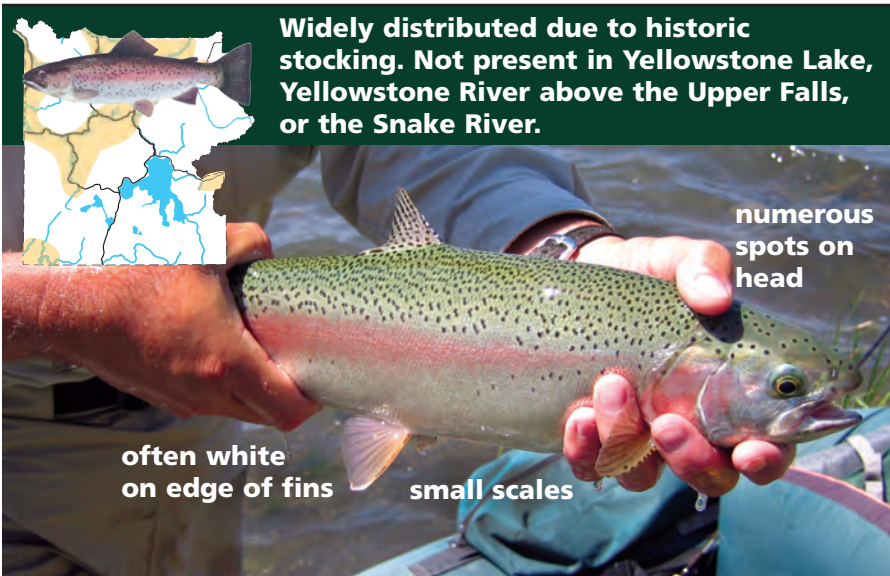


Fish Identification—Nonnative

Rainbow Trout—RT



Cutthroat trout x rainbow trout hybridization



In waters where rainbow trout have been introduced, there has been a serious degradation of the cutthroat trout population through interbreeding. Presently, hybridized cutthroat trout exist throughout the Bechler, Falls, Gallatin, Gardner, and Lamar river drainages, and the Yellowstone River below the Upper Falls.

Hybrids will have characteristics consistent with both species, often making identification difficult. In the Yellowstone and Lamar rivers and tributaries in the Northeast Region of the park, rainbow trout and cutthroat

x rainbow trout hybrids have white tips on the anal and paired pelvic fins and must be killed.

Combating hybridization

Once hybridization occurs, a cutthroat population can only be restored to genetic purity if all fish are removed from a stream and genetically pure cutthroat are reintroduced. To reduce hybridization in cutthroat trout habitat, anglers are encouraged to harvest nonnative trout in the Native Trout Conservation Area.

