

Brian Phillips (landowner on subdivision near Bass Lake):

Telephone conversation: Uncertain about the use of chemicals to remove fish. Concerned about dog drinking treated water. Also asked about the possibility of re-channelizing Mud Creek upstream of the lake. Pointed out a typo error on page 14 of the draft EA: “hybridized” fish that was not relevant to this project.

Ginny Emmerson (resident on Therriault Creek downstream near the confluence of Mud Creek):

Telephone conversation: Concerned about cattle drinking water from Therriault Creek. Concerned about her domestic drinking water that they obtain from a well.

Leeann Nemece and Bill Gorham (landowner on subdivision near Bass Lake):

Telephone conversation: Concerned about the use of chemicals from a human health aspect and the uncertainty of impacts to non-target wildlife. Also expressed a concern that some of the neighbors in the area first heard about the project in the article published in the Tobacco Valley News.

Rose Carvey (Secretary for the Tobacco Valley Rod and Gun Club):

Telephone conversation: No issues with northern pike removal, but the club did have some concerns that MFWP would be restocking the lake given the fact that the lake does not generally have public access, and did not think it should be restocked for this reason. The club was also concerned that the pesticide would not be contained only to Bass Lake and Mud Creek, especially concerned with potential fish kill in Therriault Creek or the Tobacco River downstream.

Judy Verjoice (citizen):

Telephone conversation: Works at the Tobacco Valley News. Opposed to the use of chemicals due to the potential impact to human health and the environment.

Bill (citizen):

Telephone conversation: Opposed to the use of poison primarily because the fish would be “wasted”. Suggested potentially holding a fishing derby to fish them out.

Heather Handy (citizen):

Telephone conversation: Opposed to the project due primarily for human health concerns. Is a friend of June O'Connor. Generally concerned over the increase in the worldwide use of chemicals. Suggested looking into alternative methods of removing the fish from Bass Lake.

Dan Cansassa (citizen):

Telephone conversation: June O'Connor a friend that lived on Carpenter Lake. Opposed to the project primarily due to human health concerns. Concerned that Mud Creek flows into the Therriault Creek, which flows into the Tobacco River, which is used as a domestic water supply by the city of Eureka, and that either rotenone or potassium permanganate may enter the water supply. Dan pointed out that he is not personally on city water. Pointed out previous MFWP mistakes including mysis shrimp introduction into Flathead Lake, and previous FWP support for wolf introduction/recovery and now FWP wants to control the wolves.

Mike Gwynn (lives several miles upstream of Bass Lake):

Telephone conversation: Opposed to the project due to the human health concerns and impacts to other wildlife.

Faith Tuell (landowner on proposed treated area of Mud Creek Upstream of Bass Lake):

Telephone conversation: Supports the project and has faith in FWP's job to do what is right. However would request that we test her well if the project proceeds.

Pat Carney (citizen):

Telephone conversation: Concerned about a potential bull trout kill in Therriault Creek downstream. Not necessarily opposed to the project, but caution should be used to avoid impacts to bull trout and other fish downstream outside the treated area. Does not think the state of MT should restock the lake since the public doesn't have access.

Dick Uhrmacher (citizen Rexford, Montana):

Written Comment:

Hi Jim Dunnigan! I enjoyed reading your article in the Tobacco Valley News, concerning the Pike invasion at Bass Lake. And since you've asked for more input, I thought I would write you a couple of lines.

Walleye and Northern Pike fishing, particularly west of the Divide, has been a favorite subject of mine for some time, and I've had conversation with Jim Vashro concerning this subject. I've felt for a long time, and I still feel that way, that there should be a concerted effort to provide a good Walleye and Northern Pike fishery west of the Divide.

Obviously, Koocanusa Reservoir is NOT that solution. As you so correctly pointed out, an invasion of Northern Pike, or Walleye for that matter, into Koocanusa would decimate the Kooconee population in short order. So, your efforts to eradicate, (or control), the Pike in Bass Lake are well founded, and every attempt should be made to keep them out of Koocanusa.

As I stated to Jim Vashro, I have felt for a long time that within Montana Game, Fish & Parks there exists a "Trout fixation". Not every fisherman is a "sport" fishing enthusiast, and fishing for Trout just for that purpose isn't popular with a lot of folks I know. And, although I don't think that Jim Vashro agreed with me, I am concerned that there are more efforts to promote Trout fishing, (with respect to Koocanusa), than are warranted. There should be MORE concentration on Kooconee fishing, especially ways and means to increase the size of the Kooconee being taken. One only needs to visit with fishermen at Koocanusa, and I think you'd find that the vast majority of them are Kooconee fans, and not trout. Early Spring and late Fall are traditionally periods where fishermen try to take large Trout, but during the rest of the year most trout are taken on Kooconee rigs, and usually released.

I understand that there is an unplanned Walleye population in Thompson Lake. I think there should be a "planned" Northern Pike and Walleye program in Western Montana. Walleye particularly are very popular with fishermen, not only for the sport of catching them, but they are one of the best eating fish around. Why can't Montana GF&P find suitable lakes in Western Montana for just that purpose, and keep them stocked and managed? I'm am confident it would please many Montana fishermen.

Thanks for reading my comments, and good luck with the Bass Lake problem.

June J O'Connor (citizen Eureka, MT):

Letter to the editor of the Tobacco Valley News (copy: FWP).

Dear Editor,

My correspondence to you has to do with the article in your paper dated August 23, 2012 concerning "Bass Lake fish kill proposed"

I lived on Tetrault (Carpenter) Lake in 1998 when there was a proposal of the same substance. I was for the proposal at the time. Since the lake had the chemical applied in November 1998 my approval for the procedure has changed. The repercussions to my health from this toxin was *life changing*. Not knowing at first what was causing my deteriorating health, I pursued many health professionals. Deterioration began the fall of 1999. In the fall of 2000 I was given the name of a Clinic in Nevada and was told they could tell me what was in my system causing ill health. December 2000 I flew to Las Vegas and saw a Doctor at Nevada Clinic. I had no clue what the outcome would be.

The testing procedure revealed high levels of Rotenone. To make a long story short I since have started a journey of reclaiming health. I was unable to work for a year and a half. Since that time I still have bouts of negative health.

I do know Rotenone can affect humans. The substance also affected a granddaughter.

The water was high in 1998 when it dropped the next year the soil and the grasses had the substance and the wind became a carrier. I realized later after the diagnosis how many variables were in play.

I moved away from the lake in 2000 but I was able to return in 2004. I did not swim in the lake again until 2008. It took years for the lake to get back to normal life.

Internet information shows Rotenone affects frogs, dragonflies, etc. Rats given Rotenone, under University scientific study, showed symptoms of Parkinsons Disease, of which I had beginning symptoms. California subdivisions that had this substance applied had set guide lines such as new wells drilled away from the lake.

I would not have been able drive by Bass Lake and stay in peace if I was silent on this issue.

I encourage you to research deeper into the effects of Rotenone in all aspects of *Life*.

Tim Engleson (citizen Eureka, MT):

Written comment: Just wanted to send a quick note about the proposal of the rotenone/restock plan for Bass Lake. Let's go for it before the pike hit Kooconusa. You have my full support.

Chris Schustrom (President Flathead Valley Trout Unlimited):

Written Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. The Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is composed of more than 300 concerned citizens of Northwest Montana with an interest in protecting our populations of wild and native coldwater fish. We support the Bass Lake Restoration Project and similar proposals to recover and restore native fish around northwest Montana.

Illegal introduction of invasive and nonnative fish species continues to be one of the most perplexing problems in our state and we appreciate the efforts of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to address this problem when the need and opportunity presents itself. Introduced northern pike have caused serious harm to native fish populations throughout Montana. Where possible, established invasive populations need to be removed before they do irreparable harm to resident species.

We fully support Alternative 2 outlining your efforts to remove northern pike from Mud Creek and Bass Lake using piscicides to prevent establishment of resident pike populations downstream in Koochanusa and the Tobacco River and to restock the area with westslope cutthroat trout.

Rotenone has proven to be a safe and effective tool to remove unwanted fish populations, but it is important that mitigation measures are put in place to safeguard local invertebrate and amphibian populations and to insure that the piscicide remains within the project area. We have every confidence that FWP biologists will take necessary measures to protect against unwanted damage.

Thanks again for this opportunity to present feedback on this important project and our thanks again to Fish, Wildlife and Parks for their continued efforts on behalf of Montana fish and wildlife.

Sam Donahue (citizen):

Written Comment:

I believe I am one of many fisherman in NW Montana who feel there needs to be more diversity in NW Montana fishing waters. Not every bucket of water has to have a trout in it. Taking the pike out of Bass lake just further limits the opportunity for fishermen to fish for something other than trout. What few waters with fish other than trout, are poor and not assisted very well or not at all by FWP. Trout are fun to fish for, but the world does not revolve around them.

If you go ahead and remove the pike from Bass Lake the FWP needs to assist the pike population in the other hand full of lakes in the area. Hopefully the assistance would have better results than the FWP's handling of Flathead Lake and the Bull Trout population.

Your concern for Koochanusa has some validity, but as you said the lake is not prime pike water. What pike populations in the lake might of come from Canada, not necessarily Bass Lake, and will probably die out. Your quote in the paper "They'll eat just about anything smaller than them" also applies to some trout. Is that not the purpose of the Gerrard Trout in Koochanusa? Just maybe the few pike in Koochanusa would help the over population of salmon. Hopefully bringing some size back instead of the sardine's currently there. Thank you for your time.

Montana DEQ (Bonnie Lovelace; Regulatory Affairs Manager):

Written comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. A pesticide permit will be required for this project as shown below.

Pesticide General Permit Information:

For this project permit coverage would be needed under our Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program. The permit is the Pesticide General Permit (PGP). The (PGP) is the permitting mechanism for anyone who applies pesticides into or over state surface water. The PGP is not a pesticide permit; it is a wastewater discharge permit regulated under the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) program. Discharge of pollutants to state water without a permit is a violation of the Montana Water Quality Act.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) submittal is required before pesticide is applied to or over surface water. For additional information and for a copy of the NOI and permit please see our website at <http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/mpdes/pesticides.mcp>

If you require a more formal submittal, please let me know.

Jim Manning (citizen):

Written comment:

I strongly support the chemical treatment alternative to eradicate northern pike from Bass Lake in Region 1. FWP should be taking stronger more timely efforts to eradicate northern pike and walleye from Region 1 waters. Northern Pike are spreading and are predators of native fish species in Region 1.

markpatm@gmail.com (citizen):

Written comment:

This sounds like a great plan to restore the westslope cutthroat trout to Bass Lake and Mud Creek. It would be great to get more cutthroat back into the reservoir.

Jared Sherwood (landowner on Bass Lake):

Written comment:

I am 1 of 3 landowners of property surrounding Bass Lake. I have some serious concerns with the use of rotenone poison. I have done some research of my own so that I could get my own facts on what rotenone has been found to do when in contact with humans. I for one do not want myself or my children to end up with nerve damage because the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks use of poison to kill a fish. The majority of the studies have been found that when humans come into contact with rotenone the percentage of nerve damage that leads to Parkinson disease increases. Over half of the studies have said that the exact health issues of rotenone and humans are still unknown and will need to be studied for a longer period of time. I myself do not want

myself or my family to be a study or a sorry case, because they find out more about rotenone in the future.

I feel the ball has been dropped on this project. I have been talked to about this project, but not once was it official. Every time it was discussed with me it was at a family or friend gathering. I feel that a more official meeting about the project and all the details could have been made with all the landowners involved so that we could have made our concerns in person, before the EIS was even written.

I seriously hope that you will contact me and the other landowners so that we can possibly discuss my concerns and maybe other solutions to ridding the lake of invasive fish. I strongly feel that there are other options that could be taken that will get the same result that you are looking for.

As landowners what are our options with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks if we do not like how this is going? Do we have the option of stopping this whole thing until we feel comfortable with the EIS and the procedures that are being taken?

In your recent article you say that there is no potable water supply within 50 feet of the lake. My well is 136 feet from the lake which means that the aquifer that supplies my well could very easily be within 50 feet of the lake. Did you look into the flow of the aquifer?

Bass Lake does in fact flow into the Tobacco which is also where the town of Eureka gets its water from. I would hope that in a few years that something is not found out that rotenone is more harmful to humans than what Montana FWP is stating. In a 1997 poisoning, the town of Portola, California had to switch its water supply from Lake Davis to wells due to rotenone poisoning in the lake. The debacle led to a \$9.2 million settlement between the state of California and Portola.

When rotenone is applied to a river or lake with the intention of eradicating a target fish species, all fish, amphibians and invertebrates are vulnerable to extermination. Rotenone is not selective. Therefore, it is extremely dangerous to wildlife. Moreover, the loss of aquatic species eradicates the food supply for birds and other near-shore animals. This can interrupt bird diversity, nesting and reproduction for several years. As you may or may not know, Bass Lake is a home to not only humans, but several species of birds and aquatic animals.

Rick Marvel (landowner downstream on Therriault Creek):

Written comment:

If you proceed with the killing of the pike in Bass Lake, what happens to Terrault creek below? As a land owner below Bass Lake I enjoy a fish fry of brook trout. If you poison the lake it will also kill the brook trout below in Terrault creek. Also Bass Lake is too shallow to sustain cutthroat trout. Bass were in the lake at one time and seem to do fine. Also Bass Lake is a private lake and there is no access to it to fish. Maybe you should leave it alone and let the surrounding home owners take care of the pike. Instead of poisoning the lake, why not shock collect the fish? It is

small and shallow enough to do so.

A.E. Kelly (citizen):

Written comment:

I received a copy of the Bass Lake fish kill proposal article. Since the pike are a good food source for people, has it been considered to catch (a local fisherman suggested stunning and netting), clean and freeze them for the Food Pantry? It's clean food, as opposed to poisoned waters and makes sense.

Todd Skibbe (citizen):

Written comment:

I really support the removal of noxious fish from Bass Lake and subsequent planting of westslope cutthroat.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Ira Matt; CSKT Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer):

Written comment:

The confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) have reviewed the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks request for comments for the proposed Bass Lake Restoration Project for the purpose of removing northern pike from Bass Lake and Mud Creek and restocking the lake with westslope cutthroat trout.

Thank you for providing us information on the above-cited undertaking. At this time we do not believe that the proposed project will impact significant tribal cultural resources. We would appreciate you providing us with any new or additional information as it becomes available.

We appreciate the time and effort placed into the report provided to us. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Mike Durglo, Sr. mikeds@cskt.org or Francis Auld francis@cskt.org at (406) 675-2700 ext. 1075.

George Hayes (citizen):

Written comment:

I am against poisoning Bass Lake to kill northern pike. They are good eating and fun to catch. Why not put a no limit on pike and clean it out that way. Their taste is far superior to trout and much more fun to catch.