



Snake River Cutthroat's Historic View on Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

- ONLY Native Trout to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
- Inhabited area for over 100,000 years
- Rainbow, Brown and Brook Trout = introduced, 130 years
- Represent the Wildness & Naturalness of our Home Area
- Fish Equivalent of Rocky Mountain Elk in World of Mammals



Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout



Rocky Mountain Elk



Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Over Rainbow Trout

- Native Trout
- 100,000 years
- Voracious Dry Fly Eaters
- Fishing friendly, forgiving
- Rare, Last Main Stem River
- Introduced Species
- 130 years
- Stronger fighters, jumpers
- More difficult
- Prolific, 47/48 States

**SRC does NOT support Rainbows at the expense of
Native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout**



Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout



Rainbow Trout



Native Replacement?

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout



Rainbow Trout



Rocky Mountain Elk



Cape Buffalo





TU National's Stance

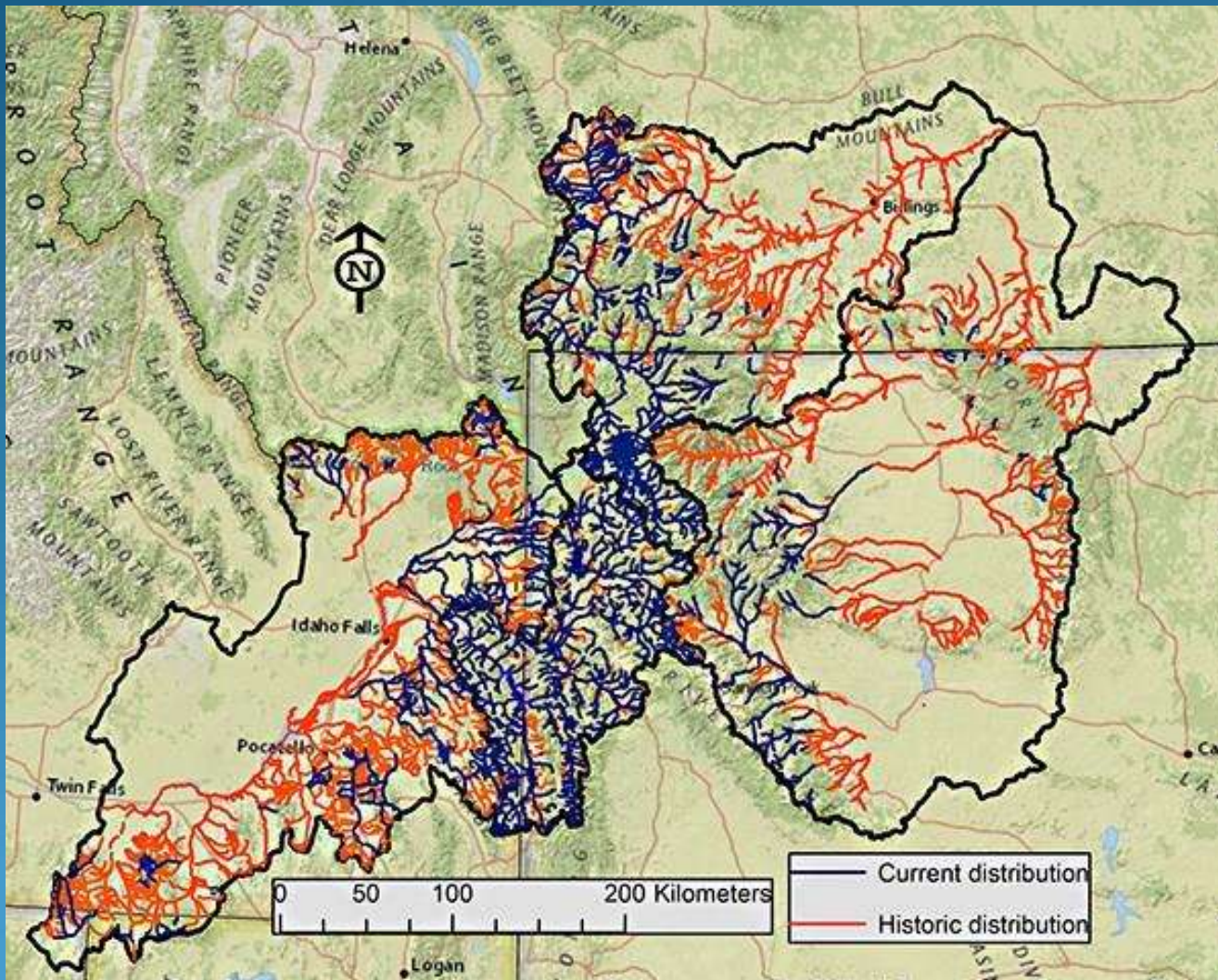
Chris Wood - TU President and Chief Executive Officer

- Native fish come first at Trout Unlimited.
- Wild trout come second, when they do not compromise native fish.
- Hatchery fish do not belong if they interfere with native and wild fish.





Vastly Shrinking Distribution

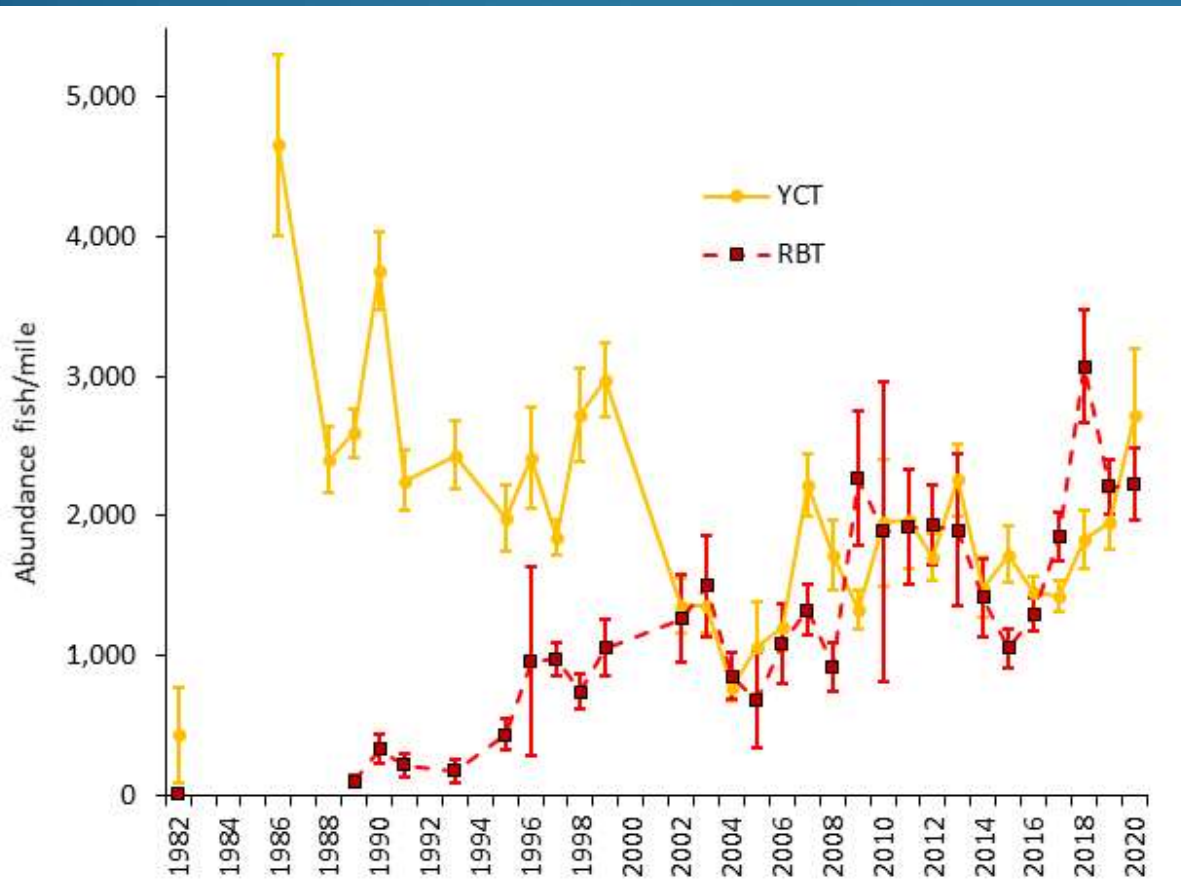


43% of historic range currently occupied

Only 23% by genetically unaltered populations



Cutthroat Decline in the South Fork of the Snake River



2004 ID F&G Plan

- Protect Spawning Tributaries
- High Springtime Freshet Flows
- Angler Harvest of Rainbows (Target Rainbows <10%)

2019 Adjustments

- Freshet flows and results not realizable
- Angler Harvest not sufficient
- Electro-fishing needed
- Relocate 30% of Rainbows annually to other local fishing locations



Reduced Angler Opportunity?

2020 Plan - Remove 12,000 rainbows from the upper river

2020 Trout Density

6,302 trout per mile

19 miles electro fished

119,738 fish in 19 mile reach

10% Trout Removed

Compare to 10 year average

$119,738 - 12,000 = 107,738$ fish in 19 miles

5,670 fish per mile

4,870 fish per mile, 10 year average



Biological Reality

Many juvenile trout will utilize the resource available by the rainbow removal resulting in minimal impacts to the trout population.

SRC not concerned about lower angler opportunity



Endangered or Threatened Species Listing??

ESA History

- 1998 Petition filed to list the Yellowstone Cutthroat
- 2001 "Listing NOT Warranted"
- 2005 Court-ordered review of petition
- 2006 "Listing NOT Warranted", acknowledged declines

Why wasn't it Listed

- Sufficient population still existed, especially in headwater streams
- Management agencies were implementing proactive protection measures
- Significant Conservation efforts in progress or being planned
(TU Home Rivers Initiative on the South Fork)

What could listing possibly mean

- Loss of state control over water and fishing regulations
- Long recovery



Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Fine-Spot vs Large Spot

- Large Spots historically dominant in lower reaches, Blackfoot, Henry's Fork
- Small Spots historically dominant in upper reaches (above Palisades)
- Ranges historically and currently overlap
- Not been genetically differentiated, only morphologically (looks)
- WY G&F recognizes subspecies, ID F&G does not, US FWS does **NOT**
- ID F&G does recognize as morphologically different for stocking

SRC doesn't care, Both Native Cutthroats to the South Fork



Large Spot



Fine Spot



Diluted Genetics?

- Hatchery fish stocked in South Fork up to 1981
- Hatchery fish still stocked in Palisades Reservoir
- Diluted the Fine Spotted Cutthroats with inferior hatchery Large Spot (YCT)
- Jackson National Fish Hatchery - Bar BC sourced Fine Spotted Cutthroats
- Not traditional brood stocks, genetics infused with wild milt every 2-5 years
 - (Looking into sterile fish)
- F&G Tributary Genetic Testing in 2003 as high as 8.3%, '15, '18, '19 All \leq 0.5%
- F&G 2006 Watershed Genetic Results - "...DNA results showed a high degree of diversity in YCT across the upper Snake basin."



SRC believes Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout stocks are and have always been genetically diverse and worthy of protection as our native trout.



Summary - Snake River Cutthroats

- Support Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout as our Native Trout
- Support Idaho Fish & Game management strategies
- Support electro-fishing removal of Rainbow Trout
- Fully understand that not all Rainbows will survive
(Swan Valley Pond will NOT be stocked)



Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout