

Quarterly Progress Report
January 1 – March 31, 2007
BOR Agreement 1425-05-FG-10-1188

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Bureau of Reclamation implemented Ecologically Based System Operations (EBSM) in the South Fork Snake River during winter 2003-2004. To evaluate these innovative flow operations, IDFG began biological monitoring of Yellowstone cutthroat trout during the same time period. This quarterly progress report summarizes activities conducted during the first quarter of 2007, which is the sixth quarter of this modified grant agreement. This agreement runs through September 2007.

Data collected during the previous field season (2006) were entered and analyzed this quarter. Major findings were published alongside other Upper Snake fisheries activities in a newsletter that was distributed to anglers, licensing vendors, legislators, and our partner agencies. The entire newsletter can be found at the following website link:

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov./cms/fish/reports/up_snake_annual_newsletter06.pdf

Much needed repair work continued at most of the tributary fish weirs, and two of the four weirs were installed in March. The Rainey Creek weir (hard picket) was installed on March 19 and the Pine Creek weir (floating Mitsubishi) was installed on March 24. Significant modifications were initiated in mid-February at the Palisades Creek weir, where an electrical barrier will be used instead of floating or hard pickets. I anticipate that this weir will be fully operational by May 1. The Burns Creek weir will not be operated during 2007. I also inspected a floating weir that is being used to trap adult steelhead in Asotin Creek, Washington, courtesy of Kent Mayer, WDFW.

Field activities planned for the next two quarters (to the end of this grant agreement in September) include operating the tributary fish weirs and screens, evaluating weir efficiency at Palisades and Pine creeks, tagging rainbow trout to estimate exploitation by anglers, river-wide stock assessment, and annual electrofishing for flow evaluation at the Conant and Lorenzo reaches. The 2006 annual report and other publications will also be completed.