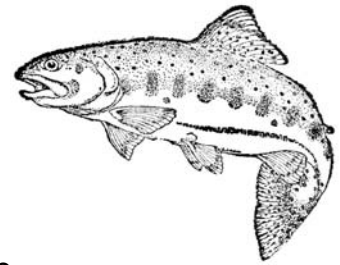


CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT

INFORMATION LEAFLET



RECOVERY PROGRAM 2009

HISTORY

The Kern River drainage is unique in that golden trout evolved here and nowhere else. In recognition of its great beauty, the golden trout was designated the State Fish of California in 1947. The California golden trout (GT-C) is one of two subspecies of golden trout, and is currently listed as a Sensitive Species and Species of Special Concern. Past introductions of non-native fish into the golden trout habitat have resulted in crossbreeding or hybridizing with rainbow trout, and predation by and competition for habitat with brown trout, so that now the California golden trout occupies less than 10% of its original range. Without the intervention of concerned agencies and fishing groups, this unique trout could face extinction. Because of this it has been petitioned for listing as Endangered.

COOPERATIVE RECOVERY PLAN

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Inyo National Forest, Sequoia National Forest and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are working together to restore California golden trout to its native habitat in Golden Trout Creek and the South Fork Kern River. Since 1975, non-native trout have been removed from many miles of stream, and 3 artificial barriers have been constructed in the South Fork Kern River to prevent the upstream travel of non-native fish. In addition, non-native fish in the headwater lakes of the Golden Trout Creek watershed have been removed. Numerous erosion control structures have been completed to restore degraded habitat, and two cattle grazing areas, the Whitney and Templeton allotments, are being rested from grazing for at least 10 years to allow for the recovery of fragile stream banks and meadows.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Transplanting fish is illegal and subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and a year in jail, and can only hinder the full recovery of the California golden trout. If you see anyone illegally moving fish, call 1-888-334-2258 and provide a confidential report to the DFG.

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PLANS FOR 2009

With the completion of the Schaeffer Barrier near Monache Meadows in 2003, efforts to reduce the numbers of brown and rainbow trout will continue. These non-native fish will be removed from the Strawberry Stringer area and the South Fork Kern River just downstream of the Templeton Barrier. Monitoring of the rested and grazed allotments will continue with data collection focusing on important riparian (river bank) and meadow components. The Forest Service will continue headcut restoration in Groundhog Meadow. Population monitoring of golden trout will occur in Tunnel and Little Whitney meadows. California Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service are coordinating with volunteers from various fishing and conservation groups in 2009 to accomplish these tasks.

FISHING INFORMATION

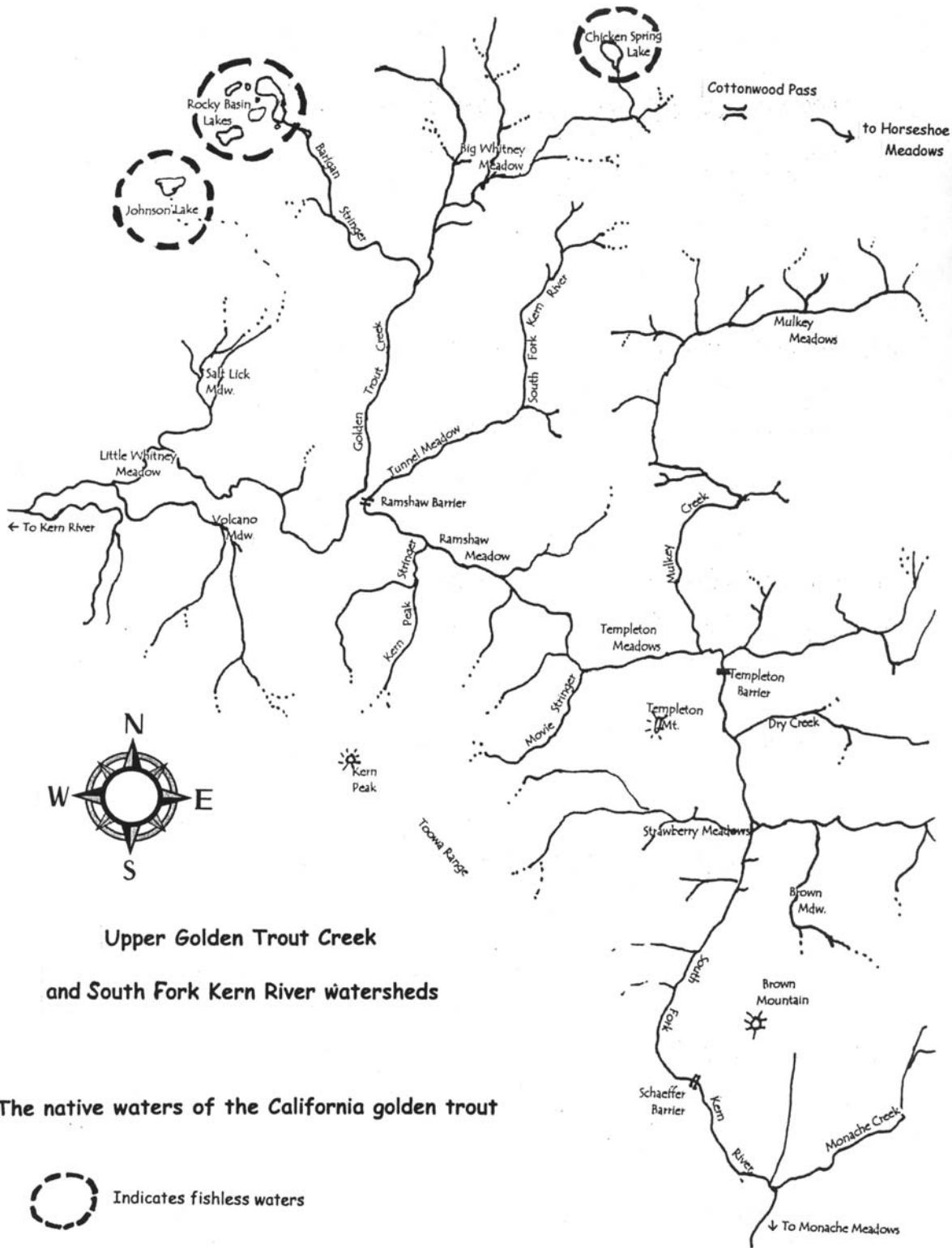
The South Fork Kern River and Golden Trout Creek drainages within the Golden Trout Wilderness are open to fishing from the last Saturday in April to November 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks can be used. The daily bag and possession limit is 5 trout. A map of the California golden trout waters is shown on the back of this leaflet. Rocky Basin, Johnson and Chicken Spring Lakes are currently fishless, since the non-native trout in these lakes have been removed. Stocking of some of these lakes with genetically pure California golden trout is proposed for the future.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP??

Trout Unlimited, CalTrout, the Federation of Fly Fishers and many local fly fishing groups have teamed up with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Inyo National Forest to help with restoration projects aimed at protecting the California golden trout. If you are interested in participating in any of these exciting venues, call Howard Kern, volunteer coordinator, at 310-772-7033, or contact him by e-mail at: howardkern@roadrunner.com, and check the golden trout web page at www.californiagoldentrout.org. For further information on California golden trout management, contact:

Christy McGuire, California Department of Fish and Game, at 760-376-6502; cmcguire@dfg.ca.gov, or Lisa Sims, Inyo National Forest, at 760-873-2447; lsims@fs.fed.us.





**Upper Golden Trout Creek
and South Fork Kern River watersheds**

The native waters of the California golden trout

 Indicates fishless waters