

**Title:**

North Fork Tieton River Fish Surveys

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The North Fork Tieton River is a fourth-order tributary of Rimrock Reservoir originating in the Goat Rocks Wilderness Area. Underwater surveys were conducted during the fall of 2004 to determine the relative abundance and distribution of the fish species present in the stream. Teams of snorkelers, surveyed 11.4 continuous kilometers extending from Clear Lake upstream into the wilderness. The work was conducted nocturnally. Species present included mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and sculpin (*Cottus* spp.). In all, 3448 fish (all size classes) were observed and counted. Mountain whitefish were the most abundant species present (61%) followed by brook trout (18%), sculpin (10%), cutthroat (6%), and rainbows (5%). Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) were also found in the North Fork. Thirteen fish believed to be pure-bred bull trout were observed as well as 11 possible hybrids. Tissue samples were taken from five of the former and six of the latter for genetic analysis.