



# Big Hole Watershed Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
 October 18, 2017 – 7:00pm  
 Divide Grange – Divide, Montana

## In Attendance

Jennifer Downing, BHWC; Tana Nulph, BHWC; Pedro Marques, BHWC; Randy Smith, BHWC/Rancher; Sarah Smith; Jeff Copeland, Watershed Consulting; Scott Reynolds, GGTU; Jim Dennehy, BHWC/BSB Water Utility; Roy Morris, BHWC/GGTU; Paul Cleary, BHWC; Liz Jones, BHWC/Rancher; Steve Luebeck, BHWC/Sportsman; John Jackson, BHWC/BVHD County Commission; Peter Frick, BHWC; Kevin Weiner, USFS; Tom Bowler; and Betty Bowler.

**Introductions** Attendees introduced themselves.

**Meeting Minutes** September 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed, no additions or corrections.

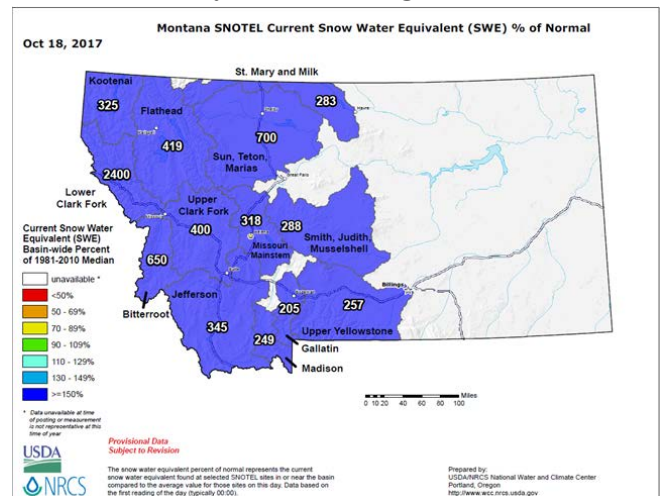
## Reports

**Streamflow/Snowpack Report – Jacqueline Knutson, MFWP**

- Streamflow:** MFWP opened the last section of the Big Hole River to fishing on 9/26 which ended all fishing restrictions on Montana rivers. While flow triggers continue through 10/31, flow conditions at all sites are well above those triggers and at all sites are around or above average for this time of year. The gage at Saginaw Bridge is currently not reporting and will be worked on next week. Seasonal gages will stop reporting flows in the next few weeks.

<a href="#">06023500</a>	Big Hole River near Jackson MT	17.0	23.4	1.15
<a href="#">06023800</a>	Big Hole River ab Spring Creek nr Jackson MT	24.0	20.5	1.84
<a href="#">06024020</a>	Big Hole River at Miner Creek nr Jackson MT	79.0	76.5	1.25
<a href="#">06024450</a>	Big Hole River bl Big Lake Cr at Wisdom MT	67.0	112	2.29
<a href="#">06024540</a>	Big Hole River bl Mudd Cr nr Wisdom MT	202	206	2.85
<a href="#">06024580</a>	Big Hole River near Wise River MT	304	324	2.84
<a href="#">06025250</a>	Big Hole River at Maiden Rock nr Divide MT	453	441	3.08
<a href="#">06025500</a>	Big Hole River near Melrose MT	450	566	1.77
<a href="#">06026210</a>	Big Hole River near Glen MT	449	579	2.64
<a href="#">06026420</a>	Big Hole R bl Hamilton Ditch nr Twin Bridges, MT	456	349	1.55

- Snowpack:** Snow has started accumulating in the mountains and early season averages are well above normal. Darkhorse Lake (8600') has 10 inches of snow as of this morning with the potential for more accumulation this weekend. The snowfall has put the Jefferson basin at 345% of normal for the water year which began on October 1st. Keep in mind these percentages can change quickly this early in the water year.
- Precipitation:** September precipitation was slightly above average and upper elevation snowfall helped to dampen the fires across western Montana. Precipitation and snow also eased the pressure on Big Hole streamflows and have brought



streamflows up to average and kept them there for the month.

- *Temperatures:* September temperatures averaged a degree or two below normal in southwest Montana. A general westerly flow dominated the upper air pattern over Montana which is normal for September. Montana has averaged above normal temperatures as a state for 9 of the last 12 months.
- *Forecast:* Last month forecasters were debating whether or not ENSO-neutral conditions or La Nina conditions would dominate the fall and winter of 2017/2018. Another month of observation has helped forecasters justify a continued La Nina watch and are predicting a weak La Nina event this winter. Even a weak event is good news for our snowpack as La Nina events are characterized by cooler than normal temperatures and higher than normal precipitation in southwest Montana. Currently ENSO-neutral conditions are still prevailing and will continue to do so until early December when La Nina conditions will begin to dominate. The forecast is still slightly tenuous with some anomalies in conditions over the Pacific Ocean but NOAA is expecting to issue a La Nina advisory by the end of the month if current observations continue to hold.
- *The three-month outlook:* Based on the current forecast for the next three months we can expect temperatures to be slightly above normal through December. Precipitation should be above average in southwest Montana with the potential to increase as La Nina conditions begin to set in.

*Drought Management Plan – Jennifer Downing, Executive Director*

- Will watch flows until October 31<sup>st</sup> (end of the water year), but currently all flows are well above triggers.

*Director's Report - Jennifer Downing, Executive Director*

- Fall newsletter, end-of-year fundraising/annual appeal coming up (November, December).
  - End-of-year donations are so important for our operating costs that aren't covered by grants.
- Funding: Federal and State funds are decreasing and constantly changing. We are trying to be as proactive, flexible, and prepared as possible to keep ahead of these changes.
  - One big change on the horizon is that MFWP is no longer funding stream gauges.
  - We're starting to bring in funds for 2018, including:
    - \$240,000 from DEQ319 program (stream restoration)
    - \$20,000 from Livestock Loss Board
    - Other sources
- This is a good time to regroup and make sure BHWC is changing and evolving in pace with needs and changes on-the-ground. This includes policies, finances, etc.
- The work that BHWC is doing is going pretty well right now.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE: The Nature Conservancy is giving us \$9,000 for restoration work on Divide Creek. Jim Berkey with TNC is on our governing board, but he is unrelated to this program and this funding.
- Missouri Headwaters Partnership: Had a meeting yesterday, looking at how to promote late-season flows across the entire upper Missouri headwaters.
- Working with Montana Watershed Coordination Council to tell stories and get information to state leadership.

*Steering Committee – Randy Smith, Chairman; Jim Hagenbarth, Vice-Chairman; Steve Luebeck, Treasurer; and Roy Morris, Secretary*

- The steering committee is happy with the progress BHWC is making.

*Wildlife Report – Jim Hagenbarth, Vice-Chairman and Tana Nulph, Conservation Programs Coordinator*

- Carcass Management: We will offer carcass removal spring 2018. We have a new Wildlife Programs Technician to drive the dump truck; his name is John Costa. He is also a full-time employee for MDT and a Wisdom resident and we think he'll be a great fit with BHWC.

- Range Riders: The 7<sup>th</sup> season of our Upper Big Hole Range Rider program wrapped up September 30<sup>th</sup>. Planning an end-of-season review meeting for November 1<sup>st</sup>. No documented depredation on enrolled allotments in 2017.
- Landowner-led Conflict Reduction: BHWC has been meeting with other conservation groups and landowners to discuss wildlife-livestock conflict issues, potential solutions, funding sources, etc. through a landowner-led conflict resolution group initiated by the Blackfoot Challenge. The BFC has submitted an application for NFWF funding to be shared amongst these landowner-led groups.
- Sage Grouse: BHWC participating in sage grouse and sagebrush conservation efforts along with several partners. DOI and BLM working with States to amend sage grouse plans. Have released 10 million acres to energy exploration which would only impact 1% of the core area.
- Brucellosis: 2 cattle in the Madison have tested positive for brucellosis. When elk test positive, the area in which they are found will be listed as a Designated Surveillance Area, so cattle will be tested more frequently. Livestock producers are concerned that if APHIS and the Department of Livestock pull funding for brucellosis testing, producers will have to pay for it.
- One Montana is developing a hunter education program to educate hunters on hunter ethics, proper etiquette for hunting on private land, and dealing with private landowners. Hoping landowners will form mutually beneficial relationships with these hunters – hunters help with game damage hunts (remove problem animals) and get private land access in return. ***If no one has any complaints, we will work with this group to try to be a part of this program.***
  - Discussion:
    - *“We need to start forging relationships with hunters if we want to manage these elk that seem to want to be on our land.”*
    - *“I think anything that can be done to help the relationship between sportsmen and landowners is a very good program.”*
- Grizzly Bears: The grizzlies are coming. There have been a few grizzly bear attacks recently in neighboring watersheds. Be aware of carcasses and the potential of grizzly bear presence. BHWC co-sponsored a bear safety awareness training October 18<sup>th</sup> (prior) to this meeting with the South West Montana Bear Education Working Group.

### People/Land Use Planning

- TNC/Divide Creek project: TNC has provided funding for gauging and monitoring of an dried-out, historic beaver meadow on East Divide Creek. Monitoring will be conducted for a year prior to restoration of beaver structures. The project will help establish data to show results of natural water storage projects.
- Pedro and Tana attended Mesic Area Restoration workshop at University of Montana Western in September. Bill Zeedyk is an expert on water storage in the Southwest and has been working for ~30 years on methods to slow down water. Uses low-tech methods like hand-engineered rock dams. Low cost, high impact.
- Incentive Program: Contracts are in landowners’ hands, learning a lot, trying to hold streambanks in place and get good work done while using low-tech methods to avoid complicated and time-consuming permitting processes.
  - Pedro will be willow-staking at Trapper Creek Ranch on October 24<sup>th</sup> – anyone who’s interested is welcome to join. Contact Pedro for more information.

### New Business

- None.

### Discussion

- *What is happening with the barrier at French Creek? Are there any updates?*
  - Background info: Montana FWP has proposed the installation of a fish barrier at the bottom of French Creek, which would provide 40 miles of stream for native fish including Arctic grayling and Westslope cutthroat trout. This plays into the restoration work that we recently completed on Mount Haggin repairing the streams up there to provide habitat for the native fishery. BHWC

released a statement in support of the fish barrier, and a public meeting was held in Wise River on August 31<sup>st</sup> as a result of community concerns about the project. There has been a lot of coverage via fliers, social media, the Montana Standard, and word of mouth regarding this project. At the meeting, Jim Olsen and Travis Horton from MFWP discussed the benefits of the fish barrier, how this plays into native fish restoration and MFWP's long-term goals, cost, etc. The meeting was tense, but we hope something good came out of it. *BHWC's Statement of Support included as attachment.*

- *Update:*
  - *MFWP had solicited contractors, but contractor bids were too high, so they had to go back to the drawing board and either find ways to cut costs or resolicit bids.*
  - *MFWP hopes to do some relationship repairing with landowners.*
- *The grayling biologist in the Upper Big Hole resigned around June – have they filled that position yet? I think it's very important that we maintain a full-time grayling biologist in the Upper Big Hole.*
  - *Good question. With Emma and Mike leaving, we are concerned. The technicians that were working under Emma are really good, but we haven't heard anything about that position being filled; that's really all we know for now. We have expressed our concern to MFWP, so they know we're asking about it.*
  - *Typically agencies like these will leave the position vacant for up to a year to cover budget shortfalls and then they fill the position.*
  - *It will be really detrimental to this group if they don't fill this position.*
  - *From a CCAA participant: There certainly has been a lot less presence on the ground with Mike and Emma gone, but like Mike has said, most of the Site Specific Plans are done. We still need to push for this position to be filled but I don't think we need to panic.*
  - *We don't want to see the effort or focus going to another river though.*
  - *If this thing gets dropped in the mud for a year or two, the results down the road may not be good at all.*
  - *The people in the CCAA program are the most protected; it's everyone else in the drainage that may be affected going forward. I'm really concerned about the policies and activities with the State. This is not the way vacancies are usually handled.*
  - *Certain parties are just waiting for a crack in the grayling recovery and will take the issue to the courts if they see a chance.*
  - *The data and background is really important to keep the momentum going.*
  - *We need a full-time biologist; it can't just be anyone. This is a serious situation and we need someone who is fully qualified.*

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## **Meeting Topic: Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area Restoration**

*Pedro Marques, BHWC Restoration Programs Manager*

*Jeff Copeland, Watershed Consulting*

*Background:* The Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located between Wisdom and Wise River and south of Anaconda. It is owned and operated by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and is just under 60,000 acres. The highest elevation is at the continental divide, with the southern portion in the Big Hole River Watershed and the northern portion in the Clark Fork River watershed. The first gold strike in the Big Hole occurred there at French Gulch in 1864, and as a result, the area was extensively placer mined. The Anaconda Smelter caused severe damages to the uplands in Mount Haggin through logging and loss of vegetation. Mining and smelting activities continued for nearly a century. Since then, the uplands have deteriorated, with thousands of tons of sediment eroded from hillsides into creeks. As a result, the entire Deep Creek drainage has impaired water quality due to high volumes of sediment from the headwater streams California, Oregon, and Sixmile Creeks to the larger tributaries of French and Deep Creeks. BHWC has been working with MFWP, NRDP, and funders to repair the damage done to this area to improve water quality and enhance native fisheries.

## **Mount Haggin Restoration – Pedro Marques, BHWC**

### Impairments

- The following creeks in the Deep Creek Drainage are listed on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Impaired Waters listing:
  - California Creek (metals, sediment, physical alterations)
    - Completed
  - Oregon Creek (metals, sediment, physical alterations)
    - Proposed
  - Sixmile Creek (sediment, physical alterations)
  - French Creek (metals, sediment)
    - Completed
  - Deep Creek (sediment, physical alterations)
  - Big Hole River: (sediment, metals, temperature, physical alterations)
- Metals: The metals issue on Mount Haggin is very difficult to tackle, but metals are often linked to sediment, so BHWC has decided to focus on sediment capture/reduction.
- Sources of degradation:
  - Aerial emissions of arsenic, sulfur dioxide, copper, antimony, lead, cadmium, and zinc. Up to 59 lbs. per day every day for 100 years (1880s to 1980).
  - Intensive logging to fuel smelters and build infrastructure. Up to 300,000 cords of wood annually.
  - Placer mining
  - Transportation infrastructure: rail, horse, flume
- Mount Haggin Remedy and Remediation Areas (RRA):
  - Lead agency: Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP)
  - Landowner: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP)
  - Oversight: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Size: 5,000+ acres
  - Status: Remedial and Restoration Plan (in draft) will become legally binding document between State/EPA for Haggin Uplands.

### Past the Ecological Tipping Point:

- Soil in the uplands had eroded away to the point that it was down to friable mineral "soil" in volcanic welded tuff parent material.
- There had been a loss of 6-18" of forest soil = most organics and water holding capacity was gone.
- Seed sources were few and far between and there were high predation rates (e.g. birds eating them).
- Extreme summer & winter climates + wind erosion = low decomposition
- Loss of most natural grade controls and riparian buffer
- Soil pH: 5.0-6.0
- Created sediment superhighways, which limited natural recolonization and creating an aggraded floodplain. Also created incised stream channels, which limited floodplain function and hydrologic connectivity between ground and surface water.

### Conceptual Plan and Design Principles:

- Iterative and adaptive approach
- Demonstrate and scale up what works.
- Mimic natural recovery processes.
- Capture and hold sediment on the landscape, slow the water and connect the floodplain.

1. Uplands: grow grass forbs
2. Gullies: capture sediment
3. Riparian:

1. Uplands

- o Joiner Gulch: upland amendment fertilization
- o Applied 2,000 lbs/acre of fertilizer to 3 acres October 2015
- o Used a pelleted, organic fertilizer called Sustain. Slowly releases nitrogen over several years.
- o Visible results by July 2017 (shown right)



2. Gullies

- o Gully check-dam fill structures used to reduce erosive energy and capture sediment.
- o Widened gully bottom/floodplain.
- o Created more suitable germinate substrate with captured fines.
- o Hold back moisture.
- o New structures are built on captured sediment.
- o Treated 3.5 miles of gullies in the California Creek project alone.

3. Riparian/Beaver Mimicry:

- o Doing what a beaver would do in a stream system in the absence of beavers.
- o Increase wetted width of channel and floodplain.
- o Deposit sediment on floodplain.
- o Slow water velocity and erosive energy.
- o New structures are built on captured sediment.
- o Hold back moisture longer into the season.
- o Establish important fish habitat features.

CAPTURED SEDIMENT AND INSTALLED CAPACITY OF ALL STRUCTURES BY STRUCTURE TYPE					
Technique	# structures	Captured		Installed Capacity	
		Volume Captured (yd3)	Tons Captured	Volume at capacity (yd3)	Tons at capacity
Upland rill treatment	75	1.5	46.0	2.6	82.4
Beaver mimicry	315	54	94.8	444.6	780.3
Slash filters	24	48.5	85.2	1019.2	1788.8
Gully Check dams	166	157.8	316.8	1074.5	2000.2
Engineered Rock dams	3	59.5	3.9	238.0	15.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>2779</b>	<b>4667</b>

- SSR-3: Adaptive Mechanized Approaches

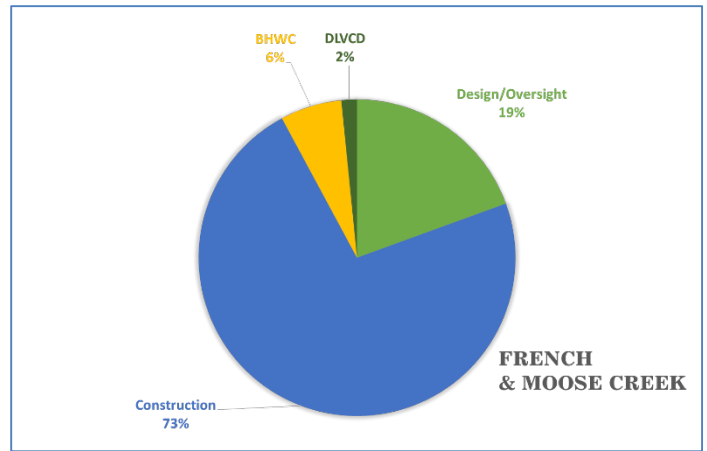
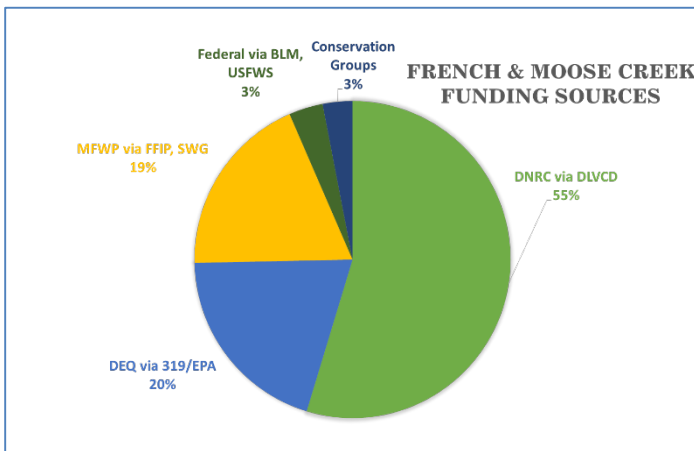
2012-2016 Work Summary:

- NRDP/FWP:
  - o 120 acres aerial fertilization
  - o Cabbage Gulch: CCR draft delivered
  - o California Creek: 6 engineered rock check dams
  - o Joiner Gulch: >150 gully BMPs
  - o Muddy Gulch: 3 miles of new channel, 80 beaver structures, 2 acres fertilization
- DEQ 319 (California Creek):
  - o 11 exclosures

- 2,200 shrubs and trees
- 1 culvert removal and regrade
- 2 new culverts and ditch relief
- 300 beaver mimicry structures
- 1,400 slash filters
- 4 miles gully BMPs
- DNRC RDGP (California Creek and Joiner Gulch):
  - 6 acres upland vegetation enhancement with 30-80% vegetation improvement
  - 400 ft. gully BMPs

**French Gulch & Moose Creek project:**

- Construction recently completed. Results show wet, lush riparian area.
- Wrapping project up now – writing final reports.
- Have some leftover money which will be used to remove additional placer piles.
- Case Study: Investment (below left): Note that the 3% from conservation groups included funding from



partners like George Grant Trout Unlimited and Patagonia. These funds were especially important in moving the project forward and filling gaps in government funding. Also note that 94% of the funding came from the State or was State-channeled.

- Case Study: Economy (above right)
- Where did the funding come from?
  - Big Hole Watershed Committee
  - Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Montana DNRC Reclamation and Development Grants Program (RDGP)
  - Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 319 and Wetlands Programs
  - Future Fisheries Improvement Fund
  - SWG
  - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Montana Chapter American Fisheries Society
  - Montana Trout Foundation
  - Patagonia World Trout Initiative
  - George Grant Trout Unlimited
  - Montana Trout Unlimited
- Where did it all go?
  - Montana Conservation Corps
  - Watershed Consulting
  - Morrison-Maierle, Inc.
  - Montana Civil Contractors
  - RPA, Inc.
  - MSE

- GCM
- Big Hole Watershed Committee
- Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District

#### Oregon Creek:

- Placer mined
- Have a 40% design
- Would move stream out of an incised condition.
- Still in conceptual phase.

#### French Creek:

- Mining-related earthwork constricts channel into high eroding bank.
- Grazing excluded from site for fish and restoration projects.
- Move the stream away from erosive bank.
- Project outcomes:
  - Reduction in annual sediment load (823 T/yr.).
  - Creation of ~20 acres of wetlands.
  - Monitoring of natural water storage.
  - Eliminated long-term anthropogenic influence on channel.
  - Improve native fish habitat (2<sup>nd</sup> largest native fish project in the State, largest on public land).
  - Remove large sediment source from future fish barrier.

#### Mount Haggin Weeds

- Weed control as part of NRD plan
- FWP contracting for 10-year weed Management Plan for WMA

#### **Discussion:**

- *Where did the volcanic ash come from?*
  - *It's the geologic parent material of this area, but you'd probably have to talk to a geologist to find out exactly where it came from, where the volcanoes were, etc. Chalk it up to long-term geologic processes. It's not unnatural to have this material on the landscape, but normally it would have a forest on it.*
    - *It looks like the same kind of material as in the Beaverhead; could it be from the Yellowstone volcano?*
      - *I don't know that.*
- *Is Fish, Wildlife and Parks hung up on using only native species?*
  - *We're not going to remove what's there if it's holding the soil in place. Until the native species overtake what's growing there now, those species can stay. If there's a spot where we can promote aspen and shrub growth and take out conifers, that helps Vanna's priorities for elk habitat.*
- *What's the average rainfall out there?*
  - *About 13 inches. (confirm)*
- *What did you do with all the material (mine tailings) you removed (from French Gulch & Moose Creek)?*
  - *It's not contaminated, so we basically sprinkled it throughout the floodplain. We didn't remove any material.*
- *This is an incredible project. We used to run cattle up there and the water was just wasted. It would be really interesting to know the cfs that this project has added back into the river.*
  - *A graduate student did a study that found that for every lineal meter restored, you get a cubic meter of water in late-season flows. Any area that we can improve natural water storage, that's what we're aiming for.*



## **Invasive Weeds on Mount Haggin – Jeff Copeland, Watershed Consulting**

- For decades, weed spraying has been the primary method of weeds treatment in this area (on the Clark Fork side). This is due to a lack of communication and planning between various groups doing the weed spraying.
- In 2003, started treating leafy spurge with insects. Black flea beetles were especially effective. By 2007, the spurge was basically gone.
- These are areas that are naturally revegetating – not major restoration areas.
- Now using insects on knapweed. Not quite as effective on knapweed, but will likely just take more time.
- Now finding Dalmatian toadflax.
- Biocontrol can be effective, but requires a lot of monitoring and oversight or else monocultures (often invasive) will take over.
- 2 goals:
  - Stop weeds from spreading.
  - Stop new species from coming in.
- Need to use approaches that enhance the native plants. Think of weeds differently. It will likely take decades to eradicate them on Mount Haggin. Invasive weeds are preferable to a complete lack of vegetation, because they at least hold the soil in place.

## **Discussion**

- *If you have a small patch of spurge, are you better off not doing anything or should you spray it?*
  - *That's a tricky one. You could spray it, but it might be really tough and you'll damage your land. You'll get some annual weed in its place.*
    - *The problem is, the native stuff you want there – you're damaging its ability to reestablish there.*
      - *It depends on the weed though – if you have the opportunity to eradicate a new weed that's coming in, you should probably do it.*

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- November 15, 2017, 6pm @ the Divide Grange. BHWC Monthly Meeting. Topic: Big Hole River Channel Migration Zone Maps. *\*Note the time change from 7pm to 6pm due to daylight savings time.*
- BHWC does not meet in December. Enjoy your holidays!

## **Adjourn**

August 29, 2017

### **Big Hole Watershed Committee Support Arctic Grayling Restoration/French Creek Fish Barrier**

The Big Hole Watershed Committee supports the French Creek Fish Barrier and native fish restoration project proposed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area.

The native fish barrier planned for French Creek will protect 40 miles of native fish habitat and create a safe haven publicly accessible for West Slope Cutthroat Trout and Arctic grayling. It will be the second largest native fish restoration project in the state. The barrier is planned for construction this fall and on the heels of more than 5 years of habitat restoration work.

While the barrier boasts great gains for fish, it represents only a portion of the good work that has occurred over a short time and investment of several million dollars. In just five years,

- Montana Department of Transportation repaired Highway 569, pulling the road away from delicate riparian areas and replacing culverts with large stream crossings for natural fish passage.
- Natural Resources Damages Program, as part of the Superfund work related to the Anaconda Smelter Damages, supported repair of upland bare slopes including revegetation and gully repair on Sargarloaf Mountain and California Creek areas.
- Big Hole Watershed Committee and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks worked in partnership, including the support of many state and federal agencies, local residents, and local conservation groups, to restore portions of California Creek, French Gulch and Moose Creek for natural water storage, reduced sediment impacts, improved water quality, fish habitat and removal of historic mining impacts. More of this work is expected in coming years.

Let's also include nearly 30 years of Arctic grayling restoration within the Upper Big Hole, of which Mount Haggin is included. Although in 2014 the US Fish and Wildlife Service determined the Arctic grayling was no longer considered a candidate for Endangered Species listing, pointing specifically to cooperative conservation at work in this valley as a direct indicator of long-term sustainability. While the fish is not considered recovered completely, US Fish and Wildlife Service certainly gave notice that we are headed in the right direction. We need to keep pace – continue drought management work to maintain flows, continue habitat restoration to provide cool, clear water for grayling, and continue to work together as a community to keep the upward trend in population. This project serves as a giant boon to this cause.

Even while the Big Hole River Drought Management Plan was enacted in 1997, the voluntary measures to maintain river flows and protect the fishery in the mainstem of the river, voluntary reduction in water use and fishing only take us so far to weather dry years like this one. The only water we have is the water we can hold in the valley. The key is building a resilient watershed that can hold cold, clean water later into the summer and can provide a wide range of habitat for fish. This year, while we had a dry, hot summer, the river held on. That may some part have to do with thirty years of restoration work. The barrier project and the extensive habitat restoration work, will all help hold cold, clean water and native fish in the Mount Haggin area like a natural savings account.

A few members of the public have scheduled a discussion for Thursday night, August 31, 2017 at 6pm at the Wise River Community Building citing discontent over the proposed project. Montana Fish, Wildlife

and Parks will present their information on the project. We encourage people interested in this work to attend or let Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks know your thoughts. An even greater need, talk to your friend and neighbors about this work and its importance. We're a community. This work supports a greater good for us all to enjoy.

The Big Hole Watershed Committee was established in 1995 and represents diverse interests of the Big Hole River watershed, including anglers, ranchers, conservation groups and residents. In just over two decades, the group provide information and conducts direct restoration, investing millions of dollars directly into conservation for water, fish, wildlife, land use and more while also leading conservation in the state. Learn more at [bhwc.org](http://bhwc.org) or contact us at 406-960-4855, or [info@bhwc.org](mailto:info@bhwc.org).