



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 18, 2004

To: People Interested in the South Fork Flathead Watershed Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program

We would like your comments on Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the South Fork Flathead Watershed Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program.

If you requested either a paper copy of the Draft EIS or a Summary including a CD of the entire Draft EIS, it is enclosed. If you would like a copy of this Draft EIS, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a message naming this project and give your complete mailing address. Please specify which format you would like, either a paper copy of the Draft EIS or a Summary of the Draft EIS with a CD of the entire document. The Draft EIS may also be viewed on our website at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/MountainLakesTrout>. Documents are also available for review at several libraries in Montana. A list of those libraries is at the end of this letter.

How to Comment: Choose the way you would like to comment: Write a letter to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration - DM-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428. Call toll-free at 1-800-622-4519 and record your comments. E-mail us at comment@bpa.gov. Or send a FAX to 503-230-3285. In your communication please reference this project. *Comments will be accepted until August 20, 2004.*

Public Meeting-Open House: Representatives from BPA, the U.S. Forest Service, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) will provide information about the proposed project and be available to answer questions between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2004, in an open-house forum. Participants may also submit comments orally or in writing during the meeting.

Public Meeting-Open House
Monday, July 12, 4-8 p.m.
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Headquarters
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, Montana

Proposal: BPA is proposing to fund a conservation program, proposed by MFWP, to preserve the genetic purity of the westslope cutthroat trout populations in the South Fork of the Flathead drainage. This program is part of the effort to mitigate for the construction and operation of Hungry Horse Dam. MFWP is proposing to remove hybrid trout from 21 identified lakes and

streams in the South Fork Flathead drainage and replace them with genetically pure native westslope cutthroat trout over the next 10-12 years. All activities would occur on lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Some of the lakes are in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Jewel Basin Hiking Area. Other lakes may also be included as additional information is discovered.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, or e-mail me at caspiering@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in our work.

/s/ Colleen A. Spiering

Colleen A. Spiering
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure (if requested):
Draft EIS or Summary with CD

A copy of the Draft EIS can be reviewed at these libraries:

Carroll College

Corette Library
1601 North Benton Avenue
Helena, MT 59625

Flathead County Library

247 First Avenue East
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Montana State University-Billings

Library
1500 University Drive
Billings, MT 59101

Montana State University-Bozeman

Roland R. Renne Library
100 Paisley Court
Bozeman, MT 59717

Montana State University-Northern

Vande Bogart Library
300 West 13th Street
Havre, MT 59501

State of Montana

Natural Resource Information
System Library
1515 East 6th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601-8206

State Law Library of Montana

215 North Sanders Street
Helena, MT 59620

University of Montana-Butte

Montana Tech Library
1300 West Park Street
Butte, MT 59701

University of Montana-Missoula

Mansfield Library
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812