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| **Region:** | Green River |
| **Habitat Priority Area Name:** | Hatch Creek |
| **Habitat Area Type:** | **Aquatic  Terrestrial  Combined**  Aspen, stream, riparian, conifer |
| **Habitat Values:** | Upper Hatch Creek provides habitat for a remnant conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout; healthy aspen stands and beaver are required to secure the long-term viability of this fragile CRC population, as flows in this small perennial stream are adversely affected by drought cycles. |
| **Reason Selected:** | Upper Hatch Creek provides habitat for a remnant conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout that warrants habitat protection. |
| **Area Boundary Description:** | The entire Hatch Creek watershed. Hatch Creek is a tributary drainage of the upper East Fork of Savery Creek. |
| **Focal species or species assemblage(s) (limit 6):** | Colorado River cutthroat trout (NSS2), boreal toad (NSS1), smooth green snake (NSS2), boreal chorus frog (NSS4), northern leopard frog (NSS4) |
| **SWAP Tier 1 species:** | Colorado River cutthroat trout, flannelmouth sucker, boreal toad |
| **Solutions or actions:** | Work with the Medicine Bow National Forest and private landowner (Gene Carrico) to achieve aspen restoration and sound grazing practices.  Encourage expansion of beaver colonies into suitable habitat where populations can be sustained over the long term. |
| **Additional Information:** | Issues include:   * The loss of healthy aspen stands to conifer encroachment has reduced overall watershed productivity and function. * A catastrophic wild fire could destroy CRC populations in the headwatersby warming the water during the fire above lethal thresholds.   The loss of healthy aspen stands to conifer encroachment has reduced overall watershed productivity and function.The successional loss of healthy aspen stands has also reduced habitat for beaver along the main stem riparian corridor.  Upper Hatch Creek provides habitat for a remnant conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. CRC in Hatch Creek were given a “B” purity rating (Oberholtzer 1990). Healthy aspen stands and beaver are required to secure the long-term viability of this fragile CRC population, as flows in this small perennial stream are adversely affected by drought cycles beginning in the late 1980’s. Healthy riparian zones and active beaver ponds will be required to maintain, protect and conserve this CRC population over time.  Pine Bark beetles are destroying coniferous forest throughout the Sierra Madre Range. A catastrophic wild fire could destroy CRC populations in the headwaters by warming the water during the fire above lethal thresholds, and introduce ash and silt which will adversely affect spawning habitat and aquatic insect life and eliminate stream shading, which could be beneficial in some cases. |
| **Land ownership and surface area:** | BLM: 23 ac (2%),  USFS: 523 ac (45%),  State: 90 ac (8%),  Private: 530 ac (45%),  Total area: 1,166 ac |