

AQUATIC HABITAT PRIORITIES

REGION: Jackson

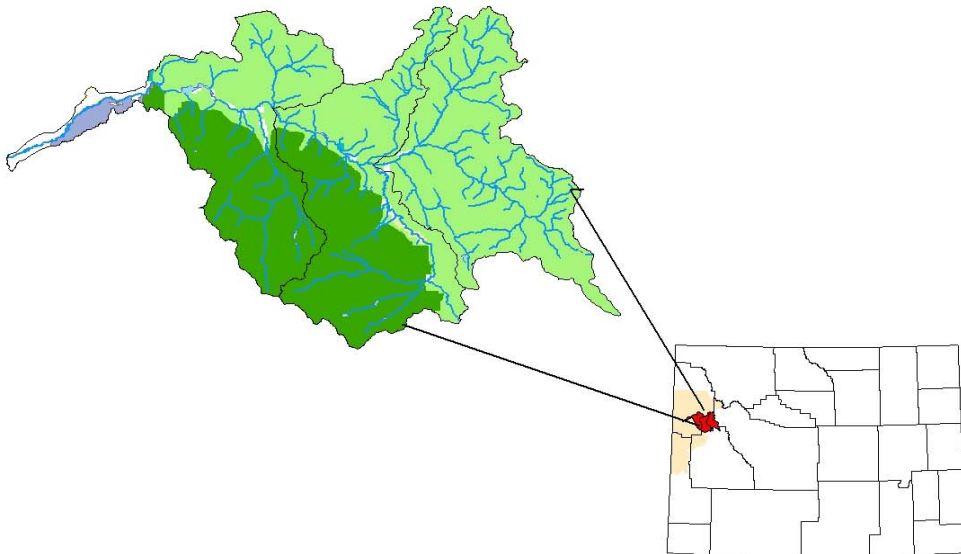
WATERSHED NAME: Gros Ventre River

PRIORITY: 7

HUC: 1704010203

1704010202

1704010201



LAND STATUS: *5% Private, 95% 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*

Sport fish: *brook trout, Bear River cutthroat*

Big Game: *Mule deer, elk, moose, bison, 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 & Non-game fish– *General lack of watershed functionality due to advanced successional stages is impacting fisheries habitat. Historic grazing practices and existing recreational impacts (off road travel and stream crossings) are impacting aquatic habitats.*

Beaver - *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, Trophy Game and Sensitive Species – *Conflicts between large predators and livestock on private and public lands appear to be increasing, especially on FS allotments. The result is often relocation or lethal removal of conflict individuals. The general increase in ORV use without an updated FS summer travel plan is contributing to disturbance and displacement of T & E, trophy game, and sensitive species.*

Big Game - *Advanced successional stages have decreased habitat quantity and quality, resulting in decreased carrying capacity for non-feedground elk, as well as moose, mule deer, antelope, bighorn sheep and bison. The integrity of important migration corridors for elk and antelope needs to be maintained. Increased disturbance and habitat fragmentation due to the lack of an updated FS summer travel management plan continues to be of concern.*

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS/AGREEMENTS:

Conservation easements with major landowners would certainly compliment other habitat enhancement efforts on adjacent lands and minimize habitat fragmentation. The Jackson Hole Land Trust has initiated conservation easements within the Gros Ventre

area. Thus, there appears to be an opportunity for the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. to pursue this avenue of maintaining/enhancing wildlife habitat.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES/PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Opportunities for conservation easements were investigated in 2000. Discussions have continued to date.

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

The FS is near completion of a Landscape Scale Assessment that will identify habitat enhancement opportunities and needs. WGFD habitat personnel have provided input and will continue to participate in this process. 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 is near completion of a Landscape Scale Assessment (LSA), which includes the Gros Ventre area. The purpose of the document is to identify needs and associated projects. Thus, the opportunity exists to tier habitat enhancement projects with the LSA planning document. WGFD habitat personnel have, and will continue, to provide input in this process. The Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan will be updated within the next 3-5 years. WGFD involvement will be a priority.