

## 1. Basin Creek Watershed Summary

### *Description and Land Use*

**Table xxx: Basin Creek Watershed Overview**

<b>Watershed Size</b>	26,742 acres/41.8 sq miles/108.2 sq km
<b>Elevation Range</b>	2,516 feet [5,479-7,995]
<b>Stream Miles</b>	68.6
<b>Land Ownership</b>	Private: 45% /State: 1.5%/ Federal: 52%/Local Government: 1.5%
<b>Road Miles</b>	Driveway/Service Road= 5.5 Local Road/City Street = 53.2 Four Wheel Drive Trail = 1.9 Highway= 2.5 Total = 30.8

Source: Montana GIS Portal Data Layers

Basin Creek is a tributary to Silver Bow Creek and a major source of drinking water for the City of Butte. The creek originates in the mountains of the Continental Divide south of Butte, and flows for sixteen miles until its confluence with Silver Bow. Land in the basin is divided mainly between private and federal entities, with some state and local government as well (Table xxx). The basin supports timber harvest, grazing and irrigated agriculture. The area was historically mined as well (MNHP, 2011).

## 2. Impairments

Basin Creek is not listed in the Montana DEQ TMDL document for any impairments and does not appear to have been well-assessed in recent years. Given the large number of diversions listed in the Montana DNRC database, stream flow and temperature might be areas of concern. Additionally, as the area is used for livestock grazing, there exists the possibility of soil erosion and damage to riparian areas.

### 3. Native/Sport Fishery

**Table xxx: Basin Creek Fish Distribution**

<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>Begin RM*</b>	<b>End RM*</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Updated</b>
Basin Creek	9.2	16.1	Westslope Cutthroat Trout	1/5/2005
Basin Creek	0.0	12.5	Brook Trout	2/20/2009

\*River Mile

Source: MFWP, 2010

Montana FWP conducted fish sampling on Basin Creek in 2005 and 2009 (Table xxx). According to the samples, the creek contains native westslope cutthroat trout and brook trout. In the Montana FWP Tributary Prioritization Draft Final (2010), Basin Creek is listed as “Assessed, Priority Pending”. Therefore, more current results concerning fish populations, fish habitat and riparian health may be available in the future.

### 4. Assessments

Basin Creek has been assessed a few times in the last several years, mainly involving fisheries data collection. As addressed in the previous section, Montana FWP may be releasing the results of their 2010 tributary prioritization study in which Basin Creek was assessed.

### 5. Restoration

#### *Needs*

Without more monitoring and assessment, Basin Creek’s restoration needs are difficult to summarize. More data is needed to establish concrete areas of concern.

*Activities: Projects undertaken by the WRC*

### 6. Watershed Map

### 7. Bibliography

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