|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Region:** | Green River |
| **Habitat Priority Area Name:** | Lower Blacks Fork River Corridor |
| **Habitat Area Type:** | **Aquatic  Terrestrial  Combined**  Stream, riparian |
| **Habitat Issues:** | The river channel is wide and shallow and lacks adequate pool depth at lower flows.  The lower Black’s Fork is a water depleted system resulting from agricultural water use upstream in the Bridger Valley, and industrial trona mine water use.  River channel dewatering and sediment deposition reduces pool depths and fish cover, severs connectivity with lateral side channel habitats, and can cease river flow leaving only residual pools.  Intensive energy development and production activities are currently occurring in the upland and flood plain areas adjacent to this river corridor. Cumulatively, heavy sediment yield to the river threatens water quality and physical habitat.  High demands for livestock grazing use along the river corridor in this low elevation desert ecosystem has contributed to degraded riparian habitat conditions and overall stream function. |
| **Reason Selected:** | The lower Blacks Fork is one of the last remaining stronghold habitats for roundtail chubs. There is a desire by fish managers to address the immediate need of improving badly needed pool habitat for sensitive native fish species to maintain their populations in the river. |
| **Area Boundary Description:** | The enhancement river corridor begins at the confluence with Muddy Creek and extends downstream to the Flaming Gorge crucial area boundary. |
| **Focal species or species assemblage(s) (limit 6):** | roundtail chub (NSS1) |
| **SWAP Tier 1 species:** | bluehead sucker, Colorado River cutthroat trout, flannelmouth sucker, roundtail chub, boreal toad, Great Basin spadefoot, midget faded rattlesnake |
| **Solutions or actions:** | * Advocate habitat protection and minimize habitat impacts created by energy and industrial development activities. * Promote water management practices that improve fish habitat * Promote livestock grazing management practices and other land use activities that result in healthy riparian habitat and reduce excessive sediment yield into the river. * Construct experimental instream rock sill structures to improve pool habitat refuge for native fish. |
| **Additional Information:** | This section is a refuge for native non-game fish and is managed for native fish in particular roundtail chubs, flannelmouth suckers, and bluehead suckers. |
| **Land ownership and surface area:** | BLM: 13,444 ac (27%),  USFS: 137 ac (0%),  State: 7,581 ac (15%),  Private: 29,015 ac (58%),  Water: 15 ac (0%),  Total area: 50,192 ac |