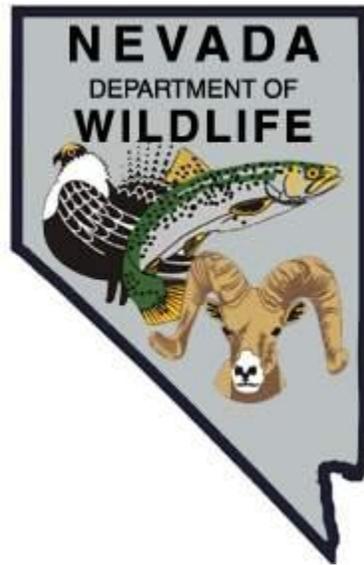


NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE SPORT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-48
2012

BONNEVILLE CUTTHROAT TROUT
EASTERN REGION



**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION
ANNUAL JOB PROGRESS REPORT**

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**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION
ANNUAL JOB PROGRESS REPORT**

State: Nevada
Project Title: Statewide Fisheries Program
Job Title: Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
Period Covered: January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

SUMMARY

During most of 2012, the fisheries biologist position in Ely was vacant. Limited work was done in regards to the *Conservation Agreement and Conservation Strategy for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in the State of Nevada*. NDOW provided the USFS with data for the Silver Creek fish passage barrier NEPA process. There was coordination between Great Basin National Park Service and NDOW on a future fish passage barrier in Snake Creek.

BACKGROUND

Bonneville cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki utah*) restoration activities initiated in the early 1990's continues today throughout its historic range in eastern Nevada. Management activities concerning BCT in Nevada are guided by the *Conservation Agreement and Conservation Strategy for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in the State of Nevada*, which was implemented in January of 2007. The CA/CS identifies objectives, strategies, and actions that are necessary to eliminate or reduce threats and provide for the long-term conservation of the species in Nevada such that listing under the Endangered Species Act may be precluded. Implementation of the CA/CS is three-fold, 1) degraded habitat will be improved and natural function of the associated riparian will be restored, 2) other species, including sensitive plants and animals that share these ecosystems will benefit from restoration activities, and 3) hydrologic function and ecosystem health will be maintained and improved.

The Nevada CA/CS was developed to provide a framework for long-term conservation of BCT throughout its historic range in Nevada. This document serves as a local strategy, tiered under the *Range-Wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout*, which governs conservation activities for the species throughout its entire historic range (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources – Publ. No. 00-19).

OBJECTIVES and APPROACHES

Objective: General Native Sport Fisheries Management

Approaches:

- Participate in coordination activities required within the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Conservation Agreement and Conservation Strategy.

- Assist other agencies (National Park Service, BLM, U.S. Forest Service) as needed in BCT conservation.
- Attend annual BCT range-wide coordination team meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah.

FINDINGS

During 2012, data was provided to the USFS for the Silver Creek fish barrier NEPA process. Additionally, NDOW coordinated with the Great Basin National Park Service regarding the future fish passage barrier on Snake Creek, and the pending chemical treatment of Snake Creek to eradicate non-native trout. Both projects are awaiting funding approval.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Ely fisheries biologist position became vacant in May of 2012 and was not filled until late fall of 2012. However, coordination occurred with Great Basin National Park Service regarding activities for the CA/CS agreement. The spring 2012 range-wide BCT coordination team meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah was not attended since the position was vacant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Participate in coordination activities required within the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Conservation Agreement and Conservation Strategy.
- Attend the annual BCT range-wide coordination team meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Date: February, 2013