

1. Rock Creek (Garrison) Watershed Summary

Description and Land Use

Table xxx: Rock Creek Watershed Overview

Watershed Size	27,806 acres/43.4 sq miles/112.5 sq km
Elevation Range	5,273 feet (4,314-9,587)
Stream Miles	56.2
Land Ownership	Private: 24% /State: 6%/ Federal: 70%
Road Miles	Local Road/City Street = 4.6 Four Wheel Drive Trail = 29.3 Total = 33.9

Source: Montana GIS Portal Data Layers

Rock Creek, a tributary to the Clark Fork River, has its headwaters in the Flint Creek Range and flows for about 18.6 miles. The creek drains an area of a little more than 43 square miles that is, for the most part, federally owned (Table xxx). Information from the Montana Natural Heritage Program land cover data (2010) indicates that timber harvest, livestock grazing and irrigated agriculture may be the primary land uses within the basin.

2. Impairments

Rock Creek is not listed as a 303 (d) impaired waterbody in the Montana DEQ TMDL report. However, given the varied land use and large number of water rights within the basin (over 250) impairments may exist in the forms of low flows, damaged riparian vegetative communities, bank erosion and sedimentation, as well as contamination from abandoned mines in the area. Further monitoring is needed to determine the extent and type of impairment.

3. Sport/Native Fishery

Table xxx: Fish Distribution in Rock Creek

Waterbody	Begin RM*	End RM*	Species	Updated
Rock Creek	10.5	18.6	Westslope Cutthroat Trout	1/5/2005
Rock Creek	0.0	10.5	Westslope Cutthroat Trout	11/18/20

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Rock Creek	0.0	18.7	Rainbow Trout	1/5/2005
Rock Creek	7.0	10.4	Brown Trout	2/20/2009
Rock Creek	0.0	7.0	Brown Trout	2/20/2009
Rock Creek	11.8	18.6	Brook Trout	11/18/2009
Rock Creek	0.0	10.5	Brook Trout	11/18/2009
South Fork Rock Creek	0.0	3.1	Westslope Cutthroat Trout	1/5/2005

Montana FWP sampled fish populations in Rock Creek in 2005 and 2009 (Table xxx). Their sampling found native westslope cutthroat trout as well as rainbow, brown and brook trout. While the presence of native species is encouraging, westslope cutthroat may still face competition from the other trout species within the creek. Rock Creek appears to have been assessed for the FWP's Final Tributary Rating Summary (2010), but its priority rating is still pending.

4. Assessments

Rock Creek's habitat and water quality status have been assessed by Montana FWP and by the Forest Service (Table xxx). Assessments have included fish habitat and fishery potential, temperature, noxious weeds, stream flow, and stream channel and riparian habitat status.

Table xxx: Rock Creek Assessments

Type	Agency	Year	Area
PIBO Stream and Riparian Areas (temperature and noxious weeds)	USFS	2010	River Mile 12.5
Tributary Prioritization/Rating Summary	MFWP	2010	Not Available

5. Restoration

Needs

- More thorough assessment of stream/riparian health
- Detailed fisheries assessment
- Flow monitoring

Activities: Projects undertaken by the WRC

6. Watershed Map

7. Bibliography

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