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GMSMON-14, GMSWORKS-8 and GMSWORKS-9

Dinosaur Tributary Habitat Trial Project

Improving fish access to tributaries in the Dinosaur Reservoir

The Peace Water Use Plan Committee recommended habitat improvements be made to the tributaries in Dinosaur Reservoir to address the impact of dam operations and manage the effect that debris build up has had on fish access to tributaries. The objective of the monitoring study and associated physical work projects was to determine if proposed tributary enhancement work was effective in improving conditions for fish habitat.

Questions We Wanted to Answer

1. Is habitat improvement work in Dinosaur Reservoir Tributaries effective at creating fish habitat?
2. Is the environment of created fish habitat able to increase spawning opportunities in Dinosaur Reservoir and is created habitat maintained over time?

Results of the Study

- The feasibility study (GMSWORKS-9) looked at nine tributaries. Accessible habitat was confirmed at seven sites. Barriers to fish access, such as steep gradients or waterfalls, eliminated two of the tributaries as options.
- The study did not find any suitable tributaries for trial enhancement.

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Lessons Learned

- Most of the accessible tributaries were not considered suitable for habitat enhancement due unstable stream and canyon conditions.
- Steep canyon features limit the opportunity for new habitat creation.
- Existing habitat was found to have high value.

Key Findings and Next Steps

- As no feasible options were identified to improve tributary access, the physical works and monitoring study were not implemented with the approval of the Comptroller of Water Rights.