

STREAM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by: Chris Donley

Updated by: Bill Baker

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Water(s): Cee Cee Ah Creek (Pend Oreille Co.)

Location: Cee Cee Ah Creek is located 10 miles north of Usk, Washington. The outlet of Cee Cee Ah Creek (empties to Pend Oreille River) is located on the Kalispel Indian Reservation.

Reach Length:	Flow(cfs):	Velocity (m/s):
5.15 miles	.80*	.027*

*Flow and Velocity measurements were taken in fall 2007, 2008, and 2009. Flow and velocity will be determined prior to treatment during late summer 2010.

Water Source: Snowmelt and rainwater

Tributary status: Cee Cee Ah creek is a second order tributary to the Pend Oreille River.

Management History:

The decline and extirpation of native populations of cutthroat trout throughout the western United States is often associated with the introduction of nonnative salmonids.

Stocking of nonnative brook trout in Pend Oreille River tributaries began as early as 1933 and continued through 1992, although most stocking of brook trout in those streams ceased by 1982. Competition and displacement by brook trout appear to be the primary impacts to native westslope cutthroat trout populations in Cee Cee Ah Creek and other Pend Oreille River tributaries. Since 1995, the Kalispel Natural Resource Department (KNRD) has sampled 274 sites in Pend Oreille River tributaries; westslope cutthroat trout were observed in only 50% of the sites. Of the 137 sites where westslope cutthroat trout were present, 45 (33%) of the sites contained isolated allopatric populations. Mean cutthroat trout density in allopatric sites (mean 14.4 fish/100m²) was significantly greater than westslope cutthroat density in sites sympatric with brook trout (mean 4.4 fish/100m², $P < 0.001$ by *t* test).

Because of negative interactions with brook trout, westslope cutthroat trout may have recently been extirpated in a handful of tributary streams to the Pend Oreille River. A survey conducted in 1996 in upper Cee Cee Ah Creek found 1 cutthroat trout and 118 brook trout in six 30 meter snorkeling stations. In seven years of snorkeling to monitor habitat enhancement sites, KNRD observed only 3 cutthroat trout while brook trout numbered 1,767. Finally, in 2002 KNRD

crews electrofished upper Cee Cee Ah Creek to obtain cutthroat trout samples for genetic analysis. Despite a comprehensive effort that extended into the headwaters beyond habitat occupied by fish, no cutthroat trout were captured.

The extirpation of westslope cutthroat from Cee Cee Ah creek is likely the result of an expanding brook trout population. In an attempt to reverse the downward trend in westslope cutthroat populations within the Pend Oreille River drainage, the upper 5 miles of Cee Cee Ah Creek was treated with rotenone to eliminate brook trout in 2008 and 2009. An estimated 6700 brook trout were removed from the treatment section of Cee Cee Ah Creek in 2008, and approximately 30 brook trout were removed during the 2009 treatment. An additional treatment is scheduled for fall 2010. Following brook trout eradication, a native westslope cutthroat trout population will be re-established.

T&E Flora and Fauna: Professionals from many resource agencies have visited this site countless times during the last 50 years. No known report exists of any threatened or endangered species habitually found in or near these lakes. Occasional visits from both bald and golden eagles occur, although no nests of these two species are known in the area. Protected species of waterfowl and other birds frequently are found here at times, as well.

Current Management Objectives:

Cee Cee Ah Creek is managed on the statewide stream opener (last Saturday in June). Harvest limits are, brook trout, daily limit 5, no minimum length; cutthroat trout, daily limit 2, minimum length 8 inches.

1. Fishery Objectives:

Objective: Establish a self-sustaining utilizable westslope cutthroat population in upper Cee Cee Ah Creek.

This project is a model project; specific objectives for fish abundance and harvest will be determined following long term monitoring and evaluation. Initially the stream will be closed to angling to allow for monitoring and evaluation of population development without harvest. The stream will eventually reopen to angling following population recovery.

2. Angler use objective: See Above

3. Stocking Objectives:

This is a pilot project to determine the efficacy of removing brook trout from Pend Oreille River tributaries using rotenone followed by re-establishment of native westslope cutthroat trout. WDFW and KNRD will decide the appropriate stock and density of westslope cutthroat to stock

following implementation of the rotenone treatment. The appropriate stock and density will be determined by no later than fall 2010.

Management Strategies:

1. Treat stream with rotenone
2. Monitor stream during spring/summer 2010 for fish presence. If brook trout are still present retreat stream with rotenone to eliminate remaining nonnative fishes.
3. Set up Monitoring and Evaluation plan in cooperation with KNRD. Determine proper stock and density of westslope cutthroat for reestablishing population (work completed no later than Fall 2010).
4. Stock appropriate stock and density westslope cutthroat trout.
5. Implement Monitoring and Evaluation plan.
6. Develop long term management plan based on Monitoring and Evaluation findings.