

Lost Lake Greenback Cutthroat Trout Brood Stock Program

Grant Number: 2024 SG11

Report Submission Date: 1/20/2026

Project Timeline: Fall 2024 - Fall 2025

Project description:

The goal of this project is to engage volunteers and to enhance RMFTU's education activities while establishing a second brood stock population of the Greenback Cutthroat Trout - Colorado's state fish and currently listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The primary wild brood stock source of Greenback Cutthroat Trout is Zimmerman Lake, located at over 10,000 feet elevation and three miles from Colorado's Cameron Pass. Survival of fry from eggs collected from Zimmerman Lake is on average five times higher than those produced at the Leadville National Fish Hatchery (the second major source of Greenback brood stock), underscoring the importance of wild brood sources. Unfortunately, the Zimmerman Lake population has in the past three years seen a rapid decline in fish numbers which is unable to meet future production needs. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) fisheries staff have worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to plan the establishment of a secondary brood stock source of Greenback Cutthroat Trout in Lost Lake, located near Red Feather Lakes, CO. Creating an additional wild brood stock of Greenbacks for taking spawn and providing Greenbacks to be reared in the state and federal hatchery systems help to keep restoration on track in Colorado's South Platte basin.

WNTI funding from this grant primarily funds development and installation of an information kiosk and signage placed at the Lost Lake parking area communicating information about Greenback Cutthroat Trout conservation and this site's role. WNTI funds will also be used to print informational materials that will be delivered during RMFTU meetings, classes, and at the information kiosk.

Project Goals/Objectives:

1. To display permanent, accurate, fishing rules, regulations and general information on the greenback cutthroat trout at Lost Lake via an attractive trailhead style kiosk. This will in turn generate:
 - a. Protection for the fish - Clearly stated fishing rules and regulations make it more likely for people will follow them.
 - b. An informed public - Those who are informed are more likely to be supporters of conservation efforts. Plus, a lot of recreators are curious to learn.

Achieved with signage posted on both sides of a newly constructed wooden kiosk and printing of updated versions of a Greenback recovery pamphlet that has been distributed at events including a trout expo and youth fly fishing camp.

2. To protect the health of the Greenback Cutthroat Trout population in Lost Lake by monitoring oxygen levels and temperature. An oxygen diffuser and solar panels to power it were funded through a separate source and can be adjusted if shown to be required through monitoring.

Achieved with installation of additional dissolved oxygen sensors installed in the lake by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and partially funded by Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Project Budget:

- **Goal #1. Expenditures:**

- Lost Lake Kiosk: \$2,626.37

This sum was used for materials only. The labor, fuel, and equipment / tool costs were covered by RMFTU volunteers. These volunteers obtained kiosk drawings, learned the correct building strategy, processed and transported materials, and erected the sign in a skilled and professional manner

- Artwork, Informative Material, Rules / Regulations: \$694.03

This sum was to print the artwork, informative material, and rules / regulations on a properly sized outdoor rated material for installation on the kiosk by RMFTU volunteers.

- Native Trout Brochure and Pamphlet: \$777.73

This sum was used to print informative materials that have been passed out by RMFTU volunteers at various community events in Larimer county to spread awareness about the Greenback Cutthroat Trout.

- **Goal #2. Expenditures:**

- Oxygen and Temperature Monitor: \$1,239.00

This sum was used to purchase an oxygen and temperature monitor which was installed by RMFTU volunteers and is monitored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Grant Amount: \$4,700

RMFTU Expenditure: \$5,337.1

As RMFTU spent over the allotted amount, we expect that only \$601.87 of the monitor's cost will be reimbursed. This will leave \$637.10 to be covered by our budget.

- **List funding sources/partner and contribution amounts:**

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife funded 2 additional Dissolved Oxygen sensors to gain a better idea of dissolved oxygen levels within Lost Lake.

Project Outcomes:

Goal 1 Outcomes:

- The goal of displaying permanent and accurate rules and information was achieved.
- The effectiveness of the kiosk to preserve the health of the population of the fish in Lost Lake will be monitored continuously, signs of overfishing will be observable by Colorado Parks and Wildlife surveys. Rules and regulations can be amended if needed.
- The goal of generating an informed public is difficult to measure, but RMFTU has handed out over 100 brochures at local events, and every visitor to lost lake will be exposed to the information displayed by the kiosk.

Goal 2 Outcomes:

- The goal of protection of the health of the fish was partially achieved as the oxygen and temperature monitors were successfully installed. The ongoing monitoring of data collected will ensure the future health of the population.

o Partnerships that contributed to the success of the project:

Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDW)

CDW is the main engine of everything Lost Lake. They drafted the original plan to stock fish in the lake, provided the fish, installed the solar powered oxygen diffuser, provided material storage for the kiosk, and helped on installation day.

National Forest Service

The National Forest Service generously allowed the project to take place on

o Future and upcoming work:

One problem consistently noted by Lost Lake visitors is the use of vehicles too close to the lake, this leads to people having fires and leaving trash on the shore. RMFTU is interested in building a sturdy and attractive A frame style fence to keep vehicles out of the beach area.

See next pages for photos and link below for the trifold brochure.

[RMF Trifold Brochure](#)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e267d66de6f0056c7bd77e5/t/68f93f411fee3228d3cde750/1761165121299/RMF_TrifoldBrochure_Digital%2C+SIngle+File.pdf

Photos:

Lost Lake Information Kiosk (parking lot view of lake)



Lost Lake Information Kiosk (lake view towards parking)



Staff/people that contributed: Dane Gaston (pictured directly below), Mason Milligan (on ladder next page), Ryan Hogan (next page), Left to right on last page: Scott Baily, Mason Milligan, Ben Johnson. Not pictured: Tony Popp





