



That's WY:

Stream restoration in the Cowboy State

**Lara Gertsch
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Stream Restoration 2022
August 1, 2022**



Wyoming Landscape



63+ million acres



70% H₂O from snow



20,000 + perennial stream miles



State owned H₂O



13" of precipitation per year



48% is public land



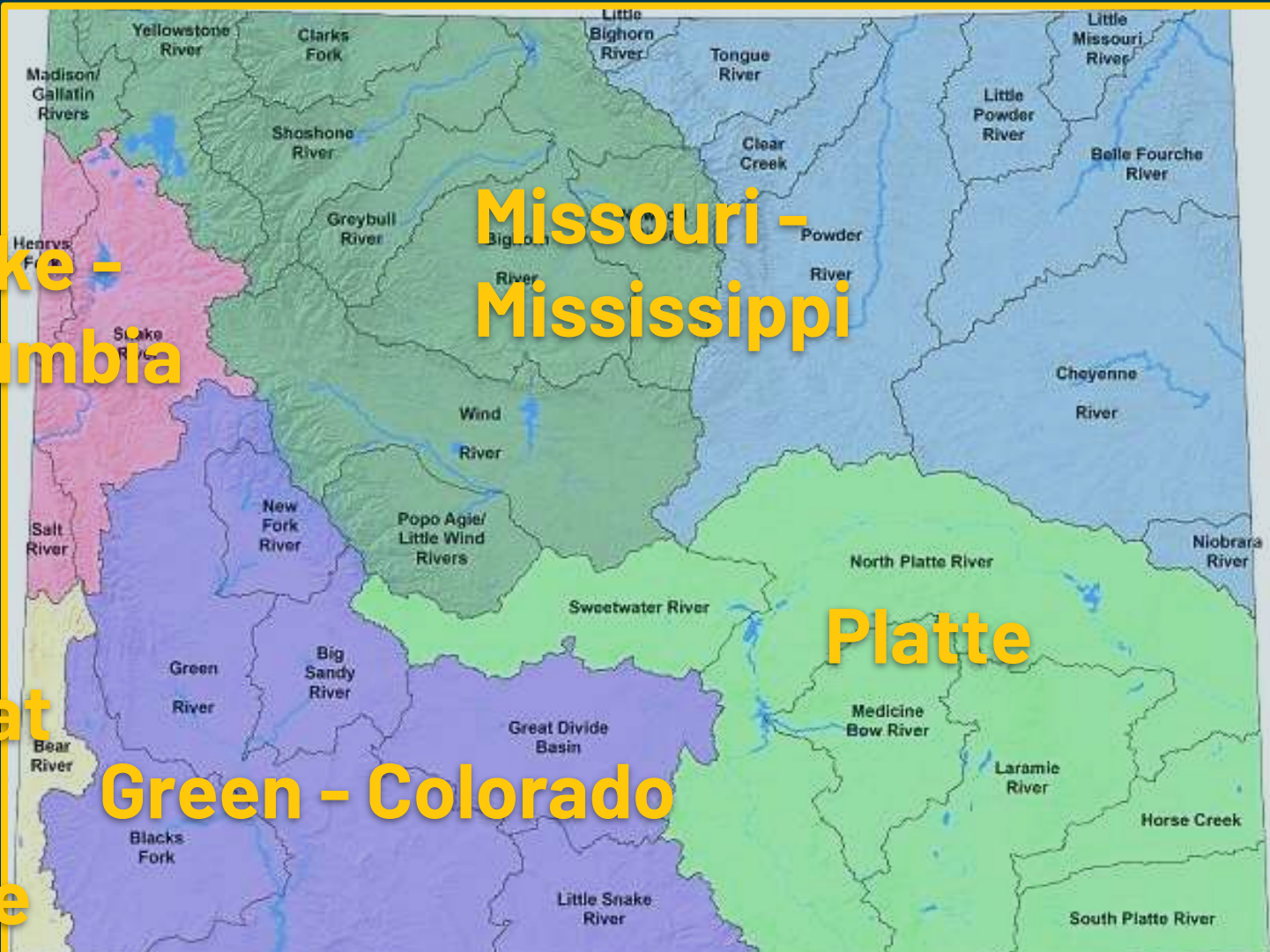
**Snake -
Columbia**

**Great
Salt
Lake**

Green - Colorado

**Missouri -
Mississippi**

Platte



Impacts





WGFD Mission:

Conserving Wildlife and Serving People



THE WORLD NEEDS MORE
COWBOYS

Aquatic Habitat





AHAB Cowboy Perspective?

- Team Work
- Balance Wants
- Prioritize Needs
- Tough



Our History



Aquatic Habitat Section



6 Statewide Staff

7 Regional Biologists



3-4 Seasonal Technicians



Balance Wants

- **Critical vs Enhancement**
- **Native vs Game Species**
- **River vs Stream Restoration**
- **Pioneer vs Outdoor Economy**
- **Public vs Private Benefit**
- **Old School vs Innovation**
- **Access vs Barriers**



How?

Priorities



The Key?

**Step 1: Say "no"
nicely**

Step 2: Say "NO!"





"Big Rocks"

1

**Critical
Habitat
Protection**

2

**Instream Flow
Protection**

3

Fish Passage

4

**Stream
Restoration**





"Small Rocks"

Process Based and Passive Restoration

Beaver Transplants

Environmental Commenting

Extension Services

Assessments

Public Outreach

Public access

Training



Annual Report 2021

Statewide Habitat Plan



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

May 2022

*Conserving Wildlife
Serving People*

Aquatic Habitat
Terrestrial Habitat
Habitat and Access Branch
Lands Administration
Wyoming Landscape
Conservation Initiative
Statewide Communications
Habitat Protection Program

Average Yearly "Big Rocks"

- Stream Restoration - 3.5 Miles
- In-stream Flow Filings - 5.4 Miles
- Fish Passage - 61.5 Miles connected
- Funding and In-Kind Partners -20
- Spending Ratio - >\$3:\$1
- Total Projects - 38





2021 "Small Rocks"

- 44 BDAs and Zeedyks
- 1 mile Riparian Fence
- ~21,000 Trees Planted
- 26 Beaver Transplants
- 45 Assessments



Stream Restoration 2021



**Assessment
58.5**

**Implementation
3.5 miles**

**Monitoring
21 Miles**



Riding Flank and Drag



Private Landowners



Examples



Flat Creek

Sunlight



Flat Creek



Sunlight

- **Protect Historic WGFD Property**
- **Prevent Channel Migration**
- **Reduced Sediment Inputs by 4,000 tons/yr**

What Makes This Unique

- **Added substantial stream length**
- **Planted 70,000 willows**
- **Moose**



Tough

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE
COWBOYS



Questions?

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Thank You

