

AQUATIC HABITAT PRIORITIES

REGION: Jackson

WATERSHED NAME: Snake River Corridor

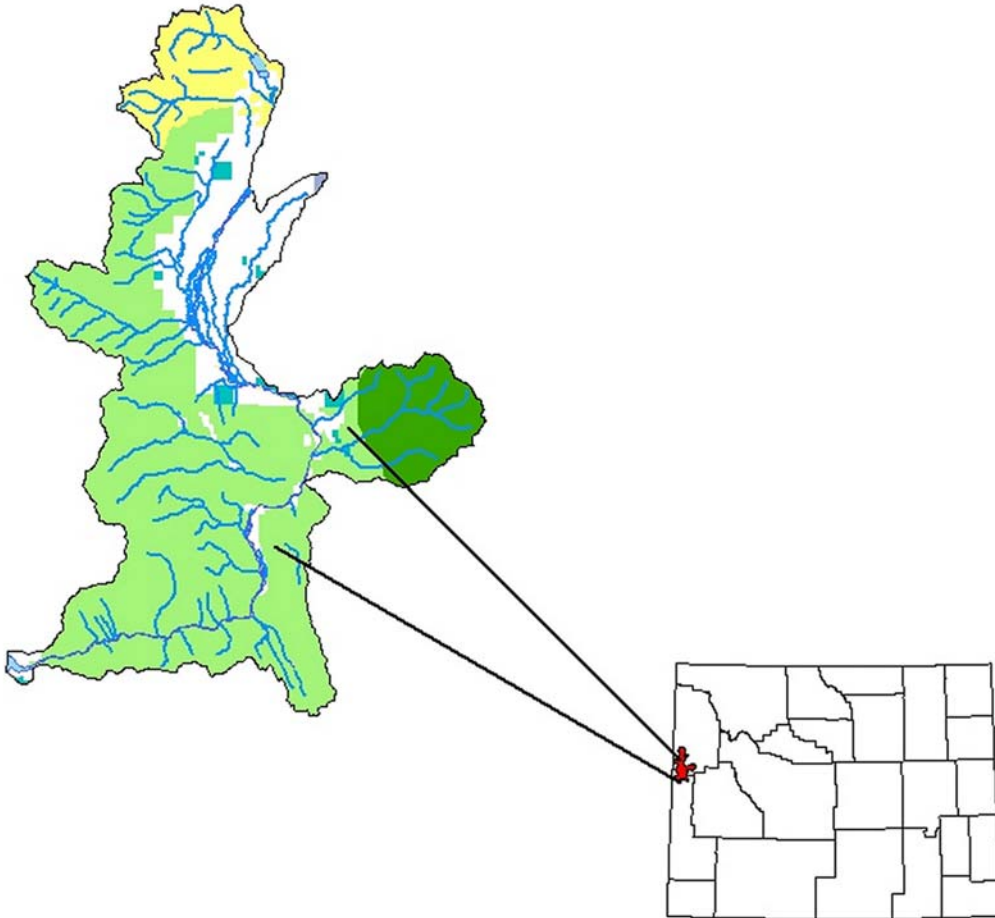
PRIORITY: 3

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LAND STATUS: *10%Private, 90% Public*

SPECIES THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM ACTIVITY IN THIS WATERSHED:

Native fish: Snake River Cutthroat, mountain whitefish, Utah sucker, mountain sucker, Paiute sculpin, redbreasted sunfish, longnose dace, speckle dace

Sport fish: lake trout, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, Kokanee

Big Game: mule deer, elk, moose

Other: Beaver, black bear, bald eagle, big horn, trumpeter swan, goshawk, mountain lion

CURRENT HABITAT CONDITIONS/LIMITING FACTORS:

Native, sport & non-game fish—Trout spawning and nursery habitat is limited by this sediment and channel confinement from road entrainment, vegetative succession and loss of wetlands. In addition, utilization by livestock and wildlife along springs creeks negatively impacts spawning habitats.

T&E/Sensitive Species—Continued demands on the landscape (i.e. recreation on public lands, development on private lands) contributes to general habitat fragmentation and wildlife disturbance.

Big Game - Most of the area was last exposed to fire in the late 1870's. Therefore, advanced successional stages dominate the landscape, contributing to the losses in quality and quantity of aspen as well as several mountain shrub species. Advanced successional stages have decreased habitat quantity and quality, resulting in decreased carrying capacity for non-feedground elk, as well as moose and mule deer displacement as well as habitat fragmentation.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS/AGREEMENTS:

Conservation easements with the major landowners would compliment other habitat enhancement efforts on adjacent public lands. The Jackson Hole Land Trust has implemented several conservation easements in this area. Opportunities for the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. to partner with such private conservation organizations on easements are apparent.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES/PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Fisheries staff has done extensive amount of coordination with private landowners and GTNP in regards to improving spawning springs. Funding has become available to do Snake River cutthroat spawning habitat projects through the Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

\$20,000 is available from WyDOT as mitigation for highway reconstruction within the Snake River canyon. The funds are to be used for prescribed burns to enhance big game winter/transitional habitat within the canyon. FS allotment management plans for the Munger Mtn. area will be updated within the next two years. WGFD habitat personnel will provide input to this process. The Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan will be updated within the next 3-5 years. WGFD involvement will be a priority.