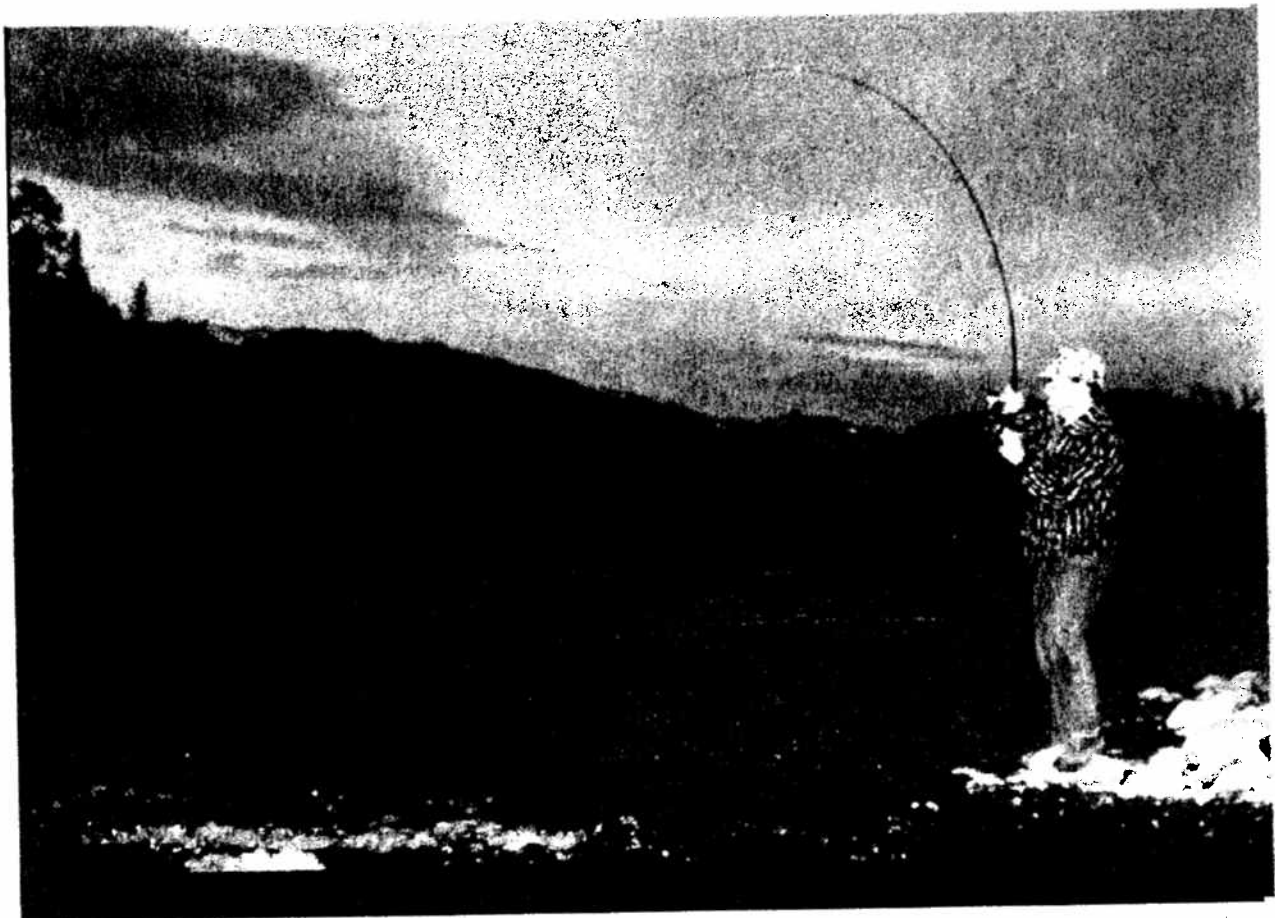


MONTANA 1997 ANNUAL REPORT

Bonneville Power Administration & State of Montana
Enforcement and Education Shared Funding Program



BULL TROUT "SNAGGING" KOOTENAI RIVER, MONTANA

1997

ANNUAL REPORT

BPA PROJECT NUMBER 92024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

by
Captain Mack Long
&
Captain Ed Kelly
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

When you think of ESA and candidate species fisheries management and fisheries protection in Montana, many issues and problems come to mind. Illegal species introductions, water quality, hydropower, angling pressure, habitat and poaching are a few of the issues that effect the long term survival of Bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, Kootenai White Sturgeon, Red Band Rainbow and Grayling.

Since 1995, a combined effort between Bonneville Power Administration and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Enforcement has spawned a new approach to protecting Threatened or Endangered, Species of Special Concern and native fishes in western Montana. Through the BPA funded , enhanced education and enforcement efforts, significant numbers of fish have been protected and remain in Montana's waters.

This productive BPA/State program has provided additional funding for state fish and game wardens to spend additional time on protection of fish species in special need of additional protection. Equipment that was needed to accomplish the enhanced program goals was purchased and placed into use by MFWP wardens and biologists. Additional money for operations for specific protection efforts was also made available. An enhanced education program was developed in cooperation among wardens, biologists and information & education specialists to increase the publics understanding of the issues related to fisheries protection, management and recovery. Numerous public contacts at fairs, sportsman/women groups, outdoor shows, civic organizations, schools and along the rivers and streams in Montana, served as the focal point of this effort. The Fish Identification Program was developed and is now being presented to all 4th grade students, as well as angler education classes in western Montana. Fish ID display boards are being shared among license agents to help the general angling public become adept at fish identification which translates into increased compliance and possible achievement of fishery recovery goals.

The "Fisheries Enforcement Management Plan" which was developed in 1996, through interviews and surveys of the public, fisheries managers, education specialists, and enforcement personnel identified the issues that were most important to the people of Montana and the protection of the fishery resource. This information was used to direct the fishery protection and education efforts by enforcement during 1997. Where applicable, the combined BPA/State funded program used the plan to focus specific efforts to attain these goals.

The following report reflects the efforts of all of those that worked in 1997 to make the combined BPA/State funded program a success. At times up to 33 MFWP personnel, including 2 full time BPA funded fisheries enforcement wardens were involved in this program. The shared concept allows for the most cost effective return on investment that can be done by both agencies. Coordination with the four northwest states, tribes, USFWS and NMFS in the Columbia Basin Law Enforcement Council (CBLEC) was made possible through this program. Again, cost effectiveness was the driving force. CBLEC's objective was to eliminate duplication of efforts, coordinate sharing of equipment and resources when possible and provide a central tracking and documentation center.

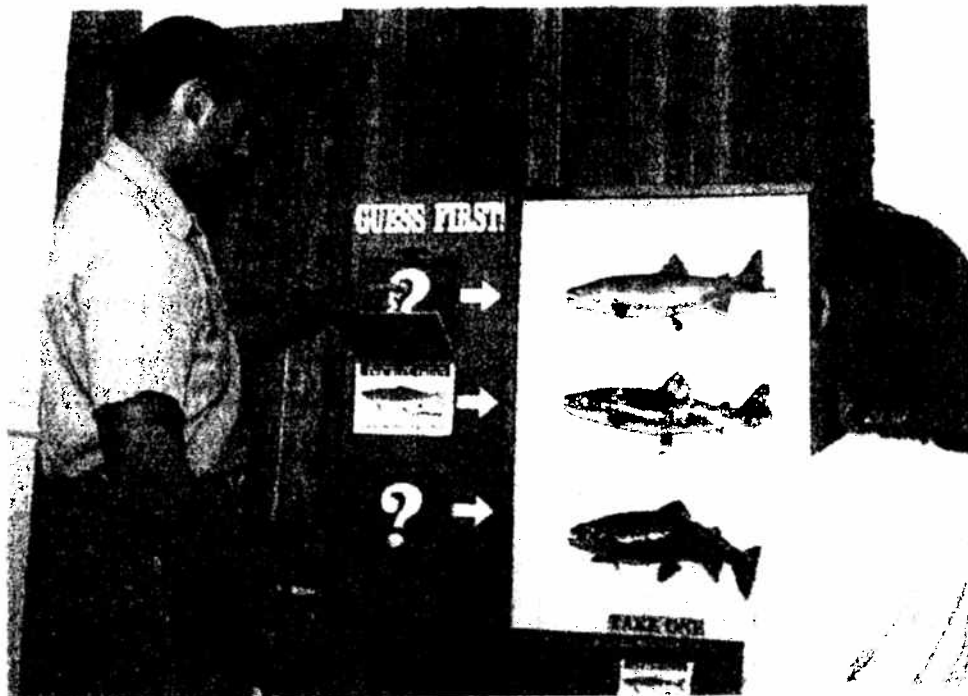
We would like to thank all of you that have helped in making 1997 a successful and productive year. As usual, it is through the combined efforts of many that make good things happen. Through the efforts that we make now, we will preserve for future generations the thrill of watching a trout rise to take a mayfly, the sight of spawning bull trout in a remote cold stream, and the knowledge that through our efforts, these reflections of nature will prevail.

Thank You !





Warden Randy Arnold Presenting Educational Program



**One of Several Fish ID Boards Placed with License Agents
and Used in the Educational Programs**

**CBLEC REPORTING
CY 97 ANNUAL REPORT**

1. PERSONNEL

A. BPA Funded Positions:

Location	Name, Title
Missoula, MT	Arnold, Randy
Missoula, MT	Schmautz, Dianne
Kalispell, MT	Jones, Steve
Kalispell, MT	Pier, Heather

Officer/Field Hours - Fishery Patrol/Investigation (100%)	533
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B. Agency Funded Positions- (Existing Personnel)

Officer/Field Hours - Fishery Patrol Investigation (100%)	6325.5
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C. Total Enforcement Effort (Agency Funded and BPA Funded Effort)

Officer/Field Hours - Fishery Patrol/Investigation (100%)	6858.5
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2. ACTIVITIES

A Quarterly Comparisons (1997/1998)

Total Project Enforcement Patrols	Annual Recap 1997	Annual Recap 1998

Commercial Arrests	5	
Sport Arrests	265	
Habitat Arrests	5	

Ceremonial Arrests	0	
Subsistance Arrests	0	
Total Arrests	275	

Commercial Warnings	19	
Sport Warnings	356	
Habitat Warnings	10	
Cermonial Warnings	0	
Subsistance Warnings	1	
Total Warnings	386	

Total Enforcement Contacts	13,194	
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Compliance Index	97.92%	
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B. Action Plans, Investigations and Incidents:

FIRST QUARTER 1997

Randy Arnold

1. Interview with M&E process. All interviews conducted during first quarter.
2. Attended Law Enforcement Academy for 10 weeks.
3. Represent CBLEC at Sportsman's Show in Portland, OR, Feb. 5-9, 1997.

Mack Long

1. Attended three CBLEC meetings: 1/30 and 3/27 in Boise, ID, 2/27 in Portland, OR.
2. Training for wardens from Regions 1, 2, & 4 (Total 40 attendees). Training with GPS (Global Positioning) units for back country monitoring and coordination with USFS on Bull Trout saturation patrols and back country contacts.

Steve Jones

1. Fisheries/Enforcement joint meeting. Discussed bull trout regulations, recommendations for bull trout habitat, spawning protection, and resident fist protection.
2. Work-study student assisted in I&E campaign, focussing on school groups and educating them regarding the plight of the bull trout. This consisted of 50 programs.
3. Radio program, ½ hour in length, with John Fraley, the R1 I&E officer. Focus was on the bull trout in R1 and the problems and solutions involved.
4. Routine R1 fisheries patrol by 10 wardens.

5. CBLEC Meeting in Boise, Id.
6. Portland Trade show in Oregon focussing on bull trout and inter-agency cooperation.
7. Attended R2 meeting in March.
8. Bull trout education workshop in Missoula, focus on how and why to educate the youth regarding bull trout.

SECOND QUARTER 1997

Randy Arnold

1. Zone 6 Joint patrol with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFE) dates: 4/22-26/97.
2. Built two fish ID boards, date: May.
3. Children's Fishing Clinics, on-site, bull trout ID, etc., date: May.
4. Portland trip for Mack: date: May
5. Rock Creek saturation patrol and flight; cooperative venture with fisheries, dates: 6/21-22/97.

Mack Long

1. Attended CBLEC Meetings: 4/24/97 in Pendleton, OR, 5/29/97 Portland, OR 6/26/97 Portland, OR
2. Bull trout regulation setting meeting with recommendations going to the Governor's Bull Trout Task Force and the Bull Trout Scientific Committee.
3. Met with license agents on fish ID.
4. Met with outfitters on fish ID.
5. Presentation to Salvelinus Confluentus Curiosity Society and other interested watershed groups at Rock Creek August 6 & 7.
6. Coordinating meeting with U. S. F. S.
7. Coordinating numerous CBLEC business issues.

Heather Pier while in Region 2 (now in Region 1):

1. Education Program: contacted 1,720 students 6-18 years of age. Classroom contact with 920 students, and another 800 at the Bull Trout Station at the Missoula Water Festival with emphasis on Fish ID, habitat, ecology, reasons for enforcement protections.

Steve Jones

1. Western Montana Education Exposition
35 programs focussing on educational aspects of bull trout
2. Work-study student collection creel census information on bull trout knowledge and educating the public.
3. Routine warden patrols from 10 field wardens.
4. Bull trout regulation enhancement and comments setting process.
5. Ten school education programs from bull trout warden.
6. Developed action plan for Flathead Lake saturation patrol.
7. Developed action plan for Swan River Drainage saturation patrol.
8. Developed action plan for Flathead River saturation patrol.
9. Developed action plan for Kootenai River saturation patrol.

Joe Jaquith

1. Developed action plan for Bitterroot Mountain Range back country patrol.
2. Developed action plan for Bitterroot River saturation patrol.
3. Developed action plan for Lower Clark Fork River saturation patrol.
4. Developed action plan for Clearwater Crossing back country patrols.

Lloyd Acker

1. Developed action plan for Rock Creek saturation patrol.
2. Developed action plan for Blackfoot River mainstream saturation patrol.
3. Developed action plan for Lower North Fork Blackfoot River and Monture Creek saturation patrol.
4. Developed action plan for Upper North Fork Blackfoot River saturation patrol.

Combined Montana Regional Activities

1. Wardens assisted in fishing regulation development especially regarding bull trout.
2. Ongoing coordination between enforcement, biologists and the Information and Education officers.
3. Distribution of educational materials to anglers, recreationists, and general public.
4. Back country patrols.

THIRD QUARTER 1997

Mack Long

1. CBLEC Meetings
7/24-25/97 Missoula, MT - Bull Trout habitat tours
8/28/97 Portland, OR
9/25/97 Portland, OR
2. 7/17/97 - Bull Trout Regulation Implementation Meeting. Development of enforcement, biologist, and public coordination plan.
3. 8/6 & 7/97 - Presentation to Bull Trout Restoration Team Scientific Goup. Title: Preponderance vs. Reasonable Doubt Enforcability. Location: Rock Creek.
4. Aircraft Operations Report
9/4/97 - Bull trout patrol on Rock Creek, East Fork, & mountain lakes.
9/9/97 - Fish camp detection on Rock Creek, Blackfoot River & Clark Fork.
9/14/97 - ID fishing activity locations on bull trout spawning tributaries. (Upper North Fork Blackfoot River).

Back Country Patrols

1. Bill Koppen, Randy Arnold
7/13/97 - Pyramid Trail Head to Marshall Lakes - 5 miles. Checked 1 fisherman. No one present at Crescent Lake outfitter's camp.
7/14/97 - Marshall Lakes to Hahn Creek cabin (USFS) - 15 miles. Check 2 outfitter's camps.
7/15/97 - Hahn Creek cabin to Forks of Youngs Creek and Danaher Creek and back to Hahn Creek- 18 miles. Checked 11 fishermen and 1 outfitter.
7/16/97 - Hahn Creek to Big Slide and on to Pyramid Trail Head. - 15 miles.
2. Bill Koppen, Derek Schott

9/14/97 - Monture trail head to Burnt cabin to Middle Fork and Burnt cabin. 12 miles
 Checked 2 fishermen.
 9/15/97 - Burnt cabin to Limestone Pass to Danaher cabin - 15 miles.
 Checked 1 fisherman.
 9/16/97 - Danaher cabin to Basin cabin - 7 miles. No fishermen
 9/17/97 - Basin cabin to Jumbo Mt to Basin cabin. - 12 miles. No fishermen
 9/18/97 - Basin cabin to Hahn Creek cabin to Cabin creek. - 14 miles. Check 2 fishermen.
 9/19/97 - Cabin Creek to Leota Park. 10 miles. No fishermen.
 9/20/97 - Leota Park to Jenny Creek to Lodgepole trail head. - 12 miles. No fishermen.

3. **Randy Arnold**

9/24/97 - North Fork Blackfoot trailhead to North Fork cabin. Packed in MFWP Fisheries biologists conducting bull trout redd surveys.
 9/25/97 - North Fork cabin to North Fork Falls with Fisheries biologists. Snorkel survey of pools above the falls.
 9/25/97 - North Fork cabin up Dry Fork to Cabin Creek and back. Verbal warnings for intentional fishing for bull trout on spawning redds at junction of Dry Fork and North Fork.

Saturation Patrols

1. 7/18/97 - Lloyd Acker, Jeff Campbell, Ron Jendro, Doug Johnson.
 Location: mainstem of the Blackfoot River from Harry Morgan FAS to Russell Gates FAS.
 Contacts: 32 anglers, 9 vessels, 1 outfitter, and 2 guides. Floated this section of the river checking for knowledge of Fish ID and compliance with laws and regulations. It appears that some anglers may be intentionally fishing for bull trout by the type of lures being used.
2. 8/2-3/97 - Randy Arnold, Jeff Campbell. Location: Lower North Fork of Blackfoot River and Monture Creek. Contacts: 42 anglers, 19 vessels. Patrolled by vehicle on 8/2/97 and patrolled by boat 8/3/97. This is a very fine bull trout water and difficult to access for patrol.
3. 8/15-17/97 - Jeff Campbell and Bill Koppen. Location: Upper Blackfoot River, North Fork of the Blackfoot, and Monture Creek. Checked fishermen on foot and by vehicle.
4. 8/30-31/97 - Joe Jaquith, Bryce Christensen
5. 9/4-7/97 - Randy Arnold, Derek Schott, Dan Curtin, Jeff Campbell, Bill Koppen. Location: Upper North Fork of the Blackfoot River (North Fork Blackfoot River, Dry Fork, Danaher Creek, East Fork of Monture Creek, and Monture Creek - 44 miles in good bull trout area). Contacts: 16 fishermen, 3 outfitters, 1 private camp. All contacts were in compliance with existing laws and regulations. Bull trout education was discussed with all contacts.
6. 9/14-18/97 - Mack Long. Location: Upper North Fork Blackfoot River. Contacts: 17 anglers and 47 hunters. Patrol by aircraft to locate camps, then ground patrol by horse to make the contacts. One unlicensed outfitter and one waste violation.
7. 9/30, 10/1-2/97 - Bill Koppen, Jeff Campbell, Mike Quinn. Location: Monture Creek and North Fork Blackfoot River. Covered 28 miles in front and back country bull trout areas. Contacts: 2 fishermen.
8. Region One - Synchronized eight bull trout saturation patrols. Six of which were basin wide and two of which were backcountry patrols in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.
9. Region One - Purchased and placed surveillance cameras at known bull trout exploitation areas.

Education-Region One

1. New bull trout signs were developed in order to address the identification confusion between lake trout and bull trout.
2. Bull trout display was placed at the Northwest Montana Fair. Display emphasis was centered on bull trout identification, problems that bull trout face, how people can help the bull trout. Contacts: 4,178.
3. Bull trout identification survey of 590 fishermen. Survey results will be compiled into a technical paper. Survey results will be compared with surveys taken in 1995 & 1996.
4. Bull trout information was distributed to area fishing and charter guides. We will attend spring guide training seminars.
5. Enforcement education through campground naturalist talks resulted in 295 contacts.
6. Bull trout identification materials were distributed to license vendors for point of purchase information. Wardens kept vendors stocked with bull trout handouts and materials.
7. Bull trout identification displays were developed for vendors.
8. Bull trout materials and signs were distributed to U.S. Forest Service employees and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for distribution in Flathead River access sites.
9. Wardens distributed additional signage in spawning tributaries and other closed areas.

FOURTH QUARTER 1997

Mack Long, Captain

1. CBLEC Meetings
10/30/97 Portland, OR
11/27/97 Portland, OR
12/11/97 Portland, OR

Bill Koppen, Warden

1. Back country inspection, 13 miles, and 1 outfitter contact. (10/1)
2. Back country inspection, 28 miles, 2 outfitters, 2 fishermen, and 1 private camp contact. (10/2)

Regional Meeting Oct 8 & 9

1. Firearms qualification
2. Patrols
3. All Wardens

Educational Programs-R1

1. Enforcement education through campground naturalist talks resulted in 55 contacts.
2. Wardens stocked license vendors with bull trout identification materials and handouts.
3. Additional signs and bull trout materials were distributed to U.S.F.S. employees and U.S.F.W.S. for distribution at Flathead River access sites.
4. Bull trout presentations to school and fishing groups resulted in over 1,500 contacts.
5. Bull trout education was incorporated into the nationwide "Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs" campaign. This educational talk was performed by enforcement personnel.

Educational Programs-R2

1. Bull Trout Identification Program-reviewed, modified and enhanced for presentation in the public school system. Presentations scheduled to begin 1Q98. The goal is to contact all fourth grade classes in western Montana.
2. Educational Clinic Oct 24 & 25, Sportsman Surplus, 6 wardens participated.

3. BPA QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES - 1997

	Budget Allocation	1st Quarter Expenditures	2nd Quarter Expenditures	3rd Quarter Expenditures	4th Quarter Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Balance Remaining
Personnel	73,826.00	11,938.55	14,642.77	14,983.36	16,306.20	57,870.88	15,955.12
Overtime-billed at end of contract	27,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,432.76	25,432.76	1,767.24
Fringe Benefits-incl in Personnel	0.00	3,537.70	4,233.09	3,757.44	4,597.33	16,125.56	(16,125.56)
Non-expendable Equipment	65,486.72	7,922.02	20,260.68	1,463.97	34,231.18	63,877.85	1,608.87
Expendable Supplies	10,290.00	11,103.70	4,031.47	2,876.79	12,916.51	30,928.47	(20,638.47)
Operation and Maintenance	26,584.00	1,267.00	1,544.49	1,406.01	5,039.08	9,256.58	17,327.42
Travel	38,850.00	6,264.62	10,609.44	11,033.98	14,511.39	42,419.43	(3,569.43)
Services and Subcontracts	7,740.00	423.85	1,990.86	5.00	1,506.96	3,926.67	3,813.33
Total Direct Costs	249,976.72	42,457.44	57,312.80	35,526.55	114,541.41	249,838.20	138.52
Indirect Costs	31,732.28	5,940.09	6,372.96	5,824.70	13,733.05	31,870.80	(138.52)
Total Costs	281,709.00	48,397.53	63,685.76	41,351.25	128,274.46	281,709.00	0.00

Budget allocation has been revised as of 4Q97 by budget amendment.

WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO IDENTIFY A CUTTHROAT TROUT?

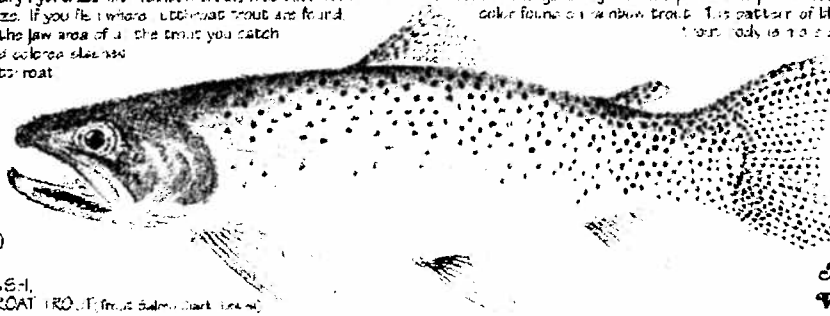
Since the cutthroat nearly hybridizes with rainbow trout, true cutthroats are often difficult to recognize. If you find a true cutthroat trout and find it, check the underside of the jaw area of all the trout you catch for the bright igniting red colored slash as a characteristic of the cutthroat.

Cutthroats generally lack the prominent pink or red or to do bands of iridescent color found on rainbow trout. This pattern of black spots on the cutthroat trout body is not as dense on its upper body and tail area, while rainbow trout have a more uniform spotting pattern.

small, irregularly shaped black spots, sparse on body

cutthroat slash, one on each side (weak on juveniles)

MONTANA'S STATE FISH, the WESTERN CUTTHROAT TROUT, from Salmon Creek, Montana



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

HELP A NATIVE MONTANAN SURVIVE. RELEASE CUTTHROAT TROUT YOU CATCH

Illegal harvest has a significant impact on the recovery of cutthroat populations. Check the printed Montana Fishing Regulations for special rules requiring catch-and-release fishing for cutthroats and/or all trout in many rivers & streams. EVERYONE CAN DO THEIR PART BY RELEASING CUTTHROATS.

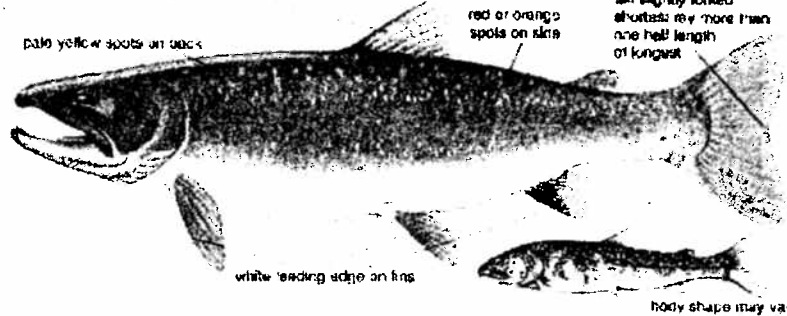
help save Montana's largest & rarest native trout THE BULL TROUT

CHECK THE DORSAL FIN - NO BLACK - PUT IT BACK

pale yellow spots on back

red or orange spots on skin

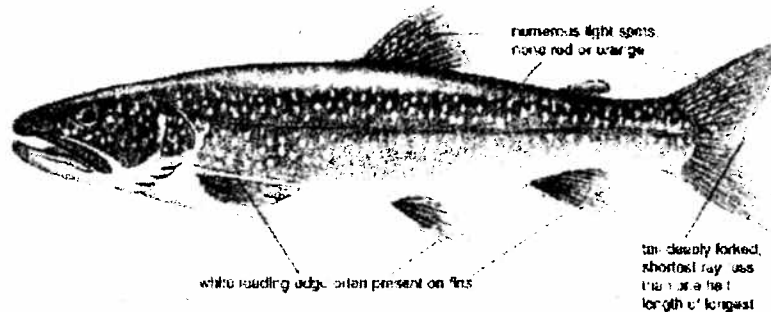
tail slightly forked, shortest ray more than one half length of longest



white leading edge on fins

body shape may vary

LAKE TROUT

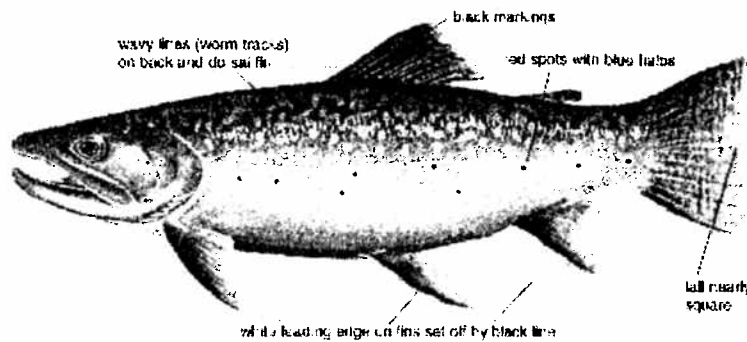


numerous light spots, none red or orange

white leading edge, often present on fins

tail deeply forked, shortest ray less than one half length of longest

BROOK TROUT



wavy lines (worm tracks) on back and dorsal fin

black markings

red spots with blue halos

white leading edge on fins set off by black line

tail nearly square