

Table 2. Proposed Fish Removal Projects 2021

Site	Region	Purpose	Removal type	Species targeted for removal	Impacts to opportunity	Project status	Funding	Needs commission approval Yes/No
Doolittle Creek	R3	Westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) conservation	Piscicide, Mechanical	Brook trout	Fishing opportunity for brook trout in the treatment area would be lost. In the treatment area WCT will be salvaged and replaced back into the treated area as soon as possible. A fishable population of WCT is expected in about 1-3 years. Displaced anglers during treatment and reintroduction could fish in the nearby Big Hole River.	EA complete and decision notice issued 2017.	Barrier construction cost \$25,000 (FFIP, US Forest Service (USFS), Trout Unlimited (TU)). Treatment costs \$3,921 plus staff time (General License (GL)/Dingell-Johnson (DJ) base funding).	No: Previous approval by Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) and Commission
Shields River	R3	Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT)	Mechanical, Piscicide	Brook trout	Brook trout angling opportunity will be diminished in the removal area. During mechanical removal, YCT opportunity is expected to improve due to reduced competition with brook trout. During chemical treatment, YCT will be salvaged prior to treatment and replaced immediately afterwards to minimize impacts to angling opportunity.	EA for chemical treatment being drafted.	Barrier construction cost: \$394,625 (FFIP; Gallatin National Forest, Bring back the Natives, Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI); One Fly Partnership). Treatment costs estimated at \$1,000 plus staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	No: Previous approval by FFIP and Commission
French Creek	R3	Westslope cutthroat trout, Arctic grayling restoration.	Piscicide	Brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout	The treatment area does not currently have a fishable population as the stream was first treated in 2020. WCT will be restocked as soon after removal as possible. 40 miles of native sport fish opportunity is expected within 2-3 years of reintroduction. Angling pressure has historically been very low, and reintroduction of a native fishery is expected to provide better angling opportunity than the nonnative fishery.	EA completed and Decision Notice issued 2018. Barrier constructed in 2019. First year treatment in 2020, second year planned for 2021.	Barrier construction cost: \$418,000 (MDT, FFIP, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF); USFS, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Northwestern Energy (NWE), Arctic Grayling Recovery Program, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), TU, State Wildlife Grant (SWG). Treatment costs \$32,079 plus staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	No: Previous approval by FFIP and Commission

Site	Region	Purpose	Removal type	Species targeted for removal	Impacts to opportunity	Project status	Funding	Needs commission approval Yes/No
NF Spanish Creek	R3	Westslope cutthroat trout, arctic grayling restoration.	Piscicide	Brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout hybrids	Project area does not currently have a fishable population as the stream was treated in 2019 and 2020. Treatment area will be stocked with WCT and arctic grayling after treatment and will provide 17 miles of native sport fish opportunity within about 2-3 years. Angling pressure has historically been very low and the native fishery is expected to improve angling opportunity.	EA completed and Decision Notice issued 2017. First two treatments in 2019 and 2020, third year planned for 2021.	Barrier construction costs: \$405,000 (FWP; NFWF; FFIP; NWE; Turner Enterprises Inc (TEI); Madison-Gallatin TU; Arctic Grayling Recovery Program; Custer-Gallatin NF; WNTI). FWP staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	No: Previous approval by FFIP and Commission
Selway Creek	R3	Westslope cutthroat trout, arctic grayling restoration	Piscicide	Brook trout, brown trout, hybridized WCT	Brook trout, brown trout, and hybrid WCT fishing opportunity would be lost after treatment. WCT and grayling will be restocked soon after treatment. 40 miles of native sport fish opportunity expected about 2-3 years after reintroduction. Angling pressure has historically been low, and the native fishery is expected to improve angling opportunity.	EA completed and Decision Notice issued 2019. Barrier construction completed. First treatment planned for 2021	Barrier cost \$409,845 (70% USFS, remaining 30% were USFWS, FFIP, and Malteuro grants). Treatment cost \$15,000 plus staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	No: Previous approval by FFIP and Commission
Cottonwood Creek	R3	Westslope cutthroat trout restoration	Piscicide	Brook trout, hybridized WCT	Brook trout fishing opportunity would be lost in the treatment area. During and post-treatment, existing pure WCT above a waterfall will remain in place and fish colonize downstream into the treated area. Population will be further supplemented with stocking local WCT. Project will add 3.7 miles of sport fish opportunity in about 1-3 years.	Barrier constructed in 2020. EA for removal not released, currently under review and awaiting approval. First treatment planned for 2021.	Barrier construction cost \$31,600 (FFIP, TU, Trout and Salmon Foundation, MT Trout Foundation). Treatment cost likely less than \$1,000 in chemical cost, plus staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	No: Previous approval by FFIP and Commission

Site	Region	Purpose	Removal type	Species targeted for removal	Impacts to opportunity	Project status	Funding	Needs commission approval Yes/No
South Fork Sixteenmile Creek	R3	Westslope cutthroat trout restoration	Piscicide	Rainbow trout hybrids	Stream does not currently have a fishable population due to previous treatments. WCT will be stocked after final treatment. Project will add 7 miles of native sport fish opportunity in about 1-3 years. Minimal angling pressure pre-treatment. Native fishery expected to improve fishery quality.	EA and decision notice completed and issued 2012. First two treatments in 2018 and 2020, third treatment planned for 2021.	Barrier \$178,000 (FFIP, USFS, TU, NWE). Treatment costs: \$14,000 including USFS, and FWP staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	No: Previous approval by FFIP and Commission
Reser Reservoir	R6	Sport fish restoration and habitat enhancement for largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegill.	Dewatering, Mechanical, Piscicide	Crappie, bluegill, golden shiner, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, yellow perch	BLM reservoir getting drawn down for dam repair. The draw down provides opportunity to improve fish habitat and improve the largemouth bass fishery. Bass, crappie and bluegill will be stocked. Currently there is minimal fishing opportunity, and the project is expected to provide an enhanced recreational fishery. Sport fishing opportunity is expected to return 1-2 years after fish reintroduction.	BLM NEPA complete for drawdown. EA for fish removal in preparation.	\$40,000 FFIP habitat enhancement, \$1.1M BLM for dam repair and habitat enhancement. Additional treatment costs to be covered through FWP GL/DJ base funding.	No: Previous approval by FFIP and Commission
Flathead River Tributaries (7 tributaries)	R1	Ongoing maintenance removal of rainbow trout for WCT conservation. Removal occurs during spawning season, 2021 spawning season has passed, next opportunity is early in 2022.	Electrofishing	Rainbow trout	No impacts to fishing opportunity. A self-sustaining WCT population provides fishing opportunity. Captured rainbow trout are moved to Pine Grove Pond to provide family fishing opportunity.	EA complete and Decision Notice issued in 2013.	Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funded, in current BPA contract. Staff time only, in base BPA funding.	Yes

Site	Region	Purpose	Removal type	Species targeted for removal	Impacts to opportunity	Project status	Funding	Needs commission approval Yes/No
Cooney Creek	R1	Westslope cutthroat trout conservation project in a tributary to the Swan River. One of the few pure WCT populations in the area. This would be the third year of electrofishing removal.	Electrofishing	Brook trout, rainbow trout	Fishing opportunity for brook trout and rainbow trout is expected to diminish, while WCT fishery is expected to improve through reduced competition and hybridization. Fishing pressure is low and is not expected to increase after nonnative removal.	EA complete and decision notice issued 2019.	Staff time only, in GL/DJ base funding.	Yes
Red Butte Creek	R1	Westslope cutthroat trout conservation project in a tributary to the Swan River. USFS is the lead agency on the project.	Electrofishing	Brook trout	Minimal impacts to fishing opportunity. Salvaged brook trout are moved below a downstream barrier. Any lost opportunity is replaced below the barrier or with increased WCT opportunity above the barrier. Angling pressure or opportunity is not expected to change due to this project.	USFS completed an EA for barrier construction. USFS applies to FWP for a Scientific Collectors Permit.	USFS staff. FWP staff time only (GL/DJ base funding).	Yes
Smith Creek	R1	Westslope cutthroat trout conservation project in a tributary to the Swan River. USFS is the lead agency on the project.	Electrofishing	Brook trout	Minimal impacts to brook trout fishing due to low population densities. Any lost opportunity would be replaced with improved WCT opportunity.	USFS applies to FWP for Scientific Collectors permit.	USFS staff. FWP staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	Yes
Swan Lake	R1	Maintenance removal of lake trout in Swan Lake for the benefit of listed bull trout. Lake trout were illegally introduced into the system impacting the existing kokanee and bull trout fishery. USFWS project.	Gill netting	Lake trout	Project is expected to diminish lake trout opportunity while improving bull trout, WCT, and kokanee salmon opportunity.	EA currently being edited. USFWS and USFS taking lead on environmental compliance documents.	USFWS led effort. FWP staff time for EA/approval process and population monitoring.	Yes

Site	Region	Purpose	Removal type	Species targeted for removal	Impacts to opportunity	Project status	Funding	Needs commission approval Yes/No
Martin Creek	R1	Westslope cutthroat trout restoration	Piscicide	WCT/YCT hybrids	Fishing opportunity will be lost within the treatment area. Stream will be stocked with neighboring pure WCT as soon after treatment as possible. Native sport fishing opportunity is expected 1-2 years after reintroduction.	EA complete and decision notice issued 2020. First year of treatment was in 2020, second treatment planned for 2021.	Treatment costs \$3,500 plus staff time in BPA base funding. USFS staff time	Yes
NF Blackfoot	R2	Westslope cutthroat trout restoration	Piscicide	Rainbow trout hybrids	Fishing opportunity would be lost during and shortly after treatment. Stocking of WCT for several years after treatment. Reintroduced native fishery is expected to provide better opportunity than with previous hybridized fish. Sport fishing opportunity expected 2-3 years after reintroduction.	EA complete and decision notice issued 2020. Removal in 2021.	USFS Crown of Continent (\$135,000); MT Natural Resource Damage Program (\$500,000); FWP Staff time only, in GL/DJ base funding.	Yes Approved by Director
Unnamed Koi Pond, Bitterroot Valley	R2	To remove illegally introduced koi. The pond is at risk of flooding into the Bitterroot River.	Piscicide	Koi carp	Private pond, public opportunity does not exist.	EA pending.	Department will work with the landowner to get costs reimbursed.	Yes
Andrus Creek	R3	Westslope cutthroat trout restoration. Recent invasion of rainbow trout impacting the pure population.	Piscicide	Rainbow trout, hybrids, brook trout	Loss of rainbow and brook trout opportunity following treatment. Stream will be recolonized with salvaged WCT. Minimal fishing pressure not expected to change post-treatment. Native fishery expected to improve fishing opportunity. Fishing opportunity expected 1-3 years post-treatment.	EA completed and decision notice issued 2017. Barrier construction August 2021. First treatment planned for 2021	Barrier construction cost \$93,000 (landowner, FFIP). Treatment cost \$2,845 plus FWP staff time (GL/DJ base funding). BLM, TU, FWP, and USFS staff time).	Yes
Unnamed Private Pond, Bridgers	R3	Walleye and perch illegally stocked into a private pond.	Piscicide	Perch, walleye	Private pond with no public access.	Region actively working with landowner and enforcement.	Department will work with landowner to get costs reimbursed	Yes

Site	Region	Purpose	Removal type	Species targeted for removal	Impacts to opportunity	Project status	Funding	Needs commission approval Yes/No
Brushy Fork	R5	Yellowstone cutthroat conservation by reducing competition with non-native species.	Mechanical	Brook trout and brown trout.	Mechanical removals expected to diminish brook trout and brown trout opportunity while improving fishing opportunity for YCT. Fishing opportunity for nonnative fish downstream not impacted by removals.	EA expired, update pending.	FWP staff time (GL/DJ base funding).	Yes
Buffalo Creek	R5	Yellowstone cutthroat conservation through removal of rainbow trout.	Piscicide	Rainbow trout	Rainbow fishing opportunity will be lost in the treatment area. YCT will be stocked into the area after treatment. Low angler pressure due to remote wilderness location. Native YCT fishery expected to improve fishing opportunity. Sport fishing opportunity expected 1-3 years after treatment. Stocking catchable size YCT in Hidden Lake (located within the basin) will mitigate lost opportunity.	Public comment complete on EA, decision notice pending. Treatment is planned for 2022, approval in 2021 is preferred in order to have all planning work complete prior to treatment.	Treatment costs, including supplies, staff time, and outfitter costs \$239,0000 (FWP-GL/DJ, National Park Service, TU, USFS).	Yes
Arapooish	R5	Sport fish restoration to improve bass fishery and water quality.	Mechanical, piscicide	Native suckers, other nongame species	Project is intended to improve angling opportunity by removing nongame fish. Fishing opportunity also available in the adjacent Bighorn River.	EA currently being drafted.	FWP staff time only (GL/DJ base funding).	Yes
Unnamed Pond, near Zortman	R6	Removal of illegally introduced goldfish.	Piscicide	Goldfish	Private pond, no fisheries potential.	EA complete, decision notice issued 2020	Very minimal treatment and staff costs covered with GL/DJ base funding.	Yes