



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries Information System

Project:
WNTI FY08 North Fork of Ahtanum Creek Gauging Station Fish Passage ProjectPrinted on:
Oct 1,
2009**Title/Owner**

Title: A-122 - WNTI FY08 North Fork of Ahtanum Creek Gauging Station Fish Passage Project**Owner:** Mid-columbia River Fisheries Resource Office7501 ICICLE ROAD
LEAVENWORTH, WA 98826
phone: (509) 548-7573
fax: (509) 548-5743**Project details**

Keyword: Fish Passage**The importance to the Resource:**

Ahtanum Creek is a stronghold for bull trout, Westslope cutthroat and steelhead in the Yakima Basin. This watershed hold some of the best habitat in the system. It is important to provide passage to both adults and juvenile to promote recovery and the health of the species.

The problem:

Most irrigation diversions in lower Ahtanum Creek have been screened years and this project will address the largest remaining barrier. A relict USGS gage station (with concrete apron) prevents fish passage under most flows. There is still a need to utilize this site for manual gaging but this can occur without persistence of a fish barrier.

The objective:

The objective of the project is to completely remove or construct step-pools up to the existing barrier to provide both juvenile and adult passage to 17 miles of upstream habitat. Additionally, this project will restore the natural function of the stream which has aggraded upstream and become incised downstream due to excessive velocity and scour.

The method:

An interdisciplinary team has been convened by the NYCD to develop ideas and evaluate conceptual designs for restoring passage at the site. The final design will either remove the concrete barrier completely or will leave it in-place but maintain channel stability and construct step-pools to restore passage.

Partners & friends groups

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- North Central Yakima Conservation District
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Yakama Indian Nation
- Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP)

Strategic plan objectives

Primary

Recover fish and other aquatic resource populations protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Secondary

- Develop and improve long-term partnerships with States, Tribes, other Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other Service Programs to develop collaborative conservation strategies for aquatic resources.

Species / populations

Primary Species/Population Benefited:

- Bull trout ([Salvelinus confluentus](#))

Population:

Yakima River core area bull trout [view]

Secondary Species/Populations Benefited:

- Westslope cutthroat trout ([Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi](#))
- Rainbow trout ([Oncorhynchus mykiss](#))

Population(s):

Rainbow Trout - Steelhead - Upper Yakima River (YRUMA-s) Independent Population, Mid-Columbia ESU. [[Threatened](#)] [view]

- Columbia River redband trout ([Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdnerii](#))

Nuisance Species Managed:

None specified

Congressional districts benefited

Click the district name for info about other work the FWS is doing in the district:

[WA04](#)

Other work the FWS is doing in the affected project states:

- [Washington FWS area profile](#)

Accomplishment summary

FY2009: Planning, coordination and technical design work continued on this project in FY 09. A consultant has been funded by the YN to develop an alternatives analysis and subsequent designs for implementation. Due to the difficulties of the site and designs, this project is on track for implementation in FY 2010.

FY2008: Planning and technical design work continued on this project in FY08. Although implementation had previously been expected to be completed in FY08, work continues toward removing or restoring passage at a fish barrier on North Fork Ahtanum Creek (Yakima Basin). Once complete, passage for bull trout and steelhead to 17 miles of near-pristine habitat will be restored. FWS staff engaged in technical design work with an NRCS WNTC geomorphologist to evaluate the effects of both available options.

Targets

2009 targets

Number of invasive species partnerships established and maintained	6
Number of technical assistance/coordination activities conducted (ANS)	13

2009 Performance Measures

Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Fishery Management Plans (Fisheries PART)	4.0
Number of technical assistance/coordination activities conducted (ANS)	0.0
Number of invasive species partnerships established and maintained	0.0
Number of habitat assessments completed (not acres)	1.0
Total number of miles of in-stream and shoreline habitat assessed	3.0
Number of invasive species partnerships established and maintained	0.0
Number of training session to support Tribal fish & wildlife conservation	2.0
Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Recovery Plans (Fisheries PART)	10.0
Number of technical assistance/coordination activities conducted (ANS)	1.0

2008 Performance Measures

Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Fishery Management Plans (Fisheries PART)	4.0
Number of invasive species partnerships established and maintained	6.0
Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Recovery Plans (Fisheries PART)	7.0
Number of technical assistance/coordination activities conducted (ANS)	13.0

Performance measures

2009 performance measures

Number of habitat assessments completed (not acres)	1.0
Total number of miles of in-stream and shoreline habitat assessed	3.0
Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Fishery Management Plans (FWMA)	4
Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Recovery Plans (FWMA)	10
Number of training session to support Tribal fish & wildlife conservation	2
Number of technical assistance/coordination activities	1

conducted (ANS)

2008 performance measures

Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Fishery Management Plans (Fisheries PART)	4.0
Number of invasive species partnerships established and maintained	6.0
Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Recovery Plans (Fisheries PART)	7.0
Number of technical assistance/coordination activities conducted (ANS)	13.0

Funding

Code	2008		2009	
1334 - Habitat Assessment and Restoration	\$33450		\$5000	
Total Service:	\$33450		\$5000	
Partner	M	IK	M	IK
Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP)	\$145000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Partners:	\$145000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Overall:	\$178450		\$5000	

2009 Plan / task work

Plan #1: Yakima Subbasin Plan [view]

Type: Watershed

Plan #1 tasks addressed by this project:

- Number:** Chap 4-36: Focal Species Population - Restoration Key Findings, Objectives and Strategies. [\[log history\]](#)
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
 Restore steelhead to their former range in the subbasin where possible, while reducing or eliminating undesirable effect on non-target taxa.
- Number:** Chap 4-37: Focal Species Population - Restoration Key Findings, Objectives and Strategies. [\[log history\]](#)
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
 Reconnect bull trout populations where possible, where not possible, manage existing populations for high levels of abundance to improve/maintain genetic diversity
- Number:** Chap 4-53: Focal Species Population - Restoration Key Findings, Objectives and Strategies. [\[log history\]](#)
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
 Improve passage and design of irrigation diversions to allow fish and sediment to pass through diversion points.
- Number:** Chap 4-63: Focal Species Population - Restoration Key Findings, Objectives and Strategies. [\[log history\]](#)
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
 Allow unimpeded access of bull trout to spawning areas. Conduct annual monitoring of channel conditions. Study methods for construction of permanent channels/paths including options to manage reservoir water levels.

Plan #2: Bull Trout Draft Recovery Plan, Chapter 23 [view]

Type: Recovery Plan

Plan #2 tasks addressed by this project:

- **Number:** 1.1 [[log history](#)]
Type: Habitat
Work History: 2009 Worked on
Protect, restore, and maintain suitable habitat conditions for bull trout.
 - **Number:** 1.2 [[log history](#)]
Type: Fish Passage
Work History: 2009 Worked on
Identify barriers or sites of entrainment for bull trout and implement tasks to provide passage and eliminate entrainment
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Plan #3: Bull Trout Draft Recovery Plan, Chapter 22 [[view](#)]

Type: Recovery Plan

Plan #3 tasks addressed by this project:

- **Number:** 1.1.1 - 1.5 [[log history](#)]
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
Protect, restore, and maintain suitable habitat conditions for bull trout.
 - **Number:** 3.1 - 3.4.1 [[log history](#)]
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
Establish fisheries management goals and objectives compatible with bull trout recovery, and implement practices to achieve goals
 - **Number:** 4.1 - 4.3.4 [[log history](#)]
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
Characterize, conserve, and monitor genetic diversity and gene flow among local populations of bull trout.
 - **Number:** 6.1 - 6.3.6 [[log history](#)]
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
Use all available conservation programs and regulations to protect and conserve bull trout and bull trout habitats.
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Plan #4: Bull Trout Draft Recovery Plan, Chapter 21 [[view](#)]

Type: Recovery Plan

Plan #4 tasks addressed by this project:

- **Number:** 1.1 - 1.5 [[log history](#)]
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
Protect, restore, and maintain suitable habitat conditions for bull trout.
 - **Number:** 4.1 - 4.3.1 [[log history](#)]
Type: Science & Technology Development
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
Characterize, conserve, and monitor genetic diversity and gene flow among local populations of bull trout.
 - **Number:** 6.1 - 6.3.6 [[log history](#)]
Type: Other
Work History: 2008 Worked on | 2009 Worked on
Use all available conservation programs and regulations to protect and conserve bull trout and bull trout habitats.
-

Plan #5: 2008 NMFS FCRPS Biological Opinion - May 5, 2008 [[view](#)]

Type: Biological Opinion

Plan #5 tasks addressed by this project:

- **Number:** RPA 34 [[log history](#)]

Type: Habitat

Work History: 2009 Worked on

Tributary Habitat Implementation 2007 to 2009 – Progress Toward 2018 Habitat Quality Improvement Targets: The Action Agencies will provide funding and technical assistance necessary to implement the specific projects identified for implementation in 2007 to 2009 as part of a tributary habitat program to achieve population-specific overall habitat quality improvements.

Pictures



Caption:

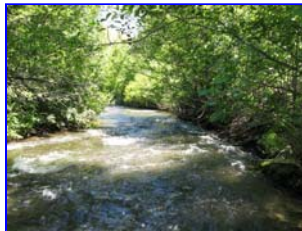
NF Ahtanum Creek Gage Station Fish Barrier

Credit:

Unknown

Description:

Concrete gage apron prevents juvenile bull trout passage under all flows. Adult bull trout passage is likely constrained due to the velocity barrier and non-existent jump-pool.



Caption:

Quality upstream habitat available

Credit:

Robes Parrish, USFWS

Description:

Quality upstream habitat is available once passage is restored. Very cold water, good pool-riffle sequences, and cover from substantial riparian vegetation will again be accessible for bull trout and other native species once the barrier is corrected.

FONS Funding History

FONS funding events are associated with this project:

- In fiscal year 2008, operational need 2007-035 WNTI FY08 North Fork of Ahtanum Creek Gauging Station Fish Passage Project was **fully** funded at the president's budget (Greenbook) amount of **\$0** and the allocation to region amount of **\$0**.

At that time, this accomplishment project was created in the Accomplishment's module.