

61330-2006-017 Four Mile Creek, MT, population restoration and habitat improvement for Yellowstone cutthroat trout

State(s): Montana

Managing Agency/Organization: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Type of Organization: State Government

Project Status: Completed

Project type: WNTI Project

Project action(s): Watershed, In-stream and riparian habitat, Genetic diversity

Trout species benefitted: Yellowstone Cutthroat

The project objective is to establish a healthy, genetically pure, self-sustaining population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout throughout about 9-10 miles of stream and the Rainbow Lakes complex. Project success will be monitored via electrofishing surveys, experimental angling, angler reports, genetics testing and possibly other methods. Post-project data to be collected include Yellowstone cutthroat trout distribution, population density, growth, age structure and other variables. Post-project data will be collected and analyzed by Montana FWP and partners, and will be disseminated via annual work reports and presentations to professional organizations and at public meetings.

The renovation of fish populations in Deer Creek and the Rainbow Creek and Rainbow Lakes complex will meet the following WNTI objectives:

The Four Mile creek project addresses the NFHAP goal of:

- Reversing declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms, and
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of fish and other aquatic species.

The Four Mile Creek project also addresses the NFHAP objectives of:

- Protect all healthy and intact fish habitats by 2015.
- Improve the condition of 90 percent of priority habitats and species targeted by Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2020

Objectives:

- Establish a healthy, genetically pure, self-sustaining population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout throughout about 9-10 miles of stream including Deer Ck., Rainbow Creek and Rainbow Lakes.

Partners:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Dept., Trout Unlimited, US Forest Service

Funding Source(s):

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Project cost: \$131,325.00

Start Date: 07/01/2010 **Completion Date:** 09/30/2011

Project Contact:

Jeremiah Wood, Fishery Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 27
Fishtail, MT 59028
406-328-4594