

From: Stan Meyer [mailto:j-smeyer@bresnan.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 10:03 AM
To: FS-comments-northern-helena
Subject: Mike Horse

Thank you for accepting comments on the proposal to excavate, haul, and re-locate contaminated soil from the Mike Horse Mine area. As a conservation-oriented person, BFR fisherman and riverside landowner (two miles east of Lincoln), I have had the opportunity to tour and visit the mine site several times.

My comment: It seems to me that the treatment is worse than the disease, i. e. hauling thousands of loads of waste out of the valley, down Hwy 200, and dumping it on other land at the river's headwaters will on its face cause pollution and further threaten the river because Sec. 35 is not high and dry. It is part of the BFR watershed.

If the money for this enormous operation were not readily in hand, would you go to the Montana Legislature, or any other elected body, and request it?

I assume that this operation is intended to enhance water quality and, therefore, fishing downstream. I hesitate revealing this well-kept secret but: I have fly fished the BFR behind our cabin for more than 40 years, including on both sides of the '75 flood. Cutthroat fishing (pure DNA Westslope Cutts) is outstanding, perhaps the best in the state except in the Bob Marshall. After run-off clears, whenever that is, there is a 3-4 week period (ending when water levels fall) when a duffer can catch 5 or more Cutts per hour, lots of 12-14-inchers, some larger. Bull trout traverse this stretch enroute to spawn up Copper Creek and Landers Fork. The river is doing just fine, thank you. Leave it alone!

Surely capping the waste on site is a viable alternative.

Score me on the side of opponents.

Thank you,

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