



Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1973
Kalispell, MT 59904

Superintendent Glacier National Park
Quartz Fish Barrier EA
P.O. Box 128
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, MT 59936.

September 5, 2011

Scoping for the Proposed Quartz Creek Fish Barrier Modification and Improvement

Dear Superintendent:

The Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) is a local, active group of people interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources. Many of our members are regular users of Glacier National Park.

We have reviewed the Proposed Quartz Creek Fish Barrier Modification and Improvement Scoping Document and submit the following comments.

FAS generally supports the conservation of native species such as bull trout that are the focus for this proposal. However, a thorough analysis of the potential effects of the proposed action is necessary before a conclusion may be drawn whether the proposed action is acceptable.

Issues important to FAS that we would like to see adequately addressed in the EA are described below.

Barrier effectiveness. How effective is the barrier likely to be and what is the effectiveness rating based upon?

Effects on other wildlife and fish species. How would the barrier affect other native fish species such as cutthroat trout? How would the barrier construction and maintenance activities affect wildlife such as loons and eagles that are known to be susceptible to human disturbances? What mitigation measures are planned for other species?

Barrier construction impacts. What would the construction impacts be from sediment production, stream channel impacts due to flow changes, use of on-site materials for

construction (what materials, from where—stream channel or upland—and what kind of materials –trees, rocks, etc? What mitigation measures would be required?

Wilderness impacts. What are the short and long-term impacts to the wilderness character of the area due to the construction activities? How many helicopter trips would be required, at what times of the year (seasons), would helicopter support be required for future maintenance? What mitigation measures would be required? Why could not the barrier project be accomplished without helicopter use? Continued use of helicopters for administrative uses such as this proposed project appears directly at odds with the General Management Plan to ban helicopter use for commercial sight-seeing.

Lake trout removal success. What has been the success of the lake trout removal portion of the Quartz Lake project and how long can it be expected to continue with its use of motorized equipment? This is directly related to the need for the barrier construction.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Lewis Young

Lewis Young
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