

Charles Spangle 11/15/05

South Fork Flathead

1. When they poison that system out, you'll be killing a lot of other things besides fish. Newts, tadpoles, frogs, sculpins (small minnow, flathead with eyes on top), salamanders and aquatic insects. You have no plans to replace those critters.
2. Frogs and otters depend on the food source as well as raccoons. You'll lose the food base for those other animals.
3. The poison you're putting in there will also go through the Hungry Horse Dam. The biologist says they'll treat the water before it goes through the reservoirs to protect the fish, but I don't believe that will happen or will work.
4. The local federal fish and game department killed out one stream for five miles, from the waterfall down to the reservoir, but above the waterfall they still had the same species living. They spent ~\$30,000 to kill the fish out, and put new ones in two small lakes, but the rest of the stream is still left barren. They thought that five years ago the trout would work their way back through the system, but they have not. It seems like what they say they'll do is different from what they actually do.
5. When man starts to mess around with nature, he does a lousy job. I am opposed to this project.

I read an article stating that they want Montana to drain the reservoirs down to let the baby salmon through. I travel to Milton-Freewater, Ore. and am familiar with the area. I have counted at least 200 gill nets on the Columbia River – probably more. If we have a problem with salmon not getting to the spawning grounds, those gill nets have something to do with it. If that is the case, Montana draining the reservoirs won't get much more through.