

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Collaborative Working Group – Round 1

Lovell Jan. 31, 2018

When you consider the future of cutthroat trout in the Bighorn Basin what challenges, both social and biological, do we need to consider to ensure all interests are met?

- Consider projects in native YSC range, (or in areas where they can do well)
- YSC do not do well in competition with other trout
- Have discussion on many levels, have goals, metrics, etc. and clarify “How do we measure success?”
- Perception problem, everyone excited about trout but not YSC
 - Need more education, help people understand value of YSC
- Why are you putting them back in places outside their historic range? We need to answer the “why”
- Grew up on Brook trout, family tradition connected to brook trout fisheries that we are replacing
- Children can catch brook trout easily, not YSC
- What streams can we realistically restore YSC in? What are the biological parameters?
- What seasonal ranges, spawning habitat can be considered?
- Define reintroduction versus introduction
- Consider entrainment into irrigation systems
- Consumptive vs. non consumptive users
- Under ESA, if we choose not to do recovery, then rules might be thrust upon us.
- We have populations of YSC today. We need to protect populations of YSC we have today before establishing new populations.
- Concern about getting kids to catch fish,
 - Concerned about method of take being restricted and how it impacts experience
- Concerned about follow through and sustainability.
 - How long is the project before establishing a sustainable population of YSC?
 - When selecting a location, we should consider if we can have a self-sustaining population in potential treatment areas.
 - Self-sustaining vs. sustainability – decide objective