



Sheet metal weirs form step pools to a culvert that passes through the Rattlesnake dam.



Bull trout

cutthroat trout and bull trout to move around the Rattlesnake Dam. Photos courtesy of Shane Hendrickson and WFRP Find-a-Photo database.

The Rattlesnake fish ladder, Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, built to enable westslope



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A Weekly Peek at Fisheries, Aquatic Ecology and Watersheds in the

USDA FOREST SERVICE

March 14 - March 18, 2005

Dave Cross -

This week was the North American Conference here in DC. During the week I attended the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundations Luncheon for Directors and guests where RBFF rolled out their new program. I also participated in committee meetings for Federal and Tribal Relations and Fisheries.

Bill Lorenz -

Dave and I met with Gordon Robertson of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) and Rob Southwick of Southwick Associates, to discuss an analysis of use, expenditures and employment from hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing on National Forest lands. Dr. Cindy Swanson, economist and Director of Watershed, Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants in the Northern Region, previously provided guidance to the contractor make more effective use of existing fish and wildlife use survey data.

The Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring Program (NVUM), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Survey of Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife-Related Recreation provide information that we will use to track trends in hunting, fishing and non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife. A report should be available in June that will provide community leaders, our partners and cooperators, and Forest Service management with fresh insight on economic impacts of wildlife and fisheries use on the National Forests. With the help of ASA, we plan to make the information widely available to those who enjoy and benefit from fish and wildlife opportunities on the National Forests.

News from Around the Country

- On behalf of the STREAMS program of the Ohio State University we would like to announce the upcoming workshop series entitled Geomorphology and Ecology of Stream Systems. Workshops will be held in Columbus, Ohio on June 7-10, 2005 and in Monroe, Michigan on August 16-19, 2005. The instructors for these workshops are well known scientists in the fields of environmental engineering; stream hydrology and geomorphology; and stream ecology.

Dr. Andy Ward is a Professor in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering at The Ohio State University. Andy is the author of the best selling book "Environmental Hydrology" from CRC Press.

Dr. Lance Williams, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. Lance is a fisheries ecologist with research interests that focus on evaluating restoration practices in stream systems with different land use practices and managing stream fisheries resources.

Dr. Edwin Herricks, is a Professor in the Environmental Engineering and Science Program in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois. Ed has published widely and is currently studying the restoration of streams in urban systems and the development of ecological engineering concepts for watershed management.

Dr. J. David Allan, is a Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. Dave is the author of the best selling book "Stream Ecology. Structure and Function of Running Waters" from Kluwer Publishers.

These technical workshops are designed for environmental engineers, restoration ecologists, environmental consultants, watershed planners, and environmental regulators. Up to 3 Continuing Education Units are available to workshop participants. More information on these workshops can be found at <http://streams.osu.edu>. Please forward this message to all interested parties.

- **Upcoming conferences:**

Aug 16-19, 2005. The Second North American Lake Trout Symposium. Yellowknife, NWT. <http://www.laketroutsymposium2005.ca/>

** Sept 29- Oct 1, 2005. The Coastal Cutthroat Symposium: Biology, Status, Management, and Conservation, Fort Worden State Park (near Port Townsend, Washington). <http://www.orafs.org/cutthroat.html>

- **Survey: Fisheries Techniques Third Edition**

The editorial team for the forthcoming (ca. 2007) Third Edition of Fisheries Techniques (Al Zale, Donna Parrish, and Trent Sutton) seeks input from fisheries educators, students, and professionals on the content and format of the Third Edition. To share your views on what the next edition of Fisheries Techniques should be, please complete the short survey at the following website:

<http://wildfish.montana.edu/survey/>

This is a great opportunity to make the Third Edition more useful and relevant for you. All responses will be considered seriously and treated confidentially.

Thanks,

Al Zale, Donna Parrish, and Trent Sutton

Alexander V. Zale
Unit Leader and Professor
Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Ecology, Fish & Wildlife Management Program
Montana State University - Bozeman
Bozeman, MT 59717 USA
406-994-2380; fax 406-994-7479
zale@montana.edu

Regional Roundup: Acting Regional Fisheries Program Leader, Laura Conway

Sharktooth Creek Paiute cutthroat trout monitoring, Sierra National Forest

During 2004 the Sierra National Forest completed monitoring of Paiute cutthroat trout (PCT) within Sharktooth Creek. PCT is a subspecies of cutthroat trout native to Silver King Creek in the East Fork of the Carson River drainage of east-central California. Native range of PCT is limited to about 14.7 kilometers of stream habitat within the East Fork of the Carson River watershed. In an attempt to protect PCT from introgression with introduced trout, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) established a stocking program where isolated fishless streams and lakes were planted with PCT. On the Sierra National Forest, PCT were transplanted to Sharktooth Lake (John Muir Wilderness, Fresno County, CA) and Stairway Creek (Ansel Adams Wilderness, Madera county, CA).

Sharktooth Lake is 3 acres in size and lies at 3000-meter elevation on the northwest slope of Sharktooth Peak. The lake was planted by the CDFG with 29 PCT on Oct. 30, 1968. Six of the fish originated in Delaney Creek (Tuolumne Co., CA) and the remainder were from North Fork Cottonwood Creek (Mono Co., CA). A four-hour angling survey in 1970 resulted in no fish. cursory visual surveys of the lake and outlet resulted in no observations in 1973. A survey conducted by CDFG in 1975 noted several PCT in the outlet stream, but no fish in the lake. The last gillnet survey of Sharktooth Lake conducted by CDFG in 1999 indicates that the lake is fishless. Sierra National Forest crews conducted limited angling surveys of Sharktooth Creek during 1999.

Data from the Forest Service angling efforts indicate the population had increased over the 5-year period, but that individual fish were shorter and weighed less. This is supported by the length frequency distribution, weights of individual fish; and condition factors. The population appears to be dominated by adult fish, which is partially a reflection of the sampling method bias toward larger fish. However, fewer sub-adult fish were observed suggesting likely predation by larger fish.

The monitoring included re-measurement of a Stream Condition Inventory (SCI) reach (1,565 meters) established on Sharktooth Creek by the Forest in 1999. The objective of SCI is to provide information on current stream conditions as well as possible indicators of change within the channel over time. While channel dimensions were similar between the two inventories, there were differences noted within individual cross sections and bank stability. The lower level of bank stability is of interest considering there have been no flood events between the two sampling visits and the difficulties in access limit incidental visits. In 2005 the Forest plans to monitor the Paiute cutthroat population in Stairway Creek.



Regional Roundup Calendar

Region	Issue
Intermountain Region	3/11/05
Pacific Southwest Region	3/18/05
Pacific Northwest Region	3/25/05
Southern Region	4/01/05 (Last issue of FishTales)

Migrational Opportunities (Federal job announcements: http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp)

- Vacancy announcement** ADS05-R6GP-MSH-006G: Fishery Biologist, GS-0482-11, AMBOY, Washington, has been sent to USAJOBS and has a scheduled open date of February 24, 2005 and close date of March 25, 2005. Upon the open date, the announcement will be accessible at <http://www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/applicant.html>, or <http://www.avuecentral.com>. You may view the announcement that was sent by accessing <http://www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/ads.html> and entering your manager userid and password. Contact your Servicing Human Resources Office if you have any questions.
- Detail Opportunity.** The Mt. Adams Ranger District on the GP is need of a 40 day detailer (GS-9 fish bio) to assist with the planning needs on the south zone of the Forest. Could you share this with your fish bios on the Forest and see if anyone is interested? Please direct any questions to Bengt Coffin, Mt. Adams Hydrologist, at 509-395-3425, or Cindy Henschell, South Zone Planning Team Leader at 509-395-3411.

Dates: July through August, or about 40 working days

Duty Station: Trout Lake, Washington (Mt. Adams Ranger District)

Duties: Fish biologist for IDTs. Prepare BEs/BAs for various projects, including dispersed recreation site rehabilitation, recreation residence consistency review

(both in a steelhead watershed), meadow restoration projects, review of special use permits for reissuance.

Hotlinks:

- Forest Service Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/fish/index.html>
- Fish Your National Forests: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fishing/>
- National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI): <http://www.fishhabitat.org>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Fish Ecology Unit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/fishecology/index.html>
- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- National Fishing and Boating Week: <http://www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org/>
- NatureWatch: <http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/>
- Forest Service Research Stations – One stop shopping: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/index.htm>
- Forest Service Research Station - Boise Aquatic Sciences Lab: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/>

Sensory Stimulation:

"I endeavor to be wise when I cannot be merry, easy when I cannot be glad, content with what cannot be mended and patient when there be no redress."

Elizabeth Montagu

"World-wide practice of Conservation and the fair and continued access by all nations to the resources they need are the two indispensable foundations of continuous plenty and of permanent peace."

Gifford Pinchot

FishTales can be viewed in one of three ways. You can receive it via e-mail or go to our web site where it is available in a pdf or html version.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/fish/fishtales/>

FishTales® is a weekly update of activities of the Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Program of the USDA Forest Service. All information presented is subject to change as

projects evolve, opportunities arise and issues unfold. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Dave Cross at dcross01@fs.fed.us or Bill Lorenz at blorenz@fs.fed.us no later than close of business on Thursday afternoons. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity, brevity, and wherever possible, a dash of silliness and irreverence.

Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the forests referenced or consult the USAJOBS website.

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