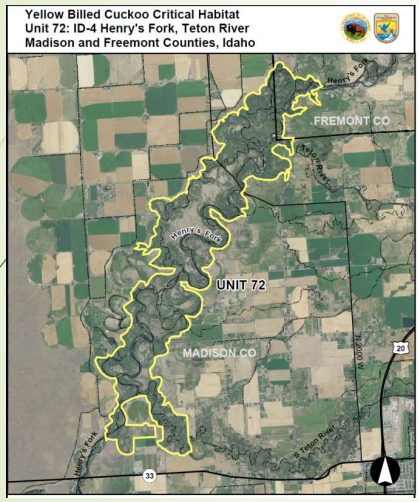
Upper Snake Field Office Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration

Ute-ladies'-tresses

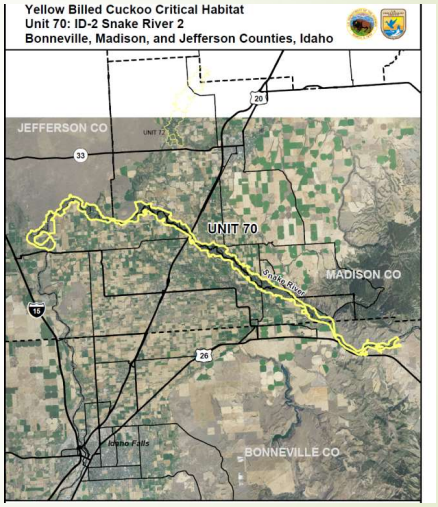
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Critical Habitat



Henry's Fork

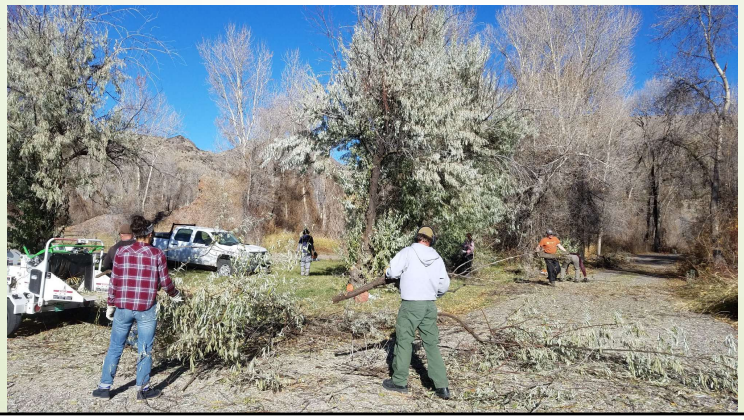


South Fork

Work began when the YBC was listed in 2014
Critical habitat was finalized earlier this year and USFO has 95% of it in the state
HF, SF and Main Snake
We have detected the presence of YBC in several places

Russian Olive Removal

- 2015 – present
- South Fork and confluence
- Approximately 800 acres treated



There was money coming down from HQ and ISO specifically for YBC projects.
Starting brainstorming on projects to improve YBC habitat. Had an active invasive species program that we thought would marry up those two programs
Bought a wood chipper and started treating Russian Olive. Many of these areas we would plant cottonwood in

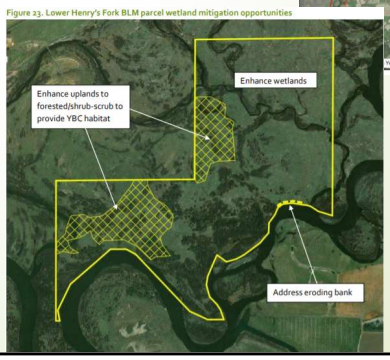
Tamarisk Removal

- Started in 2018
- Main Stem Snake River
- Approximately 300 – 400 acres treated per year

Again, coming in with cottonwood plantings behind the Tamarisk

2018 – 2020: Interest Building

- 2018 all-stakeholders YBC meeting
- 2019 Lower Henry's Fork stakeholder meeting
- Increasing interest in beaver reintroduction and BDAs
- IFDG interest in Deer Parks WMA, Tex Creek WMA, Little Lost
- 2020 meeting with HFF
- 2020 meeting with USACE, FHA, ITD



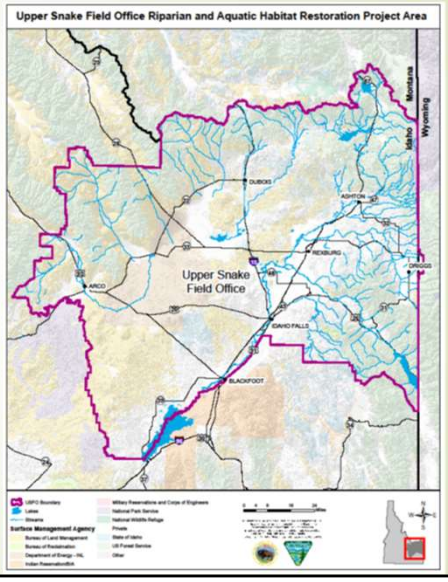
- 2018 our T&E Species lead Ethan Ellsworth got stakeholders together in IF to talk about YBC restoration opportunities
- A stakeholder meeting was held in May 2019 to discuss wetland/riparian habitat priorities in the lower HF reach.
- 2020 sat down with Brandon and Rob and talked about a Lower Henry's Fork Wetland Mitigation Prioritization report prepared for them by Intermountain Aquatics
- 2020 meeting with USACE, ITD where they expressed a great need for areas to invest wetland mitigation dollars in Eastern Idaho
- There is A WHOLE LOT of interest within USFO boundaries and the possiblity of a whole lot of money being available

Potential Partners

- **Federal**
  - USFWS, USACE, BOR, FHA
- **State**
  - IDFG, ITD, IDWR, IDEQ
- **Non-government**
  - Henry's Fork Foundation, Teton Regional Land Trust, private landowners

A Programmatic Approach

- How can we make BLM-managed lands available to capture opportunities for aquatic and riparian restoration?
- How can we efficiently plan and implement multiple projects a year on BLM-managed lands?
- One programmatic EA, with project-specific design done through Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs).
  - Field Season 2022: Project planning
  - NEPA Season 2022/23: Prepare DNA and decision
  - Field Season 2023: Implement project and plan the next project



So we have all these partnership opportunities and opportunities to capture money, so …
How would we ever do 2 or 3 more EAs every year?
Went with a programmatic approach.
And let's go big. Do 1 EA, but do it for the whole field office and include every possible aquatic and riparian restoration technique we might use

Programmatic Restoration EA

- Currently in development stage
- On track for April 2022 completion
- Projects would include 2 main categories:
  - Aquatic Habitat Restoration
  - Riparian Habitat Restoration

How can we fit this into our NEPA workload? Let's contract it.
With money from SO and IDFG, we put out a contract for the programmatic EA.
2 categories that our projects would fit into, many projects fitting some in both
We would like to be able to include private lands (typically where we hold an easement).
NEPA is required where we use federal funds.

Aquatic Habitat Restoration

- **Streambank Stabilization**
  - Plant-based Bank Stabilization
  - Rock-based Bank Stabilization
  - Bank Shaping
- **In-stream Structures**
  - Log Jam Structures
  - LWD, Boulder, and Sod Placement
  - Grade Control
  - Substrate Enhancement
- **Floodplain Connectivity/Habitat Complexity**
  - Reconnect Side Channels and Floodplains
  - Channel Reconstruction
- **Stream Crossings**

Here are the aquatic habitat restoration tools in our toolbox we are analyzing in the EA

Protecting the restoration investment is important, especially when using wetland mitigation funds from

Eroded streambanks like this are not uncommon
Could really benefit from bank shaping and stabilization
Lots of room for plantings of various seral stages

Non-BLM lands.

See the **old side channels**, past land use has **removed the riparian vegetation entirely**, great opportunity and a lot of **space for plantings**.

Possibly bank stabilization and **reactivation of old side channels** as well.

Questions

Riparian Habitat Impacts

- Hydrological changes (dams, levees, diversions)
- Roads
- Conversion to cropland
- Grazing
- Recreation
- Invasive Species