



An underwater photograph of two steelhead trout swimming in clear, turquoise water. The fish are positioned horizontally, with the one in the foreground slightly above and ahead of the second. Both fish exhibit silvery scales with dark spots and a prominent reddish-pink lateral stripe. The background shows a rocky riverbed with large, dark boulders. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a healthy aquatic environment.


Summer Steelhead in the Columbia River and Tributaries 2022-2023





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HUNT, FISH, EXPLORE OREGON

It's turkey time!

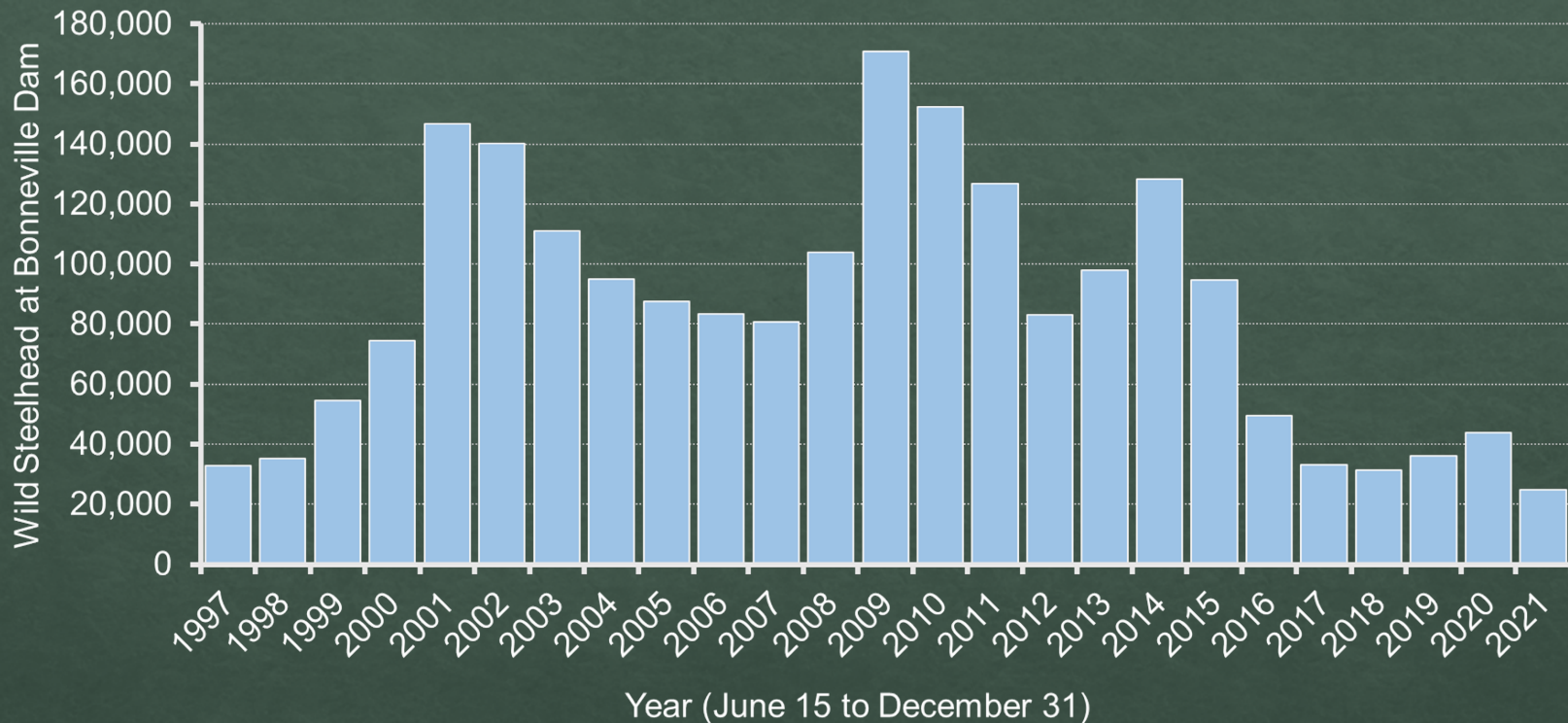
Are you ready for the upcoming season?

The spring turkey hunting season opens on April 15. If you're looking for the latest intel on conditions or tips and techniques to get started, check out the *2022 spring turkey hunting forecast*.

[See the turkey forecast](#)



Columbia River Wild Steelhead



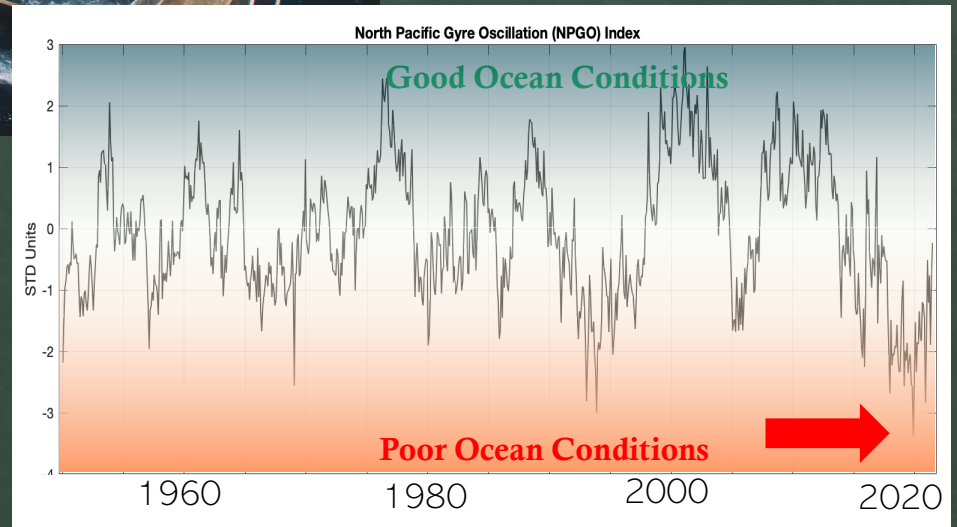
Wild summer steelhead have been declining since 2009, and Bonneville counts in 2021 reached the lowest returns since 1997

Contributing factors



CR Hydrosystem is having long term negative impacts

Recent poor ocean conditions play a role, particularly in 2021



Steelhead migration timing

After spending 1-2 years in the ocean, adult steelhead enter the Columbia River and begin a 10-12 month journey to spawning areas (or hatcheries)

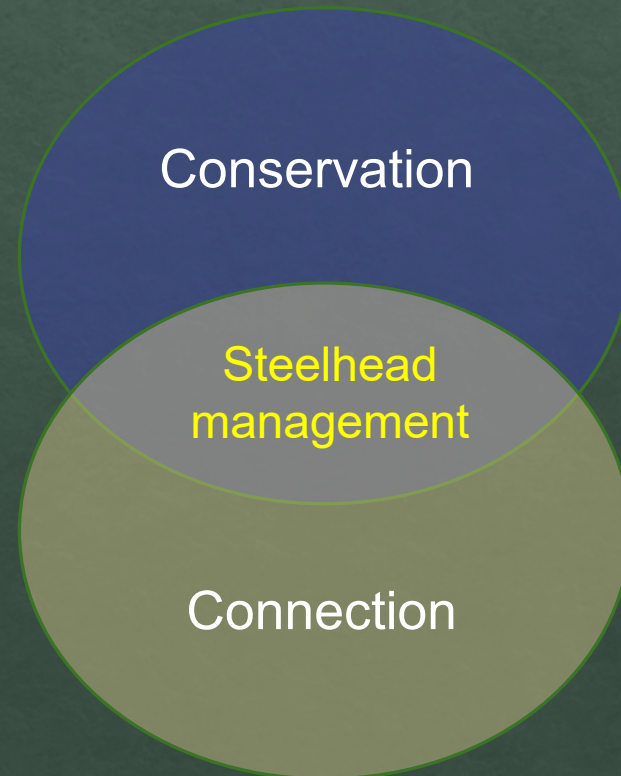
- ◇ Adult summer steelhead enter the Columbia River from June-September and begin their upstream migration.
- ◇ Those same steelhead spawn during spring of the following year.
- ◇ This journey straddles two calendar years:
 - ◇ Run year = the year that adult steelhead enter the Columbia River
 - ◇ Spawn year = The year that adults spawn and complete their life cycle (Run year + 1)
- ◇ With a long residence period, steelhead are more susceptible to capture in recreational fisheries



Steelhead management foundations

ODFW Mission: To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations

- ◇ Guidance Documents:
 - ◇ Endangered Species Act
 - ◇ Recovery Plans
 - ◇ U.S. vs. Oregon
 - ◇ Program Goals
 - ◇ Agency Policy
 - ◇ Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plans





Fishery management factors

Management strategies and impact assessments varies across the Columbia basin due to the following factors (including but not limited to):

- ◇ Timing of the fishery in relation to steelhead run
- ◇ Is the fishery mixed-stock (mainstem) or stock-specific (tributary)?
- ◇ Status and resilience of local wild steelhead populations
- ◇ Presence and role of hatchery steelhead
- ◇ Fishery characteristics
 - ◇ Angler effort
 - ◇ Encounter rates
- ◇ Availability and quality of population and fishery data



Abundance Threshold Terminology

- ◇ *Abundance thresholds were generated in the early 2000's by independent scientific panels as part of steelhead recovery processes.*
- ◇ *These thresholds provides benchmarks to assess the viability of steelhead populations, or long-term persistence*
- ◇ *Thresholds were based on estimates of the relative amount of historical spawning and rearing habitat with each population.*

Two thresholds are used to guide fishery management:

- ◇ **Minimum Abundance Threshold (MAT)**: Level at which a population is viable and has a low risk of extinction.
- ◇ **Critical Abundance Threshold (CAT)**: Level at which a population is at higher risk of extinction.



Steelhead management glossary

- ❖ Escapement: The number of steelhead that survive the upstream journey (escaped the various mortality factors) to spawn. Another term for population abundance.
- ❖ Encounter / Encounter Rate: A catch-and-release event. The proportion (%) of a steelhead run that are caught-and-released at least once in a fishery.
- ❖ Impact / Incidental Mortality: A non-target (wild) steelhead that is killed as a result of being encountered in a fishery.
- ❖ Impact / Incidental Mortality Rate: The proportion (%) of a steelhead run that are killed as a result of being encountered in a fishery. Often calculated as 5% of all encounters for a run.
- ❖ Smolt to Adult Return (SAR): The proportion (%) of outgoing smolts that survive to return as adults.



Steelhead management glossary

- ◆ PIT Tags: Passive Integrated Transponder. A small (grain of rice) tag that can be implanted into fish (typically juveniles). Each tag provides an individual fish a unique code, and antennas throughout the migration corridor detect fish as they pass through. Allows biologists to estimate abundance, survival, migration timing, and other metrics.
- ◆ Redd / Redd count or survey: The location where steelhead excavate the stream bottom to deposit eggs (a nest). Redds are visible for a short period of time, and biologists can assess the spawning population by walking spawning areas and counting the number of redds.



Megan S. Jones, PhD
Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Key takeaways from the Spring 2022 listening survey on Columbia and tributaries summer steelhead



Objective of the listening survey

To help ODFW **better understand the perspectives and concerns of the public who are interested in the management of summer steelhead** in the Columbia River and its tributaries, including the Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Imnaha, and Grande Ronde Rivers.



**How were
people
informed?**

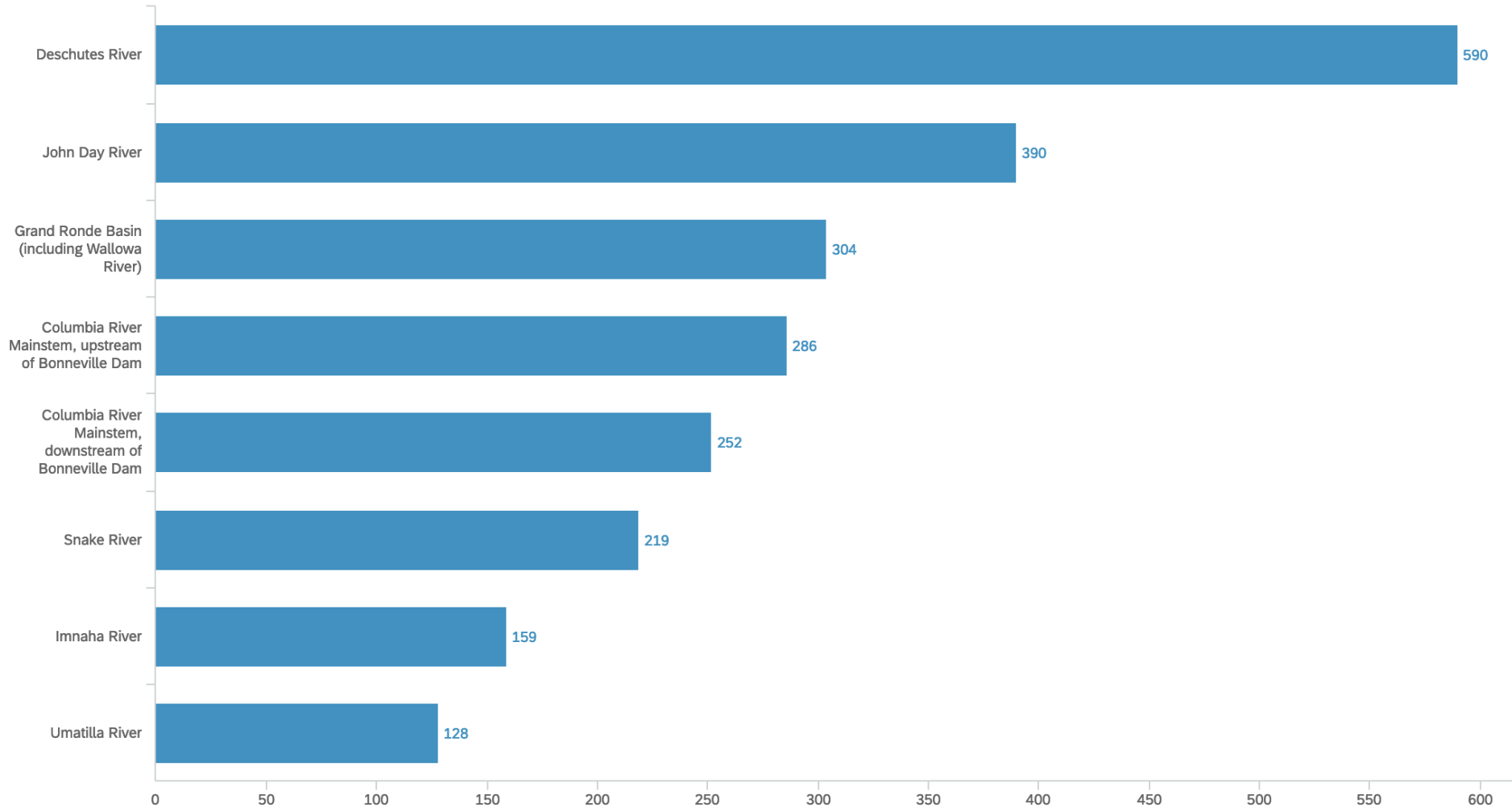
In late March ODFW distributed a press release with information about the listening survey to 150 state news outlets. It was also shared on social media

**Who did we
reach?**

Likely to be interested audiences already paying attention to this issue and/or ODFW communication channels



Rivers of interest





How survey participants described themselves

	Survey participants	Oregon Census data
Median age	55	39
Percent white	88.7%	86%
Percent male	93%	49.6%



How survey participants identified

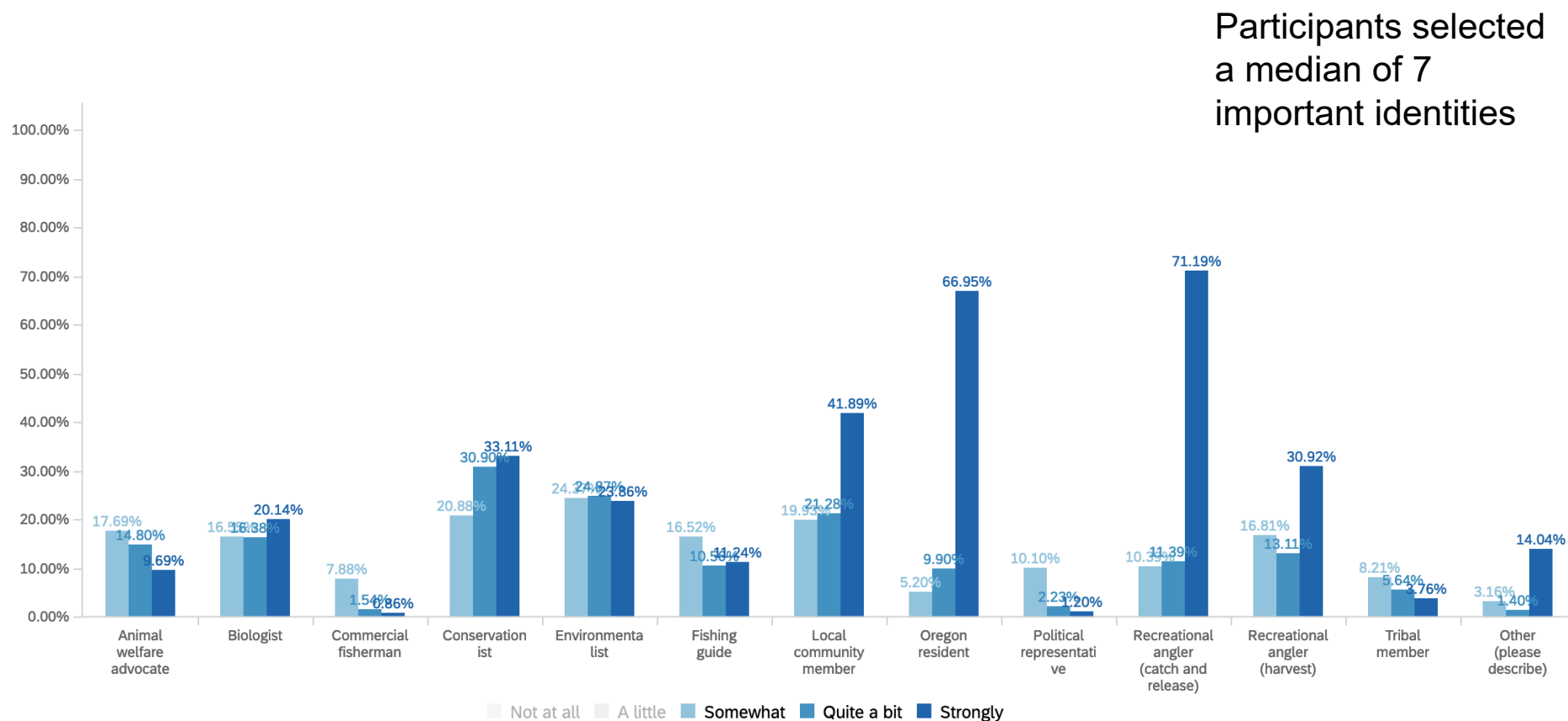


Figure 1. Social identities of the participants in this listening survey (n=598)



1) Survey participants are concerned about summer steelhead

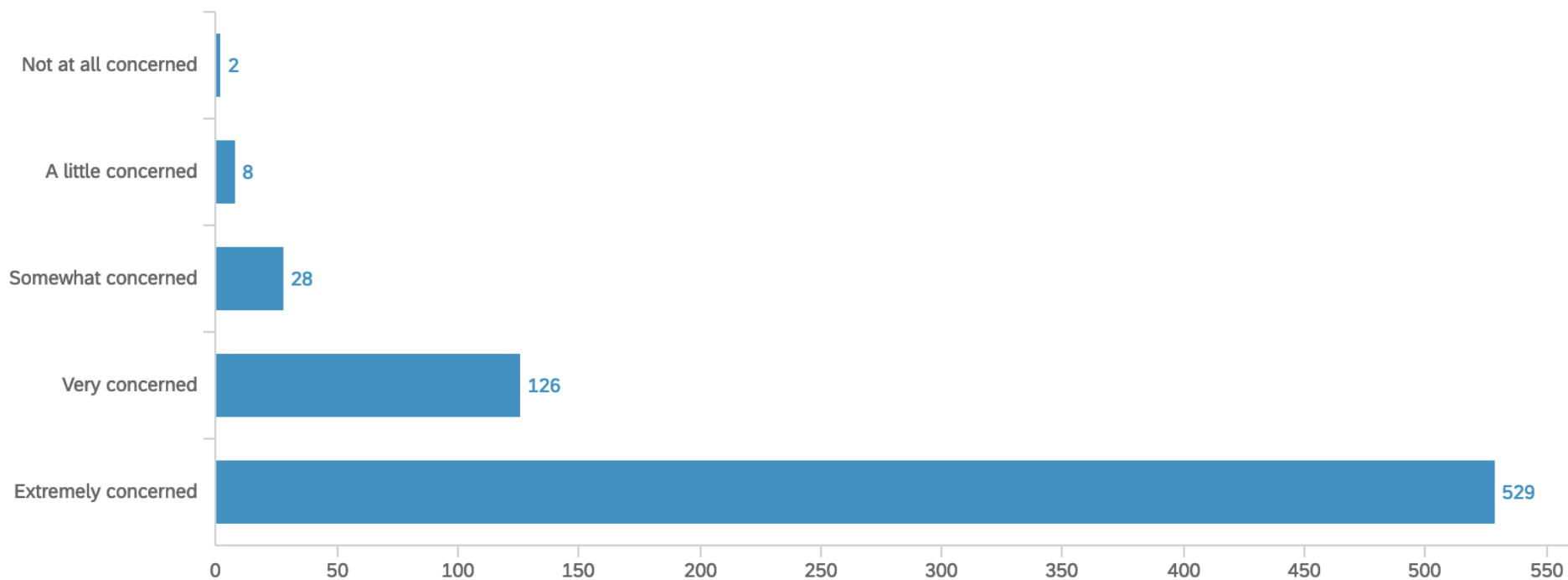


Figure 2. Concern about the future viability of wild summer steelhead in the Columbia River Basin (n=693, mean=4.69)



2) Survey participants are concerned about summer steelhead

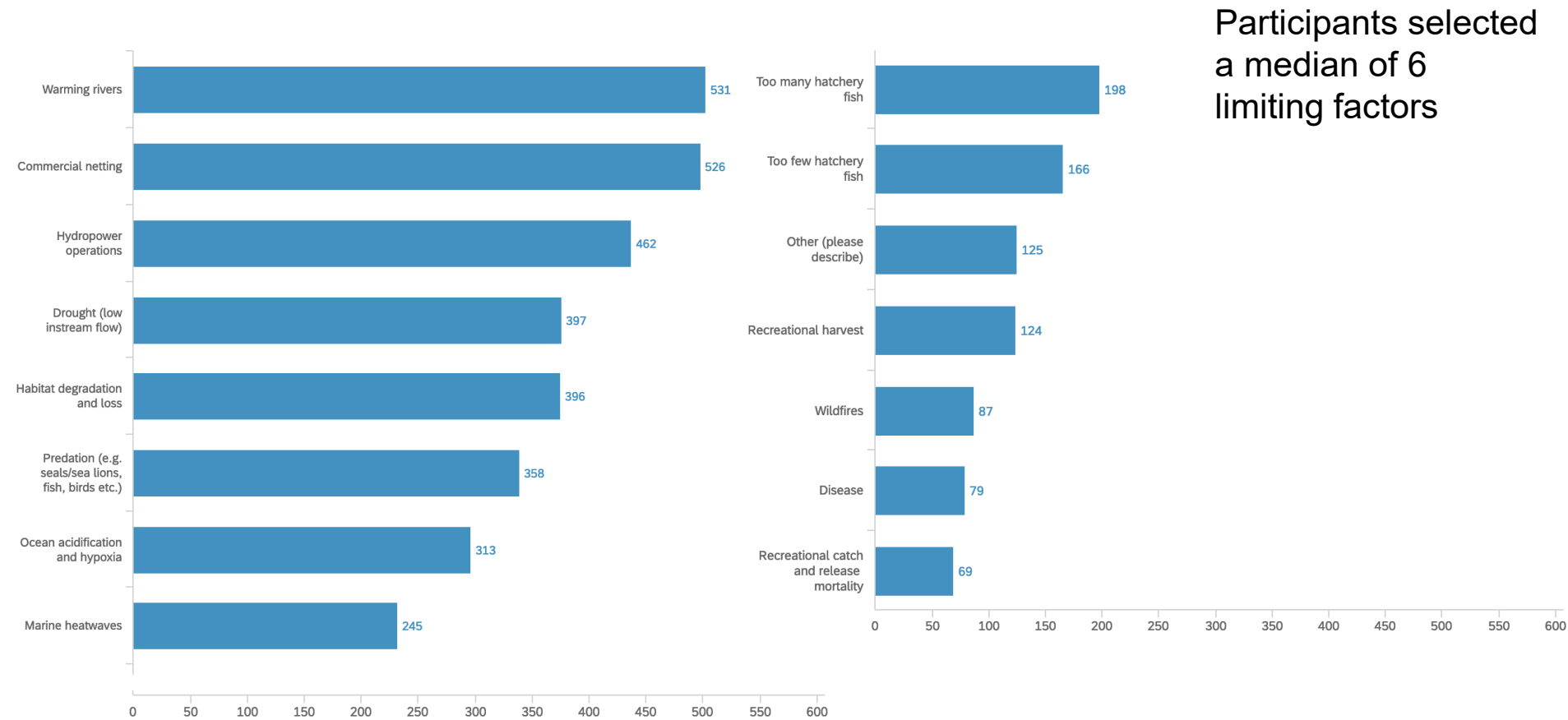


Figure 3. Perceived factors most limiting rebound of wild summer steelhead in the Columbia River Basin (n=694)



3) Survey participants prefer a variety of management responses

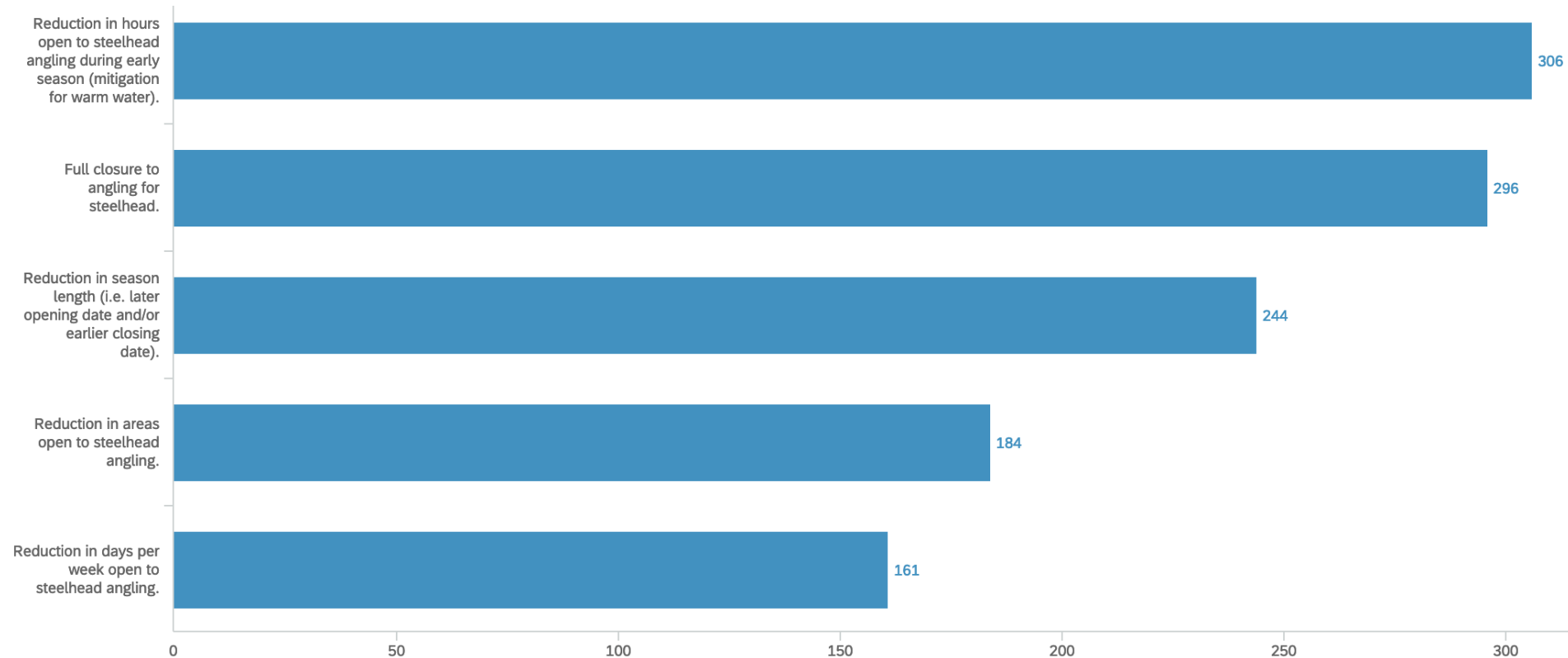


Figure 4. Survey participants' preferred management responses to poor returns in the Columbia River Basin (participants could select multiple options, n=594)



4) Survey participants prefer a variety of management responses

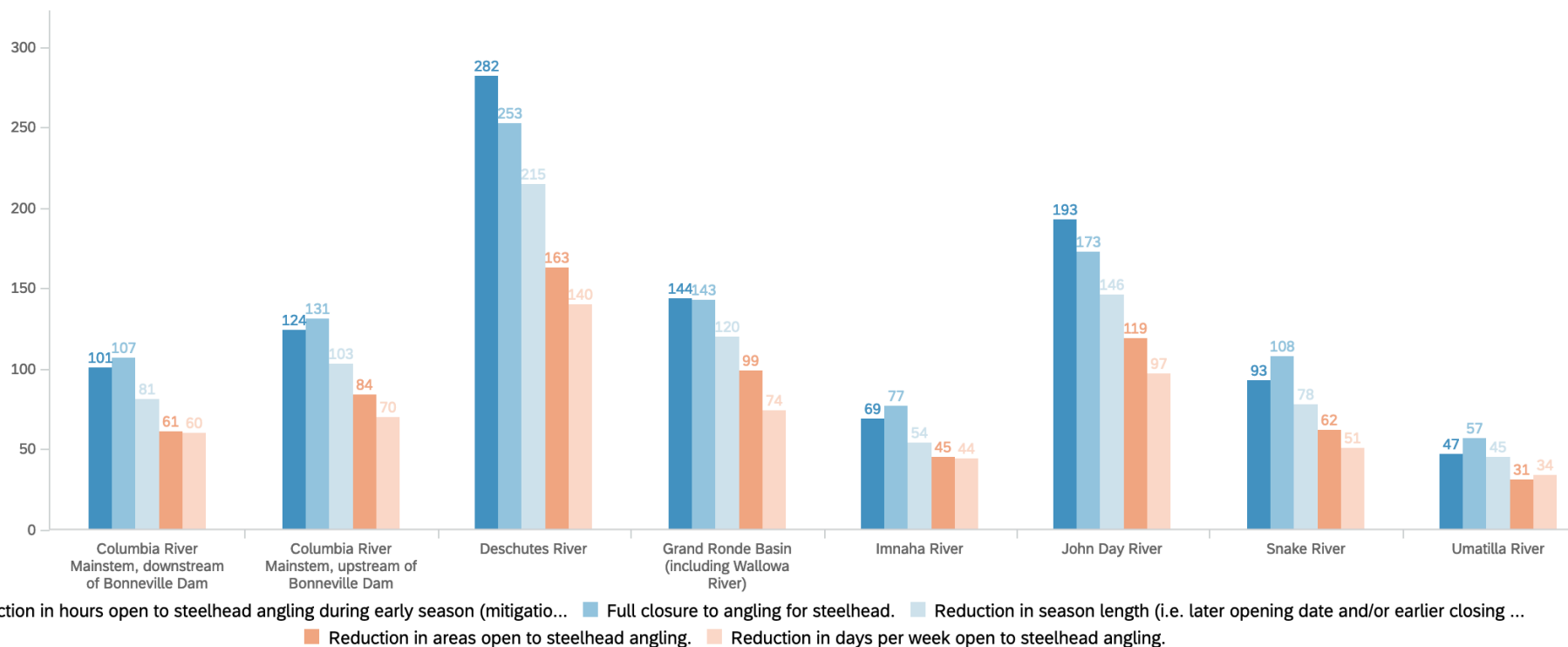


Figure 5. Variation by river segment in survey participants' preferred management responses to poor returns in the Columbia River Basin (participants could select multiple options, n=594)



In sum...

- ◆ We heard from people who are very concerned about summer steelhead recovery
 - ◆ And especially interested in the Deschutes and John Day
- ◆ Participants...
- ◆ Identified many limiting factors to summer steelhead recovery
 - ◆ Varied in their preference for management responses to poor returns, with about half supporting reduce hours or full closure
- ◆ This survey is just one small (non-representative) window into an ongoing process

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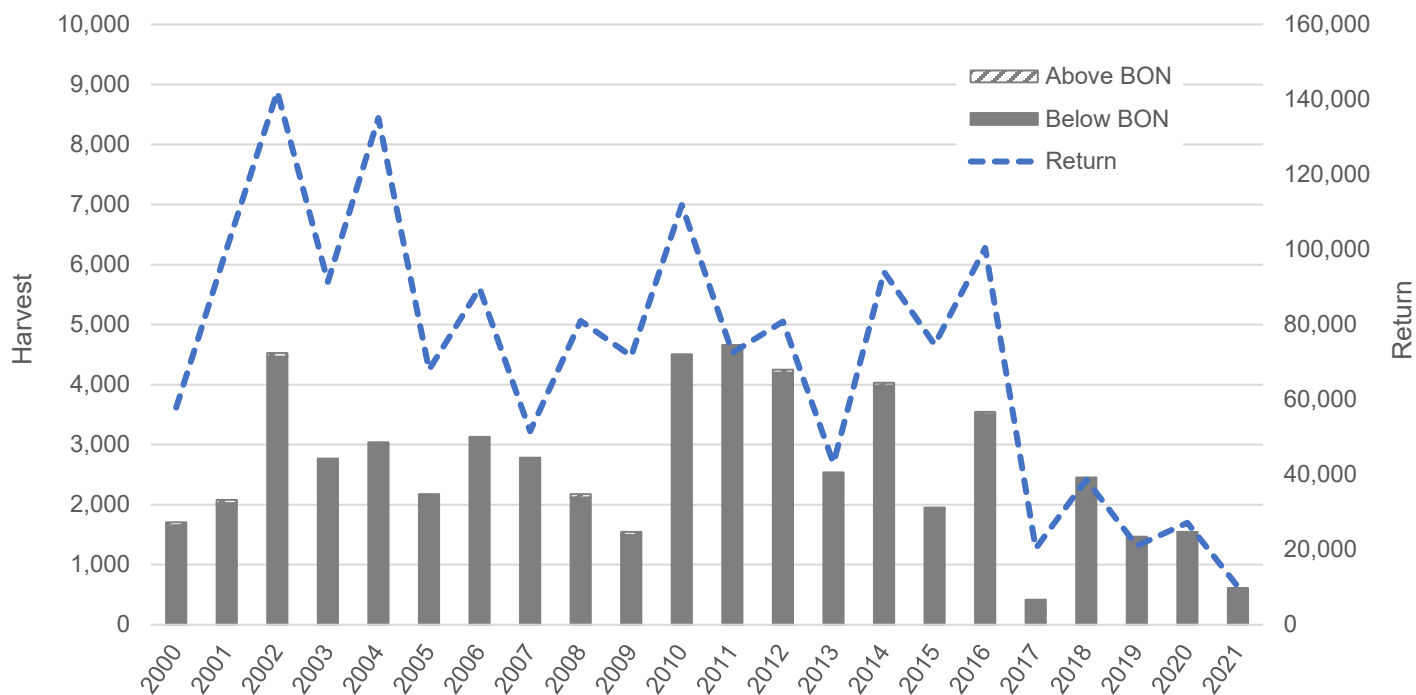
Columbia River

Summer Steelhead “Stocks” in Mainstem Columbia River Fisheries

- ◆ Groupings based on timing of dam passage, harvest, and/or fish size
 - ◆ Used for fishery management purposes; does not necessarily equate to population stocks used by NMFS for ESA
- ◆ Summer Steelhead
 - ◆ Skamania
 - ◆ A-Index
 - ◆ B-Index

Columbia River

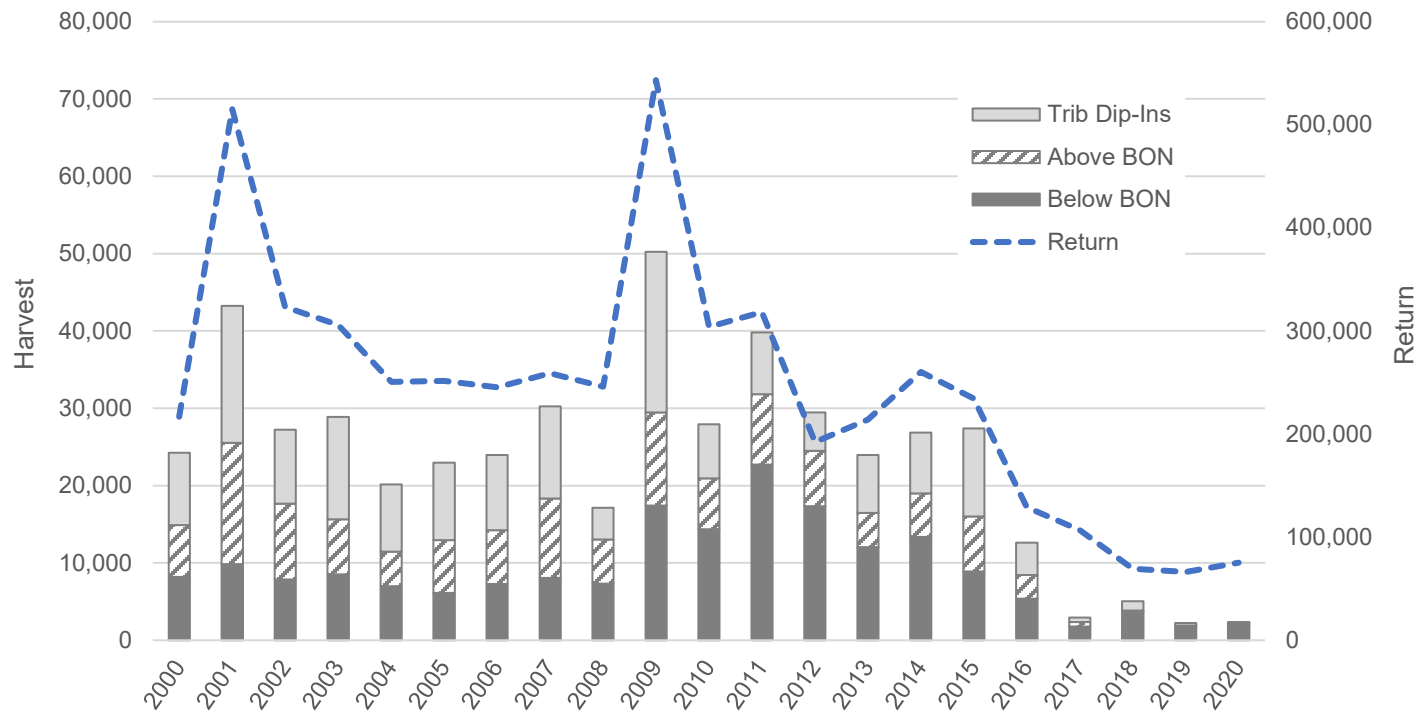
Minimum Annual Return of Lower and Upper Skamania Summer Steelhead and Harvest in Columbia River Non-Treaty Fisheries, 2000-2021*



*Harvest includes kept catch plus release mortalities.

Columbia River

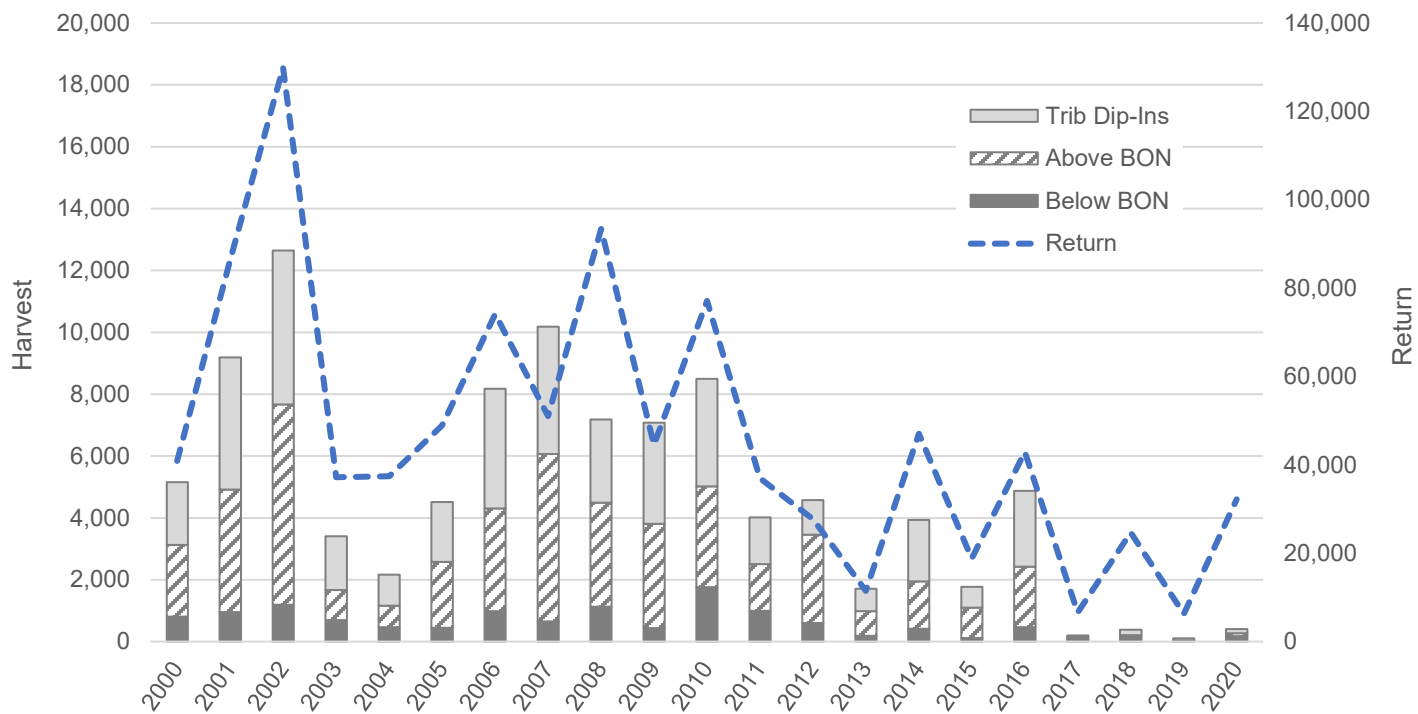
Annual Return of A-Index Summer Steelhead and Harvest in Columbia River Non-Treaty Fisheries, 2000-2020*



*Harvest includes kept catch plus release mortalities.

Columbia River

Annual Return of B-Index Summer Steelhead and Harvest in Columbia River Non-Treaty Fisheries, 2000-2020*



*Harvest includes kept catch plus release mortalities.



Columbia River

Summer Steelhead Regulations in Mainstem Columbia River Fisheries

- ◆ **Permanent Regulations**
 - ◆ **Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries**
 - ◆ Steelhead retention prohibited since 1975
 - ◆ Rivermouth sanctuaries in place
 - ◆ **Treaty Fisheries have own impacts under US v Oregon Management Agreement**
 - ◆ **Recreational Fisheries**
 - ◆ Barbless hooks; 2 hatchery steelhead per day when open for retention
 - ◆ Buoy 10 to Tongue Pt-Rocky Pt: Open Aug 1–Dec 31
 - ◆ Tongue Pt-Rocky Pt to I-5 Bridge: Open May 16–Dec 31
 - ◆ I-5 Bridge to Hwy 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA): Open Jun 16–Dec 31



Columbia River

Summer Steelhead Regulations in Mainstem Columbia River Fisheries (cont'd)

◆ Expected 2022–2023 Regulations

◆ Recreational Fisheries

- ◆ Barbless hooks; hatchery steelhead only when open for retention

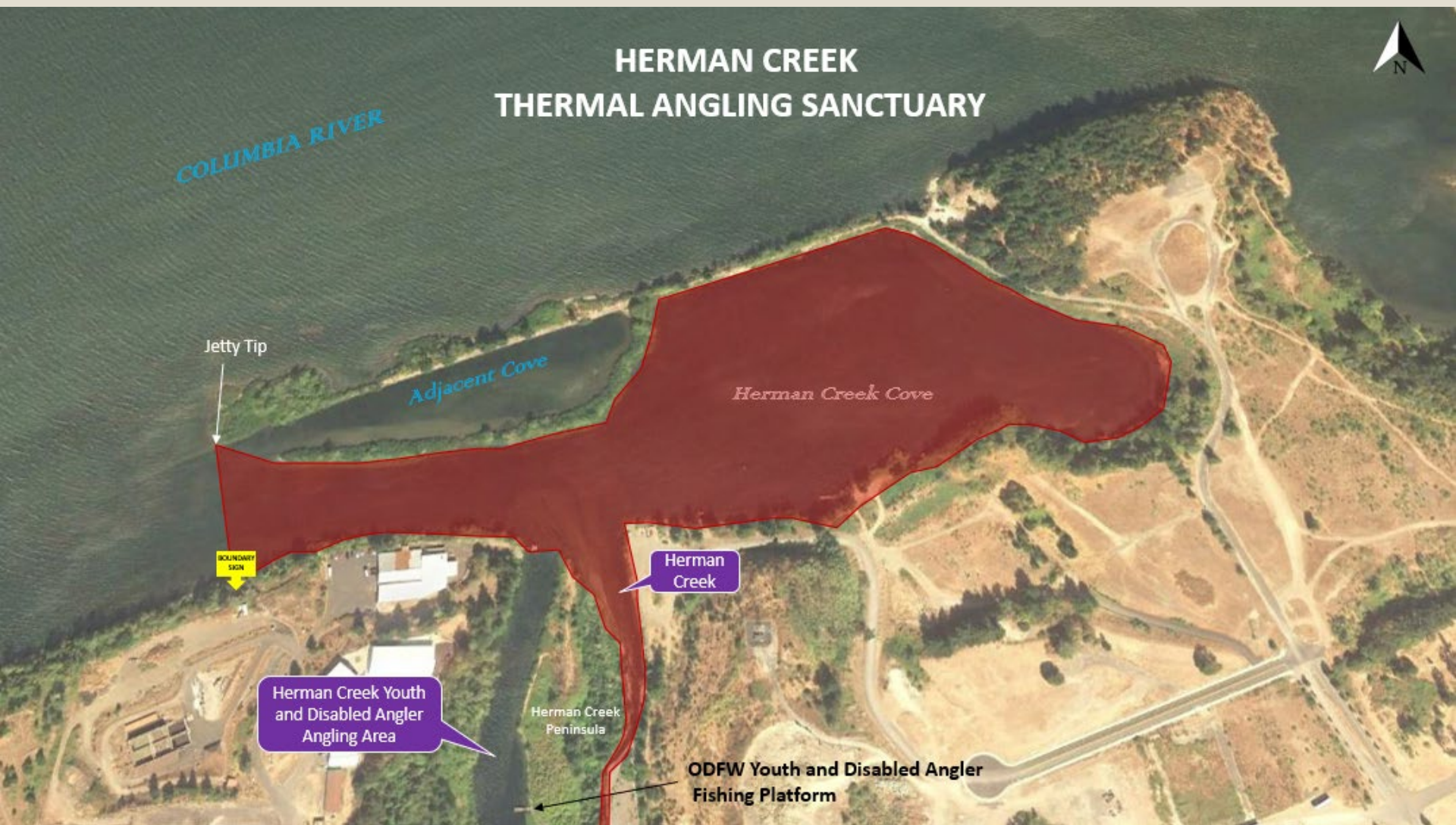
Mainstem Columbia River Summer Steelhead Regulation Summary for 2022–2023 Season								
Area	Jun 16–30	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan–Mar
Buoy 10–Tongue Pt/Rocky Pt	Perm. Regs. (Closed to retention)		Closed to retention			Perm. Regs. (Daily Limit 2)		
Tongue Pt/Rocky Pt–I-5 Bridge	Daily Limit 1							
I-5 Bridge–The Dalles Dam								
The Dalles Dam–Hwy 395 Bridge	Daily Limit 1			Closed to retention				

- ◆ Regulations may be modified in-season based on run size updates from the *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee

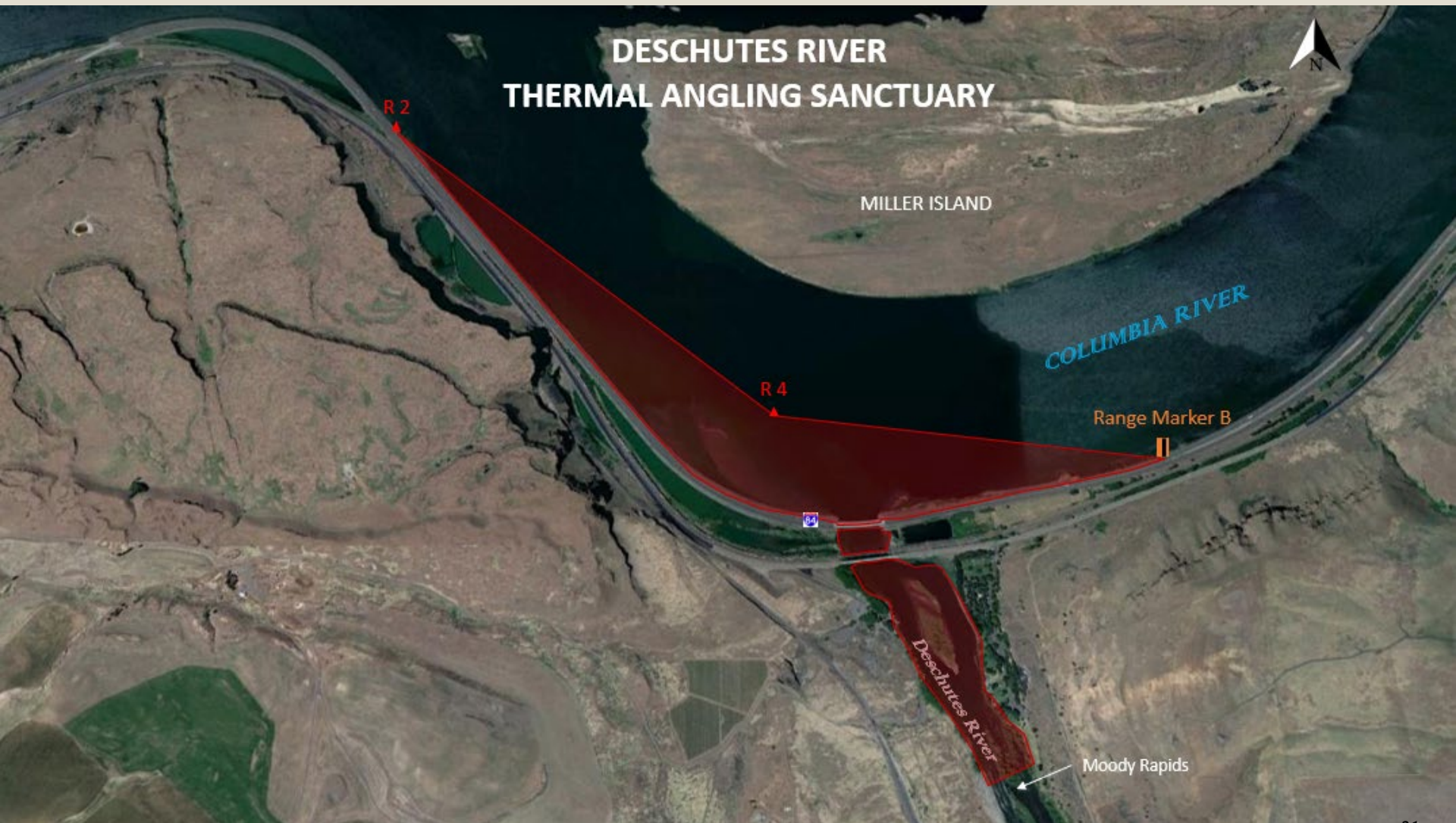
Columbia River



Columbia River



Columbia River





Columbia River

Summer Steelhead Impact Rates in Columbia River Mainstem Non-Treaty Fisheries, 2000–2020

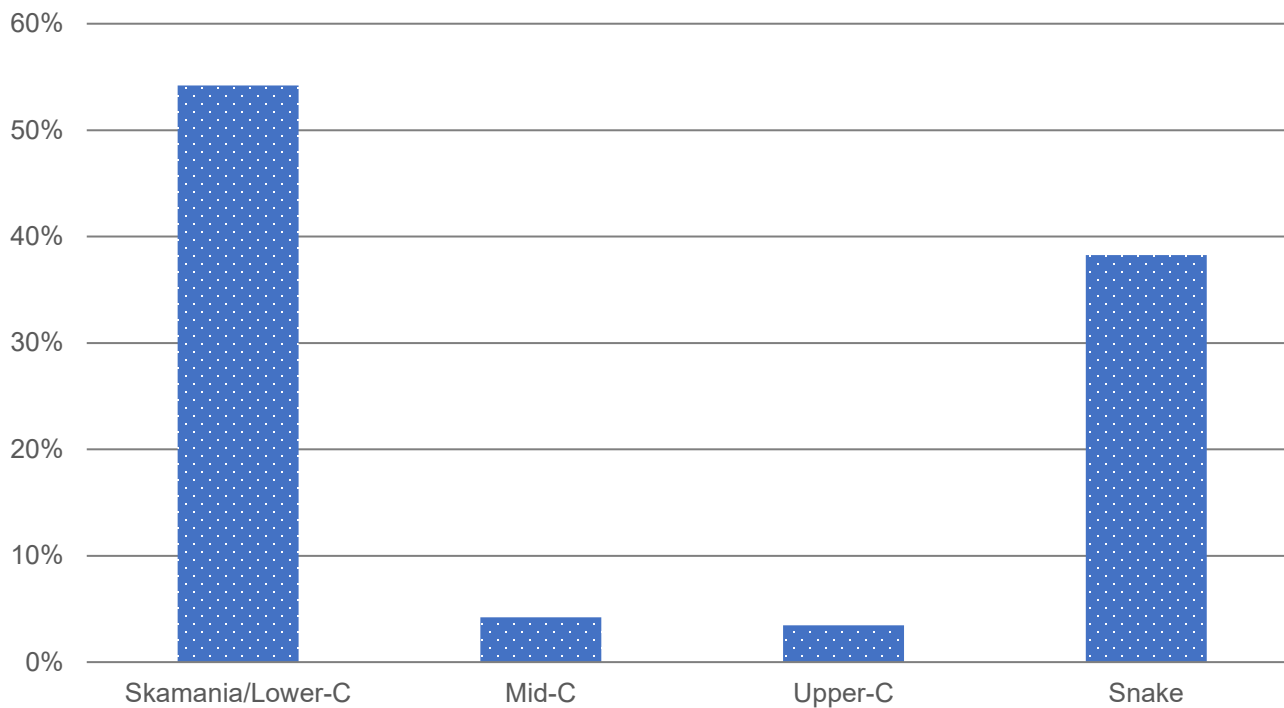
Run Year	Lower Skamania		Upper Skamania		A-Index ¹		B-Index ¹	
	Impact Rate	% of Allowed	Impact Rate	% of Allowed	Impact Rate	% of Allowed	Impact Rate	% of Allowed
2000	0.39%	20%	0.04%	2%	1.53%	38%	1.56%	39%
2001	0.27%	14%	0.03%	1%	1.18%	29%	1.26%	31%
2002	0.38%	19%	0.04%	2%	1.41%	35%	1.62%	41%
2003	0.35%	17%	0.01%	1%	1.91%	48%	3.17%	79%
2004	0.26%	13%	0.02%	1%	1.67%	42%	1.47%	37%
2005	0.37%	18%	0.03%	1%	1.58%	40%	2.13%	53%
2006	0.39%	19%	0.03%	1%	1.58%	40%	2.11%	53%
2007	0.64%	32%	0.04%	2%	1.43%	36%	2.69%	67%
2008	0.32%	16%	0.05%	2%	1.26%	31%	1.21%	30%
2009	0.25%	12%	0.04%	2%	1.61%	40%	2.00%	50%
2010	0.52%	26%	0.02%	1%	1.56%	39%	1.79%	45%
2011	0.72%	36%	0.02%	1%	2.23%	56%	2.40%	60%
2012	0.59%	29%	0.06%	3%	3.00%	75%	2.60%	65%
2013	0.66%	33%	0.07%	3%	2.31%	58%	2.90%	72%
2014	0.48%	24%	0.04%	2%	2.01%	50%	1.66%	41%
2015	0.27%	13%	0.02%	1%	1.75%	44%	2.00%	50%
2016	0.39%	19%	0.05%	3%	1.77%	44%	1.71%	43%
2017	0.24%	12%	0.00%	0%	1.49%	37%	2.08%	52%
2018	0.84%	42%	0.00%	0%	2.05%	51%	1.11%	28%
2019	0.88%	44%	0.00%	0%	1.24%	31%	1.60%	40%
2020	0.69%	35%	0.03%	1%	1.06%	26%	1.00%	25%
Avg	0.47%	24%	0.03%	1%	1.70%	42%	1.91%	48%

¹ Includes impacts accrued in fisheries during Jul–Dec of the current run year and between The Dalles Dam and Hwy 395 Bridge during Jan–Jun of the following year.



Columbia River

Average Stock Composition of Hatchery Summer Steelhead Harvested in the 2018–2020 Lower Columbia River Sport Fisheries during June 16–July 31*



*Based on combined results of PBT and GSI analysis.



Columbia River

Mainstem Columbia River Fisheries

- ◆ Fisheries are actively managed in-season through the Columbia River Compact process
- ◆ As updated run-size and impact data becomes available fisheries can be scaled up or down as appropriate
- ◆ Columbia Basin Partnership identified threats to interior basin summer steelhead
 - ◆ Hydrosystem, habitat, and predation impacts, as well as blocked access to historic spawning areas, were consistently the highest ranked threats
- ◆ Recreational and commercial fisheries important part of the conservation picture

Deschutes River



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The Dalles

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District Fish Biologist
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The Dalles



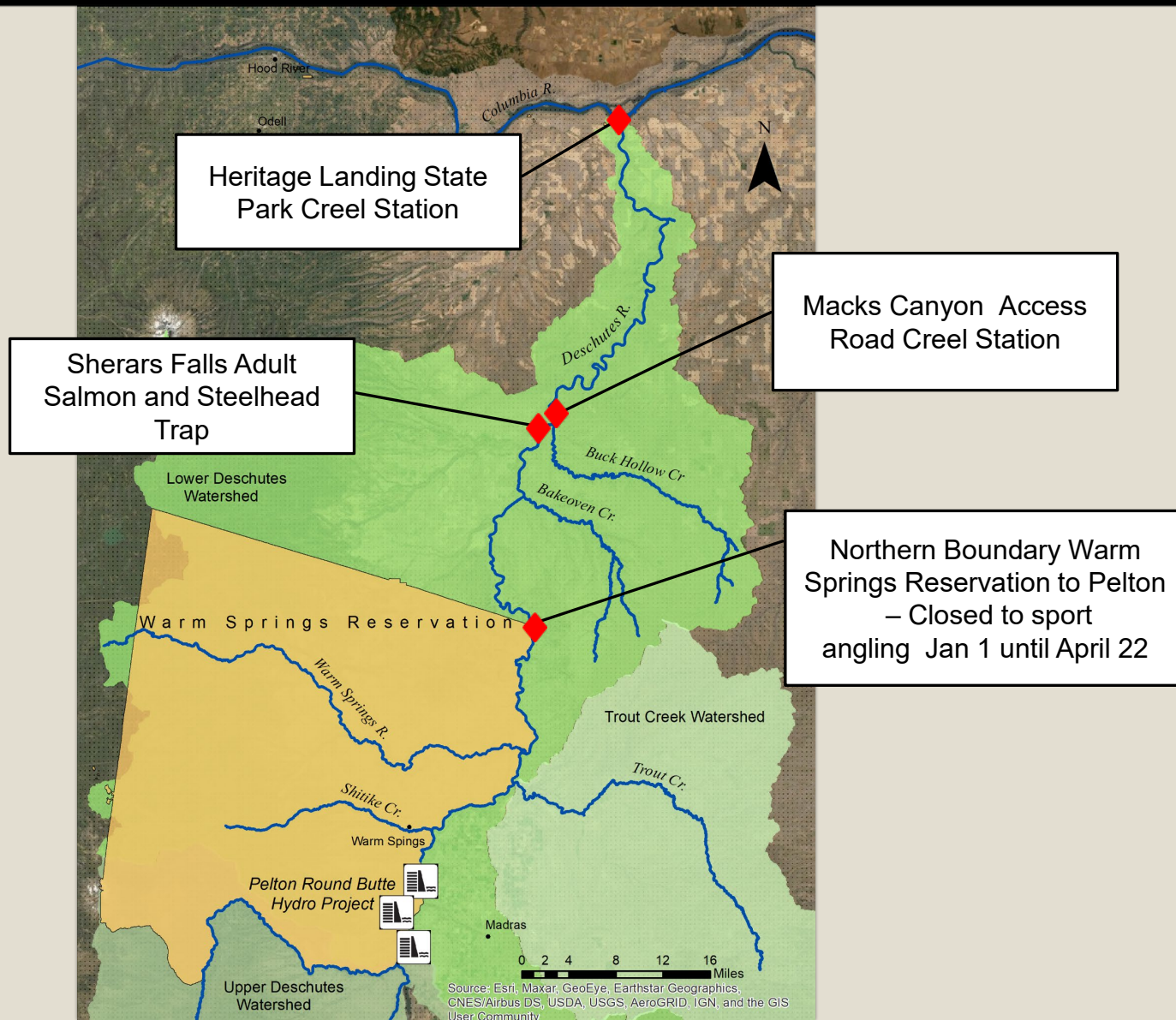


Deschutes River

Presentation Outline

- ◆ Background and Wild Steelhead Population Information
- ◆ Wild Steelhead Captured, Mortality, and Population Impact
- ◆ Proposed Fishery Framework
- ◆ Resources for Public Information

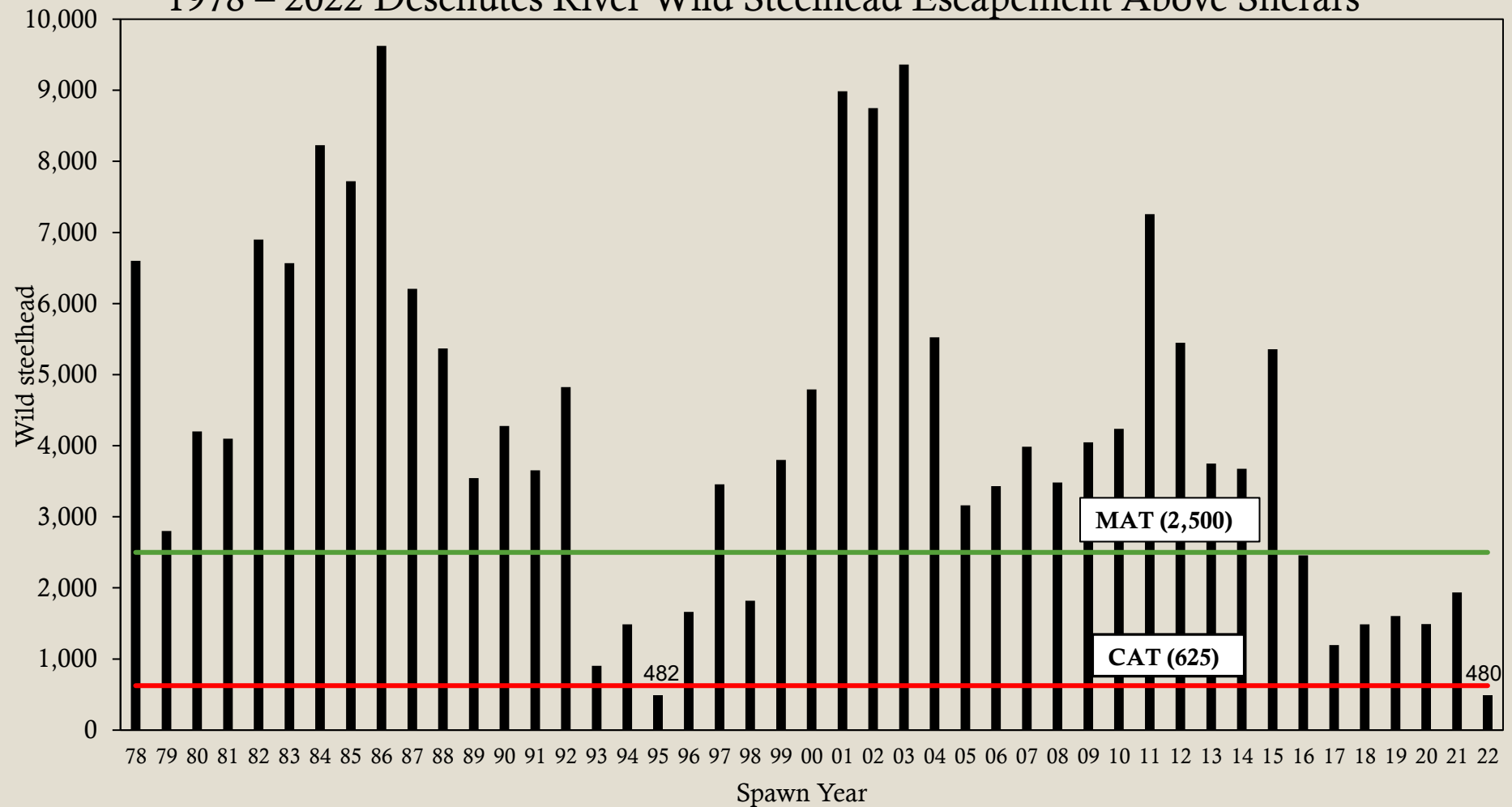
Deschutes River





Deschutes River

1978 – 2022 Deschutes River Wild Steelhead Escapement Above Sherars





Deschutes River

Sport Fishery Encounters with Wild Fish (1990-2021)

ODFW Creel Surveys:

July 1 to Oct. 31

Estimate Wild Steelhead
Caught and Released
from Mouth to Buck
Hollow Creek (Lower 40
miles)

Period	Annual Estimate 10-year average
1990-1999	2,406
2000-2009	4,728
2010-2019	4,830

Highest Annual Estimates (Since 1990)	
Year	Wild Steelhead Released
2014	9,704
2009	8,140
2010	6,714
2001	6,525
2013	6,326

Lowest Annual Estimates (Since 1990)	
Year	Wild Steelhead Released
2021	559*
1994	1,192
1998	1,464
2017	1,754
2020	1,817

* Steelhead sport fishery closed Sept. 1, 2021 under temp. rule



Deschutes River

Sport Fishery Encounters with Wild Fish

Year	Wild Steelhead Released					Columbia Zone 6 Fall Sport Fishery
	Deschutes Lower 40 miles	Umatilla	John Day Cottonwood to Rock Cr	Grande Ronde	Imnaha	
2010	6,714	533	1,605	3,163	1,500	
2011	6,205	637	1,053	3,518	238	
2012	5,336	609		1,811	206	
2013	6,326	1,147		1,205	279	
2014	9,704	1,567		2,621	442	
2015	5,454	1,346		2,962	119	
2016	2,190	379		383	63	
2017	1,754	610		726	103	
2018	2,011			454*	38	
2019	2,607			483*	94	200
2020	1,817			654*	240	164

**2018, 2019, 2020 preliminary
estimates for Grande Ronde
fishery*

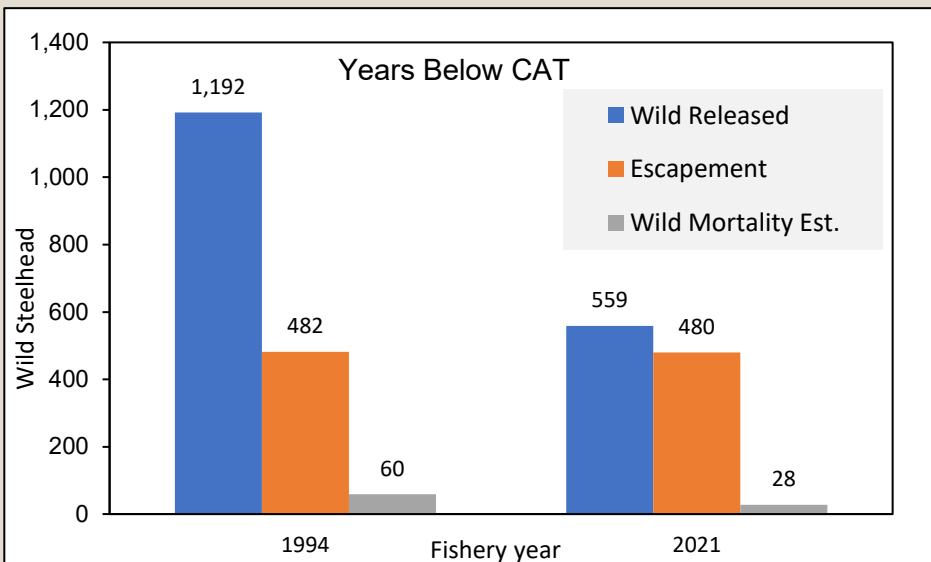


Deschutes River

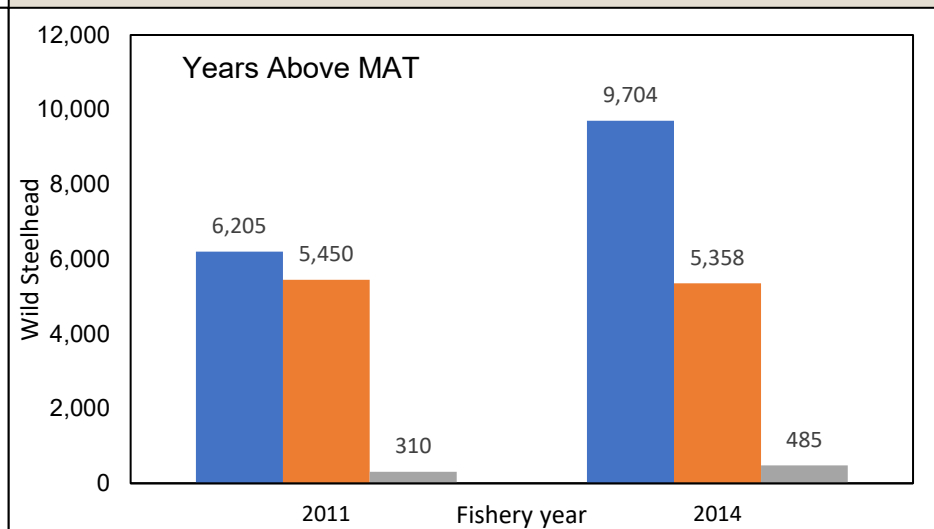
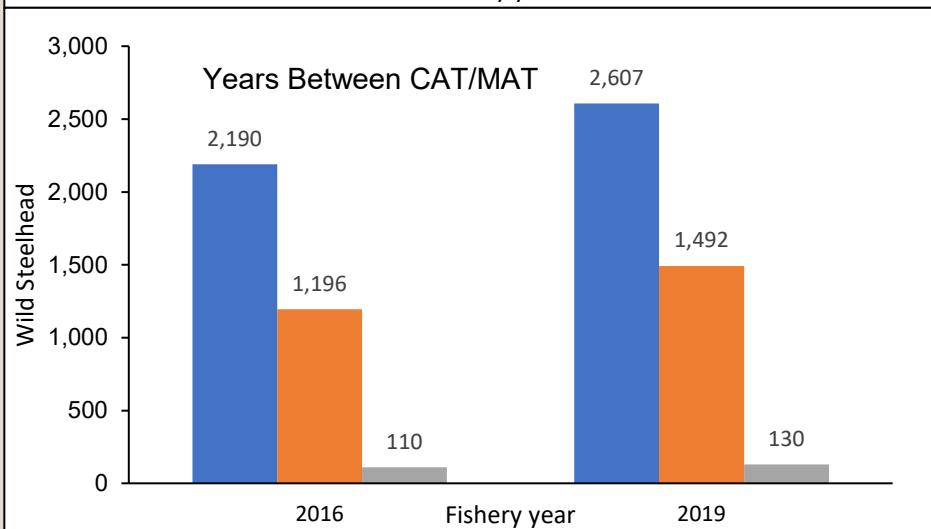
Catch and Release Mortality of Wild Steelhead

- ◇ Deschutes Fishery on an assumed catch and released mortality rate of 5%
- ◇ Consistent with other Columbia Basin Fisheries (John Day, Grande Ronde, Columbia River)
- ◇ Based on Literature
- ◇ No specific rate determined in the Deschutes because of the challenges associated with these types of studies

Deschutes River



Wild Mortality Estimate = 5% of Wild Released





Deschutes River

Proposed Deschutes Fishery Framework

Goal

Develop established standards for managing Deschutes steelhead sport fishery

- ◆ Long-term framework
- ◆ Clearly defined standards
 - ◆ Fishery closed if escapement \leq CAT
- ◆ Transparent to public



Deschutes River

Proposed Deschutes Fishery Framework

Development

Evaluate the best method for predicting wild steelhead returns to Deschutes River to determine if sport fishery allowable or if conservation measures necessary

- ◆ Use in-season return data, not pre-season Columbia basin forecasts
- ◆ Use wild steelhead passage over Bonneville Dam by certain dates to predict if escapement of wild steelhead above Sherars Falls will be above CAT



Deschutes River

Proposed Deschutes Fishery Framework

Framework & Timeline:

February: Share how preliminary Sherars escapement estimate is trending

May 1: Escapement Estimate of wild steelhead above Sherars finalized

June 1: Fishery opened or closed based on escapement

a) > 625 Open, ≤ 625 Close

July 1: In-season passage of wild steelhead over Bonneville begins

July 31: Passage Evaluation, July 1 – July 31

a) Minimum: 9,900 fish (Close or Open August 15)

b) Optimal: 18,700 fish (Open within 10 days)

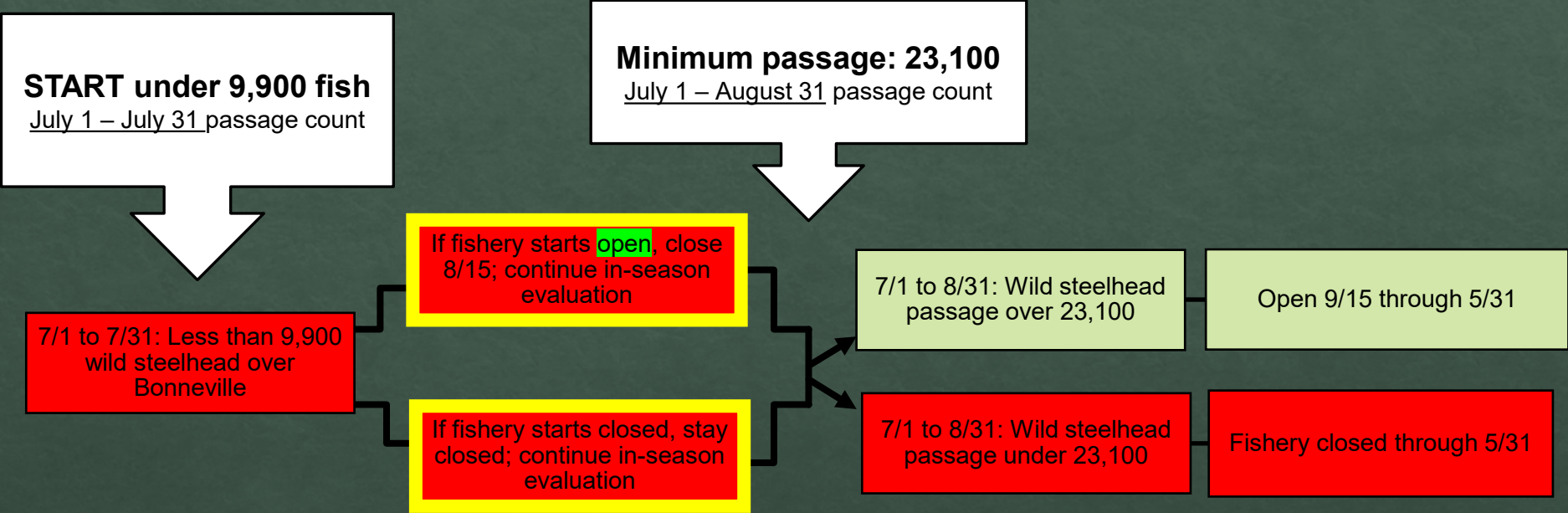
August 31: Passage Evaluation, July 1 – August 31

a) Minimum: 23,100 fish (Close or Open Sept 15 – May 31)



Deschutes River

Scenario #1 (Potentially below CAT)



Deschutes River

Scenario #2

(Likely above CAT but below MAT)

START 9,900-18,700 fish

July 1 – July 31 passage count

Minimum passage: 23,100

July 1 – August 31 passage count

If fishery starts open, stay open continue in-season evaluation

7/1 to 7/31: 9,900-18,700 wild steelhead over Bonneville

If fishery starts **closed**, re-open 8/15; continue in-season evaluation

7/1 to 8/31: Wild steelhead passage over 23,100

Stay open through 5/31

7/1 to 8/31: Wild steelhead passage under 23,100

Close 9/15 through 5/31



Deschutes River

Scenario #3 (Likely above MAT)

START over 18,700 fish
July 1 – July 31 passage count

7/1 to 7/31: Bonneville wild steelhead
passage over 18,700

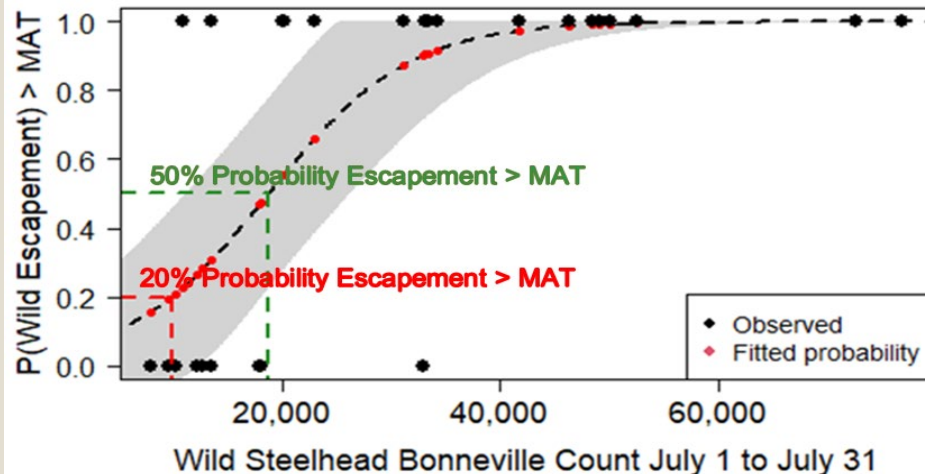
If escapement ≤ 625 and fishery starts
closed, open within 10 days of passage
exceeding 18,700; open through 5/31

If escapement > 625 and fishery starts
open, stay open through 5/31

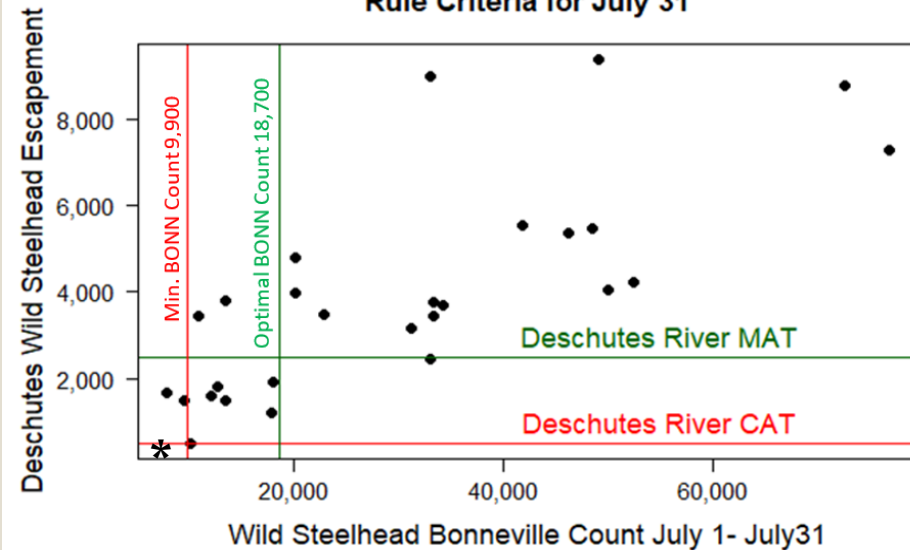
Deschutes River

July 1 – July 31 Threshold Analysis

Logistic Regression to Derive a 20/50 rule



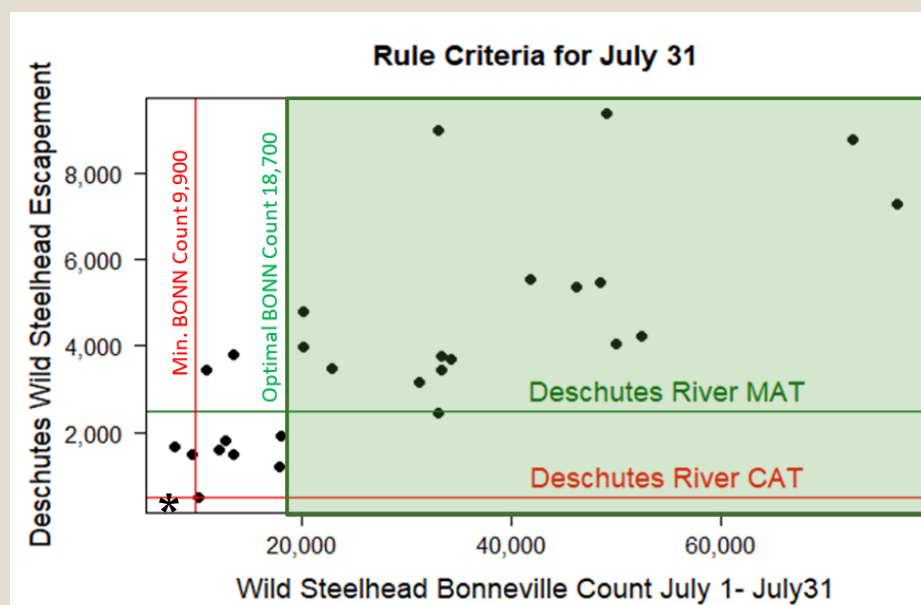
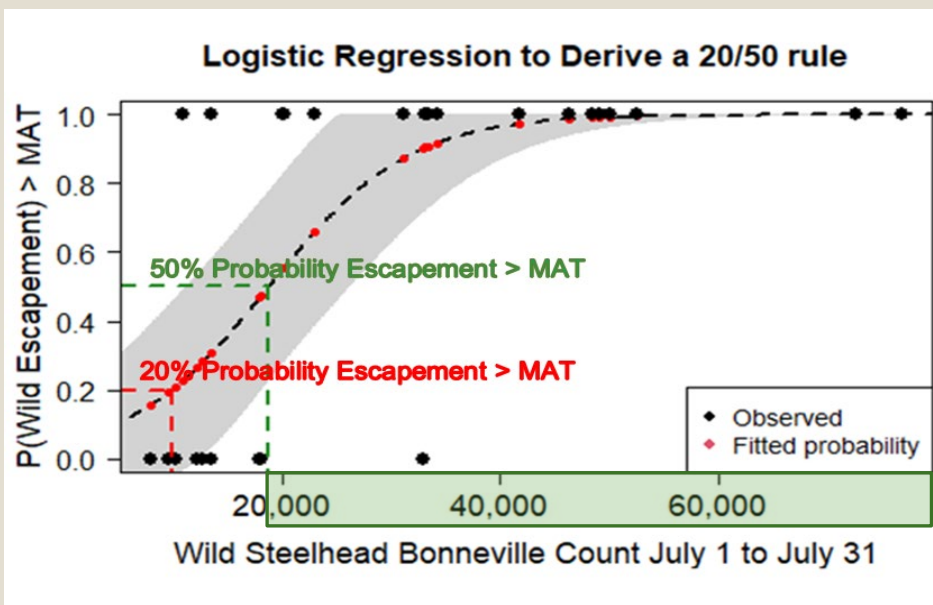
Rule Criteria for July 31



* 2021-2022 return/escapement not included in logistic regression analysis

Deschutes River

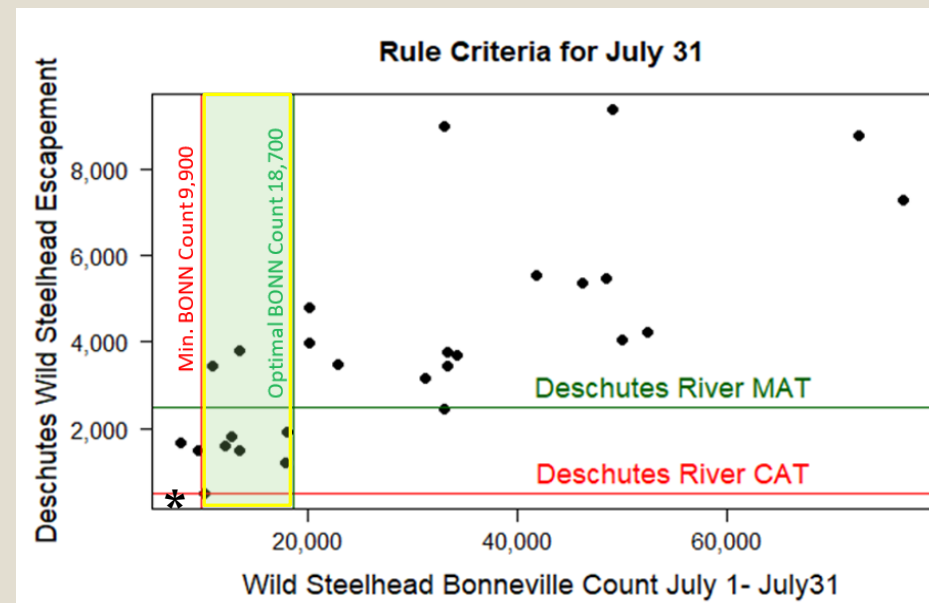
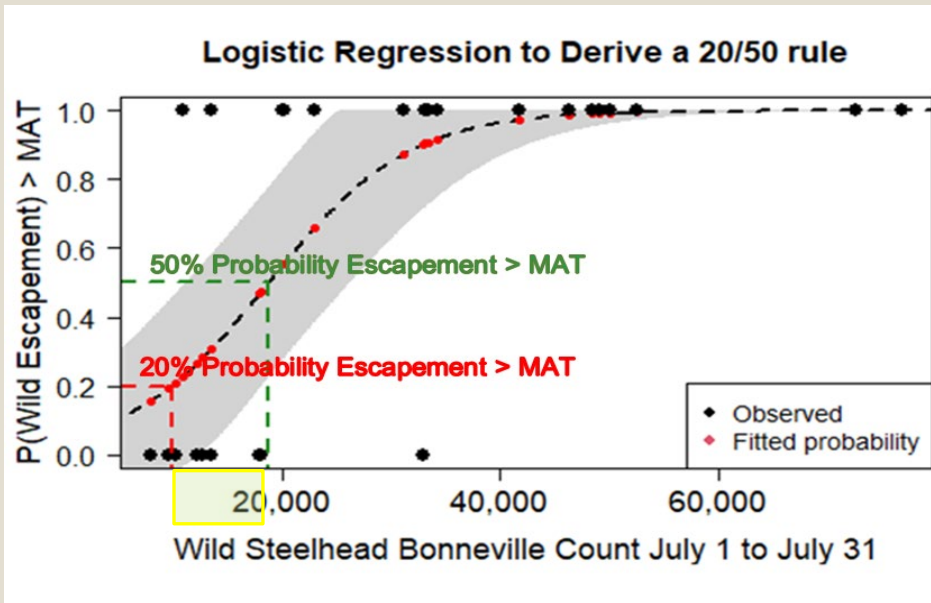
July 1 – July 31 Threshold Analysis



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Deschutes River

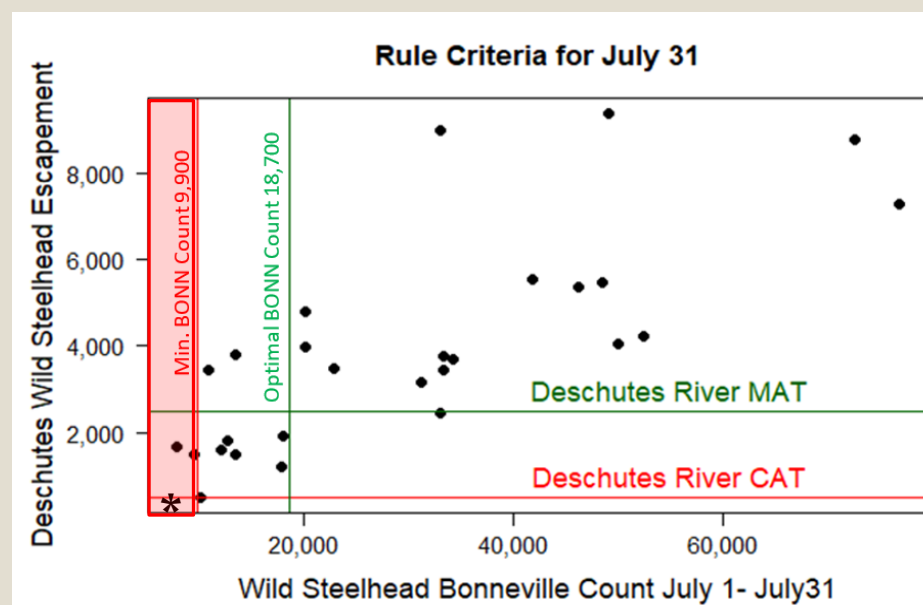
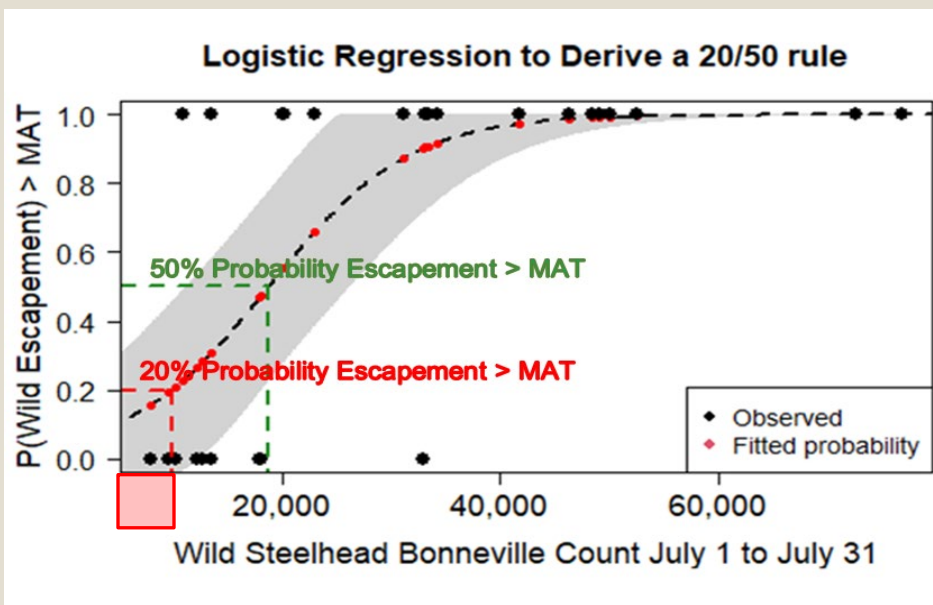
July 1 – July 31 Threshold Analysis



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Deschutes River

July 1 – July 31 Threshold Analysis

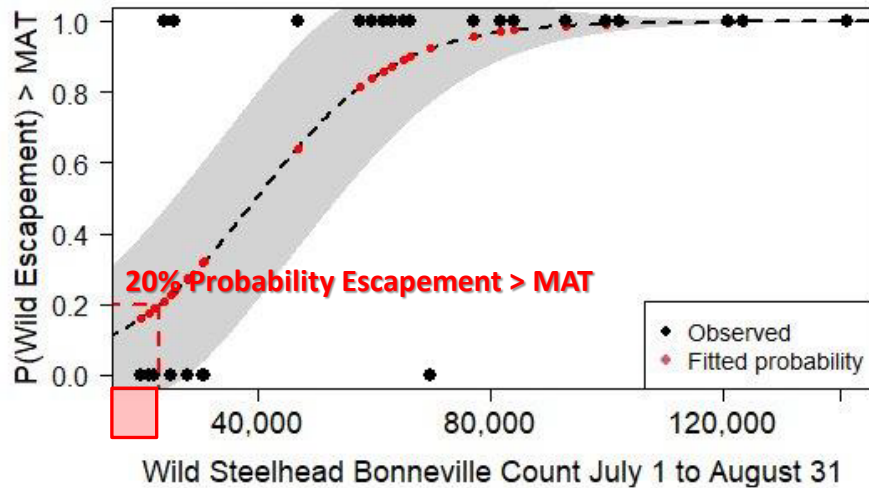


* 2021-2022 return/escapement not included in logistic regression analysis

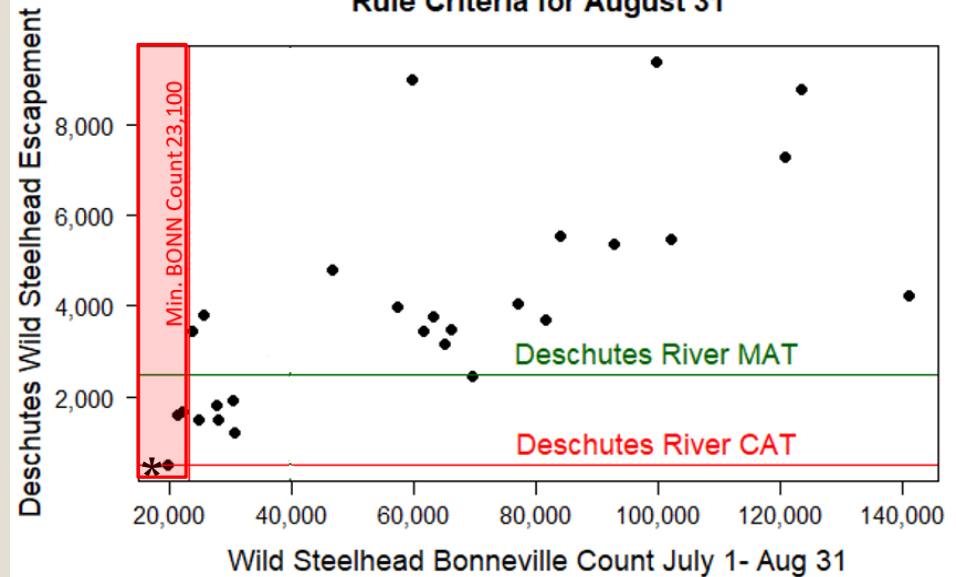
Deschutes River

July 1 – August 31 Threshold Analysis

Logistic Regression to Derive a 20/50 rule



Rule Criteria for August 31



* 2021-2022 return/escapement not included in logistic regression analysis



Deschutes River

1994-2021 wild steelhead passage over Bonneville

July 1 – July 31
Minimum 9,900

July 1 – August 31
Minimum 23,100

Deschutes Escapement

CAT > 625

Run - Spawn Year	Deschutes Escapement	Wild over Bonn July 1 - July 31	Wild Over Bonn July 1 - Aug 31
1994-1995	482	10,195	19,758
1995-1996	1,662	7,921	22,179
1996-1997	3,458	10,939	23,760
1997-1998	1,820	12,745	27,745
1998-1999	3,800	13,492	25,516
1999-2000	4,790	20,168	46,710
2000-2001	8,985	33,130	59,637
2001-2002	8,749	72,609	123,375
2002-2003	9,363	49,045	99,688
2003-2004	5,524	41,817	84,073
2004-2005	3,161	31,199	65,044
2005-2006	3,432	33,289	61,487
2006-2007	3,986	20,114	57,393
2007-2008	3,482	22,974	66,199
2008-2009	4,048	50,057	77,039
2009-2010	4,236	52,524	141,152
2010-2011	7,257	76,892	120,691
2011-2012	5,450	48,545	102,181
2012-2013	3,749	33,412	63,082
2013-2014	3,677	34,228	81,701
2014-201	5,358	46,295	92,839
2015-2016	2,457	33,025	69,532
2016-2017	1,196	17,960	30,773
2017-2018	1,487	9,527	24,877
2018-2019	1,605	12,196	21,231
2019-2020	1,492	13,470	27,935
2020-2021	1,935	18,064	30,449
2021-2022	480	6,736	16,023



Deschutes River

What does the 2022 Fishery look like under this proposal?

2021-2022 Wild Steelhead Escapement Estimate: 480 fish

Per proposed framework (escapement ≤ 625): Start closed June 1

In-season run evaluations begin July 1

Concurrent salmon fisheries with high steelhead encounters – Closed

Trout fishery – Open



Deschutes River

Resources

Monitoring in-season wild steelhead returns over Bonneville

- ◇ Counts begin July 1
- ◇ myODFW.com, Fish counts at major dams <https://myodfw.com/fish-counts-major-dams-and-fish-traps>
- ◇ DART https://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/query/adult_daily
- ◇ Fish Passage Center https://www.fpc.org/adults/Q_adults_passagedata.php

Review Deschutes Steelhead Fishery Framework

- ◇ Slides posted
- ◇ Finalized document will be released



John Day River



Photo Credit: Bob Wick, BLM

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Brentton.a.smith@odfw.oregon.gov

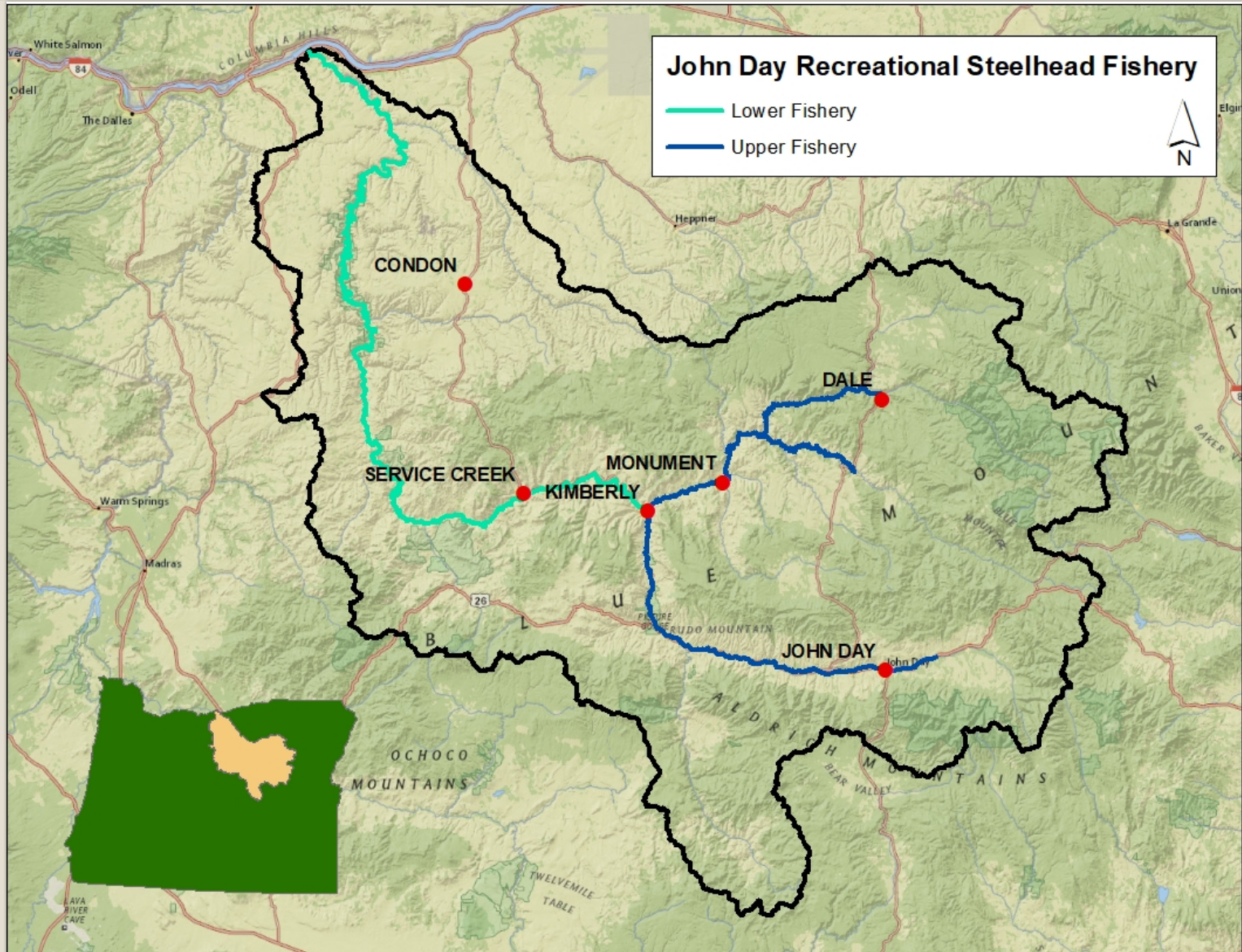


John Day River

◇ John Day Basin Summer Steelhead Overview

- ◇ Wild fishery, only hatchery fish in the system are strays predominantly from Snake River Basin. A goal of the recreational fishery is the targeted removal of hatchery strays.
- ◇ Unique issues for the John Day include high frequency (up to 60%) of adult overshoot John Day mouth. Adults often spend time in the Deschutes and overshoot the John Day where they go above McNary before falling back to find the John Day entrance.
- ◇ Screw traps for smolt abundance, PIT tagging efforts to estimate SAR, surveys conducted to estimate redds in order to determine adult returns.

John Day River

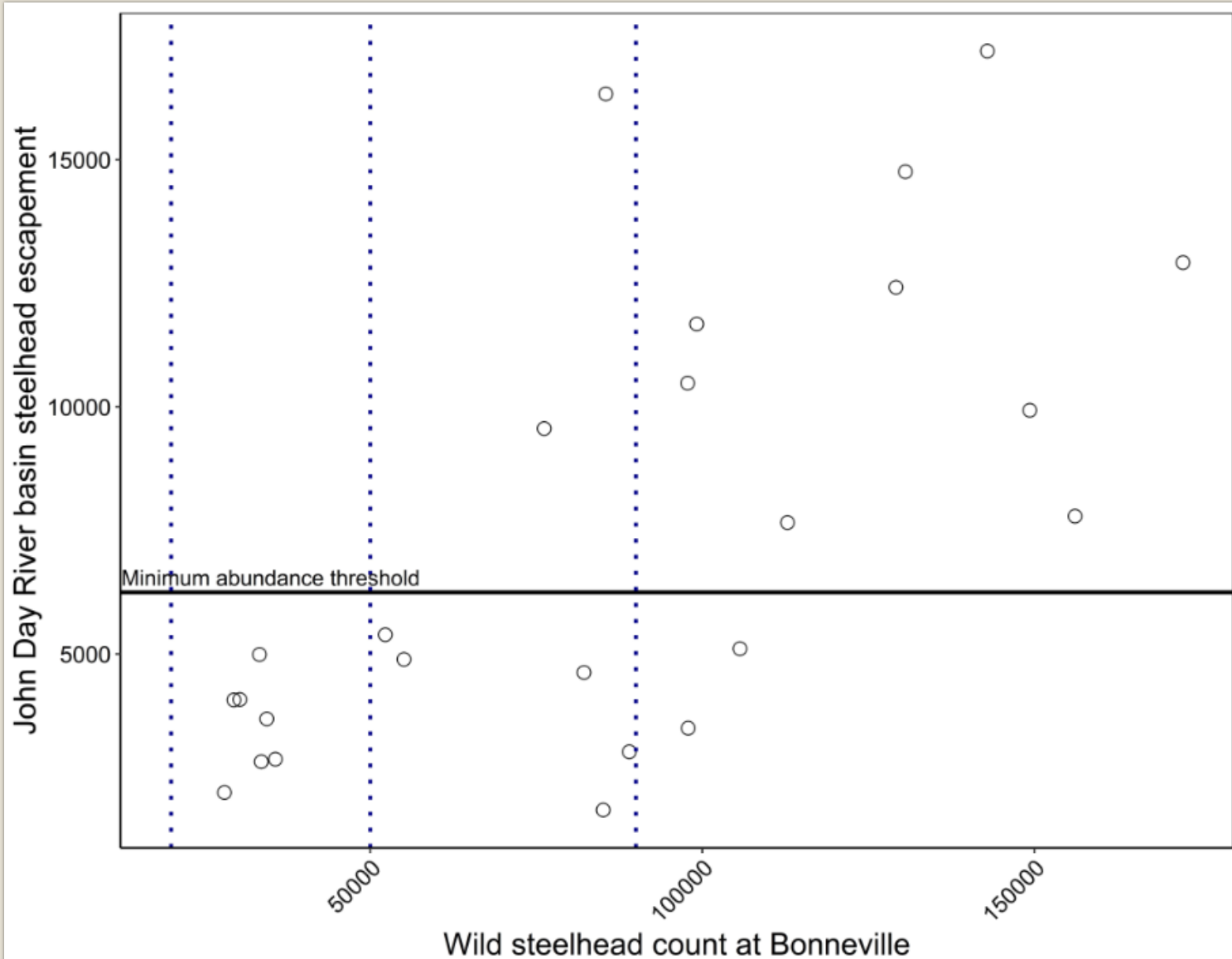


John Day River

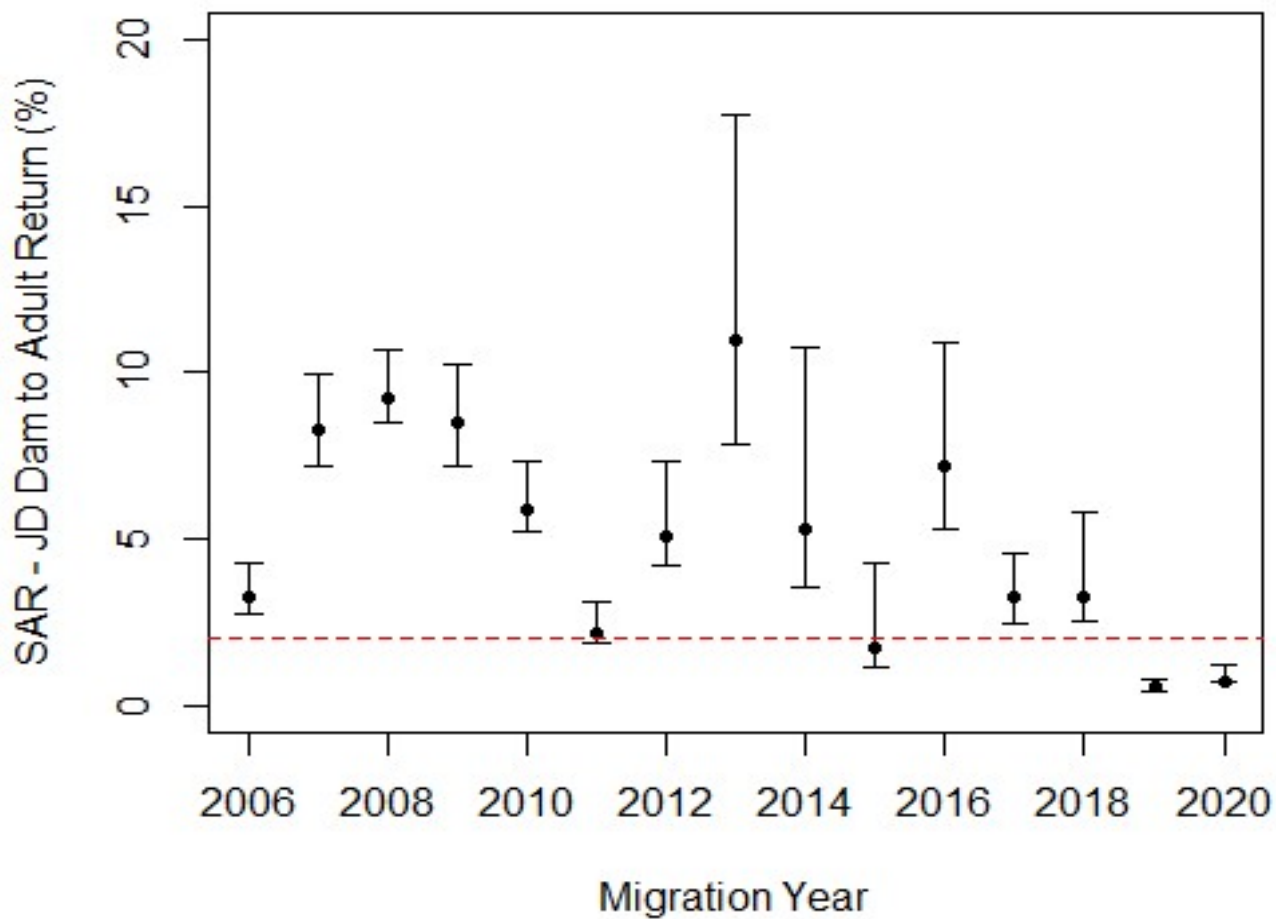
John Day Steelhead Recreational Fishery abundance matrix

		John Day or Mid-C SAR			
Bonneville Wild A Count	< 2%	2-4%	4-6%	6-8%	>8%
< 20,000	Fishery Management Actions Required	Potential Action Required	Potential Action Required	Minimum Threshold Met	No Action Required
20,001-50,000	Potential Action Required	Potential Action Required	Minimum Threshold Met	No Action Required	No Action Required
50,001-90,000	Potential Action Required	Minimum Threshold Met	Minimum Threshold Met	No Action Required	No Action Required
>90,000	Minimum Threshold Met	No Action Required	No Action Required	No Action Required	No Action Required

John Day River

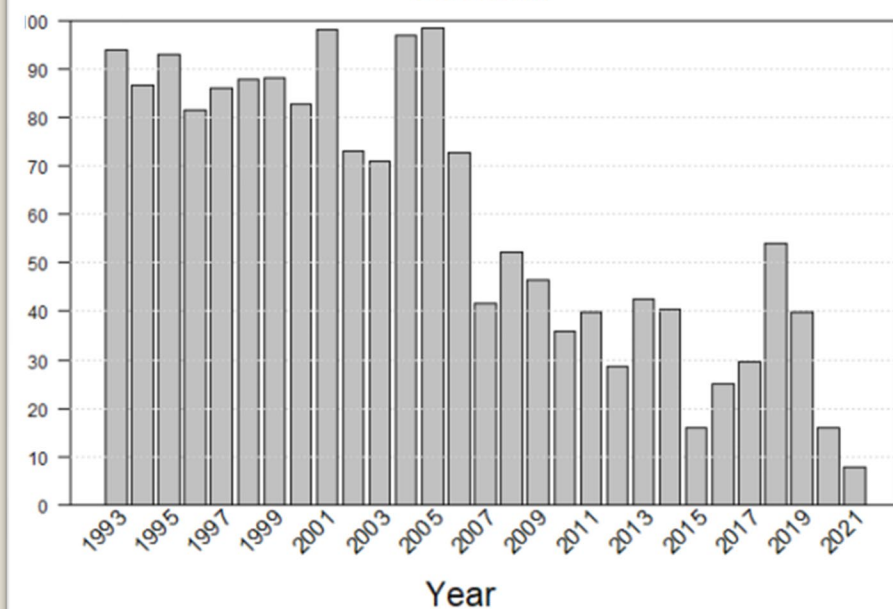


John Day River

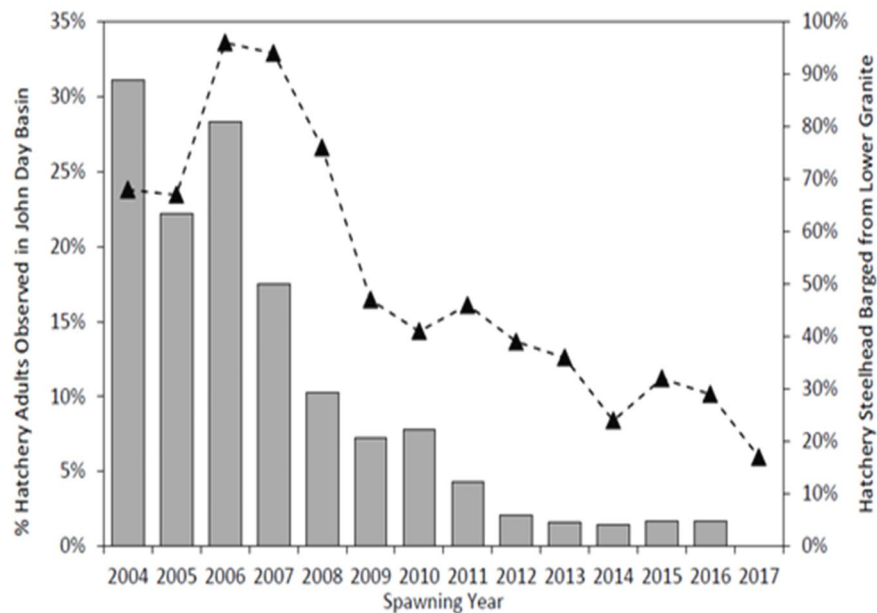


John Day River

Steelhead



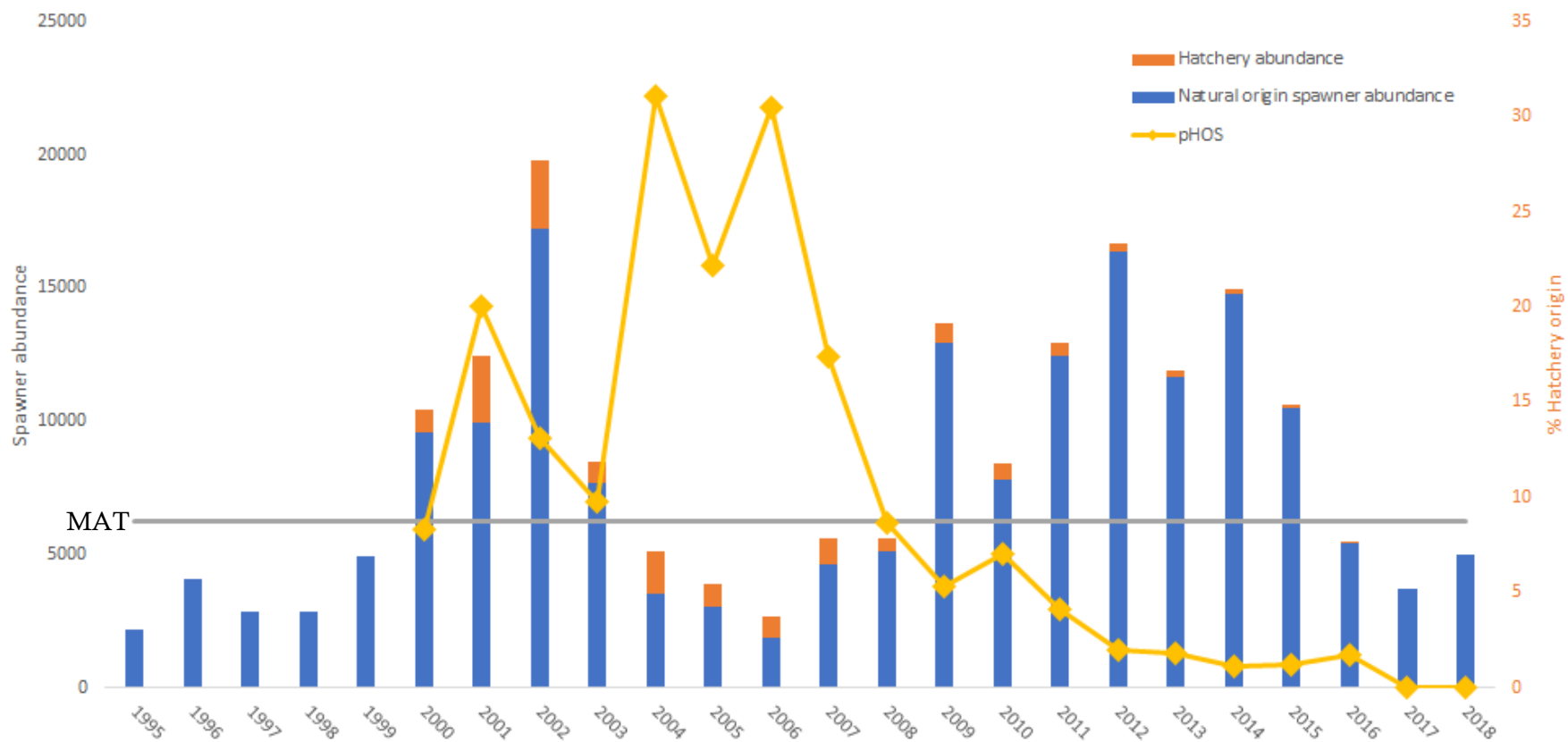
Percent Snake River Smolts Transported Below Bonneville



Percent Hatchery Origin Adults Observed in the John Day

John Day River

John Day Basin Wild Steelhead Escapement





John Day River

- ◇ Current permanent steelhead angling regulations for the John Day
 - ◇ Open year-round from mainline RR bridge to North Fork John Day confluence
 - ◇ North and Middle Fork downstream of Hwy 395, and sections of upper mainstem John Day below Indian Creek open September 1-April 30
 - ◇ C&R for wild fish, bag limit of 3 hatchery fish per day
 - ◇ Subject to change based on current year forecasts

- ◇ 2022 Proposed Regulations – **Closed with final decision by September 1st**
 - ◇ 2022 early TAC forecast suggests overall Wild A returns around 28K
 - ◇ Wild steelhead counts of 50,000 or less over Bonneville by September 1st likely will not meet MAT target
 - ◇ Final 2022 proposal based on dam counts in late August as well as PIT tag detections to estimate SAR
 - ◇ Recent record low smolt transport means very low probability of significant hatchery stray rates into the John Day
 - ◇ Bass and catfish to remain open year-round below North Fork confluence. OSP enforcement presence to ensure no steelhead gear/fishing

Umatilla and Walla Walla Rivers



Photo Credit: Unknown

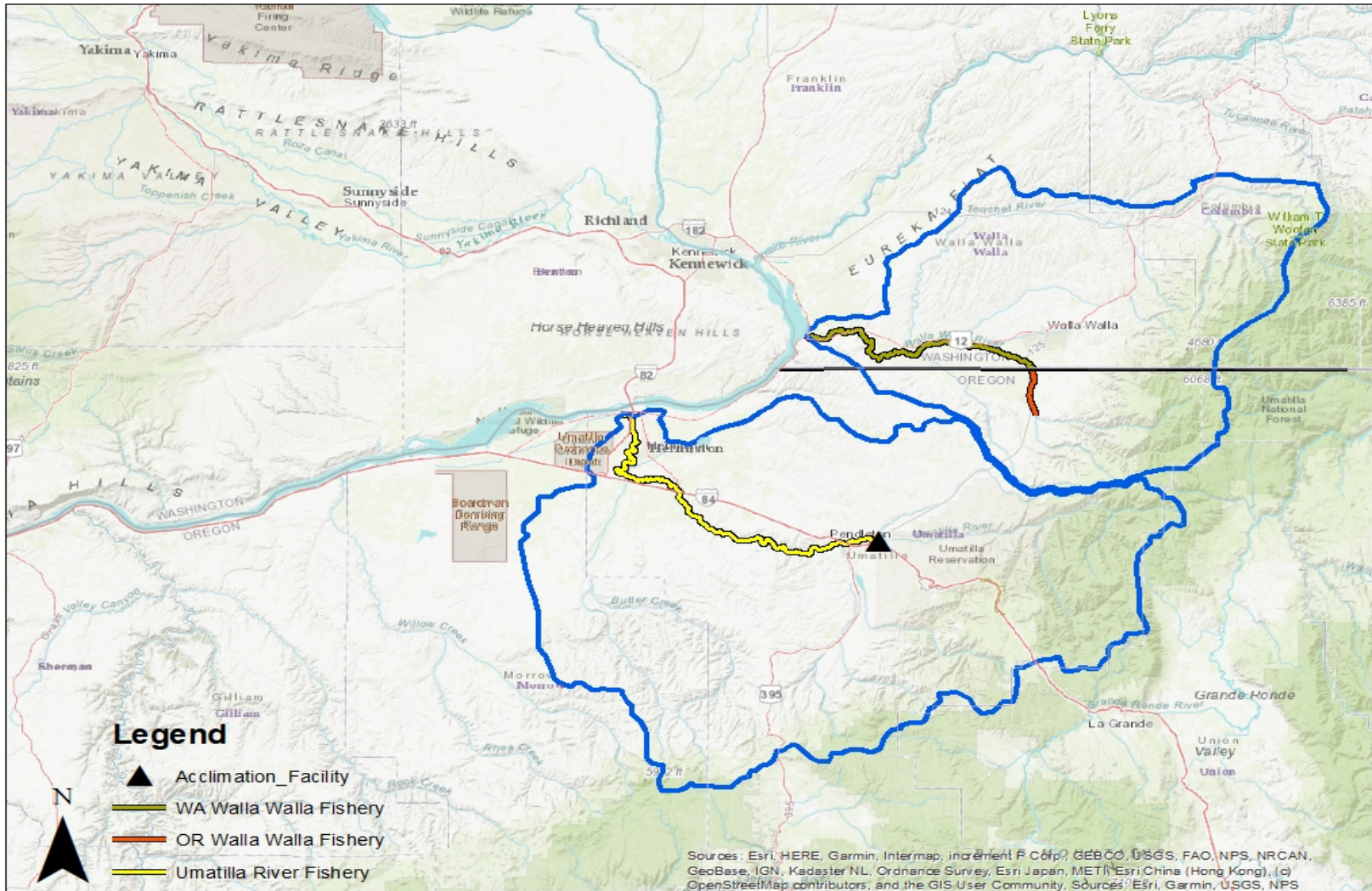
District Fish Biologist: Taylor McCroskey

Taylor.McCroskey@odfw.Oregon.gov

541-276-2344

Umatilla and Walla Walla Rivers

Umatilla and Walla Walla MPG





Umatilla and Walla Walla River

Key Differences between other Fisheries

- ◆ **Access & Landownership**
- ◆ **Angling Pressure & Encounter Rate**
- ◆ **Dams**
- ◆ **Research Monitoring and Evaluation**
- ◆ **Broodstock Program**



Umatilla and Walla Walla River

Fishery Management

◆ Umatilla

- ◆ Co – Management with Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
- ◆ Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan Goals

◆ Walla Walla

- ◆ Co – Management with CTUIR and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- ◆ Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan Goals



Umatilla and Walla Walla River

Current Permanent Steelhead Fishery Regulations

◆ Umatilla River

- ◆ Season: September 1 – April 30
- ◆ Concurrent Seasons (Fall Chinook and Coho Salmon): Sept. 1 – November 30
- ◆ Bag Limit: 3 adult fall Chinook, Coho or hatchery Steelhead in aggregate per day
- ◆ Use of bait allowed
- ◆ All wild steelhead must be released unharmed

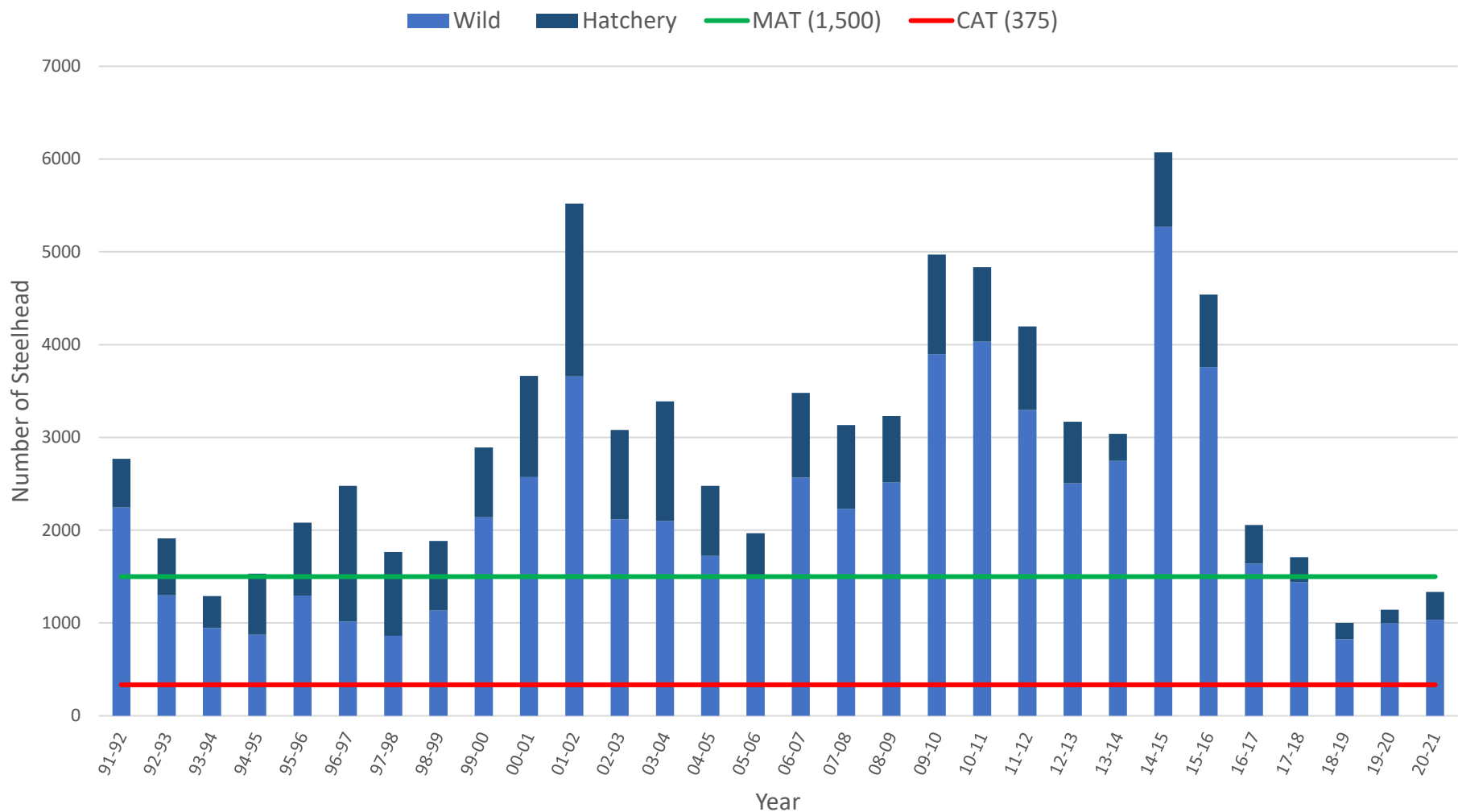
◆ Walla Walla River

- ◆ Season: September 1 – April 30
- ◆ Bag Limit: 3 adult hatchery Steelhead
- ◆ All wild steelhead must be released unharmed



Umatilla River

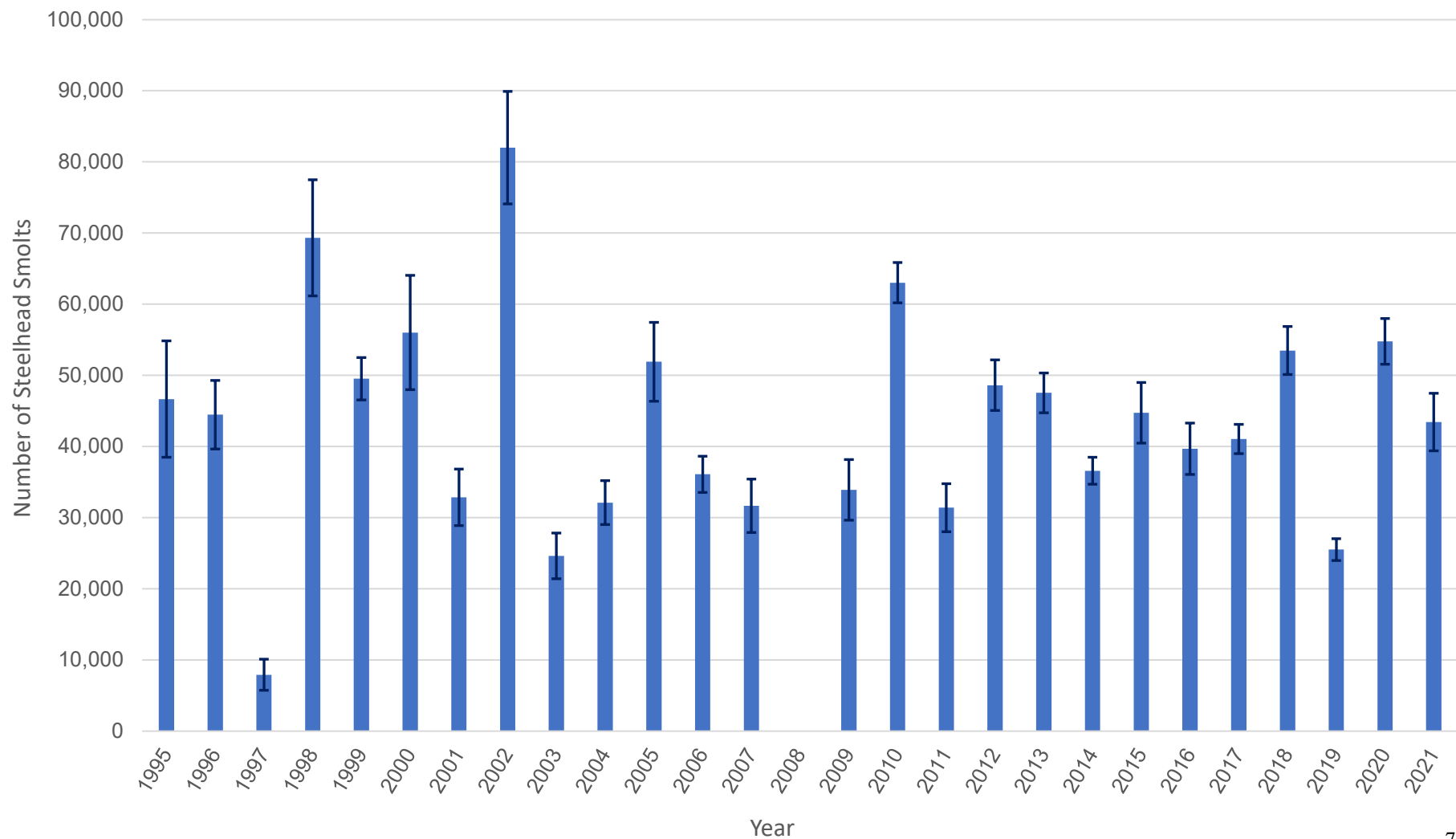
Steelhead Returns to Three Mile Falls Dam





Umatilla River

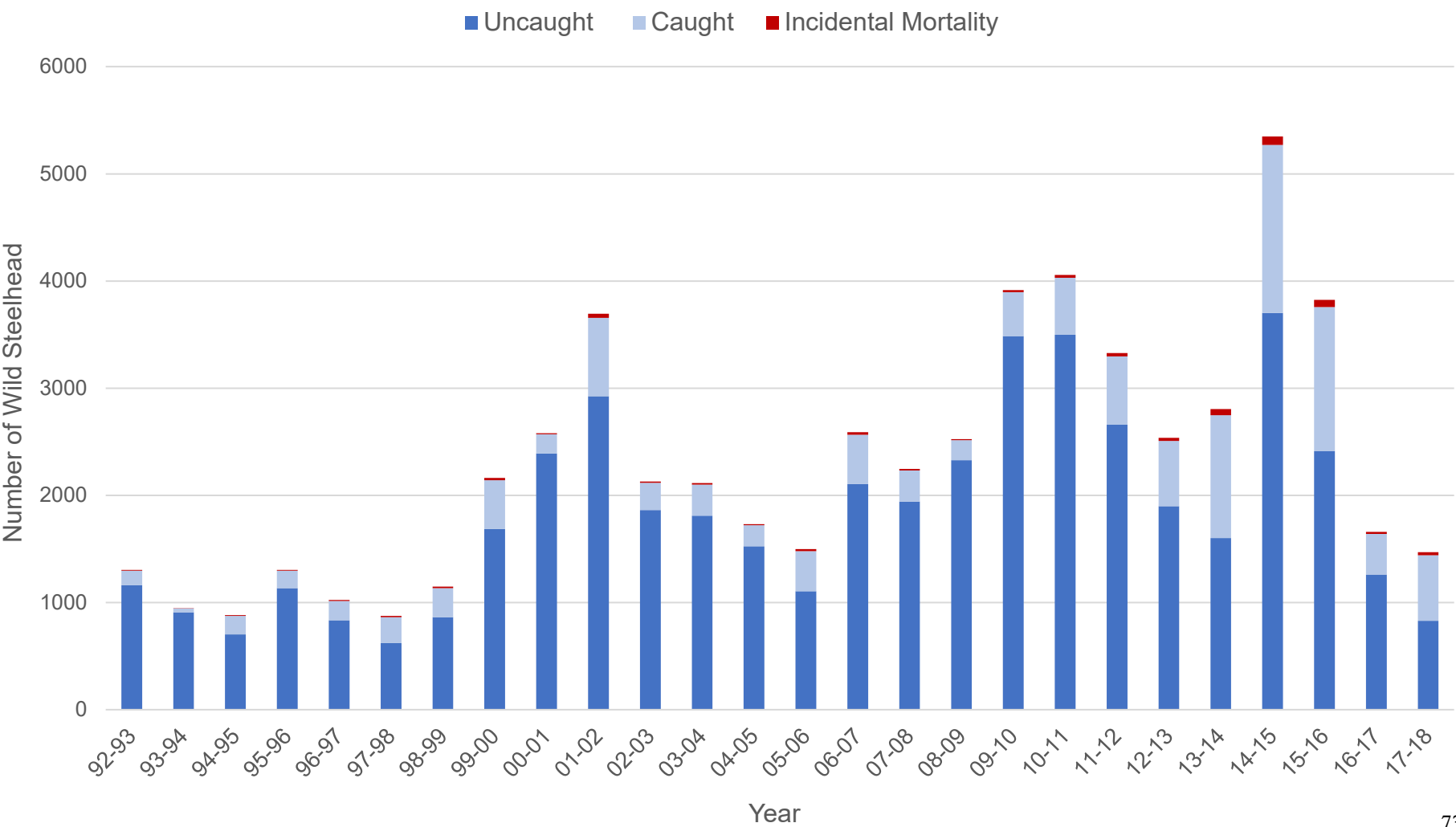
Smolt Abundance Estimate for Wild Steelhead at TMFD





Umatilla River

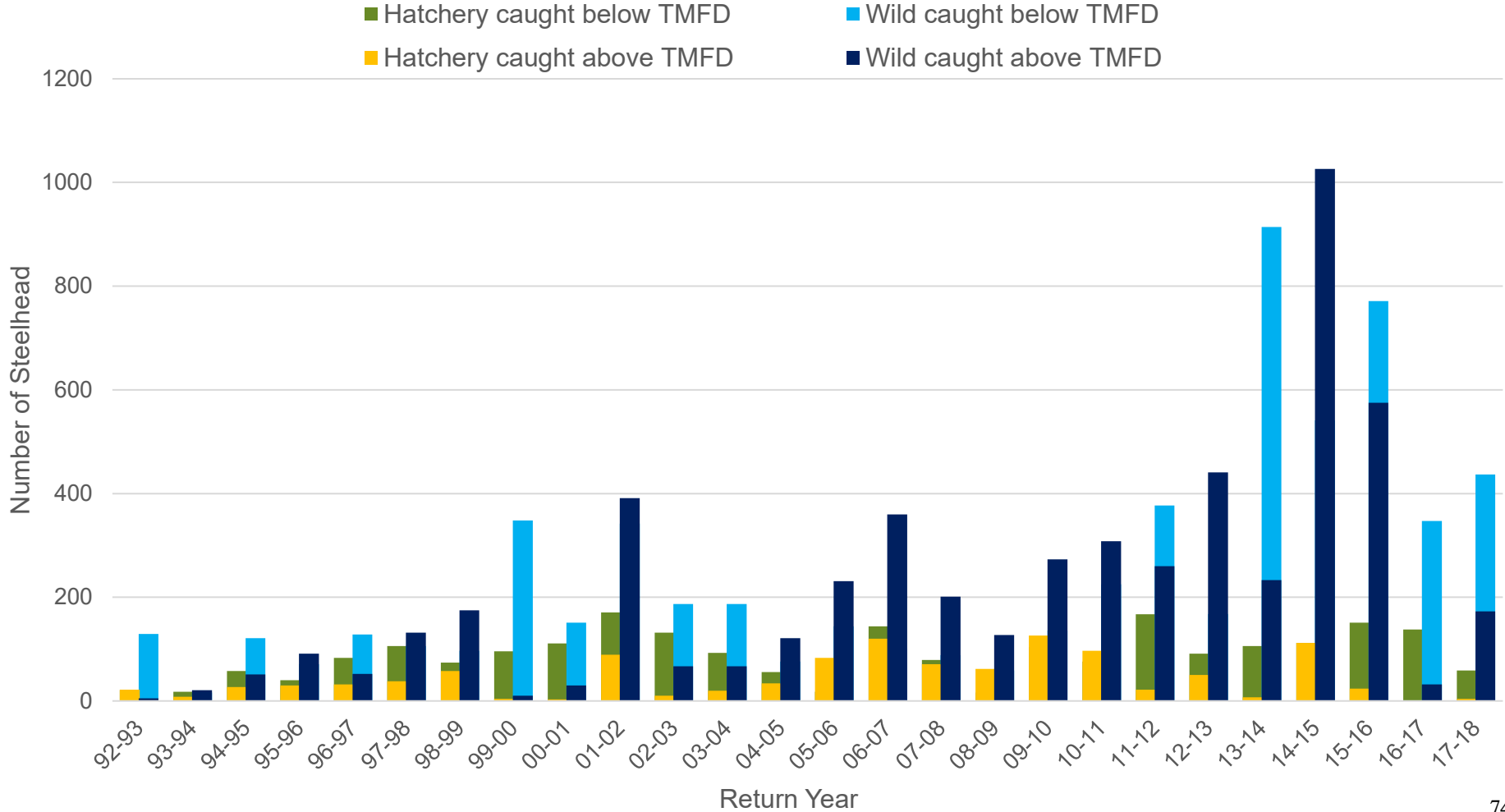
Wild Steelhead Impacts





Umatilla River

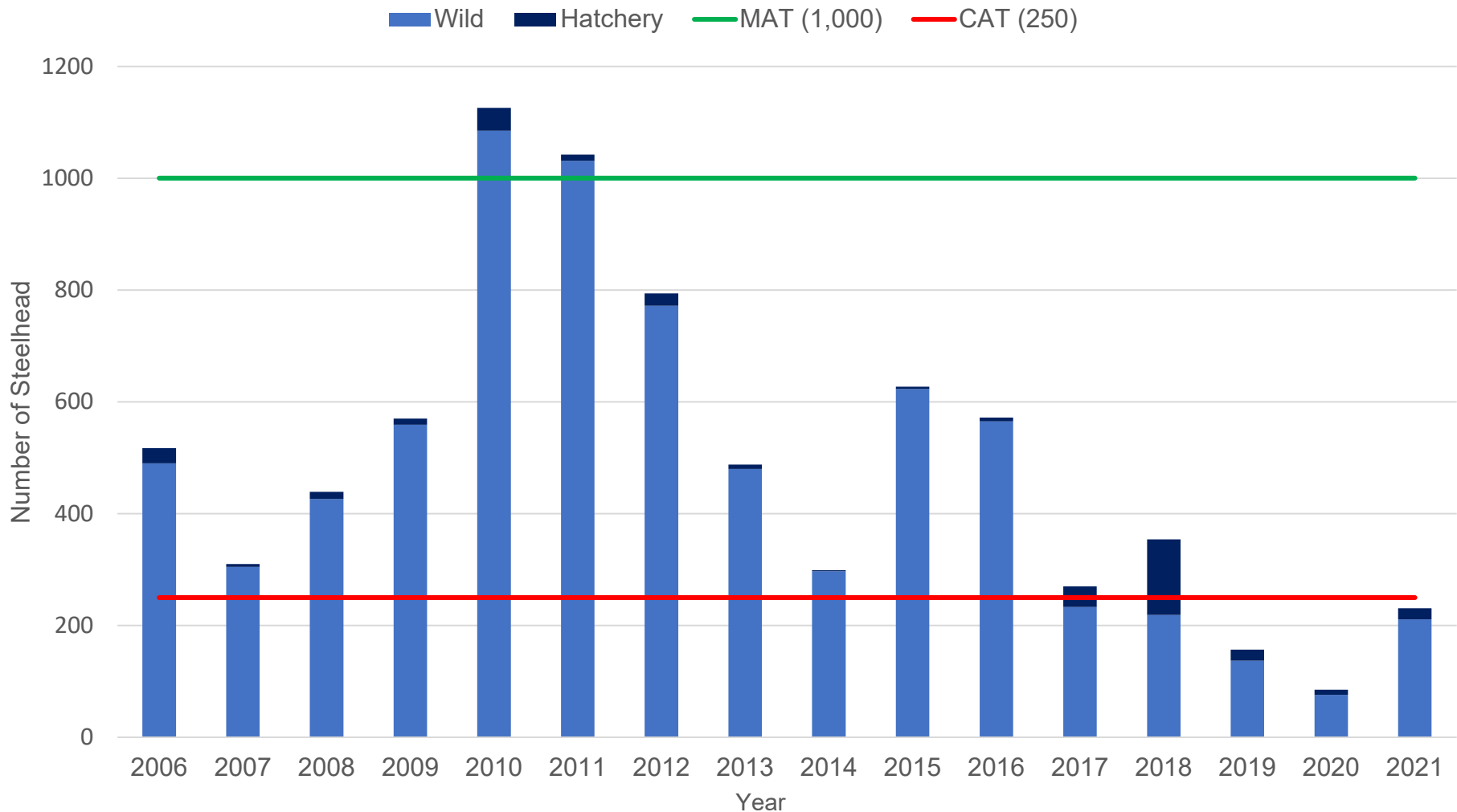
Hatchery and Wild Steelhead catch above and below Three Mile Falls Dam





Walla Walla River

Steelhead Returns to Nursery Bridge





Umatilla and Walla Walla River

Actions Being Taken to Improve Steelhead Returns

◇ Umatilla River

- ◇ Hatchery Program
- ◇ McKay Steelhead Outplant Study

◇ Walla Walla River

- ◇ Nursery Bridge Improvements
- ◇ Walla Walla 2050 Water and Implementation Working Group



Umatilla and Walla Walla River

◇ 2022-2023 Proposed Regulations

◇ Umatilla River

- ◇ Closed from Highway 730 Bridge to Threemile Dam. Open from Threemile Dam to Conf. Tribes of the Umatilla Indian reservation boundary.
- ◇ Reasoning for Closure below TMFD: Higher catch rates below TMFD. Need to collect hatchery steelhead at TMFD for broodstock and McKay Creek outplanting.

◇ Walla Walla River

- ◇ Closed.
- ◇ Reasoning for Closure: Poor returns and below the critical abundance threshold for past 5 years.

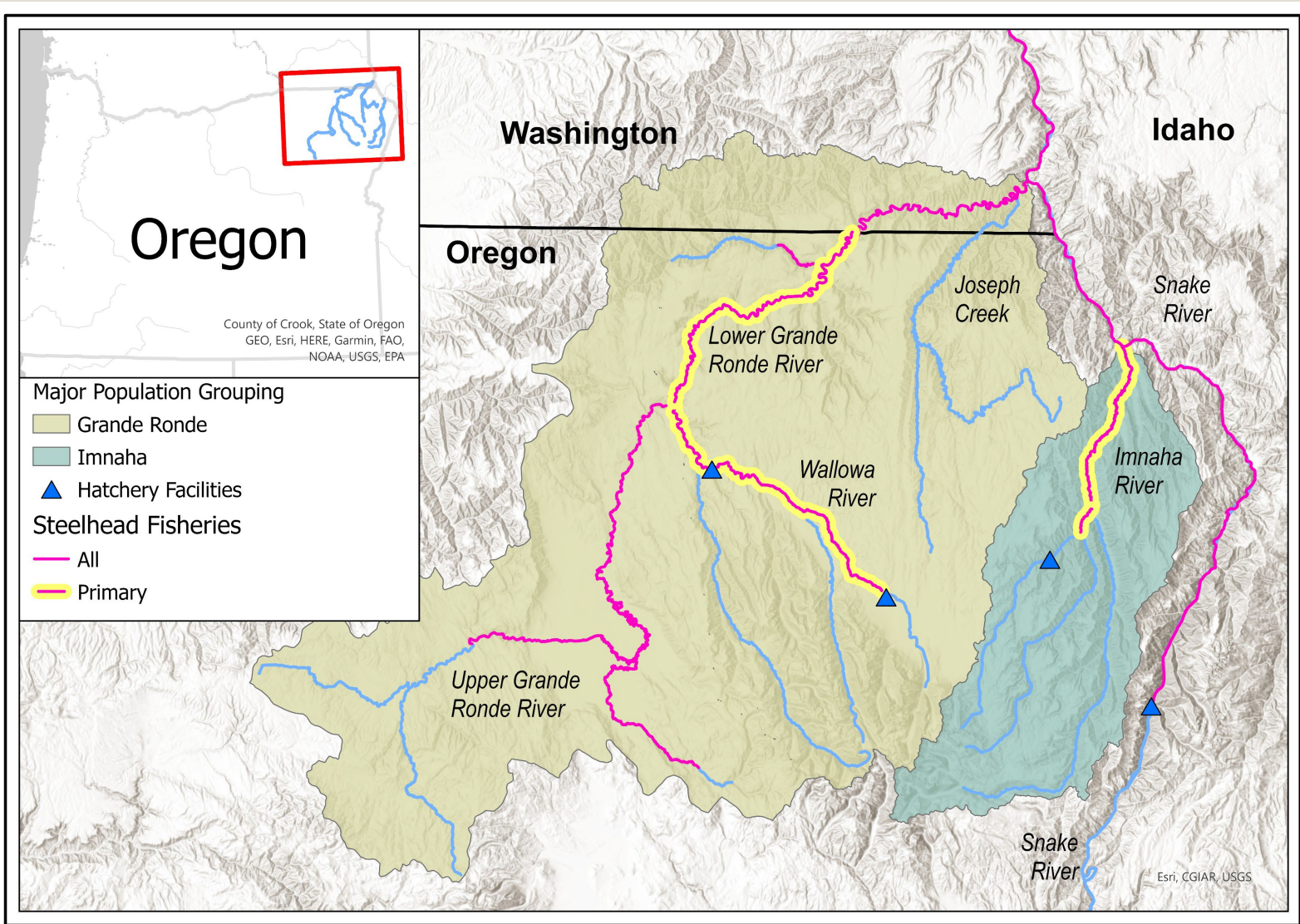


Grande Ronde & Imnaha Rivers

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Wallowa District
Enterprise Field Office
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(541) 318-7928



Grande Ronde & Imnaha Rivers





Grande Ronde & Imnaha Rivers

Fishery Background

- ◇ Lower Snake River Compensation Plan
 - ◇ Funds hatchery production for harvest mitigation due to hydroelectric development

- ◇ Fisheries Management & Evaluation Plan
 - ◇ Approved by NOAA (2019)
 - ◇ Allows harvest of hatchery steelhead
 - ◇ Mitigates negative affects on wild steelhead



Grande Ronde & Imnaha Rivers

Recreational Fishery Regulations

◇ Permanent Steelhead Regulations

- ◇ Season: Open from September 1st to April 30th
- ◇ Harvest: Three (3) hatchery steelhead per day
- ◇ All wild steelhead must be released unharmed
- ◇ Bait allowed

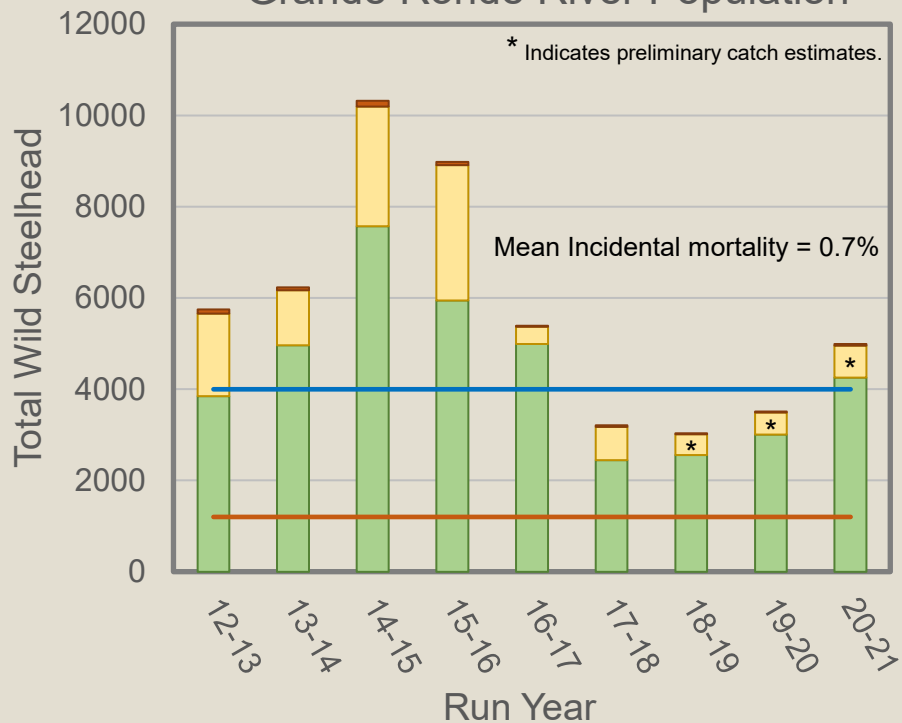
◇ Recent Emergency Regulations

- ◇ Bag limit reductions from 2017-18 to 2020-21 (one or two fish daily limit)
 - ◇ Evaluation suggests limited-to-no benefit

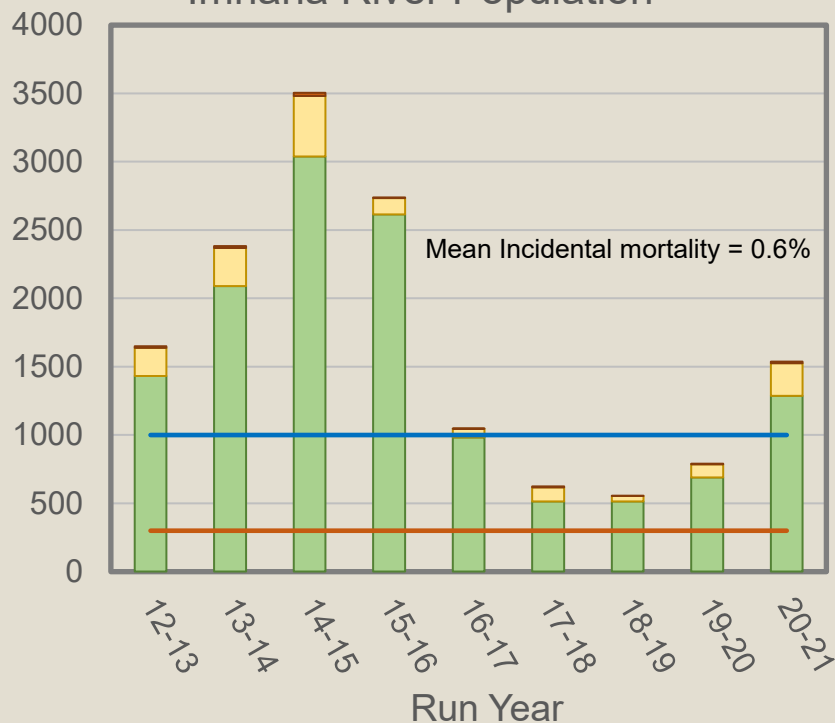
Grande Ronde & Imnaha Rivers

Recent Abundance & Recreational Fishery Impacts (Oregon Fisheries)

Grande Ronde River Population



Imnaha River Population

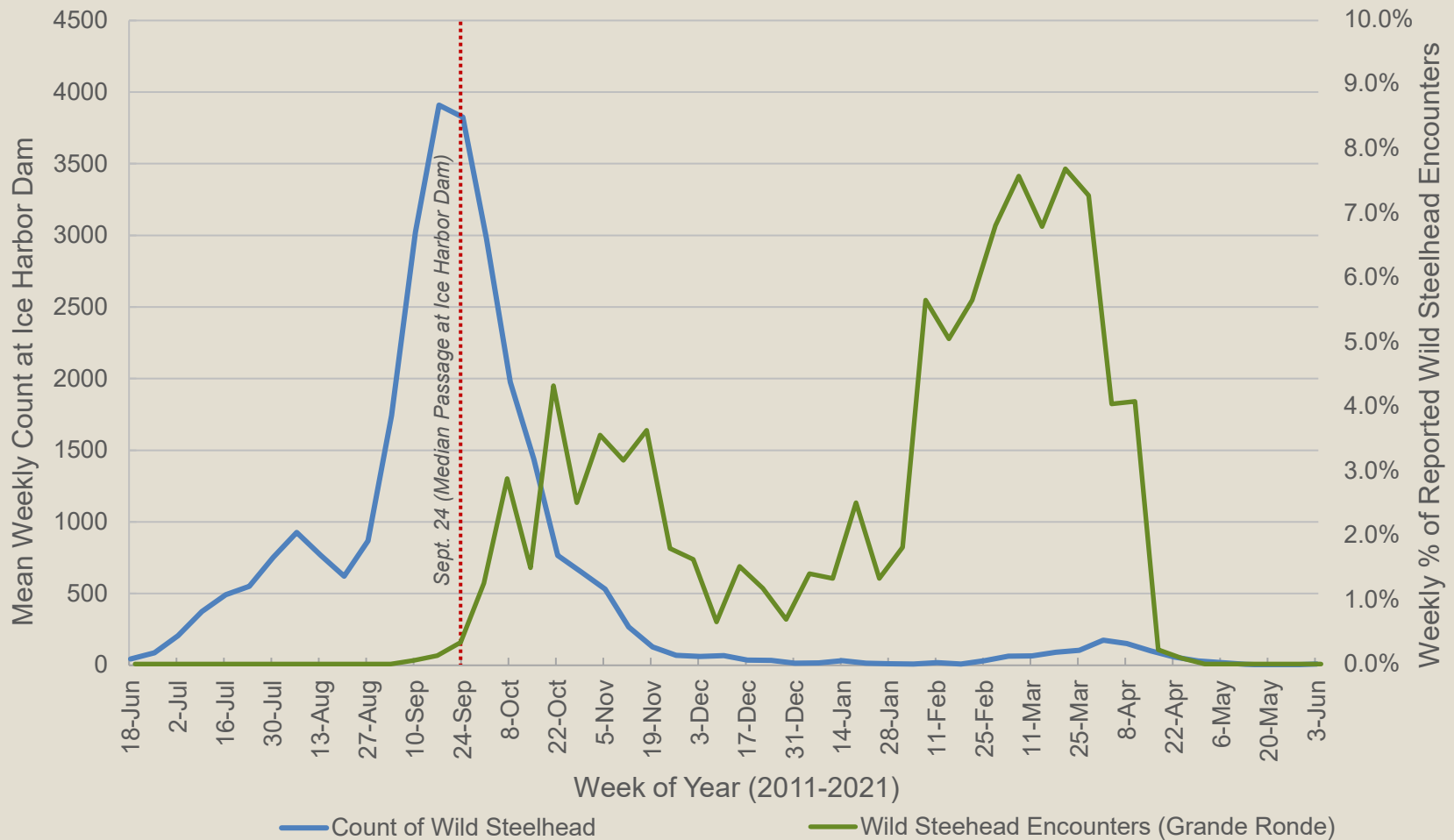


Uncaught Encounters Incidental Mortality

CAT MAT

Grande Ronde & Innaha Rivers

Run & Fishery Timing

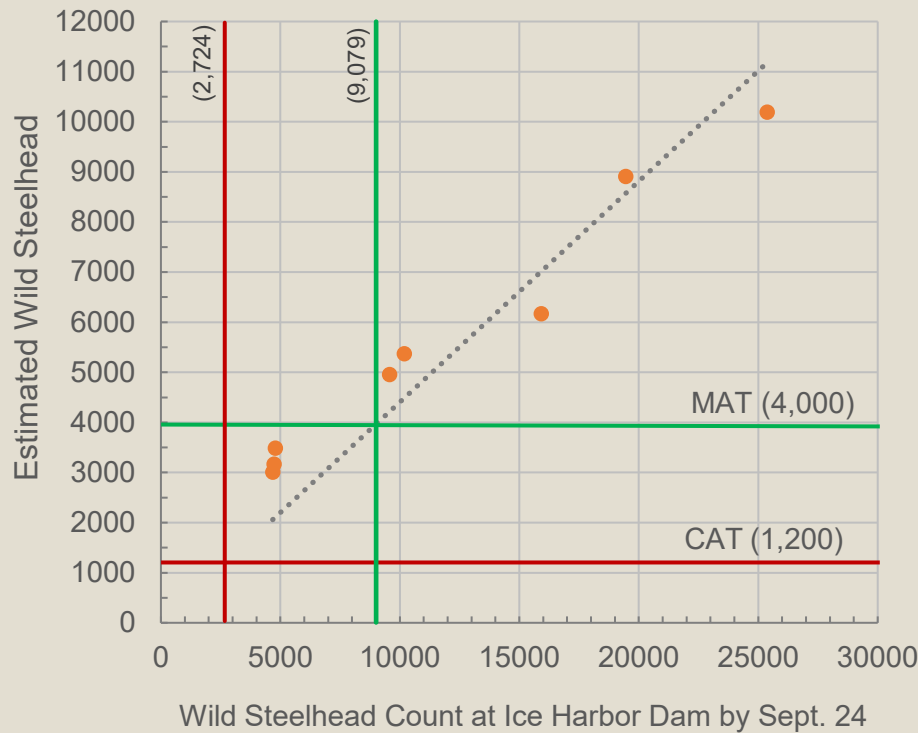




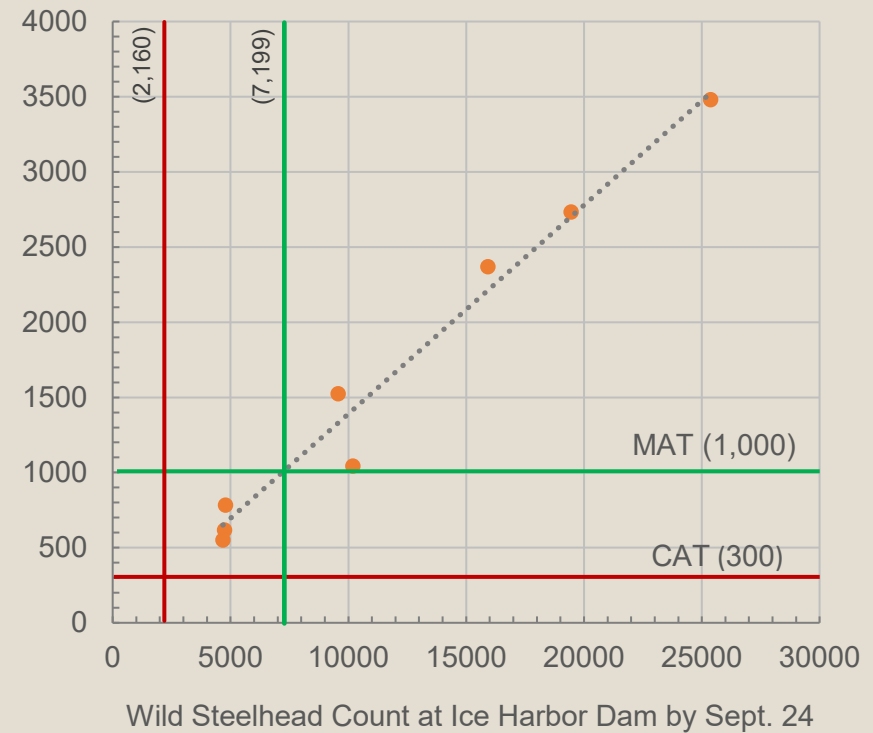
Grande Ronde & Imnaha Rivers

Recreational Fishery Modification Indicators

Grande Ronde Population



Imnaha Population





Grande Ronde & Imnaha Rivers

Recreational Fisheries Scenarios

- ◆ Permanent Regulations
 - ◆ Abundance exceeds CAT
 - ◆ *(Proposed for 2022-23)* Forecast suggest abundance approaching viable thresholds for both populations
- ◆ Closed to Steelhead Angling
 - ◆ Abundance does not exceed the critical threshold
- ◆ Annual communication as projections are developed
 - ◆ July to September 24
 - ◆ Final proposal based on counts at Ice Harbor



Questions

- ◇ Go to myodfw.com
 - ◇ Search: Steelhead Management
 - ◇ Select link
 - ◇ Click on: Submit a question or a comment

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