



“A National Fish Habitat Partnership “

2008 Annual Report

2008: The Year in review.

Milestones Accomplished:

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) realized the culmination of 18 months of intensive effort with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (WAFWA) approval of the WNTI Strategic Plan in January at the WAFWA winter meeting in San Diego, CA. Following that event, in February, the National Fish Habitat Board approved the WNTI application for recognition as a National Fish Habitat Partnership. With these milestones accomplished, WNTI is poised to become a leader in the efforts to conserve protect and enhance western native trout.

2008 WNTI Focus Areas

The Initiative had several areas of focus during the year that were critical to the implementation of the WNTI Goals and Objectives. They included:

- Internal Operations
- Project Development
- Partner Development
- NFHAP Involvement

Internal Operations

The Western Native Trout Initiative is an operation of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The WNTI operates under the auspices of the Inland and Marine Fisheries Committee., and is headed by an appointed Steering Committee that oversees the day to day functioning of the Initiative. The Steering Committee replaces the WNTI Management Team that guided the initial development of the Initiative.

WNTI Steering Committee

The following individuals, representing the key Initiative partners and interests were formally approved at the July meeting of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Their role is to provide guidance to the Initiative and its' Coordinator on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan and advancement of the WNTI Vision and Mission.

Chair – Mike Stone – Wyoming

Rich Haskins NV – Great Basin States

Craig Burley WA – Northwest States

Roger Wilson UT – Intermountain States

Julie Meka AZ – Southwest States

Christopher Estes - Alaska

Charles Corrarino OR – At Large

Mike Sloane NM – At Large

Dan Castleberry – US FWS

Tyler Abbot – BLM Dan Duffield – US FS

NGO – Warren Colyer - Trout Unlimited

Robin Knox, Coordinator

The Steering Committee currently includes two vacancies – one for a Canadian WAFWA Provincial representative, and one for a Native American Tribal representative.

Note: In January, 2009, the WAFWA Directors appointed Mike Stone, the WNTI Chair, to be the WAFWA representative on the National Fish Habitat Board, and Charles Corrarino succeeded Mike as the Chair of the Steering Committee. Chris Hunter, Montana, replaces Mike Stone on the committee.



“ We cannot do great deeds unless we are willing to do the small things that make up the sum of greatness” Teddy Roosevelt, May, 1899

WNTI Project Implementation

In WNTI’s first two and one half years, more than \$2.14 million has been applied to western native trout habitat, research and population enhancement projects across the West. This funding is the result of collaboration between the WNTI member states, the National Fish Habitat Board, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tribal interests, and other private partners.

In 2008, WNTI received \$601,000 in National Fish Habitat Board Funding (NFHAP), and provided approximately \$205,000 in project funding from the WNTI Multi-state Grant. This represents the best year for funds to date. The following list provides a peek at the scope of actions that are being directed towards western native trout:

WNTI – 2008 funded projects:

- Redband Trout data collection and status review workshop
- State of Washington Redband Trout data collection distribution survey
- Westslope cutthroat trout status review update
- Coastal Cutthroat Trout data collection and conservation planning – AK, OR, WA
- California Golden Trout data collection and report - California
- Klamath Basin Crooked Creek habitat improvement - Oregon

NFHAP – 2008 funded projects:

- WA - N. Fork Ahtanum Ck. fish passage - Bull Trout
- NM - Black Canyon fish barrier restoration- Gila trout
- ID - Elk Creek Palisades Reservoir fish passage - Yellowstone cutthroat trout
- ID - Teton Creek Habitat restore – Yellowstone cutthroat trout

- NV – McDermott Creek fish barrier – Lahontan cutthroat trout
- ID – Georgetown Creek fish ladder – Bonneville cutthroat trout
- CO - Trappers Creek Riparian zone protective fence – Colorado R. cutthroat trout
- NM - Alamitos Creek Fish barrier – Rio Grande Cutthroat trout
- CO - Cunningham Creek habitat restoration – Colorado R. cutthroat trout
- MT - Honey Creek diversion – Redband trout
- NV - Maggie Creek protective barrier – Lahontan cutthroat trout
- CO - La Garita Creek habitat – Rio Grande cutthroat trout
- CO - Wolf Creek protective barrier – Rio Grande cutthroat trout
- AZ - Bear Wallow Creek population renovation – Apache trout
- NV - Trail Creek fish passage – Redband trout
- CO - E. Fk. Parachute Creek protective barrier – Colorado R. cutthroat trout

Completed projects from 2007 and 2008 funding

2008 WNTI Funded Golden Trout Survey - California



“I never won anything without hard labor and the exercise of my best judgment and careful planning and working long in advance.” Teddy Roosevelt, 1910

2008 WNTI Funded Golden Trout Survey - California



2007 NFHAP South Fork Chalk Creek habitat improvement - Utah



2008 WNTI Funded Redband trout survey - Washington



2007 NFHAP Funded O'Dell Creek Restoration



2007 NFHAP Funded Deep Creek Fish Passage - Idaho



2007 NFHAP Funded St. Charles Creek Fish Ladder – ID



“Of all the questions which can come before this nation, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land an even better land for our descendants than it is for us .” Teddy Roosevelt

WNTI Partner Development

In 2008 WNTI began actively seeking new partners. By joining the Initiative, partners accept the concept that the plight of western native trout will be improved through the application of resources – time, money and manpower – to plan and implement on-the-ground projects.

WNTI would like to recognize those organizations and private companies that during 2008 expressed specific interest in partnering with the Western Native Trout Initiative:

Trout Unlimited
Federation of Fly Fishers
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Simms Fishing Products
Umpqua Feather Merchants
Patagonia, Inc.
Orvis Company
Scientific Outdoors
Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust

During 2009 and beyond, the Western Native Trout Initiative will continue to seek out new partners in its native trout conservation efforts.



This publication was funded (or partially funded) by Federal Aid to Sportfish Restoration Funds through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (Grant WY M-8-P), a program supported with funds from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and jointly managed with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 2006-9.



National Fish Habitat Action Plan Involvement

During 2008, following recognition as a National Fish Habitat Partnership, WNTI was actively involved in working with other partnerships in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, and helping to promote the Action Plan through its outreach efforts.

- WNTI participated in the 2008 National Casting call in Washington, DC, and had two posters on display.
- WNTI participated in a training work shop for the leadership of candidate fish habitat partnerships in St. Louis, MO.
- WNTI participated in a special planning workshop for the development of a national reservoir habitat partnership at the National Conservation Training Center.
- WNTI also promoted both the NFHAP and WNTI through a booth at the American Fly Fishing Trades Association Trade Show, a presentation at the National Association of Abandoned Mined Lands Programs, and a poster presentation at the 5th World Recreational Fishing Conference.



How can you help WNTI?

You can help WNTI by making a product or cash donation to the **Foundation For Western Fish and Wild life** – a 501 (c) 3 tax-deductible foundation. Send donations to:

Foundation for Western Fish and Wildlife
2903 Sainsbury Plz. #106
Fairfax, VA 22031 Attn:WNTI Programs

Contact: Robin Knox – WNTI.rknox@wispertel.net