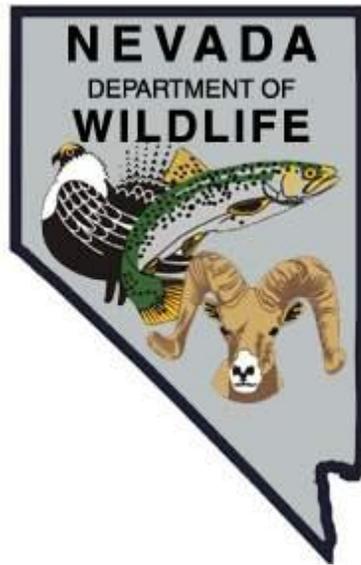


NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-50
2014

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
FINDINGS	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, 2014 through December 31, 2014

SUMMARY

Surveys were not performed due to access not being gained to Piney Creek.

BACKGROUND

The native range of the Yellowstone cutthroat trout *Oncorhynchus clarkii 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 spawning fish 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 that then join Goose Creek in Nevada. Other streams known to have contained YCT include 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, 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

Approaches:

- Electroshock Piney Creek to capture and remove brook trout.
- Continue to coordinate with the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group.

PROCEDURES

Planned brook trout removal efforts were not conducted due to issues with private landowners allowing access. Coordination continued with the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group via email, but the annual meeting was not attended, as there was no data to report.

FINDINGS

No Yellowstone cutthroat trout surveys were performed in 2014.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Issues with private landowners arose during the 2013 field season, which continue to limit management efforts. Efforts should be 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.
- Continue coordination with the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group.

Prepared by: Kevin Netcher
Biologist, Eastern Region

Date: February 19, 2015