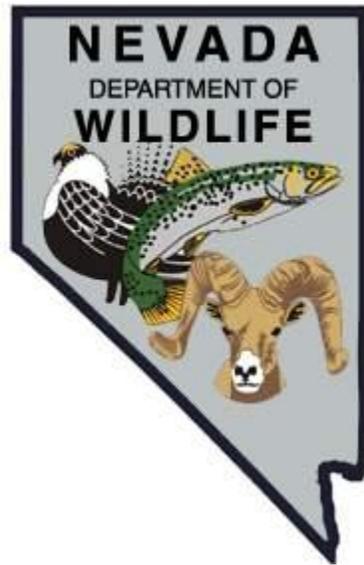


NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-48
2012

LAHONTAN 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: *Lahontan Cutthroat Trout*
Period Covered: *January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012*

SUMMARY

The planning, permitting, and conducting of the Currant Creek Rotenone treatment was not completed as the Safe Harbor Agreement between USFWS and Marys River Ranch was not completed until March 2013.

BACKGROUND

Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*) is only one of two salmonids native to the Lahontan basin, the other being mountain whitefish. Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) were distributed in the drainages of ancient Lake Lahontan and as conditions became more arid during the last 5,000 to 12,000 years, they survived as small populations in the isolated headwaters of streams in many mountain ranges in Nevada, Oregon, and California.

Historically, LCT may have inhabited as much as 2,210 miles of stream habitat in the major subbasins of the Humboldt River during wet cycles (Coffin 1983). Early emigrant journals documented LCT in nearly all the major subbasins and occasionally as far as the Humboldt Sink during wet years. Settlement of the Great Basin, specifically in the Humboldt basin, resulted in the loss of LCT habitat as livestock grazing, urban and mining development, and water diversions. Hybridization and competition with non-native trout led to significant declines in the range and numbers of this unique species. In response to these declines, the Lahontan cutthroat trout was listed as federally endangered in 1970 and reclassified as threatened in 1975. In January of 1995, the USFWS released a recovery plan for the Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Currant Creek is located on the west side of the Snake Mountains in Elko County (T42N, R60-61E). The portion of this stream that was surveyed flows through approximately 12 mi of private land and one mile of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Fish stocking records show that rainbow trout (in 1941, 1942, 1945, and 1952), blackspotted (cutthroat) trout (in 1947), and brook trout (in 1951 and 1953) were stocked in Currant Creek. The 1995 recovery plan lists Currant Creek as a "potential site" for Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery in the Marys River Subbasin.

OBJECTIVES and APPROACHES

Objective: Native Sport Fisheries Management

Approach: Plan, permit, and conduct a rotenone treatment of Currant Creek (Marys River Subbasin) and its tributaries to remove all non-native trout.

PROCEDURES

Currant Creek Treatment

A treatment proposal will be completed and reviewed by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to secure the necessary permit for treating Currant Creek with rotenone. Once a permit is acquired, the stream will be chemically treated with rotenone to remove non-native brook trout and hybrid LCT and rainbow trout, and then to reestablish a Marys River strain LCT population. The reestablishment of LCT within Currant Creek would increase their population distribution to over seven additional miles in the Marys River system.

FINDINGS

Currant Creek Treatment (Marys River Subbasin):

The Currant Creek barrier was installed in the summer of 2012, which will stop upstream migration of non-native fish. The planning, permitting and conducting of the treatment will occur once the Safe Harbor Agreement between the USFWS and private landowner is completed.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Currant Creek Treatment was not completed in 2012 as the Safe Harbor Agreement between USFW and Marys River Ranch was not completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct the treatment in 2013 once the Safe Harbor Agreement is completed.

Project Participants

Nevada Department of Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Date: February 2013