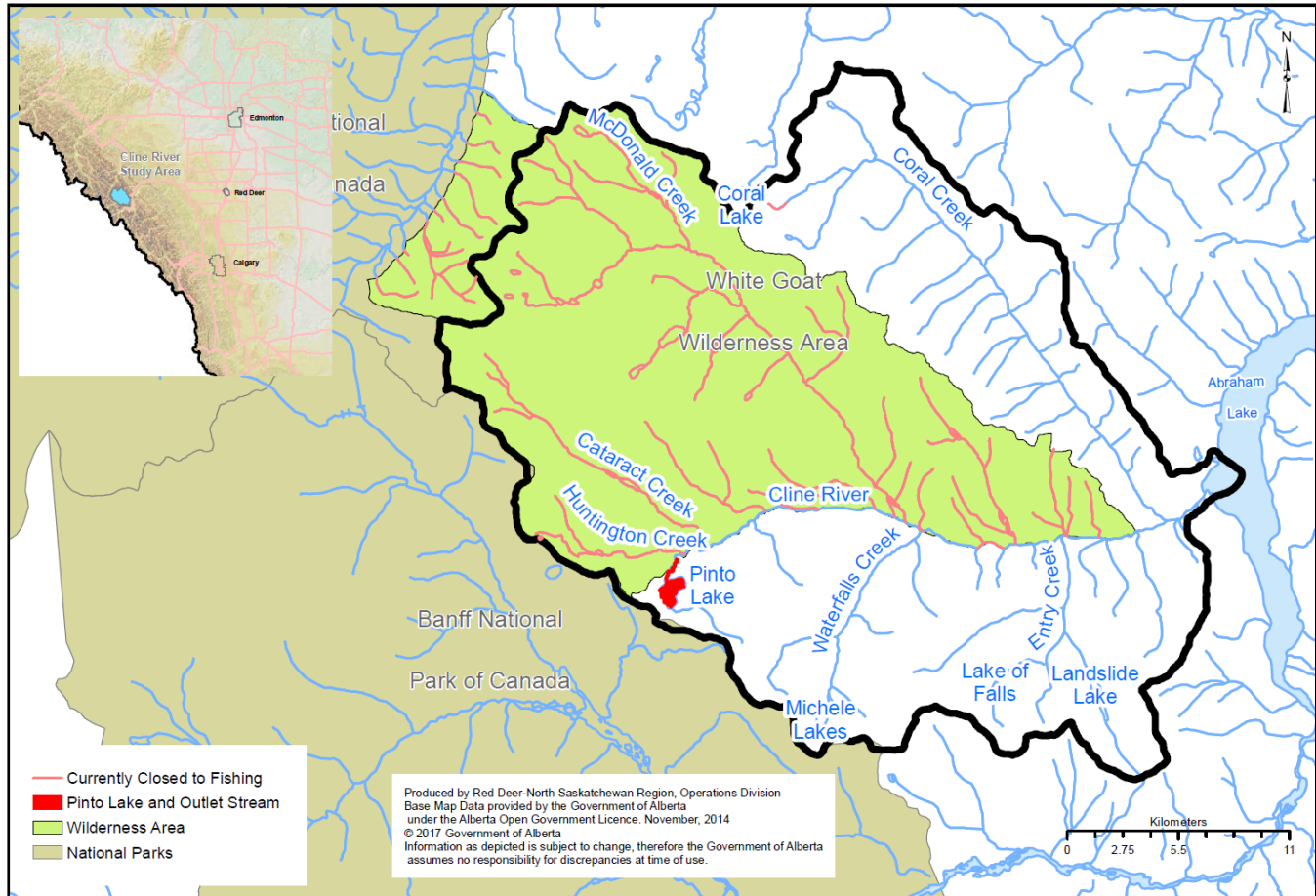


# NORTH CENTRAL NATIVE TROUT RECOVERY PROGRAM



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 Crossing Remediation program.

## PINTO LAKE

Pinto Lake is located at the headwaters of the Cline River watershed, immediately east of Banff National Park. Pinto Lake contains a unique native lake-dwelling population of bull trout which spawns in the outlet of the lake. Angling is currently prohibited in the lake and outlet to protect the population. Recent surveys have indicated that the average size and condition of adult bull trout in Pinto Lake has decreased, and that the abundance of immature bull trout in the outlet stream has declined from historical levels. Based on the best available science, the population is currently limited by two key threats: non-native cutthroat trout and poaching. Cutthroat trout, which have recently moved into the lake and are not native to the watershed, compete with bull trout for resources and may prey upon young bull trout.

## Fisheries Management Objective

The fishery management objective for Pinto Lake is to maintain a viable, self-sustaining population of bull trout within the lake. To achieve this objective, the Government of Alberta will recover the population by implementing management actions that address the 2 key threats identified above.

## Management Actions

- 1. Address cutthroat trout competition and predation:** Suppression of cutthroat trout in Pinto Lake and the outlet stream. The removal of spawning cutthroat trout from the outlet stream in spring will reduce both the numbers of adults in the lake as well as the reproductive success of the cutthroat trout population.
- 2. Address poaching:** Fisheries Management is working with enforcement agencies to ensure that the fishing closure on Pinto Lake is effective.

## Next Steps – 2017/2018

**Fish Population Assessment:** Standardized electrofishing surveys will be conducted to assess current immature fish abundance in the outlet stream. Trap netting surveys will be conducted to assess current spawning fish abundance. This information will allow Fisheries Biologists to evaluate the success of management actions and track recovery.

**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 management actions.



Overview of Pinto Lake



Bull trout at Pinto Lake



Electro fishing at Pinto Lake to determine health of fish populations

## WEBSITE INFORMATION

[Mywildalberta.ca](http://mywildalberta.ca)  
<http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/default.aspx>