

For Immediate Release

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**YELLOWSTONE CLUB TO IMPLEMENT FISHERY CONSERVATION PLAN TO
PROTECT NATIVE WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT**

BIG SKY, MONTANA - Yellowstone Club (www.yellowstoneclub.com), the world's only private ski and golf community, announced details today of an aggressive fishery conservation plan it will begin implementing this summer to protect the native **Westslope Cutthroat Trout** living within the streams and ponds of the expansive 13,600 acre private community located amidst the towering Rocky Mountain peaks just outside Big Sky Montana.

"Yellowstone Club is one of Montana's great locations for fly fishermen," said Mike DuCuennois, Vice President of Development for Yellowstone Club. "The South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River runs right through the property and it is one of only four streams in the entire Gallatin National Forest that's home to pure species of Westslope Cutthroat Trout.

The chance to fish for this unique species is a real treat for our members and their guests. We're taking some strong steps to ensure they can enjoy this experience for generations to come."

Westslope Cutthroat Trout, also known as Black spotted Cutthroat, are Montana's state fish. Once found all over Montana west of the Continental Divide, the fish's range has been severely reduced due to hybridization with other trout species and habitat loss. A 2010 study found that pure Westslope Cutthroat Trout were found only in 2 to 4 percent of its original habitat. However, it is the only fish present within Yellowstone Club, and the new initiative is designed to ensure the continued genetic integrity of the species within the property.

Towards this goal, Yellowstone Club's Fishery Conservation Plan has three key components. These are:

- **Angler Management** - This element is designed to proactively manage fishing pressure within Yellowstone Club to promote the long-term health of the Westslope Cutthroat Trout who live there. To do this, Yellowstone Club will restrict the use of barbed hooks to reduce scaring and trauma in the fish that are caught and encourage a wider distribution of anglers throughout the property with better mapping and a comprehensive education program.
- **Riparian Zone Protection** - To help protect the riparian zones surrounding the streams, Yellowstone Club will develop a series of pathways and trails for anglers to follow. These will improve access to a greater number of fishing areas and reduce potential damage to the riparian zones due to human traffic.
- **Habitat Improvement** - Because much of the mountainous topography within Yellowstone Club, many of the streams have steep gradients which make it difficult for the trout to spawn and the fry to mature. Yellowstone Club will be working with the appropriate agencies to explore opportunities to create deeper pools of water in some sections to reduce stress on the fish during peak runoff periods. The club also will examine ways to enhance the natural spawning beds to encourage reproduction.

Yellowstone Club, located in Big Sky, Montana, is the world's only private ski and golf community. Yellowstone Club is being developed by Discovery Land Company for its partners CrossHarbor Capital Partners, LLC and more than 60 current Yellowstone Club members. Discovery Land Company is a real estate development firm specializing in the creation of world-class private communities. Discovery Land Company's core philosophy is to enhance the

natural character and unique spirit of each property to provide its residents and members with a unique lifestyle experience.

Guided by these ideals, Discovery Land Company and its principals have become among the world's leading residential developers, with an impressive roster of successful, high-profile communities in North America, Hawaii and The Bahamas. For information, please call 1-406-995-4900 or visit www.yellowstoneclub.com.