

**2008 - 2011 Secure Rural Schools  
Public Law 110-343  
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM  
USDA FOREST SERVICE  
SHOSHONE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Project Status:** Proposed

**Funding Fiscal Year:** 2011 - 4th year

**2. Project Name:** Franc's Fork Fish Screen

**3a. State:** Wyoming

**3b. County:** Wyoming - Park

**4. Project Submitted by:** Tommy Thompson, Trout Unlimited

**5. Date:** 02/28/2011

**6. Contact Phone:**

**7. Contact E-Mail:**

**8. Project Location**

**a. National Forest:** Shoshone

**b. Forest Service District:** Greybull

**c. Location (Township-Range-Section)**

48-103-34

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:**

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) Install a fish screen and bypass system to prevent the entrainment of YCT and other native fish from the Francs Fork into the irrigation ditch.

b. Detailed:

This project will install a fish screen and bypass system in the Ashworth #3 irrigation ditch that takes water from the Francs Fork for irrigation practices on the Pitchfork Ranch. The goal is to prevent fish loss due to entrainment. Fish entrained into the irrigation ditch are normally lost to the stream system when they are either stranded on fields or after the ditch is turned off. A fish screen will prevent the entrainment of fish and return them to the creek via a bypass system. Francs Fork is populated by genetically pure Yellowstone cutthroat trout and is an important spawning tributary for the Greybull River. The Greybull River drainage, including Francs Fork, contains a core conservation meta-population of YCT and is extremely important to the long term management of the species. YCT have been suggested for federal Threatened and Endangered listing on two occasions. To quantify the number of juvenile fish entrained by this one irrigation ditch each fall, an entrainment study was undertaken between September 7 and October 5, 2010 when juvenile fish were moving downstream. The number of fish lost to the canal during actual hours sampled was extrapolated to the entire period that juveniles were documented to be migrating downstream during the irrigation season. This study indicated that as many as 10,184 YCT were entrained in the fall of 2010. Although no sampling was done during the rest of the irrigation season, there is no doubt that additional fish are lost at that time as well.

This project will dovetail with other efforts to improve and restore habitat for YCT and other native fish in the Greybull drainage. During the fall of 2009, TU, USFS, the WGF and other project partners installed a bridge on the main Pitchfork/USFS access road to replace the previous crossing on Francs Fork which acted as a complete barrier for YCT. The project made the upper reaches of Francs Fork on public land available for migratory YCT for the first time in nearly 50 years. Preventing the entrainment of fish from Francs Fork will contribute to the health of the Francs Fork fishery by helping to reestablish the historical migratory populations of YCT from the Greybull River.

**11. State/Private/Other lands involved?** Yes

**If Yes, specify:** This project is located on Pitchfork Ranch near the border with the Shoshone Forest.

**12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation?** (*check at least 1*)

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems

**13. Project Type:**

a. Check all that apply: (*check at least 1*) Fish Habitat Restoration

b. Primary Purpose (*select only 1*)

**14. Identify what the project will accomplish**

- 1 Number of structures maintained/improved  
12 Miles of fish habitat restored/improved

**15: Estimated Project Start Date:**  
10/01/2011

**16: Estimated Project Completion Date:**  
11/01/2012

**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**

Trout Unlimited  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Shoshone National Forest  
Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resources Trust

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

(*max 12 lines*)

Primary benefits to the community will be continued fishing opportunities by preventing a T&E listing of Yellowstone cutthroat trout, enhanced fishing opportunities, and funds spent during project construction.

**19. How does this project benefit federal lands/resources? (*max 12 lines*)**

Primary benefits to the Shoshone Forest will be continued land and wildlife management opportunities that would be limited if the Yellowstone cutthroat trout were listed as a T&E species and continued fishing opportunities for their constituents. Preventing the entrainment of over 10,000 YCT per year will improve the fishery on the Greybull River, Francs Fork, and other tributaries to the Greybull on USFS land.

**20. What is the proposed method(s) of accomplishment? (*check at least 1*)**

Contract, Grant, Other

**21. Will this project generate merchantable timber? No**

**22. Anticipated Project Costs**

- a. Please fill out a project cost form for each fiscal year the project will be funded  
b. Is this a multi-year funding request?

**24. Monitoring Plan (*Input or attach below*)**

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

TU is responsible for the monitoring of this project and will continue to be in close contact with landowners and project partners about the success of the project. The fish screen will be managed by project partners including TU, Pitchfork Ranch and the GVID. TU will communicate project results through the media including TU newsletters and local newspapers.

Success of the project will be determined through a telemetry study to monitor trout movement starting in the spring of 2011. The movement study will be administered by the WGFD to:

1. Determine general movement patterns of YCT within the Greybull River drainage.
2. Document the extent to which YCT movement is blocked or inhibited by in-channel structures.
3. Determine the extent to which YCT are entrained in irrigation diversions.

The study will help determine how YCT are taking advantage of the recently completed habitat improvement projects and help identify

future opportunities to improve YCT populations within the Greybull drainage. The study will also quantify the success of the fish ladder on the Upper Sunshine Diversion. The movement study will be complemented by TU's Adopt a Trout (AAT) Program. The AAT program is a partnership with TU and other project partners to educate school kids about their local watershed and its fishery. Each trout will receive a telemetry tag and will be "adopted" by the students. The movement will be monitored throughout the school year. Each month, TU and other project partners will update the kids with fish locations and provide a lesson to further their understanding of the resource. Curriculum includes lessons on trout life cycles, habitat needs, how to use GPS, mapping skills and the importance of connected migratory corridors to the health of fisheries on private and public land. The local community and private landowners will be included in this project to help identify projects and partnerships to improve YCT populations in the Greybull Drainage.

\$0 from the RAC Funding will be used to carry out specified monitoring tasks. Other project partners will absorb the \$20000 monitoring cost.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

Trout Unlimited, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks:

d. Identify remedies for failure to comply with terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

If other is selected, explain:

Project Recommended by:  
Chairperson, RAC

Project Approved by:  
Forest Supervisor, Shoshone National Forest

### Project Cost Analysis

<b>Item</b>	<i>Column A</i> <b>Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution</b>	<i>Column B</i> <b>Requested Title II Contribution</b>	<i>Column C</i> <b>Other Contributions</b>	<i>Column D</i> <b>Total Available Funds</b>
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	0	0	0	0
b. NEPA/CEQA	0	0	0	0
c. ESA Consultation	0	0	0	0
d. Permit Acquisition	0	0	0	0
e. Project Design & Engineering	0	0	7500	7500
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	0	0	0	0
g. Contract/Grant Administration	0	0	0	0
h. Contract/Grant Cost	10000	0	0	10000
i. Salaries	0	0	0	0
j. Materials & Supplies	0	15000	40000	55000
k. Monitoring	0	0	20000	20000
l. Other				
in-kind technical support	0	0	2500	2500
Partner Indirect Costs	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

m. Project Sub-Total	10000	15000	70000	95000
n. FS Indirect Costs	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	10000	15000	70000	95000