

YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT Collaborative Working Group – Round 2

Summary of Round 2 Meetings

INTRODUCTION:

Three (3) meetings for Round 2 of the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Collaborative were held across the Big Horn Basin:

- Lovell, March 5, 2018
- Cody, March 6, 2018
- Worland, March 7, 2018

All meetings followed the agenda described below. In addition, Lovell and Worland meetings were extended to include time for participants to identify and express endorsement on specific locations where restoration projects could occur. The additional identification and endorsement work will occur in Cody at an upcoming Round 3 meeting on March 28, 2018, and a summary of recommendations for all three locations will follow at that time.

ROUND 2 MEETING AGENDA

At each meeting, attendees received a brief update of progress since the Round 1 meetings. The interests and concerns from Round 1 were recorded, summarized, and are available online at the [Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Collaborative website](#). Based on input gathered and questions asked at Round 1 meetings, the agenda for Meeting 2 was created to address specific topics. Links to the specific presentations, along with corresponding maps and additional documents can be found online at:

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/Cutthroat-Trout/Cutthroat-Meetings>.

Agenda topics included:

1. YSC Populations:
Share information and answer questions on the history and current population and distribution of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YSC) other salmonids, and reasons for YSC population declines.
2. Habitat & Stream Systems:
Share information and answer questions on the habitat and stream systems requisite for YSC population success.
3. Restoration Process:
Share information and answer questions on the process of YSC restoration, including the process for selecting viable streams, alternatives for species removal, and alternatives for YSC introduction.
4. Conservation Biology:
Share information and answer questions on conservation biology, and how those principles could be used to define the minimum number of secure populations of YSC in each major river drainage needed for conservation/restoration to be considered successful.
5. Recommendation Criteria:
Present and discuss the [Recommendations Sheet](#) developed by synthesizing public interests (expressed by attendees in Round 1) and scientifically sound restoration practices (presented by WGFD in Round 2), described below.

YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT Collaborative Working Group – Round 2

Summary of Round 2 Meetings

RECOMMENDATION CRITERIA

Striving for a way to gather recommendations that weighs both public interests along with scientifically sound restoration practices, a set of recommendation criteria was developed. [The criteria](#), listed and described in Table 1 below, are being used to evaluate each potential stream where restoration could occur in the five drainages being addressed in this process: Big Horn Lake, Nowood, Clark’s Fork, North Fork and South Fork.

The criteria offer a way to identify and articulate the variety of public interests and scientific practices to be maintained in YSC restoration recommendations. While some criteria are exactly as presented in Round 1 and 2, other criteria serve as a proxy for interests expressed; those nuances are noted below.

Table 1: Recommendation Criteria

Criteria	Indicated on Table	Description
Developed from Restoration Principles		
Current Population	(Y/N)	Whether or not a current YSC population exists in the stream.
Miles Occupied	(#)	Number of miles currently occupied by YSC, reflecting a desired outcome for 5 isolate populations (occupying at least 5 miles) and 1 metapopulation (occupying at least 25 miles) in each of the 5 drainages.
Barriers Present	(Y/N)	The presence of a known natural barrier (e.g. waterfall), reflecting the need for a barrier of at least 6 feet for streams to be a candidate for YSC restoration.
Rainbow Trout (RBT) Present	(Y/N)	The presence of RBT, reflecting the need for any successful restoration to be YSC in isolation.
Brook Trout (BKT) Present	(Y/N)	The presence of BKT, reflecting the need for any successful restoration to be YSC in isolation. .
Probability of Successful Intervention	(L/M/H)	The presence of additional desirable habitat qualities including stream size, large- and fine-scale habitat, water

YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Collaborative Working Group – Round 2

Summary of Round 2 Meetings

		temperatures, etc. indicating the likelihood of project success.
Barriers Potential	(L/M/H)	The potential for an improved barrier to be created, reflecting an alternative for a more efficient, cost-effective barrier when a natural barrier is not present.
Life History Diversity	(L/M/H)	The potential for YSC populations to represent stream-resident, lake dwelling, and migratory, reflecting an adequately diverse population.
Developed from Articulated Public Interests		
Historically Occupied	(Y/N)	Whether or not a current YSC population existed in the stream historically, reflecting the public desire for utilizing historically occupied waters when possible.
Expansion Potential	(L/M/H)	Whether or not the stream represents an opportunity to expand an existing YSC population, a proxy for the public desire for protecting existing populations whenever possible.
Project Costs	(L/M/H)	The approximate costs of YSC restoration projects, reflecting the public desire for fiscal responsibility in projects.
Front or Back Country	(F/B)	The accessibility of the stream, reflecting the public desire for angling experiences in both settings.
Diversity Opportunities	(Y/N)	The ability to maintain fisheries for a variety of species within a given area/drainage, reflecting the public desire for diverse fishing experiences to be maintained (angler skills, 'quantity' of catch, etc.)