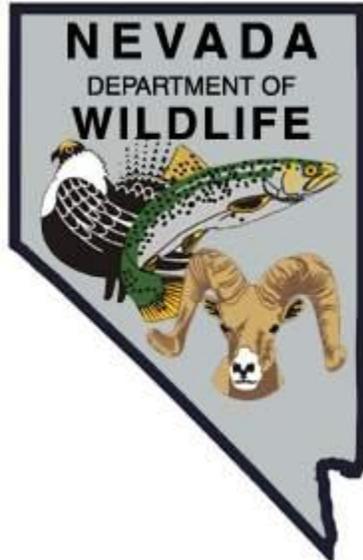


NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORT  
F-20-49  
2013

STREAM FISHERIES MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN REGION



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

**State:** *Nevada*  
**Project Title:** *Statewide Fisheries Program*  
**Job Title:** *Stream Fishery Management*  
**Period Covered:** *January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013*

**SUMMARY**

During the 2013 field season, the Stream Survey/Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Team surveyed two streams that are managed for sport fisheries. Both streams were located in the Jackson Mountains and 8.8 mi were surveyed at 17 sample stations.

**BACKGROUND**

Aquatic habitat management on public lands is primarily the responsibility of the appropriate federal agency mandated by laws to administer those lands. The management of fish is the responsibility of the state fish and game agency. In order for aquatic habitats, riparian zones, and fish to be managed properly, federal agencies and state agencies work together to monitor, survey, and carry out management objectives.

During the 1950s, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) conducted stream surveys on known fishable streams throughout the State. In 1983, a three-way interagency agreement between NDOW, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was signed outlining a program with guidelines for determining the status of aquatic resources and associated habitats. Since 1986, with a cooperative agreement in effect, approximately 1,282 mi of streams in Humboldt County, 15.8 mi in Pershing County, and 104 mi in Washoe County have been surveyed. In addition, some 15.3 mi of stream in Churchill County, 6.4 mi in Lander County, 236.5 mi in Nye County, 11.7 mi in Lyon County, and 7.8 mi in Esmeralda County have been surveyed.

**OBJECTIVES**

General Management Objectives

- Coordinate and perform stream habitat (GAWS Level III) and fish population surveys (electroshocking surveys) coordinated with land management agencies on the following streams: East Fork of the Quinn River.
- Collect game fish from EF Quinn River for mercury analysis.
- Coordinate and perform stream habitat (GAWS Level III) and fish population surveys (electroshocking surveys) on any other western region streams as necessary to provide input on land use activities or actions.
- Collect game fish from Steamboat Creek for mercury analysis.

## PROCEDURES

**Coordinate and perform stream habitat (GAWS Level III) and fish population surveys (electroshocking surveys) coordinated with land management agencies on the East Fork of the Quinn River.** This objective was not completed during the 2013 field season due to Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery activities taking precedence.

**Collect game fish from EF Quinn River for mercury analysis.** This objective was not completed due to Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery activities taking precedence.

**Coordinate and perform stream habitat (GAWS Level III) and fish population surveys (electroshocking surveys) on any other western region streams as necessary to provide input on land use activities or actions.** No other stream habitat (GAWS III) or fish population surveys were required on any other western region sport fishery streams during the 2013 field season.

Stream habitat and fish population surveys along with recovery work on native trout streams took priority over any other potential surveys that would have been completed on any remaining western region sport fishery streams.

**Collect game fish from Steamboat Creek for mercury analysis.** This objective was not accomplished due to the discovery of New Zealand mud snails on the Truckee River and the time spent conducting presence/absence surveys to determine the extent of their range.

## FINDINGS

**Coordinate and perform stream habitat (GAWS Level III) and fish population surveys (electro shocking surveys) coordinated with land management agencies on the following streams: East Fork of the Quinn River.** This objective was not completed during the 2013 field season.

**Collect game fish from EF Quinn River for mercury analysis.** This objective was not completed during the 2013 field season.

**Coordinate and perform stream habitat (GAWS Level III) and fish population surveys (electroshocking surveys) on any other western region streams as necessary to provide input on land use activities or actions.** No other stream habitat (GAWS III) or fish population surveys (electroshocking) were required for any other streams in the Western Region.

Stream habitat and fish population surveys along with recovery work on native trout streams took priority over any other potential surveys that would have been completed on any remaining Western Region streams.

**Collect game fish from Steamboat Creek for mercury analysis.** This objective was not accomplished due to the discovery of New Zealand mud snails on the Truckee River and the time spent conducting presence/absence surveys to determine the extent of their range.

### **MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

The stream habitat (GAWS III) and population surveys were not performed on the East Fork of the Quinn River due to Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery projects taking precedence. The last time surveys were carried out on the EF of the Quinn River was 1997 when habitat ratings were considered good (HCI of 55.7). Game fish species consisted of brown trout, brook trout, and rainbow trout during the 1997 survey.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Coordinate and perform GAWS level III and fish population surveys coordinated with land management agencies on the following streams: Bilk Creek and Singas Creek.
2. Coordinate and perform stream habitat (GAWS Level III) and fish population surveys (electroshocking surveys) on any other western region streams as necessary to provide input on land use activities or actions.

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Date: February 7, 2014