Johnson 1993a

NEVADA BULL TROUT HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

August 27, 1934 - S. D. Durrant of the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries, collected two dolly varden in Dave Creek (four miles above its junction with the E. F. Jarbidge River). During Durrant's (1935) survey of the waters of the Humboldt National Forest he notes that mining pollution emanating from a point about two miles upstream of Jarbidge, prevented fish from occupying the stream below the pollution source. He found that cutthroat trout (presumably stocked) were rare, while rainbow trout were common in the river upstream of the polluted area.

July 5, 1951 - Earl Dudley, a game warden of the Nevada Fish and Game Commission, collected three dolly varden from the East Fork of the Jarbidge River. These specimens were put into the collection of the Department of Biology, University of Nevada.

August 14 and 15, 1954 - Two dolly varden were collected by Nevada Department of Fish and Game personnel from one electrofished station located about one-mile downstream of the headwater forks of the West Fork of the Jarbidge River. Other species collected at the site included ten rainbow trout and two cutthroat trout. Five other electrofished stations including one site located on a small headwater stream yielded trout/whitefish but, no dolly varden. Dolly Varden were captured on four other occasions during the course of electrofishing surveys conducted on the West Fork of the Jarbidge River in 1961, 1972, 1974, 1975, and 1979 (Table I).

August 26-28, 1957 - Nevada Fish and Game personnel surveyed the East Fork of the Jarbidge River at four locations spread throughout its length and only found one dolly varden at each of the two highest elevation sites. Located 1.25 miles below the headwater forks, a dolly varden was collected along with thirteen rainbow trout in a 125 ft. long electrofished area. On the river, just below the confluence of Slide Creek, there were thirteen rainbow trout, two mountain whitefish and two sculpin collected along with the single dolly varden within a 200 ft. sample area.

August 16, 1974 - A dolly varden was sampled along with nine rainbow trout within a 100 ft. transect on Jack Creek (tributary of the West Fork of the Jarbidge River.

October 16, 1984 - A dolly varden was collected within a 350 ft. long electrofished area located in Robinson Hole, East Fork of the Jarbidge River. Other species captured at the site included five rainbow trout, one mountain whitefish, and 34 sculpin.

September 11, 23-26, and October 2, 1985 - An intensive fish population and stream habitat survey was conducted at 17 sites along the entire length of the West Fork of the Jarbidge River. Bull trout were collected at three sample sites, two of which were at the highest elevation sites located below the headwater forks.

The upper 5.5 miles of the West Fork of the Jarbidge River were estimated to contain 340 bull trout (single pass electrofishing method).

August 12, 1992 - One bull trout was captured in upper Pine Creek (tributary of the West Fork of the Jarbidge River). Rainbow trout were the only trout captured at the four electrofished sites located downstream of the captured bull trout.

September 1-3, 1992 - One bull trout was captured during the course of an intensive fish population and stream habitat survey of Jack Creek. Rainbow trout were captured at all four electrofished sites in which trout were found however, the single bull trout capture came from a sample station located within a 0.25 mile of the 1974 fish population site where bull trout were first recorded from Jack Creek.

July 28-29, August 2-4 and 9-10, 1993 - An intensive fish population and stream habitat survey of Slide Creek (East Fork of the Jarbidge River Drainage) resulted in the capture of one bull trout in the mainstem and several other bull trout at the lower elevation station in two unnamed tributary streams. The estimated (based on single-pass electrofishing surveys) Slide Creek Drainage bull trout population was 581 fish. There was an estimated 950 rainbow trout within the Slide Creek Drainage.

August 12 and 19, 1993 - An intensive fish population and stream habitat survey of the Humboldt National Forest portion of Dave Creek (East Fork of the Jarbidge River Drainage) stream resulted in an estimated (single pass electrofishing method) bull trout population of 251 fish and 253 rainbow trout.

August 25, 31 and September 1, 8, 21-23, 28-29, 1993 - An intensive fish population and stream habitat survey was conducted at 13 sites along the Humboldt National Forest portion of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River. Bull trout were only collected at the two highest elevation electrofished sites whereas, rainbow trout were found at all except, the highest elevation site. At a minimum, there were an estimated 180 bull trout in the upper 1.7 miles of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River below the headwater forks.

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