

**RELATIVE SURVIVAL AND CONTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT SOURCE STOCKS TO RESTORATION OF WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT  
TROUT IN CHERRY CREEK, MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA**

*Researchers.*

Dr. Andrew Whiteley, University of Montana

Dr. Ryan Kovach, University of Montana

Dr. Donovan Bell, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Dr. Carter Kruse, Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture



*Rationale.* Embryos from five wild or hatchery populations were used to establish a population of westslope cutthroat trout in the renovated (i.e., piscicide treatment) habitat of upper Cherry Creek with the hypothesis that embryos from source populations in habitats that more closely matched Cherry Creek would survive better. Further, there is a growing body of evidence that source populations with increased genetic diversity will

have higher survival. Tissue samples have been collected from multiple generations of the growing population of cutthroat trout in Cherry Creek. The Institute will use these samples to further test the hypothesis that genetic diversity of source individuals is a key component for successful establishment of native trout populations in new or renovated habitats.

Species: trout, cutthroat trout  
Topic: genetics, conservation, restoration  
Researcher: Whiteley, Kovach, Bell, Kruse  
University: Montana  
Year Completed: Ongoing