



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

June 29, 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment was prepared to establish a new Arctic Grayling population in Chiquita Lake, which is in the headwaters of the North Fork of Spanish Creek. Grayling, which were historically common throughout the upper Missouri River basin, including the Gallatin River, now only occupy about 5% of their historical range. The declining status of grayling has led to its designation as a *Species of Special Concern* by the State of Montana and a *Sensitive Species* by the U.S. Forest Service.

FWP proposes to introduce juvenile grayling into Chiquita Lake via helicopter in the late summer or early fall of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Although westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) were originally proposed in Chiquita Lake, grayling can be established in Chiquita Lake without compromising the overall goal of establishing a large, self-sustaining WCT population throughout the project area. The process of introducing grayling or WCT to Chiquita Lake would be the same, so disturbances during those efforts will not differ from what was proposed in the original environmental assessment.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites you to comment on the attached proposal. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. July 28, 2021. Comments should be sent to the following:

Mike Duncan
Fisheries Biologist
1400 S 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

Or e-mail to mike.duncan@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Marina Yoshioka
Region 3 Supervisor

Attachment