From: Austin Markus James <austinmarkusjames@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 4:52 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject:Comment Submission: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and GuideAttachments:Comments_UpperMissouriRiverChapter_State_Mgt_Plan_W_Feb14Supp.pdf

Please see attached PDF comment supplemental submission on the Draft Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide on behalf of the Upper Missouri River Chapter of Montana Walleyes Unlimited.

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Austin Markus James, J.D.

From: eyecrankeyes@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 4:27 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

MISSOURI RIVER? DEARBORN DRAINAGE

CHANGE: Under ?Fisheries Management? page 242; The beginning of the 2nd paragraph should read, ?In fall 2017, rainbow trout in the Craig section were estimated at 4,936 per mile representing a 45% increase over the current long-term 36-year average of 3,394 per mile. This estimate represents a decline from the peak estimate in 2012 of 7,312 rainbows per mile, which at the time resulted in a 130% increase over the average of 3,036 per mile. The 2017 sampling event represents the seventh consecutive year of above average rainbow trout population estimates in the Craig section. Brown trout 10 inches or greater??

REASON: Rather than just mentioning the peak, define it. After all, it was the state of the fishery when the current plan for walleye suppression was proposed and implemented under the guise of protecting the wild trout. Not only does this do a better job of highlighting the absurdity of the suppression policy then but lends credibility for arguments against the proposed suppression plan now.

CHANGE: Under ?Fisheries Management? page 242, 3rd paragraph amend, ?increased densities of walleye,? to, ?increased densities of trout.?

REASON: Large trout, especially browns, eat small trout and what salmonid can resist a good spawn sack or twenty, right? Over the last 19 years, FWP electro fishing results from above Cascade yielded an average of 11285 trout and 86 walleye per year. Given the actual numbers and the sampled estimates it is clear to see that the significant overabundance of trout, not walleye, are the greatest non-angler/environmental threat to their population. CHANGE: Under ?Fisheries Management? page 242; amend the end of the 3rd paragraph to read, ??from Holter Dam to Cascade in 2011 in an effort to reduce the numbers of walleye anglers and their boats by legalizing the extinction of a department recognized and managed gamefish from the system.?

REASON: There is no logical reason in this case to ?protect wild trout fisheries? through the elimination of an established gamefish. It?s hard to justify that decades of walleye predation have had such a detrimental effect on trout that it caused their population to more than double before the commission enacted the suppression policy in the current plan to protect the trout. Given seven consecutive years of overabundance and a current population that is over 45% of the long-term average, the policy of ?suppression? is unjust to say the least. Time to acknowledge that the real reason behind the suppression policy was an underhanded way to rid that water of walleye anglers and their boats. CHANGE: Under ?Fisheries Management? page 243 1st paragraph; the department must first publicly cite the source for

CHANGE: Under ?Fisheries Management? page 243 1st paragraph; the department must first publicly cite the source for \$66.6 million-dollar figure then subsequently remove all references to the economic impact of angling in this stretch of river.

REASON: I quickly perused through the whole MSFMP&G and this was the only section that contained economic statistics purporting the vast economic impact of this fishery. Presumably, the statistics listed are only meant to bolster an industry that has sought to claim that water for themselves. Their actions are meant to rid multispecies Montana anglers from that area while robbing complementary Montana businesses of their share of that alleged revenue. Uncited, we can assume that the guides and outfitters supplied that figure. We can also assume that the vast majority of that alleged \$66.6 million dollars generated between Holter and Cascade is solely collected and kept by the guides and outfitters in that area. They essentially provide their clients with all the equipment rental, tackle sales, food and lodging needed for the duration of their stay. They pocket their fees for their ?valued? services while they covet and pilfer our resources. The sole use of non-durable goods to calculate this number seems convenient as well. It?s the guides that own the durable goods used in this stretch and sell the non-durable goods to their clients.

If this figure remains then the entire plan must include the benefits all anglers provide to businesses throughout the state. Much of this is money distributed by Montanans to Montanans, money that keeps Montanans employed statewide. The department would then have to determine the real impact that viable multispecies fisheries have on regional economies across the state. That includes durable goods as well because most are purchased and maintained

within this state throughout their entire usable life. Their value is not only significantly greater initially, but also has meaningful long-term impacts on the state?s economy.

CHANGE: In APPENDIX A, MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIES OR GROUPS OF SPECIES, page 486 under Walleye, remove the following statement, ?The range and abundance of walleye has increased in recent years in the Missouri River between Holter Dam and Great Falls,?

REASON: The range has always been defined since 1918 by Black Eagle and Holter dams and the current statewide management plan of suppression has ensured that it is patently false. If your sampled walleye numbers in this stretch, annually averaging just over 2 walleye per river mile in the last 19 years, is worthy of discussion on a statewide basis then your management of walleye in the rest of the state would best be described as what?

In the ?FISHERIES Management Direction for the Missouri River ? Dearborn Drainage pages 245-247 amend as follows; For the stretch of river from Holter to the Cascade Bridge;

CHANGE: Rainbows and Browns management should be listed as ?General?

REASON: Controlling the trout population with general limits will bring numbers closer to the long-term average while improving the overall fishery by reducing the chances of disease and improving the overall catchable size.

CHANGE: Rainbows and Browns ?Management priority is to?? should be removed.

REASON: It is the only place in the plan that uses this verbiage. Further evidence of the department?s pandering to the bug and vermin that claim 35 miles of river for themselves. Native trout managed under a conservation approach in other parts of this plan aren?t a directed priority so why are non-native bows and browns listed as such here? CHANGE: Under Rainbows and Browns management direction define, ??within range observed since 1982 and with a sustainable portion of larger fish??

REASON: Maintaining trout populations within the range observed in the last 36 years is not a management direction. Define the real value for the health of the population and maintain it to a median or mode to better meet management objectives. Define the ratio of larger fish and the desired size as well.

CHANGE: Reword Management Direction for Mountain Whitefish, page 242

REASON: ?Historically, mountain whitefish have not been monitored due to logistical constraints with sampling. However, anglers have reported catching reduced numbers of mountain whitefish in recent years.? The direction is undefined because you haven?t collected data to determine the population range of this native fish. Collect the data immediately and define it.

CHANGE: For all walleye management from Holter to Black Eagle Dam, change the management types to ?General? and management directions to, ?Maintain sustainable population at historic average and manage the fishery for trophy potential.?

REASON: The justification for suppression in both the current and proposed plans was baseless. The current management direction has done nothing to protect wild trout fishery nor does it reflect the value or importance a sustainable walleye fishery has to resident anglers. It is widely recognized as a trophy fishery and must be managed as such.

From: Conard, Ben <ben_conard@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 3:31 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Cc: Williams, Martha; Ryce, Eileen; Jodi Bush; Dan Brewer; George Jordan; Greg Neudecker;

Paul Santavy; James Boyd

Subject: USFWS comments on FWP Montana Statewide Fisheries Management Program and

Guide

Attachments: 20190215_LTR_Bush_Williams_comments_FWP Fish Mgmt Program and Guide.pdf

On behalf of the USFWS Montana Project Leaders, please accept our comments on FWP's Montana Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide. Thank you.

Ben Conard, Deputy Office Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Montana Ecological Services Office 780 Creston Hatchery Road Kalispell, MT 59901 phone: (406) 758-6882

From: askerr98@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 4:36 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Since trout stocking in Canyon Ferry has been cut way back, regulations need to be changed to catch and release only in Canyon Ferry and in the Missouri above Canyon Ferry for several years until the populations are recovered. Stocking needs to be returned to previous levels as soon as possible. In addition the illegally introduced walleye and pike need to be eradicated.

From: Spaulding, Scott -FS <scottspaulding@fs.fed.us>

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 2:00 PM

To: Wedde, Kim

Cc: FWP Fishing; Ryce, Eileen; Savage, Christopher S -FS; Swiader, Jennifer E -FS; Thomas,

Cameron - FS; Hagengruber, John -FS

Subject: RE: FWP - Statewide fish mgt plan

Attachments: CommentStateFishMngmtPlan_R1_Forest_Service_19_27.docx;

FederalWildlifeFreyfogleGobleChapter10.pdf

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Eileen and Kim. Thanks so much for the extension to our request for more time.

Attached our the comments that are mainly from our Westside bios and myself, synthesized as best I could. I did not get input from the East of the Continental Divide bio and I ran out of review time.

The Chapter attached is from

Goble, D.D. and E.T. Freyfogle. 2009. Wildlife Law: A primer. Island Press.

Thanks so much.

Scott.

Scott Spaulding Regional Fisheries Program Manager

Forest Service Northern Region (R1)

p: 406-329-3287

scottspaulding@fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service Northern Regional Office Bld. 26 Fort Missoula Rd. Missoula, MT 59804

www.fs.fed.us

Caring for the land and serving people

From: Wedde, Kim [mailto:Kim.Wedde@mt.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 3:42 PM

To: Spaulding, Scott -FS <scottspaulding@fs.fed.us>

Subject: RE: FWP - Statewide fish mgt plan

Good afternoon Scott,

In an effort to accommodate our federal agency partners, the deadline for public comment on the Statewide Fisheries Program & Guide has been extended to February 15, 2019.

Thank you, Kim

Kim Wedde

Administrative Assistant
Fisheries Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701 Ph: (406) 444-5594

Montana FWP | Montana State Parks | Montana Outdoors Magazine













Begin forwarded message:

From: "Spaulding, Scott -FS" <<u>scottspaulding@fs.fed.us</u>>

Date: January 31, 2019 at 8:58:04 AM MST

To: "Ryce, Eileen" < < ERyce@mt.gov >

Cc: "Hagengruber, John -FS" < !hagengruber@fs.fed.us, "Roberts, Eric" < ERoberts@mt.gov>

Subject: RE: FWP - Statewide fish mgt plan

Thx!

Scott Spaulding Regional Fisheries Program Manager

Forest Service Northern Region (R1)

p: 406-329-3287 scottspaulding@fs.fed.us USDA Forest Service Northern Regional Office Bld. 26 Fort Missoula Rd. Missoula, MT 59804



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Ryce, Eileen [mailto:ERyce@mt.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:34 PM

To: Spaulding, Scott -FS < scottspaulding@fs.fed.us>

Cc: Hagengruber, John -FS < ihagengruber@fs.fed.us>; Roberts, Eric < ERoberts@mt.gov>

Subject: RE: FWP - Statewide fish mgt plan

Scott,

We got a similar request from the USFWS, Eric and I will talk about it when we are in Billings together later in the week. We will let you know by Friday.

From: Spaulding, Scott -FS < scottspaulding@fs.fed.us>

Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:23 PM

To: Ryce, Eileen < ERyce@mt.gov>

Cc: Hagengruber, John -FS < ihagengruber@fs.fed.us>; Roberts, Eric < ERoberts@mt.gov>

Subject: RE: FWP - Statewide fish mgt plan

Thx Eileen. Hoping to not get furloughed again but you never know. I would say no at that point. In some ways if we don't get an extension we can keep our comments more generic and be done with it. Most of comments will focus on nonnatives, ESA listed fish, maybe with some area specific focus.

Scott Spaulding Regional Fisheries Program Manager

Forest Service Northern Region (R1)

p: 406-329-3287

scottspaulding@fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service Northern Regional Office Bld. 26 Fort Missoula Rd. Missoula, MT 59804

www.fs.fed.us

Caring for the land and serving people

From: Ryce, Eileen [mailto:ERyce@mt.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:17 PM

To: Spaulding, Scott -FS <scottspaulding@fs.fed.us>

Cc: Hagengruber, John -FS < <u>ihagengruber@fs.fed.us</u>>; Roberts, Eric < <u>ERoberts@mt.gov</u>>

Subject: RE: FWP - Statewide fish mgt plan

Hi Scott,

We have already extended the deadline once because of complaints about us having it open for comment over the Christmas break.. If extending it wouldn't screw with our schedule for Commission meetings then I'd say it would be fine. But, Eric would have to weigh in on that. We will get you an answer by the end of the week. Eileen.

PS. If you get furloughed again would you ask for another extension??

From: Spaulding, Scott -FS < scottspaulding@fs.fed.us>

Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:03 PM

To: Ryce, Eileen < ERyce@mt.gov>

Cc: Hagengruber, John -FS < jhagengruber@fs.fed.us>

Subject: FWP - Statewide fish mgt plan

Hey Eileen. As you know we "Feddies" are just getting back in the saddle after the furlough, with much to attend to.

One item on my calendar that looms is Feb 4 comments to the State on the plan.

Any way we could get a week or two week extension to get FS bios to look at their areas of responsibility and provide with feedback to include in our regional response?

Thx. Hope you are well.

S

Scott Spaulding Regional Fisheries Program Manager

Forest Service Northern Region (R1)

p: 406-329-3287 scottspaulding@fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service Northern Regional Office

Bld. 26 Fort Missoula Rd. Missoula, MT 59804

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From: matt_montana@yahoo.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 1:17 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

FWP needs to make the Walleye Native to Montana based off of newer scientific evidence then what they are basing them not being native to. They need to contact American Fisheries Society and talk to the scientists that proved Walleyes are Native to Montana and stop fighting so hard against the walleye. Everything FWP does with about walleye in bias and negative that needs to change. The no limits on walleye below holter dam on the river needs to change. The no possession limit on walleye below holter dam needs to change to a reasonable amount 5 walleye. Tiber Fresno and Francis need to be managed better the numbers of walleyes per net there are down. 3 year running average on walleye in the gill nets and other fish needs to change. FWP needs to look into the mirror and really think about what they are doing because whats happening in western Montana with Walleyes is gross criminal bias and prejudice toward another species and should be against the law and the fisheries division management and biologist should be held accountable and should lose there jobs.

From: jwcb309@yahoo.com

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 12:29 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I suggest that genetically pure populations of cutthroat trout that meet that definition be salvaged prior to rotenone treatment and replaced back into those waterways. After all, if the goal is to protect genetically pure cutthroat trout, then protection of the resident fish should be important instead of just stocking cutthroat trout from a hatchery. Research has shown that salmonoids within certain streams have distinctive genetic markers unique to those streams. An example is Soda Butte Creek. It should not have taken comments from the public for MT FWP (and YNP, WY F&G) to salvage the resident fish, MT FWP should have had that in their initial plan.

From: jim_mogen@fws.gov

Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 10:25 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

In reference to Table 1 on page 7...

Brown Trout do not and have NEVER existed in the St. Mary drainage (ecoregion).

The nearest Brown Trout population is found to the east in Duck Lake, which has no outlet and lies within the N.Fork Milk River basin (Blackfeet Reservation).

Brown Trout have never been introduced to the St. Mary drainage.

From: klkwinterbell@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 2:49 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye is not native and should never be classified as so. We do not want to risk the chance of losing or lowering the Trout population and if Walleye is classified as native it is a definite possibility. Please do not classify Walleye as native. Thank you, Kara Campbell

From: mmortensenfish@hotmail.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 10:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

No walleye below Holter!!!!

From: tcampbell2@mtech.edu

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 9:38 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I wish Montana would do more to manage for non-native species. I LOVE fishing for smallmouth bass and walleye. I would like to see more done to expand their habitat in Montana. I am an angler living in Butte and I do 80% of my fishing up in the Noxon area because of the warm water species living there. Any place that can support these fish should be a high priority. Trout can live almost anywhere in Western MT, but only a few places have bass/walleye.

From: Donotreply@jostens.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 8:39 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do not list walleye as Native anywhere in the state of Montana

From: marktinsky@q.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 6:19 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye are not naive to the Mo river watershed. Please do nothing to encourage growth, in fact I think you should put a bounty on them. Well maybe that s a little extreme.... Maybe a free booklet of Walleye recipes with each fishing liscense. Mark Tinsky

From: Austin Markus James <austinmarkusjames@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 4:42 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Comment Submission: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Attachments: Comments_UpperMissouriRiverChapter_State_Mgt_Plan.pdf

Please see attached pdf comment submission on the Draft Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide.

--

Austin Markus James, J.D.

From: castrainer@hotmail.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 3:00 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Dear FWP,

I want to express my deep concern to change the status, and as a result, the management of Walleye in Montana. I think it is a bad idea to reclassify Walleye as a "native" species in areas where they have been scientifically shown to be non-native and in some areas, even illegally introduced. This is especially true for the Walleye that are now in the Missouri River system below Holter Dam. This is undoubtably one of the finest wild trout fisheries in the nation and many people, businesses, communities and the state at large benefit from this amazing fishery -socially, culturally and certainly economically. I know this first hand as I have a 26 year old business that is supported primarily by this fishery and I employ over 14 full-time Staff members every year and many more independent contractors as Guides each year. I realize that Rainbow and Brown Trout are non-native as well but I think we would all agree that they are very well established in this river system and trying to switch this fishery back to purely native Cutthroat Trout would be foolish both socially and economically. It's even more foolish to risk this fishery by managing Walleye as a native species or anything other than full suppression in the MO below Holter. That would be devastating to the economy. Please base your management decision on the skillful men and women in the Department that have dedicated their lives through advanced degrees and ongoing studies to maintain the health of the fisheries and improve the habitats in these river and lake ecosystems. It is much wiser to base management on peer-reviewed research rather than emotions or which group lobbies the most or loudest or has the most political connections.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me out and the many others that have a great love for these fisheries. We are all called to be good stewards of these amazing places and are truly blessed to have them right in our "back yard." So please be wise in your decision making as it will have an impact for years to come and many generations in the future. A Very Concerned Angler and Citizen,

Chris Strainer Craig, Montana 406-439-0550

From: dustinmuhly@yahoo.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 1:37 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I would like to see more spearing opportunities for pike. The lower Clark fork and flathead would benifit from pike reduction I would think. Also some spearing for Perch. It seems like they are non native and the general idea is to lower their populations.

From: Mphodek@yahoo.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 12:48 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

As a long time Montana fishing outfitter I would like to see more emphasis placed on the removal of invasive species beyond the scope of mussels and aquatic vegetation. There are many waterways containing transplanted or invasive pike, walleye, perch, and lake trout in western Montana. As an avid free dive spear fisherman I would like to see Montana expand its regulations regarding spear fishing in the western district and follow suit with many western states that have benefited from spear fisherman removal of invasive species.

A mandatory kill mandate for the bitterroot river would also be a good common sense start to addressing the rampant pike population.

Thank you, Mark Hodek MT Outfitter #9950

From: trouthawk@hotmail.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 12:38 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello, please consider increasing opportunities to spearfish pike in more locations as well as other non native species especially yellow perch and bass. Spearfishing can provide recreation and concurrent non-native species management. This is becoming more common in Hawaii and other places. Wherever your guide suggests reducing populations please open up spearing options. We have a very good look at what we catch and abide by the same limits as others. We often operate with size restrictions without issue. Thank you for your consideration. Keith Stockmann

From: bryce@tru-mt.com

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 12:18 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Alec Underwood <alec@mtwf.org> Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 8:33 AM

FWP Fishing To:

Subject: Comments on Statewide Fisheries management Program and Guide

Attachments: MWF Comments- Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide.pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached comments from the Montana Wildlife Federation on the Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Alec Underwood

Alec Underwood

Western Field Representative Montana Wildlife Federation P.O. Box 1175 Helena, MT 59624 office: (406) 458-0227 cell: (406) 303-0494

alec@mtwf.org

www.montanawildlife.org

From: MTWalleyeLLC@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2019 2:44 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF MONTANA WALLEYE FISHERIES. 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Avista Corporation jointly funded this report. The authors wish to acknowledge the following MFWP staff who contributed data and other information for waters in Chapter 1 of this document: Steve Dalbey, Ken Frazer, Heath Headley, Cody Nagel, Eric Roberts, Mike Ruggles, Ron Spoon, Adam Strainer, and Dave Yerk. MFWP staff who wrote and provided reviews of Chapter 2 were Don Skaar, Bruce Rich, Joel Tohtz, Mark Deleray, Ryan Kreiner, Grant Grisak, Eileen Ryce and Mike Backes. External review of the final draft was provided by Avista Corporation (Paul Kusinerz, Eric Oldenburg) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Wade Fredenberg).

It is written in this document that:

?The original version of this report was prepared in 1989 by independent consultants Peter Colby and Chris Hunter. Dr. Colby is widely regarded as a foremost authority on the Walleye.?

Also, the citations listed in this document include the 2011 American Fisheries Society publication:

Barton, B. A., and T. P. Barry. 2011. Reproduction and environmental biology. Pages 199?232 in B. A. Barton, editor. Biology, management, and culture of Walleye and Sauger. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.

So, two things stand out to me.

One, Eric Roberts and Eileen Ryce who have stated they were not aware of the American Fisheries Society publication and what it says seems pretty odd, when they were contributing authors to a study published in 2016 that used the AFS report as a basis. It is hard to understand all the FWP staff who were involved with this, yet none of them ever brought forward the AFS publication or information it provided.

Two, that even in their own document above they recognize Peter Colby as a ?foremost authority on the Walleye? yet when they evaluate the American Fisheries Society report they discredit the research, evaluation, analysis and documented determination of the native range of walleye, where Dr. Peter Colby was one of the reviewers and a contributor?..apparently he is no longer an authority on walleye.

Apparently, our Fisheries Chief has more expertise, is more competent and capable than any of the Fisheries Division staff from British Columbia and Alberta who both had conducted extensive research and documented the native range of walleye in North America the same as the American Fisheries Society people that included some 25 reviewers across the US and Canada and 28 contributors.

Note: Peter Colby is cited as a reviewer and contributor for the AFS document.

So is:

Brian L. Sloss (Chapters 3 and 4): U.S. Geological Survey, Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin? Stevens Point, 800 Reserve Street, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481, USA

I was told there was not one single person who was involved with the AFS document that questioned the research, evaluation and analysis and determination on the native range of walleye.

So why is the Montana FWP so opposed and willing to discredit those findings?

The synopsis of what was presented to the MT Chapter of the American Fisheries Society February 1st at their annual meeting in Billings by Eric Roberts stated the FWP would not change the non-native status of Walleye in Montana. I have never seen anything of the publication cited in the synopsis presented to the MT Chapter Of AFS in Billings Friday Feb 1st. .?..by Eric Roberts, specifically (Fuller and Neilson 2019). They apparently are employees of the US Geological Survey entity. I believe they had published an earlier document about non-indigenes species for the USGS where they did not show walleye native to Montana and actually documented the first specimen in 1933. Yet (Gould 1995) documented a known presence of Walleye in Nelson Reservoir in 1922, yet speculates they were not native but were brought in by some unknown person prior to that date.

The USGS Fact sheet does acknowledge walleye were stocked in 1933 and apparently that is where their first documented specimen came from. Why have they chosen to ignore the findings from 1922? And why have they ignored the research, evaluation and analysis of the American Fisheries Society and the Canadian Fisheries Divisions?

Obviously, I am very disappointed by the actions and efforts by our Montana Fisheries staff to discredit and invalidate what has been done by the Fisheries Divisions from two Canadian Providences as well as the American Fisheries Society organization.

Apparently the reference by (Gould 1995) of a known presence in 1922 prior to any know introduction is not an acceptable fact or for some reasons has been ignored.

It would seem that the scientific and biological data that is now available and significantly advanced with genetics and DNA that it is the best information now available and it has been widely accepted by nationally recognized experts across the US and Canada.....but MT Fisheries staff can ignore it. Something is wrong.

Apparently, our Fisheries staff in Helena have a very negative bias against Walleyes.

When I go back and look at every management action taken in central Montana since 2010, every decision and action taken has been to suppress walleye numbers.

- 1. 2011 No limit on Walleyes below Holter Dam
- 2. 2011 Increased limits on walleye from Cascade to Great Falls to 20 per day
- 3. 2012 Cutting the stocking in half on Lake Frances
- 4. 2014 Increased limits to 10 daily and removal of the slot limit on Holter with only 1 over 25?
- 5. 2014 Increased limits to 12 daily and removal of slot with only 1 over 25? on Canyon Ferry
- 6. 2018 Increased limits to 20 fish, only 1 over 20? on Canyon Ferry

Even with significant declines in walleye numbers and multiple requests for changes to try and help to preserve, protect, or sustain some of our fisheries in central Montana, the FWP has done nothing that would be beneficial to walleye.

In only one instance would the change in limits been somewhat justified? they needed to reduce the numbers at Canyon Ferry after seeing the netting results in 2017. But, I still don?t concur with how this was done.

Although it is a separate issue, in 2013 we saw the perch numbers at Holter explode to over 66 per net so the FWP

raised the daily limit to 50 with no possession limit and we have now seen those numbers drop to 7 per net in 2018, yet FWP refused to do anything and are continuing with the 50 fish daily and no possession limit. They say since the current management plan says they will not reduce limits until they get a 3 year running average of less than 10 per net?.they won?t do anything.

So I am opposed to 10 year management plans that are followed regardless of changes and don?t allow timely, logical changes to sustain our fisheries. We have a long history of FWP staff refusing to do anything except follow what is written in stone in one of their plans.

I am opposed to the plan that does not recognize the native range of Walleyes as documented by multiple fisheries divisions and the American Fisheries Society.

In 2019, now they have even refused to do the ?pines for perch? project at Tiber even though most of the expense and labor has always been covered by WU volunteers.

I would certainly hope actions like the non-native issue and refusing to complete the ?pines for perch? at Tiber is not a form of retaliation for being challenged or criticized. It sure sends the message that doing what could be done to help is not much of a priority.

From: garrett@montanafishingoutfitters.com **Sent:** Sunday, February 03, 2019 1:19 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

As a Missouri River based fishing guide and outfitter, I run a business and hire many independent fishing guides with the focus on flyfishing for wild trout. I fear that altering the focus of our fish populations in this watershed could be catastrophic for our wild trout fishery that is not only a source for recreation for many local and out of area anglers, but also for the livelihoods of hundreds of fishing guides and outfitters like myself.

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Lucky <lgsultz@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 9:02 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Statewide Management Program & Guide Draft Comments

Attachments: 2019 Fisheries Plan Chapter Comments.docx

Attention Fisheries Division

Attached please find comments on the Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide Draft from the Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

LaVerne Sultz lucky@flatheadtu.org

FVTU Conservation Chair

From: Pieske, Shawna on behalf of FWP Commission

Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 8:56 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: FW: Walleye Management

Attachments: WalleyeLetter.pdf

From: Marita Valencia [mailto:marita922valencia@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 4:15 PM **To:** FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Cc: 'Mike and Blanche' <bmchap@midrivers.com>

Subject: Walleye Management

Members of Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Please find attached comments from the Snowy Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SMTU) on walleye management for Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide, and Upper Missouri River Reservoir Management Plan.

Thank you for your attention.

Michael Chapman President, SMTU

From: gfgabefitch8@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 9:35 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: dstuver@midrivers.com

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 6:59 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

First, I totally support the comments made by MT TU and TU chapters. The acceptance of illegally planted walleye in Canyon Ferry was a sad mistake, and encouraged additional illegal plants. Walleye advocates have told me that both walleye and trout can co-exist, then becoming outraged when I suggested that in fairness if this were to be so in Canyon Ferry, they should pay the extra cost of \$120,000 per year (and rising) of planting trout large enough to survive. The fisheries they threaten bring far more money into the area as renowned trout fisheries, especially the remarkable river area below Holter dam. Walleye clearly are not a native fish and backdoor efforts to gain additional habitat by improperly designating them as such will only add to the damage done to existing successful fisheries.

From: olivia.kettenring@umconnect.umt.edu <olivia.kettenring@umconnect.umt.edu>

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 5:07 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: kettenringolivia@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 5:07 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Dan Brewer <dan_brewer@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 12:18 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: comments of the Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) would like to request a two week extension to the comment period. As you are aware many agencies within the federal government have been closed for several weeks including large parts of the Service. As a result the Service is working through a backlog of requests and other work load issues. The Service believes that this is an important issues that deserves further attention. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks

Dan Brewer U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services 3255 Fort Missoula Road Missoula, Montana 59804 Office: (406)329-3951

www.fws.gov/montanafieldoffice/

From: dan@goldeneaglehelena.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:49 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The management of Walleye below Holter dam needs to remain as is. Adding Walleye as a native fish is a big mistakethey are not native. This section of the Missouri below Holter Dam is a valuable resource for the state and needs to remain a trout fishery. If Walleye's Unlimited had their way Walleye would be in every body of water in the state.

From: MT_TroutCO@msn.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 5:17 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please maintain walleye suppression from Holter to Cascade to ensure the world class quality Trout fishing the Missuori currently provides. The Missouri River gives back to the state of MT economically due to high number anglers traveling to the incredible fishery. These folks support tourism dollars by spending on outfitters, gas lodging, retail, food and anything else thy might need on their trip. Thanks!

From: boesdp@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 3:17 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: WMFLONG@MSN.COM

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 3:17 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I see no reason to treat walleye other than what they are, an illegally introduced species on our waterways.

From: efkring@outlook.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 2:38 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Dear FWP,

I am a sixty year old fisherman. I have been fishing the Holter Lake area and the Missouri River below the lake for about 55 years. In all the years of my youth we just didn't see any walleye. They are clearly not a native fish and the species should be suppressed. It is my humble opinion that the walleye was, more likely than not, introduced to Holter Lake by bucket biologists. The native trout fishery in Holter has been undermined for many years by the introduction of the walleye.

I agree with the current position of trout unlimited, which is below.

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy."

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in maintaining this trout fishery.

Sincerely, Eric F. Kettenring

From: kris@krismcleanlaw.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 12:26 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: tyson.allen.mclean@gmail.com **Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:53 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Jkrunnalls@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:16 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do NOT include the walleye as a native Montana fish species as that would do considerable damage to the wonderful trout population we now have on the Missouri River.

From: Habuchler@yahoo.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:13 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Buchler@sbcglobal.net

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 11:11 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: jgrant4774@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 10:48 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I fish the Dearborn which is a tributary of the Missouri below Holter Dam. This is a premier trout fishery. I would hate to see it ruined by allowing walleyes below Holter that would impact the trout in the Dearborn.

There are plenty of walleyes in Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter already. Don't ruin any more trout waters by allowing the introduction of walleyes.

From: jgrant@jmgm.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 10:43 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Pieske, Shawna on behalf of FWP Commission

Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 3:06 PM

To: Daniel Vermillion - FWP (dan@sweetwatertravel.com); Logan Brower; Rich Stuker; Shane

Colton; Tim Aldrich (Cartim8@gmail.com)

Cc: FWP Fishing

Subject: FW: Fish Mangement Plan Comments

Attachments: fmp letter.docx

From: Sharon [mailto:sigetman@aol.com] Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 2:27 PM

To: Ryce, Eileen <ERyce@mt.gov>; Roberts, Eric <ERoberts@mt.gov>; FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: Fish Mangement Plan Comments

All,

Please find attached my comments on the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan and Guide and Upper Missouri River Reservoirs Management Plan.

Mike Getman

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: bkbahr@q.com

Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 2:37 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

In the State Wide Fisheries Management Program Guid Part 1 Introduction and purpose it states " the FWP Fisheries Division preservers maintaines and enhances aquatic species and their ecosystems TO MEET THE PUBLIC DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITES AND STEWARDSHIP OF AQUATIC WILDLIFE." I fail to see where this was acomplished in the last 10 years in Central and Western MT in regards to our request for better Walleye fishing. We have seen what stocking of walleye can do for a body of water in Fresno Reservoior. We have seen what the lack of and reduction has done to Lake Francis Reservoior. Walleye Fisherman have begged for Stocking of Walleye in Tiber Reservoir only to be refused by FWP. Walleye fisherman do not just fish walleye for the enjoyment of fishing but walleye is one of the best eating fresh water fish in North America. Please enhance our walleye fishing opportunities as your Fishery Management Plan States that you will. I am Joe Public and this is what I would like to see happen.

Thanks for your consideration

Bob Bahr 404 Van Buren Great Falls Mt 59404

From: A day in Yellowstone <haydenvalley55@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 11:39 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Montana Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Attachments: Larry Peterman-fish in Turners diversion.doc; Commercial rafting on the Gallatin

River.doc; FWP fisheries.doc

Please let me know these were received in an email.

Thanks,

Dale L. Martin

From: tedhawn@outlook.com

Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 2:54 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

A major issue on Montana rivers, especially the "blue ribbon" streams like the Missouri below Holter, the Madison, and others is the proliferation of outfitters on the water. It's had a real negative impact on fishing opportunity and the enjoyment of spending time on the streams. While I understand that Outfitters and Guides do have a role they provide, there needs to be limit in the number of days they should be allowed on the water. There also should be a limit to the number of Outfitters and Guides that are allowed to operate. The commercialization of fishing should not be an acceptable use that overshadows the average citizen's opportunity to spend some time on the river. I hope that this issue is addressed in the near future, because the longer it goes on the more difficult it will be to take action. That would be unwise, as the resource will be impacted and the average fisherman/woman will likely reduce or possibly quit fishing altogether because it is no longer enjoyable.

From: roger@furlong.org

Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2019 10:50 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

This not a form letter, I am a strong supporter of controlling non-native species in Montana waters. As a regular user of the fishing resources, I strongly support the efforts to control walleye and other non-native species as stated in the comments below:

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Roger Furlong

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Thughes@bresnan.net

Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2019 2:13 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Public comment sought for open water fishing contests proposed for

open water 2019

I support adding Money to support higher funding for stocking rates in Hauaer Holter and Canyon Ferry reservoirs. Higher license fee is acceptable.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Public comment sought for open water fishing contests proposed for open water 2019' Public Notice Web Page.

From: brokenarrowbgsky@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2019 7:57 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

FWP needs to reconsider their fisheries management of Canyon Ferry and the upper Missouri river system. This area was better managed in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Since then poor management has led to poor quality fishery. The liberal walleye limits need to be lowered and other management practices put into place to increase the quality. This area was once a quality trout, walleye and yellow perch fishery and can be again with proper management.

From: Troy_running@yahoo.com

Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 8:25 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Mundelj@yahoo.com <Mundelj@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 9:58 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye are just a native to Montana as sauger. There are no stop signs or dams to keep walleye spawning below dam. Yet there's a limit on planted rainbow on the upper Missouri river it none on walleye. Really not hard to figure out. Trout's unlimited is bending fwp disicions with \$\$\$\$. As President Trump would say you all need to be fired and hire unbias and coman sence employees

From: BHOLLISTER@MT.NET

Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 12:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Long range planning is good as long as it is used as a guide only. The fishing can and does change due to weather, environmental conditions, and fishing pressure. I feel in the past fishing triggers have been improperly enforced causing a decline in fish populations. The Mt. FWP needs to stay on top of changing conditions and change triggers to accomidate the various fisheries for quality and quanity of fish.

From: tramprichard@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:15 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The only item on the plan that would like to see is East of the continental divide that walleye is a native fish. Other states on this side of the divide have excepted the fact walleye are a native fish and should managed as such. The other item is how FWP is managing our fishery with the three year average and the triggers. It is hurting our fishery drastically. It seems the FWP does not want any happy fisherman. "It is sad" Case and point is Canyon Ferry. You can be on CF for six hours and not catch a fish. It is very hard to get kids excited about fishing. We need to changed what we are doing. Another thought is use biology as a tool and not all we know.

Thank you; Richard Tramp

From: MtWalleyeLLC@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 7:49 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Draft Management Plan for 2109 - 2027 as proposed has several issue I have commented on prior to this.

But I felt it was worthwhile expressing one other concern. That is doing a plan that then is put in place through 2027 that based on historical review would appear to put in place something that they will follow without any consideration to any changes that may take place during the period of the plan.

When other plans were done, we worked hard to ensure language was incorporated in the plan that it would be "adaptive" and allow for changes during the period of the plan. What we have seen from history is that the department has never done anything considering significant changes during the plan to adapt...they simolynhave followed a plan because it was what had been approved and implemented.

Seeing how they have managed the perch explosion in Holter in 2013 and seeing how they failed to do anything different than what has been spelled out in a management plan and allowing the fishery to crash is a prime example.

For this reason a plan for the next 9 years should not be approved and implemented. Something that allows for more timely changes as may be warranted should be put in place.

The overall lack of good management of the central Montana fisheries since 2011 is again a good reason to not allow this to be approved as is.

I have been asking for data on the fall gill netting at Lake Frances and Tiber for the past 90 days and the information has not been made available to date. This is public information that should have been made available as requested.

From: Dave Pederson <dave.pederson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 11:39 PM

To: FWP Fishing **Subject:** Walleye status

To whom it may concern -

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana's waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide's the Department's classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy.

Thank you.

-Dave

From: Bond, Jennifer

Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 2:48 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: FW: Walleyes & Trout

----Original Message-----

From: Campbell, Tyler <TJCampbell@mt.gov> Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 2:48 PM To: Bond, Jennifer <jebond@mt.gov> Subject: FW: Walleyes & Trout

Hi Jenn:

Can you please forward these comments about the Missouri River Management Plans to the appropriate people? Thank you!

Tyler J. Campbell Citizens' Advocate Governor Steve Bullock tjcampbell@mt.gov

406-444-5524

----Original Message-----

From: Kalkofen, Jim & Marsha <nisspak@brainerd.net>

Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:14 PM To: Campbell, Tyler <TJCampbell@mt.gov>

Subject: Walleyes & Trout

Dear Governor and FWP Commission Members, Thank you for examining the issue of walleyes and trout in the Missouri River Reservoirs. I am one of those guys who chases both species. I love wading, drift fishing, boat fishing and even shore fishing. I have been chasing trout and walleyes for more than 60 years throughout North America.

I feel a lesson could be learned from the FWP recent action to cease suppression of walleyes in Noxon Reservoir. The official "word" is that FWP will allow anglers to manage and control walleyes by hook and line. That is a breath of fresh air in this part of the world.

I feel very strongly that is the course of action that should be implemented in the reservoirs being discussed. For instance, the claim by my trout fishing friends is that walleyes will eat trout.

Well, so do squawfish. Young of the year trout probably fill perch bellies from time to time. My feeling is so what?

The state knows about and urges anglers to catch and keep northern pike in the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers. Anglers are in charge on these systems. And, the trout fishing is great; perhaps better than ever. The assumption is that pike eat trout. If that is the case, they are co-existing just fine. Walleyes and trout will do the same on the Missouri River impoundments.

From my boat seat, please STOP walleye suppression. Let 'em live!

Thank you for listening. Jim Kalkofen, PO Box 722, Stevensville, MT 59870.

PS: I fish Holter for trout and walleyes several times each season. I also drift for trout near Craig often.

From: FWP General

Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:15 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: FW: Walleye stocking of Missouri river at Wolfcreek below the dam

----Original Message-----

From: Austin McGuan <magoo3189@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 1:03 PM To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Walleye stocking of Missouri river at Wolfcreek below the dam

Begin forwarded message:

- > I come to Mt. at least once a year to flyfish the Mo for its electrifying trout- and a friend and I have been doing so for the past twenty years. Each year we each buy an annual out of state license plus the trout fees. We stay a week at a local establishment and mostly eat our meals at local restaurants. It all adds up.
- > There is already walleye fishing above the dam.
- > What reward could possibly warrant risking the fantastic and income producing trout fishery? None must be the answer!
- > Thank you,
- > Austin McGuan

From: designer1528@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 9:04 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Mandistandley.mt@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 8:41 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: dtakeoka@msn.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 9:43 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

To Montana FWP,

As a person who travels several times a year to fish for trout in Montana, I support your current policy to suppress walleye populations in the Missouri River in the region about and above Holter Dam. My understanding is, walleye are an invasive species to the 'upper' Missouri River and are a predator to small trout.

Thank you, Don Takeoka

From: nborzak@msn.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 5:55 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

keep the walleye out of the MO

From: mewhur@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 5:25 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Missouri River is a world class trout fishery. I fly out from Pennsylvania for the privilege of fishing your beautiful river. It would be a shame to ruin a great trout fishery to promote walleye. There are great places to pursue walleye. The Missouri is special as is. Let?s protect it.

From: Mtwalleyellc@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 3:51 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Pretty sad to see a "call for action" by Trout Unlimited organizations requesting members to respond to the Statewide Plan and providing erroneous/false information to their members. They state in their call for action that Walleyes are "illegally introduced" and non-native. Walleyes are not illegally introduced to the Missouri River. In fact the FWP website documents walleye being stocked in the Missouri River in 1933 and 1934 as well as in Lake Helena in the early 1950's. They were also stocked in Hauser Reservoir in the 1980's as I recall.

So any comments from TU members who have relied on false information would not have much merit in my opinion.

It is very disappointing to say the least that people provide false information whether intentional or not to try to gain support.

They also go on and attempt to suggest only trout fisherman ever travel and spend money in Montana. How ridiculous. Maybe the department needs to do an Economic Impact Study that considers how much the typical walleye angler spends on rods, reels, tackle, boats, electronics, and travel in comparison.

From: daletimmons@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 12:13 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hi. I Travel from Calgary, Alberta to fly fish on the Missouri below Holter dam three trips a year. Each trip I bring two friends and spend about \$1,000/person. THAY ADDS UP TO APPROXIMATELY \$9,000/YEAR. You currently have a fantastic trout fishery below Holter Dam. It has been that way since I first visited the Missouri in 1986. Please don't jeopardize the trout fishery with any Walleye enhancement program.

From: peskirooney@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 11:48 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

- 1. table of contents page 11 chart there is plenty of documentation on fact walleye are a native species and should be listed as so.
- 2. section 1 page 18 Need BETTER THAN 4 YEAR REGULATIONS TO PROPERLY MANAGE SPECIES. Examples are Lake Francis walleye and Holter Perch. on Holter many anglers wer taking hundreds of perch and now the perch fishery is awful, not only for harvest but food source for larger fish are effected. We need to react quicker.
- 3. Page 18 Aquatic insects should be priority but since no documented found in Montana at this time the majority of the protections should be tour state lines with 24/7 monitoring and done properly. i have fished in the east and inspection on my boat was very poorly done.
- 4. page 33 Angler Survey I have lived here all my life and have never in my recollection ever received a survey.
- 5. Page 59 Walleye should be changed to native species for sure east of the divide
 The information in this plan should be changed on Walleye and what constitutes a decent consumable size etc. I believe
 a walleye below 14 in is not worth the effort. Decent eater fish should be considered 14 to 19" size with 20--25 being a
 quality fish and 25 and up considered trophy class. Take Canyon Ferry as and Example, look at the data 80% were under
 13" How awful management has been. I live in White Sulphur Springs and it is a shame i have to travel much farther to
 get a quality fishery.
- 6. Part II -d Upper Missouri Holter to Cascade bridge. Walleye should be managed as a native species and proper slot limits should be in place. Management of this section has been based on economics and not biological date. Your own data shows not effect on trout who are a non native fish anyway. Note Many trout guides now fish for walleye for themselves and some for clients.
- 7. Page 265 Walleye are native to much of Montana should have limits accordingly
- 8. Page 268 Chart shows Suppression of Walleye from Holter to Cascade bridge and the suppression is based on economics not biological data. Suppression of Walleye should be removed and management changed to native fish.
- 9. Same comments on the Craig to Black Eagle Dam.
- 10. Page 280 Walleye should be listed and managed as native fish

From: flyfish.wolff@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 6:47 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I am fully opposed to the introduction of any non-native species to any of Montana?s waters specifically the Missouri River below Holter Dam. Let me explain my position.

For the past 12 years I have made no less than two (2) week long trips per year from PA to Montana and specifically to the famous Missouri River tail-water below Holter Dam to fish for wild trout. In many years I make three (3) trips to the Missouri River below Holter to fish for wild trout.

One each trip:

- 1. I rent a vehicle
- 2. Buy gas
- 3. I stay in local hotels
- 4. I employee local trout guide on each trip
- 5. Eat in local restaurants
- 6. Buy dry goods from local fly shops
- 7. Buy souvenirs from MT for family members back in PA
- 8. Bring other people out and we
- a. Visit other attractions around the state
- b. Stay in Hotels etc in other parts of the state.

Over these many years I believe that I have happily contributed close to a quarter of a million dollars \$\$\$\$ to Montana?s economy in an effort to catch the Missouri River?s famous ?wild trout? and I know that I am not alone.

I firm ally believe that the Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to the local economy. Thank you.?

From: jgore712@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 6:03 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: MICHAEL ENK <trouter@q.com>
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 1:39 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject:Statewide Management Program and GuideAttachments:FWP SMPG Comments.docx; ATT00001.htm

I was unable to submit my comments on the FWP webpage so I have attached them below. Please confirm receipt and readability of this document.

Thank you.

Michael Enk trouter@q.com

From: gldntrout@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2019 7:30 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: terri_h86@yahoo.com

Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2019 5:11 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. The Missouri River and in particular, the area below Holter Dam down through the canyon, is highly sought after as a wild trout fishery. Altering the management of walleye from anything other than complete and full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you for your consideration!

From: swedemt17@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2019 12:56 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Dryflies@gmail.com <Dryflies@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2019 12:36 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do not listen to the loud minority of troglodytes who think that fwp should wave some magic wand and make walleye a ?native? fish. These exotic invasives might taste good but for they health of our fisheries there should be a mandatory kill on every walleye caught in Montana.

From: existential_@hotmail.com

Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2019 11:42 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should continue the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Further, I support the suppression of walleye in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross the globe to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River. Changing the management of walleye from full suppression, would place unnecessary risk on this world class fishery. A fishery that brings millions of dollars to Montana's economy. Thank you.

From: dabuchler@yahoo.com

Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2019 7:27 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do not alter the current management status of walleye in the Missouri River below Holter Dam other than suppression.

From: Lee.olson@yahoo.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 7:53 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I believe the native walleye should get more support in the Missouri River system especially in holter lake and river below the dam. Too much focus is on trout. We should be working to create fisheries that support both fish.

From: fishermantrev@hotmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 6:24 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do not change walleye management below Holter Dam. The trout fishing is excellent and managing walleye differently could jeopardize that.

From: sara1990mt@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 4:53 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please, please carefully weight the consequences of releasing this invasive species into a river that is not only a cornerstone of Montana recreation but is a fishery that boosts the economy to surrounding communities. It is completely unnecessary to consider allowing these fish into the river beneath the dam due to the fact that once released could have irrevocable and unsavory results. Pleae keep our resources as much intact as possible and prevent the release of anymore invasive species. Thanks for your consideration.

From: Bobcat71er@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 4:50 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Do not encourage more Walleye below Holter Dam. You will ruin the best Trout fishing in Montana.

From: scottymcneil@mac.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 3:56 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye are probably not native to Montana. The management plan for the Missouri below Holter should focus on the non-native species that generate tourism and FWP revenue dollars (trout)!

From: bill.perrill@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 2:06 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleyes are not native fish to Montana! I support peer-reviewed science that guide's the Department's classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. I support full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam.

Thank you for the public comment opportunity

William Perrill

From: bwiche@bresnan.net

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 2:00 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Sirs: I would like to comment on the Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide. I'm concerned about the possibility of reclassifying walleye east of the continental divide as a native species. As a retired fisheries biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, I know that sauger were native in the larger rivers in eastern Montana and Wyoming, but walleye definitely were not native in these streams. As you know, it's important to manage fisheries (as much as possible) based on science rather than whims of the public or political pressure - the long term results will be much better for the fish and general fishing public. Walleye are a great sport fish and wonderful eating, but in Montana, they should be managed as a non-native species, which they are. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Bill Wichers Hamilton, MT

From: kfountain001@yahoo.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 1:35 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: lmaetzold@bresnan.net

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 12:13 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

If it ain't broke don't fix it. please don't mess with the Walleye status in Missouri River drainage. The Mo is too cool to mess with.

CHARLIE MAETZOLD WHITEFISH MT

From: hromasko@yahoo.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 12:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

reguarding planting and regulating walleye in the Missouri river. The Missouri below Hauser and Holter is a trout fishers heaven. Turning it over to the walleye fishers would destroy the best fishing experience in the state. People don't come to montana to fish for walleye. There is too many walleye already in the lakes. Add the walleye fishers to the river and look at the congestion on an alredy over crowed river. Leave it alone please.

From: joecardenas92@hotmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 11:55 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Canyon Ferry Reservoir - Restore previous stocking numbers of rainbow trout. The fishing quality and numbers are noticeably affected downwardly. If not, place more focus on improving the walleye fishery. If funding is a problem, suggest a trout stamp, reservoir stamp or just a general increase in license fees. To fund the invasive species effort, charge the most likely challenges, i.e., the boat owners for a registration tag. In Canyon Ferry, extend the 200' no wake zone to ALL boat docks and vessels, as is the rule in Western waters.

From: Colters32@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 11:16 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: r51ms@aol.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 10:17 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

please do not change current management of walleyes on the Missouri river systems. we do not need more walleye eating our trout fry on a blue ribbon fishery. thank you.

From: mjearl@mindspring.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 10:07 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: jkirkuvm@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 9:27 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Lancekresge@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 9:11 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The new scientific information on the range of Walleye, showing that they are native East of the continental divide in Montana, needs to be addressed before the state management plan can be approved. This plan needs to be put on hold until the native status of walleye is determined. Also the management goals bellow Holter Dam need to be based on science not politics.

From: gilly.billhart@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 8:40 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Amd2723@aol.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 8:28 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Doug@flytreks.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 8:15 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: longspeer1@charter.net

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 7:37 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please keep the regulations as they are. There are tons of places to fish for walleye but only a scant few rivers were wild trout are available.

From: Montanaonthefly@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 7:29 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do not allow the introduction or furthering of the walleye population on the MissouriRiver specifically that area below Holter Dam

From: Jrsimbari@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 7:21 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello. My father has been coming to the Missouri River to fly fish for trout for twenty years. He has shown me what a rewarding sport fly fishing for trout is and I have now been traveling from NY to the Missouri River with him and some friends for the last 5 years. We love the trout fishery. Walleye below the Holter damn will decimate the trout population and change the water forever. We travel to you great state and spend our hard earned money to fish the water we have come to love. Please please please do not allow walleye to become labeled a native species. They absolutely kill trout populations.

From: Jrs7473@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 7:20 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello. My father has been coming to the Missouri River to fly fish for trout for twenty years. He has shown me what a rewarding sport fly fishing for trout is and I have now been traveling from NY to the Missouri River with him and some friends for the last 5 years. We love the trout fishery. Walleye below the Holter damn will decimate the trout population and change the water forever. We travel to you great state and spend our hard earned money to fish the water we have come to love. Please please please do not allow walleye to become labeled a native species. They absolutely kill trout populations.

From: livedead420@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:32 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

No walleye below Holter dam! Keep them in the lake where they belong! Lots of people depend on the trout fishing below Holter to make a living!

From: ynpbcguide@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:31 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

No walleye below Holter Dam! The Missouri below Holter is one of the greatest wild trout fisheries on earth and brings millions into the local economy! Keep the walleye in the lakes above!

From: todd.tanner@mac.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:18 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I've been fishing the Missouri river between Holter Dam and Cascade for almost 30 years. I believe that Montana's Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guides the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People come from all over the world to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River. I drive down from Bigfork on a regular basis to fly fish the river for trout. Altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to the local economy.

Todd Tanner 178 Wolf Creek Ranch Road Bigfork, MT 59911

From: Dillonmartini@yahoo.com <Dillonmartini@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:52 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: cdchristensen923@gmail.com **Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 7:54 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please support the peer-reviewed science that supports keeping Walleye above Holter dam! Keep the wonderful Trout habitat safe from this predator!!

From: Lydwal521@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 7:38 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Savstrom@aol.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 7:34 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

No Walleye!

The Walleye is a non native species and should be treated as such!

The Missouri River is a magnet for the Montana economy. People travel to our state just to enjoy one of the finest trout fisheries in the world. Tourist dollars flow into our state, many because of the magnificent trout fishery the Missouri River offers. Don't be swayed to ruin that by helping the non native Walleye!

From: j-stocker@hotmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 6:58 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: mfg@montanaflygoods.com **Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 6:56 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: dmwillia@earthlink.net

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 6:50 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy.

From: armandajoy1@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 6:24 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support designating walleye a native fish of Montana."

From: mtnescape76@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 5:27 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Michael@troutdogs.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 5:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do NOT alter current fish practices below Holter Dam. It is a unique, world class fishery visited by Anglers from around the globe. I live in Seattle and fish a week in the spring and fall every season. The idea of increasing non native walleye in the 35/40 miles of prime trout water below Holter Dam is ludicrous. It would be an ecological nightmare. Michael Hamilton

206.914.4290 Troutdogs.com

From: briandforbes@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 4:55 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

No walleye in the Missouri drainage that would diminish the trout below Holter dam.

From: Tsimbari@twcny.rr.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 4:36 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Do NOT alter the current management status of walleye in the Missouri below Holter Dam as anything other than ?suppression for this non native species.

From: evan.phillippe@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 3:45 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

This comment is in regards to walleye management on the lower Missouri River below Holter Dam. As a full time guide of 16 years, I rely on the tremendous trout fishery the Missouri River provides for my clients, many of whom travel great distances and spend thousands of dollars every year to fish this world-renowned river. The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

Evan Phillippe Missoula, MT

From: chase.cline22@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 2:40 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

As a trout fisherman and Helena resident I urge the Montana FWP to maintain the current Walleye management strategy of "suppression" in the waters of the Missouri river downstream from Holter dam. Keep the Walley in the lakes where they belong and out of Montana's blue ribbon trout rivers.

From: trvsbradford@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 2:38 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: sandyvolkmann@gmail.com **Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 2:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support designating walleye a native fish of Montana

From: jhenderson1123@gmail.com **Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 1:59 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: t.r.tubbs@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 1:45 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Page 4-5. In my opinion the walleye is native to Montana and not introduced.

Page 17-18. Four years is too long for setting fishing regulation policies. A process should be incorporated to review bodies of water as needed to sustain a healthy fishery should an unexpected issue come up.

Missouri River - Dearborn Drainage: Page 245. Missouri River - Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge. The harvest limit for walleye should be the same as Holter reservoir. Currently the "No Limit" on walleye is just wrong.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

From: johnrincker1@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 12:26 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana's waterways.

From: tripsfishing@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 12:25 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, not walleye. Altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Merek@adams.net

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 12:24 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Missouri River is a Blue Ribbon trout stream one of the best in North America. It needs to be a Trout River first and foremost, not a walleye River.

From: Tonyshurna@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 12:13 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Dear Sirs,

I travel from Chicago to flyfish for trou in the great state of Montana.

When I fish for large walleye I go to Minnesota.

Your plan to stock walleye which would compete with the beautiful trout in your rivers Holton Dam on the Missouri would definitely impact my fishing plans.

Thanks

Tony Shurna

From: billyzobel@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 12:02 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do not interfere and add walleyes to a wonderful trout environment like our MO above or below holter dam

From: mmm7409@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 11:56 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you. Michael Miller

From: Onthehatch@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 11:21 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

This is regarding the current managment plan for the missouri below holter dam. You guys really need to suppress the walleye because they are just like pike and they will win everytime... As you know the walleye go after the roe just as much as the fingerlings which makes this a double threat... They are not native to the area and they are not sought after nearly as trout. This debate is dangerous and montanans waterways are seriously under threat from warm water species especially pike and walleye. The missoula waterways alone plus waterways across the state are plagued by pike and there has been a decline in the trout fishing especially in the clarck fork due to this being one of the factors. Please do not destroy the missouri due to politics and popularity. This beautiful fishery and the people who call it home and make a living from it. Thank you.

From: toolman990@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 11:01 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: bradley.p.hansen@aggiemail.usu.edu

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:51 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

On Thursday June 13th 1805 while camped at the Great Falls of the Missouri Meriwether Lewis Recorded: ?On my return I found the party at camp; they had butchered the buffaloe (sic) and brought in some more meat as I had directed. Goodrich had caught half a douzen (sic) very fine trout and a number of both species of the white fish. These trout [caught at the Great Falls of the Missouri] are from sixteen to twenty three inches in length? and have specks of a deep black instead of the red, and have generally a small dash of red on each side behind the front ventral fins; the flesh is of a pale yellowish red, or when in good order, of a rose red.?

Of course, these were the native cutthroat of the upper Missouri. While the native cutthroat no longer inhabits much of its native range, we are still lucky enough to catch 23 inch trout regularly on the Missouri River below Holter Dam and in the reservoirs. This amazing trout fishery is a result of a sustained catch and release ethic, and good resource management on the part of FWP. The trout fishery on the upper Missouri draws over 170,000 angler days annually and contributes over \$30 million to the local economy.

Without proper management as a coldwater fishery, this amazing resource could diminish or be lost. I encourage FWP to consider the following when updating the Upper Missouri Fisheries Management Plan:

First: The Missouri Below Holter draws anglers from around the world who are interested in catching trout. Any changes to the management plan, including changes to catch limits for walleye or other warm water species below Holter Dam, that may negatively affect the trout fishery, need to be fully vetted.

Second: I encourage FWP to consider the long term effects of classifying an illegally introduced species as ?native.? I have no issue with warm water species angling, however, I don?t think FWP should reward illegal introductions by giving the species ?native? status, and managing the fishery for the benefit of the illegally introduced fish. This may encourage illegal introductions in other coldwater fisheries across the state.

Third: I encourage FWP to consider the effects of climate change on the upper Missouri River. As average annual water temps in the state continue to rise, I encourage FWP to protect coldwater fisheries where possible, and support warm water fisheries where appropriate.

Thank You.

From: kelseya.b@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:47 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello, FWP. "I do not support designating walleye a native fish of Montana." Thanks, B T Nielsen

From: jrwdogs@hotmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:45 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleyes have no place in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. They are a non-native, illegally planted fish that need to stay in the lake. The Missouri is a great trout fishery, LEAVE IT THAT WAY!!!! I drive 7 hours to fish the Missouri. I have friends that come from Chicago. The Missouri is a gold mine for Montana!!!! IT A NO BRAINER, NO WALLEYE IN THE MISSOURI.

I read on page 240 of the Montana Management Program & Guide that walleye could have an adverse effect on the trout population in the Missouri River. So you need to follow your Management Program and keep walleyes out of the MO>

From: jrwdogs@hotmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:45 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleyes have no place in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. They are a non-native, illegally planted fish that need to stay in the lake. The Missouri is a great trout fishery, LEAVE IT THAT WAY!!!! I drive 7 hours to fish the Missouri. I have friends that come from Chicago. The Missouri is a gold mine for Montana!!!! IT A NO BRAINER, NO WALLEYE IN THE MISSOURI.

I read on page 240 of the Montana Management Program & Guide that walleye could have an adverse effect on the trout population in the Missouri River. So you need to follow your Management Program and keep walleyes out of the MO>

From: artsonneland@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:43 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I travel from Wisconsin every summer to fish trout in the Missouri River near Craig. I am very concerned about the plan to stock walleyes below Holter dam. I believe this will adversely affect the trout fishing and my desire to come to Montana to fish the Missour. I have a number of friends who feel the same. Thanks

From: toveyj1@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:38 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: gregotto1@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:29 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please keep the Missouri River below Holter Dam a trout fishery. No more walleye.

From: laasherin@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:26 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please uphold the the current status of walleye in the Missouri river below Holter Dam, they were illegally-introduced are not native and should be managed under "suppression" only guidlines.

Thank you

From: ajaxx87@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:19 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I hope that FWP does not change to status of Walley from non-native to native in the new management plan. I feel the science clearly states that Walley are not a native species in Montana. They present a risk to the stellar trout fishing in the Missouri River whish should be mitigated if at all possible. I think anything other than suppression of Walley in the Missouri river is a mistake and could compromise this valuable resource and its related tourism industry.

Thankyou

Alex Hibala

From: sebarrette@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 10:18 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: ricsmith@century21bigsky.com
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:53 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

FWP

Thank you for the opportunity to comment., I support the science backed mgmt plan that Walleye are a non native species, do not alter the mgmt plan.

Fisheries management should be based on science not popular vote.

As far as Walleye fishing opportunities should be closer anglers from all over the county and world come to Montana for our trout fisheries. Montana has trout fisheries that are known though out the world, from what I can tell FWP understands their obligation to protect this trout fishery. Thank you. Ric Smith

From: dylancpowell@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:48 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

??The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: jeffbuszmann@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:38 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support making a walleye a native species. Unless I too can be considered a native fish species, my great great grandparents moved to MT in 1906!

From: hilaryhonadel@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:19 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: keviecamp@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:18 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: themattcamp@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:18 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: kristianhonadel@icloud.com **Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 9:17 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: sikiq4me@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:10 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

http://fwp.mt.gov/fwpDoc.html?id=88609

From: jkuipers@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 9:08 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support designating walleye a native fish of Montana.

From: davidfpac@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:58 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: gibsonchiro@hotmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:35 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy.

Furthermore, as a Montana resident, the Missouri is one of the few places I travel to in Montana to fish for trout because I have such good fishing around home. As an angler, the Missouri is a special place to go fishing, should the trout fishery decline because of another species, well, I'll spend my money to go somewhere else like Wyoming, or Idaho, or somewhere else that has amazing fishing. I would rather stay in Montana though.

Thank you.

Hugo M. Gibson

From: hrmcdermott@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:32 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: elmerwpalmer@gmail.com <elmerwpalmer@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:28 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support designating the walleye fish as a native fish.

From: matthew.churchman@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:18 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support designating walleye as a native fish in Montana on the premise that it is not native. Nor have I spoken to anyone that does support this idea. We hope you won't support it either. Thank you for your time.

From: Meadted@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:11 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I really don?t support making walleye a native fish of Montana.

From: mpeterson@rmeec.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:08 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please don?t designate Walleye as a native fish in Montana

From: mpeterson6884@gmail.com **Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 8:07 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support designating Walleye as a native fish in Montana

From: cmstok@msn.com

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:07 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support making walleye a native fish of Montana. Chuck Stokke , Anaconda, Mt

From: Ev@406.life

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 8:03 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I dont support naking the walleye a native fish.

From: Pieske, Shawna on behalf of FWP Commission Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 7:48 AM

To: Daniel Vermillion - FWP (dan@sweetwatertravel.com); Logan Brower; Rich Stuker; Shane

Colton; Tim Aldrich (Cartim8@gmail.com)

Cc: **FWP** Fishing Subject: FW: Walleye

From: warren johns [mailto:ichthyologist55@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, January 11, 2019 7:06 AM **To:** FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: Walleye

I support the department's current listing for Walleye on the Missouri as a"non-native" species.

Thanks.....WEJ.

From: shanew088@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:48 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: bdwilliams4@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:26 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I hope the new Statewide Fisheries Management Plan continues to recognize walleye as a non-native species and, therefore, not part of any effort to build populations in Montana lakes and rivers. As a trout fisherman who spends a good deal of time on all of our state's river systems, I appreciate the great work that has been done to build and maintain trout habitat. Walleye introduction would be disastrous to trout populations, for that non-native species does not belong in our river systems where trout thrive.

From: robweiker73@hotmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:54 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello, I am contacting you in concern of Walleye Management on the Missouri River and in Montana. Please suppress walleye on the Missouri River and every other river in Montana.

People travel form all over the world, the country and Montana to fish the world class trout fishery that is the Missouri River. Millions and millions of dollars are brought to this state and countless people make their livings fishing these sections of river. The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River, especially below Holter and Hauser Dams, and every other river in Montana. Altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. I am on a river approx 250 days a year and it is very rare that I see a walleye Angler on the river. Thank You

From: scottt@chemtreat.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:44 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways, particularly in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. I spend a week every year in Craig, MT fishing for trout in the Missouri and spend at least \$5,000 on guides, lodging and food. I won't visit MT if Walleyes take the place of trout in the Missouri.

From: apuckett84@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:33 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: tiddywilliam@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:00 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People travel across the world to come to the Missouri to fish for trout; not walleye. Montana has ample space and room to create trophy walleye fisheries and the Missouri, which generates a ton of money for our state every year, is not to be tampered with. As backed by the peer-reviewed information FWP provides trout population is sustainable regardless of increase in angler pressure and other INVASIVE species, so why ruin a resource as treasured as this one? I fully support the full suppression of walleye through means of no-limit catch amounts, and would even go further to say something more needs to be done about the increasing problem. Thank you.

From: maxvaaler@gmail.com <maxvaaler@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:53 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

We do not need more walleye below holter!

From: dane@troutwranglers.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:52 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: ratherbfishing2@hotmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:37 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Every fall for the past 15 years I have traveled from Woodinville Washington to Craig Montana to fly fish the Missouri River for trout. My college room mate flies in from Omaha Nebraska to join me. Together we rent a bed an breakfast for 30 days each fall. We fish every day for the entire 30 days. We shop in Craig, Wolf Creek and Cascade. We come and spend our time and money there for only one reason, the opportunity to catch and release beautiful wild rainbow and brown trout. It's the quality trout we come for, nothing else. This level of trout fishing does not happen by accident. Even now I worry about the fishing pressure and the long term effects it may have on the resource. We appreciate the excellent management that has allowed the Missouri River below Holter Dam to excel. If the regulations change, the river needs more protection, not less. I drive eleven hours to fish for Missouri River trout. Please do everything possible to keep them wild, abundant and healthy. That is what keeps us coming back and loving it.

Sincerely,

Joseph A Ravenel

From: tbottar@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:56 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to the local economy. I travel annually every year from New York to trout fish below Holter Dam, spending thousands of dollars in the local economy. I guarantee such economic stimulus will not be garnered from walleye on the Missouri River. Thank you.

From: mobows@mcn.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:55 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

In the state wide management plan no changes should take place in the classification of walleye in the Missouri River system below Holter Dam and the suppression classification should remain. Classifying walleye as a native species in this system or any other traditional, native salmonid water ways is gross negligence by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and will be met with the full force of the government and law

From: Bruski12065@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:37 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

There are plenty of places to fish for walleye. Please leave the Missouri River from Holster Dam to Great Falls a trout fishery. Thanks Bruce

From: meandmy78@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:01 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I would like to be able to clean and consume fish, while camped on the ice. Cannot be done under current regs. Make the possession Countable, and identifiable. Go back to the square inch of skin left on a fillet.

I would also like to see all waters open to fishing, open to dark house spearing of northern pike, unless otherwise specified. The Northern Pike explosion is going to eat us out of house and home!!!!

From: hrdrt60@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 5:53 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

My name is Mike Hardert, I travel to Montana every year (twice last year) from New England to fish the Mo for trout. I spend about 2or 3k \$ while in Montana for each trip. I have a couple of friends who do the same. No way am I going to travel to Montana for walleye Don't ruin what you have. Think about the people who thought it was a great idea to introduce Lake Trout into Yellowstone. How did that work out???

Sincerely Mike Hardert

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you

From: jamelzer@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 5:25 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

1. Do not change to the management of the Missouri river trout fishery below Holter dam regarding Walleye. Preserve the fishery regulations in order to maintain the sport and economic benefits this area provides by attracting trout anglers from Montana and across the country.

- 2. Walleye are an invasive species and a destructive element to the trout / native whitefish population of this fishery. They should be eradicated both below Holter and in Holter lake as well in order to protect this fishery.
- 3. This is perhaps the dumbest idea I have ever heard. Walleye anglers do not lack for opportunities elsewhere in the state, some of which were illegally established. There is no reason to endanger a blue ribbon trout fishery for this reason.
- 4. Ban all gas power boats from the Missouri River from below Holter dam to Cascade.

Don't screw up this world class trout fishery. Thank you.

James Melzer

Hamilton, MT

From: goosejuhl@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 4:55 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

No walleyes below Holter dam please.

From: Pieske, Shawna on behalf of FWP Commission

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 4:54 PM

To: Daniel Vermillion - FWP (dan@sweetwatertravel.com); Logan Brower; Rich Stuker; Shane

Colton; Tim Aldrich (Cartim8@gmail.com)

Cc: FWP Fishing

Subject: FW: Statewide fisheries Management Program

From: David Gordon [mailto:david_14933@msn.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 3:16 PM **To:** FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: Statewide fisheries Management Program

Dear Sirs,

"The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana's waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide's the Department's classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy."

Thanks for your help on this important issue,

Sincerely,

David Gordon

From: terrya@bresnan.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 4:11 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I am writing to inform you that I am strongly opposed to any action that increases the population of Walleye in the Missouri River below Holter dam. This section of the Missouri River from Holter dam to Cascade is the best trout fishery in Montana To reach another trout fishery of this quality would repuire significant travel from the local area. Walleye fisherman have plenty of other opportunities in the area to catch Walleye without messing things up for Trout fisherman. The only other Trout fishery close to the quality of the Missouri in the state would be the Bighorn River and that would take a half day just to get to from Great Falls or Helena. People come from all over Montana to fish the Missouri it doesn't make sense to ruin it when there are so many other places already available for Walleye fishing.

From: Sightfishing@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 4:06 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: stantakami@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 2:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I travel from Chicago to dry fly fish on the Missouri River which is quite a unique experience rarely matched by most other rivers. Any policy which alters this

unusual day will significantly change my plans to visit the great state of Montana which provides the best trout fishing in the world THANK YOU

STAN TAKAMI

From: speyrod25@msn.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 2:04 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please continue to use science based approaches for managing our fisheries. Suppression of walleye below Holter Dam on the Missouri is responsible management. There are plenty of other quality walleye fisheries in Montana, but the Missouri is a unique trout fishery prized the world over.

From: terry.churchill74@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 2:02 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The push for increased walleye habitat and numbers is very damaging to the future of the NATIVE trout population in our Montana waters. I have fly fished as a Montanan on the Missouri River since 1974 when Walleye fisherman were unheard of. There numbers have increased and through their bucket stocking program and rabid methods, I am reminded of the anti-gun movement that has increased over the years. We must not allow the management of the Missouri below Holter Dam to change. The Missouri River is our treasure and we must not allow the walleye pirates to steal our treasure. Thanks

Terry Churchill

From: mtnative1@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:43 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: damer8145@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:25 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please continue to to classify walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. Specifically, I support current walleye management (full suppression) in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. I travel more than 2,000 miles each year to fish for trout in the Missouri River below Holter Dam because of its world-class trout fishery, and I know I am not the only one.

Thank you for all the work you have done in the past to make the Missouri River trout fishery what it is today, and for maintaining its excellence in the future.

From: sasserjustin@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:18 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you

From: jpcasino3@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Missouri River - Dearborn Drainage:

After review of the Management Program for this section of river, I would encourage the state to continue with the high harvest levels for the Walleye species. As you are fully aware the Walleye is a predator to the Rainbow and Brown trout. The reason that the Missouri River is considered a "Blue Water" is because of these trout. Should the Walleye not remain within reasonable numbers within this river the impact to the trout and the economy could be devastating. In addition, there are other areas within the state that the Walleye species can thrive without impacting the wild trout or causing economic hardship to the Missouri River region.

From: editor@swingthefly.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:59 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: jtoth82@aol.comn

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:51 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please use science-based management in your decision. Walleye are NOT native to this state and should be managed as the invasive species they are. I support the full suppression of walleye in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. We should not risk damaging the magnificent trout fishing on the Missouri. Thank-you Joe Toth

Missoula

From: Jsmith@wgmgroup.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:30 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: rvorous9@msn.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:17 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Missouri below Holter does not need walleye fishing, it is world class as it is. Well managed by FWP

From: popepack3@hotmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:10 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Ryce, Eileen

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 12:08 PM

To: Wedde, Kim

Subject: FW: MTU comments on draft Statewide Fishery Management P&G

Attachments: image001.jpg; ATT00001.htm; 2019-1 MTU comment, FWP walleye management,

SFMPG.pdf; ATT00002.htm

From: David Brooks <david@montanatu.org> Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:13 AM

To: Ryce, Eileen <ERyce@mt.gov>; Roberts, Eric <ERoberts@mt.gov>; FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>; Williams,

Martha < Martha. Williams@mt.gov>

Subject: MTU comments on draft Statewide Fishery Management P&G

Hello all,

Please accept the attached letter as comment from MTU on the draft Statewide Fishery Management Program and Guide. As described in the letter, this is only regarding a limited set of issues in the SFMPG, and we would like to reserve the opportunity to comment more broadly on the full document later in the comment period. The attached is about the most urgent issue, which we wanted to address in a stand-alone comment immediately.

Please confirm receipt of this comment and let me know if you have questions or would like to talk directly about it.

We appreciate your efforts on this important Program and Guide, as well as the public comment and review process.

Best,

David Brooks Executive Director Montana Trout Unlimited Office: 406.543.0054 Cell: 406.493.5384

From: forees@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:55 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Finn.mcmichael@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:51 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: max.yzaguirre@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:51 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: andrew.gorder@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:36 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Fisheries Division,

I write to comment on one aspect of Montana's Statewide Management Plan & Guide. I would encourage the agency to uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in our waterways. Any decision to reclassify a species as "native" must be based on the best available science and not political or social factors. Walleye may be enjoyable to fish for in certain areas, but this does not change the fact that the species was illegally-introduced and is not native to Montana. Walleye should continue to be suppressed and aggressively managed in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. The agency is well aware of the potential impacts to the trout fishery, and this is reason enough to reject any proposal to reclassify walleye as a competing species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: Mcrstblk@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:29 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: rraisler@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:22 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

i travel from western Washington State to trout fish the Missouri River below Holter Dam.

Please, do not alter the current management status of walleye in the Missouri below Holter Dam as anything other than ?suppression?.

Richard

From: noahpike@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:22 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Spokanehome@msn.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:21 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: lasekk@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:16 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam.

I am from Indiana and have vacationed and fished for the wild trout in the Missouri River below Holter Dam for the last twelve year. I come to the Missouri River to catch Wild trout. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: ckfischer1@msn.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:10 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I encourage you to hold the current status of Walleye as an invasive species. Amending the current plan on the Missouri above Holter to favor Walleye is not going to help improve satisfaction of walleye or any other anglers for that matter. Instead I think that an effort to better educate walleye anglers on the great fishing elsewhere in the state would be a better option rather than favor one fishery i.e walleye at the detriment of the trout fishery. Furthermore, the upper missouri river watershed was never intended to sustain or provided troph walleye fishing.

While I understand that having to travel to considerable distance to your favorite fishery is an inconvenience that reason alone should not affect decisions to alter or harm other world class fisheries like trout fishing.

Living in eastern MT provides some of the best fishing in the world. However, I prefer and love trout fishing and travel frequently to the Missouri for it. However you won?t me petition FWP petition for a trout fishery here because I know it doesn?t biologically makes sense just like walleye in the mountains doesn?t.

From: zjbakermt@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:06 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Keep Walleye as a non-native. The trout fishing of the Missouri River drainages are unique to Montana, and a place people go from all over to fish for the amazing trout that call that home.

From: therbertmt@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:02 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

As a long time angler from the Helena area, I have witnessed the importance of our world class fisheries throughout the state. Specifically the Missouri River provides Montanans and out of state visitors the opportunity for tremendous unrivaled trout fishing. However, the management of the upstream reservoirs as "multi-species" waters have put the Missouri below Holter Dam at significant risk. The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you. Tony Herbert

From: goldherzer@msn.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:59 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: mark@makdirect.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:54 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I am 100% against declaring walleye a native fish in the Missouri. This would be a disaster for the world famous trout fishing and the huge economic driver.

From: rpfahey1@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:50 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please continue to manage Montana's fisheries using science and fact base principals and do not "naturalize" Walleye as a native fish in the Missouri below Holter Dam. Continue to manage as "suppression".

From: stefan@ellensburgangler.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:38 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. I come to fish the Missouri from out-of-state 2-3 times per year, as I know many other anglers do from across the country and the globe, and I feel any negative impact to the trout fishery on the Missouri would harm the health of the river, and the local economy.

From: samuel.reed676@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:20 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: samuel.reed676@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:20 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: markjuranek@me.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:13 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Peer-reviewed science is worth trusting. I have spent tourist dollars visiting Craig for the last 6 years. I became a Montana land owner because of the excellent management of trout waters. I am building a home in Montana because of trout. The work you do to protect trout waters is critical - thank you!!!

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: richmorrisey1776@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:09 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I absolutely oppose any initiative that would grant walleyes status as a native fish. These walleye supporters are the same group that promised that a walleye hatchery would not cost FWP anything. How did that work out? The Missouri below Holter is a world class destination for trout fisherfolks, not walleye fishers.

From: willbutler0@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:07 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management plan and guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non native species in Montana. Walleye were illegally introduced to Montana and do great harm to native fish populations. Walleye populations below Holter dam should be suppressed.

Sincererly,
Will Butler
1501 Washburn Street, apt a
Missoula Mt. 59801

From: nathanjerrell@charter.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:01 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: nathanjerrell78@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:00 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: grosslj@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:00 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: dawgol72@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:48 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you

Jeremy Cascade mt

From: w_bailor51@hotmail.com <w_bailor51@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:40 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: ctfrandsen@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:39 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: jason.much@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:30 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: dan@jjmontana.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:28 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Illegally introduced walleyes have been deemed non-native to the Upper Missouri Watershed. Please continue the policy of suppression within the Missouri River below Holter Dam. As a frequent angler, property owner, and taxpayer on the Missouri River this is an especially important issue to me.

Dan Stevens

From: pattee@pattee.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:15 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. I recently purchased property on the Missouri near Mountain Palace soley for the world-class trout fishing. Walleye are available above Holter. Plenty close enough for local walleye fishermen to take advantage of . Increasing the walleye population will not only hurt the wild trout fishery, it will also attract more traffic and jet boats, ruining this beautiful stretch of river. Thank you.

From: fishcalak@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:56 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you

From: emchester23@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:56 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Dear FWP,

I'm writing to support the current management of "suppression" for walleye on the Missouri River below Holter Dam. The Missouri River trout fishery below Holter Dam is a true gem that we as Montanans should fight to preserve. It would be a tragedy to upset the balance on this section of the Missouri River. People travel from far and wide to fish this section of the Missouri River because of the healthy population of wild trout. FWP has done a wonderful job managing this fishery. Keep up the great work and maintain the focus on preserving this section of the Missouri River as a world class trout fishery.

Best,

E. Mike Chester

Whitefish, MT

From: chad@summithousinggroup.com
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:38 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: stegrout@charter.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:34 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleyes are a great WARM WATER species. They do NOT belong in cold-water fisheries, and pose a serious threat to trout populations in the world-class blue-ribbon trout fishery of the Missouri River, especially from Holter Reservoir downstream.

Use the science, use your heads, use your spines and reject Walleyes Unlimited push to make the Mo River System a walleye fishery. Thank you.

From: blaw4080@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:23 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please do not to alter the current management status of walleye in the Missouri below Holter Dam as anything other than ?suppression.

From: sallanroberts@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:22 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please not to alter the current management status of walleye in the Missouri below Holter Dam as anything other than ?suppression.....the Missouri River maybe the the "finest trout fishery in the world"..altering that resource would border on criminal...I'am from Penna and I spend 2 months on the river in Craig every year since 1990 and I contribute over \$10.000 dollars to the local community.....Thank you, Allan Roberts

From: r.p.magill74@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:15 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: pmohler1982@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:10 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thanks and have a great day, P Mohler

From: Lewis.braden@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:58 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not think walleye should be given native species designation.

From: Finn.mcmichael@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:53 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Malachi.cryder@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:52 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: davidsewak@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:42 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye from historical records are non-native. Saucer yes walleye NO!

From: Montanaonthefly@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:39 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I am against the bad science that considers walleye a native species east of the divide. They are invasive and should be given no special consideration

From: Perrdave.dp@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:00 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Sconway@martelconstruction.com
Sent: Sconway@martelconstruction.com
Thursday, January 10, 2019 7:00 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please suppress walleye populations below Holter dam. They should be considered a non-native fish. Thanks, Steve Conway

From: hrickett@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:45 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The walleye is an invasive species. Do NOT manage it as anything else. Trout fishing will be harmed in the Missouri system and that is something people come from all over the world to fish for. People do not come from all over the world to fish for walleye. Those that prefer fishing for walleye can drive a little ways for bigger walleye if they so choose. Please, the Mo is too precious as a resource.

From: Jimlinn@sbcglobal.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:39 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

No walleye in non native areas please, Missouri River around Craig needs to NOT be designated as a NATIVE area for these fish...

From: tjpatrick@bellsouth.net

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 5:51 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy including me, from Atlanta Georgia, each year. My friends and I spend thousands of dollars each year in the Craig Montana area on guides, equipment, lodging and meals. In the summer of 2019, I will spend over a month in Craig in July and August, spending well over \$10,000 to do so on lodging and guides. Should the fishing on the MO decline due to increased populations of walleye, I will travel to another area to trout fish.

The MO is a unique trout fishery. Efforts should be made to keep it that way. Conversely, it would make no more sense to try to establish a brown trout dry fly fishery in Ft. Peck reservoir by dumping brown trout in there.

From: jonhowe221@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 4:51 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

As a landowner for 30 years of Missouri riverfront property, I am discouraged that the proposed fisheries statement to manage Walleye below Holter Dam as a native species is even being considered on this blue ribbon trout fishery- this section is a world class trout fishery that attracts visitors from all over the world - I doubt a Walkeye fishery will do the same!

From: snagymd@hotmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 8:59 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

In my opinion the Missouri River below the Holter Dam should be aggressively managed as a trout-only fishery. I believe that Walleye in this stretch of the river should be aggressively pursued so that they are not affecting the cold water fishery.

Stephen S. Nagy Clancy, Montana

From: Caltagm@hotmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 8:44 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I urge you NOT to recognize walleye as a native species in Montana. There is no reliable science indicting this and a decision in favor of it will be wrong-headed and unsupportable.

From: blindler@montana.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 8:26 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Missouri from Holter Dam to Cascade offers some of the finest trout fishing Montana has to offer. Please continue to manage this stretch of river for high-quality trout fishing. Please continue management to suppress walleye in this stretch of the Missouri, which I refer to as the "Holy Water."

Walleye have a place in Montana, but they're not native--despite calls to have them managed as a native species.

From: brian@mainstreetmissoula.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 7:45 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Matthrgrv@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 7:30 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye should not be recognized as a native fish east of the divide. Historical and scientific evidence of their existence in Montana is sketchy at best. FWP should not reward an illegally introduced fish as native. It only leads to more illegally introduced fish. Thank you for your time.

From: justin.auch@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 7:13 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy

From: Grantflaming94@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 7:11 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Do not list walleye as a native fish in the Missouri River basin. If they aren?t truly native, don?t treat and fund them as native. It?s the same situation with rainbows and browns.

From: robt.kircher@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 4:04 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

Duly submitted, Robert Kircher, 8061 Grebe Court, Missoula, 59804

From: joshuarandolph@hotmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 3:25 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you

From: bahinl@yahoo.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 2:24 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

To the MT FWP:

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways.

I support the peer-reviewed science that guides the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana.

Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you,

Lou Bahin

Missoula, MT

From: m.mutmansky@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 2:24 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

As a non-Montana resident, I wish to say that I fish your waters and the economic benefit your state receives from me and people like me is considerable. Please do not allow non-native species to reduce the populations of Trout in the Missouri River!

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: Pieske, Shawna on behalf of FWP Commission

Wednesday, January 09, 2019 1:20 PM

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 1:30 PM

To: Daniel Vermillion - FWP (dan@sweetwatertravel.com); Logan Brower; Rich Stuker; Shane

Colton; Tim Aldrich (Cartim8@gmail.com)

Cc: FWP Fishing **Subject:** FW: Fisheries Plan

Attachments: PBTU Response to Satewide Fisheries Plan.docx

From: Dennis Cates [mailto:dpcates@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 10:33 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: Fisheries Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in full support of the attached letter from Pat Barnes Trout Unlimited.

Dennis Cates 3924 Fawn Meadow Dr Helena, MT 59602

dpcates@gmail.com

From: nickford88@hotmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 12:28 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye do not belong in the Missouri River!

From: dyoung375@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 12:16 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should continue to designate the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. The Missouri River is a trout fishery, not a walleye fishery. Invasive Walleye are already established illegally in many other trout fisheries in the state. They have no place in the Missouri watershed, especially below Holter Dam. Altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Regards

Dwight Young

From: rflyguy@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 11:59 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please don't pollute the MO by introducing Walleye!!!!!I

One of the things that makes trout fishing fabulous is the scenery The easiest way for the Walleye crowd to enjoy Mo river scenery is to catch walleye. They don't want to go thru the life long trout fishing class required to eliminate the Mo Skunk You really think fisher persons crossing continents will be happy with Walleye equaling half their hook ups.

From: gcarter3260@yahoo.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 11:50 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Regarding the AIS Program, I support the check station system and the education efforts, but I DO NOT agree with the current funding mechanism. It is unreasonable, unfair, and not financially sound to fund this program through extra fees for fisherman only. The fact is that the majority of in-state fisherman already take great care to prevent transferring water or AIS between bodies of water in the state. There are a lot of boaters and recreation users who don't purchase fishing licenses and are far more likely to introduce AIS, yet they are NOT paying any fees to help prevent AID introduction. In my opinion fisherman already pay high license fees and should not have to pay this extra fee. The boaters and other water recreation users should be paying the extra fee. Additionally, the out-of-state boaters and fisherman are the real source of AIS, so they should be required to pay extra fees to fund the AIS Program. If they're already driving hundreds of miles hauling boats, etc., then a small fee for them to recreate on MT waters is very reasonable.

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy.

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From: montanflying@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 10:58 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

To Whom it May Concern;

As a lifelong Montana resident, fisherman and guide I strongly encourage FWP to carefully consider changing the status of Walleye as a non-native species. I strongly support peer-reviewed science guiding FWP's classification of Walleye. This species is an illegally introduced, non-native predator. I ask the Department to consider not only the ecological damage that species revision would cause, but also the precedent it would set. If an illegally introduced species is allowed to be reclassified, the slippery slope it would set will lead to a perpetual fight to change Montana's waterways and fisheries to support charismatic and sought after game fish, regardless of their history or place within the ecosystem which is no way to manage a resource. To reclassify an illegally introduced fish will only embolden future "bucket biologists", and what does it say about the Departments respect for rule of law and science. Please allow science and history to lead this decision, not a handful of passionate Walleye fanatics, after all, these fish are non native and ILLEGALLY introduced. To consider this is an afront to sound fisheries management and a slap in the face to those of us that fight to end illegal intoductions.

From: jbrininstool@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 10:19 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: hawkins.alex@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 10:16 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I am a non resident fisherman that spends a lot of my item in Missoula.

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: nave@bresnan.net

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 10:08 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana's waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide's FWP's classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. I support full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. Michael Nave, Missoula

From: Pieske, Shawna on behalf of FWP Commission
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 10:04 AM

To: Wedde, Kim

Subject: FW: Suppress walleyes below Holter Dam

Please add to your comments

From: mike spenner [mailto:mikespenn@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:57 AM **To:** FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov> **Subject:** Suppress walleyes below Holter Dam

"The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana's waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide's the Department's classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you."

Mike Spenner
Missoula, MT



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: careyschmidt@msn.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 9:58 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye are not native fish. This we know. Walleye need to be suppressed, not managed as a game fish. The illegal introductions and bucket biology that are rampant cannot be condoned. The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should continue to uphold science over politics and recognize what we have long known to be truth - walleye are a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. Let's stick with the scientific method and let peer-reviewed science guide the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species.

We cannot condone bucket biology. It was a mistake to do so at Canyon Ferry and is certainly a mistake to do the same here. Walley do not belong below Holter Dam. There are plenty of places to catch Walleye. But our economy depends upon the world class trout fishery on the Missouri. While we have altered the fishery from native to native/wild, let's not make it worse. Thank you,

Carey Schmidt

From: Ryce, Eileen

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 9:51 AM

To: Wedde, Kim; Roberts, Eric

Subject: FW: Pat Barnes Trout Unlimited comments on SFMPG

Attachments: PBTU Response to Satewide Fisheries Plan.docx; ATT00001.htm

From: Taylor Todd <taylorjtodd@gmail.com> Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:04 AM

To: Ryce, Eileen <ERyce@mt.gov>; Roberts, Eric <ERoberts@mt.gov>; FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Cc: Will Trimbath <will@mtlandreliance.org>; David Brooks <david@montanatu.org>

Subject: Pat Barnes Trout Unlimited comments on SFMPG

Please see attached comments regarding Pat Barnes Trout Unlimited's position and comments on the Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Taylor Todd taylorjtodd@gmail.com

From: Ryce, Eileen

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 9:50 AM

To: Wedde, Kim; Roberts, Eric

Subject: FW: Statewide Management Plan & Guide

From: Pieske, Shawna On Behalf Of FWP Commission

Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 7:44 AM

To: Daniel Vermillion - FWP (dan@sweetwatertravel.com) <dan@sweetwatertravel.com>; Logan Brower

<lwbrower@yahoo.com>; Rich Stuker <rstuker@itstriangle.com>; Shane Colton <scolton@yellowstonelaw.com>; Tim

Aldrich (Cartim8@gmail.com) < Cartim8@gmail.com>

Cc: Ryce, Eileen <ERyce@mt.gov>; Roberts, Eric <ERoberts@mt.gov>

Subject: FW: Statewide Management Plan & Guide

From: Dennis Rogers [mailto:missouladude@icloud.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 5:52 PM **To:** FWP Commission < FWComm@mt.gov> **Subject:** Statewide Management Plan & Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana's waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide's the Department's classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you."

Sent from my iPad

From: banddjones@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 9:36 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I urge your agency to continue suppressive policies and practices regarding ANY animal or plant species which science has shown to not naturally occur in any Montanan waters. A walleye, for example, is out of it's natural range if the species was not present until recent historic past. No different than Quagga mussels.

From: areyes44444@yahoo.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 9:13 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleye are not a native species to Montana and should be managed as invasive in the Holder Dam area and throughout Montana's waters. The Management Program and Guide should strongly attest to control of walleye as nonnative. Walleye, smallmouth bass, pike, and other nonnative predators must be managed as invasive species that threaten native trout, whitefish and minnows.

Thank you.

Alan D. Reyes M.D.

From: billy.pfeiffer@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 9:09 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Considering the walleye a native species is a slap in the face of scientific management of our natural resources. Walleye are not native to this state and the designation of native species should never be a political decision. I encourage you to continue to institute full suppression measures for walleye in the Upper Missouri and protect our world-famous trout fishery. Montana will never be a destination walleye fishery, but we already have millions of dollars coming into our state every year for this fishery. Please do the right thing and follow the path of reason and science.

From: dtork47@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 8:44 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I very much am in favor of total suppression of walleye below Holter Dam. As someone who has fished for trout since the early 60's here in MT it has been very frustrating for me to see the constant encroachment of the warm water non native walleye gain a hold in so many of our MT waters! Please don't allow continued expansion of this non native warm water fish. Thank you.

From: otisstahl@hotmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 8:12 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

(1) Page 4-5. Montana Fisheries Resource. This states Montana is home to 91 species of fish; 59 native to the state?.and the chart on page 9 says ?walleye? are ?introduced? to Montana. This is not correct and should be changed. There is substantial documentation that has been published by credible sources that clearly show that the native range of walleye includes an area east of the Continental Divide in Montana.

- (2) Page 17-18. The Fishing Regulation setting process and policies outlined in this guide have failed and it needs to be changed. The four year cycle is not adequate to properly conserve, preserve, or protect our fisheries. (Consider Lake Francis as just one example or the decline in the perch fishery at Holter as another). Several of the central Montana fisheries are failing and nothing has been done. The department needs to be more responsive and timely with actions necessary to sustain our fisheries.
- (3) Part II, Page 59, section E. The definitions should include an additional ?trophy? designation and a revision to the "quality" definition. What is defined in this guide for a ?quality? fishery is not what most people would consider a ?quality? fishery. There is a significant difference between what anglers believe a ?quality? fishery is vs. a ?trophy? fishery. For the purposes of overall objectives we need that distinction.

Missouri River? Dearborn Drainage

(1) Page 245. Missouri River? Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge

Species? Walleye Management Type? Suppression

FWP description of suppression; A management approach that relies on one or more means to reduce or eliminate the presence of a species. This may include liberal angler harvest limits and/or incentives, commercial fishing, and mechanical or chemical removal. Applied to situations where the species being suppressed compromises fishery goals (native and/or recreational fisheries).

The FWP Commission approved ?no limit? on walleye in 2011. This was a political decision due to pressure from Trout Unlimited, Montana Outfitters & Guides, and other trout groups. At the hearing FWP testified that there has never been any documentation that the walleye population in the river has been detrimental to the trout numbers. In addition, FWP went on record to oppose the no limit based on their scientific data. In fact, the current draft plan still acknowledges that "no evidence has been gathered which suggests an ecological impact to trout.?

Management Type & Management Direction needs to be changed from ?suppression? to ?general? to acknowledge walleye as a valuable sport fish resource. The ?no limit? needs to be changed to the same limits as Holter Lake for walleye.

Marias River Drainage

- (1) Page 314. Tiber Reservoir. Should include some direction to evaluate supplemental stocking to temper the negative trends when there are poor spawning conditions resulting in missing year classes of fish.
- (2) Page 315. Lake Francis. Language limiting to "biannual" stocking of walleye should be removed. Supplemental stocking should be considered and done as needed.

From: letourneaug68@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 9:08 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: noclearline@hotmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 8:18 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello.

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy.

Thank you. Garrett Fawaz Helena, MT

From: Missouladude@icloud.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 5:50 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: Missouladude@icloud.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 5:49 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: FlyFishFreyn@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 5:29 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy.

Thanks for all your hard work, always a pleasure seeing you guys out there!

From: Cpaforu@yahoo.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 5:11 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I do not support any motions laws or efforts to classify a walleye as a species that is native to Montana and it?s waterways. This fish is not indigenous and should not be given any preferential treatment, or otherwise be encouraged as part of the greater ecosystem of Montana fisheries.

From: softhacklept@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 4:26 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: libbyfrost@me.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 3:07 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I don't know much about that area, but I do know that Walleye are an invasive fish that hold no value for our future of native fish... yikes!

From: scottm@hrspecialties.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 3:06 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

There is no place for walleye in the Missouri as they were introduced and already show harm to the fish that are native. Terrible idea to enhance their numbers by protecting them.

From: scott.mylo@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 3:04 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please, let us remember and remind ourselves that walleye are non-native fish that will wreck havoc on native trout in the Missouri. Save the Missouri trout and keep walleye out.

From: tbartz@azworld.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 2:34 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you. Tim Bartz (I own property on the Missouri in the canyon above Cascade. Let's not let Walleye destroy a trout population that has been managed into one of the elite Trout habitats and fisheries in the world.!

From: Mattpederson3@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 1:50 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: emgrace4@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 11:41 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: wapiti44@hotmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 11:07 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Missouri River is a blue ribbon trout fishery---not a walleye fishery. Don't take the chance to ruin the trout fishing by improving walleye fishing. The walleye don't belong in the river at all---keep the no limit on walleye!!!!!!

Tom Storm

From: Ryce, Eileen

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 11:02 AM

To: tdi_mt@yahoo.com
Cc: Roberts, Eric; Wedde, Kim

Subject: FW: Comments regarding Montana's Statewide Management Program & Guide Draft

Attachments: GGTU Comments on walleye management.pdf

Mark,

Thank you for your comments. I am forwarding your comments onto Eric Roberts and Kim Wedde so as we can include them with the others. We appreciate the input from GGTU.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 10:58 AM

To: Ryce, Eileen < ERyce@mt.gov>

Subject: Comments regarding Montana's Statewide Management Program & Guide Draft

Eileen,

Please find attached a copy of comments from George Grant Chapter of TU and it's 400 plus members. We encourage you to keep the line that you are on regarding not only the management of Walleye but more importantly the designation of Walleye as an introduced species.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Mark Thompson President GGTU 406-593-1058

From: mertzabby@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 10:58 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you

From: taylorjtodd@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 10:52 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: oconnors8@msn.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 9:56 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I support the full suppression of walleye management in the missouri river below holter dam

From: miker700@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 9:42 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The standard trout limit of 5 fish per person per day is overdue to be changed. With increasing angler days, invasives, algae blooms, and warming temps, a more restrictive standard limit is necessary (2 fish per person per day?). A lot of anglers practice catch and release already, so they will support this change. Allowing each carload of 4 anglers to leave a river with 20 wild trout in their cooler is poor wild fishery management.

Thank you for considering this overdue management change, Mike Richter, Gallatin Gateway, MT

From: Trimbath.Will@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 9:36 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The recent push from Walleyes Unlimited to list walleye as a native species in the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan is scientifically unfounded and economically dangerous. There are three points that I would like to make regarding this matter.

- 1) It simply is not true. Finding one scientific article out of Canada that shows a potential distribution map of walleye AND sauger east of the continental divide does not suffice to dispute decades of peer-reviewed science. Sure, I can find 3% of the world's climatologists that say climate change isn't caused by humans, but that doesn't discount the other 97%. Please prioritize the biological science over social science in this matter.
- 2) People cross continents to fish for wild trout in Montana. Specifically, the Missouri River below Holter Dam. Managing walleye here for anything other than suppression is not only ecologically dangerous, but economically reckless. Please recognize this stretch of the Missouri for what it is: a world class trout fishery, not a potential walleye fishery.
- 3) Recognizing walleye as a native species encourages aspiring bucket biologists to play the long game. We've already set a dangerous precedent by managing walleye as a game species in the upper Missouri River Reservoirs that forgiveness is easier than permission. Want your local reservoir managed for your favorite warm-water species, be it bass, pike, or walleye? Dump a few buckets in, give it time, and eventually the Department will manage it for your desired species. Again, please side biological science, not social science, and manage our fisheries for native species.

Thank you,

Will Trimbath, President
Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

From: nate@yogotech.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 9:35 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the FULL suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People come from all over the world fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: calebofey@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 8:44 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello, as an avid fisherman and long time Montana resident I wish to express my opinion about the Walleye fish that reside East of the Continental Divide. These fish are not natives and should never be treated as such. Period. They are fun to catch, they are tasty, they are not a native fish to our fisheries here in Montana!

From: mttrapper@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 7:38 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

[quote] The FWP Commission established a ?no limit for walleye? harvest regulation on the section of the Missouri River from Holter Dam to Cascade in 2011 as an effort to protect the rainbow and brown trout fishery. [/quote]

I know the Walleye bigots are pressuring FWP to rescind the "No limit for walleye" harvest regulation in the Blue Ribbon reach of the Missouri. It's a Blue Ribbon fishery which attracts people from all over the world and dumps millions of tourist dollars. It's a Blue Ribbon fishery because of the trout, not the walleye.

I strongly encourage FWP to maintain the current walleye management plan.

Trapper Badovinac
Author of "Fly Fishing Montana's Missouri River"

From: dadjgr@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 7:20 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: jijosanchez@yahoo.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 6:56 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

This could be stated more accurately:

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

Sincerely,

Mr. Jody Sanchez

From: Bobby1772@hotmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 5:48 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I have two concerns with our fisheries the perch limit being 50 a day at holter and no limit on walleye below holter to cascade bridge. The perch population has got to be dwindling down at holter every ice season person after person takes limits home. As for no limit on walleye there shouldn't be a limit on trout either. If we are worried about native versus non native fish then let's get the burbot and mountain Whitefish numbers up. This simple according to your thought on no limit on walleye below holter and no limit on northern pike in the upper Missouri river system.

From: Gulanr@yahoo.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 3:26 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: tncald1@yahoo.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 1:56 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Walleyes are not or ever have been native to Montana. And current populations that have been established from illegal introductions should not be conservational managed

From: dpcates@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 10:43 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The following regarding the walleye regulation for Holter Dam to Cascade is copied from the management plan:

"The FWP Commission established a ?no limit for walleye? harvest

regulation on the section of the Missouri River from Holter Dam to Cascade in 2011 as an effort to protect the rainbow and brown trout fishery."

I am in favor of keeping this no limit for walleye. Even if I were not a trout fisherman, I would be in favor of keeping this no limit on walleye, because this is one of the streams in the state that garners the most revenue for the state - and it is not because of walleye fishing. I fish this section of the river many times during the year, and I have yet to find anyone who travels from a long distance and spends money in our economy to fish this section for walleye. It makes no economic sense to manage this section for walleye.

Walleye are not a native fish in this section of the Missouri and should never be classified as such.

From: jwlandt@yahoo.com

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 10:24 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

?The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River system. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.?

From: bhansen.storytell@gmail.com

Sent: bhansen.storytell@gmail.com

Monday, January 07, 2019 9:21 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Anything other than full suppression of walleye below Holter Dam is crazy. Why risk the multi-million dollar fly fishing industry below Holter Dam so a few natty light drinking walleye anglers can have some beer battered fish tacos and leave a bunch of Styrofoam along the river? All the peer reviewed science points to walleye as non native and illegally introduced in this section of the Missouri. By all rights, walleye shouldn't even be in the reservoir system above Holter Dam. Please follow good science, as you have, and continue to manage walleye with FULL SUPPRESSION below Holter Dam. The multi million dollar trout fishery below Holter Dam depends on FWP continuing to manage the Missouri as a world class trout fishery. Thank you.

From: tenkarabrad@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 9:14 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The Statewide Management Plan & Guide should uphold the current status of walleye as a non-native species in Montana?s waterways. I support the peer-reviewed science that guide?s the Department?s classification of this illegally-introduced species as non-native to Montana. Additionally, I support the full suppression of walleye management in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. People cross continents to fish for wild trout in the Missouri River, and altering the management of walleye from anything other than full suppression places unnecessary risk on this world class fishery that draws millions of dollars to our local economy. Thank you.

From: bhollister@mt.net

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 8:04 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Public Comment Being Sought to Temporarily Close the Madison

River at Varney Bridge Due To Construction Activity

Keep the limits the same as in Houser and Holter Resivours

This e-mail was generated from the 'Public Comment Being Sought to Temporarily Close the Madison River at Varney Bridge Due To Construction Activity' Public Notice Web Page.

From: bhollister@mt.net

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 8:04 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Public Comment Being Sought to Temporarily Close the Madison

River at Varney Bridge Due To Construction Activity

Keep the limits the same as in Houser and Holter Resivours

This e-mail was generated from the 'Public Comment Being Sought to Temporarily Close the Madison River at Varney Bridge Due To Construction Activity' Public Notice Web Page.

From: Mcroscutt@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 7:31 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

How can walleye not be native when Canada to the North and Dakota's to the east walleye are considered native. Sounds like numerous studies and credible facts have been collected to substantiate walleye are native. This topic needs to be readdressed.

No limit on walleye below holter dam does not support the fact walleye numbers compared to rainbow in that section of Missouri river is unhealthy and sufficient action needs to be considered to reestablish a quality fisheries for walleye.

Fisheries in central Montana have drastically declined. Numerous incidents in the past few years indicate the appropriate action to maintain quality fisheries have not been taken. Canyon ferry had slot limit that almost eliminated quality breeding walleye.

Perch numbers in holter increased dramatically, resulting higher limits, to reduce numbers. When numbers declined rapidly, 3 year average in current management plan stated no action needed, perch levels will not rebound if FWP waits for 3 year average. This is not appropriate action to maintain a quality fisheries for perch.

Lake Frances was over fished in walleye to the point it lowered the numbers well below standards to sustain a quality fisheries. It may have been necessary to lower limits to 3 until numbers improve. Protect the quality breeders in the process and reestablish walleye stocking. Stocking walleye seems to be working for Fresno.

From: noslekrotd@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 12:36 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I understand why the fisheries management plan is developed to cover a 10 year period. Even with triggers in the plan, however, I believe an annual review of harvest data and netting data, as well as water conditions should be used to determine if changes should be made each year in regard to stocking, limits, or slot limits, including the stocking of forage fish. The walleye limit on the Missouri is ridiculous, especially when there has been no impact to the number of trout in the river from Holter Dam to Great Falls.

From: ronning@midrivers.com

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 12:32 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

FWP can no longer continue to manage like was done 20 years ago, it is a very different world with significant changes in angler?s knowledge, skill, ability, technology, equipment and the information network we have today.

The following is comments received from WUM members and encourage you to consider including them in your comment.

Table of Contents

- (1) Page 4-5. Montana Fisheries Resource. This states Montana is home to 91 species of fish; 59 native to the state?.and the chart on page 9 says ?walleye? are ?introduced? to Montana. This is not correct and should be changed. There is substantial documentation that has been published by credible sources that clearly show that the native range of walleye includes an area east of the Continental Divide in Montana.
- (2) Page 17-18. The Fishing Regulation setting process and policies outlined in this guide have failed and it needs to be changed. The four year cycle is not adequate to properly conserve, preserve, or protect our fisheries. (Consider Lake Francis as just one example or the decline in the perch fishery at Holter as another). Several of the central Montana fisheries are failing and nothing has been done. The department needs to be more responsive and timely with actions necessary to sustain our fisheries.
- (3) Part II, Page 59, section E. The definitions should include an additional ?trophy? designation and a revision to the "quality" definition. What is defined in this guide for a ?quality? fishery is not what most people would consider a ?quality? fishery. There is a significant difference between what anglers believe a ?quality? fishery is vs. a ?trophy? fishery. For the purposes of overall objectives we need that distinction.

Note: FWP considers a fish with a 90% BMI (body mass index) or more as a healthy fish that has ample forage. A majority of angler surveys classify a quality fish being 16 to 22 inches and a trophy fish being 24 inches or larger.

Missouri River? Dearborn Drainage

(1) Page 245. Missouri River? Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge

Species ? Walleye Management Type ? Suppression

FWP description of suppression; A management approach that relies on one or more means to reduce or eliminate the presence of a species. The may include liberal angler harvest limits and/or incentives, commercial fishing, and mechanical or chemical removal. Applied to situations where the species being suppressed compromises fishery goals (native and/or recreational fisheries).

Note: The FWP Commission approved ?no limit? on walleye in 2011. This was a political decision due to pressure from Trout Unlimited, Montana Outfitters & Guides, and other trout groups. At the hearing FWP testified that there has never been any documentation that the walleye population in the river has been detrimental to the trout numbers. In addition, FWP went on record to oppose the no limit based on their scientific data. In fact the current draft plan still acknowledges that "no evidence has been gathered which suggests an ecological impact to trout.? This was the most horrendous and unjustified decision ever made by the commission and needs to be reversed. Walleyes Unlimited is on record opposing the decision but needs your comment in in order to have any hope of getting it overturned

Management Type & Management Direction needs to be changed from suppression to general to acknowledge walleye as a valuable sport fish resource. The no limit needs to be the same as Holter Lake walleye limits.

Marias River Drainage

- (1) Page 314. Tiber Reservoir. Should include some direction to evaluate supplemental stocking to temper the negative trends when there are poor spawning conditions resulting in missing year classes of fish.
- (2) Page 315. Lake Francis. Language limiting to "biannual" stocking of walleye should be removed. Supplemental stocking should be considered and done as needed.

From: scott@nelsonarchitects.com

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 8:42 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I feel that walleye should be considered a native fish East of the continental divide in Montana. There is significant data that proves that walleye is native to Montana and very little data that states walleye are not a native fish of Montana. Walleye are classified as a native fish directly to the North of us in Canada and to the East of us in North Dakota. There are water tributaries that are common to Canada, Montana, & North Dakota. It only makes sense and has been proven scientifically that walleye is a native fish to Montana.

The four-year cycle is not working that is used for setting the polices and processes for our fishing regulations. If it takes four years to finally find out that we have a problem with one of our fisheries it will take too long and great effort to bring a fishery back to a quality fishery. We need to monitor each one of our fisheries separately and be able to adjust the regulations for each fishery solely not a blanket plan that covers all the fisheries.

The scientific data that FWP gathers is great information but, we cannot solely mange our fisheries by scientific data. We need to add the common-sense approach as a management tool also. There is so much more solid data out there that could be utilized, such as results from fishing tournaments. This is real time, accurate information that can and should be utilized by FWP when developing the management plans.

We also need to revise the no limit for walleye below Holter Dam. I know that FWP recommended having a limit in place for walleye below Holter Dam and the Fish Wildlife Commission did not listen to FWP recommendations. There is plenty of scientific data that proves that walleye and trout can cohabitate in these waters without damage to either species.

The language that Lake Francis being stocked biannually needs to be change to annually. This is obvious due to the fishing conditions currently at Lake Francis.

We need to be very proactive. Currently the state of our fisheries is not good and without substantial changes right away we will not have quality fisheries for years to come if at all in the future.

From: codypardue28@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2019 8:01 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I have been fishing walleye in the state of Montana for many years and see that these fish have been improperly harvested (wasted) due to the stigma placed on these fish by many anglers fishing for trout within our state. Moreover, it is believed that below Holter Dam is still considered Holter Lake in which the same regulations should be applied. On a different note, although many do not believe that walleye are a native species in Montana, either are rainbow/brown trout; and there is no documentation that I have seen to support that they are but are treated as such. Walleye however do have some documentation to support such claim and are being ostracized from our water systems here in Montana. I've heard of a thousand plus trout being caught within just a few miles on the Missouri River system and have not heard of such numbers of walleye; which indicate a lack of support to control these populations. I think it boils down to bias as I am an angler that loves to fish for not just walleye, but trout and others species of fish. With that, bias should not dictate management and limits need to be set so that our later generations can enjoy all the different species of fish that Montana offers. Just an end note, the numbers of walleye in Tiber are at an all time low and the number of fish being caught is nothing like it was once before.

From: jign4iz@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2019 7:11 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I believe walleye should be identified as a native fish to Montana.

From: terrybates17@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2019 6:15 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

canyon ferry walleye to many small fish i have had many 30 to 60 fish days with out one over 15 inches

From: Mtwalleyellc@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2019 2:41 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

The following is what is in the Draft Plan for Fresno, Lake Frances and Tiber. I believe these need further direction per the following.

Fresno Statewide Plan strategies from page 324:

Manage for wild, naturally produced walleye at relative abundances that maximize growth and diverse population age structure. Relative abundances will be managed at sustainable levels relative to prey community. Hatchery walleye stocking will be evaluated based on forage abundance, reservoir water levels, growth, relative weight and reservoir-wide relative abundance. Implement periodic creel surveys as funding allows.

Lake Frances Statewide Plan strategies from page 315:

Manage for a consumptive harvest based on biology of the fishery. Continue to evaluate the contribution of biannual walleye plants and adjust if necessary to maintain a balance with the forage base.

Tiber Reservoir Statewide Plan Strategies from page 314:

Manage for a consumptive harvest with an opportunity for a trophy fish. Manage based on the biology of the fishery. Emphasize natural recruitment.

Maybe all of these systems need additional direction as follows:

Manage for walleye abundances based on the carrying capacity that sustains normal growth rates and condition factors of 85-100 with a diverse population age structure. Supplemental stocking will be considered to sustain relative abundance when there has been poor spawning conditions or success. Hatchery walleye stocking will be evaluated based on forage abundance, reservoir water levels, growth, relative weight and reservoir-wide relative abundance. Implement periodic creel surveys as funding allows.

When abundance is maintained from primarily natural reproduction, possession limits and/or slots should be evaluated to protect the prime spawning population when warranted by creel census and fall netting data.

Overall goals should be to maintain a proportional stocking density of 30-60.

For Tiber?..forage habitat improvement projects need to be evaluated and continued on an annual basis.

For Lake Frances?.remove language that would limit stocking to biannual as it is currently written.

The entire public scoping process needs to be reviewed. I understood there would be a 30 day public comment period. For this, the first news release about this comment period was posted Dec 17 on the Mt FWP website. So we see this effort with a deadline of January 13....covering a major holiday season with less than the 30 days for public comment ...maybe that complies with some law, but it doesn't send a very positive message of sincerely wanting public input.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide' Public Notice Web Page.

From: griz901@gmail.com

Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2019 6:17 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

My name is William Smith, Columbia Falls Montana. We have lived in Region 1 for more than 15 years and recreate frequently in the Whitefish Divide. Our first five years of recreational activity was spent in the southern part of Hungry Horse Reservoir and the South Fork River. It was our first experience trying to "not" catch bull trout. A nearly impossible task while recreational fishing. Fishing has always been a component of our recreational activities.

The past ten years our recreational activities include frequent and extended stays in the North Fork of the Flathead River Drainage and areas surrounding the Whitefish Divide. We also frequent the Stillwater River drainage from its headwaters to Stillwater Lake and East of Hwy 93 to Upper Whitefish Lake and Red Meadow. During recreational fishing, it is nearly impossible to spend a day on the water without unintentionally catching a bull trout or Lake trout over on the Stillwater. This past summer is the first time I've seen bull trout in Upper Whitefish Lake. I have personally seen what look like large hybrids caught north of Upper Stillwater Lake. My point is there doesn't seem to be anywhere in our area where fishery management specific to one species doesn't affect recreational or commercial fishing (guides). In regards to additional "locked in" management plan, regulations and restrictions, I don't think the management plan addresses additional opportunities to allow more recreational fishing as part of the conservation plan within restricted waterways. Specifically, it seems if the North Fork Flathead River Tributaries were opened to recreational fishing under strict regulations and permitting, then additional conservation funds and visibility to the fisheries would be possible. Additional usage would generate revenues to increase FWP/State funds, conservation awareness and education while trying to "manage" NF Flathead River tributaries. Every year we participate in hunting activity surveys, why not let the people who frequent the waterways recreate and provide "boots on the ground" information through special usage permits.

After the fires and subsequent privately contracted "restoration" of NF Flathead tributaries, I've always wondered why Montana has not followed examples of other fishery management groups in other wild places states. I have been waiting for those tributaries to open up to recreational fishing. To be more specific, the recreational use of the NF Drainage continues to grow and yet we can't fish its tributaries.

Other states implement "barbless" and "barbless catch and release" regulations. The ethical harvest of fish should equal the ethical harvest of wild game. These opportunities could be added to our FWP fisheries management to generate additional conservation moneys through special "tags" or permits to fish in creeks and streams currently and permanently CLOSED. Hallowat Creek, Big Creek, Whale Creek, Coal Creek etc. There is a lot of fishing opportunities to complement existing recreational activity in the North Fork and beyond.

My "COMMENT" which is more of a suggestion, would be for FWP and fisheries management teams to review and consider opening CLOSED tributaries to fishing through managed use. Specifically, allowing very restrictive use through physical fishing equipment restrictions, fishing technique restrictions and paid permits (like the old bull trout stamps). Such as combination of barbless catch and release would generate conservation funds while also providing greater opportunities to recreational users. Existing FSR bridges or near the water FSR routes could be used as "fishing access" with a pit toilet if appropriate, parking area, picnic and dry camp accommodations and access to previously closed areas is better than one million tourists stopping on the side of the North Fork road and fishing a stream or creek because they don't know any better.

One million tourists visit Polebridge in the North Fork each season. They access via the North Fork Road and/or the Camas Road out of Glacier Park. Any of these routes cross over tributaries currently at risk of illegal fishing activity. As a local, we have witnessed visitors unknowingly fishing tributaries.

That is ONE MILLION opportunities (\$\$\$) each season to generate revenue from a portion of those tourists who want to spend a couple hours fishing a "not quite a blue ribbon" creek or stream. The ?MANAGED? component would generate revenue for our woefully underfunded FWP and Forest Service conservation efforts.

Trust me I am the LAST person who will share my favorite fishing spots, but if it means additional cost to expand my

recreational and conservation contribution, then I would fully support this idea. Tapping in to a million visitors pocket books in the name of recreational fishing and conservation isn?t half bad either.

Most Sincerely The Smith Family, Columbia Falls MT

From: gunner53166@gmail.com <gunner53166@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2019 11:41 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

As a fisherman of all species I think your management plan on walleye has been very biased towards the walleye species Unlimited Harvest of walleye on bodies of water cannot be justified Fish and Game is supposed to protect all species of fish not just one that is politically based! You need to do a better job of listening to your fisherman who fish these bodies of water most of them can tell you the health of a species and the forage for the species. Thank you for allowing my comment that please listen to us all

From: telechele@hotmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2019 7:31 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

If you want to protect our waterways, you must begin by ending mining, logging and grazing anywhere near riparian zones. Plain and simple. A plan must be provided to end these practices and protect our rivers.

From: Jim Borowski (CodyCo) <codyco@cyberport.net>

Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2019 3:30 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Gentlemen:

I am sending you my comments with regards to the Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide specifically as they apply to walleye management in the Upper Missouri River reservoirs.

As I understand it, walleye were an illegal introduction to the Upper Missouri River reservoirs back in the 1980's. Since that time their population has exploded to the detriment of native fishes or non-native, but legally introduced species. I recognize that trying to remove all of the walleyes in those reservoirs would be like trying to remove a drop of oil from a glass of water. Those walleye are here to stay but I strongly believe that FWP must do everything in its power to prevent the spread of walleye into other, non contaminated waters and to eliminate it in those places where new introductions are discovered. The world class trout population below those reservoirs must be maintained. To that end I support a no limit harvest on all walleye below Holter Dam.

I also understand that a proposal has been made to declare walleye a "native" Montana fish. It would be unconscionable to seriously consider such a move. Declaring a fish a native does not make it one. Walleye are non-native to Montana and have been both legally and illegally introduced into Montana waters. The illegal introduction of the apex predator has been devastating to our native trout species, particularly westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. In waters where walleyes have been illegally introduced and those two native species are found the natives have suffered. Case in point, Noxon reservoir. Now walleyes are showing up in Lake Pond Oreille, Idaho. Simple logic would point to those fish having migrated downstream from Noxon. One illegal introduction has led to the decimation of Montana natives in those waters and now threatens another state.

Instead of rewarding illegal introductions by declaring walleyes a native, or by holding fishing derbies in waters where they exist the FWP should be doing more to eliminate or reduce those populations to a level where they pose little threat to our real native trout. Manage walleye as a game fish in those waters above Holder dam; allow no limit harvest in all other waters of the state; and do a more forceful job in discouraging illegal introductions and punishing those who are responsible.

Sincerely,

Jim Borowski Kalispell

From: zeadow@mt.net

Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2019 12:58 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

#1 WALLEYE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED NATIVE SPECIES TO MONTANA PER BIOLOGY, MANAGAEMENT AND CULTURE OF WALLEYES AND SAUGER BY AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY EDITOR BRUCE BARTON CHAPTER 4 PAGES 105 -132 SEE BOOK FOR DETAILS.

#2 SURRPRESSION OF WALLEYE BELOW HOLTER LAKE ON THE RIVER SECITION FROM BELOW HOLTER DAM TO GREAT FALLS SHOULD BE REMOVED DUE TO WALLEYES BEING NATIVE TO MONTANA AND IT IS JUST A OUT RIGHT CRIME TO SURPRESS ANY FISH.

#3 NO LIMITS ON WALLEYE BELOW HOLTER ON THE RIVER FROM BELOW HOLTER DAM TO GREAT FALLS SHOULD BE REMOVED THIS IS ANOTHER CRIME IT LETS FISHERMAN BE OVER THERE LIMITS ANYWHERE IN CENTERAL MONTANA BECAUSE THEY CAN SAY THEY CAUGHT THE WALLEYE BELOW HOLTER DAM SHOULD BE REMOVED BASED ON A NUMBER OF BEASO.

#4 NO POSSESSION LIMIT OF WALLEYES BELOW HOLTER DAM SHOULD BE REMOVED BASED ON A NUMBER OF REASONS AND COMMON SENSE THAT MAKES IT SO THERE IS NO POSSESSION LIMIT ON ANY LAKE IN MONTANA.

#5 NEED A BETTER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAKE FRANSIC

#6 NEED A BETTER MANAGAMENT PLAN FOR TIBER LAKE

#7 NEED A BETTER MANAGAMENT PLAN FOR FRESNO LAKE

WHOEVER IS MANAGING THESE SYSTEMS NEED TO GO GET A NEW JOB BECAUSE THEY ARE DOING A VERY POOR JOB WE HAVE RECORD LOW NUMBERS ON WALLEYE IN 2 OF THE 3 SYSTEMS. I THINK FWP NEEDS TO LOOK DEEPER IN THERE OWN DEPARTMENT AND FIND OUT WHY THEY ARE OK WITH HAVE SUCH POOR WALLEYE FISHING IN THE STATE AND MAKE THE CHANGES THAT ARE NEEDED TO GET THE CORRECT PERSONAL IN TO MAKE MONTANA WATERS GREAT FOR WALLEYE FISH ONCE AND FOR ALL.

From: denise@conservationcongress-ca.org **Sent:** Monday, December 31, 2018 3:04 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

We request that MDFWP manage all fisheries in the state using the best available scientific information, and to use the regulations and laws at hand to enforce compliance by livestock grazers. For example, livestock grazing is repeatedly listed as an impact to fisheries, water quality and soils. FWP should be working to end these grazing allotments for the benefit of fisheries. FWP has been caving in to livestock interests for decades and fisheries, water quality, soils, Bighorn sheep, Bison, Grizzly bears, Gray wolves - to name just a few - all suffer. One wonders why the department isn't renamed MT Dept. of Livestock Grazing because it seems more interested in protecting livestock, than in fisheries and wildlife held in trust for the people of MT. Dewatering of streams is also a significant impact to fisheries the department ignores in favor of livestock grazing. I'm tired of seeing dead trout in the Yellowstone River every summer. With climate change, there is more drought and heat affecting all waterways and resources. The department should be managing water for fisheries, not livestock crops. It is well past time MDFWP begins to manage for the resources in its name (fish, wildlife and parks). Livestock should not factor in. MT has a Dept. of Livestock. We don't need a second.

From: Mtwalleyellc@gmail.com

Sent: Monday, December 31, 2018 12:35 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Overall, we need to see some changes in how our fisheries are being managed. Plans need to allow for changes and not be used as a scapegoat by FWP staff to refuse to consider changes that would make sense. Please consider the following:

- 1. Page 4-5. Montana Fisheries Resource. This states Montana is home to 91 species of fish; 59 native to the state?.and the chart on page 9 says ?walleye? are ?introduced? to Montana. This is not correct and should be changed. There is substantial documentation that has been published by credible sources that clearly show that the native range of walleye includes an area east of the Continental Divide in Montana.
- 2. Page 17-18. The Fishing Regulation setting process and policies outlined in this guide have failed and it needs to be changed. The four year cycle is not adequate to properly conserve, preserve, or protect our fisheries. (Consider Lake Francis as just one example or the decline in the perch fishery at Holter as another). Several of the central Montana fisheries are failing and nothing has been done. The department needs to be more responsive and timely with actions necessary to sustain our fisheries.

Bottom line, we can no longer manage like has been done 20 years ago, it is a very different world with significant changes in anglers knowledge, skill, ability, technology, equipment and the information network we have today.

- 3. Page 59 The definitions should include an additional ?trophy? designation and a revision to the "quality" definition. What is defined in this guide for a ?quality? fishery is not what most people would consider a ?quality? fishery. There is a significant difference between what I believe a ?quality? fishery is vs. a ?trophy? fishery. For the purposes of overall objectives we need that distinction.
- 4. Page 245 The Draft Plan language regarding the Missouri River Dearborn Section addresses overall goals and management type "Suppression" for walleye that was adopted by the FWP Commission in 2011 ? contrary to recommendations of the FWP staff regarding walleye in the river below Holter Dam.
- H. Suppression. A management approach that relies on one or more means to reduce or eliminate the presence of a species. The may include liberal angler harvest limits and/or incentives, commercial fishing, and mechanical or chemical removal. Applied to situations where the species being suppressed compromises fishery goals (native and/or recreational fisheries).

I have no problem with giving priority to the non-native trout in the upper section of this river and would never support anything I felt was detrimental to the trout population. We have historically seen changes in walleye numbers with the higher water flow/flushing years, but they have never gotten out of line. (On average less than 1% of the total fish handled each year). There has never been any documentation that the walleye population in the river has been detrimental to the trout numbers. (Per the FWP staff testimony to the FWP Commission 10/7/2010). In fact the current draft plan still acknowledges that "no evidence has been gathered which suggests an ecological impact to trout in this reach...". Bottom line, trout are not being adversely affected by the walleyes in the system. In fact the trout numbers have been outstanding and sustained at very high levels. I found it somewhat ironic that the Commission a year later after acting to establish ?no limit? on walleyes to protect the trout, increased the daily limits for trout in 2012.

In addition, the ?no limit? below Holter Dam essentially establishes a no possession limit on walleye in central Montana. It creates a situation where it makes it practically impossible to enforce other limits. In fact, it has been reported that people have been observed filleting fish at the fish station at Holter that were clearly over and above the limits on Holter, but when questioned, simply responded that they caught them all below the Dam.

I have to think that the plan should not have the language of Management Type being ?Suppression? for the river below Holter Dam. That is not needed and all it has done is reduced the quality of the walleye fishing in the lower section of the rive and hurt the Holter fishery. The Management Type being ?Liberal/Restrictive" as it is for Holter would allow the department some latitude and get rid of the negative stigma with a Department who wants to suppress or eradicate the walleye (a native fish) from this system by having a ?no limit? on walleyes below Holter Dam and a 20 fish limit from Cascade to Black Eagle.

I believe it would make better sense to have the limit consistent with whatever the limit is on Holter. In the event of an unusually high water flushing year, putting higher than desired numbers that flushed through, the Commission could implement a temporary ?emergency order? to temporarily remove the limits as warranted. I doubt we will ever realistically see that happen, because the flushing in the high water years we have experienced for decades has never created a problem.

5. Marias River Drainage

Page 314 Tiber Reservoir. Should include some direction to evaluate supplemental stocking to temper the negative trends when there are poor spawning conditions resulting in missing year classes of fish.

Page 315 Lake Francis. Language limiting to biannual stocking of walleye should be removed. Supplemental stocking should be considered and done as needed.

From: dmblevins4244@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2018 11:36 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I ask, why does the guide have to be in place for 10 YEARS? FWP should more quickly respond to visible problems, BE MORE RESPONSIVE, SOONER.

From: dmblevins4244@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2018 11:31 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Mt FWP has to be more PROACTIVE, rather than reactive, to the management of all fish programs. Pay more attention to what fishermen and women want. Trout and walleye are not against each other, and FWP doesn't need to choose one over the other. There is room for both, managed equally. In other words and in a short summary, give walleyes an equal chance.

From: robh68@yahoo.com

Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2018 2:11 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Table 1. states walleye are not native. untrue. apparently AFS and other peer reviewed publications are lying by stating they are native.

Page 14. "Challenges associated with nonnative species are widespread, and include significant concerns like hybridization between introduced walleye and native sauger" Later in the document it states: "A recent FWP study of sauger populations from 21 sites in the Missouri and Yellowstone drainages found low levels of hybridization (2%)". This seems to contradict each other.....

Page 18. States the regulation setting process is 4 year cycle. Then states: "FWP does not formally solicit ideas from the public during the other three years of the cycle" and "During the off-years, FWP may consider regulation changes generated by FWP fisheries and enforcement staff". Sure appears the public is getting cut out of the process and management of our fisheries.

Page 34. States some specific threats to aquatic habitats in MT include: "Climate change with its consequent water quantity and quality changes." - Really climate change? Does not list AIS in this section at all. WHY NOT.

Page 242. States during surveys ,FWP estimated 2017 RBT 4936 trout per mile and 2018 892 Browns per mile in the Craig section. That is 45% above LTA for RBT and 60% above LTA for Browns. Disease not an issue or concern here?? Next paragraph states: "Additionally, walleye and burbot are incidentally sampled during electrofishing operations. Over the period of record there have been changes in the number of walleye sampled in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. The increase in walleye production in Canyon Ferry Reservoir since 1994 appears to have resulted in an increase in walleye in the Missouri River below Holter Dam. THIS IS NOT TRUE. Show survey data to prove this. "However, no evidence has been gathered which suggests an ecological impact to trout in this reach at the population level. Many factors are present that could negatively affect trout populations, including increased densities of walleye (you just stated walleyes have no effect on trout populations!!), increase in angler use, prolonged drought conditions, and whirling disease infections. However, despite these factors in play for much of the past 25 years, trout populations appear resilient and show no evidence of decline. The FWP Commission established a ?no limit for walleye? harvest regulation on the section of the Missouri River from Holter Dam to Cascade in 2011 as an effort to protect the rainbow and brown trout fishery". WHY??? If there is no data to prove walleye impact on trout and FWP biologists and managers have stated this in Commission and public meetings, WHY is there no limit on walleye below Holter? Blatent abuse of a game fish and personal agendas. The SUPPRESSION action needs to be removed.

Page 242 states that ULM stretch the walleye fishery increases in this stretch. This is not true and no data to show it. It should be a managed walleye fishery in this stretch, with fewer trout and is not a trout stretch lack of habitat so why are you not managing for walleye here then?

Page 314. Tiber and Francis.....NO data listed, no net data, nothing. Our biggest reservoirs in R4 and they are not managed at all for quality fisheries. Nothing changes, just let it ride is the management choice. FWP management goal: Manage for a consumptive harvest with an opportunity for a trophy fish. Manage based on the biology of the fishery. Emphasize natural recruitment. HOW ARE YOUR DOING THIS??

Page 320 Look at all the data provided for Fresno to the public in this document. Awesome job!! Maybe Francis and Tiber manager should look at this section...

Page 486 -2009 angler survey for MT states 7% fish for walleyes. Why are we using a 10 year old survey? Why is not the recently conducted Missouri River fisheries angler survey data not listed here????

Page 486 - states "The range and abundance of walleye has increased in recent years in the Missouri River between Holter Dam and Great Falls" - THIS IS NOT A FACTUAL STATEMENT. Where is the data to prove it?

My comments are that I believe R4 fisheries and HQ fisheries has done a very poor job managing our fisheries in this part of the state. we have world class trout fishery below holter. In canyon ferry, holter, francis, tiber and missouri river holter to GTF the fishery sucks. Even trout in holter and cferry are waaay down. perch in the tanks, nothing is done. Limits are not adjusted, no slots to protect larger fish, nothing. holter goals are to provide a trophy walleye fishery by FWP... HOW are you doing that with a 10 fish limit and net data showing less than 2 fish per net. Tiber and Francis are the worst net data since sampling began, yet nothing is changed. Canyon ferry was once the best walleye fishery west of the Mississippi River, RUINED. Cferry is a put and take trout fishery... SO WHY CANT WE MANAGE IT FOR WALLEYE AND PERCH???? Tiber could be world class, I bet anyone in our fishery division cannot catch a limit of walleye in Tiber or Francis in a 8 hour day. 1 fish per hour is your goal. Time to manage our waters for multi species. Data proves walleyes do not affect trout populations so why are we suppressing such a highly sought after game fish!!!!! time for change.

From: Bond, Jennifer

Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2018 4:05 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Cc: Campbell, Tyler; Williams, Martha

Subject: FW: Dale Gilbert-Upper Missouri River Management Plans

Attachments: Fwd: Public Comment for Statewide Fisheries Management Plan and Guide; Fwd:

Funding for FWP

Kim,

Here are some additional comments regarding the management plans.

Thanks,

Jennifer Bond Hersom

Administrative Support Supervisor
Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701 Ph: (406) 444-2404

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From: Campbell, Tyler <TJCampbell@mt.gov> Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2018 3:42 PM

To: Williams, Martha < Martha. Williams@mt.gov>; Holmes, Patrick < Patrick. Holmes@mt.gov>

Cc: Bond, Jennifer < jebond@mt.gov>

Subject: Dale Gilbert-Upper Missouri River Management Plans

Hi Director Williams and Patrick:

Attached are two emails from a Dale Gilbert about his concerns for the Upper Missouri River Management Plans and the management of Walleye.

One of the emails is an email he sent to Rep. Holmlund, Rep. Read, Senator Welborn, Senator Ellis, and Senator Ankney about wanting them to look into the management plan and the funding for FWP.

I will respond to him that I received his information and passed it along. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tyler J. Campbell Citizens' Advocate

Citizens' Advocate
Governor Steve Bullock
tjcampbell@mt.gov

406-444-5524

From: mike@bigtimberworks.com

Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:01 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Please give walleye more priority in canyon ferry. They are driving the local fishing economy. Canyon ferry gets a lot of angling pressure, The walleyes have been very stunted in the past few years! Please listen to the local anglers and manage this for walleye!!! Also are you sure they are not native to Montana anyway? thank you for your time

From: Jef344@yahoo.com

Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2018 12:38 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

- 1. The native range of walleye needs to be changed.
- 2. The current four year cycle for regulation changes needs to be changed and the department needs to be more responsive and work to conserve. Preserve, protect and sustain our fisheries.
- 3. Definitions need changes...better define what a "quality" fishery is and what a "trophy" fishery is.
- 4. Get rid of the "no limit" on walleye below Holter. It is not justified and effectively creates a no possession limit in central Montana and makes other limits unenforceable.

From: pborowick@briggsdistributing.com **Sent:** Tuesday, December 25, 2018 1:25 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Would like to see slot limits implemented on all warm water species, a reduction in the daily and possession limit for cat fish from from 10 a day to 5 and from 20 in possession to 10. From what I have read in this 503 page document there seems to be little research done on cat fish, this being said I feel that being proactive rather then reactive is the right thing to do.

Thank you from a concerned Montana fisherman.

From: doug.stickney@yahoo.com

Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2018 10:22 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Start managing canyon ferry hauser and holter for walleye instead of just for trout. Rainbow and brown trout aren?t native either so that?s not a good argument. You already fumbled the perch in holter don?t let it happen for walleye in ferry. Most of the people are fishing for walleye so Just accept it and move on. Don?t screw our management in wildlife and fish at least get something right. Thanks

From: jcarver1054@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2018 4:11 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

1. Get rid of the no limit regulation on Walleye below Holter Dam on the Missouri River,

A 5 fish limit with one over 24"

- 2. Recognize Walleye as a native fish to eastern montana as per "American Fisheries Society"
- 3. Change the four year cycle on fishing regulation, Be more proactive in making changes to sustain and improve fish availability

From: claytonlundin@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2018 1:49 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Fwp's current model of compiling a running average of 3 years of gill-net data before enacting change is extremely detrimental to potentially positively effect the future of our fisheries. For example Holters current sample data shows an extreme drop in yellow perch populations going from 60-80 fish per net in the past to 7 this fall, however with the current model nothing will be done to potentially remedy this for the next three years. At that point the damage is done without being able to make any effort whatsoever to change these problems while they are occurring. There is clear evidence that Walleyes native range included Montana, east of the continental divide. Montana FWP's current classification of walleye as an introduced non native species has done nothing but negatively impact their position in Montana as a highly sought after species. This classification needs to be removed and amended in order to move forward with our fisheries management plans. The no limit of walleye below Holter dam has created and enforced a divide within our fishing community. Walleye are stigmatized and demonized by the trout "purist" crowd and by eliminating the limit on walleye in this stretch of water to "protect" trout populations has done nothing but to divide fisherman based on their preferred method of take. Trout and walleye absolutely coexist throughout the country.

From: mitchellurdahl@montana.edu <mitchellurdahl@montana.edu>

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2018 12:42 PM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Hello,

From my understanding at the meeting attended in Bozeman on 12/18 was that there was not public comment period open because the commissioners throughout the proposed plan for rework. This is disheartening. Either the biologists at the meeting were dishonest or this website is not up to date. Both are major issues.

For the last 20 years this management plan has not worked. The age, size distribution, and overall walleye fishing experience at Canyon Ferry and the rest of the water bodies included in the management plan has gone severely downhill. The 20 fish limit is not working and the biologists are not willing to listen. This was evident at the meeting in Bozeman. When the group told the biologists that no one is consistently filling there 20 fish limit (which is the case) the biologists said "That is really Hard for me to believe". If they ever fished the bodies of water that so call "manage" this might be evident. The biologists were also not responding to to questions or comment because by there words there was no proposed management plan in place to comment on. Apparently this was not the case. It is sad that our tax dollars and license fees are supporting a group that is unwilling to listen and have a preconceived agenda. They need to be help accountable.

Areas where I see the Management Plan changed are as follows:

- 1. The native range of walleye needs to be changed.
- 2. The current four year cycle for regulation changes needs to be changed and the department needs to be more responsive and work to conserve, preserve, protect and sustain our fisheries.
- 3. Definitions need changes...better define what a "quality" fishery is and what a "trophy" fishery is.
- 4. Get rid of the "no limit" on walleye below Holter. It is not justified and effectively creates a no possession limit in central Montana and makes other limits unenforceable.

I am posting this under public comment section on the FWP website as well as sending emails to all FWP Commissioners as well as the Governor. Let's try and help this fishery live up to the potential everyone knows it capable of.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Kane Urdahl

From: pbuckingham@mt.gov

Sent: Friday, December 21, 2018 11:41 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Management plans should not have a life of over 3 years at max. To have a plan that lasts for over 3 years invites management issues. Water and fish populations change and if something happens in an area, it should be addressed immediately in many cases. Limit the term life of your management plan.

From: fshbwlred@yahoo.com

Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 10:24 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I feel that the management plan for the upper Missouri River is way out of wack. From Toston Dam all the way to Craig on the Missouri used to be a fantastic fishery for all species.

Walleye, Trout, Perch. It has drastically declined. The ridiculous catch limits for Walleye, especially unlimited catch below Holter is one of the worst decisions allowed to try to devastate a fishery. The tactics on Canyon Ferry to try to irradiate Walleyes instead of managing them has cause a big mess that will take years to correct.

I'd like to see the catch rates for Walleye be managed to make all the waters a great fishery again for all anglers. Keep the catch numbers low with a slot to grow and manage ALL the waters, Especially below Holter. Also the Trout. The Trout numbers are way down. I'm told because of low stocking because of budget cuts. the State and FWP need to come up with a plan on Trout as well in ALL waters to make them all a QUALITY fishery. I've been told that Perch numbers are up in the mid lakes. Holter and Hauser. But I haven't seen any better fishing as far as size and numbers on Perch either. The whole plan has to be revised NOW and corrected almost YEARLY to get the waters involved back to being the QUALITY fisheries they once were and can be if managed correctly. It wouldn't hurt if a forage based food source can be introduced to help feed all the fish and help their growth rates. I know that would be possible as well.

From: Alemermules@q.com

Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 9:45 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

Canyon Ferry & Holder Fish management has been a failure. If you look back to the years of the late 90's when large walleyes and Trout were doing great and anglers had a real quality experience. FWP has blamed the declining Perch population. If that is true Walleyes Unlimited has offered to fund floating islands on Pond 4 to help raise Perch through habitat. Its simular to the Christmas tree planting presently being done. Its a win win for Perch, Walleye and Trout and anglers. Also putting restrictive limits like 5 per day and only one over 21 inches on Walleyes. Large Walleyes forage on there own species. That's why we had a great large Walleye population in the late 90's. We hardly ever caught a 16 inch Walleye or smaller in those years.

From: thomaspriggs@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 6:01 AM

To: FWP Fishing

Subject: Public Comment: Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide

I live full time in Ennis. Your group must start somehow to regulate the number of boats on the Madison River. It is hammered, you only know about guide trips, NOT the others that are overusing the river. It is a a mess, especially allowing Idaho guides to use it and pay nothing and no regulations. We have seen 100 boats in an hour. Just gets worse and nothing is done. Sad.