



MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

August 10, 2019

To whom it may concern,

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is seeking comments on an Environmental Assessment to restore native Westslope Cutthroat Trout by removing non-native Brook, Brown, and hybrid Rainbow x Cutthroat Trout from Selway Creek. Comments on the proposed environmental assessment will be used to make a final decision on whether to proceed with the project as planned.

Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT), Montana's state fish, has declined by 96% in the Upper Missouri River basin. The single largest threat to the long-term persistence of WCT is non-native trout. Following non-native trout removal, WCT would be rebounded by translocating aboriginal, genetically unaltered fish from up to eight populations in the Red Rock and Beaverhead sub-basins for up to five years. To provide angling opportunities while the population is being re-established, sterile triploid catchable-size WCT would be stocked in Selway Meadows for one to three years immediately following removal of non-native fish.

Restoration of WCT to over 30 miles of the Selway Creek drainage would create a population of over 20,000 individuals and almost double the present distribution of genetically unaltered WCT in the Red Rock sub-basin.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is requesting public input and comments on the proposed project by September 9th, 2019. If you have any written comments regarding the proposed project, please mail them to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, c/o Selway Creek Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration, 1400 S. 19th Ave. Bozeman, MT 59718 or email fwprg3ea@mt.gov. If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please call the regional office at (406) 994-4042.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Mark Deleray
Regional Supervisor