



Snake River headwaters: Improving an icon

Few western rivers enjoy a backdrop as unique and spectacular as the upper Snake River in western Wyoming. Originating near the northern boundary of Grand Teton National Park, the upper Snake flows from the volcanically active Yellowstone Plateau through the dramatic fault-block uplift mountains of the Teton Range. The system of headwater streams and rivers that creates the Snake—eventually the largest tributary to the Columbia River—lies at the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the largest intact functioning ecosystem in the lower 48 states. Some of the most important cottonwood gallery forests in the West are found within this river corridor, and the adjacent forests are strongholds for a diverse assemblage of animals, including large predators like grizzly bears and wolves that have been extirpated from most of their historical habitats in the contiguous U.S. The river is home to several amphibian and native fish species, including a unique mix of native Yellowstone and Snake River finespotted cutthroat trout. Undoubtedly, the Snake and its tributaries around Jackson Hole are keystones in one of the most iconic landscapes in the world. To protect this incredible resource, Trout Unlimited has launched the Snake River Headwaters Home Rivers Initiative, an ambitious new effort to restore and protect the headwaters of the upper Snake River and its fishery. Together with a diverse group of community and agency partners, the new initiative seeks to develop and implement high-priority restoration projects to benefit native trout and their habitats.



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