

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Final Environmental Assessment Native Trout Restoration and Enhancement Projects in Southwest Utah

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this document in accordance with the procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act as it applies to the Federal Aid In Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 777 et. seq. and 50 State 916; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et. seq.).

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division) and the Service prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled *Native Trout Restoration and Enhancement Projects in Southwest Utah*. The project will be funded in part with a grant under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, which we administer. The Division, in cooperation with the Fishlake National Forest (NF), the Dixie NF, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Richfield Field Office is proposing to establish populations of native trout (Bonneville cutthroat trout or Colorado River cutthroat trout) in ten streams in south central and southwestern Utah. Non-native trout in project streams would be removed where they are present through rotenone applications. Fish migration barriers would be constructed where necessary to prevent the reinvasion of non-native trout. Native trout from "core" populations or fish produced from Division native trout brood stocks would be introduced to establish self-sustaining populations. In addition, non-native fish would be removed from one marsh area, where they impact waterfowl use and production.

The EA documents the analysis of the Proposed Action as well as the "No Action" alternative, which would result in continuing the existing situation. The Proposed Action is to expand the range and number of populations of native trout within their historic range. The Proposed Action is in agreement with direction provided by the Fishlake National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The Proposed Action is also in agreement with direction provided by both the Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki utah*) (Lentsch et al 1997), and the Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*) (Lentsch and Converse 1997). Signatories to these conservation agreements include the Forest Service, BLM, Service, and Division. Actions will be implemented during the period 2007-2011.

The EA was released for a 30-day public review period, which ended July 23, 2007. Two comment letters were received and considered.

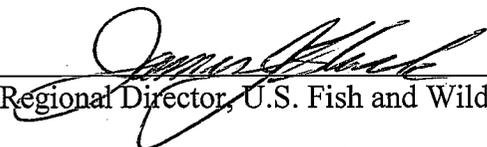
There will be no filling or obstruction of floodplains or wetlands during the proposed treatments. Small pools will be created by migration barriers to be installed as part of the project at some locations. Compliance with regulations governing alteration of stream channels, including approval from the State Engineer and Army Corps of Engineers, will be obtained prior to construction of the barriers. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency approves rotenone for the use intended in this project, and it would be applied according to label instructions by

personnel certified as Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicators. Division and Forest Service personnel are licensed by the State Department of Agriculture to apply aquatic pesticides. Rotenone would be applied according to label specifications and appropriate safety gear and procedures would be used.

The Service's Utah Ecological Services Office reviewed the listed species and their critical habitat within the action area and issued a Section 7 concurrence (March 23, 2007) for a determination of no effect/no adverse modification for all species except bald eagle. Concurrence was also given for the determination of may effect, not likely to adversely affect species/adversely modify critical habitat for bald eagle.

Based on review of the EA, I have determined that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Consequently, we will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

APPROVAL

*Deputy*  \_\_\_\_\_ *8-8-07*  
Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 Date