



WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for making 2017 another successful year for the Western Native Trout Initiative!

In 2017, the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) and our partners funded eight habitat restoration projects benefiting our focal species with a total of \$272,415 National Fish Habitat Partnership funds leveraged to partner matches of \$4.4 million for a total projects value of \$4,672,415.

WNTI additionally funded eight small projects through our Small Grants Program, awarding \$18,800 in funding that was matched by \$98,014 in other public and private funding, for a total small grants projects value of \$116,814. WNTI's Small Grants Program is funded through contributions from partners and individual donors like you. We would especially like to thank Running Rivers' Rocky Mountain Flyathlon for their partnership and support of our small grants projects in Colorado.

Collectively, projects funded in 2017 will remove or bypass 12 barriers to restore access to 53 miles of stream for fish passage, restore 27 miles of riparian habitat, complete 26 habitat assessments, assess 60 stream miles, and construct one barrier to protect 17 miles of high priority Westslope Cutthroat Trout habitat.

PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP IN 2017:

- Tincup Creek Stream Restoration, *Idaho*
- Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement, *Oregon*
- Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project, *Oregon*
- Lower Staley Creek Floodplain Restoration, *Oregon*
- Whychus Canyon Restoration Project – Phase 2, *Oregon*
- Deep Creek Floodplain Restoration Project, *Oregon*
- North Fork Spanish Creek Westslope Cutthroat Restoration, *Montana*
- Mill Creek Watershed Restoration, *Utah*

SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2017:

- Get to Know Your Native – Gila Trout poster, *Arizona and New Mexico*
- TROUT at WHCCD (Transforming Research Opportunities for Undergraduate Training at West Hills Community College District), *California*
- Habitat Monitoring and Stream Assessment Program, *Colorado*
- Middle Fork Carnero Creek Culvert Replacement, *Colorado*
- Butler Creek Riparian Restoration, *Colorado*
- Bates Access Signs and Stewardship, *Idaho*
- Gila Trout Restoration Project Informational Sign: Willow Creek, *New Mexico*
- Jacobs Creek Upper Culvert Fish Passage, *Utah*

Thank you for being a part of the Western Native Trout Initiative in 2017. We could not accomplish all that we do without the continued support and dedication of our partners and donors. We are looking forward to continued success in 2018!

Sincerely,

JULIE MEKA CARTER
Chair, WNTI Steering Committee

THERESE THOMPSON
Coordinator

Results

Since its inception in 2006, the Western Native Trout Initiative has directed over \$5 million in federal fish habitat funds leveraged to \$23.4 million public and private matching dollars for 139 priority native trout conservation projects. By leveraging funding provided to WNTI by the National Fish Habitat Partnership, WNTI and over 350 partners to date, have successfully improved the status of western native trout populations in 12 western states including Alaska. With the collaboration and coordination of WNTI Partners, together we have removed 87 barriers to fish passage, reconnected or improved 1,130 miles of native trout habitat, and placed 30 protective fish barriers to conserve important native trout conservation populations.

COMPLETED CRITICAL NATIVE TROUT POPULATION AND HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

In order to ensure our collaborative investments are directed toward the highest priority projects, WNTI has funded over 671 watershed, fish population, and habitat surveys to date.



Coastal Cutthroat Trout ©Joseph R. Tomelleri

In 2017, along with our partners led by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, WNTI completed a multi-year rangewide assessment for Coastal Cutthroat Trout. Through this effort:

- Survey records were collected from 52 governmental agencies, universities, tribal nations, consultants, and non-governmental organizations.
- 102,002 records were gathered that describe a field survey for Coastal Cutthroat Trout throughout their geographic range. Of these, there were 74,266 positive observations.
- Meetings were held with over 157 professional biologists in eight workshops.
- 49,865 square miles, or approximately 13 million hectares, were assessed, that represent hundreds of level five hydrologic units (areas corresponding to watersheds).
- A website was created that houses a map viewer with distribution data and other information. coastalcutthroattrout.org

In addition, a potential habitat data layer for Coastal Cutthroat Trout using an Intrinsic Potential (IP) model was developed and used to support the assessment. The model demonstrated potential for better understanding the upstream extent of Coastal Cutthroat Trout distribution.

The long-term impact of this project cannot be overstated. The efforts of the Coastal Cutthroat Trout Interagency Committee, the data collected for the observation and distribution database, the potential habitat model, and results of the assessment are the most significant contribution to improve the management and conservation of Coastal Cutthroat Trout throughout their native distribution to date.



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Photo courtesy of Tyler Coleman

OUTREACH ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Chasing Native Trout Campaign

Have you ever caught a native Western trout? It's now easier for all angling adventurers to take a road trip and catch the fish of their dreams. Along with a gorgeous inspirational video filmed in southern Colorado, WNTI added eight additional sub species in 2017 to our original four species course of tips and tricks for where and when to find these beautiful native trout. As part of the course, subscribers receive one email per week full of information for planning their next great fishing adventure. The 12 fish covered are:

Apache Trout – AZ

Bonneville Cutthroat – UT

California Golden Trout – CA

Coastal Cutthroat – OR

Colorado River Cutthroat – WY

Dolly Varden – AK

Gila Trout – NM

Lahontan Cutthroat – NV

Redband Trout – ID

Rio Grande Cutthroat – CO

Westslope Cutthroat – WA

Yellowstone Cutthroat – ID

Visit the campaign landing page and be sure to subscribe to receive all the e-newsletters: chasing.westernnativetrout.org

Collaboration with RepYourWater

If the fish fits, wear it! Thanks to a collaborative partnership with RepYourWater, you can now purchase a different hat for all 21 species of western native trout and char that the WNTI represents. We hope this unique offering will promote pride in our native trout species and an interest in where they live. The hats have been very popular with anglers and other members of the public. We started a hashtag “#matchthehat” on social media in summer 2017 and invite people to share photos of themselves holding a native trout that matches the native trout on their hat. A percentage of the proceeds from hat sales will support on-the-ground habitat conservation projects in all 12 states where WNTI works. repyourwater.com/collections/western-native-trout

About WNTI

THE WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE is a public-private Fish Habitat Partnership that works collaboratively across 12 western states to conserve, protect, restore and recover 21 native trout and char species. To achieve this mission, WNTI works together with its on-the-ground partners to:

ESTABLISH JOINT PRIORITIES FOR NATIVE TROUT CONSERVATION

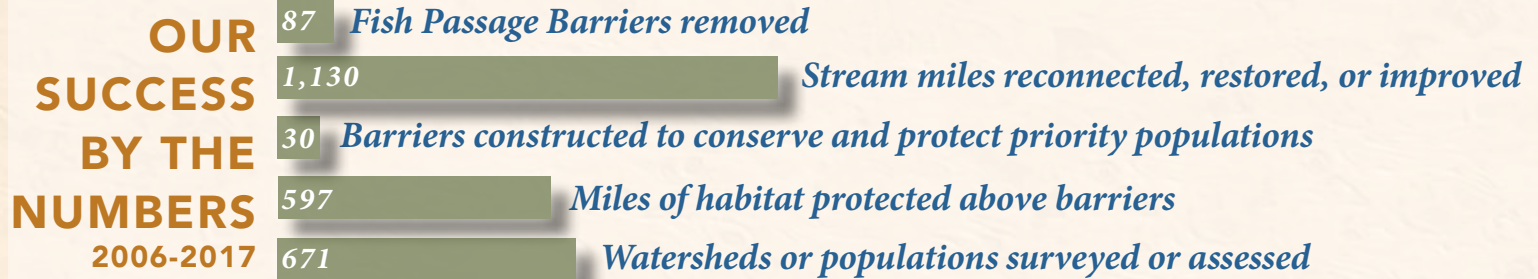
Covering over 1.75 million square miles of public and privately managed lands, WNTI and our partners combine science-based assessments along with expert and local knowledge to establish joint priorities for native trout conservation at a landscape scale.

COORDINATE INVESTMENT AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

WNTI provides a forum for partners to coordinate and invest their collective assets and capacity toward completing the highest-priority, native trout conservation efforts across the West. Proposed and led by local communities and resource agencies, these projects are funded and supported through WNTI's grant programs and in kind contributions by our partners.

EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND STEWARDSHIP

WNTI seeks to support and sustain the ongoing efforts of our on-the-ground partners by raising awareness for the importance of healthy native trout watersheds and facilitating greater public support for native trout conservation within local communities. Through our Campaign for Western Native Trout, WNTI helps encourage private investment and involvement in native trout projects and regional native trout conservation initiatives.



STEERING COMMITTEE

Operating under the guidance of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Native Trout Initiative is governed by a Steering Committee that represents 12 western state fish and wildlife agencies, 5 federal resource management agencies, tribes, and nonprofit fisheries conservation organizations.

Julie Meka Carter, Chair
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Jon Sjöberg, Vice Chair
Nevada Department of Wildlife

Jeff Dillon
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Craig Burley
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Bruce McIntosh
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Paul Dey
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Gillian O'Doherty
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Kirk Patten
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Andrew Cushing
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Melissa Dickard
Bureau of Land Management

Scott Spaulding
U.S. Forest Service

Robert Clarke
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Warren Colyer
Trout Unlimited

Ed Schriever
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

STAFF
Therese Thompson
Coordinator

THANK YOU PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

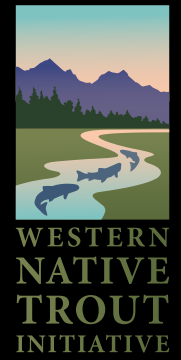
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Americanfishes.com
Angling Trade Magazine
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Basin+Bend
Bitter Root Water Forum
Blue Valley Ranch
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Clark Fork Coalition
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
El Paso County, Colorado
Federation of Fly Fishers – Southwest Council
Friends of the Teton River
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Kenai Watershed Forum
Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust
Klamath Lake Land Trust
Long Tom Watershed Council
Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group
McKenzie Watershed Alliance
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Middle Colorado Watershed Council
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
National Fish Habitat Partnership
National Forest Foundation
Native Trout Addicts
Nevada Department of Wildlife

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
North Fork John Day Watershed Council
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
RepYourWater
Rocky Mountain Flyathlon (Running Rivers)
Sage Lion Media
Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers
Smith River Watershed Council
Southern Rockies LCC
Spokane Riverkeeper
Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum
Trout Unlimited
Turner Endangered Species Fund, LLC
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
West Hills Community College District
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Wild Fish Conservancy
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
And all the individual donors who contribute to WNTI!

The future of native trout conservation depends on the generosity of individuals like you who care about sustaining healthy western watersheds. When you give to WNTI, 100% of your donation is leveraged to support on-the-ground, locally led projects.



Join us! westernnativetrout.org



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TROUT
INITIATIVE**