

Action # 1- Pursue WHA for Bull Trout Spawning Areas

- ▶ Why is Bull Trout a priority?
 - ▶ Indicator Species for the watershed
 - ▶ Blue Listed 'At Risk' Species of High Conservation Concern
 - ▶ Isolated, small population; Unfavourable H₂O temps elsewhere; Interchange of genes truncated due to dams; Habitat degradation
 - ▶ Cold water char; keystone predator status
 - ▶ Rely heavily for spawning/rearing on very few tributaries (Wilson Ck 10%, Dennis Ck 10%, Silverton Ck 70%, Lemon Ck 8%)
 - ▶ BT are assumed to move freely between lake & river

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▶ Habitat Threats

▶ Climate change

- ▶ Warming water (BT require cold water) & decreased tributary water flows
- ▶ Isolated spawning / channels

▶ Wildfire and logging impacts

- ▶ Blacktail Fire 2018, Logging in Silverton & Wilson Creeks
- ▶ Increased sedimentation (eggs in redds smothered)
- ▶ Increased temperatures (slight rise in temp. shifts dominance from BT to rainbow trout)
- ▶ Loss of tributary flows

Action # 1- Bull Trout Spawning Assessments & WHA Status

- ▶ BT Redd Assessments to Date:
 - ▶ SLSS supported Redd studies (2013 – 2016)
 - ▶ Resulted regulatory change to increase catch size to 60 cms. (can spawn at least once before caught)
 - ▶ Silverton Creek provides the majority of annual BT recruitment (regulations say no fishin in Silverton Creek)
 - ▶ SLSS currently seeking funding for updated Redd studies for Silverton and Wilson/Dennis Creeks
- ▶ In 2018, the Village of Silverton submitted an application for a BT WHA for Silverton Creek:
 - ▶ MoF stated recently it was 'top of the list' but awaiting FN review