

August 14, 2016

Interim Report for Cooperative Agreement Award F13AC00642 “ Bear Creek Sediment Mitigation Project (Phase I).” granted to the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CMCTU)

This report concerns the work being done to address the sedimentation issue in the Bear Creek Drainage, the home of the only remaining population of Colorado Greenback Cutthroat Trout, *Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias* a listed species.

On or about July 1 2016 the NEPA document was signed by the Ranger for the US Forest Service, allowing work to begin on this project. CMCTU contracted with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute to decommission the social trail that followed the stream, breaking off trail 666 and traveling for approximately 1.1 miles. This trail was adding significant amounts of sediment to the stream. Work on the removal of this trail began on July 5th and was completed on about July 16th. This trail removal included de-compacting the trail, seeding the area and covering the area with wood. Where needed, the trail was reconstructed to eliminate water drainage down the trail and disperse any water that might accumulate. The wood placement is also intended to discourage hikers from bypassing the area and creating a new social trail. The Forest Service encourage the cutting of trees for the use in discouraging this new trail creation and ask that it be done also with an eye to thin the forest growth for fire mitigation. No culturally modified trees or hollow trees were to be cut.

Two of the work days on this project were volunteer days for members of CMCTU . We had more than 200 hours of volunteer time on the ground on this project. This does not include the volunteer hours put in on the preparation leading up to the projects completion.

It is the plan of CMCTU to use the remaining funds in this grant for the decommissioning of the portions of trail 666 scheduled to be eliminated in the NEPA document. This will take place in 2017.

The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited want to Thank the Western Native Trout Initiative in providing this opportunity to make a difference in the protection and recovery of this threatened species.



Building rock dam



Volunteer rakes in seed



Volunteers addressing an erosion area

