Threatened and Endangered Species Annual Bull Trout Monitoring Report

2006

North Fork Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects

Merwin	FERC No. 935
Yale	FERC No. 2071
Swift No. 1	FERC No. 2111
Swift No. 2	FERC No. 2213

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

			PAGE
1.0	Int	roduction	1
2.0	Mo	onitoring Programs	2
	2.1	Swift Reservoir Bull Trout Spawning Estimate	2
	2.2	Yale Tailrace Sampling and Transportation	5
	2.3	Swift No. 2 Tailrace Sampling.	9
	2.4	Swift Bypass Surveys	9
	2.5	Cougar Creek Spawning Estimate	11
	2.6	Rainbow Trout Stomach Content Analysis	12
	2.7	P8 Bull Trout Juvenile Survey	15
	2.8	Bull Trout LFA Presence/Absence Surveys	17
	2.9	Rainbow Trout Genetics Study	17
	2.10	Forest Practice Laws Fish Presence/Absence Surveys	18
3.0	Co	nclusions	18
AP	PENE	DIX A: Swift Reservoir Bull Trout Capture Database	20
AP	PENE	DIX B: Yale Tailrace Bull Trout Capture Database	25
AP	PENI	DIX C: Cougar Creek Log jam Photos	27

1.0 INTRODUCTION

PacifiCorp and Cowlitz County PUD (the Utilities) are involved in various bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and salmonid monitoring programs on the North Fork Lewis River in southwest Washington. These programs are designed to meet requirements contained in the Utilities existing operating licenses and Settlement Agreement (SA) for the Merwin, Yale, Swift No. 1, and Swift No. 2 hydroelectric projects. This report also serves to meet requirements contained in the 2003 Biological Opinions issued to the Utilities by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). All activities are developed in consultation with the USFWS and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). This report provides results from programs that are either ongoing or have been completed in 2006. For methods and general descriptions of the ongoing programs please refer to the annual plan submitted to the USFWS, WDFW and FERC in May 2006.

During 2006, the Utilities participated in, funded or initiated ten (10) monitoring programs. Of those programs, 6 are ongoing and will continue in 2007. In addition to the 6 ongoing monitoring programs, a number of single-pass electrofishing surveys were completed on tributaries to Pine Creek and the Lewis River including the Swift bypass reach downstream of Swift dam. Purposes of these surveys included: (1) to determine presence of bull trout juveniles, (2) conduct Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA), (3) complete a rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) genetics study on Siouxon and Cussed Hollow creeks, and (4) conduct presence-absence surveys on tributaries to Merwin, Yale, and Swift reservoirs for Forest Practice Act purposes. A map of the study area for all programs is shown in Figure 1.0-1.

Bull Trout and Salmonid Programs completed or ongoing in 2006 include:

- 1. Swift reservoir spawner population estimate (ongoing)
- 2. Yale tailrace sampling and transportation (ongoing)
- 3. Swift No. 2 tailrace sampling (ongoing)
- 4. Swift bypass snorkel and electroshocking surveys (ongoing)
- 5. Cougar Creek spawning estimate and fish passage inventory (ongoing)
- 6. Swift reservoir rainbow trout stomach content analysis (ongoing)
- 7. P8 bull trout juvenile survey (completed)
- 8. Bull trout LFA presence/absence surveys (completed)
- 9. Rainbow trout genetics study (completed)
- 10. Forest Practice Act fish presence/absence survey (completed)

2.0 MONITORING PROGRAMS

This section provides results for the 10 programs conducted in 2006. One project – the Muddy River snorkel survey, which was originally proposed in the plan, was cancelled due to poor visibility that persisted throughout the summer survey period.

2.1 SWIFT RESERVOIR BULL TROUT SPAWNING ESTIMATE

MARKING:

Gill net collection activities at the upper end of Swift reservoir began on April 21st and continued through July 12, 2006 (Appendix A). In total, 10 gill netting days were completed during the period. A total of 134 bull trout were captured in Swift reservoir. Of these, 110 were tagged with an orange colored floy tag, 8 were too small for a floy tag, and 8 were current year recaptures (Appendix A). In addition to the current year recaptures, 21 captured bull trout had tags from previous years bringing the total capture rate of previously handled fish to 22% (29 of 134). All captured fish also receive a PIT tag to provide long-term and unique identification for each bull trout.

SNORKEL SURVEYS:

Snorkel surveys were conducted on Rush and Pine creeks between July 26th and September 20th (Table 2.1-1). Snorkel surveys on Rush Creek include a portion of the North Fork Lewis River known as the "Rush Creek hole". The area is thought to be used as a staging area for bull trout ascending Rush Creek and is about 200 feet long. It is located at the confluence of Rush Creek and the North Fork Lewis River. Bull trout counts on Rush Creek occur from the mouth (including the Rush Creek Hole) upstream past the Forest Service road 90 Bridge for about 1000 yards (about RM 0.85). Snorkel surveys were also conducted on the mainstem Lewis River and included in the spawning estimate calculation. On Pine Creek, surveys are typically conducted between RM 2.0 and 4.5. Surveys on Pine Creek are limited due to inaccessibility.

For 2006, a spawning population of 1,011 bull trout (95% CL) was estimated as ascending the North Fork Lewis River from Swift reservoir (Figure 2.1-1). This is slightly less than estimates for 2005 which were also less than estimates from 2004.

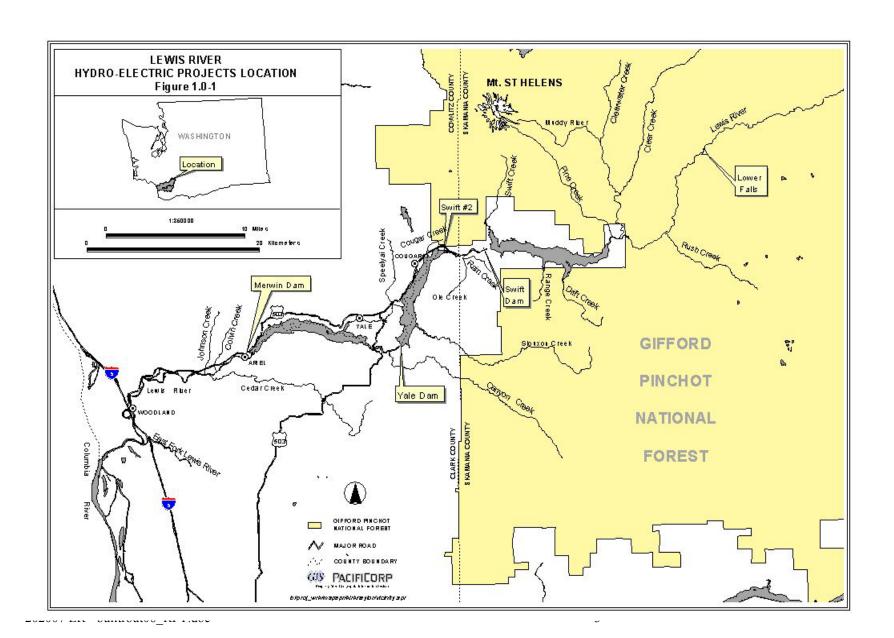


Table 2.1-1. Bull trout snorkel survey results (recapture) – 2006

Survey	Nu	Total			
Date	Rush	Creek	Pine	Creek	
	Tagged	Untagged	Tagged	Untagged	
26-Jul	20	172			192
2-Aug			11	54	65
9-Aug	20	185			205
17-Aug			9	54	63
23-Aug	20	192			212
6-Sep			2	18	20
13-Sep	9	112			121
20-Sep			6	40	46
TOTAL	69	661	28	166	924
Source:	Jim Byrne,	WDFW	·		

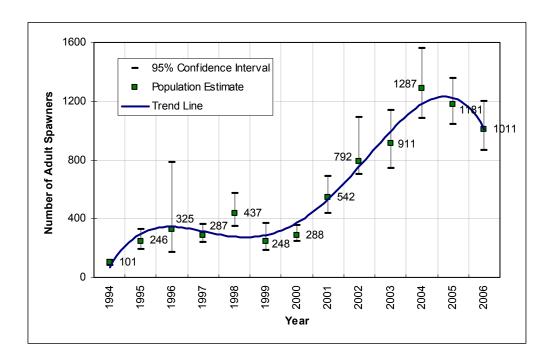


Figure 2.1-1. Spawning population estimate of bull trout in Swift reservoir for the years 1994 through 2006. (Source: Jim Byrne, WDFW)

Table 2.1-2. Tabular data of Swift reservoir bull trout mark-recapture population estimates 1994 - 2006. (Source: Jim Byrne, WDFW)

Year	Lower Bound (95% CL)	Upper Bound (95% CL)	Spawning Population Estimate
1994	85	118	101
1995	193	326	246
1996	173	782	325
1997	235	361	287
1998	345	571	437
1999	181	365	248
2000	242	352	288
2001	439	689	542
2002	701	1092	792
2003	745	1140	911
2004	1084	1556	1287
2005	1042	1354	1181
2006	865	1198	1011

2.2 YALE TAILRACE SAMPLING AND TRANSPORTATION

The Utilities, in cooperation with the WDFW and USFWS, annually net and transport bull trout from Yale tailrace to the mouth of Cougar Creek, a Yale reservoir tributary. A total of 102 bull trout have been captured at the Yale tailrace since the program began in 1995.

To capture bull trout from the Yale tailwaters, monofilament or multi-filament mesh gill nets are used (typically 2.5 to 3 inch stretch). Netting occurs on a weekly basis beginning in July and ending in early September. Netting usually occurs between the hours of 0900 and 1200. During this time, the powerhouse generators are taken off-line to facilitate deployment and handling of the nets. Larger nets, in both area and mesh size, have been deployed in the past; however, they were less effective at capturing bull trout. Nets are tied to the powerhouse wall and then stretched across the tailrace area using powerboats. The nets are then allowed to sink to the bottom. Depending on conditions or capture rate, the nets are held by hand on one end or allowed to fish unattended. The maximum time nets are allowed to fish before being pulled is less than 10 minutes. Upon capture of a bull trout, fish are immediately freed of the net (usually by cutting the net material) and placed in a live well. Once biological information is gathered and a floy tag is inserted, the bull trout is placed in a 6-inch diameter rubber tube that is partially filled with water. A rope is tied to the tube, which allows hatchery crews on the powerhouse deck to hoist the bull trout out of the tailrace area and into hatchery trucks. The entire process, from capture to hatchery truck, takes only a few minutes and no direct mortality has ever been observed.

Use of Alternative Capture Methods

In coordination with the 2003 Biological Opinion, Settlement Agreement and FERC licenses for the Lewis River projects, the Utilities continue to seek more effective and less intrusive methods to collect bull trout from the Yale tailrace. In 2005, a large (225' X 28') beach seine was used in an attempt to actively collect bull trout from the tailrace. Mesh size ranged from 2 to 4 inch square. The methodology used included feeding the net from shore and using a jet sled to feed the net in a circular pattern from the shore. The net was then dragged back to the shore.

While the net was very effective in capturing all types of larger fish present in the tailrace, it would become 'snagged' on large boulders close to shore. This resulted in nearly all of the fish escaping from the net. Because this snagging of the net occurred in all sets it was decided to discontinue its use for the remainder of the season.

In 2006, based on the nets initial effectiveness, the net was modified to allow pursing the net in the middle of the tailrace - thus eliminating the need to bring the net to shore and potentially snag on the large boulders present there. This technique was expected to capture large numbers of fish and allow a less intrusive method to be used, but the purse seine proved to be cumbersome and not feasible with only one boat.

The Utilities will, in 2007, continue to test the purse seine with additional resources to properly set and purse the seine.

Yale Netting Results

At the Yale tailrace, attempts to net bull trout were completed from June 1st through August 31st, 2006. Biological information and release information of the captured bull trout is shown in Table 2.2-1. No bull trout mortalities were observed as a result of netting and transportation activities.

The number of bull trout captured at the Yale tailrace remained the same from the previous year. Five Bull trout were captured in 2006. The Yale tailrace capture number has been steadily on the decline, possibly showing that our efforts have been a success in transferring fish from Merwin to Yale Reservoirs.

All 5 bull trout captured in the Yale tailrace were transported to Yale reservoir and released at Cougar Park. Other species captured in order of frequency included: kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), largescale suckers (*Catostomus macrocheilus*), northern pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*), coastal cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*.)

TABLE 2.2-1: Capture information of bull trout netted in the Yale Tailrace – 2006

Date	Tag#	Tag Color	Fork Length (mm)	Comments
June 01	1501	Green	561	Left eye old injury
June 08				No bull trout
June 15				No bull trout
June 22				No bull trout
July 06	00001	Green	620	Healthy fish
July 06	00002	Green	450	Healthy fish
July 06	00003	Green	600	Healthy fish
July 13				No bull trout
July 20	00004	Green	368	Healthy fish
August 03				No bull trout
August 16				No bull trout
August 31				No bull trout

Of the 102 bull trout captured at the Yale tailrace since 1995, 71 have been transported to the mouth of Cougar Creek (Table 2.2-2). Remaining fish have been tagged and released back into Merwin reservoir. While the intent is to release all fish into Yale reservoir, some bull trout have been released back into Merwin reservoir due to the sonic tracking study, part of mark recapture studies, or because bull trout were caught during testing of collection methods when no transportation vehicles were available. The contribution of transported bull trout to Cougar Creek's spawning escapement is summarized in Table 2.2-3. This contribution is measured by the proportion of bull trout transported from the Yale tailrace that comprise the total estimated population observed during our annual foot and snorkel surveys of Cougar Creek. Of the five fish released in Yale reservoir (in 2006), one bull trout (with green floy tag) was observed during annual spawning surveys in September and October (see section 2.5).

TABLE 2.2-2. Number of bull trout collected from Yale tailrace (Merwin reservoir) and transferred to

the mouth of Cougar Creek (Yale tributary): 1995 - 2006.

YEAR	No. captured at the Yale tailrace	No. transferred to mouth of Cougar Creek	No. released back into Merwin reservoir.	MORTALITIES
1995	15	9	6	0
1996	15	13	2	0
1997	10	10	0	0
1998	6	6	0	0
1999	6	0	6	0
2000	7	7	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	6	5	1	0
2003	19	8	1	10^
2004	8	3	5*	0
2005	5	5	0	0
2006	5	5	0	0
TOTAL	102	71	21	10

^{*}Represents fish tagged with sonic tags and released in Speelyai Bay rather than transported to Cougar Creek (exception: one fish was a recapture from 2003; Sonic tag 444 which was released into the Yale tailrace upon capture). ^ Please refer to 2003 annual report for description of mortalities

TABLE 2.2-3. Contribution of Merwin bull trout transported to Cougar Creek: 1995-2006

YEAR	Bull trout escapement into Cougar Creek^	Number of bull trout released	Num	Number of bull trout observed with tags during surveys*					
			Orange	White	Yellow	Blue	Pink	Green	ascend Cougar Creek**
1995	7	9			2				22%
1996	11	13			1				8%
1997	14	10			2		1		10%
1998	7	6			2			2	33%
1999	9	0							n/a
2000	9	7					1		14%
2001	9	0							n/a
2002	15	5			1				20%
2003	21	8				1			13%
2004	18	3		1					33%
2005	31	5	1	1					20%
2006	26	5						1	20%
TOTAL	177	71	1	2	8	1	2	3	24% (average)

NOTES:

^{*} Orange = 2005; White= 2004; Blue = 2003, Yellow = 1995, 1996, 1998, 2002; Pink = 1997, 2000; Green = 1997, 2006 to denote bull trout captured at the Cougar Creek fish weir

^{**} Estimate is based only on year of release and only on tags observed. As a result, the estimate is considered the lowest percent contribution possible.

[^] Bull trout escapement estimate represents peak count plus any mortalities or tagged fish observed that are known to not be represented in peak count.

2.3 SWIFT NO. 2 TAILRACE SAMPLING

In 1999, the Utilities and the WDFW began netting the Swift No. 2 tailrace as part of requirements contained in amendments to Article 51 of the Merwin license. No netting was done from 2001 to 2005 because of the canal failure in 2002 and subsequent rebuilding. Capture efforts were restarted in 2006.

Capture of fish from the tailrace involves setting passive gill nets in and around the tailrace area. Nets are fished in a similar manner as nets in the Yale tailrace (see Section 2.2).

The Swift No. 2 tailrace was netted on three separate occasions. No bull trout were captured. The only fish captures were on July 19 – the first netting effort (Table 2.3-1). Efforts to net bull trout in the tailrace were abandoned after August 10 due to poor capture rates.

Table 2.3-1. Fork lengths of fish species captured during netting efforts in the Swift No. 2 tailrace.

Date	Species	Fork Length (mm)	Notes
July 19, 2006	Rainbow	255	
	Cutthroat	390	
	Cutthroat	390	
	N. Pikeminnow	362	
	N. Pikeminnow	390	
July 27, 2006	NONE		No fish caught
August 10, 2006	NONE		No fish caught

2.4 SWIFT BYPASS SURVEYS

The Swift bypass reach consists of the former Lewis River channel (bypass) between the Swift No. 1 and Swift No. 2 hydroelectric projects. Under the Settlement Agreement, the maximum flow that can be released from the canal drain is 47 cfs. The October 2006 Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for Swift No. 1 and Swift No. 2 calls for 14 cfs to be released from the canal drain. The drain flows into a short reach (termed the "Constructed Channel) that is unaffected by spill events at Swift dam and is 0.21 miles long. This channel then joins the active bypass reach and provides flows into the bypass reach downstream of this juncture. Snorkel and electrofishing surveys are performed to establish species abundance, distribution, habitat use and composition.

One single-pass electrofishing survey was conducted of the ½ mile long "constructed channel" on August 24 to determine fish species composition and abundance (table 2.4-1). 13 coastal cutthroats (*Oncorhynchus clarki*) were observed along with one brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). No bull trout were observed.

Table 2.4-1. Species observed in the "Constructed Channel" electrofishing survey

Species	Fork Length (mm)
Brook trout	71
Cutthroat trout	109
Cutthroat trout	133
Cutthroat trout	118
Cutthroat trout	86
Cutthroat trout	55
Cutthroat trout	42
Cutthroat trout	49
Cutthroat trout	165
Cutthroat trout	129
Cutthroat trout	144
Cutthroat trout	149
Cutthroat trout	150
Cutthroat trout	129

In addition to the one electrofishing survey of the "constructed channel", several snorkel surveys of the bypass reach were conducted by the Utilities and WDFW personnel (Table 2.4-2). Surveys areas were sporadic based on safety and time constraints, but generally covered the section between the constructed channel confluence downstream to the braided channels and the bridge (detailed maps of the survey area are provided in the 2006 Annual Plan).

Table 2.4-2. Bull trout observed during snorkel surveys of the Swift bypass (old Lewis River channel) in 2006.

Date	Along FR 90	IP Bridge pool	Total bull trout observed
06/29	8	13	21
07/16	9	4	13
08/24	4	5	9
09/11	3	5	8
09/25	1	9	10
10/03	2	5	7
10/11	1	5	6
10/18	3	6	9
10/26	0	3	3

During the snorkel surveys, no bull trout were handled. Most bull trout were observed in the large pool below the bridge crossing often referred to as the "IP" Bridge pool. Largescale suckers were the most predominant species observed during the surveys. Large rainbow and cutthroat trout along with kokanee salmon were also present in good numbers.

2.5 COUGAR CREEK SPAWNING ESTIMATE

Since 1979, PacifiCorp biologists, along with various state and federal agencies, have conducted annual surveys to estimate spawning escapement of kokanee in Cougar Creek. Surveyors also count the number of bull trout observed in the creek during these surveys. In 2006 the Utilities conducted 4 Cougar Creek foot surveys. PacifiCorp and WDFW personnel also conducted several snorkel surveys of the creek. The 2006 count is based on information obtained from both foot and snorkel surveys.

Nine bull trout redds were identified in the upper one-third of the creek (mostly during the October 23rd survey). Bull trout redds are not easily identified in the creek due to very little algae, and it is likely that additional redds were present but undetected by the surveyors. No bull trout were observed spawning in the creek in 2006

The peak count of 26 bull trout represents a peak count of 24 adults during a single snorkel survey plus two other unique bull trout identified during a foot survey on October 5th (Figure 2.5-1). This count is not considered a spawning population estimate as there is no accurate method to determine individual fish. Rather, the annual peak counts are used to monitor trends in the creek from year to year. The two bull trout identified during the foot survey were added to the snorkel count peak due to the presence of a green floy tag in one (representing it was transferred from Merwin to Yale in 2006) and the head from the freshly killed other. The one bull trout mortality was noted this year. The estimate of 26 bull trout is considered the minimum number of bull trout that ascended Cougar Creek in 2006.

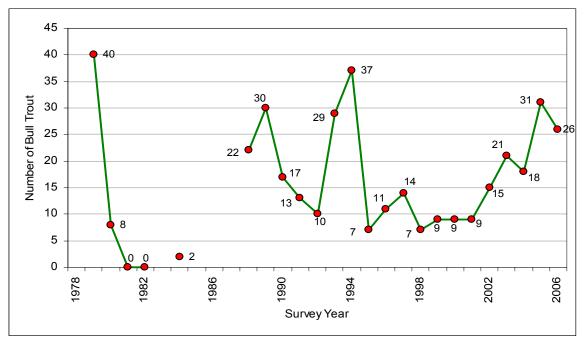


Figure 2.5-1. Annual peak counts of bull trout observed in Cougar Creek 1979-2006.

2.6 Stomach Contents Analysis

A total of 132 rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish and bull trout were lavaged (Figures 2.6-1 throught 2.6-4) in 2006. The primary purpose of this program was to determine if hatchery rainbow trout planted into Swift reservoir prey upon juvenile bull trout in the Eagle Cliff area of the reservoir. A secondary objective was to determine the diet composition of fish in different locations within the basin. This is an ongoing evaluation and will continue in 2007.

Lavaging procedures including using a flexible 1/8 to 1/4 inch diameter tube fastened to a pressure spray gun that used the boats internal spray down pump for pressure. The flexible tubing reduces the potential for abrasion and puncturing of the esophagus. Stomach contents are directed into an clear flask and then preserved in a solution of either 10 percent formalin or grain alcohol. All containers are lableled with date, fish species, fish fork length and location.

Of all the rainbow trout sampled, none were found with juvenile bull trout in their stomachs. Stomach contents of rainbow in the Eagle Cliff area were dominated by Ephemeroptera, Trichoptera, Plecoptera and Diptera. Hymenoptera were primarily ants, however, some large wasps were also observed. The only fish observed in rainbow trout stomachs were sculpins. Of particular interest, was the abundance of small white eyed-eggs that were found in a significant number of rainbow and other species. These eggs could not be identified, but were likely from sculpin or possibly suckers.

When comparing the Eagle Cliff fish to other locations such as the Yale tailrace (Figure 2.6-3), it is clear that the diet of the fish in these two locations differ substantially. The diet of trout captured in the Yale tailrace was composed mainly of fish and surface adult insects. That is, no larval insects were found in the Yale tailrace area. We believe this is due to a lack of stream flowing conditions in the area and thus the lack of stream dwelling insects. It should also be noted that the number of empty stomachs found in the Yale tailrace was significantly higher than those found in Eagle Cliff.

Most bull trout stomachs sampled were empty. Of the bull trout with food it appears that fish and fish eggs were the preferred diet (Figure 2.6-4). The sample size was very low in 2006 (n=6) and further stomach lavage will need to be performed to make any meaningful conclusions with regard to bull trout diet composition at Eagle Cliff.

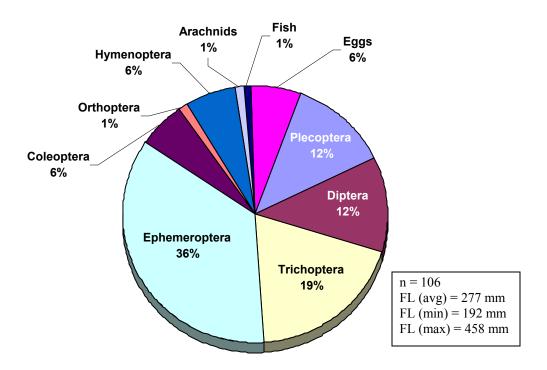


Figure 2.6-1. Stomach contents of rainbow trout netted near Eagle Cliff – Swift Reservoir.

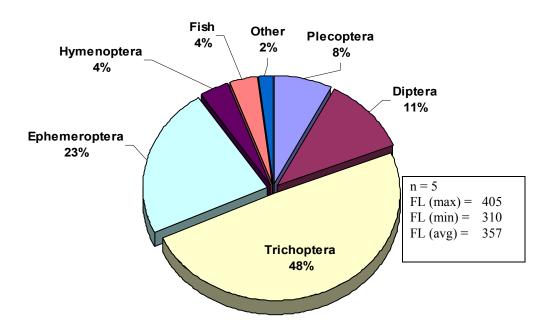


Figure 2.6-2. Stomach contents of Whitefish netted near Eagle Cliff – Swift Reservoir.

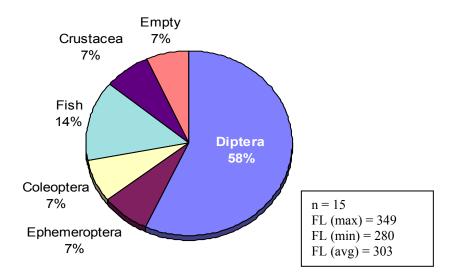


Figure 2.6-3. Stomach contents of Rainbow and Cutthroat netted in Yale Tailrace.

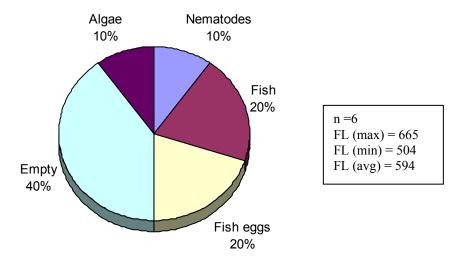


Figure 2.6-4. Stomach contents of bull trout netted at Eagle Cliff – Swift Reservoir.

A single-pass electrofishing survey was conducted July 24th, 2006 on Pine Creek tributary 'P8'. The survey was done from the mouth of P8 to approximately 0.92 miles upstream (Figure 2.7-1). In all, 21 fish were handled: 4 Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), 16 coastal cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), and 1 bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentes*) (Table 2.7-1). The purpose of the survey was to determine the presence of juvenile bull trout and thereby, identifying its use and suitability as spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout. It is possible, that the single juvenile bull trout collected may have come from Pine Creek proper. However, this is highly unlikely due to the velocity and gradient observed at the mouth of P8.

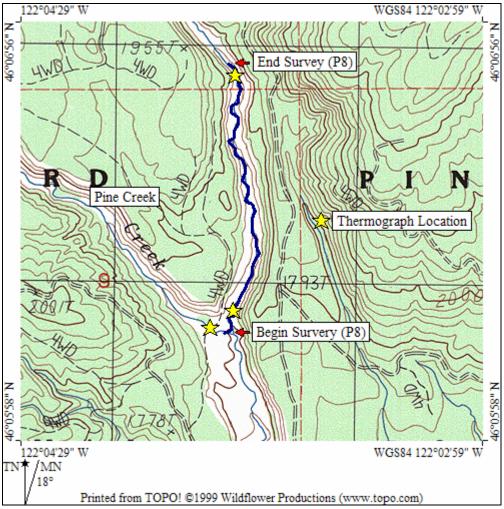


Figure 2.7-1. Survey area of P8 denoting the starting and end points of survey and location of thermographs placed in Pine Creek and P8.

Thermographs placed in P8 and Pine Creek from July 24 through September 20 indicated that P8 averages slightly more than 1 °C warmer than Pine Creek during at the highs of the day, and approximately 0.5 °C warmer for the daily lows (Figure 2.7-2). Both creeks fall well below 8 °C on a daily basis.

Table 2.7-1. List of species captured and measured during a single-pass electrofishing survey in "P8" – a tributary to Pine Creek.

o a tiloutally to I ii.	ic Cicck.
Species	Fork Length (mm)
Coho	79
Coho	74
Coho	77
Coho	55
Bull trout	145
Cutthroat	44
Cutthroat	42
Cutthroat	37
Cutthroat	37
Cutthroat	44
Cutthroat	53
Cutthroat	127
Cutthroat	95
Cutthroat	54
Cutthroat	110
Cutthroat	88
Cutthroat	120
Cutthroat	126
Cutthroat	93
Cutthroat	95
Cutthroat	49

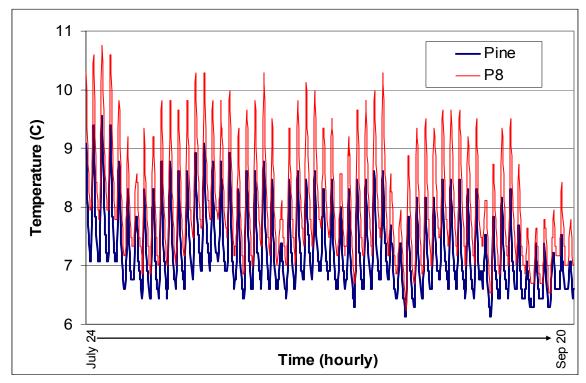


Figure 2.7-2. Comparison of hourly temperature between Pine Creek and P8 (see Figure 2.7-1 for thermograph location).

2.8 Bull trout Limiting Factors Analysis

As part of ongoing efforts to try to find an additional Lewis River local population of bull trout, a bull trout Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) was performed this year on the Lewis River sub-basin above Merwin dam. The LFA sought out streams that could feasibly support bull trout other than the already known Pine Creek and Rush Creek upstream of Swift Reservoir and Cougar Creek in Yale Reservoir. Streams were surveyed for a number of habitat criteria and the streams that best fit the unique needs of bull trout were subsequently surveyed for the presence/absence of bull trout juveniles, an indication of successfully spawning adults.

Tributaries of Merwin and Swift reservoirs were surveyed using single-pass electroshocking techniques (table 2.8-1).

All seven streams were surveyed from the mouth to the anadromous fish barrier. Of the seven streams, due to various habitat limiting factors, none were found to hold juvenile bull trout. One stream, Swift Creek, was found to have adult or sub-adult bull trout. On two separate occasions bull trout were seen, once during a snorkel survey and once during a single pass electrofishing survey.

Stream	Coho	Cutthroat	Rainbow	Bull	Kokanee
Jim Creek	no	yes	no	no	yes
Indian George Creek	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Brooks Creek	no	yes	no	no	yes
Swift Creek	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Drift Creek	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Range Creek	yes	yes	no	no	no
\$10	MAG	Tion	MAG	no	no

Table 2.8-1. Electroshocked streams during bull trout LFA and the species found therein.

2.9 Rainbow trout genetics study

On September 13th-14th, 2006 Cussed Hollow and upper Siouxon creeks (table 2.9-1) were single-pass electrofished to capture rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) genetic samples. Cussed Hollow Creek was sampled from the mouth to the anadromous fish barrier and Siouxon Creek was sampled above the anadromous fish barrier until 50 samples were procured. The study sought to collect genetic material for a Lewis River genetic baseline of rainbow trout to be used as a comparison tool in future studies. Rainbow trout were upper caudal clipped to avoid recapture.

Table 2.9-1. Data collected from Siouxon and Cussed Hollow rainbow trout electrofishing surveys.

Stream	Rainbow trout	Mortalities	
Siouxon creek	50	2	
Cussed Hollow	27	3	

2.10 Forest Practice Laws fish presence/absence surveys

In accordance with Forest Practice Laws concerning riparian buffer zones on fish bearing streams single-pass electroshocking surveys were performed on 18 named and unnamed streams along the 3 Lewis River reservoirs to determine the presence of any species of fish. Table 2.10-1 explains the location of each stream and the species, if any, found therein.

Table 2.10-1. Forest Practice Laws stream survey locations and species, if any, found.

Stream Name	Location (T/R/S)	Reservoir Tributary	Fish Found
1 unnamed stream	T6N/R3E/S19	Merwin	2 cutthroat trout
2 unnamed streams	T6N/R3E/S25	Merwin	2 cutthroat trout
2 unnamed streams	T6N/R3E/S21	Merwin	none
Marble Creek	T6N/R2E/S33	Merwin	1 cutthroat trout
1 unnamed stream	T6N/R2E/S24	Merwin	none
1 unnamed stream	T6N/R3E/S30	Buncombe Hollow Creek tributary	1 cutthroat trout
Speelyai Diversion Works	T6N/R4E/S17	Merwin/Yale	2 sculpin, 1 lamprey, 1 cutthroat
1 unnamed stream	T6N/R4E/S19	Yale	none
1 unnamed stream	T6N/R4E/S21	Yale	none
1 unnamed stream	T6N/R4E/S16	Yale	none
1 unnamed stream	T6N/R4E/S4	Yale	2 cutthroat
2 unnamed streams	2 unnamed streams T7N/R5E/S25		none
3 unnamed streams	T7N/R5E/S29	Swift 2 Power Canal	3 brook trout, 1 cutthroat trout

3.0 CONCLUSION

As directed under the FERC order amending Article 51 of the Merwin License and the 2003 Biological Opinion, the Utilities are to determine whether fish stocking is affecting listed bull trout populations. The Utilities use the data contained in this report to determine if adverse effects are being observed in spawning populations of bull trout in the Lewis River basin. The determination is made based, in part, on the assumption that an estimate of spawning escapement provides a reasonable estimator of reservoir population size. Other indicators include the condition of bull trout netted in Swift and Merwin (Yale tailrace) reservoirs. All bull trout are inspected for signs of hooking by anglers. Hooking scars, lures or hooks

present in mouth and the presence of ingested monofilament line are all signs that bull trout are either being targeted or inadvertently hooked by anglers fishing the popular rainbow trout fishery in Swift, or kokanee fisheries in Yale and Merwin. Lastly, netting provides insight into age class structure. In some years, a high percentage of 3 and 4 year old bull trout are caught. The presence of this young age class is encouraging and is assumed to add stability to the population.

In evaluating these indices, it appears that bull trout spawning escapement is experiencing a downward trend in Swift reservoir. In Yale, bull trout spawning escapement is at least stable and in looking at the Cougar Creek estimates, is staying on the recent upward trend line. More accurate population estimate techniques will need to be employed in order to get a better understanding of the actual number of bull trout that are ascending Cougar Creek to spawn. With recent sightings of more and more redds in Cougar Creek, annual weekly redd surveys done during peak bull trout spawning times may be an effective tool to provide this number. Capture efficiency stayed low again this year in the Yale tailrace (Merwin reservoir). However, this may be an indication that the transportation activities in the Yale tailrace are thinning this population and more importantly providing spawning opportunity for those captured bull trout. Activities at Yale tailrace will continue to be monitored and changes to the program will only be instituted through coordination with the USFWS and WDFW.

The 2006 data does not definitively support that bull trout are at a greater risk of extinction than prior to the license amendment of Article 51. This year's population estimate is the third highest since 1994, despite a near-term downtrend and a notable decline in the number of bull trout observed in Rush Creek. Whether this downtrend continues is unknown and will only be determined through continued mark-revisual estimates.

The need for an evaluation of the effects of hatchery supplementation on bull trout does not appear to be necessary at this time. However, due to the changes in the size of rainbow trout planted into Swift in 2006 and into the future, we propose to continue our efforts in evaluating the prey base of these larger hatchery rainbow trout.

APPENDIX A

SWIFT RESERVOIR BULL TROUT CAPTURE DATABASE FOR 2006

Record #	Date	Fork Lengt h (mm)	Floy color	Floy#	PIT#	Recap/Colo r	Notes
1	4/21/2006	447	Red	1339	3D91HBF23C8385		PRE-OPENING DAY SAMPLE
2	4/21/2006	543	Red	1340	3D91HBF2405419		PRE-OPENING DAY SAMPLE
3	4/22/2006	440	Red	1341	3D91HBF240509B		PRE-OPENING DAY SAMPLE
4	4/23/2006	443	Red	1342	3D91HBF23CA17A		PRE-OPENING DAY SAMPLE
5	4/24/2006	422	Red	1343	3D91HBF2405638		PRE-OPENING DAY SAMPLE
6	5/10/2006	626	Red	1	3D91H257C6A5B1B		LINE OUT ANUS
7	5/10/2006	566	Red	2	3D91H257C66B455		
8	5/10/2006	620	Red	3	3D91H257C6AAEB9		
9	5/10/2006	757	Red	4	3D91H1BF1586F3B	No Floy	RECAP SET NET TAGGED 7/17/02
10	5/10/2006	570	Red	5	3D91H257C666DF5		SETNET
11	5/10/2006	566	Red	6	3D91H257CA595D		SET NET
12	5/10/2006	508	Red	7	3D91H257C6A3E1A		
13	5/17/2006	547	Red	8	3D91H257C66AF9F		SET NET
14	5/17/2006	558	Red	9	3D91H257C66745D		SET NET
15	5/24/2006	723	Red	10	3D91H1BF10E78EC	C19	TAG IN 2002 424 ,2005,684 2006
16	5/24/2006	644	Red	11	3D91H1BF13BB1FA	W271	TAG IN 2003
17	5/24/2006	472	Red	12	3D91H257C665547		
18	5/24/2006	521	Red	13	3D91H257C6A956F		
19	5/24/2006	570	Red	14	3D91H257C665DC5		
20	5/24/2006	640	Red	15	3D91H257C667394		
21	5/24/2006	579	Red	16	3D91H257C6A580C		
22	5/24/2006	605	Red	17	3D91H257C6A6463		
23	5/31/2006	540	Red	18	3D91H1BF24051C0	C75	TAG IN 6/15/2005,
24	5/31/2006	644	Red	19	3D91H257C667002		
25	5/31/2006	635	Red	20	3D91H257C66526D		
26	5/31/2006	515	Red	21	3D91H1BF23C9CC7		TAG IN 6/28/2005,
27	5/31/2006	486	Red	22	3D91H257C66BA10		
28	5/31/2006	330			3D91H257C66B624		Too Small
29	5/31/2006	600	Red	23	3D91H257C6A7C3E		
30	5/31/2006	576	Red	24	3D91H257C6663EC		
31	6/7/2006	525	Red	25	3D91H257C667347		
32	6/7/2006	718	Red	76	3D91H257C6A46B2		
R	6/7/2006				3D91H1BF1586F3B	R04	3rd capture this year
33	6/7/2006	608	Red	77	3D91H257C6651FC		
34	6/7/2006	461	Red	78	3D91H257C6AC1C9		
35	6/14/2006	382	Red	79	3D91H257C6A46EE		
36	6/14/2006	387	Red	80	3D91H257C6A49BA		
37	6/14/2006	585	Red	81	3D91H257C66A25C		
38	6/14/2006	656	Red	82	3D91H257C669A77		
39	6/14/2006	425	Red	83	3D91H257C6A3F28		
40	6/14/2006	565	Red	84	3D91H257C66BB28		LENGTH MAY BE OFF
R	6/14/2006				3D91H257C66AF9F	R08	TAGGED 5/17/06
41	6/14/2006	610	Red	85	3D91H257C66AAC2		
42	6/14/2006	598	Red	86	3D91H1BF23DBA0C		

Record #	Date	Fork Lengt h (mm)	Floy color	Floy#	PIT#	Recap/Colo r	Notes
43	6/14/2006	568	Red	87	3D91H257C666811		
44	6/21/2006	655	Red	88	3D91H1BF10E8990	W240	TAGGED 6/10/2003
45	6/21/2006	715	Red	89	3D91H1BF10E7D47		TAGGED 5/20/2005
46	6/21/2006	668	Red	90	3D91H257C6A4AEE		
47	6/21/2006	408	Red	91	3D91H257C6A55D6		
48	6/21/2006	606	Red	92	3D91H257C6A3DF7		
49	6/21/2006	437	Red	93	3D91H257C66C3AD		
50	6/21/2006	690	Red	94	3D91H257C66C180		
R	6/21/2006				3D91H257C6A3F28	R83	
51	6/21/2006	614	Red	95	3D91H1BF23C3780	C87	TAGGED 6/23/05 at
52	6/21/2006	578	Red	96	3D91H257C6A65B5		
53	6/21/2006	491	Red	97	3D91H257C6A6113		
54	6/21/2006	492	Red	98	3D91H257C66C300		
55	6/21/2006	537	Red	99	3D91H257C66B546		
56	6/21/2006	501	Red	100	3D91H257C66B08E		
57	6/21/2006	620	Red	101	3D91H257C6A5BE7		
58	6/21/2006	382	Red	102	3D91H257C666AAA		
R	6/21/2006	644			3D91H1BF13BB1FA	W271, R11	TAGGED5/24/06
59	6/21/2006	680	Red	103	3D91H257C6AC4BD		
60	6/21/2006	511	Red	104	3D91H257C6A5095		
61	6/21/2006	601	Red	105	3D91H257C66AB6C		
62	6/21/2006	620	Red	106	3D91H257C66AAA0		
63	6/21/2006	636	Red	107	3D91H257C6A6136		
64	6/21/2006	558	Red	108	3D91H257C66B3ED		
65	6/21/2006	563	Red	109	3D91H257C66BA2D0		
66	6/21/2006	588	Red	110	3D91H257C6A5D74		
67	6/21/2006	575	Red	111	3D91H257C667BA8		
68	6/21/2006	510	Red	112	3D91H1BF157FAB6	C117	TAGGED 7/13/05
69	6/21/2006	609	Red	113	3D91H257C6A53226		
70	6/21/2006	574	Red	114	3D91H257C66A4E1		
71	6/21/2006	642	Red	115	3D91H1BF158E36E		
72	6/21/2006	555	Red	116	3D91H257C6A46EE	P7548	
73	6/21/2006	233			3D91H257C6A3012		Too Small
74	6/27/2006	403	Red	117	3D91H257C6A5979		
75	6/27/2006	374	Red	118	3D91H257C6672FA		
76	6/27/2006	665	Red	119	3D91H257C66546F		
77	6/27/2006	610	Red	120	3D91H257C6698D1		
78	6/27/2006	600	Red	121	3D91H257C66AC87		
79	6/27/2006	631	Red	122	3D9IH1BF157F0C8	B52	TAGGED 6/16/04
80	6/27/2006	628	Red	123	3D91H257C6A79D3		
81	6/27/2006	641	Red	124	3D91H257C6A4673		
82	6/27/2006	504	Red	125	3D91H257C667B7D		
83	6/27/2006	655	Red	126	3D91H257C6A4E03		
84	6/27/2006	731	Red	127	3D91H257C66AD22		

Record #	Date	Fork Lengt h (mm)	Floy color	Floy#	PIT#	Recap/Colo r	Notes
R	6/27/2006	` '			3D91H257C6A3E1A	R7	
85	6/27/2006	446	Red	128	3D91H257C66AC59		
86	6/27/2006	577	Red	129	3D91H257C667C0F		
87	6/27/2006	695	Red	130	3D91H1BF10E1784	C76	POWER CANAL 6/14/02 at 399; RECAP 6/15/05 at 680
88	6/27/2006	605	Red	131	3D91H257C6A425E		
89	6/27/2006	538	Red	132	3D91H257C6A83EE		
90	6/27/2006	694	Red	133	3D91H257C669793		
91	6/27/2006	232			3D91H257C6A50FA		Too Small
92	6/27/2006	476	Red	134	3D91H1BF1525E5B	C40	
93	6/27/2006	700	Red	135	3D91H257C66AE98		TAGGED 6/1/05 at 375
94	6/27/2006	396	Red	136	3D91H257C6A4F29		
95	6/27/2006	355	Red	137	3D91H257C66AEC1		
96	6/27/2006	726	Red	138	3D91H1BF10E37BB	W 208	TAGGED 5/21/03 at 483
97	7/5/2006	596	Red	139	3D91H257C6678B2		
98	7/5/2006	635	Red	140	3D91H257C6A3970		
99	7/5/2006	278			3D91H257C66A707		Too Small
R	7/5/2006				3D91H257C66AAA0	R106	
R	7/5/2006				3D91H257CA595D	R6	
R	7/5/2006				3D91H257C66B546	R99	
100	7/5/2006	389	Red	141	3D91H257C6A5780		
101	7/5/2006	634	Red	142	3D91H1BF23DA811	No Floy	TAGGED 6/16/04 at 434 TAG GONE
102	7/5/2006	591	Red	143	3D91H1BF23DAA65	C90	TAGGED 6/25/05 at 523
103	7/5/2006	548	Red	144	3D91H257C6A4E03	C54	TAGGED 6/08/05 at 445
104	7/5/2006	586	Red	145	3D91H257C6A642B		
105	7/5/2006	554	Red	146	3D91H257C6A8FAC		
106	7/5/2006	375	Red	147	3D91H257C66B3F1		
107	7/5/2006	583	Red	148	3D91H1BF2408523	G65	TAGGED 6/15/05 at 454
108	7/5/2006	592	Red	149	3D91H1BF23C1C80	G107	TAGGED 7/06/05 at 510
109	7/5/2006	555	Red	150	3D91H1BF2406398		TODD COULD NOT FUND
110	7/5/2006	365	Red	151	3D91H257C66AEB8		
111	7/5/2006	676	Red	152	3D9IH1BF158E911	B93	TAGGED 6/28/05 at 660; 7/7/04 at 537
112	7/12/2006	238			3D91H257C6A7396		Too Small
113	7/12/2006	490	Red	153	3D91H257C66A55A		
114	7/12/2006	638	Red	154	3D91H257C6A47AD		
115	7/12/2006	354			3D91H257C666EE7		Too Small
116	7/12/2006	349			3D91H257C6666C7		Too Small
R	7/12/2006				3D91H257C63F28	R83	
117	7/12/2006	516	Red	155	3D91H257C667066		
118	7/12/2006	604	Red	156	3D91H257C66C341		
119	7/12/2006	586	Red	157	3D91H257C6A4E12		
120	7/12/2006	390	Red	158	3D91H257C66A005		
121	7/12/2006	315			3D91H257C6A66D2		Too Small
122	7/12/2006	584	Red	159	3D91H1BF24087F1		

Record #	Date	Fork Lengt h (mm)	Floy color	Floy#	PIT#	Recap/Colo r	Notes
123	7/12/2006	369	Red	160	3D91H1BF23DB5D8		
124	7/12/2006	484	Red	161	3D91H1BF23C9758		
125	7/12/2006	330			3D91H257C6A3BE5		Too Small

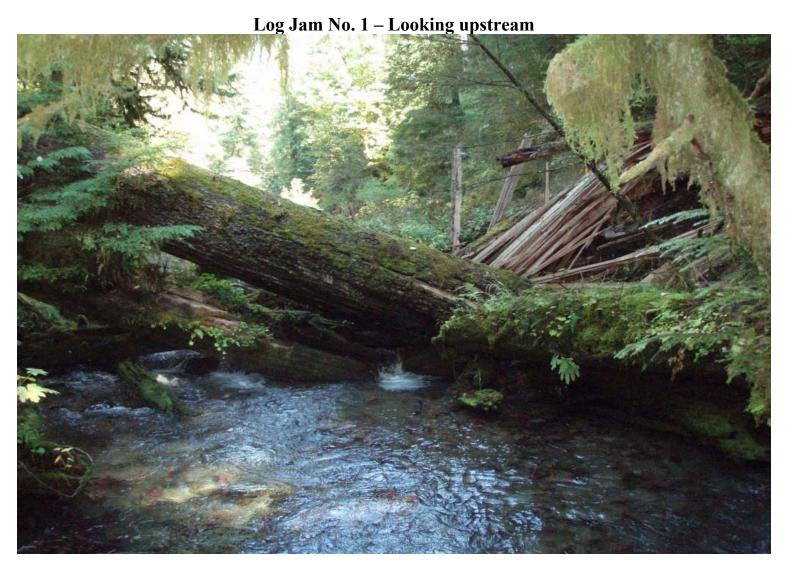
APPENDIX B

YALE TAILRACE BULL TROUT CAPTURE DATABASE FOR 2006

LIVE FISH CAUGHT	LIVE FISH TO YALE	INITIAL CAPTURE DATE	LOCATIO N	TAG #	TAG TYPE	LENGTH (mm)	COMMENTS
97	66	6/1/2007	Yale TR	1501	GREEN	561	Old Eye Injury
97	67	6/8/2006	Yale TR				No Bull Trout (Experimental Purse Seine Used) Deployment problems
97	67	6/15/2006	Yale TR				No Bull Trout Captured
97	67	6/22/2006	Yale TR				No Bull Trout Captured
98	68	7/6/2006	Yale TR	00001	GREEN	620	Good healthy Fish
99	69	7/6/2006	Yale TR	00002	GREEN	450	Good healthy Fish
100	70	7/6/2006	Yale TR	00003	GREEN	600	Good healthy Fish
100	70	7/13/2006	Yale TR				No Bull Trout Captured
101	71	7/20/2006	Yale TR	00004	GREEN	368	CT X RB cross (285, 280, 280, 285) lavaged, 4 diptera, 2 ephemeroptera,1 isopoda
101	71	8/3/2006	Yale TR				RB 210, lavage = algae; CT 285, lavage = 68mm sticlkeback; no bull trout
101	71	8/16/2006	Yale TR				CT 300 mm various fish bones
101	71	8/31/2006	Yale TR				SCCS, no bull trout

APPENDIX C

COUGAR CREEK LOG JAM PHOTOS (2006)



202007 LR - bulltrout06_RPT.doc







202007 LR - bulltrout06_RPT.doc