

Water Resources Section - Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Natural Resources Branch

January 11, 2023

Mr. Rob Viehl, Section Chief Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Stream and Lake Protection Section 1313 Sherman Street, 7th Floor Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Instream Flow Recommendations for Red Canyon Creek in Water Division 4, Montrose County to be presented at the January 2023 CWCB Meeting

Dear Mr. Viehl:

The information contained in and referred to in this letter forms the scientific and biological basis for an instream flow (ISF) recommendation on Red Canyon Creek in Water Division 4. The field investigations relating to this ISF recommendation were conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff beginning in 2020. Red Canyon Creek supports a core conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT) of the Gunnison Basin lineage. This stream reach was presented to interested parties at the ISF Workshop in January 2020. Outreach was also conducted to the Montrose County Commissioners in November 2022. It is the CPW staff's opinion that the information contained in this letter is sufficient for the CWCB's staff to recommend an ISF appropriation to the Board on Red Canyon Creek and to specifically address the findings required in Rule 5(i) of the Instream Flow Program Rules.

CPW participates in the ISF Program and develops instream flow recommendations for the Board's consideration in an effort to address CPW's legislative declarations "... that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors ... and that, to carry out such program and policy, there shall be a continuous operation of planning, acquisition, and development of wildlife habitats and facilities for wildlife-related opportunities" (See §33-1-101 (1) C.R.S.), and "... that the natural, scenic, scientific, and outdoor recreation areas ... be protected, preserved, enhanced and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and (its) visitors ... and that, to carry out such program and policy, there shall be a continuous operation of acquisition, development, and management of ... lands, waters, and facilities." (See §33-10-101 (1) C.R.S.).

In addition to these broad statutory guidelines, CPW's current strategic planning document (CPW Strategic Plan, 2015) explains current agency goals to, "[c]onserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems." In order to, "protect and enhance water resources for fish and wildlife populations," by pursuing, "partnerships and agreements



to enhance instream flows, protect reservoir levels, and influence water management activities," and to, "[a]dvocate for water quality and quantities to conserve aquatic resources." In addition to the CPW Strategic Plan, the agency's fish and wildlife conservation activities are also directed by the State Wildlife Action Plan (2002, Revised 2015). The goals and priorities from these documents direct CPW to advocate for the preservation of the state's fish and wildlife resources and natural environment, and therefore link CPW's mission to the goals and priorities of CWCB's ISF and Natural Lake Level (NLL) Program.

Recommended Segments

CPW is proposing an ISF recommendation on Red Canyon Creek from its headwaters (located at UTM 12S 221751.70 4245322.94) to its confluence with Big A Creek (UTM 12S 219603.08 4240822.17). The reach is approximately 3.2 miles in length. All of the proposed reach is on public lands managed as Uncompanyer National Forest.

Colorado Cutthroat Trout Conservation Goals

In 2001, CPW entered into a multi-state and multi-agency conservation agreement and strategy concerning Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*). Colorado's partners in this plan and agreement include the natural resource management agencies from Utah and Wyoming, a number of federal agencies including the USFS, USFWS, BLM and NPS, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for the long-term conservation of the Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT). Conservation measures include actions that reduce or eliminate threats that warrant CRCT being listed as a special status species by federal agencies and might lead to a listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Essentially, the parties agreed that in order to prevent listing of the subspecies, and to reach desired recovery goals without hindering further development of our state resources, continued implementation of the conservation strategy was necessary.

The objectives of the strategy are to identify and characterize all CRCT conservation populations, secure and enhance conservation populations, restore populations, secure and enhance watershed conditions, public outreach, data sharing, and coordination. CPW believes that flow protection by way of establishing an ISF water right is a conservation action aligned with "securing and enhancing watershed conditions" and will support the core conservation population of CRCT in Red Canyon Creek. Information about the species and CPW's conservation strategy can be found here: CPW Cutthroat Trout Research. CPW believes that securing ISF water rights for core conservation populations of CRCT is a critical step in the overall preservation and conservation of these iconic native trout.

Natural Environment and Biological Summary

Red Canyon Creek is a tributary of Horsefly Creek located east of the town of Nucla. The stream drains southwesterly off the Uncompanded Plateau. The stream's hydrology is dominated by snowmelt; the basin receives approximately 29 inches of precipitation a year. The drainage basin contributing to the ISF reach is approximately 6 square miles in size. It is forested, mainly containing stands of aspen interspersed with blue spruce, ponderosa pine, and scrub oak. Red Canyon Creek supports a healthy riparian area consisting of willow and alder.

Red Canyon Creek through the recommended instream flow reach is a first to second order headwaters stream. The stream is a relatively high-gradient, mainly single thread channel

with substrate size that ranges from medium cobbles to large boulders. The reach contains a variety of notable fish habitat including undercut banks, productive riffles, large volume pools and glides, and ample woody debris and riparian cover. A couple of very large beaver dam complexes were observed. Riparian cover is abundant adding complexity and temperature buffering during periods of low flow. The creek supports a robust macroinvertebrate community including three species of caddisfly, two species of mayflies, aquatic beetle larvae, water strider, and diptera, which were all observed in the field.

The resident trout population in Red Canyon Creek are a core conservation population of CRCT, meaning genetic analyses indicate greater than 99% purity. CRCT are state species of special concern and considered federally sensitive species (State Wildlife Action Plan, 2015). Length-frequency data collected in 2009 and 2017 (see attached) indicates multiple age classes of fish, evidence that the cutthroat trout in Red Canyon Creek are a self-sustaining population.

R2Cross Background

Initial biological instream flow recommendations were developed using the R2Cross methodology (Espegren, 1996¹). R2Cross uses field data that has been collected in a riffle habitat type. Riffles are often the limiting habitat type in streams during low flow events, so maintaining specific conditions across riffle habitat types will also maintain aquatic habitat in pools and runs for most life stages of fish and macroinvertebrates (Nehring, 1979²). The R2Cross model uses field data, including a survey of cross-sectional channel geometry, a longitudinal slope of the water surface, and a flow measurement, as input to a single transect hydraulic model. R2Cross uses Ferguson's Variable-Power Equation (Ferguson, 2007³) to model a stage-discharge relationship and compute corresponding hydraulic parameters of average depth, average velocity, and percent wetted perimeter over modeled stages. Maintaining these three hydraulic parameters at specified levels should ensure conditions that allow movement of fish longitudinally across riffles and adequate depths, velocities, and oxygenation for production of macroinvertebrates and development of trout eggs. Baseflow recommendations are typically developed based on the flows that meet two of three hydraulic criteria and summer flow recommendations are based on hydraulic criteria that meet three of three hydraulic criteria (as described in Nehring 1979 and Espergren 1996).

In 2020 through 2022, CPW collected four datasets on Red Canyon Creek. Red Canyon Creek is remote and access requires a 5-mile round trip hike with approximately 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Because of the remote nature of Red Canyon Creek, cross-sectional datasets were collected under low streamflow conditions that wouldn't normally be considered suitable. These datasets were used for reconnaissance-level information gathering, and ultimately were determined to be unsuitable for use in final flow recommendations. R2Cross results are summarized in the table below.

¹ Espegren, G.D., 1996, Development of Instream Flow Recommendations in Colorado Using R2CROSS, Colorado Water Conservation Board.

² Nehring, B.R., 1979, Evaluation of Instream Flow Methods and Determination of Water Quantity Needs for Streams in the State of Colorado, Colorado Division of Wildlife.

³ Ferguson, R.I., 2007. Flow resistance equations for gravel- and boulder-bed streams. Water Resources Research 43. https://doi.org/10.1029/2006WR005422

	Bankfull Top	Date	Flow	Flow Meeting	Flow Meeting Three
	Width	Measured	Measured	Two Criteria	Criteria
1	21.0 ft	5/19/2022	6.894 cfs	1.45 cfs	6.15 cfs
		Recommend	led Flow Rates	1.45 cfs	6.15 cfs

In formulating biological flow recommendations for Red Canyon Creek, CPW relied soley on results from one cross-section collected in 2022. This cross-section is a critical riffle with a large bankfull top width. This transect was selected because it is the most critical limiting transect for fish passage over the observed reach as streamflows drop. In this circumstance, this approach is appropriate because the core conservation population of CRCT in Red Canyon Creek require a high level of protection. These factors considered, the initial biological flow recommendation in the winter is 1.45 cfs. This rate will be protective during the overwintering period by maintaining an average depth of 0.2 feet and percent wetted perimeter of 50 percent of the bankfull top width in the most critical limiting riffle. The initial biological flow recommendation in the summer is 6.15 cfs, which will maintain depth and wetted perimeter criteria, as well as average velocity of 1 foot per second (fps) in the most critical limiting riffle.

In order to make a preliminary determination whether water is available for the R2Cross-based flow recommendations and to determine the appropriate seasonal transition dates, CPW examined basic hydrologic data and water rights information for Red Canyon Creek. Red Canyon Creek does not have any gage data, and because it is high-elevation and undeveloped, CPW relied upon regression estimates for monthly flow estimates to determine the seasonality of the flow recommendations. CPW is not aware of any water rights within the reach.

Water Availability-Refined Flow Recommendation

CPW's analysis indicates that the following flows are needed to protect the natural environment to a reasonable degree. Based on the hydrology from CSUFlow 18 (Eurich et al., 2021⁴), there appears to be water availability limitations during the baseflow period from October through March. Therefore, our flow recommendation has been refined based on water availability to the following:

- Early Spring Runoff Recommendation (April 1 through April 30): 5.0 cfs
 - Earlier spring snowmelt may be a reality in a changing climate. This early season flow recommendation will support beneficial spawning conditions for cutthroat trout, a species who spawn in the spring.
- Summer Flow Recommendation (May 1 through July 31): 6.15 cfs
 - Maintains adequate depth, velocity, and wetted perimeter during the summer period when fish are most active and stream temperatures are high. This higher flow rate will support ideal spawning conditions for cutthroat trout.
- Late-Summer Flow Recommendation (August 1 through September 30): 3.0 cfs

⁴ Eurich, A., Kampf, S.K., Hammond, J.C., Ross, M., Willi, K., Vorster, A.G. and Pulver, B., 2021, Predicting mean annual and mean monthly streamflow in Colorado ungauged basins, River Research and Applications, 37(4), 569-578.

- Maintains available habitat, depth, and wetted perimeter, and allows fish movement as flows recede and temperatures may still be high during the latesummer.
- Fall Flow Recommendation (October 1 through October 31): 2.3 cfs
 - Maintains available habitat and allows fish movement as flows recede to baseflow conditions.
- Baseflow Recommendation (November 1 through March 31): 1.0 cfs
 - The flow recommendation has been reduced due to water availability constraints but will provide sufficient habitat availability in pools and deep glides during the overwintering period.

The purpose of this letter is to formally transmit this ISF recommendation to CWCB for the Board's consideration. CPW believes that there is a flow-dependent natural environment in Red Canyon Creek that can be preserved to a reasonable degree with an ISF water right in the recommended rates. Please refer to attachments which include; R2Cross field forms, R2Cross output, fish survey information, and photographs at each cross section location.

CPW personnel will be available at the January 2023 CWCB meeting to answer any questions that the Board might have regarding these flow recommendations. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Birch

Katie Birch CPW Instream Flow Program Coordinator Attachments (as stated)



FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS



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DISCHARGE/CROSS SECTION NOTES CROSS-SECTION NO.: DATE SHEET_ _ OF STREAM NAME: EDGE OF WATER LOOKING DOWNSTREAM: (0.0 AT STAKE) TIME: Gage Reading: LEFT / RIGHT BEGINNING OF MEASUREMENT Velocity (ft/sec) Depth of Obser-Revolutions Discharge Total Vertical Water Distance Width (S) Depth (ft) From Initial Mean in (cfs) Grassline (G) Waterline (W) Depth From Tape/Inst Time Vertical vation (ft) Point (sec) Point (ft) Rock (R) (ft) ,94 14 4 5.3 5 5.54 6 5.45 8 5.42 9 5.39 10 5.32 12 5.15 0,31 14 100 0.42 134 0.44 5,40 0.48 5:44 17 0.45 18 816 WS 19 4,35 20,5 4.03 BF 21 TOTALS: CALCULATIONS CHECKED BY: CALCULATIONS PERFORMED BY: End of Measurement Time: Gage Reading:



Site name Red Site number 3 Operator(s) Kb

File name Red_20220519-173043.ft

Comment

Start time5/19/2022 5:08 PMEnd time5/19/2022 5:29 PMStart location latitude38.286Start location longitude-108.185Calculations engineFlowTracker2

Sensor type Top Setting
Handheld serial number
Probe serial number
Probe firmware 1.30
Handheld software 1.6.4

ĺ	# Stations	Avg interval (s)	Total discharge (ft³/s)
ĺ	19	40	6.894

Total width (ft)	Total area (ft²)	Wetted Perimeter (ft)
16.200	6.795	16.642

Mean SNR (dB)	Mean depth (ft)	Mean velocity (ft/s)
54.010	0.419	1.015

Mean temp (°F)	Max depth (ft)	Max velocity (ft/s)
48.528	0.700	1.883

Discharg	e Uncerta	ainty
Category	ISO	IVE
Accuracy	1.0%	1.0%
Depth	0.4%	6.7%
Velocity	0.9%	14.3%
Width	0.1%	0.1%
Method	2.1%	
# Stations	2.6%	
Overall	3.7%	15.8%

Discharge equation	Mid Section
Discharge uncertainty	IVE
Discharge reference	Rated

Data Collection	n Settings
Salinity	0.000 PSS-78
Temperature	-
Sound speed	-
Mounting correction	0.000 %

Summary overview

No changes were made to this file Quality control warnings



Site name Red Site number 3 Operator(s) Kb

File name Red_20220519-173043.ft

Station discharge OK

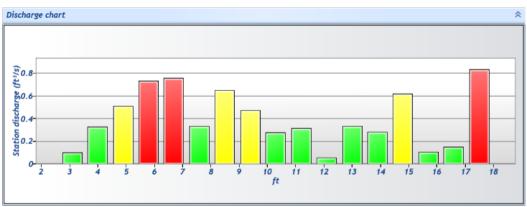
Station discharge caution

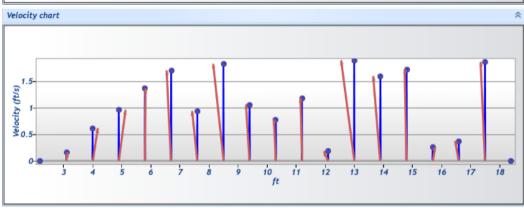
Station discharge warning

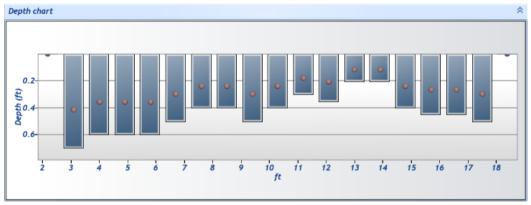
Comment

Station Warning Settings Station discharge < 5.000% 5.000% >= Station discharge < 10.000%

Station discharge >= 10.000%









Site name Red Site number 3 Kb

File name Red_20220519-173043.ft

Comment

	ırement													
St#	Time	Location (ft)	Method	Depth (ft)	%Depth	Measured Depth (ft)	Samples	Velocity (ft/s)	Correcti on	Mean Velocity (ft/s)	Area (ft²)	Flow (ft³/s)	%Q	
0	5:08 PM	2.200	None	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0.000		0.159	0.000	0.000	0.000	1
1	5:08 PM	3.100	0.6	0.700	0.600	0.420	80	0.159	1.000	0.159	0.630	0.100	1.455	1
2	5:10 PM	4.000	0.6	0.600	0.600	0.360	80	0.612	1.000	0.612	0.540	0.330	4.791	4
3	5:11 PM	4.900	0.6	0.600	0.600	0.360	80	0.954	1.000	0.954	0.540	0.515	7.472	4
4	5:12 PM	5.800	0.6	0.600	0.600	0.360	80	1.357	1.000	1.357	0.540	0.733	10.629	1
5	5:14 PM	6.700	0.6	0.500	0.600	0.300	80	1.695	1.000	1.695	0.450	0.763	11.065	4
6	5:15 PM	7.600	0.6	0.400	0.600	0.240	80	0.931	1.000	0.931	0.360	0.335	4.862	4
7	5:16 PM	8.500	0.6	0.400	0.600	0.240	80	1.816	1.000	1.816	0.360	0.654	9.484	4
8	5:17 PM	9.400	0.6	0.500	0.600	0.300	80	1.055	1.000	1.055	0.450	0.475	6.883	1
9	5:18 PM	10.300	0.6	0.400	0.600	0.240	80	0.775	1.000	0.775	0.360	0.279	4.045	4
10	5:20 PM	11.200	0.6	0.300	0.600	0.180	80	1.177	1.000	1.177	0.270	0.318	4.608	4
11	5:21 PM	12.100	0.6	0.350	0.600	0.210	80	0.187	1.000	0.187	0.315	0.059	0.853	4
12	5:22 PM	13.000	0.6	0.200	0.600	0.120	80	1.883	1.000	1.883	0.180	0.339	4.916	4
13	5:23 PM	13.900	0.6	0.200	0.600	0.120	80	1.588	1.000	1.588	0.180	0.286	4.147	4
14	5:25 PM	14.800	0.6	0.400	0.600	0.240	80	1.717	1.000	1.717	0.360	0.618	8.965	4
15	5:26 PM	15.700	0.6	0.450	0.600	0.270	80	0.261	1.000	0.261	0.405	0.106	1.536	1
16	5:27 PM	16.600	0.6	0.450	0.600	0.270	80	0.372	1.000	0.372	0.405	0.151	2.188	4
17	5:28 PM	17.500	0.6	0.500	0.600	0.300	80	1.854	1.000	1.854	0.450	0.834	12.102	1
18	5:29 PM	18.400	None	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0.000		1.854	0.000	0.000	0.000	1



Site name Red Site number 3 Operator(s) Kb

File name Red_20220519-173043.ft

Comment

Quality Control Settings

Maximum depth change 50.000%

Maximum spacing change 100.000%

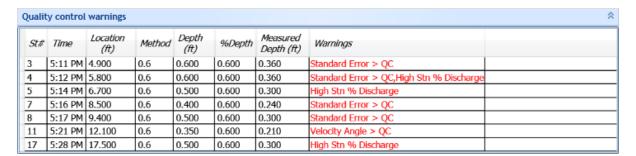
SNR threshold 10.000 dB

Standard error threshold 0.033 ft/s

Spike threshold 10.000%

Maximum velocity angle 20.000 deg

Maximum tilt angle 5.000 deg





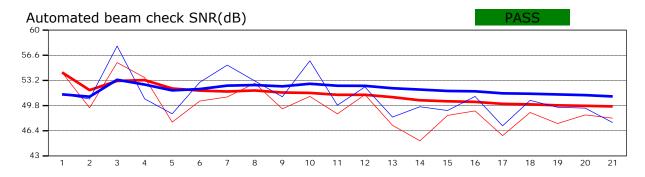
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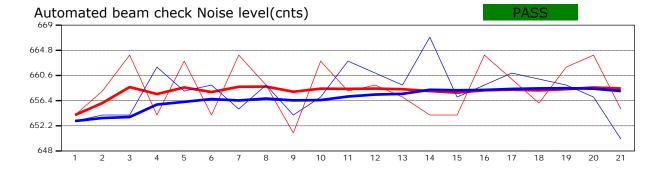
File name Red_20220519-173043.ft

Comment

Beam 1 Beam 2

Automated beam check Start time 5/19/2022 5:07:58 PM





Automated beam check Quality control warnings
No quality control warnings



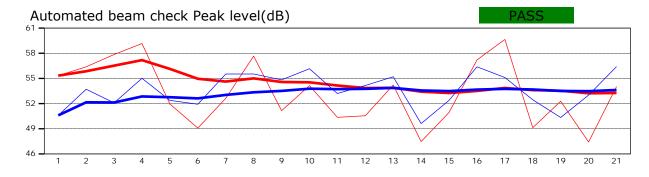
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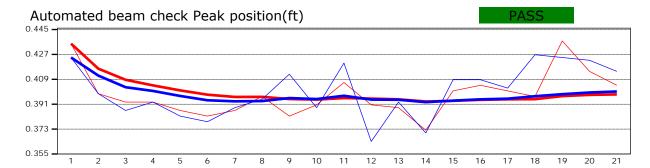
File name Red_20220519-173043.ft

Comment

Beam 1 Beam 2

Automated beam check Start time 5/19/2022 5:07:58 PM





Automated beam check Quality control warnings
No quality control warnings

R2Cross RESULTS

Stream Name: Red Canyon Creek

Stream Locations: Upstream of Trail Crossing

Fieldwork Date: 05/19/2022

Cross-section: 1

Observers: Birch Fields-Sommers **Coordinate System:** UTM Zone 12

X (easting): 745711 Y (northing): 4242087

Date Processed: 11/30/2022

Slope: 0.0228

Discharge: Entered Value: 6.89 (cfs)

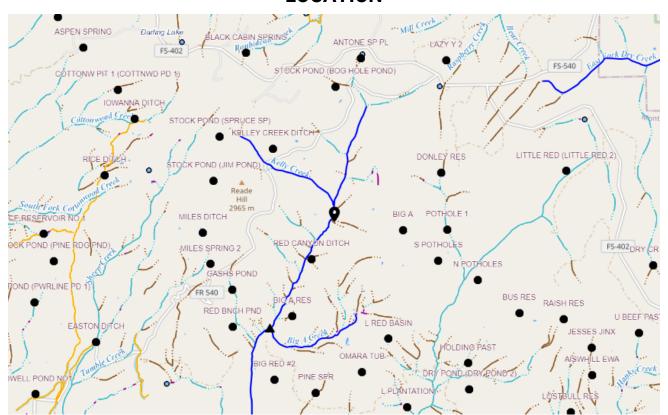
Computation method: Ferguson VPE

a1: 6.5 **a2:** 2.5

R2Cross_Red_Canyon_5_19_22-4-Q=6.894.xlsx

R2Cross version: 2.0.2

LOCATION



ANALYSIS RESULTS

Habitat Criteria Results

Bankfull top width (ft) = 20.97

	Habitat Criteria	Discharge (cfs) Meeting Criteria
Mean Depth (ft)	0.2	1.45
Percent Wetted Perimeter (%)	50.0	0.12
Mean Velocity (ft/s)	1.0	6.15

STAGING TABLE

Feature	Distance to Water (ft)	Top Width (ft)	Mean Depth (ft)	Maximum Depth (ft)	Area (sq ft)	Wetted Perimeter (ft)	Percent Wetted Perimeter	Hydraulic Radius (ft)	Manning's n	Mean Velocity (ft/s)	Discharge (cfs)
Bankfull	4.03	20.97	1.14	1.51	23.95	21.81	100.0	1.1	0.05	4.35	104.13
	4.05	20.9	1.12	1.49	23.45	21.72	99.6	1.08	0.06	4.26	99.97
	4.1	20.74	1.08	1.44	22.41	21.53	98.75	1.04	0.06	4.08	91.5
	4.15	20.59	1.04	1.39	21.38	21.35	97.91	1.0	0.06	3.9	83.38
	4.2	20.43	1.0	1.34	20.35	21.17	97.07	0.96	0.06	3.72	75.62
	4.25	20.28	0.95	1.29	19.33	20.98	96.22	0.92	0.06	3.53	68.23
	4.3	20.12	0.91	1.24	18.32	20.8	95.38	0.88	0.06	3.34	61.22
	4.35	19.95	0.87	1.19	17.32	20.6	94.46	0.84	0.06	3.15	54.63
	4.4	19.58	0.83	1.14	16.33	20.2	92.65	0.81	0.06	3.0	49.04
	4.45	19.2	8.0	1.09	15.36	19.81	90.83	0.78	0.07	2.85	43.78
	4.5	18.82	0.77	1.04	14.41	19.41	89.02	0.74	0.07	2.7	38.85
	4.55	18.45	0.73	0.99	13.48	19.02	87.21	0.71	0.07	2.54	34.24
	4.6	18.09	0.69	0.94	12.57	18.64	85.47	0.67	0.07	2.38	29.91
	4.65	17.96	0.65	0.89	11.67	18.48	84.74	0.63	0.08	2.18	25.47
	4.7	17.84	0.6	0.84	10.77	18.32	84.0	0.59	0.08	1.99	21.4
	4.75	17.67	0.56	0.79	9.88	18.12	83.09	0.55	0.08	1.8	17.74
	4.8	17.47	0.52	0.74	9.0	17.88	82.01	0.5	0.09	1.61	14.5
	4.85	17.26	0.47	0.69	8.14	17.65	80.92	0.46	0.09	1.43	11.61
	4.9	17.05	0.43	0.64	7.28	17.41	79.84	0.42	0.1	1.24	9.06
Waterline	4.95	16.85	0.38	0.59	6.43	17.18	78.77	0.37	0.11	1.07	6.86
	5.0	16.69	0.34	0.54	5.59	16.98	77.89	0.33	0.12	0.89	4.97
	5.05	16.4	0.29	0.49	4.76	16.67	76.44	0.29	0.13	0.72	3.45
	5.1	15.82	0.25	0.44	3.96	16.07	73.72	0.25	0.15	0.58	2.31
	5.15	15.26	0.21	0.39	3.18	15.5	71.09	0.21	0.17	0.45	1.42
	5.2	14.01	0.17	0.34	2.45	14.22	65.22	0.17	0.2	0.35	0.85

5.25	12.8	0.14	0.29	1.78	12.97	59.5	0.14	0.24	0.25	0.44
5.3	11.59	0.1	0.24	1.17	11.74	53.84	0.1	0.31	0.15	0.18
5.35	9.81	0.06	0.19	0.63	9.92	45.49	0.06	0.45	0.08	0.05
5.4	5.98	0.04	0.14	0.22	6.05	27.75	0.04	0.73	0.03	0.01
5.45	1.32	0.04	0.09	0.05	1.36	6.22	0.04	0.69	0.04	0.0
5.5	0.47	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.48	2.2	0.02	1.5	0.01	0.0
5.53	0.14	0.01	0.01	0.0	0.15	0.68	0.01	2.74	0.0	0.0

This Manning's roughness coefficient was calculated based on velocity estimates from the Ferguson VPE method

MODEL SUMMARY

Measured Flow (Qm) =	6.89	(cfs)
Calculated Flow (Qc) =	6.88	(cfs)
(Qm-Qc)/Qm * 100 =	0.26%	
Measured Waterline (WLm) =	4.98	(ft)
Calculated Waterline (WLc) =	4.95	(ft)
(WLm-WLc)/WLm * 100 =	0.53%	
Max Measured Depth (Dm) =	0.6	(ft)
Max Calculated Depth (Dc) =	0.59	(ft)
(Dm-Dc)/Dm * 100 =	2.29%	
Mean Velocity =	1.07	(ft/s)
Manning's n =	0.109	
a1	6.5	
a2	2.5	
0.4 * Qm =	2.76	(cfs)
2.5 * Qm =	17.23	(cfs)

FIELD DATA

Feature	Station (ft)	Rod Height (ft)	Water depth (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)
Bankfull	0	4.01		
	1.1	4.73		
Waterline	1.8	4.95	0	
	2	5.04	0.1	
	3	5.14	0.2	
	4	5.52	0.6	
	5	5.31	0.35	
	6	5.54	0.55	
	7	5.35	0.39	
	8	5.45	0.52	
	9	5.42	0.48	
	10	5.39	0.43	
	11	5.32	0.38	
	12	5.23	0.28	
	13	5.15	0.18	
	14	5.27	0.31	
	15	5.38	0.42	
	16	5.4	0.44	
	17	5.44	0.48	
	18	5.4	0.45	
Waterline	18.6	5.01	0	
	19	4.6		
	20.5	4.35		
Bankfull	21	4.03		

COMPUTED FROM MEASURED FIELD DATA

Wetted Perimeter (ft)	Water Depth (ft)	Area (ft^2)	Discharge (cfs)	Percent Discharge
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0.22	0.1	0.06	0.06	0.93
1	0.2	0.2	0.21	3.11
1.07	0.6	0.6	0.64	9.33
1.02	0.35	0.35	0.38	5.44
1.03	0.55	0.55	0.59	8.55
1.02	0.39	0.39	0.42	6.07
1	0.52	0.52	0.56	8.09
1	0.48	0.48	0.51	7.46
1	0.43	0.43	0.46	6.69
1	0.38	0.38	0.41	5.91
1	0.28	0.28	0.3	4.36
1	0.18	0.18	0.19	2.8
1.01	0.31	0.31	0.33	4.82
1.01	0.42	0.42	0.45	6.53
1	0.44	0.44	0.47	6.84
1	0.48	0.48	0.51	7.46
1	0.45	0.36	0.39	5.6
0.72	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0

DISCLAIMER

"The Colorado Water Conservation Board makes no representations about the use of the software contained in the R2Cross platform for any purpose besides that for which it was designed. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, all information, modeling results, and software are provided "as is" without warranty or condition of any kind, including all implied warranties or conditions of merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose. The user assumes all responsibility for the accuracy and suitability of this program for a specific application. In no event shall the Colorado Water Conservation Board or any state agency, official or employee be liable for any direct, indirect, punitive, incidental, special, consequential damages or any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, damages for loss of use, data, profits, or savings arising from the implementation, reliance on, or use of or inability to use the R2Cross platform.

Red Canyon Creek

Eric Gardunio Aquatic Biologist Southwest Region



Water: Red Canyon Creek

Location: DO1034

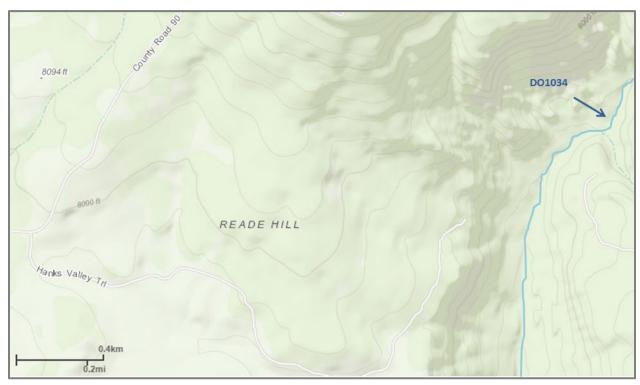
Sampling Date: 9/11/2017

Gear: LR-24 Smith Root backpack electrofisher

Drainage: Dolores **Water Code:** 42452

OBJECTIVE

Red Canyon Creek was sampled in 2017 using backpack electrofishing to monitor the status of the conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout.



Map 1: Sampling location on Red Canyon Creek (DO1034) sampled in 2017 and 2009.

HISTORY

Red Canyon Creek is currently a Category 202 Native Fish Conservation Management Native cutthroat recovery/conservation stream. Red Canyon Creek is home to a Green Lineage Conservation Population of Colorado River cutthroat trout and was last sampled in July of 2009 when a population of 553 fish per mile was estimated.

RESULTS

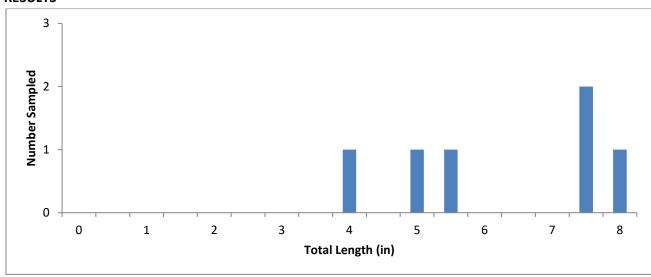


Figure 1: Length frequency histogram for Colorado River cutthroat trout sampled from Red Canyon Creek on September 11, 2017.

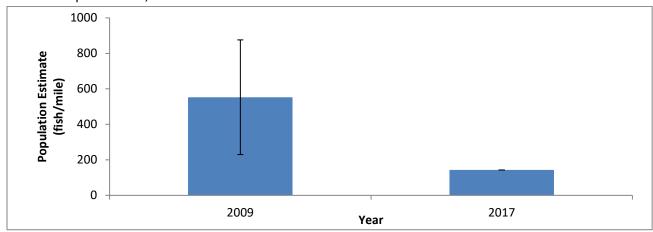


Figure 1: Population estimate (fish/mile) for Colorado River cutthroat trout sampled from Red Canyon Creek on September 11, 2017 and July 6, 2009.

CONCLUSIONS

The Conservation Population of Colorado River cutthroat trout still inhabits Red Canyon Creek, and no other species were sampled in 2017. The 2017 sampling captured cutthroat trout from multiple age classes (Figure 1) indicating that there is natural reproduction occurring. Unfortunately, the population estimate in 2017 was far lower than in 2009 (143 compared to 553 fish/mile; Figure 2). The sampling crew noted that there was a high amount of sediment in the section of stream sampled (pictures 1 and 2) and that the sediment disappeared upstream of the sampling site (DO1034). They also noted that they were seeing more fish upstream of the sampling site, once the sediment decreased. The sediment could be limiting reproduction and invertebrate production within the sampling reach, causing fish to inhabit the better habitat upstream. An effort should be made to identify the source of the sediment, and if it is not a natural occurrence, it should be addressed. Despite the sediment, and the decrease in population, it appears that the Red Canyon Creek population will persist over the near future.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- 1. *Management:* Maintain current management strategy as Category 202 native cutthroat stream. Monitor in 2-3 years to determine status of population following 2017 decline.
- 2. Stocking: None necessary.
- 3. *Regulations:* Current regulations of artificial only with catch and release for cutthroat conservation population.
- 4. *Habitat Improvement*: None needed, but attempt to determine source of sediment at sampling location.
- 5. Access/Facilities: Public access is suitable.
- 6. Information/Education: None needed.



Pictures 1 & 2: Red Canyon Creek taken during 2017 sampling



Picture 3: Colorado River cutthroat trout caught during 2017 Red Canyon Creek sampling



Combined Summaries

Water **42452**

Red Canyon Creek

Station DO1034

ABV Big A Creek

Date 9/11/2017

UtmX 219665

UtmY 4240892

Elevation 7521 ft

Length

Width

Area

Surveyors Palmer, Temple

Drainage Dolores River

Gear BPEF LR-24

Effort

Metric PASS

Protocol TWO-PASS REMOVAL

	Proportional Stocking Density and Catch/Unit Effort												
0	Total	Min Cut	Max Cut	Total	Proportional Stock	Percent Stock	Percent Quality	Percent Preferred	Percent Memorable	Percent Trophy	Max Length		
Species	Catch	inch	inch	used	Density (%)	Size	Size	Size	Size	Size	inches		
COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT	6	3.94		6	0.00	100.00					8.19		

	Mean, Minimum and Maximum Length and Weight												
Total Min cut Max cut Total Length (inches)								Weight (lb)					
Species	Catch	inch	inch	Used	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Minimum	Maximum			
COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT	6	3.94		6	6.58	4.49	8.19	0.13	0.10	0.15			

Relative Abundance and Catch/Unit Effort											
	Total	Min.Cut	Max.Cut	Total	Weight	Pen	cent	Catch per l	Jnit Effort		
Species	Catch	inch	inch	used	Lbs	Number	Weight	Number/Effort	Lbs/Effort		
COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT	6	3.94		6	0.79	100.00	100.00				

	Abundance and Biomass												
Total Min.Cut Max.Cut Total Population Biomass Percent Density esting							ensity estimat	es					
Species	Catch	inch	inch	Used	estimate	Lbs	Number	Weight	Lb/Acre	Fish/Acre	Fish/Mile		
COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT	6	3.94		6	6	0.79	100.00	100.00					

Notes: 2 pass depletion population estimate. Very silty throughout this reach. We hiked up the stream about half a mile past where we ened our reach and it became less silty and saw more fish the further up we went. NO FISH caught on E2. E1 = 1156 seconds and E2 = 1071 seconds. Total electrofishing effort = 2227 seconds.



Red Canyon Creek Cross Section 1, Looking downstream.



 $\textbf{Red Canyon Creek} \ \mathsf{Cross} \ \mathsf{Section} \ \textbf{1, Looking upstream}.$



Red Canyon Creek Cross Section 1, Looking across the transect from left bank.





Red Canyon Creek Cross Section 1, Looking upstream from left bank.



Red Canyon Creek Overview of Habitat Features, Overhead Cover and Pocket Pools



Red Canyon Creek Overview of Habitat Features, Large Woody Debris Plunge Pools



Red Canyon Creek Overview, Dynamic Channel with Side Channel Creation

Discharge Measurment Field Visit Data Report (Filters: Name begins with Red Canyon; Division = 4;)

Div	Name	CWCB Case Number	Segment ID	Meas. Date	UTM	Location	Flow Amount (cfs)	Meas #	Rating	Station ID
4	Red Canyon		21/4/A-010		UTMx: 745711 UTMy: 4242087	Red Canyon Creek upstream of trail crossing	6.89	1	g	

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