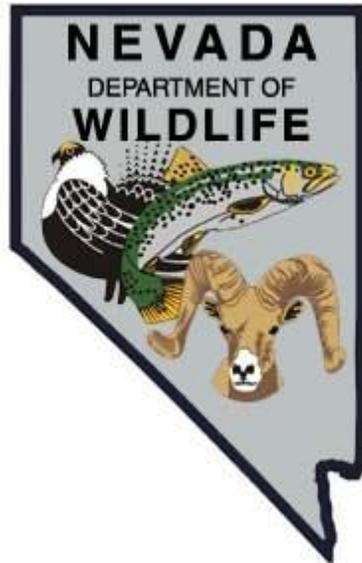


NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-50
2014

NATIVE SPORT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH
EASTERN REGION



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

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**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES BUREAU
ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT**

State: *Nevada*
Project Title: *Statewide Fisheries Program*
Job Title: *Native Sport Fish Management*
Sub Job Title: *Mountain Whitefish Study*
Period Covered: *January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014*

SUMMARY

Low stream flows, seasonal conditions, and time constraints prevented mountain whitefish surveys from being conducted in 2014. Surveys planned for 2014 will be completed in 2015. The existing mountain whitefish database will continue to be updated yearly with any new whitefish information.

BACKGROUND

Mountain whitefish were last documented in the South Fork Owyhee River in 1980 when two were electroshocked from a 200 ft reach located where the road crosses the river to access Big Cottonwood Canyon. Mountain whitefish were last documented in East Fork Owyhee River in 1980, when on two occasions mountain whitefish were electroshocked at the Mill Creek confluence. On April 30, 1988, an angler brought in a 1.46 lb mountain whitefish caught from the East Fork Owyhee River. A mid-October electroshocking survey of nine, 200 ft or greater lengths of river located between Wildhorse Dam and the Duck Valley Indian Reservation failed to document mountain whitefish.

Additionally, a Department of Wildlife game warden reported having angled a mountain whitefish from the Salmon Falls River in Burner Basin a few years back suggesting mountain whitefish may have survived the two previous fish toxicant projects. It would be worthwhile to follow up on the possibility that mountain whitefish still exist in upper Salmon Falls River. Current strongholds for the species in northeastern Nevada include the Bruneau River and the east fork and west fork of the Jarbidge River.

OBJECTIVES and APPROACHES

OBJECTIVE: Native Sport Fish Management

Approaches:

- Utilize snorkeling to document the presence of mountain whitefish in the East Fork Owyhee River.
- Utilize snorkeling to document the presence of mountain whitefish in upper Salmon Falls River.

- Create a GIS database of known mountain whitefish occurrences in Elko County.

PROCEDURES

Planned surveys on the Fork Owyhee River and Salmon Falls River were not performed due to low flows, seasonal conditions, and time constraints.

FINDINGS

No mountain whitefish surveys were performed in 2014.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The below normal snowpack experienced in 2014, seasonal conditions, and time constraints prevented snorkeling surveys in East Fork Owyhee River and Salmon Falls River.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct scheduled 2014 surveys in 2015.
- Continue to update the existing GIS database with any new whitefish sightings.

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Date: February 2015