

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Convene an expert panel to scientifically evaluate Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout preservation strategies

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 7/1/2007 - 10/1/2009
Funding Amount: \$31,750 (11,750 added in FY08)

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Todd M. Koel, Ph.D., Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, Center for Resources, PO Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; 307-344-2281; todd_koel@nps.gov

Investigator: John Varley, Big Sky Institute, 107 AJM Johnson Hall, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717; 406-994-5320, john_varley@montana.edu

Project Abstract:

The NPS, Yellowstone National Park, the RM-CESU, the USGS-Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center and Montana State University will collaborate to organize and report on an expert workshop to recommend the use of the best available science to develop guidance for future cutthroat trout preservation activities on Yellowstone Lake.

The scope of work includes:

- 1) Identify a panel of experts on the ecology and management of cutthroat trout and introduced predatory lake trout in large lake systems.
- 2) Create a document for review by this panel that contains the best available information regarding the current state of the cutthroat and lake trout populations, and the approach being taken to address the problem on Yellowstone Lake.
- 3) Hold a facilitated 1-2 day workshop in Yellowstone National Park where the panel would be convened.
- 4) Present existing information on population status to the panel.
- 5) Receive critical review of the cutthroat trout preservation program from external (outside YNP) scientist.
- 6) Receive constructive comments and advice on how to continue the program into the foreseeable future.
- 7) Create a scientific document based on the workshop and , potentially, redefine approach to cutthroat trout preservation on Yellowstone Lake.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

1. Workshop to be held in October 2008
2. Document on the review of the science and management recommendations, due June 30, 2009

Keywords: Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout, lake trout, Yellowstone Lake, expert panel, workshop, Yellowstone National Park, Montana State University