

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Implementation of the Native Trout Conservation Plan / Environmental Assessment

Discipline: Natural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: September 15, 2011 - June 30, 2016
Funding Amount: \$334,772 [FY13: \$226,867; FY11: \$107,905]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) and westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) have largely been lost from stream systems in Yellowstone National Park (YELL). These species will be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) unless immediate action is taken. YCT are currently losing habitat in the northern regions of YELL due to invading brook trout and (hybridizing) rainbow trout. WCT have been reduced to only one remaining aboriginal population existing in a tiny isolated headwater stream. The goal of this project is to establish self-sustaining, genetically-pure cutthroat trout populations within YELL in an effort to restore and prevent the ESA listing of these unique native subspecies. The cutthroat trout are an important resource in Yellowstone because they are treasured by visitors and are a fundamental component of a relatively intact, naturally-functioning ecosystem that includes the ESA-listed grizzly bear and many other important and sensitive species.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: 31 December 2013 - all final products due

Keywords: yellowstone cutthroat trout, westslope cutthroat trout, restoration, Yellowstone National Park, Montana State University