



HISTORIC AND CURRENT DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF LOST RIVER AND SHORTNOSE SUCKERS

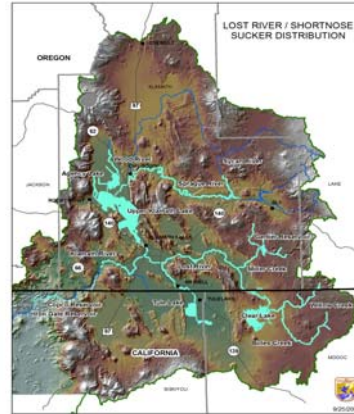
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Historic Distribution



| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Upper Klamath Lake | Tule Lake |
| Williamson River | Lost River |
| Sprague River | Miller Creek |
| Sycan River | |
| Wood River | Clear Lake |
| Crooked Creek | Willow Creek |
| Sevenmile Creek | Boles Creek |
| Fourmile Creek | |
| Crystal Creek | Link River |
| | Lake Ewauna |
| Lake of the Woods | Lower Klamath Lake |
| | Sheepley Creek |

Current Distribution



| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Upper Klamath Lake | Tule Lake | Keno Reservoir |
| Williamson River | Lost River | JC Boyle Reservoir |
| Sprague River | Miller Creek | Copco Reservoir |
| Sycan River | | Iron Gate Reservoir |
| Wood River | Clear Lake | Gerber Reservoir |
| Crooked Creek | Willow Creek | |
| Crystal Creek | Boles Creek | |
| | Link River | |
| | Lake Ewauna | |

Loss of Spawning Groups (Barkley, Harriman, Odessa, and several unnamed springs on the eastside of Upper Klamath Lake)

Historic Status

Based on Anecdotal Information

Cope 1879

Lost River sucker – “It ascends the streams in thousands in the spring, and is taken and dried in great numbers by the Klamath and Modoc Indians.”

Shortnose sucker – “This fish is abundant in Upper Klamath Lake, but it was informed by a Klamath Chief, that it does not ascend the Williamson River in spring with the Lost River sucker and Klamath largescale sucker.”

Cope 1884

Cope noted that Upper Klamath Lake sustained “a great population of fishes” and was “more prolific in animal life” than any body of water known to him at the time.

Howe 1968

Suckers were formerly abundant in Upper Klamath Lake and the Lost River and were a staple food item in the diets of local Indians and early settlers. Sucker runs were so numerous that a cannery was established on the Lost River and several other commercial operations processed enormous amounts of suckers into oil, dried fish, and other products.

Stern 1966

Historically both the Klamath and Modoc Indians utilized the fish present in the Lost River as a food staple. Tule Lake, Clear Lake and the Lost River were all fished intensively for suckers. The shortnose and Lost River suckers made up the bulk of all fish taken for food. The extent of the fishery can be appreciated by the fact that near the present day Olene, a fishery station used by both Modoc and Klamath Indians was said to produce 50 tons a year.

Williams 1985

“Upper Klamath Lake with its primary tributaries, the Williamson and Sprague Rivers, and Tule Lake with its primary tributary, the Lost River, provided habitat for hundreds of thousands or perhaps millions of suckers as recently as the late-1890s.”

Current Status

Based on Scientific Investigation

Upper Klamath Lake

Low tens of thousands of adult Lost River suckers
 Low tens of thousands of adult shortnose suckers
 Few adult age classes (Low recent recruitment)

Clear Lake

Thousands of adult Lost River suckers
 Thousands of adult shortnose suckers
 Multiple adult age classes (Good recruitment, low adult survivorship)

Gerber Reservoir

Thousands of adult shortnose suckers
 No Lost River suckers
 Multiple adult age classes (Good recruitment, low adult survivorship)
 Evidence of extensive hybridization

Tule Lake

Hundreds of adult shortnose suckers
 Hundreds of adult Lost River suckers
 Refuge populations from other sources (Little recruitment)

Lost River

Hundreds of adult shortnose suckers
 No Lost River suckers
 Multiple adult age classes (Unknown recruitment)

Keno, JC Boyle, Copco, and Iron Gate Reservoirs

Hundreds of adult shortnose suckers
 Lost River sucker adults rare
 Refuge populations (No recruitment)