

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1019

To direct the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to examine the impacts of whirling disease, and other parasites and pathogens, on trout in the Madison River, Montana, and similar natural habitats, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10, 1995

Mr. BAUCUS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To direct the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to examine the impacts of whirling disease, and other parasites and pathogens, on trout in the Madison River, Montana, and similar natural habitats, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Whirling Disease Re-
5 sponse Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Madison River is a world-renowned,
2 blue-ribbon trout river in Montana, over which the
3 State has principal management authority;

4 (2) rainbow trout populations in the upper
5 reaches of the Madison River have declined from
6 3,300 fish per mile in 1991 to 300 fish per mile in
7 1994;

8 (3) these sharp declines have occurred simulta-
9 neously with the detection of whirling disease, which
10 is caused by myxobolus cerebralis, a parasite that in-
11 duces significant deformity in trout and can affect
12 the stability of wild trout populations;

13 (4) because cold water sport fisheries provide
14 tremendous economic and recreational benefits to
15 the United States, it is in the public interest to de-
16 vote resources to mitigate and control the spread
17 and impact of whirling disease on trout populations
18 in the Madison River and other rivers in the United
19 States;

20 (5) because Montana is the only State in the
21 continental United States that manages fluvial cold
22 water sport fisheries as wild, naturally reproducing
23 populations and, therefore, the impacts of myxobolus
24 cerebralis can be observed without confounding in-
25 fluences related to propagation and stocking activi-

1 ties, it is desirable to locate Federal activities dedi-
2 cated to the study of whirling disease in Montana;

3 (6) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
4 is the Federal agency with appropriate expertise and
5 responsibility to work collaboratively with the State
6 of Montana to address whirling disease; and

7 (7) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
8 Fish Technology Center in Bozeman, Montana, is
9 the appropriate office to assist the State in the test-
10 ing of fish affected by whirling disease.

11 **SEC. 3. WHIRLING DISEASE REPORT.**

12 (a) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of
14 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall submit
15 a preliminary report to the Committee on Environment
16 and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on
17 Resources of the House of Representatives that—

18 (1) summarizes Federal efforts and findings as
19 of the date of the report with respect to whirling dis-
20 ease and other fish parasites and pathogens;

21 (2) identifies gaps in scientific information with
22 respect to whirling disease and other fish parasites
23 and pathogens; and

24 (3) recommends interim management initiatives
25 that can be carried out by the United States Fish

1 and Wildlife Service to assist the State of Montana
2 and other States in curbing the spread of whirling
3 disease, and other fish parasites and pathogens, in
4 the Madison River and to other rivers and minimiz-
5 ing the impacts of the disease, parasites, and patho-
6 gens.

7 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United
9 States Fish and Wildlife Service shall submit a final report
10 to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of
11 the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House
12 of Representatives that—

13 (1) provides the summary and identification de-
14 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)
15 as of the date of submission of the final report;

16 (2) identifies likely causes for the spread of
17 whirling disease, and other fish parasites and patho-
18 gens, throughout the western United States; and

19 (3) recommends initiatives, and provides infor-
20 mation concerning scientific design for the initia-
21 tives, that can be carried out by the United States
22 Fish and Wildlife Service to assist the State of Mon-
23 tana and other States in curbing the spread of
24 whirling disease, and other fish parasites and patho-
25 gens, in the Madison River and to other rivers and

1 minimizing the impacts of the disease, parasites, and
2 pathogens.

3 **SEC. 4. WHIRLING DISEASE DIAGNOSIS.**

4 The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall
5 make funds available to the Fish Technology Center in
6 Bozeman, Montana, to permit continued field and labora-
7 tory studies, including research, diagnostic services and
8 testing of infected fish, that will lead to measures that
9 mitigate and control whirling disease in the Madison River
10 and other rivers.

11 **SEC. 5. WHIRLING DISEASE RESEARCH STATION.**

12 The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall
13 make funds available to the Fish Technology Center in
14 Bozeman, Montana, to construct a complete containment
15 facility in which whirling disease, and other fish parasites
16 and pathogens, can be studied without danger of water-
17 shed contamination.

18 **SEC. 6. WHIRLING DISEASE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PRO-**
19 **GRAM.**

20 The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall
21 make funds available for cooperative studies with State,
22 local, and private entities to study whirling disease, and
23 other fish parasites and pathogens, at the Fish Tech-
24 nology Center in Bozeman, Montana.

1 **SEC. 7. ENNIS FISH HATCHERY.**

2 The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall
3 make funds available for modifications at the Ennis, Mon-
4 tana, fish hatchery to prevent the introduction and spread
5 of whirling disease or other fishborne diseases in the Madi-
6 son River.

7 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
9 as are necessary to carry out this Act, to remain available
10 until expended.

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