

Status of Four Species Management Units of Coastal Cutthroat Trout in Oregon

Kevin Goodson

Oregon Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Native Fish Status Report

Public Draft

- Key to implementing Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy
- Prioritize conservation plans & address "at risk" Species Management Units.
- Utilizes interim criteria defined in the Native Fish Conservation Policy.
- Conservation risk, not extinction risk, of naturally produced native fish.
- Criteria meant to ensure conservation until conservation plan developed (5 – 10 years).



www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/ONFSR/



Oregon Native Fish Status Report 2005



Public Review Draft

Native Fish Status Report Public Draft

- Assessed 69 Species Management Units (SMUs).
- First use of interim criteria to assess status.
- Coastal cutthroat trout in Oregon comprised four SMUs.
- Populations for coastal cutthroat trout SMUs defined at fourth field hydrologic unit level.
- All life-history strategies considered part of a single population.

Interim Criteria

(In 3 of the last 5 years)

1. Existing Populations
2. Habitat Use Distribution
3. Abundance
4. Productivity
5. Reproductive Independence
6. Hybridization

Limited data led us to interpret the intent of some of the criteria.

Interim Criteria (cont.)

- 1. Existing Populations –**
Coastal cutthroat trout found at 50% of sites sampled or more.
- 2. Habitat Use Distribution –**
Same as first criterion.
- 3. Abundance –** Coastal cutthroat trout have not been below a critical level.

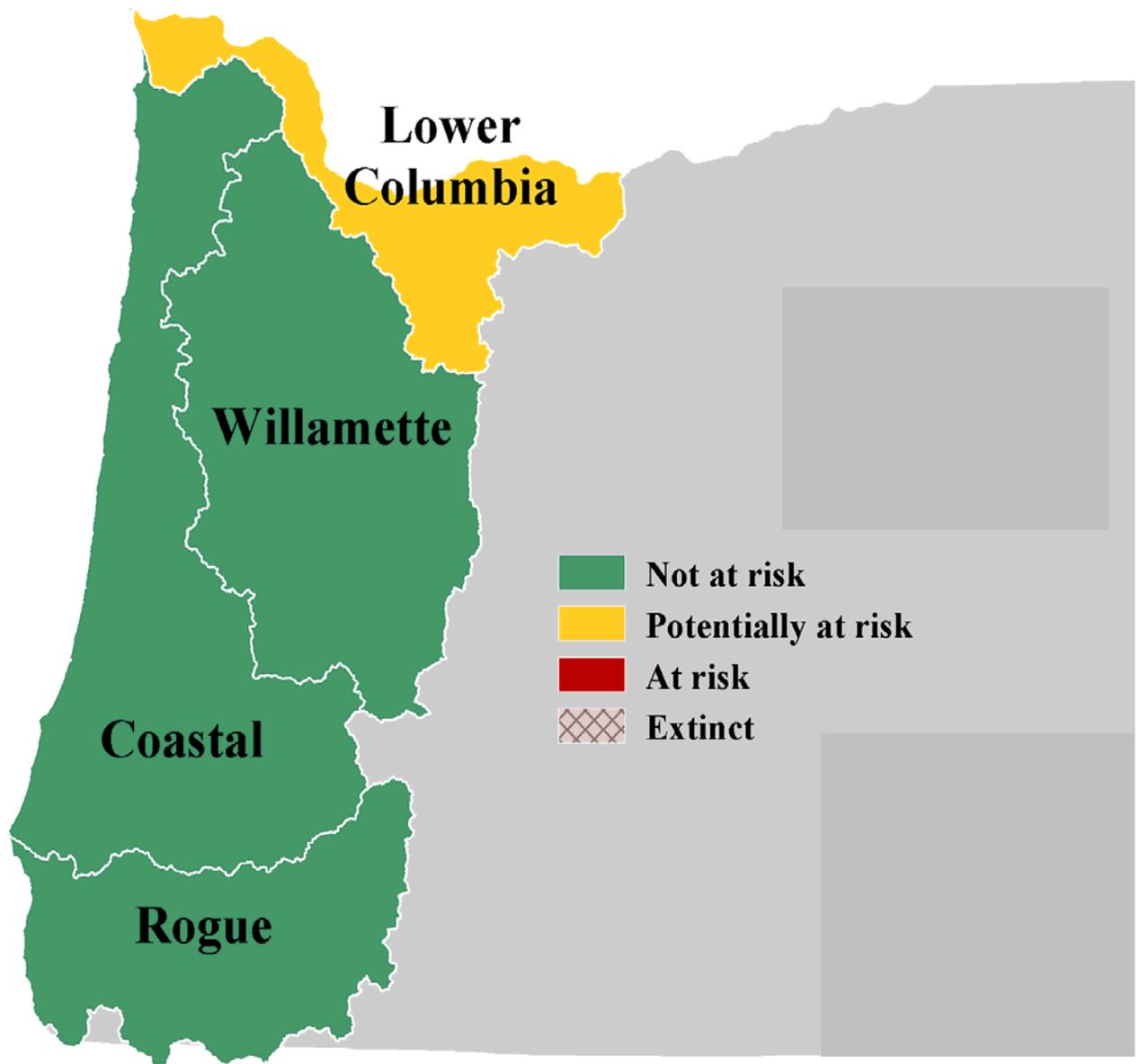
Interim Criteria (cont.)

4. **Productivity** – Coastal cutthroat trout abundance rebounds after low abundance level, or maintain moderate to high abundances for extended periods of time, and all life-history strategies are present.
5. **Reproductive Independence** - At least 90% of the spawners within a population must be naturally produced and not hatchery produced fish.

Interim Criteria (cont.)

- 6. Hybridization** - The occurrence of individuals that are the product of deleterious hybridization with species that are non-native to the basin in which they are found must be rare or nonexistent.

Oregon's Coastal Cutthroat Trout Status Assessment

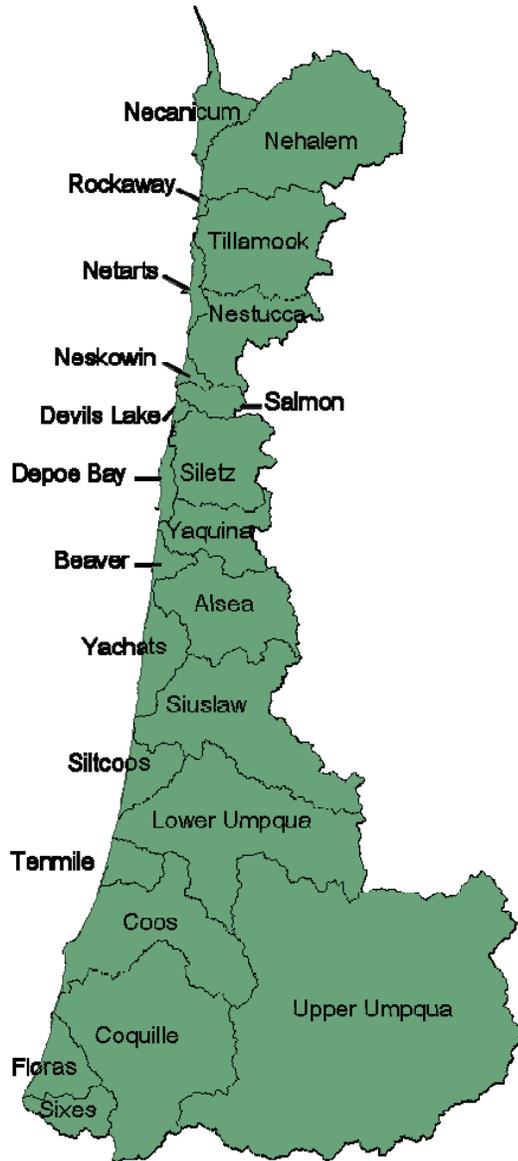


Oregon Coast Coastal Cutthroat SMU

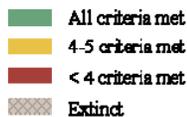
ESA Designation: None

Interim Assessment: Not At Risk

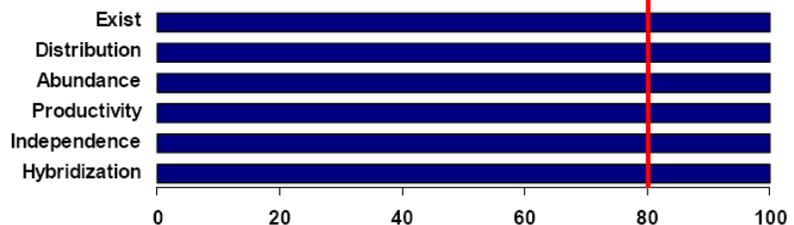
Basins along the Oregon Coast support all life history types of coastal cutthroat trout; resident, fluvial, adfluvial, and anadromous. The Oregon Coast SMU is comprised of twenty-four populations, all of which meet all of the six interim criteria. Since quantitative data is limited, the assessment was based on available data, as well as anecdotal evidence and professional opinion. Coastal cutthroat trout are distributed widely throughout the basins and abundance is thought to be relatively high. The populations appear to be very resilient and able to respond to events that reduce abundance. The sustainability of this SMU is not at risk.



Population	E	D	A	P	I	H
Necanicum	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Nehalem	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Rockaway	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Tillamook	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Netarts	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Nestucca	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Neskowin	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Salmon	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Devils Lake	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Siletz	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Depoe Bay	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Yaquina	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Beaver	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Alsea	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Yachats	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Siuslaw	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Siltcoos	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Lower Umpqua	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Upper Umpqua	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Tenmile	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Coos	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Coquille	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Floras	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Sixes	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass



Percent of Populations Meeting Criteria



Lower Columbia River Coastal Cutthroat Trout

Species Management Unit Description

The Lower Columbia River coastal cutthroat trout Species Management Unit (SMU) includes all Oregon populations of coastal cutthroat trout inhabiting tributary streams of the Columbia River from the mouth of the Columbia River upstream to The Dalles Dam, including tributaries of the Willamette River below Willamette Falls. The Lower Columbia River coastal cutthroat SMU passed five of the six interim criteria and its conservation risk classification for this Status Report is “potentially at risk.”

Existing Populations

The Lower Columbia River coastal cutthroat trout SMU for this report is comprised of eight historical populations (Table 229). It is the professional opinion of the local ODFW biologists (Braun, Alsbury, French, personal communications) that coastal cutthroat trout are found at least seasonally in virtually 100% of the available habitats for cutthroat trout in each of the eight populations in the Lower Columbia SMU, verifying that all historical populations continue to exist. All populations include resident, fluvial and anadromous fish.

Table 229. Description, status, and life-history of Lower Columbia River Coastal Cutthroat Trout SMU populations.

Exist	Population	Description	Life-history
Yes	Youngs	Young's Bay Tributaries/Big Creek	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous
Yes	Clatskanie	Clatskanie River/Beaver Creek/Plympton Creek	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous
Yes	Scappoose	Scappoose Creek/Johnson Creek	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous
Yes	Clackamas	Clackamas River	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous
Yes	Sandy	Sandy River	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous
Yes	Columbia Gorge	Columbia Gorge Tributaries	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous
Yes	Hood	Hood River	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous
Yes	Fifteen Mile	Mill Creek/Five Mile/Fifteen Mile	Resident/Fluvial/Anadromous

Habitat Use Distribution

Fish presence surveys related to forest operations suggests that cutthroat trout are present throughout the Lower Columbia River SMU and are found distributed widely in each major watershed. Since cutthroat trout are rarely the target species in biological studies, we relied on this data and the assessment of other data by local ODFW district biologists (Braun – North Coast Watershed District, Alsbury – North Willamette Watershed District and French – Deschutes Watershed District) to assess each population for this criterion.

It is the professional opinion of local ODFW biologists that all life-history types of coastal cutthroat trout expected are present and widely distributed throughout most of the Lower Columbia River SMU (Braun, Alsbury, French, personal communications). There is some uncertainty as to the current and historical presence of the anadromous life-history strategy in the two populations above Bonneville Dam – the Hood and Fifteenmile populations. Sampling on private and federal forest lands over the past ten years has found coastal cutthroat trout in the headwaters of most perennial streams sampled in the Lower Columbia River SMU, as well as seasonal streams. These headwater areas are presumed to be the historical limit of coastal cutthroat trout distribution. Periodic sampling by local biologists continues to document the

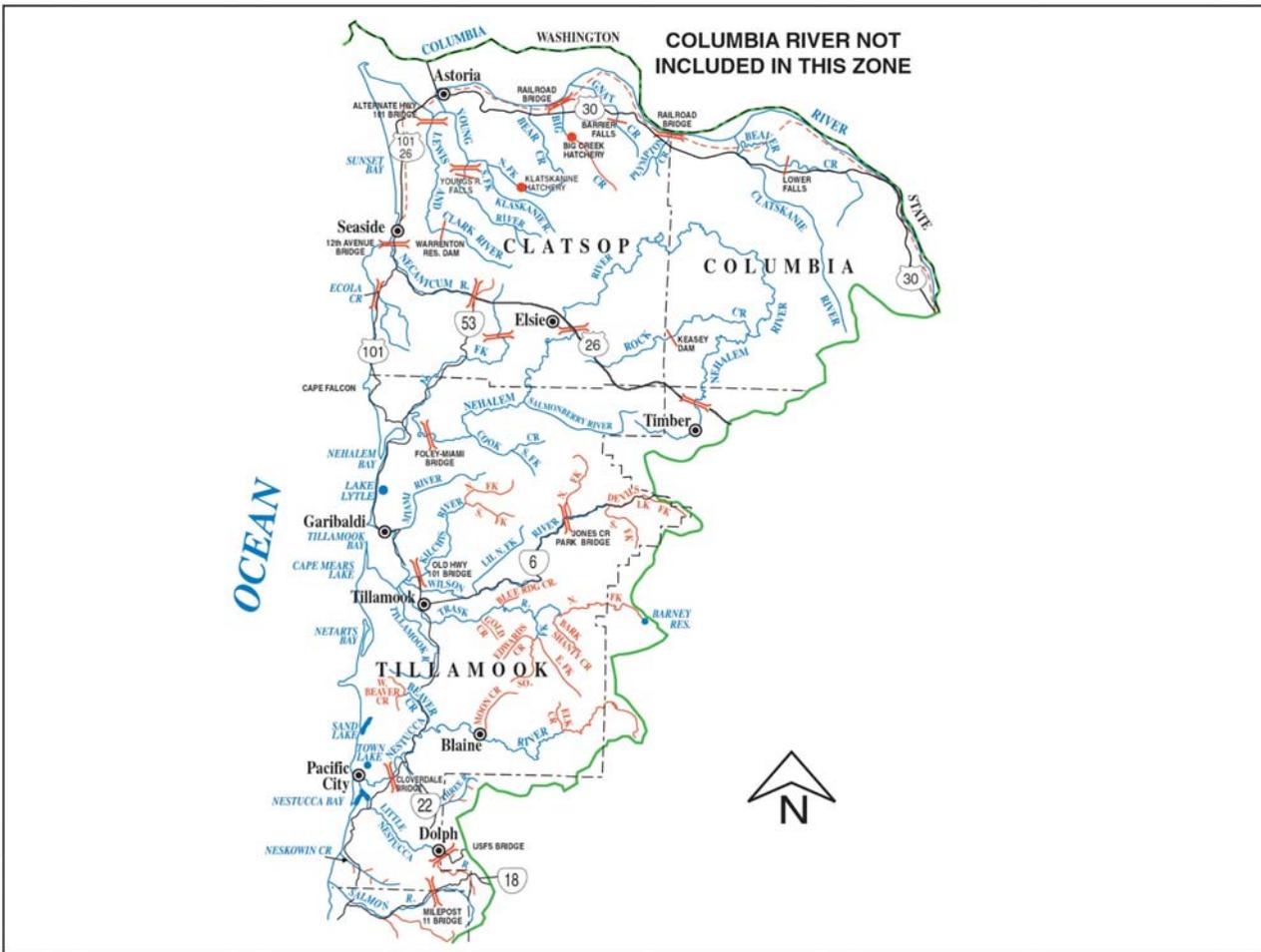
Lessons Learned

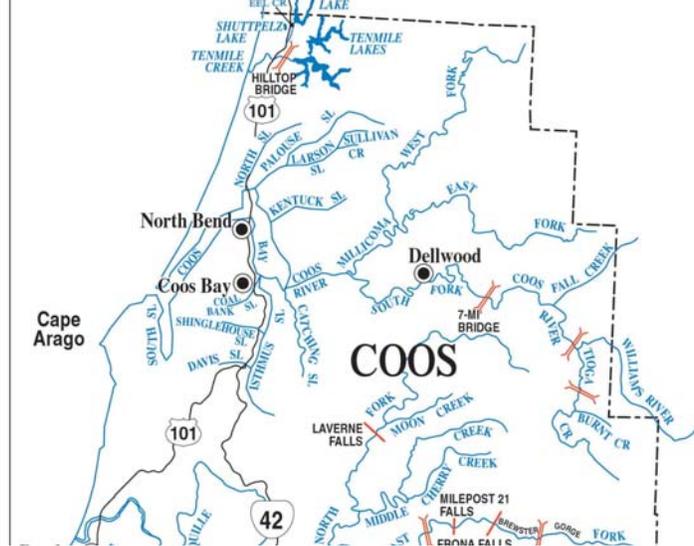
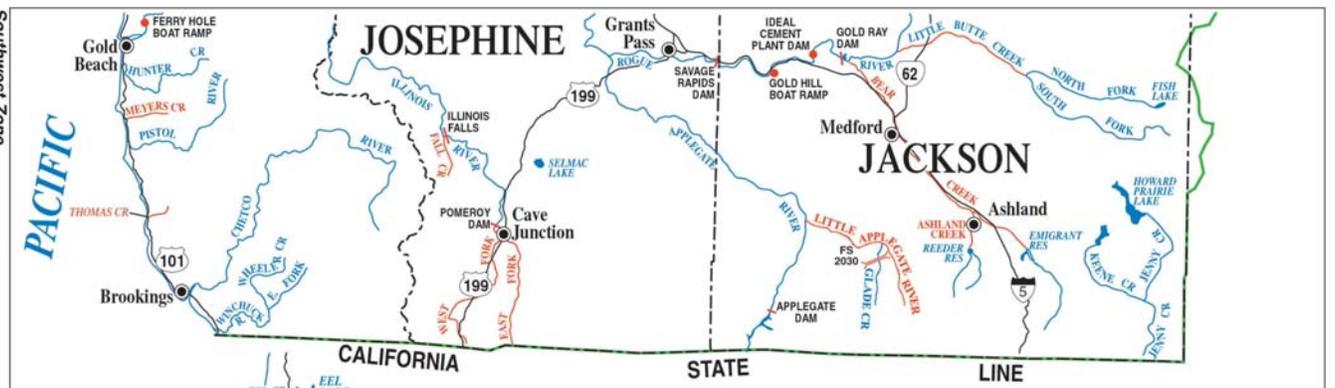
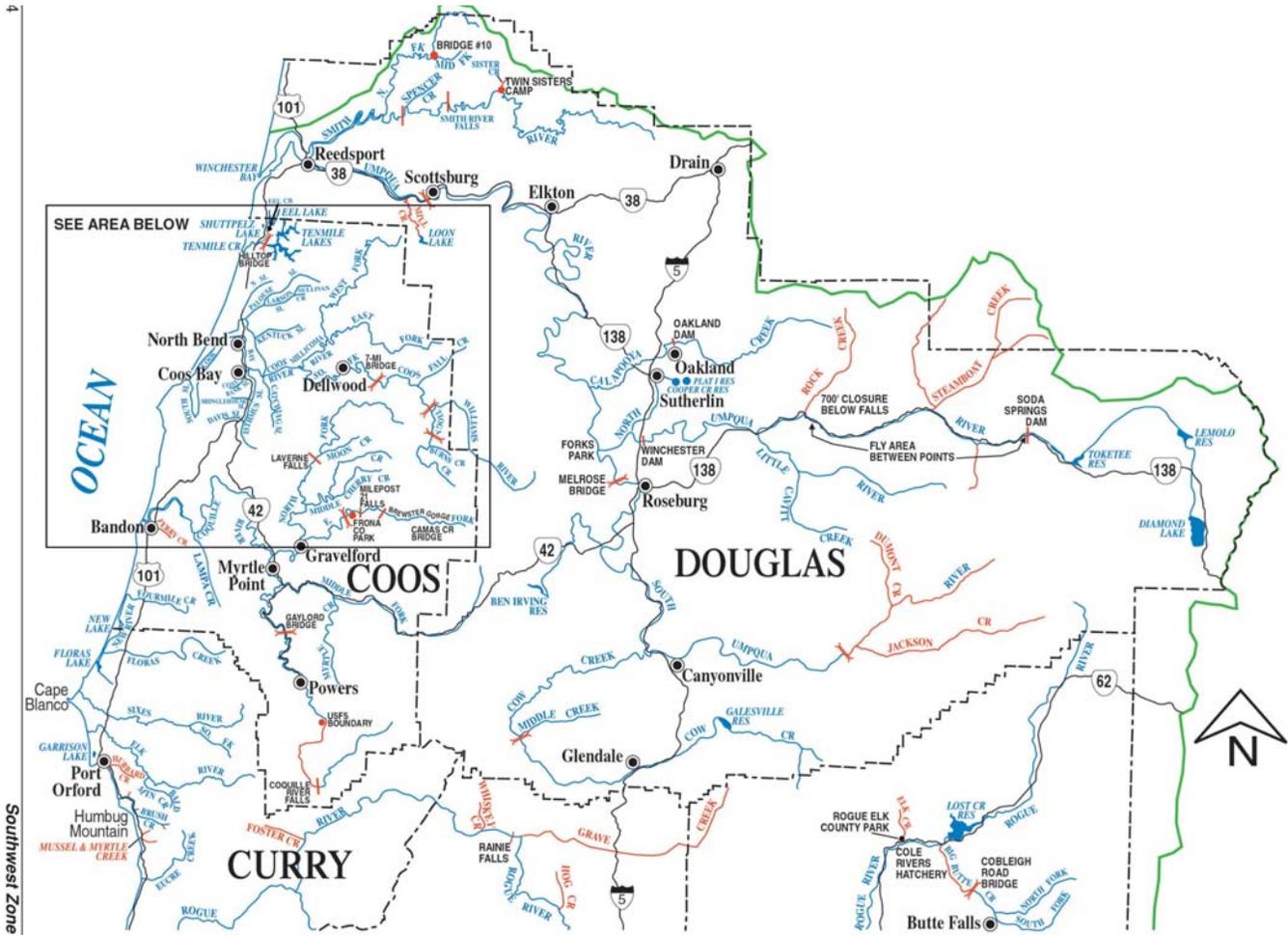
- Datasets not consistent, but numerous in some areas.
- Population delineations difficult to make.
- Identified issues to be addressed in conservation plans.
- Helped outline research and monitoring needs.
- MOU with USFWS.

Coastal Cutthroat Trout Management in Oregon

CCT Management in Oregon

- Trout considered in habitat altering activities.
- Variety of fishery opportunities.
- Most mainstem rivers open.
- Many tributaries closed for steelhead protection.
- Some areas open to consumptive fishery.





SOUTHWEST ZONE

LEGEND

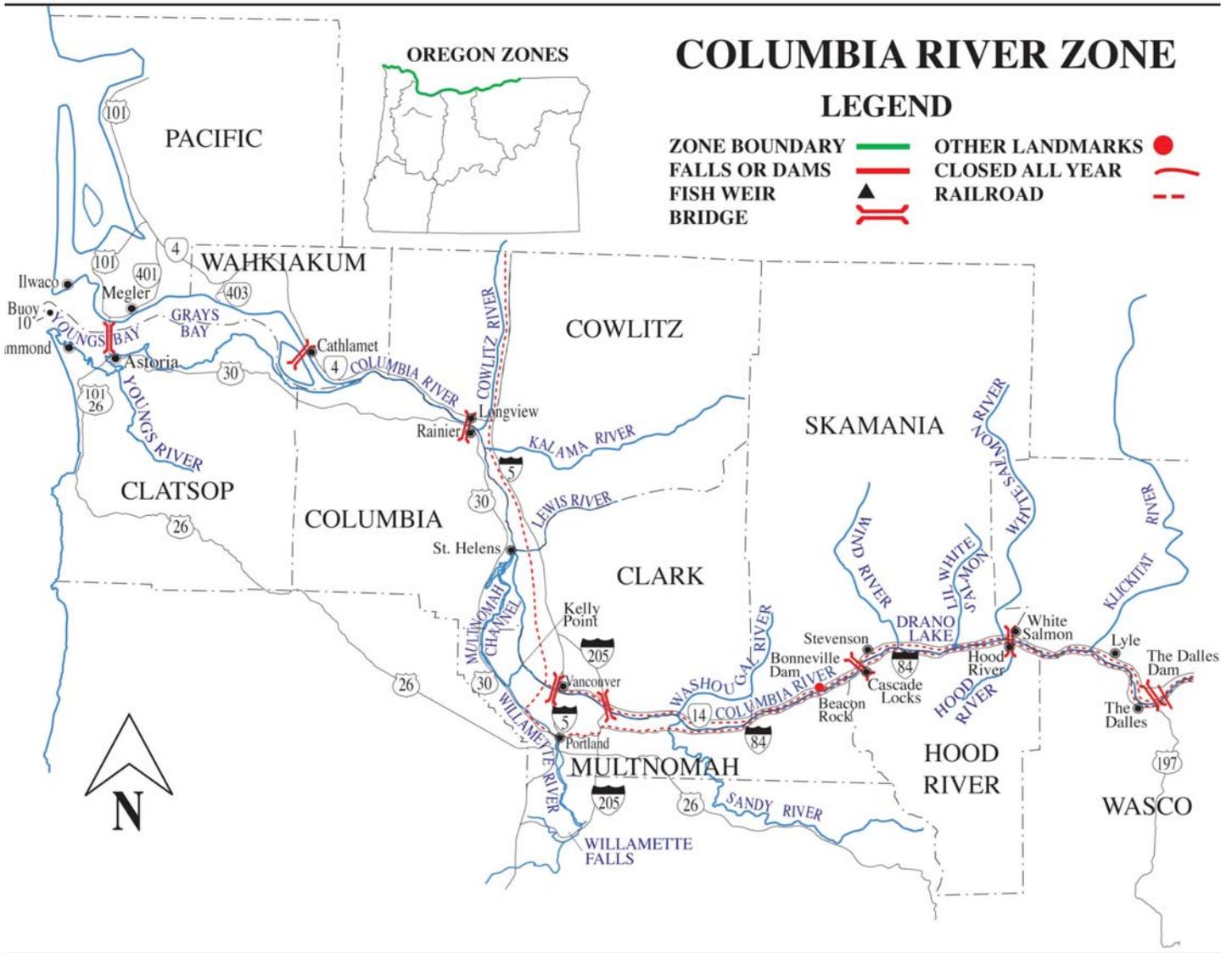
- ZONE BOUNDARY 
- FALLS OR DAMS 
- FISH WEIR 
- BRIDGE 
- OTHER LANDMARKS 
- CLOSED ALL YEAR 
- RAILROAD 



COLUMBIA RIVER ZONE

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|---|
| ZONE BOUNDARY |  | OTHER LANDMARKS |  |
| FALLS OR DAMS |  | CLOSED ALL YEAR |  |
| FISH WEIR |  | RAILROAD |  |
| BRIDGE |  | | |



TROUT SEASON IN STREAMS

-  4TH SAT. IN APRIL-OCT. 31
-  4TH SAT. IN MAY-OCT.31

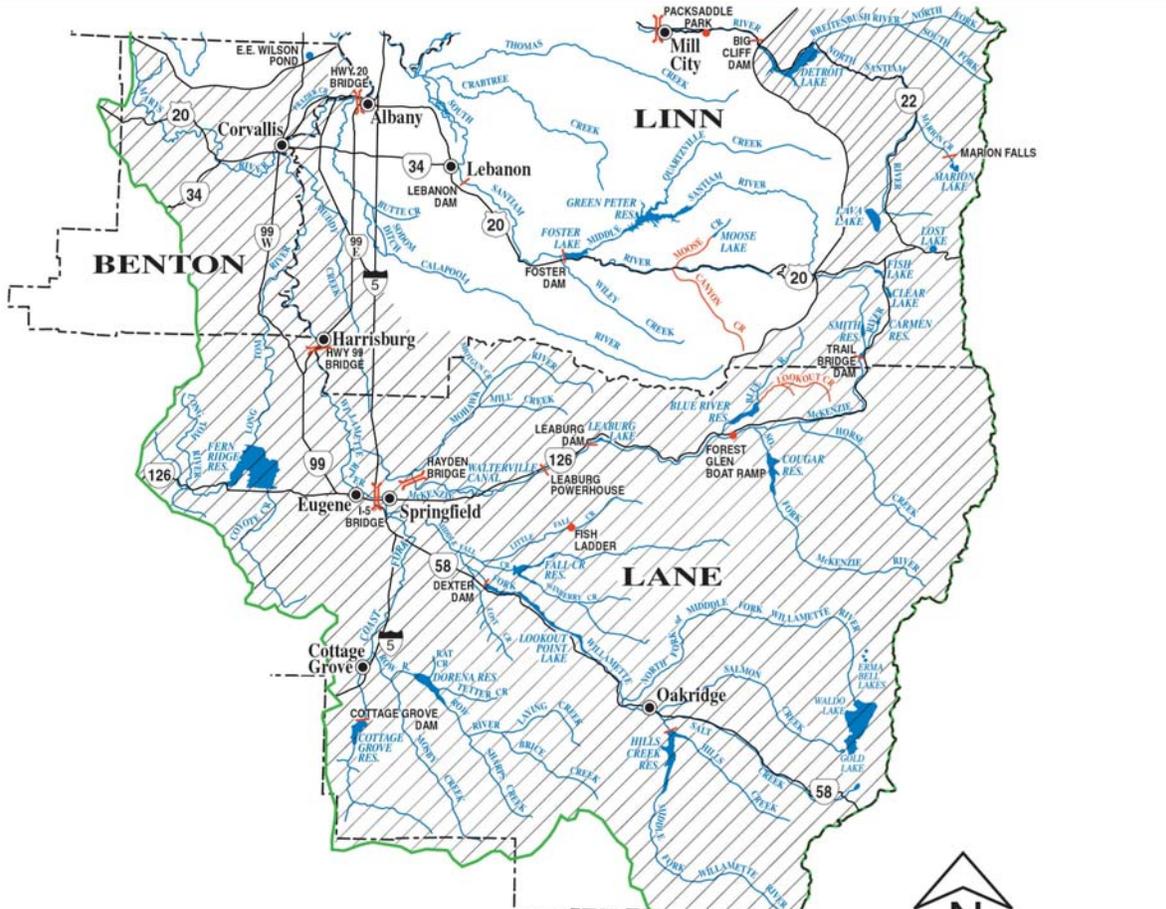
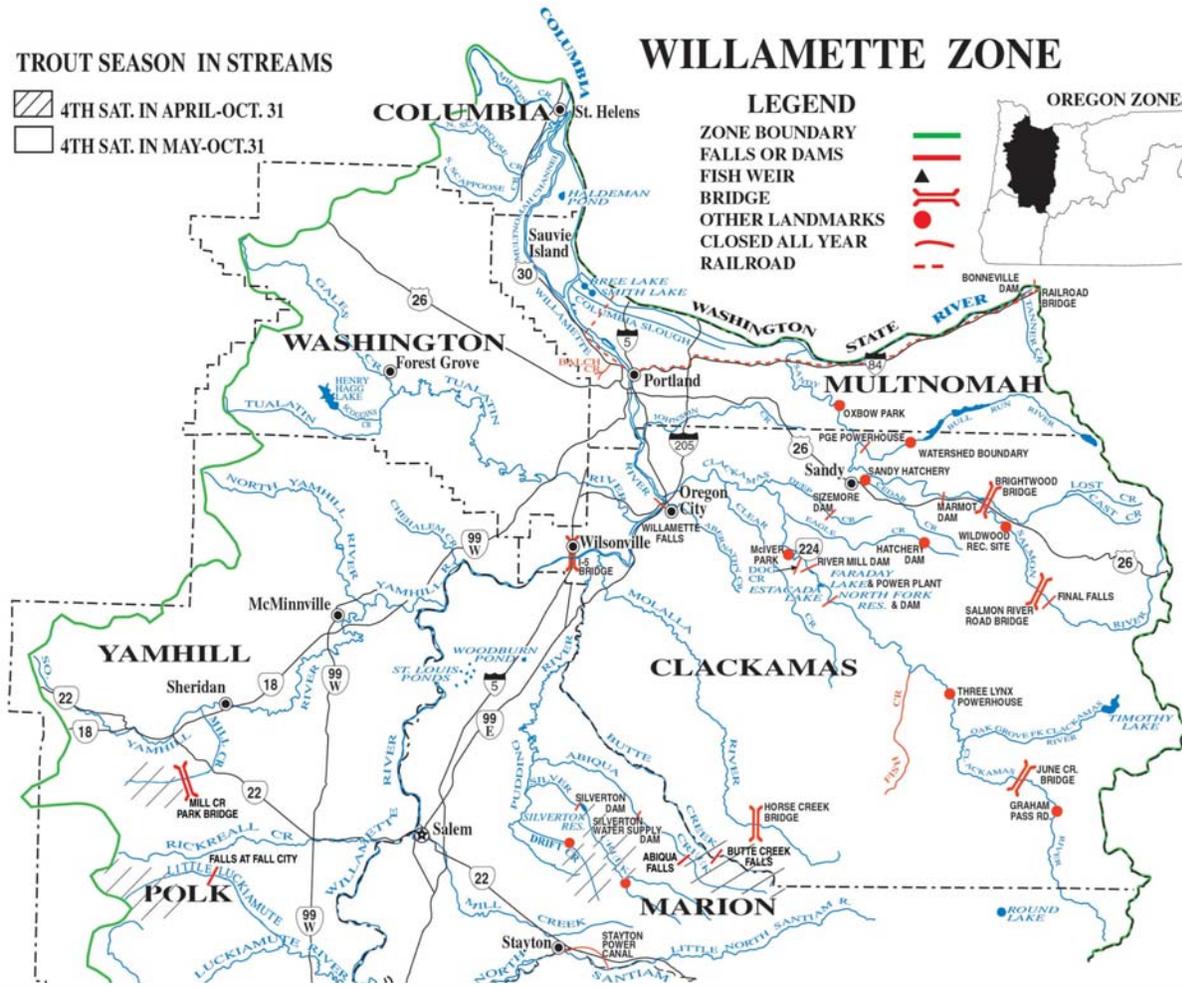
WILLAMETTE ZONE

LEGEND

- ZONE BOUNDARY
- FALLS OR DAMS
- FISH WEIR
- BRIDGE
- OTHER LANDMARKS
- CLOSED ALL YEAR
- RAILROAD



OREGON ZONES



Questions?

