Native Fish Committee

Mission: "Collaborative effort to conserve and monitor native fish"

Our current focus is *Westslope cutthroat trout*.

- Cutthroat trout have lost about 80% of their historic range.
- Focus is on protecting 18 remnant "conservation populations"
- **Biggest problem is Non-native species**! We are fortunate to have good habitat conditions
- Recreational fishing in Swan River and mountain lakes will be unchanged. Have fun.

In 2011 we sampled 10 out of 18 populations. We really learned a lot about population size and distribution. Flathead Lake BioStation will analyze genetic samples this winter. We hope to sample the rest of the populations next summer.

Populations are listed biggest to smallest. Values with "?" indicate low confidence values or old data

Name	Length	Population size	Genetic Purity
Kraft	11.9 miles	5,505	18 – 100 (depending on location)
Piper	4.9 miles	4,100	Unknown
Lindbergh-Crystal	10.4 miles	2,339?	Unknown
Dog	6.2 miles	2,100?	95-100
Groom	2.9 miles	2,052	100?
Cooney	5.4 miles	Unknown	100
South Fork Lost	2.7 miles	1,167	100
Pony	1.3 miles	1,092	99
Cedar	4.4 miles	958	100
North Fork Lost	3.8 miles	807	100
Sixmile	2 miles	740?	100
Wolf	3 miles	410-845?	95-99
Bond	2.7 miles	421	100?
Whitetail	0.5 miles	75-300	100
Lion	3.3 miles	Less than 300?	Unknown
South Fork Cold	2 miles	193-322?	100?
Herrick Run	1.8 miles	154	100
Smith	0.8 miles	129?	100
Owl	1.3 miles	111	100?

Possible restoration measures:

- Install a barrier to keep out rainbow trout and brook trout
- Suppress/eradicate the bad guys with electrofishing or rotenone
- If fish are showing signs of reduced genetic diversity (inbreeding), move a few fish from the healthiest population to the sickest
- Expand upstream or downstream or into barren lakes, if possible