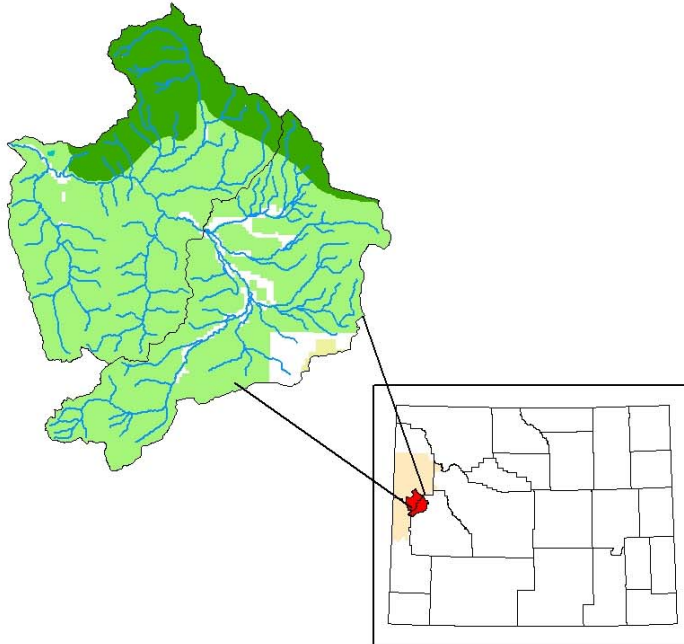


## AQUATIC HABITAT PRIORITIES

REGION: Jackson  
WATERSHED NAME: Hoback River

PRIORITY: 6  
HUC: 1704010304  
1704010303



**LAND STATUS:** 80% Public, 20% Private

**SPECIES THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM ACTIVITY IN THIS WATERSHED:**

**Native fish:** Snake River Cutthroat, mountain whitefish, Utah sucker, mountain sucker, Paiute sculpin, redbside shiner, longnose dace

**Sport fish:** brook trout, Bear River cutthroat

**Big Game:** Mule deer, elk, moose, pronghorn and big horn sheep.

**Other:** Beaver, grizzly bear, black bear, bald eagle, wolverine, trumpeter swan, goshawk, mountain lion and wolves inhabit the area.

**CURRENT HABITAT CONDITIONS/LIMITING FACTORS:**

***Native Trout and Non-Game Fish*** – Emphasis needs to be placed on preserving habitat requirements for the indigenous Snake River cutthroat trout through out the area. Trout habitat is degrading were high stream velocity limits gravel recruitment, and instream structure. Road systems, timbering, grazing practices, and natural soil movement produce inordinate amount of sediment that goes into the Hoback River and its tributaries. General lack of watershed functionality due to advanced successional stages. Historic and existing grazing practices may be contributing to degraded aquatic habitats in the Willow, Cliff, and Granite Creek drainages.

***Beaver*** – Degraded habitat conditions for beaver appear to have reduced the overall population. Lack of dam building material and forage (i.e. aspen, willow and cottonwood) due to advanced succession, fire suppression, and ungulate use have decreased available beaver habitat and thus the potential for creation of additional riparian/wetland 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*** - 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. Forage quality within transitional ranges has also been affected.

**CONSERVATION EASMENTS/AGREEMENTS:**

Conservation easements with landowners within the lower reaches of Willow Creek and from Camp Creek to Hoback Junction would minimize habitat fragmentation and enhance winter range conditions for all big game species. If land ownership changes

*occurred within the Horse Creek drainage, conservation easements with major landowners would be a high priority.*

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES/PROPOSED PROJECTS:**

*Habitat fragmentation and wildlife disturbance continues without an updated and adequate Forest Service Summer Travel Plan for the area.*

*In 1996, funding was secured and the NEPA process completed to enhance transitional big game range and regenerate aspen with a Rx burn within the Willow Creek drainage. The project has not been completed to date.*

*An 8,000 acre Rx burn is proposed for the Monument Ridge area in the near future. WGFD habitat personnel are conducting the habitat inventory and typing and will be assisting with treatment objectives, implementation and monitoring.*

*FS allotment management plans for this 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.*