

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Fish and Stream Surveys in Glacier National Park
Type of Project: Technical Assistance/natural resources
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: USGS-BRD
Effective Dates: August 1, 2003 - March 1, 2005
Funding Amount: \$10,000
<p>Investigators and Agency Representative: <u>NPS KEY CONTACT:</u> Bill Michels, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936; (406) 888-7917; bill_michels@nps.gov</p> <p><u>UNIVERSITY CONTACT:</u> Christopher S. Guy, Assistant Unit Leader, Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, Montana State University, Department of Ecology, Bozeman, MT 59717; (406) 994-3491; cguy@montana.edu</p>
<p>Project Abstract: Glacier National Park is considering the rehabilitation of Going-to-the-Sun Road (completed in 1932 and a National Historic Landmark). According to the National Park Service, if Going-to-the-Sun Road is not rehabilitated it will continue to deteriorate resulting in further damage to natural, historic, and cultural resources in the Park.</p> <p>Many of the aquatic resources in the Park have been altered by the introduction of non-native fishes. However, there are areas within the Park that provide refugia for native fishes and likely represent genetically pure stocks. Thus, protecting these populations from anthropogenic factors such as impacts from road construction is critical to the continued existence of native fishes within the Park. There are eleven native fish species present west of the Continental Divide along Going-to-the-Sun Road: westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, mountain whitefish, pygmy whitefish, reddsideshiner, peamouth, northern pike minnow, longnose sucker, largescale sucker, slimy sculpin, and shorthead sculpin. In addition, five non-native fish species are found west of the Continental Divide in the Park: rainbow trout, brown trout, kokanee salmon, lake whitefish, and lake trout. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the streams bisecting Going-to-the-Sun Road prior to road construction. This study will describe the fish assemblage and associated habitat in streams bisecting Going-to-the-Sun Road. Further, sensitive areas containing bull trout or critical habitat for bull trout will be identified. The following streams will be sampled in Glacier National Park: (West of the Continental Divide) Avalanche Creek; Snyder Creek; Logan Creek; Sprague Creek; Jackson Creek: (East of the Continental Divide) Rose Creek; Baring Creek, Two Dog Creek.</p> <p>Fish will be sampled using standard electrofishing methodologies and will be done in each stream at a suitable stream reach above and below the Going-to-the-Sun Road. The minimum electrofishing segment will be 75 feet, and the maximum shocking segment 150 feet. Fish sampled will be identified by species, total length will be measured, then returned to the stream.</p>
<p>Outcomes with completion dates: The results of the fish survey and stream data shall be furnished to Glacier National Park in the form of a written report; all data should be delivered in digital form and in format useful to the Inventory and Monitoring Program. Included in the report shall be an explanation of the data collected and a narrative describing techniques used in data collection. The final study report is due December 31, 2004</p>
<p>Keywords: Glacier National Park, native fish populations, Going-to-the-Sun Road, fish inventories</p>
<p><u>For Administrative use only:</u> <i>Date Annual Report Received:</i> <i>Date Final Report Received:</i> <i>Publications, etc. on file:</i></p>

