

Canyon Creek Fish Survey 2008 Summary

Between May 6 and May 13, 2008 Region VI personnel conducted a fish population survey of Canyon Creek. The purpose of the survey was to assess the recovery of the fish populations in Canyon Creek after the Rodeo-Chideski fire (July 2002). All fish species were collected at three habitat scales (riffle, run, and pool) among the seven established reaches (Figure 1). In addition, a two-pass depletion was conducted in the downstream portion (> 375ft in length) of reaches 2, 3, and 4 to estimate trout population size.

Initial analysis of the habitat sampling data revealed an abundance of two native fish species in Canyon Creek. Speckled dace were most abundant in the stream, with more than 700 individuals being collected from habitat unit sampling. Desert sucker (269) were second most collected from habitat unit sampling in Canyon Creek.

Between the habitat unit sampling and the population estimate sampling 84 rainbow trout and 329 brown trout were collected in Canyon Creek. Rainbow trout numbers were down from 2007 when 126 were collected. Brown trout numbers were up from the 283 collected in 2007. Of the 126 rainbow trout collected, none were young-of-the-year (YOY). Of the 329 brown trout collected, only 2 were YOY. The low number of YOY collected is likely a result of high winter flows that scoured the stream and also the small size of YOY brown trout at sampling. The YOY brown trout collected averaged 1.7 inches total length compared to 3.0 inches total length in 2007. This is partly due to the survey taking place a month earlier in 2008.

A total of 84 age-1+ (> 5 inch) rainbow trout and 327 age-1+ brown trout were collected in Canyon Creek. Age 1+ brown trout averaged 9.0 inches and age-1+ rainbow trout averaged 9.4 inches total length. However, 20 brown trout collected were greater than 16 inches total length while no rainbow trout greater than 16 inches total length were collected. Only 10 brown trout greater than 16 inches were collected in 2007. The largest fish collected (from the upper portion of reach 3) during the survey was a brown trout that measured almost 22 inches total length and weighed 4.3 pounds.

Prepared by: Curtis Gill
June 15, 2008

Figure 1: Vicinity map of Canyon Creek with designated reach boundaries.

