

Georgetown Creek Hydro Headgate Fish Ladder, Idaho – Bonneville cutthroat trout

State(s): Idaho

Managing Agency/Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Type of Organization: Federal Government

Project Status: Completed

Project type: WNTI Project

Project action(s): Fish passage

Trout species benefitted: Bonneville Cutthroat

During an inter-agency effort to track migratory Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) in the Bear River, upstream migration barriers were identified in Georgetown Creek. Georgetown Creek was identified by Teuscher and Capurso (2007) as a high priority BCT restoration stream.

A hydroelectric facility intake headgate is a total barrier to the upstream migration of Bonneville cutthroat trout throughout the year. Idaho Department of Fish and Game has radio-tracked migratory Bonneville cutthroat trout downstream of the structure, but these fish are blocked from reaching five miles of habitat upstream.

In cooperation with several partners and the project operators, a fish ladder will be constructed around the hydroelectric facility and provide bypass flows that will enable year around movement for upstream and downstream migrants.

A fish ladder was designed for the site and approved by the water users. The same type of fish passage facility was used at Buffalo River in the Henrys Fork Snake River and it passes all species and age classes of fish. The operators of the hydroelectric facilities approved the ladder and 5 cfs bypass flows for Bonneville cutthroat trout passage.

The Range-wide and State-wide Bonneville cutthroat trout management plans identify the need to restore connectivity and address diversions that are blocking fish migration. This project will remedy one barrier to fish passage for Bonneville cutthroat trout in Georgetown Creek.

Objectives:

- In cooperation with several partners and the project operators, construct a fish ladder around the hydroelectric facility and provide bypass flows that will enable year around movement for upstream and downstream migrants.

Project cost: \$100,000.00

Start Date: 01/01/2008 **Completion Date:** 12/31/2009