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| **Region:** | Casper |
| **Habitat Priority Area Name:** | North Platte River Blue Ribbon |
| **Habitat Area Type (s):** | **[x]  Aquatic [ ]  Terrestrial [ ]  Combined**Riparian |
| **Habitat Values:** | Productive sport fishery; cottonwood gallery forest; riparian wetlands, Grey Reef sections of the North Platte River provide a renowned “blue ribbon” sport fishery that annually supports over 30,000 angler days |
| **Reason Selected:** | The North Platte River is a distinctive, productive and economically significant fishery resource in the Casper Region. Efforts to maintain or enhance this popular resource will benefit extensive stream and riparian communities and the people who enjoy them. The cottonwood gallery forests and riparian wetlands that occur along the corridor are important to a host of species and yet are a rare and declining resource. |
| **Area Boundary Description:** | North Platte River corridor from Alcova Reservoir dam to Dave Johnston power plant |
| **Focal species or species assemblage(s) (limit 6):** **SWAP Tier 1 species:** | rainbow trout, brown trout , cutthroat troutNo SWAP Tier 1 species. |
| **Solutions or actions:** | 1. Determine to what extent flow management can be used to improve water temperatures for salmonids between Gray Reef and Dave Johnston Power Plant dam. Generate heating curves that relate stream temperature to air temperature and flow.
2. Evaluate spawning habitat and flushing flows between Gray Reef and Dave Johnston Power Plant dam.
3. Continue negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation to address fishery concerns as part of their operational plans.
4. Follow the current mitigation policy of no loss of habitat function and no significant declines in species distribution or abundance. Recommend mitigation measures that result in no net long-term loss of habitat function, species distribution or abundance.
5. Control invasive riparian species, specifically Russian olive.
6. Reduce sediment input from tributaries.
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| **Additional Information:** | The river fishery is directly dependent on water management decisions (flow release timing, quantity, etc.) and requirements made by the Bureau of Reclamation.Limited spawning habitat and fine sediment intrusion limit spawning habitat quality.River restoration efforts are needed to address invasive species, sediment transport, channel and bank stability.Water temperatures in downstream areas limits trout numbers. |
| **General land ownership and surface area:** | BLM: 4,288 ac (8%), USFS: 0 ac (0%), State: 6,427 ac (12%), Local Gvt: 780 ac (1%), Private: 40,060 ac (73%), Water: 3,224 ac (6%), Total area: 54,779 ac |