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October 7, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Kerry Berg
Montana Council office

SUBJECT: Briefing on Sekokini Springs STEP review (#1991-019-03)

Brian Marotz from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) will give a presentation on the Sekokini Springs project (# 1991-019-03).

The Sekokini Springs Natural Rearing Facility is a portion of the Hungry Horse Mitigation program directed at the conservation of westslope cutthroat trout. The site was formerly a privately owned rainbow trout farm. After purchasing the facility, Montana officials removed the rainbow trout and plan to restore the site for westslope cutthroat trout conservation. The mitigation program plans to restore the stream and pond habitat at Sekokini Springs for rearing up to four strains of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout under natural conditions to preserve wild behavioral traits. Rather than establish a traditional captive broodstock facility, Sekokini Springs will raise wild juveniles to maturity to produce progeny for "nearest neighbor" restoration projects. This strategy will promote the conservation of unique genetic strains of westslope cutthroat trout and maintain wild behavioral traits. The progeny of wild adults will be used to reestablish naturally reproducing populations in the wild.

Brian Marotz is the Fisheries Program Manager for MFWP in Kalispell, MT, in charge of the fisheries mitigation programs for Hungry Horse and Libby Dams. He is a Certified Fisheries Scientist with MS in Fisheries Management from Louisiana State University and a BA in Biology from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He has worked in marine, estuarine and freshwater science since graduating in 1984.

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