

**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary**

Task Agreement #: P21AC10604

Project Title: Evaluate and Refine Benchmarks for Lake Trout and Cutthroat Trout Populations in Yellowstone Lake

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Research/ Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University

Student Participation: Yes

Effective Dates: 9/1/2021 to 12/31/2024

Funding Amount: \$157,786

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

Project goals: Evaluate trout population benchmarks for Yellowstone Lake defined in the 2010 Native Fish Conservation Plan and refine using contemporary data, modeling, and knowledge of system function.

Project objectives: Objectives are to 1) assess practicality of achieving 2010 conservation plan population benchmarks; 2) merge existing statistical population models for lake trout and cutthroat trout, including abundance and biomass estimates; and 3) recommend revised conservation plan benchmarks for lake trout and cutthroat trout ensuring recovery and long-term persistence of natural ecosystem function.