METADATA
Fish Distribution - Bitterroot National Forest (2005)
(fish_distribution)

Summary (Purpose): This layer depicts fish presence on the Bitterroot National Forest. The purpose of the data is to provide for map display and analysis work.

Description (Abstract): Trout species: Information based on "Fish Presence-Absence Sites, Bitterroot National Forest" 2005 version. Species in lakes were categorized using the Bitterroot Mountain Lakes database. Databases maintained by Chris Clancy MtFWP, Hamilton MT. Will be updated and confirmed in the future project areas and monitoring.

 "General" streams have been routed (clipped into pieces) and used in the 2004 creation of the fish presence/absence mapping (by C. Dentino, and J. Comer). Arcs (not routed) were added for the smaller streams.

Streams were sometimes not clipped into smaller pieces for refinement of fish distribution if a true barrier does not exist, because our information on the extent of fish locations are not exact without barriers. Streams tend to be clipped in small enough pieces that the distribution mapped closely matches what was observed on the ground and recorded in the database (usually within 0.1 mile, and 90% of the time within 0.3 miles, always (100%) within 0.5 miles). This is close enough as we are often not sure of fish's exact distribution due to seasonal differences or small subpopulations.

Stream sections between data points (observations) were generally assigned the species upstream of the data point unless barriers to upstream migration have been noted, or unless major changes in habitat are known. Major changes often occur where a change in ownership occurs (Forest to Private) or where dewatering occurs. Perennial streams below lakes we generally given the fish species of the lake to the point where data had been collected. If hybrid fish were observed, both species of the hybrid were marked as present. For example, if ct x rb hybrids were found in a section of stream the stream would be mapped as containing both cutthroat and rainbows.

"Cutthroat" refers to Westslope Cutthroat Trout. Some areas are known to have cutthroat (Rock Creek above Elk Lake), but there fish appear to be a non-native cutthroat that was probably stocked in the headwater lakes. Information for non-native fish is much less complete than the native fish information.

Amphibian information is not complete.

Based on Maxell (2004), and "Fish Presence-Absence Sites, Bitterroot National Forest" 2005 version. Database maintained by Chris Clancy MtFWP, Hamilton MT.

Attributes:

y=present

s=seasonal or migratory only, and more than very rare or unlikely use

n=not observed

CUTTHROAT: "y"/"s"/"n" to indicate whether or not Westslope Cutthroat Trout are found in this stream segment.

BULL_TROUT: "y"/"n" to indicate whether or not Bull Trout are found in this stream segment.

BROOK: "y"/"n" to indicate whether or not Brook Trout are found in this stream segment.

R_BOW: "y"/"n" to indicate whether or not Rainbow Trout are found in this stream segment.

BROWN: "y"/"n" to indicate whether or not Brown Trout are found in this stream segment.

AMPHIB: Data is incomplete.

    wt=western toad present

    sf=spotted frog present

    tf=tailed frog present

    ls=long-toed salamander present

Coordinate System:

    Type: Projected

    Geographic Coordinate Reference: GCS North American 1983

    Datum: D_North_America_1983

    Projection: NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_11N

    Unit: Meters

Use Limitation: The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy; accurate only at certain scales; based on modeling or interpretation; incomplete while being created or revised; etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify or replace GIS products without notification.