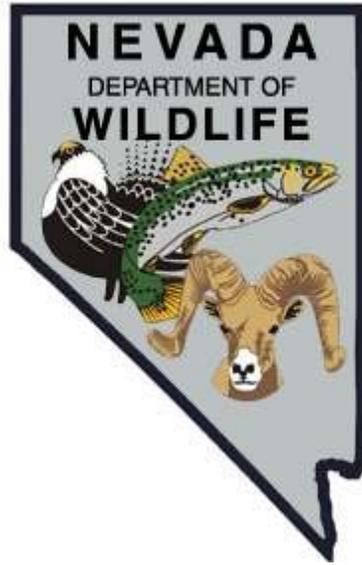


NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-52
2016

NATIVE SPORT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
YELLOWSTONE 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: Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
Period Covered: January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

SUMMARY

Planned surveys were not conducted, as the private landowner would not allow access.

BACKGROUND

The native range of the Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri*) in Nevada includes the Goose Creek drainage in Northeast Nevada, which is its southernmost distribution. Distribution also extends to river and lake accessible drainages upstream of Shoshone Falls located on the Snake River including Yellowstone Lake and Upper Yellowstone River flowing east of the Continental Divide. Progeny of eggs taken from Yellowstone Lake spawners were extensively stocked into other Nevada waters during the first half of the 20th Century. In Nevada, pure genetic populations of introduced Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) do not persist outside their Goose Creek drainage native range.

Both the Upper and Lower Goose Creek drainages are in south-central Idaho. Upper Goose Creek drains from the Sawtooth National Forest south about 10.7 mi. into Nevada where it makes a 27.3 mi U-shaped path before coursing 2.1 mi through northwest Utah. Goose Creek then flows 11 mi south, back into Idaho where it terminates into Lower Goose Creek Reservoir. Goose Creek does not join the Snake River, as it once did, due to diversion of water below the reservoir. In Nevada, the Goose Creek drainage is on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. However, about 91% of the stream runs through private, irrigated ranch land. Both Piney Creek and Trout Creek are trout bearing streams with headwaters in Idaho and then join Goose Creek in Nevada. Other streams known to have contained YCT include both Coon Creek and Little Goose Creek, which are wholly in Nevada and flow easterly to join Goose Creek. Private land (both fenced and unfenced) encompasses the majority of all tributary streams.

The YCT within the drainage face a number of threats including displacement by competing brook trout, unscreened ditches and dewatering, unsuitable summer thermal conditions, and rainbow trout hybridization. From 1980 to 2002, YCT in Nevada showed an 83% decline in presence at surveyed sites. Improvements in the status of the YCT in Nevada will be dependent on coordinating projects with Idaho Fish and Game and the respective land management agencies. Yellowstone cutthroat trout

represent a unique subspecies of cutthroat trout and, because of its limited range, is the rarest of the three subspecies of cutthroat trout that inhabit Nevada.

OBJECTIVES and APPROACHES

Objective: Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Management

Objectives:

- Survey Piney Creek in the Goose Creek drainage to determine Yellowstone cutthroat status and to document the extent of brook trout invasion pending landowner permission.
- Survey Trout Creek in the Goose Creek drainage to determine Yellowstone cutthroat status and current fish assemblage pending landowner permission.
- Continue to coordinate with the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group

PROCEDURES

Planned surveys were not performed due to issues with private landowners and their unwillingness to allow access.

FINDINGS

No Yellowstone cutthroat trout surveys were performed in 2016 and no Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group meetings were attended.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Issues with private landowners arose during the 2013 field season, which will continue to limit future management efforts. Efforts are being made to rebuild relations with the landowners before any future activities can take place.

RECOMMENDATION

Continue to rebuild relations with the private landowners in the drainage before any future management activities are planned

Pending landowner permission survey Piney Creek to document the extent of the brook trout invasion.

Pending landowner permission survey Trout Creek to document Yellowstone cutthroat trout status and current fish assemblage.

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Date: February 11, 2017