



MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region 3 Headquarters  
1400 S 19th Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

April 1, 2024

Wisdom Ranger District  
300 Forest Service Road  
Wisdom, MT 59761

RE: Trapper Creek

Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) fully supports the Forest Service's plans to install a fish barrier on Trapper Creek. The Trapper Creek drainage is home to a non-hybridized population of westslope cutthroat trout that inhabits only 1.5 miles of a tributary. Recently, brook trout have invaded this stream and pose a significant threat to the long-term viability of the cutthroat population. Construction of a fish barrier, subsequent non-native fish removal, and expansion of the non-hybridized cutthroat in the stream are necessary to conserve this population. This project will result in the expansion of the cutthroat population in Trapper Creek from 1.5 miles to over 8.0 miles of stream including a self-sustaining lake population. Protecting the cutthroat population from the threats of non-native fish and the potential effects of unpredictable events such as fire that can threaten very small populations will safeguard the long-term conservation of the population. This project will help to achieve the goals of westslope cutthroat conservation as spelled out in the Upper Missouri River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Trapper Creek project.

For further questions or concerns, please reach out to the following FWP personnel.

Jim Olsen, fisheries biologist (406-533-8451, [jimolsen@mt.gov](mailto:jimolsen@mt.gov))

Jen Smitham, Region 3 public comment coordinator (406-495-3262, [jsmitham@mt.gov](mailto:jsmitham@mt.gov))

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adam Pankratz  
Acting Region 3 Supervisor