

**Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee  
Project Completion Report  
FY 2007**

<b>Unit:</b> Bridger-Teton National Forest
<b>Project Name:</b> Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Surveying and Distribution Mapping
<b>Project Description:</b> The South Zone Fish Biologist, in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Pinedale and Green River Regional Offices), began surveying the Sweetwater and Green River drainages to determine populations and distribution in the Colorado River drainage system in the summer of 2005. This is the first in an effort to determine Colorado cutthroat trout populations, fish passage issues, distribution trends, and habitat. The Bridger-Teton National Forest (as part of Intermountain Region) signed a CRCT conservation agreement, along with five other agencies across a 3-state expanse. This agreement provides guidelines and objectives for keeping the Colorado Cutthroat off the endangered species list. The cutthroat trout is the only native game fish in Wyoming. Populations have decreased over the past century, but how fast and why has yet to be determined. In working to collect Colorado cutthroat trout population, trend and habitat data, the Forest Service hopes to adhere to the tri-state conservation agreement by providing the public with valuable information on cutthroat fish populations.
<b>GYCC Funding Received:</b> \$10,000.00 <b>Partner Funding/In-Kind Received:</b> \$2400 in volunteer labor at a rate of \$18.77 per hour for the BTNF crew. Uncounted number of hours and dollars spent by the WGFD doing surveys.
<b>Status of the Project:</b> In the last three years, we have completed habitat surveys on over 517 miles of stream, surveyed over 537 road/stream crossings, sediment sampled spawning riffles on 10 streams, and did population estimates at another thirty-two sites (325 miles of stream surveyed and 77 road/stream crossings surveyed in 2007). There are only approximately 12 road/stream crossings left to survey in 2008 and then that portion will be complete. We estimate that there is still 2800 miles of stream to survey in the Green River basin; but between the Pinedale & Green River Offices of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and BTNF Fisheries South Zone, we expect to be done by 2011.
<b>Products that can be shared across the GYA: (GIS data layers, maps, new protocols and methods)</b> Fish population data is being entered into the WGFD population database for analysis and then disseminated back to the Forest. All the habitat data is also being entered into a newly created WGFD database that will be able to generate reports by stream, drainage, or HUC. Road/stream crossing data was put into binders as paper copies with picture printouts and sent to their respective districts for use in NEPA as individual projects are designed. All of this data is being looked at for possible inclusion in the USFS NRIS database system but very little has been input as parameters are still being defined. All sampling points have an associated GIS point associated with them that has been shared with the respective WGFD fisheries regions.
<b>Project results: (Information worth sharing on methods, results, partnerships, etc)</b> The development of a database to contain all of the habitat surveys by WGFD may prove to be very beneficial. Most of the data collected to date has been input and the WGFD "IT" people are working to have the database generate reports as specified by the requesting biologist. Results will be known in the very near future.
<b>Project contact:</b> (include phone number, email) Joe Neal, South Zone Fisheries Biologist, Bridger-Teton National Forest 307-367-5730 <a href="mailto:jrneal@fs.fed.us">jrneal@fs.fed.us</a>
<b>Report Date:</b>
<b>Submit to</b> Virginia Kelly: <a href="mailto:vkelly@fs.fed.us">vkelly@fs.fed.us</a> 406-587-6704. Contact Virginia with questions.

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