Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group
Agenda October 2, 2024

Location & Time:
Butte Archives, 17 W. Quartz, Butte, America
1 PM MST
Zoom: Meeting ID: 854 6592 0813 Passcode: 591553
One tap mobile:
+16694449171,,85465920813#,,,,*591553# US

Decisions to be made:

- Approve May Meeting Record

Attachments: n/a

AGENDA

1:00 Introductions

1:20 Previous Meeting Minutes Reading and Approval

1:25 Organizational Updates and Announcements

1:35 **Budget** (updated numbers will be provided at the meeting)

Grant	Total Award	Amount Remaining	Notes
MFCN	$10,000	$7,229.28	$7,500 received. $2,500 to be deposited
Butte-Silverbow	$1,000	$1,000	Cash donation for the BDWG
Jefferson County	$1,000	$1,000	
LGA-23-004	$6,600	$0	Expenses from MFCN workshop accounted for the remaining
LGA-24-001	$2,430.70	$5712.21	LGA-24-001 combined with LGA-24-003
Totals	**$20,030.70**	**$14,941.49**	

Grant Opportunity
MFCN December/January opportunity
National Forest Foundation – expect to hear in November if funded, 2 yrs $30,000

1:45 BDNF Updates

- Supervisor's office
  - Travel management
  - Fire season

- BDNF 2025 Budget
- Summary of program of work

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF SOPA

2:25 Group Discussion: General Priorities and Direction for 2025

- Fuels management
- Multiple Purpose Projects
- Recreation Management
- Planning
- Mitigation in BPA corridors

3:30 Break

3:40 What group wants to see on the website: successes and project support

3:50 Facilitation for 2025

- Darcie Exit, three options for moving forward
  - Darcie stays on as virtual facilitator
  - Hire new facilitator
  - Vaia assumes facilitator/co-chair role

4:00 Public Comment***

4:30 Closing thoughts/call for agenda items

5:00 Adjourn

Next Meetings:
November 6
December 4
January 8 (moved to 2nd Wednesday due to holiday)

Flint Creek Dam Advisory Committee

September 19, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Todd Blythe- MT DNRC, Andrew McFarland-GTLHO, Paul Tallon-Hydrodynamics, Ed Simonich-GTLHO, Brad Liermann-MT FWP, Billie Kulaski-Granite County

Discussion on Agenda Items:

Current lake level is 6428.21 ft.

Hotter and drier conditions in late summer have resulted in VERY low inflows to the lake.

Inflows for August were significantly below the long-term average; however, the first two weeks have seen inflow improvement.

From Todd's report (Attachment 1)- "With the lake not filling this year and the exceptionally low inflows, it is likely that following October 15, outflows will need to decrease to the minimum outlined in the FERC license (or lower) to maintain or begin to fill the lake before freezing". The model run at 50% of inflows predicts the lake level to fall below 6428.0 feet before freezing.

Inflows in the spring were significantly less than the year before. As a result, probably should run the model next spring with variable inflows.

The flow gauge seems to need constant calibration. Need to ensure the weir is maintained. Brad said he would check with the USGS on how they are measuring flow at the weir pond.

FWP indicated they just finished gill netting on the lake. Rainbow size is still up as is Kokanee. Browns are staying about the same.

A report on the Georgetown fishery should be done by year end.

Fish kills have occurred when the elevation of the lake was at 6428.5 feet. Brad is quite concerned about this if the lake falls below 6428.0 feet.

Dissolved oxygen in the lake continues to trend downward. Unsure of the cause.

Discussion was had on reducing outflows to 6cfs after October 15th for one month to increase the lake level to at least 6428.0 feet before freezing. Todd will make some additional runs to see if this can be achieved.

These additional runs made by Todd and sent by note September 23rd (Attachment 2) using 50% and 75% of normal inflows show that a lake level of 6428.0 feet can be achieved before freezing if the outflows are reduced to 6cfs for one month after October 15th.

Recommendation:

Thus, it is recommended that the outflows from the dam be reduced to 6cfs for one month after October 15th, then returned to normal operation.

ATTACHMENT 1

GEORGETOWN LAKE UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Current Lake Elevation 6428.21 (**PROVISIONAL DATA** from USGS gage 12325000)
The water surface elevation is approximately normal for this time of year, based on 80 years' worth of lake elevation data.

Elevation and Inputs
Lake elevation in August was lower than recent years but tracking normal for the long-term average. Hotter, drier conditions in late summer have resulted in VERY low inflows to the lake. August saw slight improvement in inflows compared to July, but still had a comparable decrease in lake level from 6428.88 ft at the end of July to 6428.41 ft by August 31. Inflows for August were significantly below the long-term average. The lake lost 1398 acre-ft of storage last month. August average monthly outflows of 30.5 cfs were more than inflows making the average total lake inputs equal to 7.72 cfs. **The inflows were 36% of normal for July.**

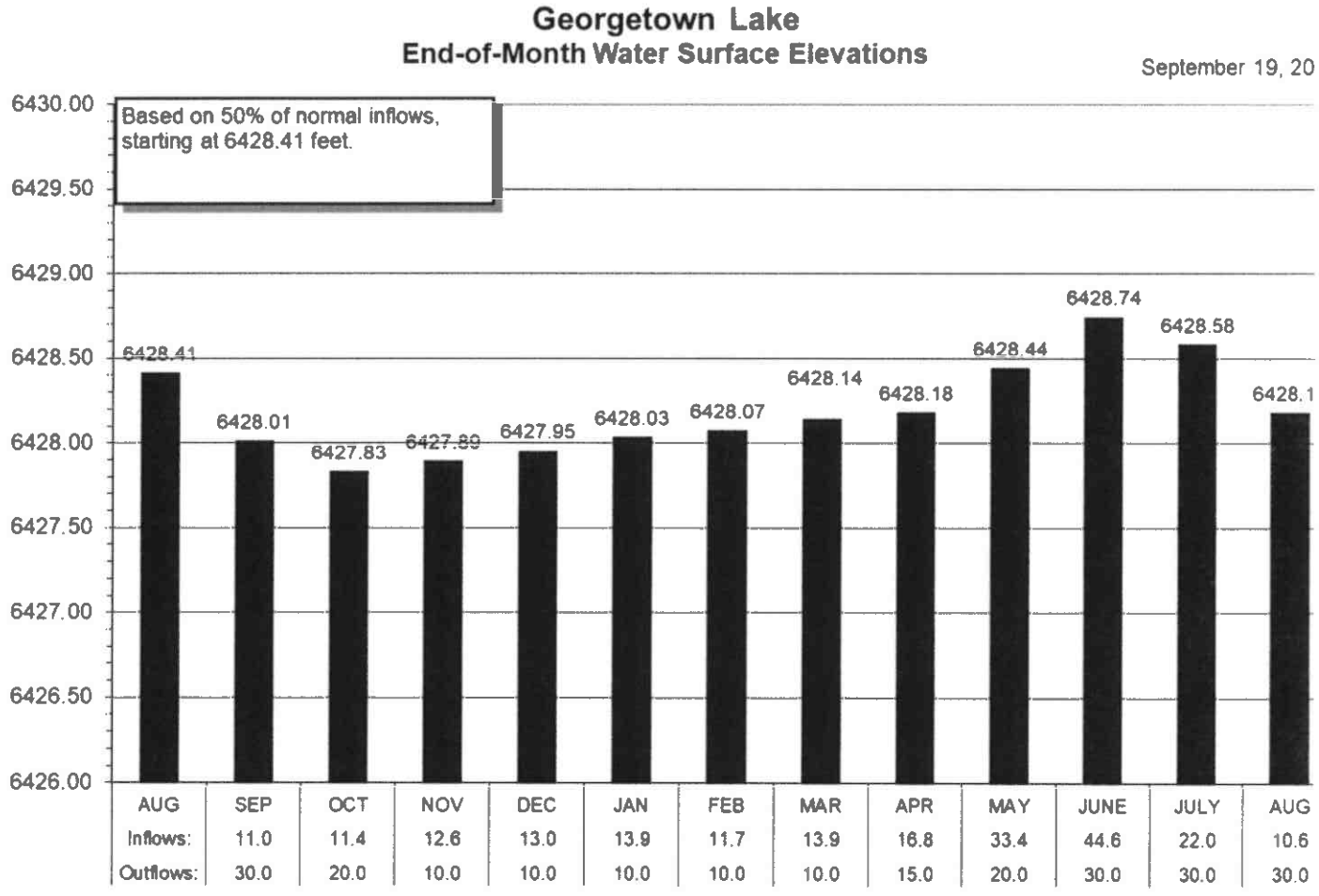
Estimated daily inflows in August were again low enough that net inputs to the lake were near zero for a good portion of the month (meaning evaporation and seepage were higher than surface inflows). The first two weeks of September have seen improvement, as is typical this time of year as night-time temperatures are dropping and evaporation losses start to decrease. The net inputs are estimated between 11 and 15 cfs since September 1.

Precipitation
Precipitation patterns improved in August compared to July. The Peterson Meadows SNOTEL site accumulated 1.3 inches (163% of normal) in August. The Warm Springs SNOTEL site, which gives an idea of the higher elevation precipitation conditions, accumulated 1.3 inches of precipitation as well (108% of normal).

Climate Forecast
The latest CPC climate forecast (created September 18, 2024) shows **average air temperatures and average precipitation for the 1-month outlook. A slight chance of above normal precipitation is predicted for the 3-month outlook**. The 1-week forecast for Philipsburg shows temps with highs in the 60's and lows getting below freezing. There is a slight chance of rain into the weekend.

Model Forecast
Lake elevation is currently tracking with my last prediction from August. The predicted end of August lake level was 6428.41 and observed value was 6428.41, meaning inflows followed an expected trend. This will likely continue into the fall unless there is a major amount of precipitation. The water surface elevation sits at 6428.21 feet as of today (9/19/2024). I used the end of August lake level of 6428.41 ft for this model run. Based on August inflows, NRCS

June-September water supply forecasts, and DNRC's stream gage data **I am using 50% of normal for inflows**. This value accounts for the slight improvement in inflows we have seen so far in September continuing to the end of the month. DNRC's stream gage on the NF Flint Creek is still showing significantly lower flows this year when compared to the historic record. With the lake not filling this year and the exceptionally low inflows, it is likely that following October 15, outflows will likely need to decrease to the minimum outlined in the FERC license (or lower) to maintain or fill the lake before freezing.



T. Blythe, Montana DNRC
Water Sciences Bureau
406-438-0717
todd.blythe@mt.gov

ATTACHMENT 2

Georgetown Outflow Scenarios: Follow-up from FCDAC Meeting on 9/19

Blythe, Todd
From:todd.blythe@mt.gov
To:Liermann, Bradley,Dave Klumpar,crasor@fs.fed.us,Blythe, Todd,Andrew McFarland, Billie Ann Kulaski, Katie McDonald, Forest McClain, Ben Singer, Hooper, Paul -FS, simrio@aol.com

Mon, Sep 23 at 10:28 AM

All,

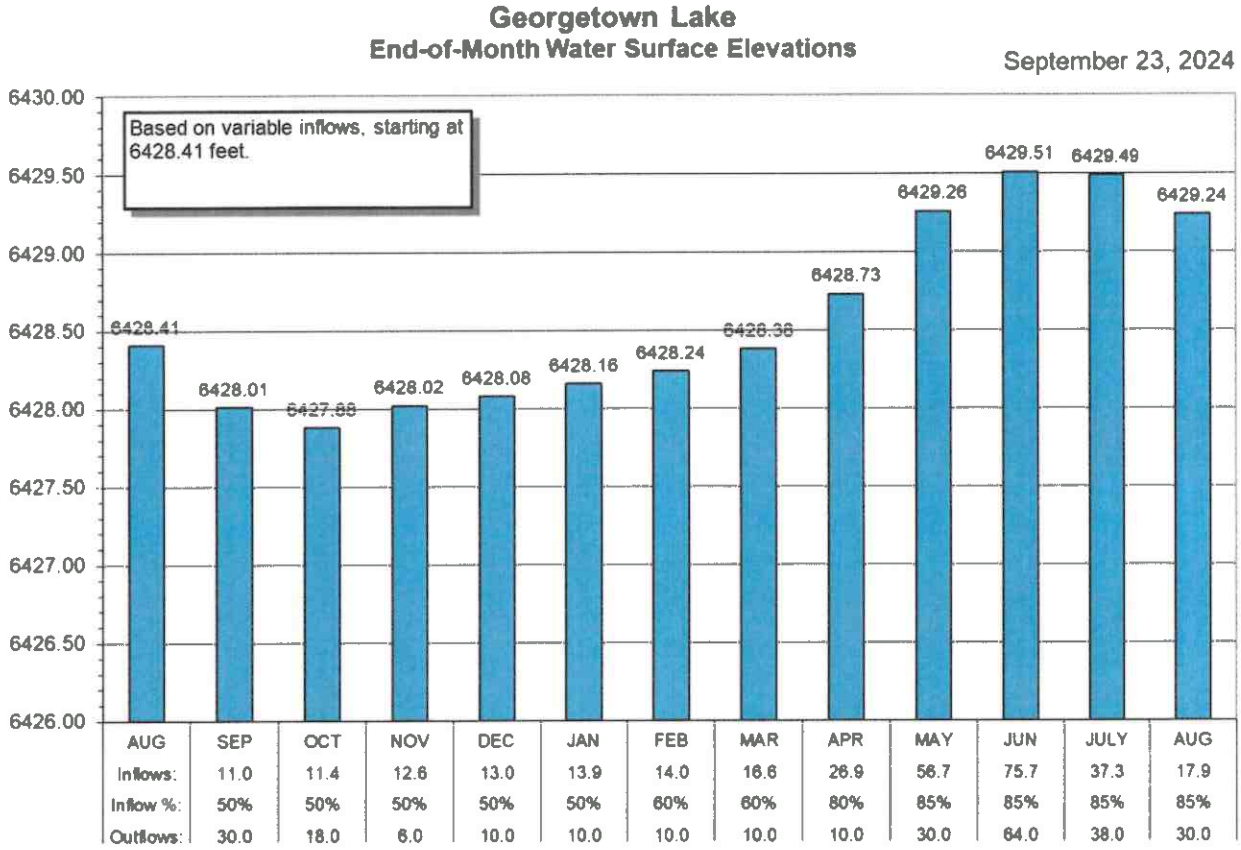
Sorry I didn't end up getting this out last Friday, but here it is. This analysis looks at what was discussed in the meeting – moving to a minimum release of 6 cfs following the Oct. 15 end of the irrigation season and maintaining this 6 cfs until ice on. This was discussed as a way to increase storage after a bad runoff year and to MAYBE buffer lower Dissolved Oxygen in the lake over the winter.

I did 3 scenarios, one with 50% normal inflows for the Fall/Winter (which is about what we are seeing right now, 11 cfs or so). I also did a return to low flow conditions of 30% normal inflows, and an increase to 75% normal inflows. The results really show that even if we could get 30 days at 6 cfs before freezing, it would get the lake closer to 28.0 for the start of winter. If inflows remain what they are now, 30-days at 6 cfs would take us from < 28.0 ft to >28.0 ft. The low flow scenario shows that this would be less impactful…but still increase the lake level by 4 inches before winter freeze.

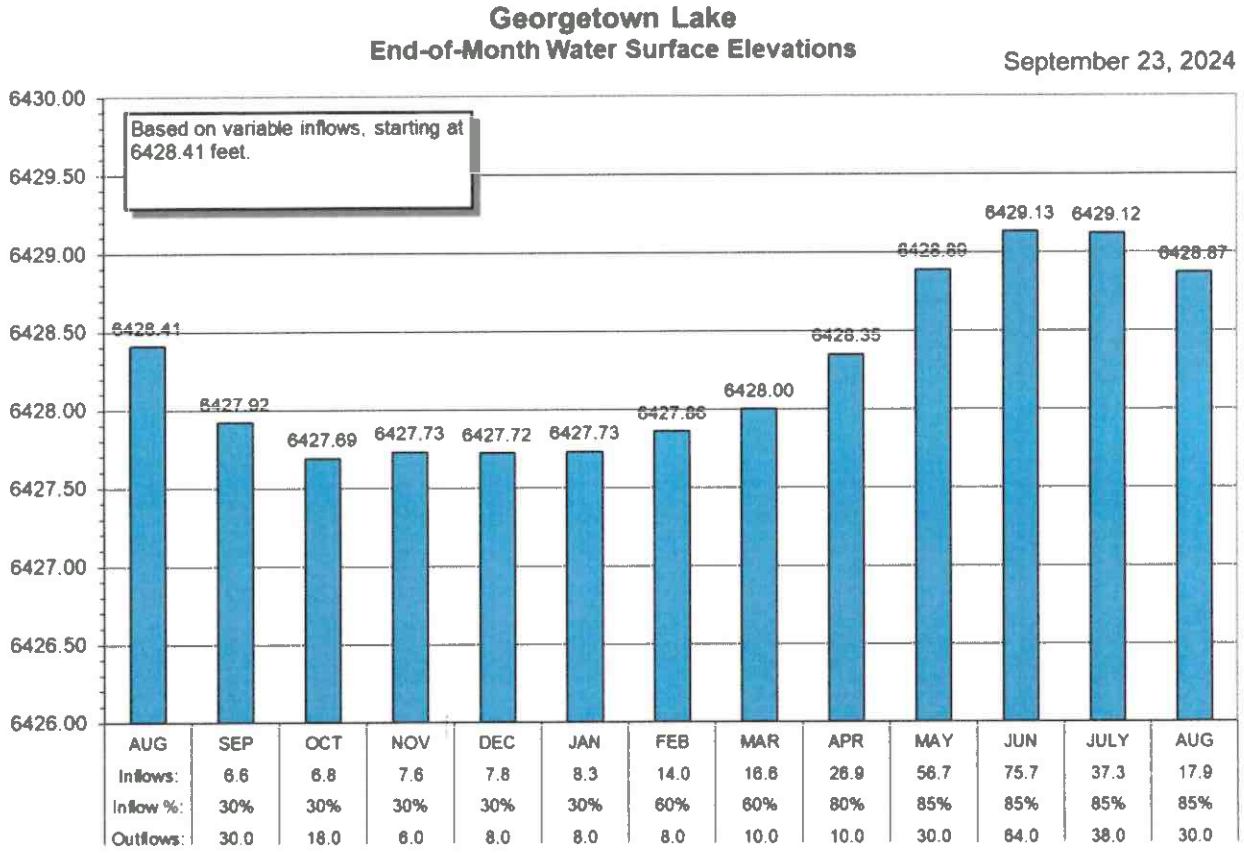
Anyway, regardless of inflows, given the likely elevation of the lake on Oct. 15, I don't think it could hurt to pursue this temporary modification and just see how many ice free days we can get. In all scenarios, I returned the outflows to either approx. match inflows or go back to 10 cfs after Nov. 15. I think this could be a good compromise with power production and increasing lake storage before winter, but I'll let you all provide your input on a post Oct. 15 outflow recommendation.

Thanks!

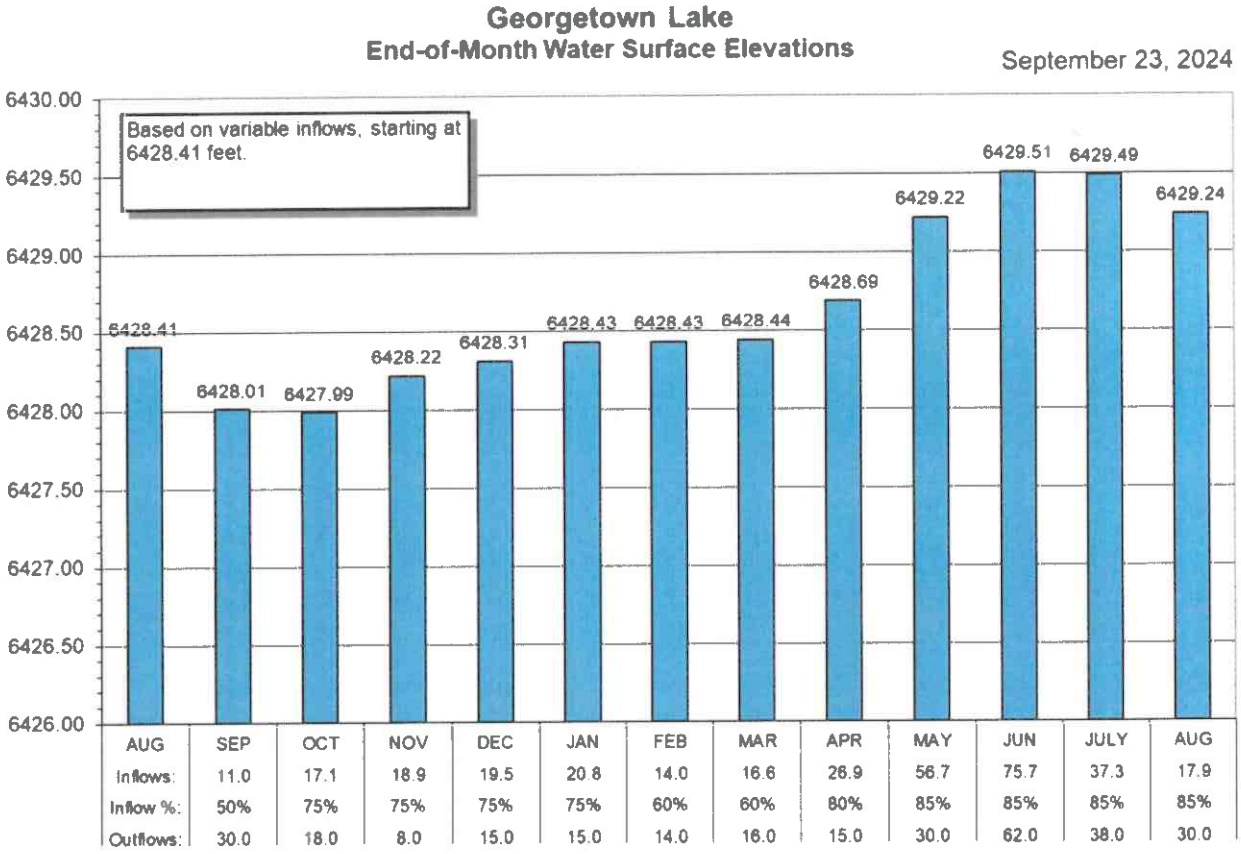
Scenario 1 – If we get 50% of "Normal" inflows through Fall/Winter with 6 cfs outflows for 1-month (Oct. 15 – Nov 15) and then going to 10 cfs after that.



Scenario 2 – If we get 30% of "Normal" inflows through Fall/Winter with 6 cfs outflows for 1-month (Oct. 15 – Nov 15) and then matching inflows after that.



Scenario 3 – If inflows increase to 75% of "Normal" through Fall/Winter with 6 cfs outflows for 1-month (Oct. 15 – Nov 15) and then 15 cfs outflows after that.



Commissioner

From: Granite Headwaters Watershed Group <graniteheadwaters@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:29 AM
To: graybealconst@blackfoot.net; Kerry Graybeal; grant.kier@gmail.com; sundstrm@frontier.com; cutler0697@gmail.com; drm3398@blackfoot.net; Dick Hoehne; krieg@blackfoot.net; chackathorn@tu.org; Kelsie Field; drm3546@blackfoot.net; pelah@fvlt.org; Chuck Stokke; gmueller@montana.com; jensen3@montana.com; bghrnbnb@blackfoot.net; rex@blackfoot.net; clarebloom29@yahoo.com; Chuck Johnson; stephens@blackfoot.net; mickey@montana.com; drm3260@blackfoot.net; vburgmeier@blackfoot.net; achadwick@greatwesteng.com; mmueller@rmef.org; kokopellilane@mac.com; Ed Brunsvold; bmanderson3@gmail.com; Commissioner; JMcGree@paynewest.com; mlmiller@sterksolutions.com; news@pburgmail.com; Linda Bouck; kmcdonald60@gmail.com; warrenkellogg@q.com; rmolteni@comcast.net; drm3822@blackfoot.net; jmbar46@gmail.com; gmentzer07@gmail.com; boonedog@blackfoot.net; yuklein@blackfoot.net; micki@midrivers.com; brokencircle@blackfoot.net; tbhood@blackfoot.net; rroberts@tu.org; kepfeiffer@msn.com; fmlurie@blackfoot.net; John Kendall; pterritories@blackfoot.net; jerryjenson62@msn.com; barbfconn@gmail.com; edmclean64@hotmail.com; Stephen Wraith; dinsmorejim@hotmail.com; sundstrom@blackfoot.net; tplumb@jhoe.com; philmcd@montana.com; townofphilipsburg@blackfoot.net; Tom Rue; opencrossranch@blackfoot.net; vqrtcircle@blackfoot.net; gillies.kathy18@gmail.com; dkron@mt.gov; drm3572@blackfoot.net; cowpatty@blackfoot.net; radtke@blackfoot.net; katsweet@blackfoot.net; harolddewees@gmail.com; Lovekids131@gmail.com; townofdrummond@blackfoot.net; ted.dodge516@gmail.com; dblee@it4mt.com; jbcabin@gmail.com; Drm3479@blackfoot.net; jerrygrebenc@gmail.com; Terri Nichols; Teresa Scanlon; Liermann, Bradley; Lyden, Tiffany; Kurth, Valerie; danielkeiley@gmail.com; Amy Seaman; Vance, Morgan C; Rasor, Cameron - FS, MT; Twedt, Cole - FPAC-NRCS, MT; info@pburg.k12.mt.us; jennifer.mickelson@usda.gov; Phillip Dobesh; Michael Miller; Shoutis, William - FS, MT; Jody Cutler; Billie Ann Kulaski; connor@blackfoot.net
Subject: Upcoming Presentation on Fish Populations in Georgetown Lake- October 16
Attachments: GTL Meeting Poster (2).pdf

Hello All,

The Granite Headwaters Watershed Group is pleased to host a presentation by Brad Liermann, FWP Region 2 Fisheries Biologist, on "Long-Term Trends and Recent Changes in Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Populations, and the Impact of Water Quality on these Fisheries in Georgetown Lake."

The presentation will be held on **Wednesday October 16th at 7:00 PM** at the **Philipsburg Museum**. Everyone is welcome, so please feel free to share this invitation with friends and neighbors. A PDF poster with additional details is attached.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me via this email or the phone number below. We hope to see you there!

Best regards,

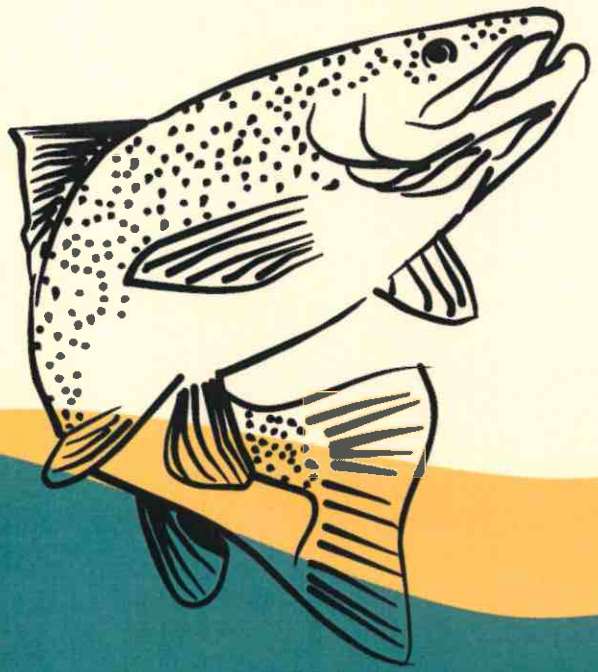
Ahnna Reid
Granite Headwaters Watershed Group

GRANITE HEADWATERS
WATERSHED GROUP

JOIN US FOR A PUBLIC PRESENTATION ON GEORGETOWN LAKE FISH!

Brad Liermann, the FWP Region 2 Fisheries Biologist who has been studying fish populations in Georgetown Lake for 17 years will present the latest findings on "Long Term Trends and Recent Changes in Populations of Rainbow Trout and Kokanee, and Impacts Water Quality is having on these Fisheries in Georgetown Lake"

This will be a great opportunity to learn more about local Rainbow and Kokanee populations, connect with community members, and talk fish!



Presentation will be held in the Philipsburg Museum Wednesday October 16th at 7:00pm

For more information please contact Ahnna Reid at 406-531-4563 or graniteheadwaters@gmail.com