

Arctic Grayling Recovery Program Annual Meeting Draft Agenda
Wednesday March 4, 2010
C'mon INN, Gallatin Room
6139 E. Valley Center Road
Bozeman Montana

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions—Travis Horton, FWP
- 9:10 Update on Legal Status of Grayling and Update on Genetic Research—Doug Peterson, USFWS
- 9:40 Grayling Population Status and Conservation Activities—James Magee, FWP
- 10:10 Update on Big Hole Riparian Conservation Efforts—Emma Rens, FWP
- 10:40 **Break**
- 10:55 Swamp Creek Riparian Assessments—Rob Thomas, U of M Western

Abstract:

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF A PORTION OF SWAMP CREEK IN THE BIG HOLE RIVER DRAINAGE NEAR WISDOM, MONTANA

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During the period of September 21st through October 14th, fourteen students in the Environmental Field Studies course at the University of Montana Western in Dillon, Montana conducted an assessment of stream morphology, in-stream macroinvertebrates, riparian vegetation and stream habitat on Swamp Creek near Wisdom, Montana. The project was supervised by Dr. Robert C. Thomas, professor of geology in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the university. The study consisted of a total of eight cross-sections on a two-mile section of the stream where it crosses the Lower North Fork Road. The cross-sections were split evenly on either side of the bridge (four upstream and four downstream) and are marked by “permanent” T-bar fence posts marked with the cross-section number and the campus acronym (UMW).

This was an initial investigation into Swamp Creek, so the data collected in 2009 will serve as baseline data for future studies that will assess the results of the restoration work. The baseline assessment data show that Swamp Creek is significantly impaired. The stream should be an E4b stream based on Rosgen’s classification system, but is now functioning as a C4 stream due to increased width-depth ratios, greater entrenchment, and decreased sinuosity. The macroinvertebrates data show relatively good diversity and richness, but the numbers of individuals is low in comparison to the baseline data from the McDowell Reach of the Big Hole River gathered in 2007. The riparian vegetation appears robust and diverse, probably due to the fact that Swamp Creek has not been grazed for about one year and the summer of 2009 was unusually wet. The stream habitat data show that Swamp Creek has a high percentage of non-vegetated stream banks and an overall morphology dominated by shallow pools and long riffles.

- 11:15 Update on Western Watersheds activities for ESA Listing, Status Review, and Big Hole Basin Adjudication—Larry Zuckerman, WWP
- 11:35 Questions and Discussion
- 12:00 **Lunch provided on site**

- 1:00 Update on NRCS Efforts as Part of the Big Hole Grayling CCAA—Kyle Tackett, NRCS
- 1:20 Update on Partners Program Efforts—Jeff Everett, USFWS
- 2:00 Update on DNRC Efforts—Mike Roberts, DNRC
- 2:30 Update on Ruby River reintroductions—Austin McCullough, FWP
- 2:50 **Break**
- 3:05 Update on Grayling Conservation Efforts in YNP—Todd Koel, NPS
- 3:25 Assisted Recolonization of Rock Creek—Travis Horton or James Magee, FWP
- 3:35 Big Hole Grayling PIT Tag Research—Shane Vatland, MSU
- 4:00 Update on Arctic Grayling Conservation Activities in the Red Rock Basin—Nathan Korb, TNC Montana
- 4:20 Update on CCAA—Peter Lamothe, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- 4:50 Discussions, Questions, Business and Adjourn