

Mystic Project #2301

Fisheries, Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality TAC

January 19, 2022
FWP Headquarters, Billings

Attendees:

Bryan Giordano, FWP
Ben Bailey, FWP
Chrissy Webb, FWP
Clint Sestrich, USFS
Andy Welch, NWE
Jordan Tollefson, NWE
Jon Hanson, NWE

2021 Monitoring:

- **Redd Counts:**
A spring redd count was attempted by FWP to look for RBT but was largely unsuccessful and only 1 redd was located. LL redd count was completed on November 3rd and 51 redds were observed. This is the highest LL redds recorded during the survey.
- **Mystic Lake Gillnetting**
Six gillnets were set in the upper section of the lake and six in the lower lake. Nets were set August 2-3 and 3-4. RBT were the most abundant species captured and catch rates were within the normal range of variation from previous sampling events. Mean lengths in the upper lake for RBT were 10.85" and larger than efforts in both 2014 and 2018.
- **Habitat Monitoring**
USFS completed some supplemental habitat monitoring on W. Rosebud Creek. See USFS ppt presentation for more details associated with this work.

Reports and Plans

The group discussed the 6- year fisheries report (2016-2021) and the new 6-year fisheries plan (2022-2027) that is due at the end of 2022. It was agreed that no changes to the current fish monitoring plan would be prudent and that monitoring should continue as is. As was approved in the 2020 water quality plan water temperature monitoring will not be required on an annual basis.

There was some brief discussion about developing a more formal MOU between NWE and the agencies to memorialize the work and relationships that have successfully been working.

2021 Funding Recap

- \$11,000 USFS used for fisheries assistance work
- \$12,500 for FWP to complete fisheries work
- \$1,500 for field equipment needs

2022 Approved Funding

- \$11,000 USFS
- \$13,000 FWP

Other

The weir at the powerhouse is planned to be reconstructed as there is water leaking under the concrete footing. USFS will see additional consultation and approval to repair this and 310/124 permitting for FWP. NWE biologist will be there during the dewatering and fish rescue as part of the construction.