

Date: December 1, 2005  
To: Bonneville Power Administration - Ref: KEC-4  
From: Virgil and Barbara Burns, Owners - Bob Marshall Wilderness Ranch  
Re: Proposed Fish Kill and Lake Poisoning in the Bob Marshall Wilderness

The devastating proposal to "poison" lakes and streams should not be implemented in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, South Fork of the Flathead drainage. The alpine lakes and streams under fire are in the same area I have outfitted in for the last thirty years. These waters are very productive and have provided unequalled fishing for us, our guests and all others who have fished for them. These thriving, healthy, big, fat fish should not be killed for purely genetic reasons.

We feel this plan goes against all that is held sacred in a wilderness area. Wilderness areas were established in order to hold those areas in a pristine state without interference from human beings. We believe the "Wilderness Act" should be respected and these areas should not be tampered with. If experimental poisoning of lakes is to be done, it should be done in an area that is more easily managed, not in the wilderness. And, what happens to all of the wildlife (bears, birds, etc) that will feed on these poisoned fish?

Again, why kill healthy, viable fish for only genetic reasons? We believe this to be true in any location, but especially true in the wilderness, which established areas to remain as they are. If fish are allowed to be tampered with in the wilderness, what next?

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Proposal: Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a conservation program, proposed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), to preserve the genetic purity of the westslope cutthroat trout population in the South Fork of the Flathead drainage. This program is part of the effort to remove hybrid trout from 21 identified lakes and 2 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.