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| **Region:** | Green River |
| **Habitat Priority Area Name:** | Upper Dirtyman Creek |
| **Habitat Area Type:** | **Aquatic  Terrestrial  Combined**  Stream, riparian, wetland, willow, aspen |
| **Habitat Values:** | Upper Dirtyman Creek provides habitat for a conservation population of genetically pure Colorado River cutthroat trout. |
| **Reason Selected:** | Upper Dirtyman Creek provides habitat for a remnant conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout that warrants habitat protection. |
| **Area Boundary Description:** | Crucial area includes the entire Dirtyman Creek watershed upstream of the fish migration barrier located at UTM E314531, N4569487, Zone 13, NAD-83 within the Savery Creek sixth level HUC- 140500030402. |
| **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), mountain sucker (NSS3) |
| **SWAP Tier 1 species:** | Colorado River cutthroat trout, flannelmouth sucker, boreal toad |
| **Solutions or actions:** | * Work with the Medicine Bow National Forest, Rawlins BLM and private landowner to restore aspen and achieve sound grazing practices. * Enhance watershed segments that maintain potential for restoring woody riparian vegetation, and subsequently 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. * 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 that began in the late 1980’s. * Healthy riparian zones and active/stable beaver ponds will be required to maintain, protect and conserve this CRC population over time. * Pine bark beetles have reduced live lodgepole pine forest and accumulated dead wood fuels throughout the Sierra Madre Range. A catastrophic wildfire in the upper Dirtyman Creek watershed could negatively affect CRC populations by warming the water during the fire above lethal thresholds, and introduce ash and silt which could adversely affect spawning habitat and aquatic insect life. |
| **Land ownership and surface area:** | BLM: 164 ac (9%),  USFS: 1,207 ac (63%),  State: 0 ac (0%),  Private: 546 ac (28%),  Total area: 1,917 ac |