

Over 4,000 westslope cutthroats were restored to 19.5 miles of newly secured habitat and 12,000 non-native trout were removed from headwater streams. This collaborative work will help conserve Montana's state fish and clean waters that benefit both wildlife and people.

Montana Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Conservation Strategy

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

The Montana Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy extensively analyzes 636 species of fish and wildlife and the places they live. Four components are highlighted: geographic focus areas, fish and wildlife community types at risk, species of greatest conservation need, and species in need of inventory. Geographic focus areas are starting points for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and partners to direct combined conservation efforts for Montana's imperiled wildlife and vital natural areas.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Conserving Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Westslope cutthroat trout are a priority species in Montana's conservation strategy and have twice been reviewed for threatened species listing. Today, westslope cutthroat trout are confined to less than 5% of their historical range. Threats include impacts from non-native trout, habitat loss, and pollution. In northcentral Montana in 2007, over 12,000 non-native trout

were removed from headwater streams, over 4,000 westslope cutthroats were restored to 19.5 miles of newly secured habitat. In addition, a Federal Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances was completed by the state for ranchers in the Big Belt Mountains. Conservation partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and a Montana power company. This collaborative work will help conserve Montana's state fish and the clean waters upon which it depends, benefiting both wildlife and people.



Westslope cutthroat trout/David Moser, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks



Transferring trout by helicopter/David Moser, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

**Proactive Efforts that Benefit
Wildlife and People**

Helping Montana's Fast Growing Communities Plan for Wildlife Conservation

Rapid population growth and a developing suburban culture in five of Montana's counties create new challenges for implementation of Montana's Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Issues include increased subdivision development, urban wildlife conflicts, and a lack of local land planning experience. To address these challenges, a new land planning specialist works with local planning board members, county commissioners, and local land trusts to help implement the conservation strategy. Work has already begun to conserve riparian habitat, prioritize open space use, collect baseline data, and educate citizens about living with wildlife. As Montana's communities continue to grow, these proactive efforts will help conserve wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.

**Working with Partners to Bring Back
Wildlife and Natural Areas**

Restoring Trumpeter Swans in the Blackfoot Valley

Once nearly extinct, trumpeter swans occupy little of their former range, prompting the designation of species in greatest need of conservation in Montana. Reintroductions of trumpeter swans are taking place to recover trumpeter swans regionally and nationally. Partners include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and their Partners for Fish & Wildlife program and the 660 landowners, conservationists, agencies, foundations and businesses of the Blackfoot Challenge Conservation Working

Group. In June 2007, ten captive-reared swans were released on a wetland near Ovando. Four other swans were released near Lincoln in August 2007. Over 200 sightings of the released birds in Blackfoot Valley are good signs of success. Restoration efforts will conserve the trumpeter swan before it becomes more rare and more costly to protect.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

444 North Capitol St, NW, Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
202.624.7890
www.teaming.com
www.wildlifeactionplans.org

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Division

1420 East 6th Ave.
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
[http://fwp.mt.gov/specieshabitat/strategy/
actionplan.html](http://fwp.mt.gov/specieshabitat/strategy/actionplan.html)



Residential development in south Missoula County/
National Agricultural Inventory Program

*Reintroductions of
trumpeter swans
are taking place to
recover trumpeter
swans regionally
and nationally.*



Banded trumpeter swans on the wing near Ovando
after relocation/Alex Badyaev