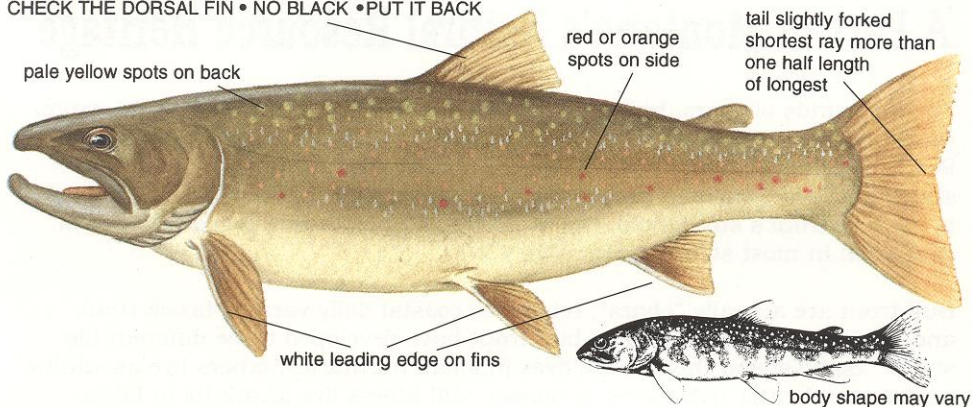
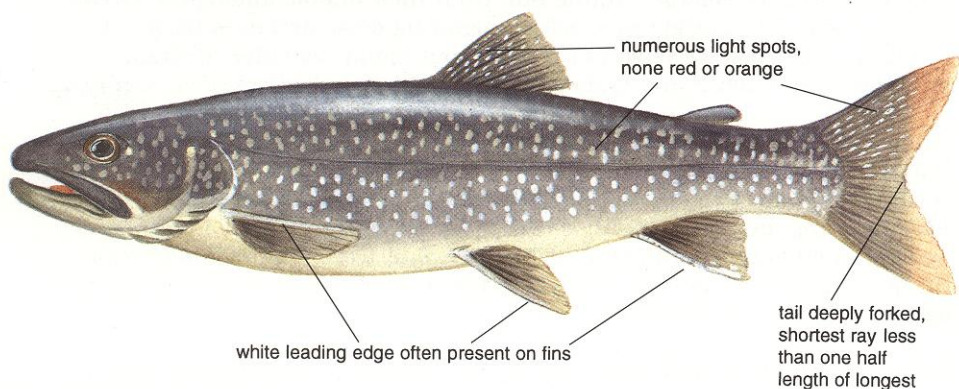


help save Montana's largest & rarest native trout  
**THE BULL TROUT**

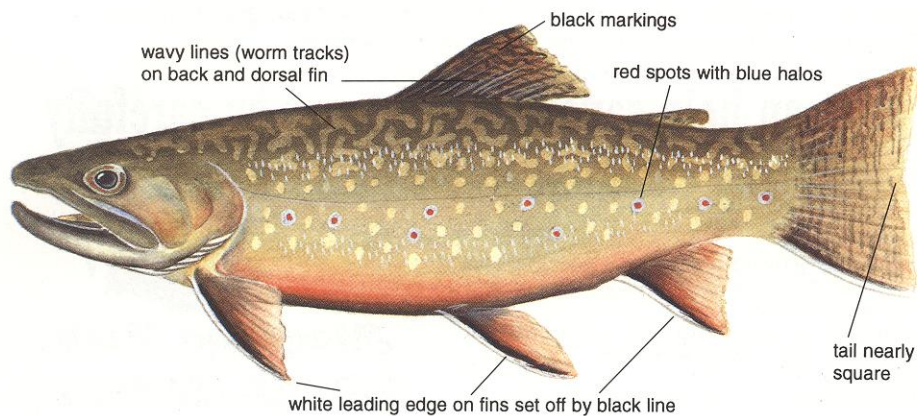
CHECK THE DORSAL FIN • NO BLACK • PUT IT BACK



## **LAKE TROUT**



## **BROOK TROUT**



# **MEET THE BULL TROUT**

## **A Part of Montana's Natural Resource Heritage**

For thousands of years, bull trout have traveled some of the longest migration routes of any trout in North America. Once common throughout the inland Pacific Northwest, bull trout now live in reduced numbers in five western states and two Canadian provinces. They are extinct in California. Montana is the bull trout's stronghold, but even here bull trout face a good chance of extinction in most streams where they live.

Bull trout are actually "chars", related to coastal dolly varden, brook trout and lake trout. Over the eons, bull trout have developed three different life styles: Some spend their entire lives in small tributaries; others live as adults in rivers and enter tributaries to spawn; still others live as adults in lakes, like Flathead and Swan in northwest Montana, and spawn in tributaries.

Bull trout spawn in the fall about the time larch needles turn golden. Their eggs remain six inches deep in spawning gravels until spring, when the eggs hatch and the fry emerge. Young bull trout then huddle among the stream bottom rocks for several years before migrating downstream to bigger streams or lakes. This lifestyle renders the bull trout highly sensitive to changes in streambottom habitat and makes bull trout prime indicators of stream health.

Once called the "cannibal of Montana's streams" because of its predatory habits, the bull trout is now considered a species of special concern. Recent review under the Endangered Species Act has deemed the bull trout worthy of federal listing, but it has not been listed as yet because there are other species in line ahead of the bull trout. The bull trout is in trouble because of harm to its stream habitat, competition from exotic species like brook trout and lake trout, and poaching.

Montana's Governor has made saving the bull trout a high priority and a measure of Montana's ability to be a good steward of our sensitive natural resources. A Bull Trout Restoration Team has been formed and is working to help save the bull trout. You can get involved in this effort by contacting the Governor's Office or the Helena, Kalispell, or Missoula offices of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. How can you help? You can serve on one of the committees being formed across western Montana to help bull trout in each river basin. As a member of one of these committees, you can get involved in specific actions designed to save this native Montanan.

**you can help save the bull trout by carefully  
releasing each one you catch**



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**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**