

Our Projects Relevant to Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery in the Crown

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All documents available at <http://fwresearch.ca>

- Silvester—McLean Cr area road, OHV trail studies
- Evan-Thomas Cr population, movement, critical habitat, angling effects, extirpation
- Critical habitat threat surveys, Alberta native range
- Recovery strategies, action plans, legal action



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Silvester Cr area road-OHV trail studies

- Silvester- pure WSCT; McLean- BLTR critical habitat
- Trail density: high risk to WSCT, BLTR critical habitat
- Silvester: TSS levels → 20%—60% egg & larval mortality
- Sublethal, para-lethal effects on juveniles & adults
- Condition of small juveniles 15% lower 2004 vs. 1978
- **75% recent decline in adult pop'n, 2006-2016**
- Clearcutting, roadbuilding, heavy OHV use continuing



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Evan-Thomas Creek

- Studied by angling & photos intermittently since 1995
- Gifford 2010: ID, habitat, movement, pop'n study [2014]
- 47% of pop'n wintered in 1 barrier falls plunge pool
- Pop'n 108 (95% CL 48-270), 40-gen. extinction risk \approx 75%
- Extirpation confirmed 2017
- Infilled wintering habitat from flood; exotic invasions?



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Threat survey of critical habitats

- Ongoing in AB range, SARA-listed critical habitat (CH)
- Numerous violations of SARA CH provisions throughout
- Castle Parks draft plan CH impacts violate SARA
- Emergency report: several critical habitats @ high risk
- Important improvements to critical habitat also noted



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Recovery strategies, action plans

Legal action

- 2014: Conceptual framework & recovery guidelines
- Goal: Stop extinction, enable stocks to adapt, evolve
- Recover genome, enlarge ALL pop'ns & critical habitats
- Court action forcing SARA Critical Habitat Order
- Court action to force 3-year late SARA Action Plan



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