

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Fisheries assessment of the Gros Ventre River, Grand Teton National Park

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 3/1/2009- 9/30/2011
Funding Amount: \$5,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Land management agencies managing the Gros Ventre watershed in Wyoming include the NPS, Fish and Wildlife Service, USFS, and the State of Wyoming. Fisheries management is the responsibility of Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Each of the agencies has collected information relevant to the management of fisheries resources in the Gros Ventre River watershed. Additionally, a recent multi-faceted research collaboration led by Trout Unlimited has resulted in advancements to our understanding of fish movements, population genetic structure of focal species, hydrologic dynamics, and fish entrainment in irrigation diversions. In order to foster effective partnerships in the management of the fishery resources of the Gros Ventre River, Grand Teton National Park would benefit from a comprehensive fisheries assessment which synthesizes the currently available data. In order to complete this assessment, a Ph.D. student at the University of Montana will work with the agencies to synthesize the following:

1. Review management plans for each agency, and meet with partner agencies to identify management goals and objectives for the Gros Ventre River basin.
2. Meet with appropriate scientists from partner agencies to gather and synthesize existing fisheries data on species viability, stock structure, and distribution; and to identify current and potential threats to fishery and aquatic resources in the Gros Ventre River basin.
3. Produce an assessment document that includes data synthesis, species distribution maps, and recommended management strategies to address potential threats and meet identified management goals and objectives.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final Report due to park by Spring 2010 on (1) summary of all existing fisheries data for the Gros Ventre River basin, including species distribution maps highlighting species of concern or interest to the park, and our current understanding of the distribution of hybrid cutthroat trout populations, (2) an assessment of current threats to the Snake River cutthroat trout populations within the Gros Ventre River basin, both within the park boundaries and outside the park boundaries, and (3) recommendations for the park to manage and protect their fisheries resources within the Gros Ventre River basin.

Keywords: Fisheries, Grand Teton NP, Gros Ventre River, cutthroat trout, University of Montana