

Trout Unlimited
Final Report
Caboose Culvert Project
Rainey Creek Idaho
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
September 30, 2009

The Caboose Culvert project was completed this spring prior to high water coming on Rainey Creek. We were delayed in getting to the ground with this project because we had to satisfy a federal FIMA No Rise certification process that delayed us a full year.

The Caboose Culvert project involved fixing a perched culvert that at lower flows represented a fish barrier for fluvial migrating Yellowstone Cutthroat trout (YCT). The solution at this site involved building a series of instream v-weirs that created a stepped pool effect below the outlet of the culvert and elevated the water surface sufficiently to allow fish to have access up through the culvert.

With this project now completed we expect to see the number of fluvial fish begin to increase. We will be working with Idaho Fish and Game to monitor results in the coming years.

Work was completed in early April of 2009. Visual inspection of the weirs after high water indicates that the design worked beautifully. This project is another fine example of partners working together to help native YCT access their historic spawning grounds once again.

Trout Unlimited believes that once migration barriers are eliminated and outgoing ditches are screened, that Rainey Creek can once again return to its former glory as an outstanding YCT spawning stream to the main stem South Fork Snake.

A photo file CD of this project will be sent with this report.