**STREAM MANAGEMENT PLAN**
*Updated June, 2008 – C. Donley*

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

**Location:** Cee Cee Ah Creek is located 10 miles north of Usk, Washington. The outlet to the 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. Flow and velocity will be determined prior to treatment during late Summer 2008.

**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 extinction of native populations of cutthroat trout throughout the western United States are often associated with the introduction of nonnative salmonids.

Stocking of nonnative salmonids (primarily brook trout) in Pend Oreille River tributaries has occurred since 1933. 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, 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/100$m^2$) was significantly greater than westslope cutthroat density in sites sympatric with brook trout (mean 4.4 fish/100$m^2$, $P < 0.001$ 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 occupied habitat, 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 the upper 5 miles of Cee Cee Ah Creek will be treated with rotenone to eliminate brook trout and 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 (June 1). 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 project is a model project to determine the efficacy of removing brook trout from Pend Oreille River tributaries using rotenone, and reestablishing native westslope cutthroat trout. WDFW and KNRD will decide the appropriate stock and density of westslope 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 2009 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.