



MILESTONES: Oregon Chub Listing and Recovery

- 1982 **Candidate Species:** The Service listed the Oregon chub as a Category 2 candidate species. Category 2 candidates, a designation no longer used, were species for which information indicated that proposing to list was appropriate, but additional information was needed to support a listing proposal. The Oregon chub maintained its Category 2 status in both the September 18, 1985, and January 6, 1989, Notices of Review.
- 1990 **Petition to List:** The Service received a petition to list the Oregon chub as an endangered species and to designate critical habitat.
- 1993 **Federal Listing:** The Oregon chub was listed as “endangered” under the Act. The decline in Oregon chub abundance and distribution was attributed to the extensive channelization, dam construction, and chemical contamination that occurred in the Willamette Basin, particularly from the 1940s through the late 20th century.
- 1998 **Recovery Plan:** The Recovery Plan for the Oregon Chub outlined the recommended actions to improve the status of the species and criteria for recovery/delisting. Goals of the recovery plan were to: (1) establish a task force drawn from participating agencies to oversee and coordinate Oregon chub conservation and management actions; (2) protect existing populations; (3) establish new populations; and (4) foster greater public understanding of the species, its status, and the factors that influence it.
- 2008 **5 Year Review:** Based on criteria identified in the recovery plan, the Service concluded that the Oregon chub should be downlisted from “endangered” to “threatened.”
- 2008 **Willamette Project Biological Opinions:** The Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) completed consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bureau of Reclamation under section 7 of the Act on the continued operation and maintenance of 13 large flood-control dams in the Willamette River basin (Willamette Project). The terms and conditions of the Service’s biological opinion for Oregon chub required the USACE to fund a floodplain study that improved our understanding of the effects that flow management from the dams was having on connected Oregon chub habitat downstream. This research led to improved understanding of habitat requirements and the discovery of many additional Oregon chub populations. The two biological opinions also required the USACE to maintain minimum flows, which have improved riverine habitats for chub and salmonids, and to closely coordinate project water releases with both the Service and NMFS to further minimize effects to fish and fish habitat.
- 2009 **Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement:** The Service published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) application for an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act. The permit application included a proposed Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement between ODFW

and the Service, which authorized ODFW to extend incidental take coverage with assurances to eligible landowners who were willing to carry out habitat management measures that would benefit the Oregon chub by enrolling them under the agreement as Cooperators through issuance of Certificates of Inclusion.

- 2010 ***Designation of Critical Habitat:*** The Service finalized critical habitat for areas determined to be necessary to support the recovery of Oregon chub, as part of a settlement with the Institute for Wildlife Protection, who filed suit in Federal district court alleging that the Service and the Secretary of the Interior violated statutory duties as mandated by the Act by failing to designate critical habitat for the Oregon chub and failing to perform a 5-year status review (*Institute for Wildlife Protection v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*).
- 2010 ***Downlisting to Threatened:*** The Service published a final rule to downlist Oregon chub to “threatened” based on the 2008 5-Year Review recommendation.
- 2013 ***5 Year Review:*** Based on criteria identified in the Recovery Plan, the Service determined that the species has exceeded delisting criteria and recommends that the species be removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.