

Bull Trout Final Critical Habitat Justification: Rationale for Why Habitat is Essential, and Documentation of Occupancy

Chapter 28. Upper Snake Recovery Unit—Little Lost River Critical Habitat Unit

Chapter 28. Little Lost River Critical Habitat Unit

The Little Lost River CHU is essential for maintaining bull trout distribution within this unique geographic region of the Upper Snake River RU. This CHU occurs in southeastern Idaho within a hydrologically closed system, resulting in isolated populations. This CHU occurs in a unique ecological setting and contains many individuals that are subjected to few threats. Due to the unique geologic history of this area, resident populations may also contain unique genes that further promote persistence. This CHU is in the southeasternmost portion of the Upper Snake RU (see Appendix 1 for more detailed information).

Located within Butte, Custer, and Lemhi Counties in east-central Idaho, near the town of Arco, Idaho, designated critical habitat in the Little Lost River CHU includes 89.2 km (55.4 mi) of streams designated as critical habitat.

The following water bodies are included in this CHU (see Table 81):

(A) Sawmill Creek from its confluence with Bell Mountain Creek upstream 32.6 km (20.3 mi) contains FMO habitat. Mill Creek from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 4.5 km (2.8 mi) to a barrier falls; Warm Creek from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 3.2 km (2.0 mi); Smithie Fork from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 6.3 km (3.9 mi) to its headwaters; Firebox Creek from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 1.9 km (1.2 mi); and Right Fork Little Lost River from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 0.8 km (0.5 mi) to its headwaters all provide spawning and rearing habitat.

(B) Squaw Creek from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 8.5 km (5.1 mi) to its headwaters; North Fork Squaw Creek from its confluence with Squaw Creek upstream 5.1 km (3.2 mi) to its headwaters; and an unnamed tributary from its confluence with Squaw Creek upstream 1.0 km (0.6 mi) all provide spawning and rearing habitat.

(C) Iron Creek from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 5.6 km (3.5 mi) to its headwaters; Hawley Creek from its confluence with Iron Creek upstream 3.3 km (2.1 mi) to its headwaters; Jackson Creek from its confluence with Iron Creek upstream 3.6 km (2.3 mi) to its headwaters; and Left Fork Iron Creek from its confluence with Iron Creek upstream 1.1 km (0.7 mi) all provide spawning and rearing habitat.

(D) Timber Creek from its confluence with Sawmill Creek upstream 8.0 km (5.0 mi) to its headwaters; Camp Creek from its confluence with Timber Creek upstream 2.4 km (1.5 mi) to its headwaters; Redrock Creek from its confluence with Timber Creek upstream 1.2 km (0.7 mi); and Slide Creek from its confluence with Timber Creek upstream 0.4 km (0.3 mi) to its headwaters all provide spawning and rearing habitat.

Table 81. Water body segments designated as critical habitat for bull trout, including documentation of occupancy and site-specific rationale in the Little Lost River CHU/CHSU

CHU—CHSU	Water Body Name	State	Information Documenting Bull Trout Occupancy	Essential Habitat Rationale	LLID
Little Lost River—None	Sawmill Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 72-77; LLRITAT 1998, pg. 63-64, 127-128)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1129730 437665
Little Lost River—None	North Fork Squaw Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 89-90, 209-210; LLRITAT 1998, pg. 132)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133255 443586
Little Lost River—None	UNNAMED - off Squaw Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 89)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133255 443586
Little Lost River—None	North Fork Squaw Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 89-90, 209-210; LLRITAT 1998, pg. 132)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133296 443555
Little Lost River—None	Warm Creek	ID	Gamett 1999, pg. 96-97; LLRITAT 1998, pg. 134)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133374 443059
Little Lost River—None	Mill Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 81, 192-194)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133525 443710
Little Lost River—None	Squaw Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 89, 208; LLRITAT 1998, pg. 132))	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133564 443344
Little Lost River—None	Right Fork Little Lost River	ID	(Service 2002a, pg. 25; Gamett 1999, pg. 126-127, 285)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133776 444461
Little Lost River—None	Firebox Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 67-68, 269; LLRITAT 1998 pg. 24)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133795 444427
Little Lost River—None	Smithie Fork	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 86-88; LLRITAT 1998, pg. 24, 131-132)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133933 444300
Little Lost River—None	Iron Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 71, 162-163; LLRITAT 1998 pg. 141)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133997 443794
Little Lost River—None	Iron Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 71, 162-163; LLRITAT 1998 pg. 141)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1133997 443794
Little Lost River—None	Hawley Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 68, 121, 159)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134033 443787.1
Little Lost River—None	Hawley Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 68, 121, 159)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134033 443787.2
Little Lost River—None	Timber Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999 pg. 27, 94-95, 104, 146, 222-223; LLRITAT 1998, pg. 55, 134)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134084 443944
Little Lost River—None	Jackson Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 72, 164)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134117 443801

CHU—CHSU	Water Body Name	State	Information Documenting Bull Trout Occupancy	Essential Habitat Rationale	LLID
Little Lost River–None	Camp Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 58-59)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	11341734 44113.1
Little Lost River–None	Camp Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 58-59)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134173 444113.2
Little Lost River–None	Redrock Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 84, 197-198)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	11341854 44138
Little Lost River–None	Left Fork Iron Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 71)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134338 443873
Little Lost River–None	Iron Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 71, 162-163; LLRITAT 1998 pg. 141)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134338 443874
Little Lost River–None	Slide Creek	ID	(Gamett 1999, pg. 86, 199)	Rationale provided in Little Lost CHU justification text	1134363 444317