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| **Region:** | Cody |
| **Habitat Priority Area Name:** | South Fork Shoshone River |
| **Habitat Area Type (s):** | **[x]  Aquatic [ ]  Terrestrial [ ]  Combined**Stream, riparian, cottonwood, willow, conifer |
| **Habitat Issues:** | Habitat segregation (upstream fish passage) fish loss (canal entrainment), reduced water quality due to sediment loads, dewatered stream reaches, unstable banks and substrate, and degraded in-stream habitat, banks, and riparian areas. |
| **Reason Selected:** | This stream supports a productive sport fishery, has core conservation populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Marquette Creek, East Fork Creek, Gentian Creek, and the headwaters of South Fork proper. Fish loss at diversion canals is high and stream reaches are periodically dewatered.  |
| **Area Boundary Description:** | South Fork from headwaters and tributaries downstream to Buffalo Bill Reservoir. Upper South Fork Shoshone River (1008001301), Middle South Fork Shoshone River (1008001302) and Lower South Fork Shoshone River (1008001303) watersheds. |
| **Focal species or species assemblage(s) (limit 6):** **SWAP Tier 1 species:** | Yellowstone cutthroat trout (T1, NSS2), mountain whitefish (T2, NSS4), and brown trout. Yellowstone cutthroat trout, boreal toad |
| **Solutions or actions:** | Work with agencies, water managers, landowners and the public to:1) Protect and restore genetically pure populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout susceptible to hybridization or competitive non-native species. Natural barriers or man-made barriers may be needed to segregate pure populations until the downstream fisheries are restored back to native species. Use barriers only when necessary habitat types exist above the barrier to provide for all life stages.2) Improve upstream passage at diversions and culverts. Use screens to reduce entrainment loss. 3) Identify crucial fish passage time periods (i.e., upstream spawning runs and downstream migration of young). This information may allow cooperating irrigators to coordinate timing and quantities of water use to leave more water in the stream during critical periods. 4)Improve stream flows, stream habitat, riparian vegetation, and fisheries through improved water management and efficient irrigation systems, e.g., seal canals, surge valves, sprinklers.5) Protect and manage for native riparian vegetation to filter runoff, maintain water tables, provide late season stream recharge, and stabilize stream banks. Use riparian fencing, grazing management, fire management, and invasive species control to promote native vegetation. Remove Russian olive and tamarisk.6) Reduce erosion and silt loading. Utilize filter strips, wetlands, silt detention ponds, minimum till practices, efficient irrigation systems, off-site livestock water, plus best management practices for riparian, farming, grazing, and road management. Replace push-up dams that wash out annually with fish friendly permanent solutions.7) Work with the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation districts to manage water levels in Buffalo Bill Reservoir and associated dust abatement ponds for the benefit of trout species, especially Yellowstone cutthroat trout.  |
| **Additional Information:** | An entrainment study completed for Cody Canal, one of the larger irrigation diversions, showed a loss of over 50,000 fish during the 2007 irrigation season. The historical effect of fish entrainment in the lower South Fork Shoshone River may suppress fish populations.Some reaches of the lower mainstem South Fork Shoshone have received extensive bank stabilization practices and construction of flood control dikes to protect private property. |
| **General land ownership and surface area:** | BLM: 11,949 ac (3%), USFS: 308,542 ac (74%), Other Federal: 3 ac (0%), State: 8,956 ac (2%), Private: 83,452 ac (20%), Water: 3,170 ac (1%), Total area: 416,072 ac |