FISH HABITAT & BEAVER MONITORING
TEMPLE FORK WATERSHED, UTAH

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NCALM
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR AIRBORNE LASER MAPPING
ICRRR

Logan River

Spawn Creek

Temple Fork

7

11

4

3

Geomorphic Unit Classification and Fish Observation Sites

Do Beavers Impede the Movement of Trout?

Dams created by North American beavers have numerous effects on stream habitat use by trout. Many of these changes to the stream are seen as positive, and many stream restoration projects seek either to reintroduce beavers or to mimic the habitat that they create. The extent to which beaver dams act as movement barriers to salmonids and whether successful dam passage differs among species are topics of frequent speculation and warrant further research. We investigated beaver dam passage by three trout species in two northern Utah streams. We captured 1,375 trout above and below 21 beaver dams and fitted them with PIT tags to establish whether fish passed the dams and to identify downstream and upstream passage; 187 individual trout were observed to make 481 passes of the 21 beaver dams. Native Bonneville Cutthroat Trout passed dams more frequentl than nonnative Brown Trout and nonnative Brook Trout. Our results suggest that beaver dams are not acting as movement barriers for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout or Brook Trout but may be impeding the movements of invasive Brown Trout.

Native Cutthroat Trout

Brook Trout

Brown Trout

LEGEND

- Individual Beaver Dam
- Number of dams in a complex (7)
- Temple Fork Watershed

RIVER STYLES

- Active Beaver Influenced Valley Stream
- Obstructed Canyon
- Relic Beaver Influenced Valley Stream
- Steep Canyon

0 300 600 900 1,200 1,500 Meters

N

For more information, see:

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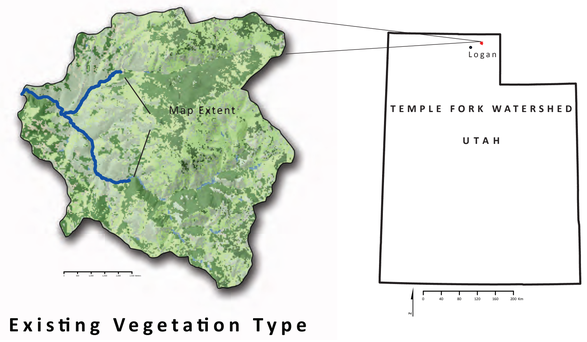
GEOMORPHIC UNITS

- Beaver Dam
- Run
- Rapid
- Riffle
- Bedrock Control
- Artificial Control
- Cascade
- Forced Pool
- Plunge Pool
- Pond
- Backwater Pool
- Lateral Scour Pool

EXISTING VEGETATION TYPE

- Grasses
- Sagebrush
- Aspen
- Forest
- Fish Observations



Existing Vegetation Type

NAD 1983 UTM 12 North
Data Sources:
ESRI Imagery
LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type

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Map created by Martha Jensen, USU ET-AL