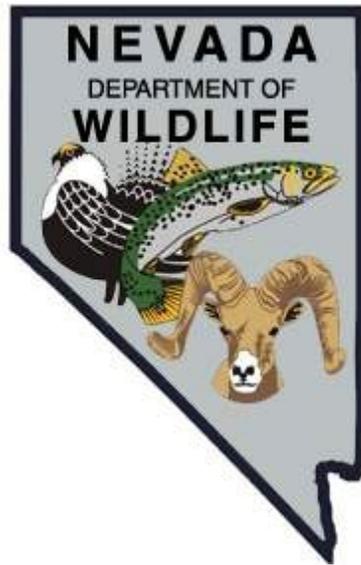


NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-54
2018

NATIVE SPORT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT
EASTERN REGION



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

Table of Contents

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY	1
BACKGROUND	1
OBJECTIVES and APPROACHES	2
PROCEDURES	2
MANAGEMENT REVIEW	2
RECOMMENDATIONS	2

**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, 2018 through December 31, 2018

SUMMARY

No surveys were planned for the 2018 field season due to access issues on private land. Additionally, no Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group meetings were held.

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 accessible river and lake drainages upstream of Shoshone Falls located on the Snake River including Yellowstone Lake and Upper Yellowstone River flowing east of the Continental Divide. Progeny from eggs taken at Yellowstone Lake 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 native range in the Goose Creek drainage.

Both the Upper and Lower Goose Creek drainages are located 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 11.0 mi north, 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 whose confluence with Goose Creek is in Nevada. Other streams known to contain YCT include Coon Creek and Little Goose Creek, which are wholly in Nevada and flow in an easterly direction until their confluence with Goose Creek. Private land (both fenced and unfenced) encompasses the majority of all tributary streams.

YCT within the drainage faces a number of threats including displacement by competing brook trout, unscreened ditches, 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 YCT in Nevada will be dependent on coordinating projects with Idaho Fish and Game, the respective land management agencies, and, primarily, the private landowners.

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 inhabits Nevada.

OBJECTIVES and APPROACHES

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Management

Objectives:

- Continue to coordinate with the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group.

PROCEDURES

No surveys were planned in 2018 due to ongoing issues with private landowners and their unwillingness to allow access. Additionally, no Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group meetings were held.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Issues with private landowners arose during the 2013 field season, which continue to limit future management efforts. The situation with landowners needs to improve drastically before future Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout management activities can take place.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Prepared by: Kevin Netcher
Biologist, Eastern Region

Date: January 16, 2019