Bull Trout Core Area Conservation Status Assessment
http://www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/References/BLTStatusAssessment2_22_06FINAL.pdf

Threats (Severity, Scope, and Immediacy)

Indicate the degree to which bull trout in this core area are observed, inferred, or suspected to be directly or indirectly threatened. Use this field to evaluate the impact of extrinsic threats, which typically are anthropogenic but may be natural. The impact of human activity may be direct (e.g., destruction of habitat) or indirect (e.g., invasive species introduction). Effects of natural phenomena (e.g., fire, hurricane, flooding) may be especially important when the species is concentrated in few locations.

Threats considerations apply to the present and the future. Effects of past threats (whether or not continuing) should be addressed instead under the short-term trend factors. Threats may be observed, inferred, or projected to occur in the near term. They should be characterized in terms of severity (how badly and irreversibly the species population is affected), scope (what proportion of it is affected), and degree of imminence (how likely the threat is and when it will occur). "Magnitude" is sometimes used to refer to scope and severity collectively.

Consider threats collectively, and for the foreseeable threat(s) with the greatest magnitude (severity and scope combined), individually rate the severity, scope, and immediacy as High, Moderate, Low, Insignificant, or Unknown, as briefly defined below. The threat(s) to which severity, scope, and immediacy pertains should be identified in the draft recovery plans and/or more recent template exercise. Additional threats will also be identified in recovery plans or templates, or interactions among threats discussed, including any high- magnitude threats considered insignificant in immediacy. For each core area, categorization of severity, scope and immediacy of threats will be documented so that we may determine now and in the future how the ultimate scoring category was determined.

Severity

High: Loss of species population (all individuals) or destruction of species habitat in area affected, with effects essentially irreversible or requiring long-term recovery (>100 years).

Moderate: Major reduction of species population or long-term degradation or reduction of habitat in the core area, requiring 50-100 years for recovery.

Low: Low but nontrivial reduction of species population or reversible degradation or reduction of habitat in area affected, with recovery expected in 10-50 years.

Insignificant : Essentially no reduction of population or degradation of habitat or ecological community due to threats, or populations, habitats, able to recover quickly (within10 years) from minor temporary loss. Note that effects of locally sustainable levels of hunting, fishing, logging, collecting, or other harvest from wild populations are generally considered Insignificant as defined here.

Scope

High: > 60% of total population or area affected
Moderate: 20-60% of total population or area affected
Low: 5-20% of total population or area affected
Insignificant : < 5% of total population or area affected

Immediacy (Changed from original paper to reflect our discussion of imminent & sage grouse timeline)

High: Threat is operational (happening now) or imminent (within 2-5 years). (originally a yr)
Moderate: Threat is likely to be operational within 5-10 years. (originally 2-5 yrs)
Low: Threat is likely to be operational within 10-20 years. (originally 5-20 yrs)
Insignificant : Threat not likely to be operational within 20 years.

The system will calculate a rank factor value of A, B, C, D, E, F, or G, as shown in Table 2 below. If two of the three parameters are known, the rank factor value will be calculated by treating the unknown (or not assessed [null]) parameter as "Low." If only one of the rank factors is rated (as High, Moderate, or Low), the resulting rank factor value will be "U" (unknown). If any of the three factors are considered "Insignificant," the resulting rank factor will be "H" (unthreatened)."

Threats – Scoring Threat values, calculated from scope, severity, and immediacy, or unknown, may be considered as follows.

A = Substantial, imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe and imminent for most (> 60%) of the population or area.
B = Moderate and imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe and imminent for a significant proportion (20-60%) of the population or area.
C = Substantial, non- imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe but not imminent (> 10 years) for most of the population or area.
D = Moderate, non- imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe but not imminent for a significant portion of the population or area.
E = Localized substantial threat. Threat is moderate to severe for a small but significant proportion of the population or area.
F = Widespread, low-severity threat. Threat is of low severity but affects (or would affect) most or a significant portion of the population or area.
G = Slightly threatened. Threats, while recognizable, are of low severity, or affecting only a small portion of the population or area.
H = Unthreatened. Threats if any, when considered in comparison with natural fluctuation and change, are minimal or very localized, not leading to significant loss or degradation of populations or area even over a few decades' time. (Severity, scope, and/or immediacy of threat considered Insignificant.)
U = Unknown. The available information is not sufficient to assign degree of threat as above. (Severity, scope, and immediacy are all unknown, or mostly [two of three] unknown or not assessed [null].)

Table 1. Calculation of Threats factor values from values for Severity, Scope, and Immediacy subfactors.				
SEVERITY	SCOPE	IMMEDIACY	VALUE	DESCRIPTION
High High Moderate Moderate	High High High High	High Moderate High Moderate	= A	Moderate to severe, imminent threat for most (>60%) of population, occurrences, or area
High High Moderate Moderate	Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate	High Moderate High Moderate	= B	Moderate to severe imminent threat for a significant proportion (20-60%) of population, occurrences, or area
High Moderate	High High	Low Low	= C	Moderate to severe, non-imminent threat for significant proportion of population, occurrences, or area
High Moderate	Moderate Moderate	Low Low	= D	Moderate to severe, non-imminent threat for a significant proportion of population, occurrences, or area
High High High Moderate Moderate Moderate	Low Low Low Low Low Low	High Moderate Low High Moderate Low	= E	Moderate to severe threat for small proportion of population, occurrences, or area
Low Low Low Low Low Low	High High High Moderate Moderate Moderate	High Moderate Low High Moderate Low	= F	Low severity threat for most or significant proportion of population, occurrences, or area
Low Low Low	Low Low Low	High Moderate Low	= G	Low severity threat for a small proportion of population, occurrences, or area

The following narrative descriptions are provided for each of the final bull trout ranking categories:

C1 – HIGH RISK - Core area at high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making the bull trout in this core area highly vulnerable to extirpation.

C2 – AT RISK -Core area at risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making the bull trout in this core area vulnerable to extirpation.

C3 – POTENTIAL RISK - Core area potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat even though bull trout may be locally abundant in some portions of the core area.

C4 – LOW RISK - Bull trout common or uncommon, but not rare, and usually widespread through the core area. Apparently not vulnerable at this time, but may be cause for long-term concern.