

Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) Grant Recipient Final Report

Project Title: Selway Creek Watershed Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration

Year Awarded: 2021

Reporting Period: 2025

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Accomplishments:

Several stocking efforts for Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT) and Arctic Grayling occurred during the summer of 2025. Specifically, approximately 1,000 WCT were collected from multiple genetically unaltered populations in the greater Red Rock River drainage and transported to the Selway Creek watershed in July and August of 2025. Those fish, ranging in size from young-of-year to adults, were released into each tributary and the mainstem of Selway Creek, where they will become genetic building blocks for the expansion of WCT across the watershed. Furthermore, an additional 4,000 young-of-year Arctic Grayling were released into Selway Lake and another 6,600 released into the lower portions of Selway Creek in September of 2025. The current population will be allowed to expand naturally over the next 3-5 years at which point, we will conduct surveys to determine if additional stocking efforts are warranted.

Photos:



Figure 1. Student volunteer stocks Westslope Cutthroat Trout into Ore Creek, a tributary to Selway Creek in August 2025.



Figure 2. Hundreds of young-of-year Arctic Grayling shortly after stocking into Selway Creek.



Figure 3. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest staff stocking fish into a tributary of Selway Creek in September 2025.