



Created February 2015

Oregon Chub Recovery in the Willamette Valley

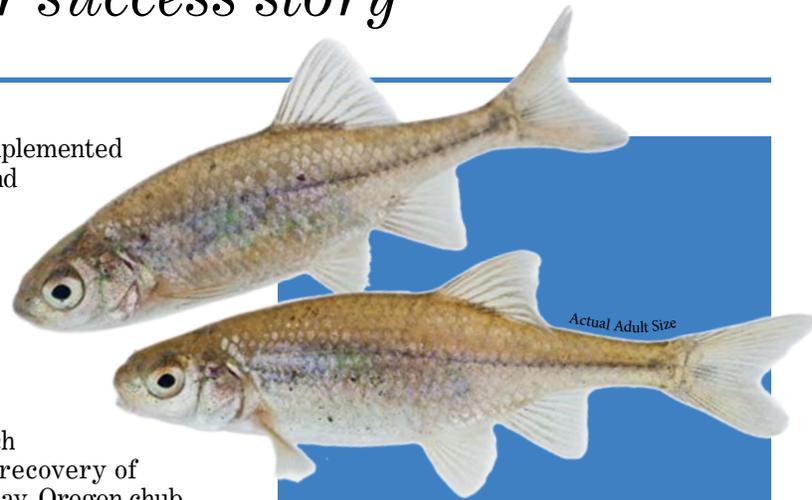
a 20-year success story

Oregon Chub Recovery

Since the Oregon chub were listed as endangered in 1993, the fish has made a remarkable recovery throughout much of its historical range. When the species was first listed, only eight populations of Oregon chub within a small, restricted range were known to occur. Loss of floodplain habitats, and predation by and competition with nonnative fishes were considered the main causes of the chub's decline. Efforts to reduce these threats have been successful and the Oregon chub is being removed from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.

Just over 20 years after the chub's listing under the Endangered Species Act (Act), it has exceeded recovery goals. Cooperative, collaborative partnerships are the key to this success, and demonstrate how the Act was intended to work to protect and recover species. Our conservation partners have championed the introduction of chub to

historical habitats, implemented habitat restoration and acquisition, promoted natural flow management below dams, conducted monitoring and research, discovered new populations, and promoted education, all of which have resulted in the recovery of this small fish. Today, Oregon chub populations are now known to exist in 80 diverse habitats in the Willamette Basin.



Oregon Chub Biology

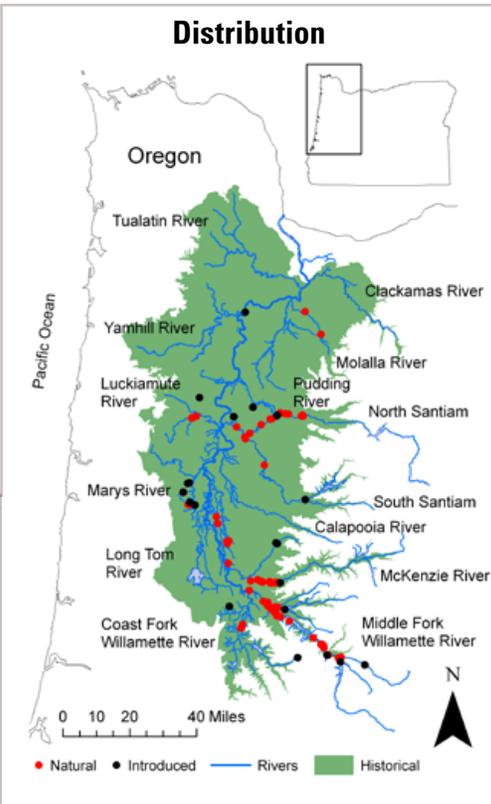
- Small minnow of the Cyprinid family, native only to the Willamette Valley.
- Oregon chub are prey for animals higher in the food chain such as great blue heron.
- Found in slack-water, off-channel habitats (e.g. oxbows, beaver ponds, sloughs, marshes) with little to no water flow, silty substrate, and dense aquatic vegetation.

Pair of Oregon chub from McKenzie River
© Dave Herasimtschuk, Freshwaters Illustrated

Recovery Timeline:

- 1993 Oregon chub was listed as "endangered" under the ESA.
- 1997 First Oregon chub introduction pond established on private property.
- 1998 Oregon Chub Recovery Plan was finalized.
- 2010 Oregon chub reclassified to "threatened" due to improved status.
- 2013 Oregon chub exceed recovery criteria as defined in the species' Recovery Plan.
- 2014 Proposed for delisting.
- 2015 Final delisting.

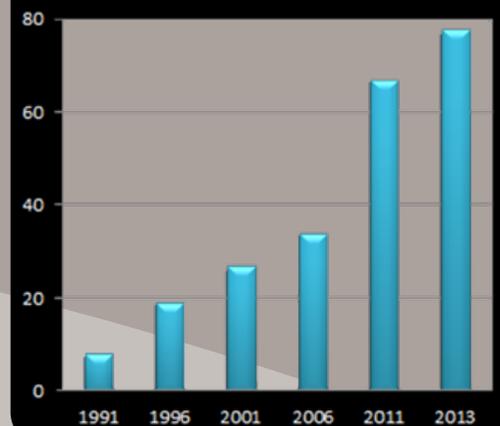
Distribution



Recovery Goals:

- Establish 20 stable populations of 500 or more fish each.
- Each of these 20 populations are stable or increasing for 7 years.
- At least 4 populations located in each of the 3 subbasins (Middle Fork Willamette, Mainstem Willamette, and Santiam Rivers).

Number of Populations





Oregon Chub: *Recovery in the Willamette Valley*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Facilitated the annual working group and ongoing coordination among partners, and wrote the Oregon chub recovery plan, including prioritized actions needed to reach recovery goals. The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex manages lands where Oregon chub populations naturally occur and were introduced. Refuge staff also reach out to private landowners through the Service's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program* to encourage voluntary conservation on private land. The Service's Fisheries Program provided genetic assessments to gauge the health of Oregon chub populations.

The **Oregon Chub Working Group** has been a proactive force in improving the conservation status of the Oregon chub and this group will continue to coordinate research and restoration actions into the future following delisting. This partnership of Federal and State agency biologists, academicians, Tribes, land managers, and others has met each year since 1991 to discuss and share information.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

ODFW conducted annual monitoring of Oregon chub populations, life history investigations, and a comprehensive floodplain study, which led to a better understanding of chub habitat requirements and the discovery of many existing populations. ODFW was also a critical partner in several key introductions of chub on private lands.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers actively manage their sites for the protection of Oregon chub. This includes managing flow operations below Willamette Project dams to create flow regimes that mimic conditions under which native fish species, like salmon, steelhead, and Oregon chub, evolved.

McKenzie River Trust and Private Landowners

The McKenzie River Trust, a non-profit land trust focusing on the protection of riverine habitats, has acquired titles to several key properties containing Oregon chub, two of which were funded by the Bonneville Power Administration. This trust has actively restored Oregon chub habitats on their properties by reestablishing floodplain processes. Several private landowners have voluntarily introduced Oregon chub into ponds on their lands.

USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Willamette National Forest manages several populations of Oregon chub in two subbasins and has enhanced and restored these populations to ensure long-term survival on its properties. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has protected hundreds of acres of chub habitat through conservation easements.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department own many ponds and sloughs that contain Oregon chub populations and it will continue to actively manage these sites for the protection of Oregon chub into the future.

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde recently acquired land in the North Santiam River subbasin with an existing Oregon chub population. Tribal biologists have worked with partners to conserve Oregon chub on this property.

Want to find out more?

www.fws.gov/oregonfwo

The Power of Partnership

The full recovery of Oregon chub occurred due to the dedication of many partners working closely with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the Willamette Valley. The information to the right captures in a small way what were truly monumental contributions. On behalf of the USFWS and the Oregon chub

Thank You All!



Laura Tesler ODF&W



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ODF&W



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