

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/21/2023 12:57:37 AM

First name: Anita

Last name: Vasquez

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Bull Trout is a species at risk because of potentially declining population numbers, habitat and or range. It is G5S2 status. Bull Trout and Brook Trout compete for the same habitat and often interpreted negatively affecting Bull Trout populations. Factors contributing to decline in Bull Trout populations include isolation and defragmentation of habitat. Spawning tributary alterations endanger the fish populations further. Clean, cold water with cobble substrates which make good cover and breeding habitat characteristics exist but are decreasing in their range(s) of Lolo National Forest wilderness. Stream pollution occurs from logging and fires (including natural fire increase from global warming). Their relative density has decreased in many areas. The bull trout needs unaltered more pristine habitat to keep populations intact; these have decreased. Being a gamefish itself is an overall threat to the bull trout especially with over hunting in areas. Bull Trout have enough consistent monitoring in the wilderness Management area to be considered relisting as species of concern.