

Lower McDermitt Creek Fish Barrier Design WNTI Progress Report November 2008

Background

The purpose of this project is to prevent non-native trout present in the Quinn River from reinvading approximately 54 miles of newly reconnected Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) habitat in the McDermitt Creek Subbasin, the largest potential metapopulation within the Northwestern DPS. The LCT is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Currently, all the LCT populations within this subbasin are restricted to isolated headwater streams. The Northwest Distinct Population Segment Team (Team) has worked over the past four years to systematically remove non-native trout over segments of the McDermitt Creek Subbasin and construct temporary barriers in a comprehensive program to reestablish a large networked population of LCT. The construction of this barrier is critical to the long-term success of those restoration efforts. The Western Native Trout Initiative has provided \$21,140 to complete barrier design.



Western Native Trout
Initiative

Scope of Work

- Conduct site visit with Team and design contractor to refine barrier location and identify potential issues.
- Prepare conceptual barrier design and preliminary construction estimate for review prior to preparation of detailed engineering design.
- Prepare detailed engineering design and construction estimate.

Cooperators

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – Lead applicant for WNTI funds (\$21,140) and Lahontan NFH Complex Funds (\$54,325).
- Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) – Participated in project planning and field trips. In-kind personnel time valued at \$2,400.
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Contributed \$5,000 for design work and participated in project planning and field trips. In-kind personnel time valued at \$2,400.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) – Participated in project planning and field trips. In-kind personnel time valued at \$800.

- Wilkinson Ranches – Wilkinson Ranch owners were key partners by providing property access to barrier site. They participated in project planning and signed a cooperative agreement with the FWS.

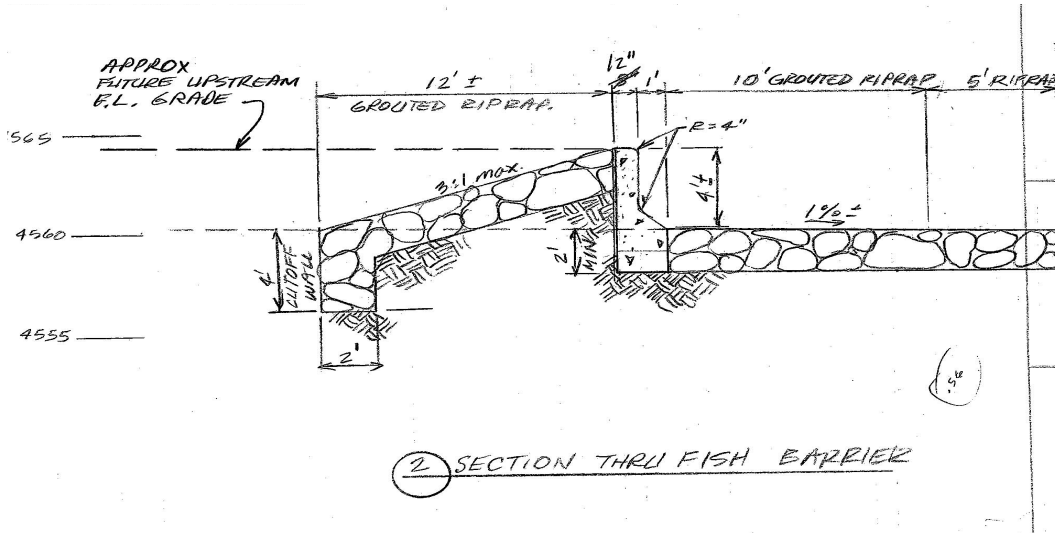


Figure 1. Conceptual barrier design – side view.

Support

This project is supported by the FWS Recovery Plan, NDOW Species Management Plan, ODFW Fish Management Plan, and 2007 LCT Genetics Report (Peacock and Kirchoff 2007).

Project Status

- Contract awarded to engineering contractor in August 2008.
- Barrier location identified at August 2008 site visit with Team and contractor and with Wilkinson Ranches in September.
- Meeting held with contractor in November 2008 to review and approve conceptual barrier design.

The FWS anticipates completion of a cooperative agreement with Wilkinson Ranches and detailed engineering design plans in winter 2008/2009.