

Teton Creek Habitat Restoration for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout - F. Hill Property, Idaho

State(s): Idaho

Managing Agency/Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Type of Organization: Federal Government

Project Status: Completed

Project type: WNTI Project

Project action(s): Fish passage

Trout species benefitted: Yellowstone Cutthroat

Teton Creek has been selected as a NFHAP "2009 Water to Watch"

Two studies, using indices of irreplaceability and vulnerability, identified the Teton Watershed as the highest conservation priority watershed in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Teton Creek is an important spawning and rearing tributary for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in the Teton River watershed.

Degradation of stream channels has contributed to a 95% decline in YCT numbers in the Teton River. In Teton Creek, a severe headcut has severely damaged the stream channel, there are multiple locations with bank failures, sediment is entering the stream, and the riparian vegetation is inadequate in providing shade and diverse habitat for fish.

A 900 linear foot-long headcut will be stabilized using seven rock weirs that will prevent downcutting, dissipate stream energy, increase the number of pools and riffles and provide fish passage at all flows. Twelve hundred fifty linear feet of eroding banks will be stabilized with rock, willow and cottonwood revetments. Revegetate with willows cottonwoods, and native grasses.

Teton Creek is critical to Yellowstone cutthroat Trout recovery since it is one of the only tributaries in Teton Valley that has a remnant fluvial YCT spawning run and has the highest YCT juvenile recruitment in Teton Valley.

The Teton Valley has been identified as a focal area under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Strategic Plan, and within the Fish and Wildlife Service Cross Program Recovery initiative. With all of the dramatic growth that Teton County is currently undergoing, this project would help stabilize habitat for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout as well as other aquatic species in an important tributary of the Teton River.

Objectives:

- Facilitate the recovery of native YCT in Teton Creek, the largest of the Teton River headwater tributaries, by stabilizing a 900 linear foot-long headcut and 1,250 linear feet of eroding banks. Enhance spawning and rearing habitat and migration corridors and improve downstream habitat by reducing sediment loads and the risk of flooding.

Partners:

- Idaho Depts. of Fish and Game; Environmental Quality
- Floyd Hill Family
- McKibben Family
- Trout Unlimited
- Orvis
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Funding Source(s):

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Project cost: \$369,000.00