Montana's Uncommon Critters!

Westslope Cutthroat Trout

This is Montana's official state fish. Its name comes from the orange-colored slash beneath its jaw. Although it is called westslope, it actually lives on both the east and west sides of the Rocky Mountains. This trout lives in cold, clean rivers and streams. The main threat to the westslope cutthroat is damage to its coldwater habitat. Also, this species can be overfished, because it gobbles up bait, lures, and flies. Another concern is that cutthroats breed with rainbow trout, creating "mongrel" fish instead of purebred cutthroats.

WHY THEY'RE REALLY CALLED CUTTHROATS...