

# Big Hole



Watershed Committee

## **Big Hole Watershed Committee Monthly Meeting**

**Monthly Meeting Agenda**  
**Wednesday, October 15, 2014**  
**Divide Grange, 7:00 pm**

### **Introductions**

Review of September 2014 Minutes

### **Precipitation and Stream Flow Report**

- Big Hole River Stream Flow Report, Mike Roberts, DNRC

### **Committee Reports:**

- Directors Report (*Jen Downing*)
- Steering Committee Report (*SC Member*)
- Wildlife Committee (*Jim Hagenbarth/Dean Peterson*)
- Land Use Planning Committee (*Jen Boyer*)

### **Meeting Topic: Arctic Grayling - Why and Now What?**

*Presented by Jim Boyd, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Helena, MT*

August 19, 2014, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that after years of status review, restoration, and pending listing decisions, the Arctic grayling did not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act due to effective conservation and partnerships. This marks a landmark decision and success story sparked in the early 1990's with the Arctic Grayling Recovery Program and Big Hole Watershed Committee and precipitated by the expansive Conservation Candidate Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). For more than 20 years ranchers, conservation groups, agencies and others worked together. Many individuals dedicated their careers or a large part of their time and energy to the benefit of the Big Hole River and its grayling. The Arctic grayling were the genesis of the Big Hole Watershed Committee in 1995 and central to its mission.

With more than 20 years behind this effort, the recent USFWS decision leaves us wondering - what happens next now that the Arctic grayling are not listed under the Endangered Species Act?

Jim Boyd will discuss the listing decision including how and why the USFWS decision was made, current status of the decision, and potential outcomes including future Endangered Species Act listing. We will also discuss what happens next, including what will happen to the CCAA program, funding, future restoration, Big Hole Watershed Committee's role in Arctic grayling and more.

### **New Business**

### **Future Meetings**

- November 19, 2014, 6pm @ Divide Grange. Topic: MSU State of the College Report - Programs and Projects of Interest to BHWC. Presented by MSU.
- No December 2014 meeting.

### **Adjourn**