

New West Blog

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agrees to Consider Montana Grayling as Endangered Species

By Courtney Lowery, 10-01-09

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to consider the Montana fluvial arctic grayling, better known across the state as the Big Hole grayling, for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The agency's promise comes after decades of legal wrangling, as was made as part of a settlement in a lawsuit filed by several environmental groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project and Pat Munday and George Wuerthner, both individuals who have worked on the grayling issue.

As part of the agreement the agency will have to make a decision on the grayling listing by August 30 of 2010.



Photo by Jonathan Stumpf.

“The Montana fluvial arctic grayling is on the brink of extinction,” Noah Greenwald, of the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a press release. “We hope the Obama administration will put an end to the grayling’s 27-year wait for protection.”

For great background on the Big Hole Grayling, including profiles of the people who have been involved with the fish’s survival over the past several decades, read Jonathan Stumpf’s series on NewWest.Net here.