

2023 State of the Teton River Fishery

“Rivers are places that renew our spirit, connect us with our past, and link us directly with the flow and rhythm of the natural world.”

- *Ted Turner*



Brian Van Winkle
Fisheries Program Director

A scenic landscape photograph of a river flowing through a valley with mountains in the background. The river is in the foreground, surrounded by lush green grass and bushes. In the distance, there are blue mountains under a cloudy sky. The image is partially obscured by a white diagonal shape on the right side.

OUR MISSION:

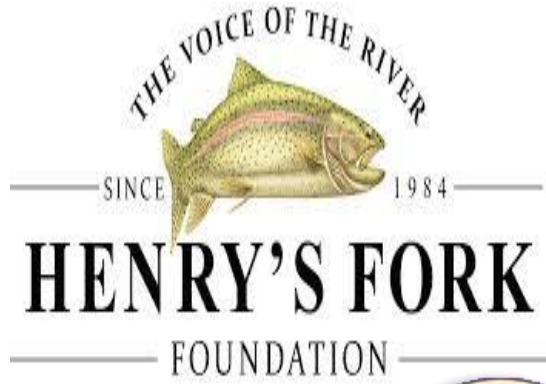
- ▶ At Friends of the Teton River our mission is to restore and conserve the Teton River Watershed, ensuring a lasting legacy of clean water, healthy streams, and a thriving wild fishery.
- ▶ We implement programs and projects founded on sound science, community education, and cooperation with landowners, citizens and agency partners.



FTR's Fisheries and Monitoring Goals.

- ▶ Determine long-term trout population trends.
- ▶ Provide the Agency's with additional data on the Teton River Watershed.
- ▶ Identify, prioritize, design, and implement YCT conservation projects.
- ▶ Monitor the efficacy of restoration projects.

Our Partners

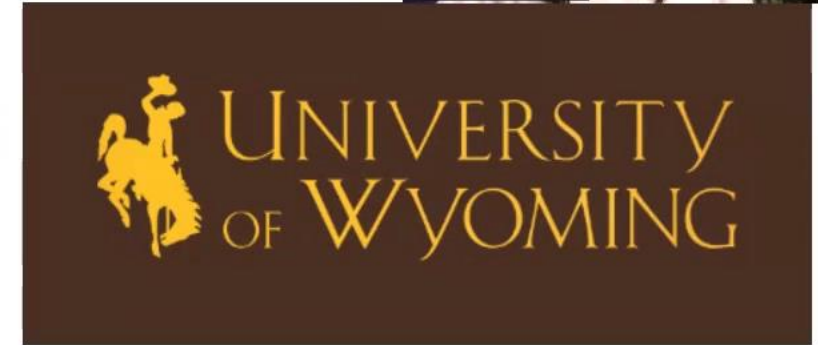


BUREAU OF RECLAMATION





YELLOWSTONE
CUTTHROAT X
RAINBOW TROUT
GENETICS
HYBRIDIZATION
STUDY

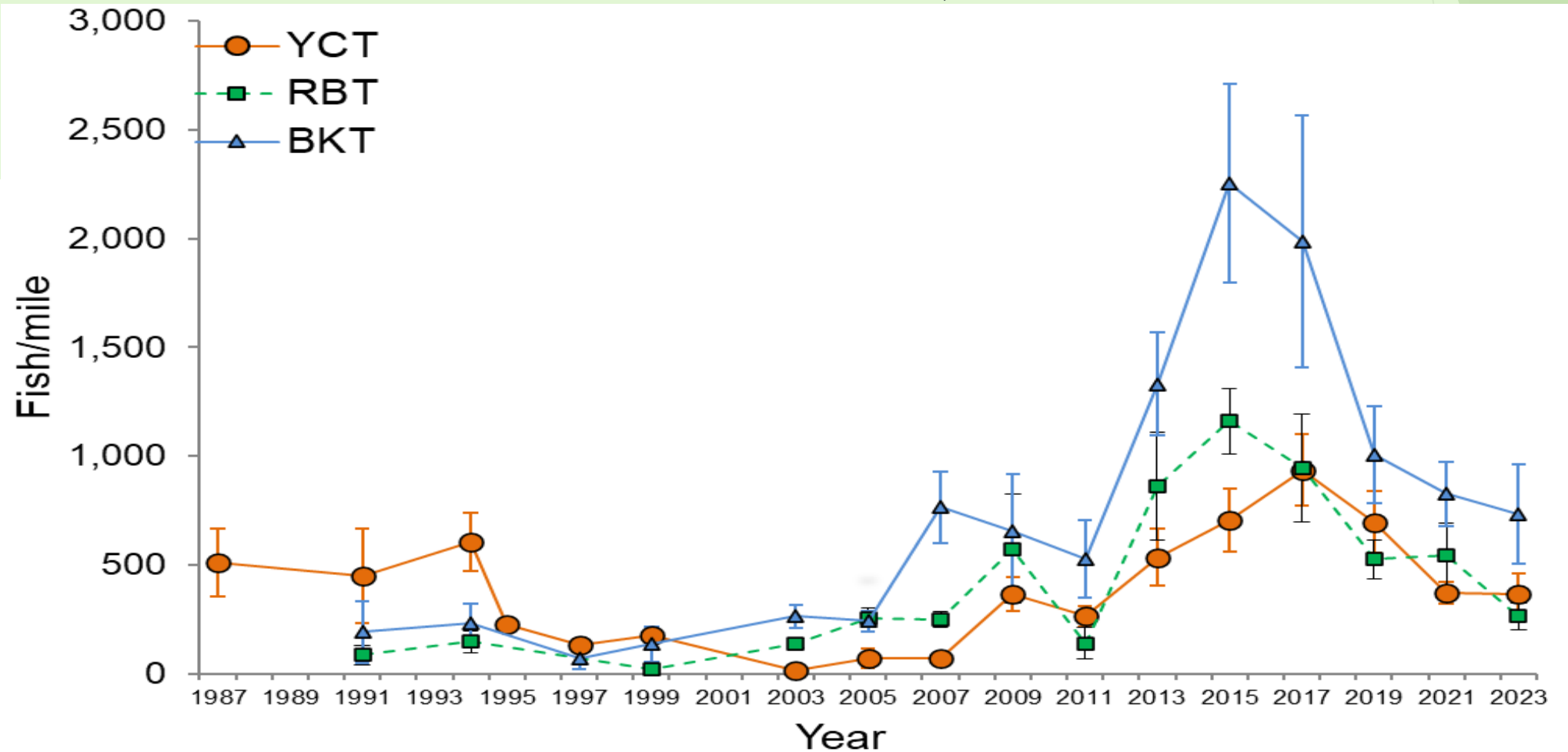


State of the Fishery 2024

Maria Rodriguez, MS student

NICKERSON REACH POPULATION ESTIMATE

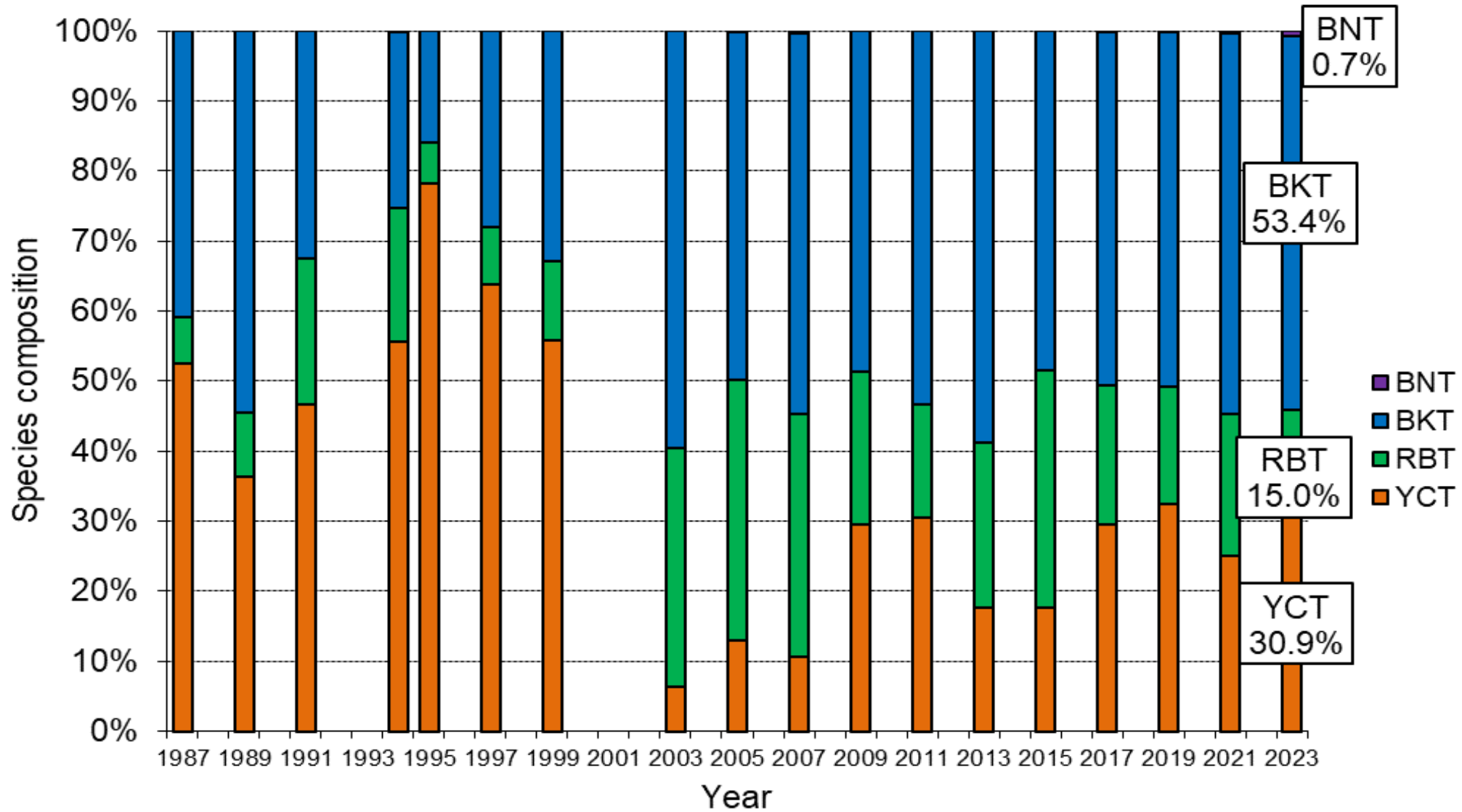
SOUTH BATES TO BATES, TETON RIVER



Estimated abundance (trout/mi) of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT), Rainbow Trout (RBT), and Brook Trout (BKT) in the Teton River at the Nickerson reach from 1987 through 2023.

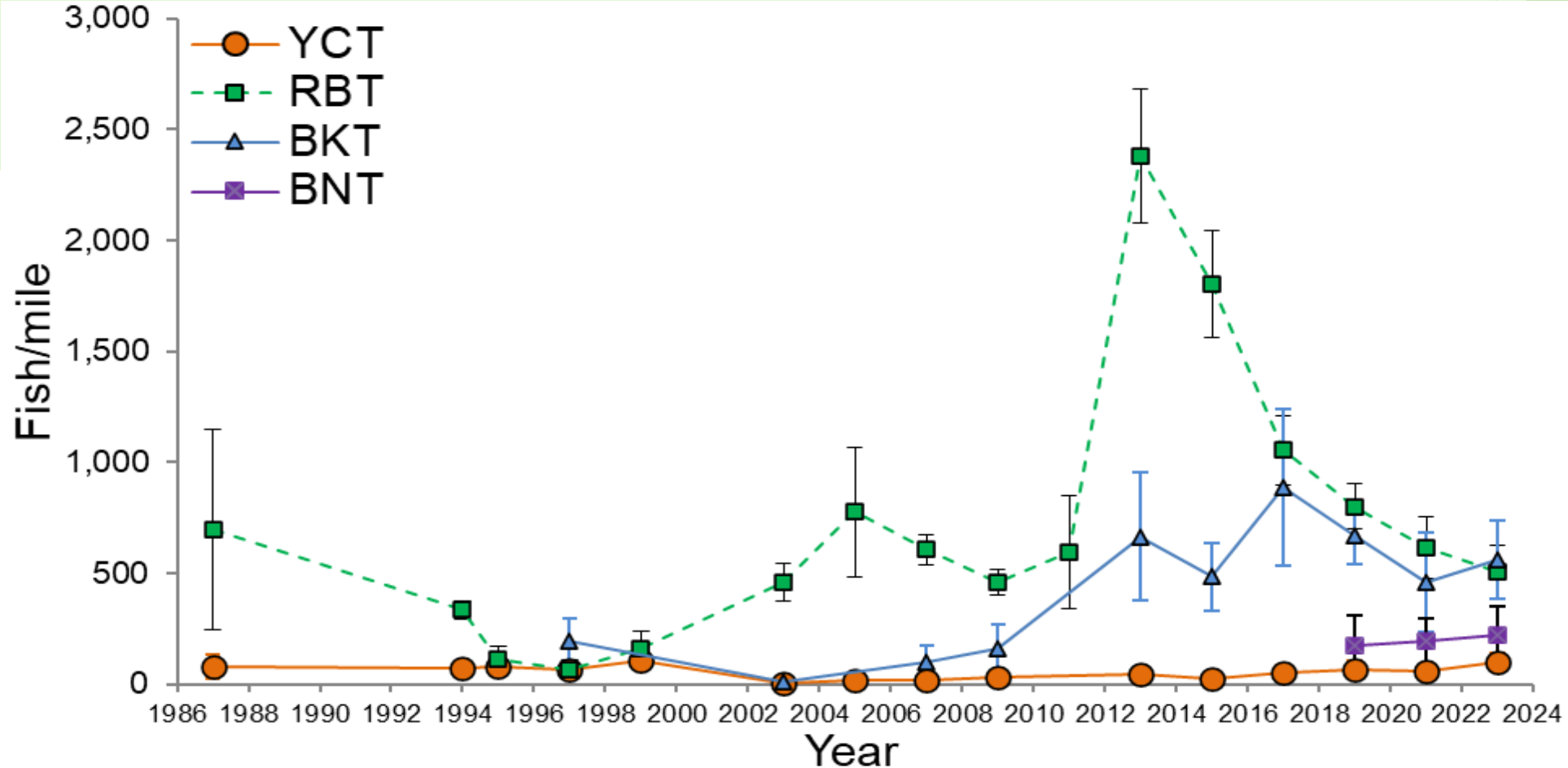
The data, graph, and data analysis in this graphic was created by the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

Nickerson Reach Species Composition



BRECKENRIDGE REACH POPULATION ESTIMATE

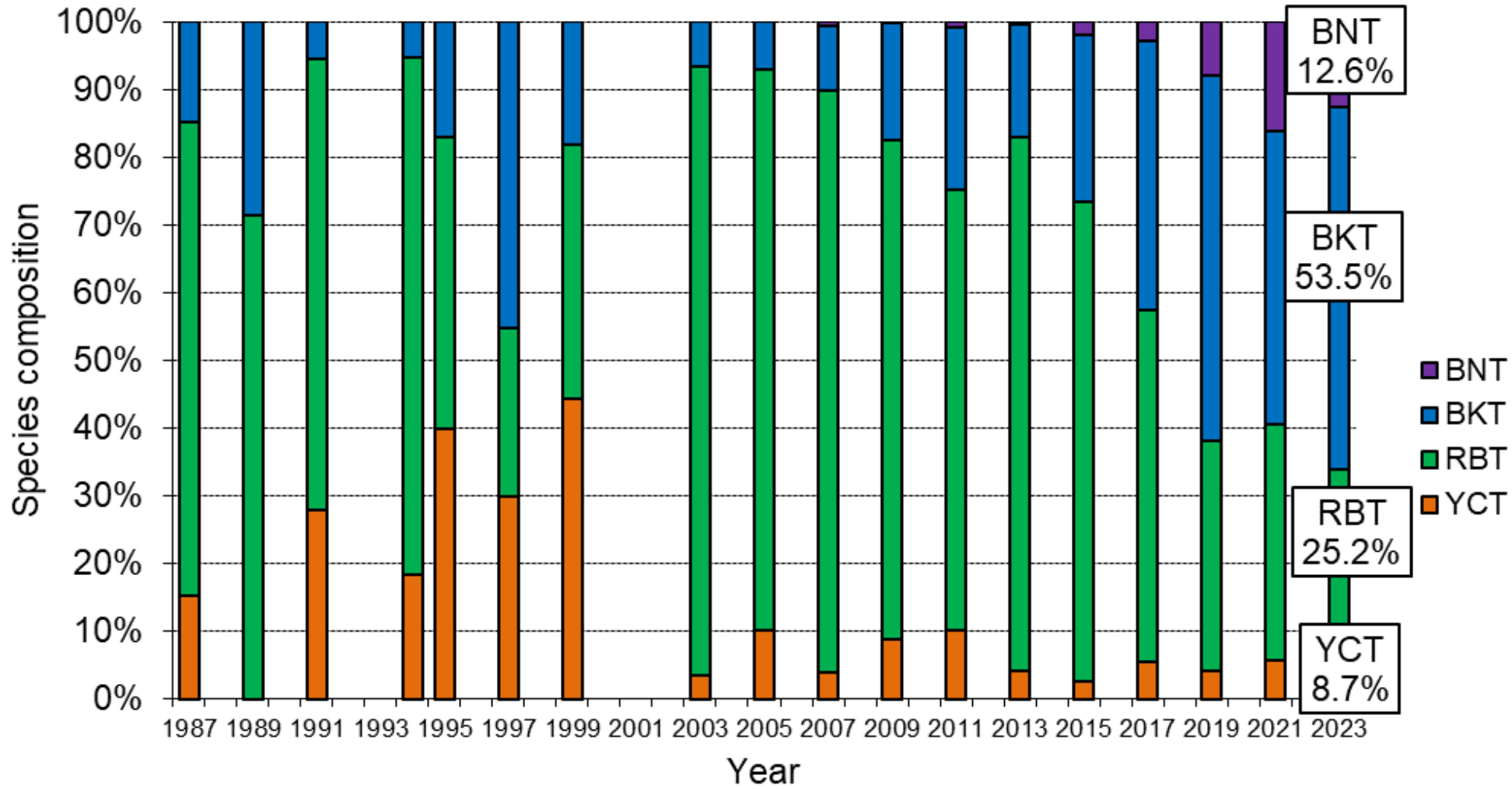
PACKSADDLE TO HARROPS BRIDGES, TETON RIVER



Estimated abundance (trout/mi) of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT), Rainbow Trout (RBT), Brown Trout (BNT), and Brook Trout (BKT) in the Teton River at the Breckenridge reach from 1987 through 2023.

The data, graph, and data analysis in this graphic was created by the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

Breckenridge Species Composition





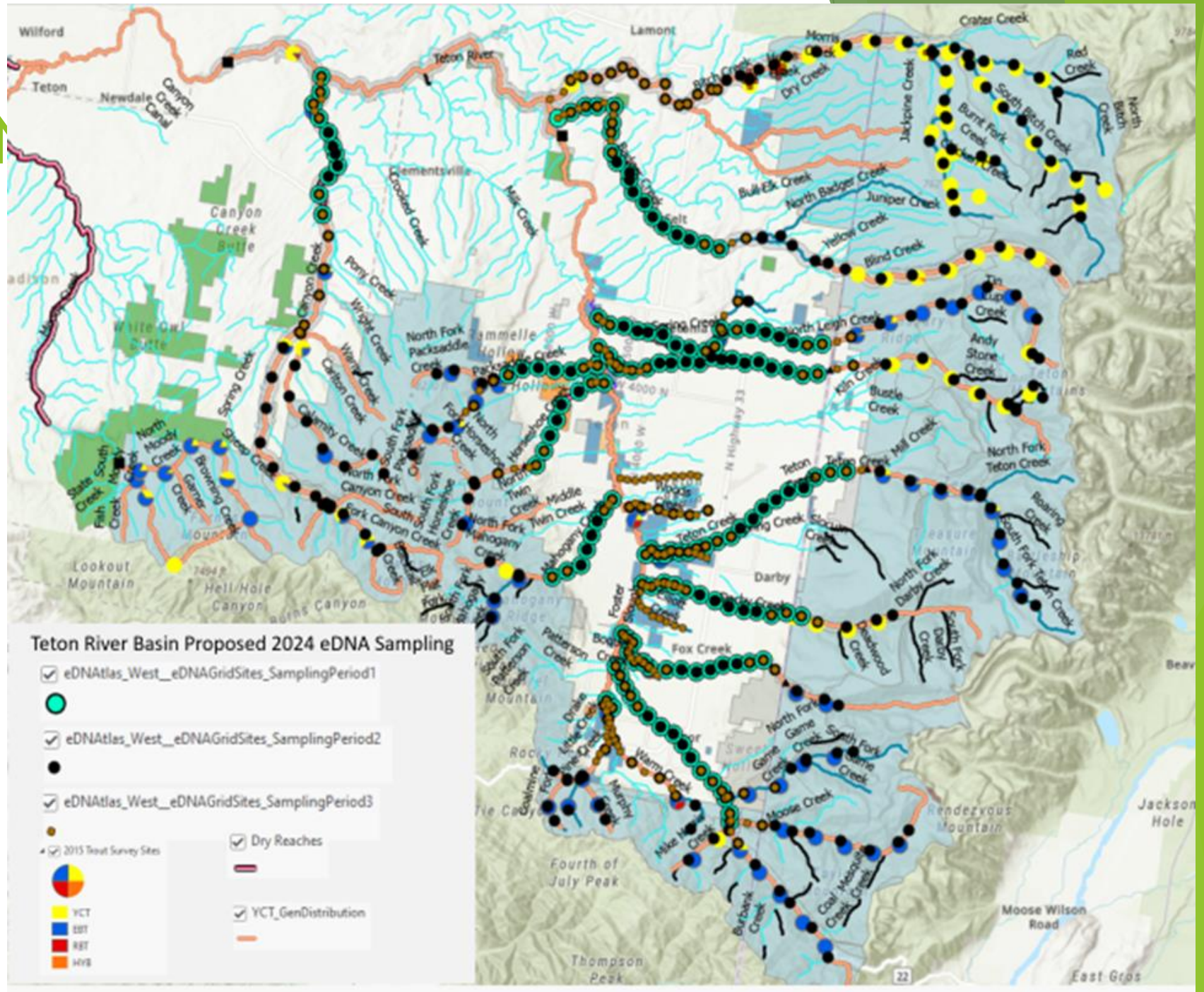


Fish Screen Success!



BIL-Funded eDNA River Basin

► Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling creates a modeling tool to monitor, predict, prevent, and potentially eradicate aquatic invasive species.

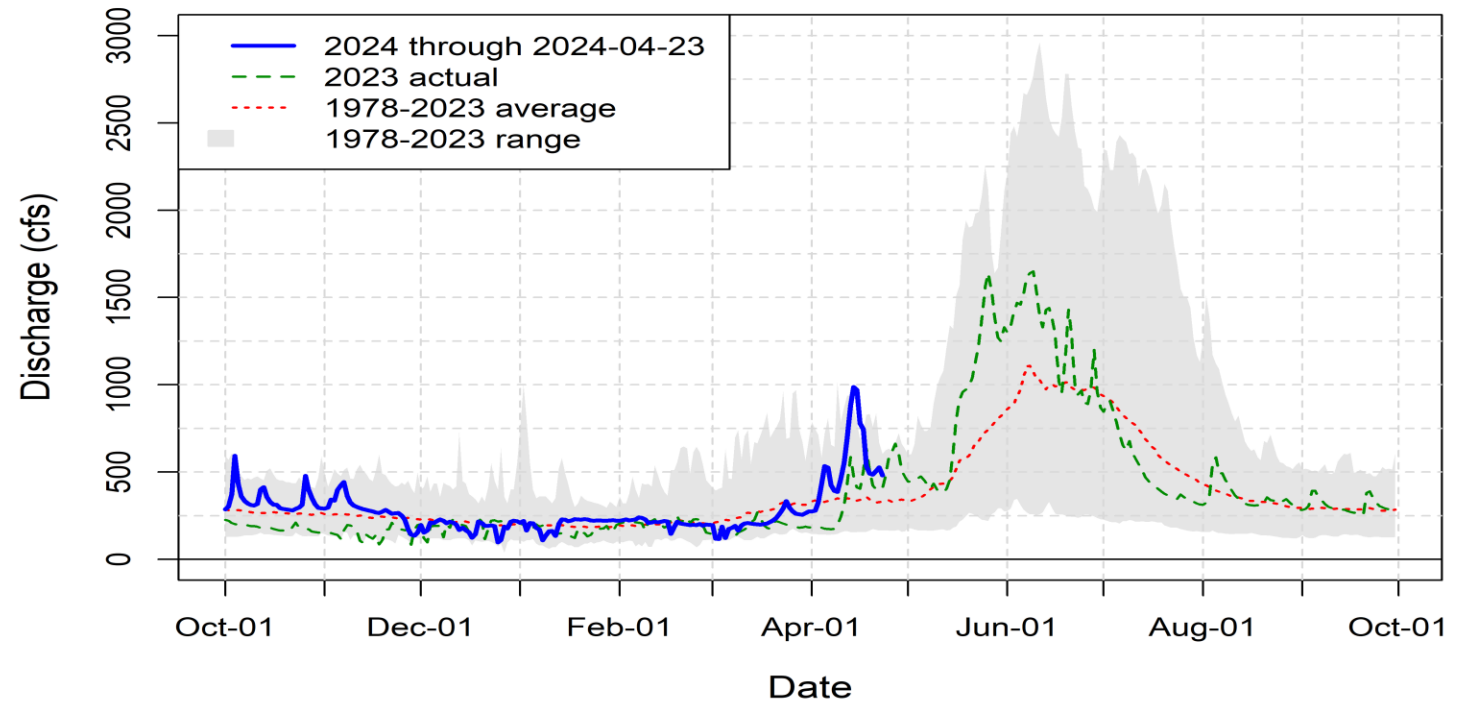




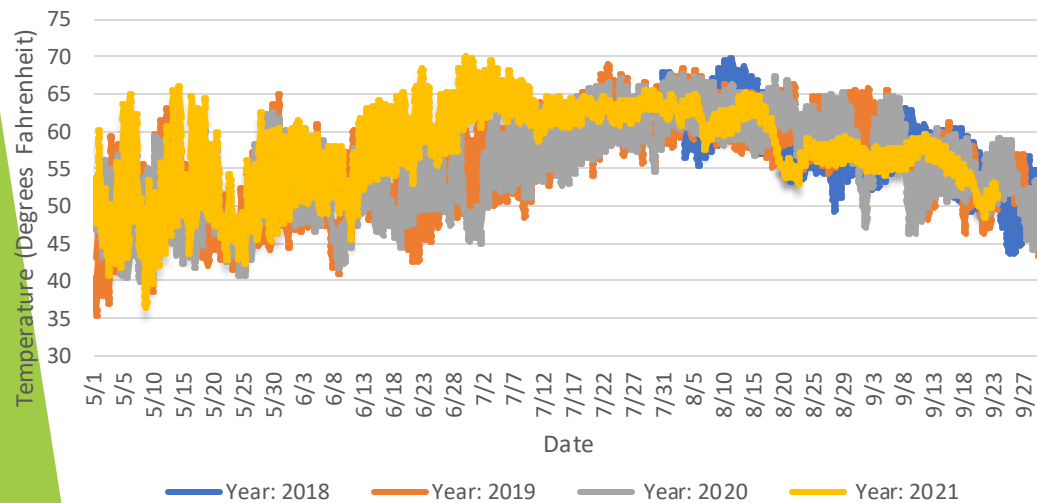
Climate Impacts

► Earlier than average peak streamflow predicted with climate change, which could provide advantages to RBT.

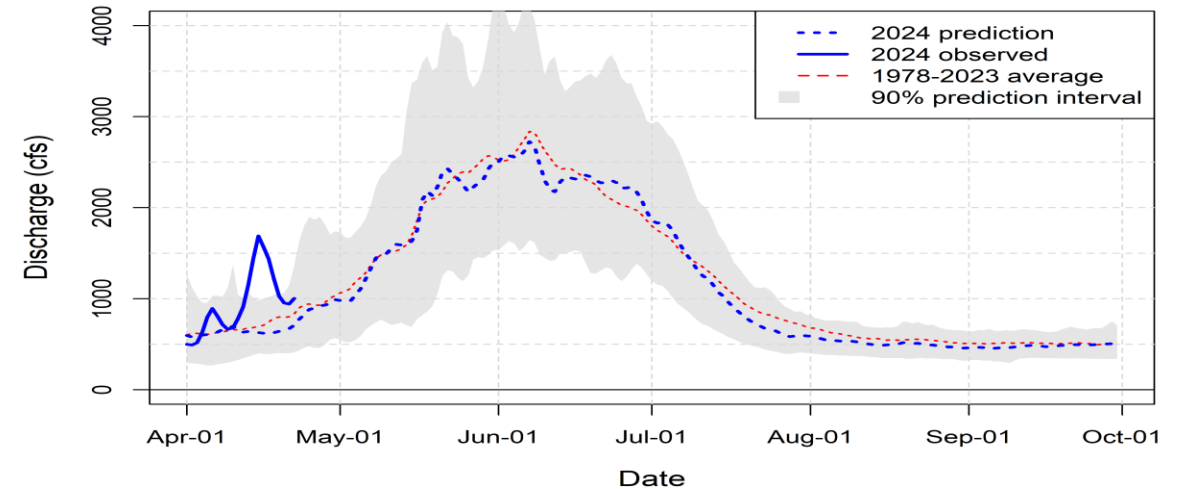
Teton River ab. South Leigh Creek



Stream Temperature at Teton River Above Teton Creek



Teton River Natural Flow





“A river doesn’t just carry water, it carries life.”

- Amit Kalantri

Take-Home!

- ▶ FTR will continue to monitor the fishery, collect temperature and water quality data, and implement meaningful restoration projects that protect and restore healthy, functioning stream channels.
- ▶ There are a lot of places in this country and the world for that matter, where one can catch a Brown Trout, Brook Trout or Rainbow Trout. However, this ecosystem is the only place in the world you can still catch native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in significant numbers! With our ongoing collaborative research and monitoring we hope to keep it that way.
- ▶ Finally!!! Collaboration is our key to success! We can’t do it without the help and partnerships we have and the ones yet to come.

Contact: brian@tetonwater.org

Join FTR in
the field this
summer!

Fisheries Program Field Tour

Summer 2024
June 20th
9:00am-12:00pm



www.tetonwater.org

Join us to explore **spawning Cutthroat redds, fisheries monitoring infrastructure, stream restoration and managed grazing** at Six Springs Creek with FTR and the Teton Regional Land Trust.

Upper Teton River Restoration Tour

Summer 2024
June 12th
9:00am-12:00pm



www.tetonwater.org

Join FTR staff to view **Streambank Restoration** on the Upper Teton River. Learn how rebuilding streambanks through bioengineering with native plants helps to improve water quality and fish habitat, benefiting all stakeholders in our watershed!

Canyon Creek Project Field Tour

Summer 2024
July 26th
9:00am-11:00am



www.tetonwater.org

The project is underway and improving irrigation diversion structures to seasonally restore up to 70cfs of water to the Canyon Creek Drainage, a major spawning tributary for a source population of **Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout** in the Teton River Watershed. Join us to learn more about this impactful project!