout populations in the Rock Creek drainage are well connected with very few tributaries having fish passage barriers. While this connectivity allows for gene flow between populations, very few westslope cutthroat trout populations in the drainage are protected from colonization by introduced trout and hybridization.

Angling occurs year-round and is most popular in the spring, summer and fall. Opportunities exist for both wade and float angling, although float fishing is only allowed on Rock Creek from December 1 through June 30. This regulation was put into place to allow for floating during high flows when multiple stonefly hatches are occurring, but protects wade anglers from disturbance by float anglers during low flows when most locations on Rock Creek are accessible via wading. Fly fishing is the most popular form of fishing on Rock Creek, although other artificial lures are also common. Bait fishing on Rock Creek is only allowed for anglers 14 years of age and younger.

Of the lakes and reservoirs in the Rock Creek drainage, East Fork Reservoir receives the most angling pressure. East Fork Reservoir provides an excellent put-and-grow fishery for large westslope cutthroat trout as well as a few large, wild rainbow trout. A westslope cutthroat trout stocking program was initiated for this reservoir in 2004 and has been very successful in establishing a popular recreational fishery. Other mountain lakes in this drainage provide westslope cutthroat trout fisheries, although Fuse Lake does provide a self-sustaining Arctic grayling population.

Several other lakes are stocked with fish in the Rock Creek drainage including Green Canyon Lake, Whetstone Lake and Moose Lake. Moose Lake can be accessed by road while both Green Canyon and Whetstone Lakes are back-country lakes. Many other high mountain lakes in the Rock Creek drainage provide fisheries but are sustained by natural reproduction. Several other lakes in the drainage are fishless and will likely be managed as fishless in the future to promote conservation of native aquatic communities.

HABITAT

Clark Fork River

The Upper Clark Fork Basin has a long history of human disturbance beginning in earnest in the mid 1800s when placer mining for gold began on many basin streams. By 1896, copper had become the target metal, and mining and smelting operations near the town of Butte were processing thousands of tons of copper ore per day. Mining and smelting activities in the Butte and Anaconda areas continued into the early 1980s, and while some mining activity still persists near Butte to this day, most of the operations have now been shut down and abandoned. Nevertheless, the environmental consequences of over 100 years of large scale mining activity in the Upper Clark Fork Basin have left their mark. Enormous amounts of fine material, mostly mine tailings, were released into the drainage, and were transported and deposited downstream throughout the river system. These tailings proved toxic to aquatic life and negatively altered the aquatic biological community of the upper river.

For years, the Upper Clark Fork River was considered void of fish. It wasn't until efforts were made (beginning in 1911 and later in the 1990s) to retain and stop downstream movement of a portion of the toxic tailings in the Warm Springs Treatment Pond System, that water quality improved to a level where trout could begin to re-colonize the river upstream of Missoula. By then, most of the trout in the river were rainbow and brown trout. Brown trout have been shown to have a higher tolerance to metals and degraded habitat conditions than other trout species, and is likely the reason the species dominates the current trout community in much of the Upper Clark Fork River. While trout are fairly common in the upper river today, past research has shown that trout populations are only one fifth of what would be expected without contamination from mining wastes.

The Clark Fork River from its headwaters to the former Milltown Dam site was designated a Superfund Priority site in 1986. While cleanup activities have been underway for a number of years on Silver Bow Creek near Butte as well as at Milltown Dam near Missoula, active remediation is only just beginning on the mainstem Clark Fork River. Cleanup of metals-contaminated soils along the Upper Clark Fork River is expected to improve water quality and allow for more tolerable conditions for fish and other aquatic life. The reach of the Clark Fork downstream of Rock Creek has better water quality because of the addition of water from Rock Creek.

Other factors that affect habitat quality in the Upper Clark Fork include mid-summer dewatering. Irrigation withdrawal can have severe impacts on summer stream flows in the river upstream of Deer Lodge, especially during drought years. These factors likely affect habitat conditions in the Clark Fork River below Flint Creek through the cumulative impacts of high water temperatures and poor water quality. Surprisingly, trout densities are lower in the reach from Flint Creek to the mouth of Rock Creek than are observed in the reaches above and below. It is unknown what causes this reduction. The factors that limit the fish populations in the reach are unclear. Extensive channelization from the development of I-90 and two railroads has significantly reduced sinuousity and extensively altered natural alluvial processes in this reach. These activities have significantly changed the fish habitat in this reach and may potentially impact fish populations. Trout densities do improve substantially again below the mouth of Rock Creek.

Flint Creek

Agriculture and mining have a played a significant role in the history of the Flint Creek Valley. Currently, the majority of land use in the Flint Creek drainage is agriculture with a focus on cattle and hay production. Flint Creek below the Allendale diversion is significantly dewatered during irrigation season which is likely the primary limiting factor for fish populations in the reach, particularly during drought years. Dewatering does not appear to be a major factor on Flint Creek above the Allendale diversion due to abundant water being delivered from East Fork Rock Creek into the Flint Creek drainage. Fish entrainment into diversion ditches also occurs throughout the drainage which also impacts fish populations in most reaches of Flint Creek. Other impacts of agriculture on Flint Creek include riparian grazing that reduces woody riparian vegetation and decreases channel stability. Mining has also significantly impacted fish habitat conditions in the Flint Creek Valley with several tributaries displaying mining-related habitat degradation including Lower Willow Creek, Douglas Creek (near Hall), Henderson Creek, Douglas Creek (near Philipsburg), Fred Burr Creek and North Fork Flint Creek.

Habitat conditions in Georgetown Lake are also a significant concern in the Flint Creek drainage. Georgetown Lake is a shallow, productive reservoir which allows it to produce excellent rainbow trout, brook trout and kokanee salmon fisheries. However, these factors also create conditions that can be detrimental to these fisheries. Georgetown Lake is a high elevation (6,400 ft) reservoir that maintains ice cover for an extended period of time; typically from early November through mid-May. During the winter, there is minimal diffusion of oxygen into the lake due to ice and snow cover, along with significant consumption of oxygen due to the decomposition of macrophytes and detritus along the substrate. Over the course of the winter, the combination leads to significant depletions of oxygen throughout the water column, creating poor habitat conditions for the trout and salmon in the lake. These conditions can be exacerbated if water levels are drawn down too low during the previous year's operation. Thus, water management at Georgetown Lake via Flint Creek Dam operations is critical to providing adequate water to avoid poor water quality and maintaining healthy trout and salmon fisheries.

Rock Creek

The Rock Creek drainage maintains excellent fish habitat and water quality, largely due to the extensive public land ownership in the drainage which is generally managed to provide quality fish and wildlife habitat. The upper portion of the Rock Creek drainage is largely managed for livestock ranching. Impacts to fish populations in this portion of the drainage include irrigation withdrawal and the associated entrainment of fish and also reduced riparian over-story vegetation. The middle portion of the drainage (Windlass Bridge to the mouth of Welcome Creek) is nearly entirely owned by the USFS and the habitat in this reach is in excellent condition with the main impact being a riparian road that is adjacent to the creek through much of this reach. The lower portion of Rock Creek below Welcome Creek is again primarily privately owned in the valley bottom with a majority of the land use being residential subdivisions. Temperature monitoring in the drainage indicates that water temperatures are as high at Windlass Bridge (river mile 37.5) as are observed near the mouth of the drainage (river mile 0). This indicates that impacts to the fishery that cause increased temperature are greatest in the upper portion of the drainage and improve lower in the drainage. It is suspected that the reduction in irrigation, improvement in riparian habitat conditions, and supply of cold water from

tributaries in the middle reach of the drainage improves water temperatures and overall fish habitat.

The conservation value of Rock Creek has long been recognized by FWP and the citizens of western Montana. Thus, several land conservation projects have been completed in the upper portion of the drainage, mostly in the form of conservation easements. These projects include several large ranches that provide contiguous habitat with some of the easements requiring protective management of the riparian habitat. Future projects that protect additional parcels in both upper and lower Rock Creek should be high priority, particularly if they are adjacent to existing conservation easements. FWP also has a Murphy Water Right on Rock Creek which protects a minimum base flow in the river, although it is rarely necessary to exert this right due to the private ranching acreage being relatively small in the drainage.

FISHING ACCESS

Public access on the Clark Fork River from Flint Creek to the mouth of the Blackfoot River is currently relatively good. Fishing access sites owned by FWP on the Clark Fork River are located near Drummond, Bearmouth, Beavertail, Clinton (Schwatz Creek FAS), Turah, and Bonner (Milltown Dam State Park). The Milltown Dam State Park near Bonner is currently in the developmental phase but will be open to public use in the near future. A BLM-owned fishing access site is also available to anglers near mile marker 7 on the Drummond frontage road between Drummond and Bearmouth. In addition, there are several undeveloped sites along the Clark Fork River in this reach that are currently used by anglers, but access is not guaranteed due to private ownership. Beavertail Pond is another site owned by FWP in this reach that provides access for flatwater fishing for kids and families. While public access is currently good in this reach, additional planning efforts are underway to improve access further including potential funding from the Department of Justice (Natural Resource Damage Program--NRDP) for acquisition of properties and improvements to current sites.

There are currently no FWP-owned or managed fishing access sites on Flint Creek. One access point has recently been improved by FWP through a cooperative agreement with a private landowner, but access is at the discretion of the landowner. The only other public access to Flint Creek currently is the use of public lands such MDOT and county bridge crossings, DNRC ownership, etc. FWP has initiated discussions with the local watershed group to work on improving access on Flint Creek, but very few projects have been identified. Planning efforts by the NRDP and FWP are underway to provide funding for development of accesses on Flint Creek, should the opportunity arise. Fishing access is abundant on Georgetown Lake including the Stuart Mill Fishing Access Site owned by FWP and multiple access sites owned by the USFS.

Fishing access in the Rock Creek drainage is excellent. The entire middle portion of the drainage is owned and managed by the USFS allowing for open access to anglers and recreationalists. Several fishing access sites are also present in the lower portion of the drainage including parcels of public land, developed fishing access sites and multiple access points via the Rock Creek Road right-of-way. Overall, very few stretches of the lower and middle reaches of Rock Creek are inaccessible to anglers willing to hike and wade. Access to Upper Rock Creek is somewhat more difficult due to the extensive private land ownership. However, FWP has recently leased one site in this reach and is in the process of developing another site for public access. Public

land in-holdings and conservation easements negotiated to allow public access also provide access for anglers to the upper drainage.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Social Conflicts on Rock Creek

The primary social conflict present in Rock Creek is float fishing. Several residents in upper Rock Creek would like to see float fishing either more regulated or shifted to other parts of the drainage. Some wade anglers also support either limiting or eliminating float fishing in Rock Creek due to floaters making it difficult to wade fish. The current regulations which limits float fishing from December 1- June 30 prevents a majority of the conflict between wade anglers and float anglers, as most floaters are using the river during high flows when it is difficult to wade. Nonetheless, there will always be some parties that are dissatisfied with floating on Rock Creek.

Fishing derbies have occasionally been proposed on Georgetown Lake and consistently opposed by sportsman's groups and lake homeowners for the past couple of decades. Typically the only proponent of these contests has been the applicant. FWP proposes that derbies no longer be allowed on Georgetown Lake.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR CLARK FORK RIVER - FLINT/ROCK DRAINAGE

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Clark Fork River (Flint Creek Mouth-Blackfoot River Mouth) and Tributaries	52 miles	Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation/ Special Regulations	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance migratory populations for conservation. Enhance catch-and-release westslope cutthroat trout fishery.
		Brown trout, Rainbow trout	Wild	Quality/ Special Regulations	Manage harvest to support quality (1000 trout/mile) angling opportunity.
		Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain liberal harvest limits to support native species goals by reducing competition and hybridization.
Habitat needs and activities: Continue efforts to clean up mining contamination in upper portion of the drainage. Enhance in-stream flows where possible and improve riparian habitat and grazing management where appropriate. Protect and improve habitat quality in spawning and rearing areas to enhance natural recruitment of wild and native trout. Gain a better understanding of factors limiting trout populations in reach between the mouth of Flint Creek and the mouth of Rock Creek.					
Flint Creek	41 miles	Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance fluvial populations of WCT for conservation and angling.
		Rainbow trout, Brown trout,	Wild	Quality	Manage trout harvest to support quality angling opportunity.
		Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain liberal harvest limits to support native species goals by reducing numbers and competition and hybridization.
Habitat needs and activities: Enhance in-stream flows below Allendale Diversion. Reduce fish entrainment particularly below the mouth of Boulder Creek. Improve riparian habitat and grazing management throughout the drainage.					
Georgetown Lake	2,080 acres	Rainbow trout	Wild/ Hatchery	Put-Grow-Take	Manage trout harvest and stocking to support quality angling and liberal harvest opportunity.
		Brook trout	Wild	Quality/ Put-Grow-Take /Special Regulations	Maintain current natural reproduction and supplement with hatchery fish to provide adequate fish densities for anglers. Implement harvest limits and stocking rates that provide for quality sized fish.

Continued on next page

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
		Kokanee salmon	Wild	Special Regulations	Maintain liberal harvest limits to attain quality sized fish and high angler catch rates.
		All species	N/A	N/A	Prohibit fishing contests to reduce social conflicts with other anglers.
Habitat needs and activities: Continue to work with dam operators to maintain sufficient over-winter pool elevations and improve other dam operations to minimize the impact chronic low winter dissolved oxygen levels have on fish populations.					
Boulder Creek	14 miles	Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance migratory and resident populations of WCT for conservation and angling.
		Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Allow liberal harvest to reduce numbers and lessen hybridization and competition with native trout. Consider other options to reduce numbers if options would increase native trout density and angling opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Minimize entrainment of fish into diversion ditches in the lower portion of the drainage and improve riparian habitat conditions where appropriate.					
Flint Creek Tributaries- Other than Boulder Creek	36 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation	Enhance populations for conservation. Maintain isolation of WCT populations protected by barriers to upstream fish passage if habitat and numbers are sufficient to allow persistence. Maintain connectivity to streams currently connected to allow for maintenance of migratory life histories and mainstem angling opportunities.
		Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain liberal harvest and consider measures that reduce their abundance in reaches protected by a barrier or in reaches considered native species strongholds. Enhance rainbow and brown trout populations that provide recruitment to Flint Creek or the Clark Fork River and are not located in reaches with abundant native trout
Habitat needs and activities: Improve riparian habitat conditions and reduce fish entrainment particularly in reaches that maintain native trout populations or important migratory non-native trout populations. Improve in-stream flows in reaches that are currently dewatered and support clean-up efforts in drainages with mining impacts.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Harvey Creek	15 miles	Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance migratory and resident life histories for conservation and westslope cutthroat trout angling. Maintain barrier to protect populations from invasion by brown trout and rainbow trout.
		Rainbow trout, Brown trout	Wild	General	Allow liberal harvest. Consider other options to reduce numbers if options would increase native species numbers and angling opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Continue to improve riparian habitat via grazing management. Reduce entrainment of outmigrating fish and potentially implement selective upstream fish passage for bull trout at the barrier near the mouth.					
East Fork Reservoir and East Fork Rock Creek above Reservoir	370 acres and 5 miles	Bull trout	Wild	Conservation	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout and enhance adfluvial populations for conservation.
		Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild/ Hatchery	Put-Grow-Take/ Quality	Manage for harvest opportunity of quality sized fish. Evaluate stocking to determine return to creel and assess expansion of population in upstream tributaries
		Rainbow trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Allow liberal harvest. Consider other options to reduce numbers if options would increase native trout density and angling opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Work to maintain minimum reservoir levels to improve overwinter habitat conditions and reduce entrainment of bull trout through the dam. Assess improving surface water flow in East Fork Rock Creek above East Fork Reservoir to improve access for bull trout to upstream spawning habitat, should feasible methods arise.					
East Fork Rock Creek- Below East Fork Dam	8 miles	Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance fluvial and resident populations for conservation.
		Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Allow liberal harvest. Consider other options to reduce numbers if options would increase native trout density and WCT angling opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Reduce native fish entrainment by screening the Flint Creek Main Canal. Improve habitat conditions below the reservoir by improving in-stream flows and maintaining periodic flushing flows. Improve riparian habitat and reduce entrainment of native fish where appropriate.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Rock Creek	62 miles	Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation/ Special Regulations	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance fluvial populations of WCT for conservation and angling.
		Rainbow trout	Wild	Quality/Special Regulations	Maintain catch-and-release regulations in attempt to improve numbers while recognizing that whirling disease is likely the primary limiting factor.
		Brown trout	Wild	Special Regulations	Maintain liberal harvest regulations to allow for harvest opportunity and reduce numbers to lessen competition with and predation on native trout.
Habitat needs and activities: Continue efforts to protect private lands via conservation easements and land acquisition. Improve riparian habitat and grazing management in drainage where appropriate. Reduce entrainment of native and wild fish into irrigation ditches.					
Rock Creek Tributaries		Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation	Continue yearlong closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance fluvial and resident populations of WCT for conservation and angling.
		Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Allow liberal harvest. Consider other options to reduce numbers if options would increase native trout density and WCT angling opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Improve riparian habitat where appropriate and reduce entrainment of native fish where necessary.					
Tributaries to the Clark Fork River (Other Than Harvey Creek, Flint Creek and Rock Creek)		Westslope cutthroat trout	Wild	Conservation	Enhance migratory and resident populations for conservation and angling. Maintain isolation of populations protected by barriers if habitat and fish abundance are sufficient to allow persistence. Maintain connectivity to streams currently connected to allow for migratory life histories and mainstem angling.
		Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain liberal harvest and consider measures that reduce their abundance in reaches protected by a barrier or in reaches considered native species strongholds. Enhance rainbow and brown trout populations that provide recruitment to the Clark Fork River and are not located in reaches with abundant native trout.

Continued on next page

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Habitat needs and activities: Improve degraded riparian habitat particularly in stream reaches where native salmonids are present. Reduce fish entrainment particularly at locations where native fish are routinely entrained.					