



IN REPLY REFER TO:

MT-222
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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Great Plains Region
Montana Area Office
P.O. Box 30137
Billings, Montana 59107-0137

NOV 18 2019

Jodi L. Bush
Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Montana State Ecological Services Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601

Subject: Bull Trout Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation – Milk River Project, St. Mary Unit, Montana.

Dear Ms. Bush,

On behalf of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Area Office, I am requesting initiation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7 consultation for bull trout within the Milk River Project, St. Mary Unit, Montana.

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) are in the family Salmonidae native to northwestern North America and were listed as a threatened species under the ESA in 1999. The St. Mary River Basin in northwest Montana is the only known population of bull trout east of the Continental Divide.

We look forward to working with you as our agencies proceed through consultation on the St. Mary Unit's facilities to address impacts to listed species. Reclamation will be preparing a Biological Assessment for your review as part of this consultation.

Ms. Lauri Teig, Environmental Specialist, will be the main point of contact for this consultation. She may be reached at (406) 247-7668 or lteig@usbr.gov. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Teig or myself at (406) 247-7298 or sdavies@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Steve Davies
Area Manager