Influence of Trout Stocking on Tier I/II Fishes
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Project Overview:
Continued pressure to stock non-native trout for recreation has prompted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to evaluate the influences of trout on Tier I/II fishes. Tier I/II fishes are species considered threatened, endangered, at risk, or species where conservation is vital to survival. These species have historically occupied areas where there is pressure to stock trout. Many of these species share habitat, food, and behavioral preferences with trout creating potentially competitive and/or predatory environments. This project aims to provide the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission with the scientific background and understanding necessary to determine the potential outcomes of stocking trout in waters containing Tier I/II species.

Components:
1) Review paper – review current knowledge of impacts of non-native introduced fishes on native fishes (emphasis on salmonids and species of concern)
2) Field Inventory – determine current distributions of trout and Tier I/II fishes throughout Nebraska, determine habitat use and characteristics of each species
3) Controlled experiment – provide further information on potential outcomes of stocking trout in waters containing Tier I/II fishes

Species Collected 2011

Field Inventory Results:
• Sampled 58 streams
• 36 sites contained trout (brook, brown, rainbow)
• 16 sites contained species of concern
• 6 sites contained both trout & species of concern
  ▪ Long Pine Creek (flathead chub, brown trout)
  ▪ Middle Branch Verdigre Creek (blacknose dace, brown trout)
  ▪ Sand Creek (flathead chub, rainbow trout)
  ▪ Short Pine Creek (flathead chub, brown trout, rainbow trout)
  ▪ Snake River (plains topminnow, rainbow trout)
  ▪ West Branch Louse Creek (blacknose dace, brown trout)
• 3 species of concern were never found in presence of trout (finescale dace, pearl dace, N. redbelly dace)
  ▪ Historically found together in 9 of the sites sampled in 2011
    ▪ 5 sites no longer contain trout
    ▪ 3 sites no longer contain SOC
    ▪ 1 site no longer contains either

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