South Fork Initiative

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Introduction

South Fork Initiative (SFI) is a project within the Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF).

Mission Statement:

To conserve, protect, and restore the unique fisheries, wildlife, and aesthetic qualities of the South Fork and its watershed for all individuals and for future generations.

Motivation

- 1) Concerned citizens and stakeholders have been asking the HFF to expand work and research on the South Fork for nearly a decade.
- 2) The Henry's Fork isn't managed in a vacuum. What happens on the South Fork can directly effect the Henry's Fork.
  - Great opportunity for conjunctive conservation and collaboration.
- 3) HFF has the infrastructure, personnel, scientific expertise, and technology already established.

Issues and concerns

- Water supply
- Riparian forest health
- Increased recreational use
- Development impacts

- Conservation of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
- Stakeholder communication

Next Steps

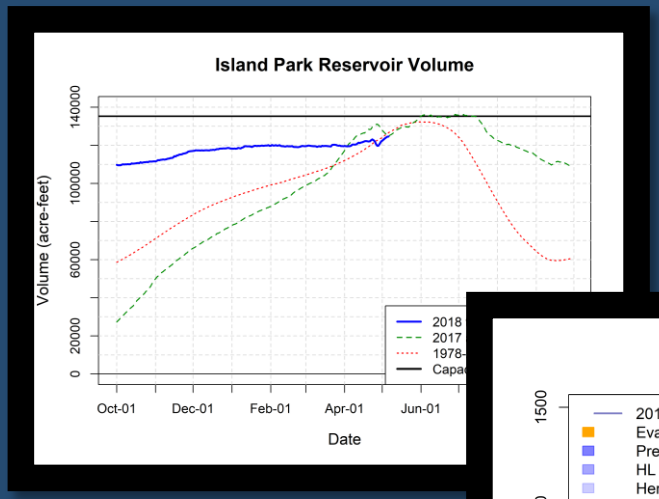
1) Create an initiative focused on the preservation and conservation of the South Fork Watershed using the Henry's Fork Foundation's existing scientific expertise and collaborative networks. **HFF Board Approval on March 2, 2018.**

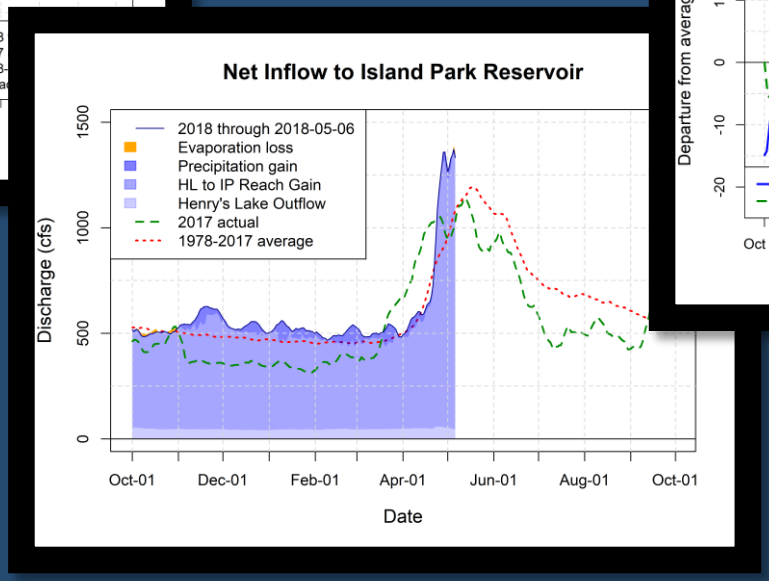
2) Recruit a South Fork Initiative Advisory Board, secure start-up funding, and hire full-time initiative leadership. **August 1, 2018.**

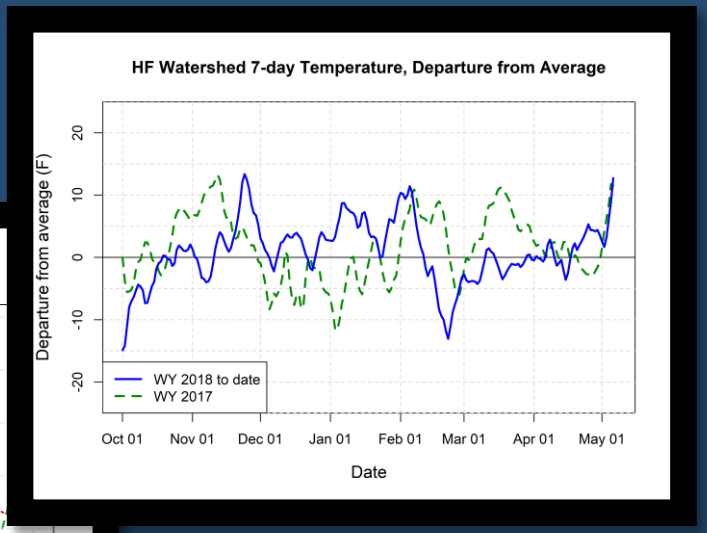
3) Continue to meet with agencies / guides / outfitters / USRC / anyone with concerns

Projects

- Create daily water report for South Fork







Projects

- Assessment of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout "three prong approach"

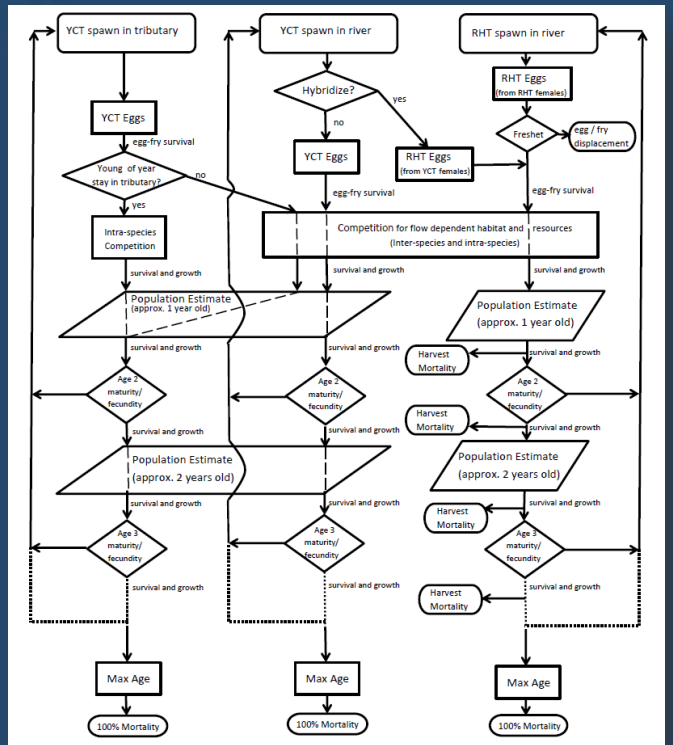


Figure 3: Flow chart of the model for significant life events in a cohort. After recruitment, population estimates and spawning occur once per year up to maximum age.

DeVita et al. 2014

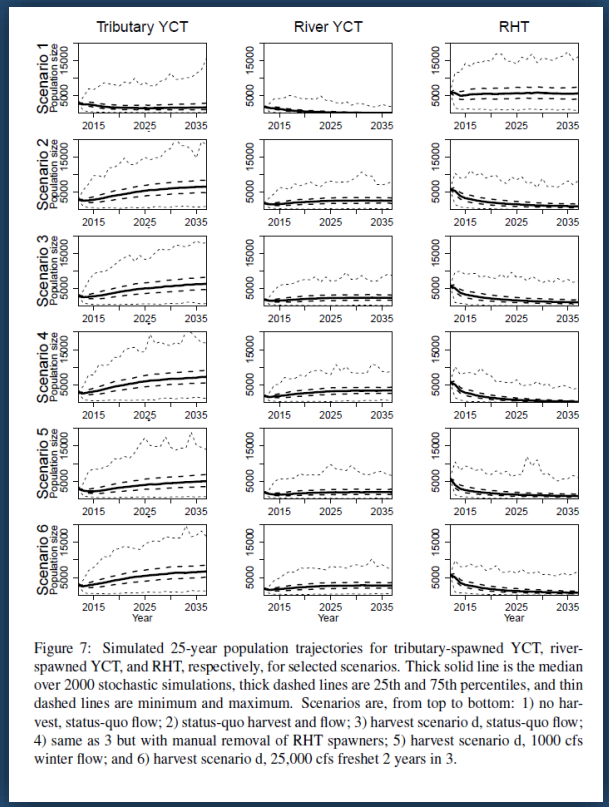


Figure 7: Simulated 25-year population trajectories for tributary-spawned YCT, river-spawned YCT, and RHT, respectively, for selected scenarios. Thick solid line is the median over 2000 stochastic simulations, thick dashed lines are 25th and 75th percentiles, and thin dashed lines are minimum and maximum. Scenarios are, from top to bottom: 1) no harvest, status-quo flow; 2) status-quo harvest and flow; 3) harvest scenario d, status-quo flow; 4) same as 3 but with manual removal of RHT spawners; 5) harvest scenario d, 1000 cfs winter flow; and 6) harvest scenario d, 25,000 cfs freshet 2 years in 3.

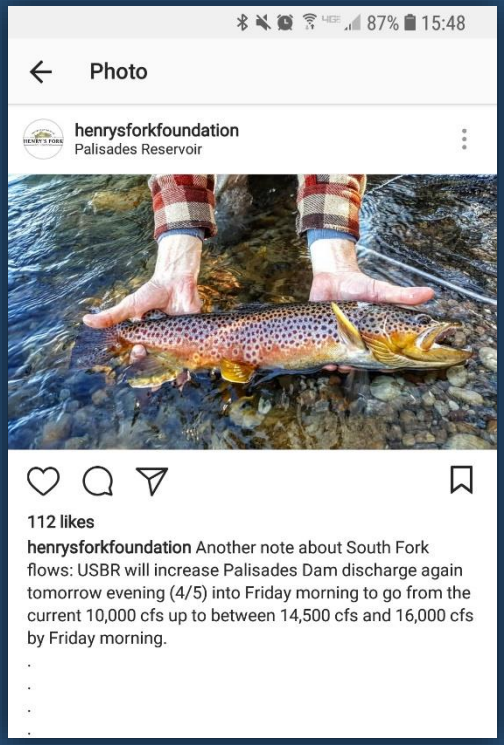
DeVita et al. 2014

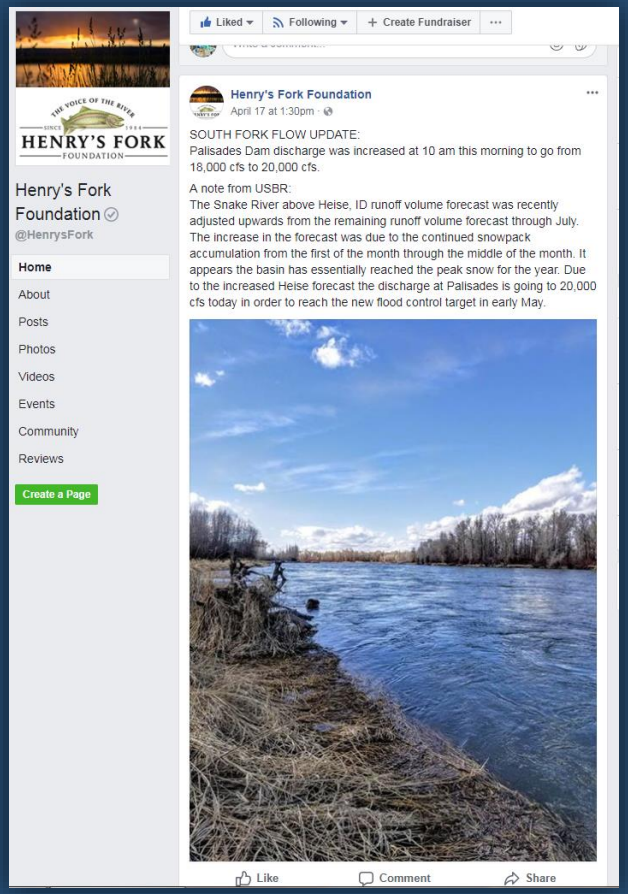
Projects

- Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout parental genetic analysis

Projects

- Outreach and social media





Potential future projects

- Water quality/quantity monitoring
  - Sondes
  - Daily reports

- Invertebrate monitoring
- Communication and outreach

- Collaboration

Summary

- Protect and enhance South Fork Snake River and it's watershed
- Investigate, understand, and educate
- Collaborate

Questions?