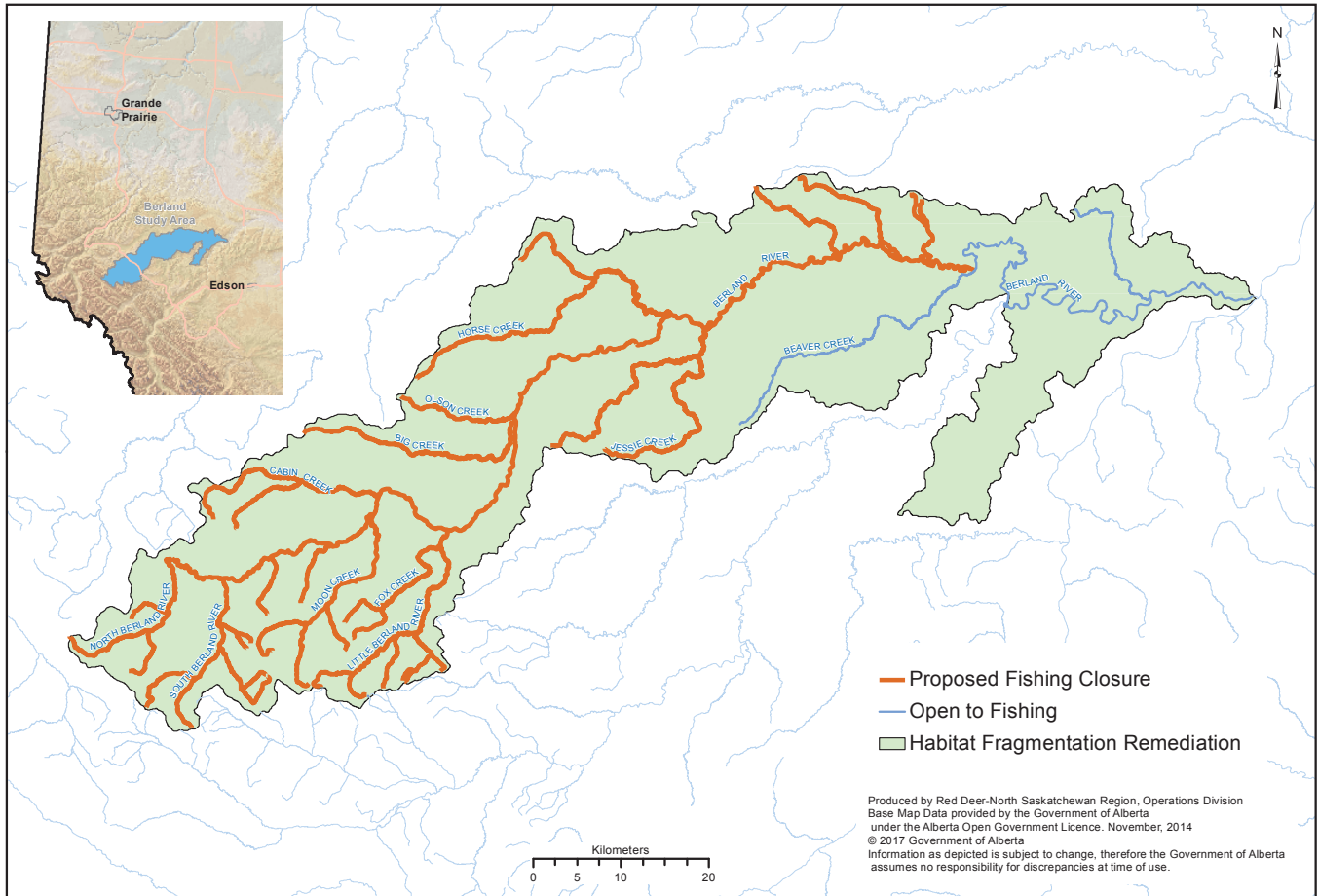


NORTH CENTRAL NATIVE TROUT RECOVERY PROGRAM



The North Central Native Trout Recovery Program is a long term initiative to recover native trout and whitefish in the central and northern East Slopes of Alberta. During the Program, management actions will be implemented in focal watersheds, with successful management actions applied in subsequent watersheds over time. The Program is part of an integrated provincial Fisheries Management approach, which means it is linked to the Provincial bull trout and Athabasca rainbow trout recovery planning processes, whirling disease and invasive species management, and the provincial Roadway Watercourse Crossings Remediation program.

BERLAND RIVER WATERSHED

The Berland River watershed extends from its headwaters in Wilmore Wilderness Park downstream to the confluence with the Athabasca River. Historically, native fish in the Berland River were abundant and distributed throughout the watershed. However, using information collected from standardized surveys, bull trout, Athabasca rainbow trout, Arctic grayling and mountain whitefish populations are currently considered at moderate-to-high risk of local extirpation. Based on the best available science, these species are currently limited by four key threats: mortality from fishing (catch & release and harvest), poaching, habitat fragmentation (barriers that prevent fish movement), and reduced water quality (due to higher sediment loads).

Fisheries Management Objective

The fisheries management objective for the Berland River watershed is to establish and maintain a sustainable fishery for bull trout, Athabasca rainbow trout, Arctic grayling and mountain whitefish. To achieve this objective, the Government of Alberta will recover fish populations by implementing management actions that address the 4 key threats identified above.

Management Actions

- 1. Address fishing mortality:** A fishing closure is proposed for the Berland River watershed on the river and tributaries upstream of, but not including, Beaver Creek (see map above).
- 2. Address poaching:** Fisheries Management is working with enforcement agencies to ensure fishing closures are effective.
- 3. Address habitat fragmentation:** Coordinated, multi-agency, watershed focused, road crossing remediation plans will continue to be developed to remove fish movement barriers, such as hanging culverts.
- 4. Address water quality:** Mitigation of point sources of sediment and phosphorous runoff associated with roads and road stream crossing.



Berland River main stream



Bull trout hiding Berland River

Next Steps–2017/2018

Fish Population Assessment: Standardized electrofishing surveys will be conducted to assess current fish abundance and distribution. This information will allow Fisheries Biologists to evaluate the success of management actions and track population recovery.

Water Temperature Assessment: Water temperature will be assessed throughout the watershed to identify areas that provide thermally suitable habitat for bull trout, Athabasca Rainbow trout and Arctic grayling.

Roadway Stream Crossing Inspections: Standardized inspections of culverts and bridges to locate barriers to fish movement and sedimentation concerns due to erosion.

Stream Crossing Remediation: Fish barriers and stream sedimentation caused by road stream crossing will be repaired to facilitate fish movement and to reduce fish habitat fragmentation and sedimentation.

Fisheries Management Public Survey: We want to hear from you! An online public survey will be posted to invite Albertans to comment on the proposed temporary fishing closure.



Raised culvert

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Mywildalberta.ca
aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/default.aspx