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 proposed for removal from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species. At the 20th anniversary of the chub’s listing and the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (Act), the Oregon chub has exceeded its 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.

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Populations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>80</td>
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Pair of Oregon chub from McKenzie River © Dave Herasimtschuk, Freshwaters Illustrated
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!