



MONTANA BULL TROUT DISTRIBUTION

HOW THIS MAP SHOULD BE USED

This map was created in July, 2008, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Montana Ecological Services Field Office. It is intended to serve as a guide to inform users of the known and suspected current distribution of bull trout for the State of Montana. The distribution of bull trout is dynamic and may change. Mapped stream segments represent approximate distribution, based on best available information, and should not be interpreted as providing an absolute indicator of bull trout presence or absence at a specific site. This map should not be used as a substitute for more comprehensive onsite field surveys.

An initial draft of this map was developed from a compilation of sources, including FWS Key Recovery Habitat (based largely upon the 2000 Montana Bull Trout Restoration Plan mapping) and an overlay of bull trout presence from the Montana MFISH database. In 2008, a collaboration of biologists from State, Federal, and Tribal agencies reviewed the draft and provided edits and updates based on recent field data. This product is the result of that collaborative effort.

It is well established that bull trout are closely linked to watersheds that are COLD, CLEAN, COMPLEX, and CONNECTED. The linear extent of stream reaches we have displayed on this map is meant to provide general guidance on the likelihood of occupancy by bull trout in particular habitats. Color codes (red, yellow, green) represent known or suspected life history activities (e.g., migration, spawning and rearing, incidental use) that particular stream segments are used for. However, both distribution and life history use by bull trout within a watershed can change and neither can be completely nor concisely identified by lines and points on a map. Bull trout may occasionally be found in streams not color coded on this map and may also engage in life history activities (e.g., migration, spawning and rearing, incidental use) that may not be accurately depicted on this map.

Bull trout are strongly dependent on cold, high quality water resources. Bull trout are typically not distributed in the very smallest (1st order) headwater streams and may otherwise exhibit patchy occupancy in a watershed. Activities in a watershed that may occur upstream of occupied bull trout habitat, particularly those that change temperature characteristics or introduce sediment, have the potential to degrade the downstream habitat and can reduce the distribution and/or viability of bull trout populations.

	Spawning and Rearing Habitat (SR)
	Foraging, Migrating and Overwintering (FMO)
	Unspecified Occupancy (UO)
	Unoccupied or Unsurveyed

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles