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Final Report: Western Native Trout Initiative: A Test For Trout

Dates Covered in Report: June 2021 through October 2021

Report Summary

Okanogan Land Trust (OLT) conducted a third and final round of aquatic sampling, which took place on 6/9, 6/10, and 6/11/2021. Samples were taken along waterways in northern Okanogan and Ferry Counties, including:

- Marias Creek
- Nicholson Creek
- North Fork O'Brien Creek
- Sanpoil River
- West Fork Sanpoil River

Samples were sent to the Aquatic Lab at the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation. Samples were tested for the presence of Rainbow Trout, Western Pearlshell, and Burbot DNA.

DNA for Rainbow Trout has been detected in all of the samples. DNA for Western Pearlshell was detected in the two Sanpoil River samples, but not the others. Burbot DNA was not detected in any of the samples.

Results will help to inform discussions with landowners along these waterways as well as conservation partners working in these areas. We will also use the data when considering potential sources of funding for conservation easement projects, looking for funders who prioritize protection of species found.

Budget Summary

The attached invoice for $1,002.88 includes:

- Laboratory analysis for the sampling ($723.60)
- Postage to send samples to UM lab ($11.60)
- Mileage for field work and for obtaining sampling equipment ($267.68)

Additional costs which were incurred but not billed and offered as match include:

- Donated usage of sampling equipment by Methow Salmon Recovery (estimated value between $500 and $800.00)
- OLT staff time for obtaining equipment, sampling, laboratory contact and coordination (25 hours at $30 per hour = $750.00)

This completes OLT's work and invoicing for this project. We would like to thank the Western Native Trout Initiative for supporting this work.

Progress Report: Western Native Trout Initiative: A Test For Trout

Dates Covered in Report: 9/1/2018 through 11/15/2019

Progress Summary

Okanogan Land Trust (OLT) has conducted two rounds of aquatic sampling to date, on 10/20/2018 and on 10/1/2019. Samples were taken along waterways in northern Okanogan and Ferry Counties, including:

- Kettle River (both 2018 and 2019)
- Curlew Creek (both 2018 and 2019)
- St. Peters Creek (both 2018 and 2019)
- Lower Marias Creek (2018)
- Myers Creek (2019)
- Little Goosmus Creek (2019)

Samples were sent to the Aquatic Lab at the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation. Samples were tested for the presence of Bull Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and Rainbow Trout DNA.

Thus far, DNA for Rainbow Trout has been detected in all of the samples except Little Goosmus Creek. However, no DNA for Bull Trout nor Westslope Cutthroat Trout has been detected in any of the samples. (Note: At the time of this report, we were still awaiting results on the Myers Creek sample.)

As agreed in the October 2019 contract extension, OLT will conduct one final round of sampling in Spring 2020 targeting the same waterways.

Results will help to inform discussions with landowners along these waterways as well as conservation partners working in these areas. We will also use the data when considering potential sources of funding for conservation easement projects, looking for funders who prioritize protection of species found.

Budget Summary

The attached invoice for $1,928.55 includes:

- Laboratory analysis for the two sampling rounds ($669.60 + $918.00 = $1,587.60)
- Postage to send samples to UM lab ($6.70 + $7.35 = $14.05)
- Mileage for field work and for obtaining sampling equipment ($326.90)

Additional costs which were incurred but not billed and offered as match include:

- Donated usage of sampling equipment by Methow Salmon Recovery (estimated value between $500 and $800.00)
- OLT staff time for obtaining equipment, sampling, laboratory contact and coordination (49.5 hours at $30 per hour = $1,485.00)

We are on track to complete the Spring 2020 sampling utilizing the remaining funds from the $3,000.00 contract.