

Frequently Asked Questions



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nonnative species. By the mid-20th century, more than 310 million fish had been stocked in the park.

The ranges and densities of the park's native fish species have been substantially altered during the past century, mostly because of introduced nonnative fish.

What are the ecological impacts of cutthroat trout conservation?

Cutthroat trout are the sole native trout of Yellowstone National Park and were the dominant fish species here prior to Euroamerican settlement.

Because cutthroat trout inhabit relatively shallow waters, many animals



More than sixteen species depend on cutthroat trout as a food source.



Why can't we fish from Fishing Bridge?

Fishing Bridge, situated over a cutthroat trout spawning area, was once a popular place to fish. Declining numbers of cutthroat trout caused park officials to close the bridge to fishing to protect the spawning fish.

depend on them as a food source, especially during spring when the cutthroat are spawning in small inlets and tributary streams. In many cases, nonnative fish cannot serve as a substitute for cutthroat trout because they occupy different habitats. For example, lake trout live deep in Yellowstone Lake and are not generally accessible to the park's native fish-eating animals.

Preserving cutthroat trout will help preserve all of the animals that depend upon them as a food source; ensure visitors can continue to see them spawning near Fishing Bridge, LeHardys Rapids, and other places; and make sure future generations will be able to experience them by angling in the many wild, scenic waters the park has to offer.