

- » Improved efficiency and effectiveness of conservation actions through coordination
- » Restoration of the connectivity, diversity, quality, and productivity of aquatic habitats necessary to trout survival
- » Protection of native trout populations from non-native fish species and exotic invasive aquatic species
- » Increased opportunity for funding available to native trout conservation projects through recognition by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- » De-listing of species from the Endangered Species List
- » Improved angling opportunities

### Native Trout Distribution



### Western Native Trout Initiative Strategies

Conservation and management partnerships at the local and regional level will implement key action strategies described in the WNTI Plan for Strategic Actions that has been endorsed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Fish Habitat Board. The strategies include but are not limited to:



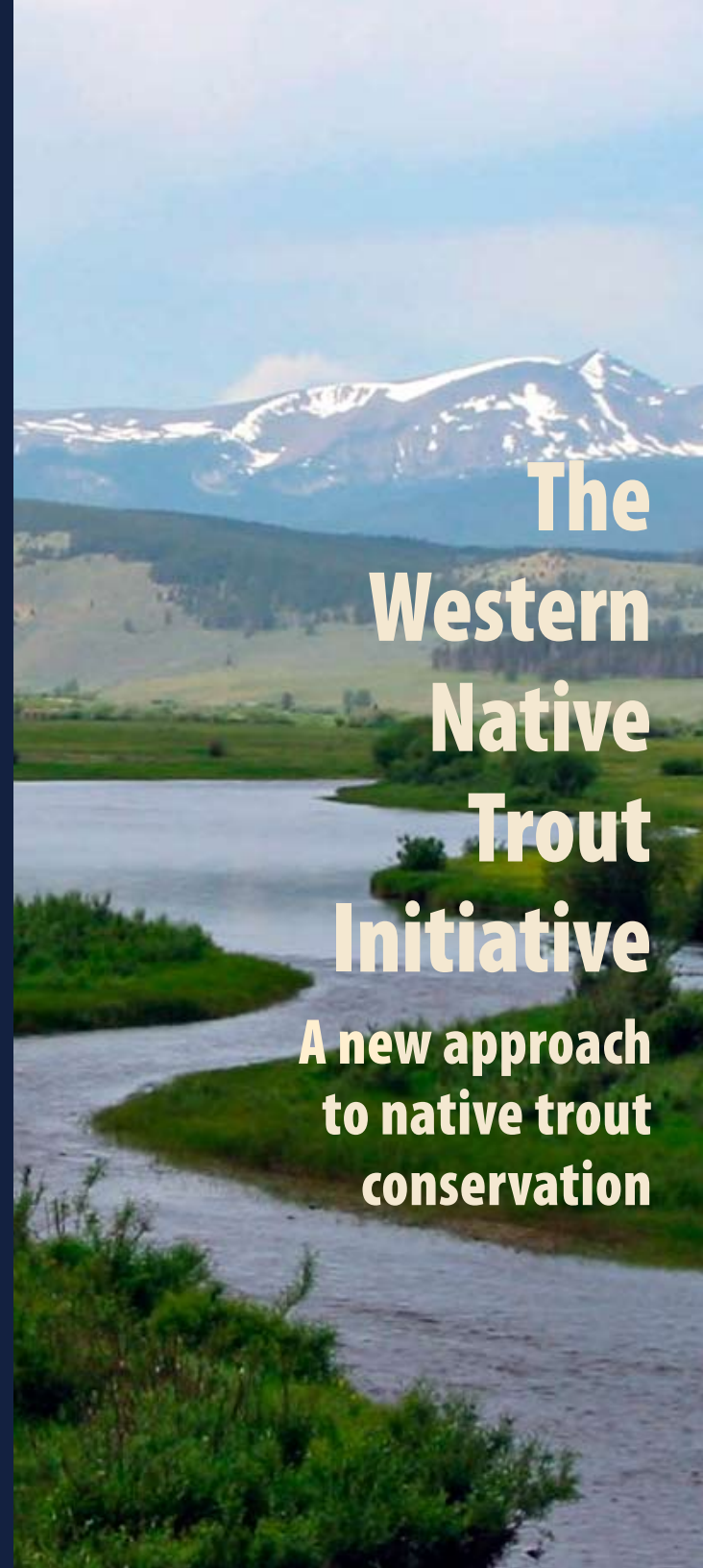
Yellowstone cutthroat trout, Joe Tomelleri

- » Scientific assessment of individual native trout species populations and their habitats
- » Implementation of population protection, restoration and management actions
- » Assessing, renovating, and protecting important native trout watersheds and habitats
- » Integration of individual species management ideas into a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for each native trout
- » Development of partnerships and cost share programs to increase the pace and level of management actions
- » Outreach to professionals, landowners, and the general public for support and increase in funding based on specific described needs for western native trout

Visit us at: [Http://westernnativetrout.org](http://westernnativetrout.org)

To become a participating partner please contact:

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The  
 Western  
 Native  
 Trout  
 Initiative  
 A new approach  
 to native trout  
 conservation

*The Gila trout: native to the Gila River, a tributary to the Colorado River in New Mexico and Arizona.*



*Gila trout, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*The Bull trout: native to most major river basins in the Pacific Northwest and western Canada.*



*Bull trout, Wade Fredenberg*

*The Bonneville cutthroat trout: native to a large geographic area, primarily in Utah.*



*Bonneville cutthroat trout, Trout Unlimited*

## **Western Native Trout in Peril**

Native trout are cultural icons of the American West and are integral members of western aquatic ecosystems. However, during the last 150 years, fish populations and their habitats have declined due to habitat alteration, resource extraction, and introduction of non-native species.

Currently, seven species of western native trout have been listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and eight other species have been petitioned at one time or another to be listed as Threatened or Endangered. Increases in management activities are needed to improve the status of these fish.



*Westslope cutthroat trout, Joe Tomelleri*

## **The Western Native Trout Initiative Mission and Goals**

The Mission of the WNTI is to serve as a key catalyst for the implementation of conservation or management actions through partnerships and cooperative efforts that result in improved species status, improved aquatic habitats, and improved recreational opportunities for native trout anglers.

The goals of the Western Native Trout Initiative are to: 1) Protect, enhance, or restore native trout populations; 2) Protect intact watersheds, and enhance or restore habitats that been impacted by human activities or catastrophic events; 3) Develop cooperative joint ventures and increase available funding; 4) Develop and implement effective communication, education, and outreach programs.

**There are 15 species or sub-species of native trout that are included in the Western Native Trout Initiative. To facilitate future actions, the trout have been placed into four geographically based groups:**

- » *Southwest Group* – Apache trout, Gila trout, Rio Grande cutthroat trout
- » *Rocky Mountains Group* – Bonneville cutthroat trout, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Greenback cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout
- » *Great Basin Group* – California and Little Kern Golden trout, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Paiute cutthroat trout, Redband trout
- » *Northwest Group* – Bull trout, Coastal cutthroat trout and Westslope cutthroat trout

## **A New Approach**

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) is implementing a specific, planned approach to western native trout conservation that is consistent with and supports the objectives of the new National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

By pooling the efforts of state, federal, tribal, and private organizations to develop a scientifically-based, nationally-significant effort to reverse the decline of western native trout species, the development of local watershed-based partnerships will boost funding and energize conservation and recovery of native trout at the local and regional level.

As a recognized National Fish Habitat Partnership, WNTI is eligible to receive substantial project funding from the National Fish Habitat Board, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "More Fish" funding campaign.