

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Implementation of westslope cutthroat trout restoration in Specimen Creek and interagency project development for Grayling Creek fluvial Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout restoration

Discipline: Natural Resources

Type of Project: Technical assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University

Effective Dates: 1/1/2008 - 12/31/2009

Funding Amount: \$89,716

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The proposed project will allow Yellowstone National Park biologists to extensively partner with multiple government agencies as well as expert NGOs to renovate multiple watersheds in Yellowstone's Northwest corner through removal of nonnative fish species and reintroduction of genetically-pure Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT) and fluvial Arctic grayling. These activities are critical to ensuring the persistence of these unique aquatic resources and the ecosystem that depends on them. **Objectives of this project are to:** complete a planned WCT restoration project on the East Fork Specimen Creek including construction of a fish barrier, chemical removal of all non-native fish in the project area, and re-stocking the system using multiple genetically pure WCT brood sources and multiple methods and to conduct logistical planning and coordinate activities with other agencies leading to the initiation of a large-scale interagency WCT and fluvial Arctic grayling restoration project on upper Grayling Creek and its tributaries.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- 01 June 2008 - Recommendations for 2008 sampling season, Progress Report
- 31 December 2008 - Completion of first season of field work, preliminary analysis of results, Annual Progress Report
- 31 May 2009 - Completion of final analyses, Draft Final Report for review
- 31 December 2009 - Final Report completed

Keywords: restoration, Westslope cutthroat trout, Arctic grayling, upper Grayling Creek, Yellowstone National Park, Montana State University