

# Considering a Documented Conservation Commitment The Redband Example



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# Presentation Content

- Redband Overview
- Rangewide Conservation
- Assessment
- Agreement
- Strategy
- Challenges/Lessons Learned



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# **REDBAND OVERVIEW**

# Interior Redband Trout Range



- Inland *Oncorhynchus mykiss*
  - East of the Cascade Crest
- 6 States
  - California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Montana & Idaho
- 16 Tribal Governments
- 5 Major River Basins
  - Upper Columbia
  - Upper Snake
  - Oregon Closed Basins
  - Upper Klamath
  - Upper Sacramento

# Redband Trout Status

- State and Federal Agencies
  - Species of Concern
  - Sensitive species
  - game fish
- Tribal Governments
  - important food source
  - cultural importance
- Petitions to list under ESA
  - Kootenai River in 1994
    - Insufficient information to classify as own DPS in 1995
  - Snake River in 1995
    - Brownlee Reservoir to Shoshone Falls
    - USFWS deemed “not warranted”
  - Oregon Basin in 1997
    - USFWS determined “not warranted” in 2000



USFWS

# **INTERIOR REDBAND CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT**



# Redband Trout Working Group Formed

- 2009 Redband Trout Workshop, Portland
  - WNTI funded
  - Recommended completion of a status assessment
- 2012 Range-wide Redband Trout Status Assessment
  - Participants included:
    - 6 States – OR, WA, CA, MT, ID, NV
    - 3 Federal Agencies – USFS, USFWS, BLM
    - 5 Tribal Governments



Flyfishing Insider

# Utility of Range-wide Status Assessment

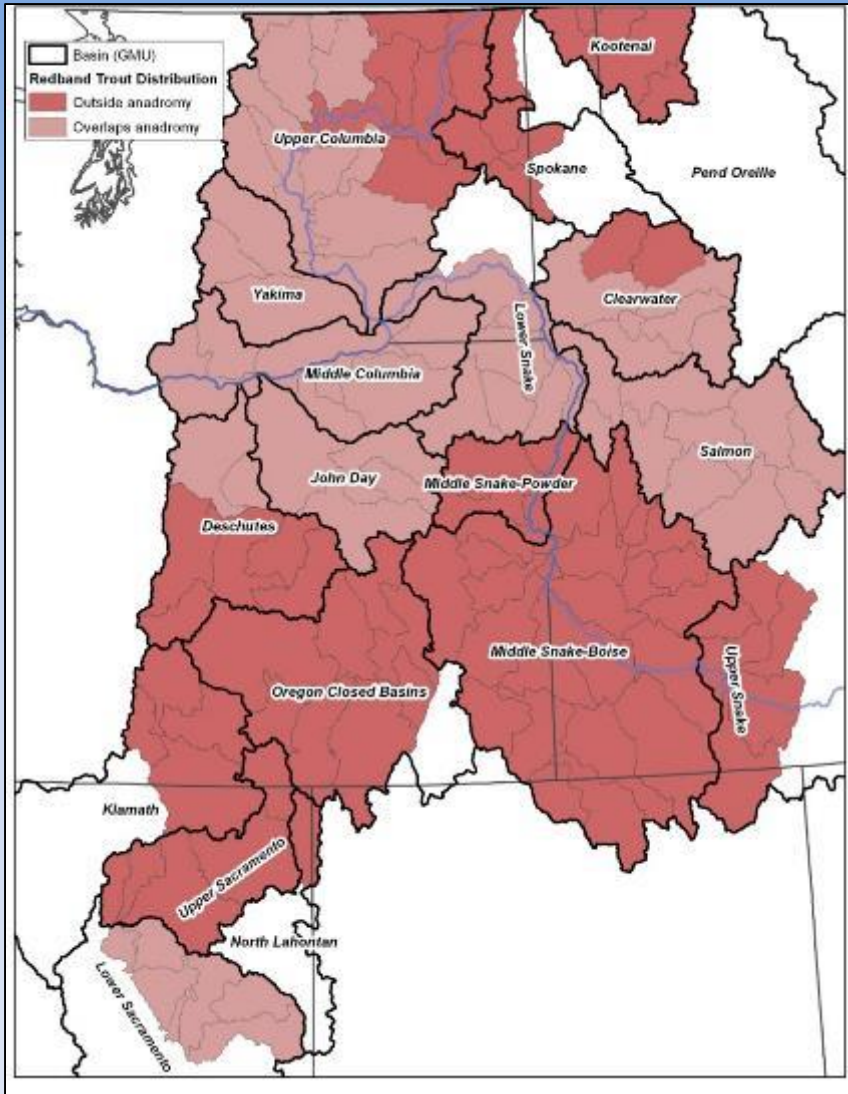
- Provides data to help prioritize restoration and conservation efforts
- Identifies strongholds for conservation
- Highlights data gaps and research needs
- Develops a defensible database to help make informed decisions
- Provides a baseline for monitoring at multiple scales
- Provides basis for developing a conservation agreement and strategy



USFWS



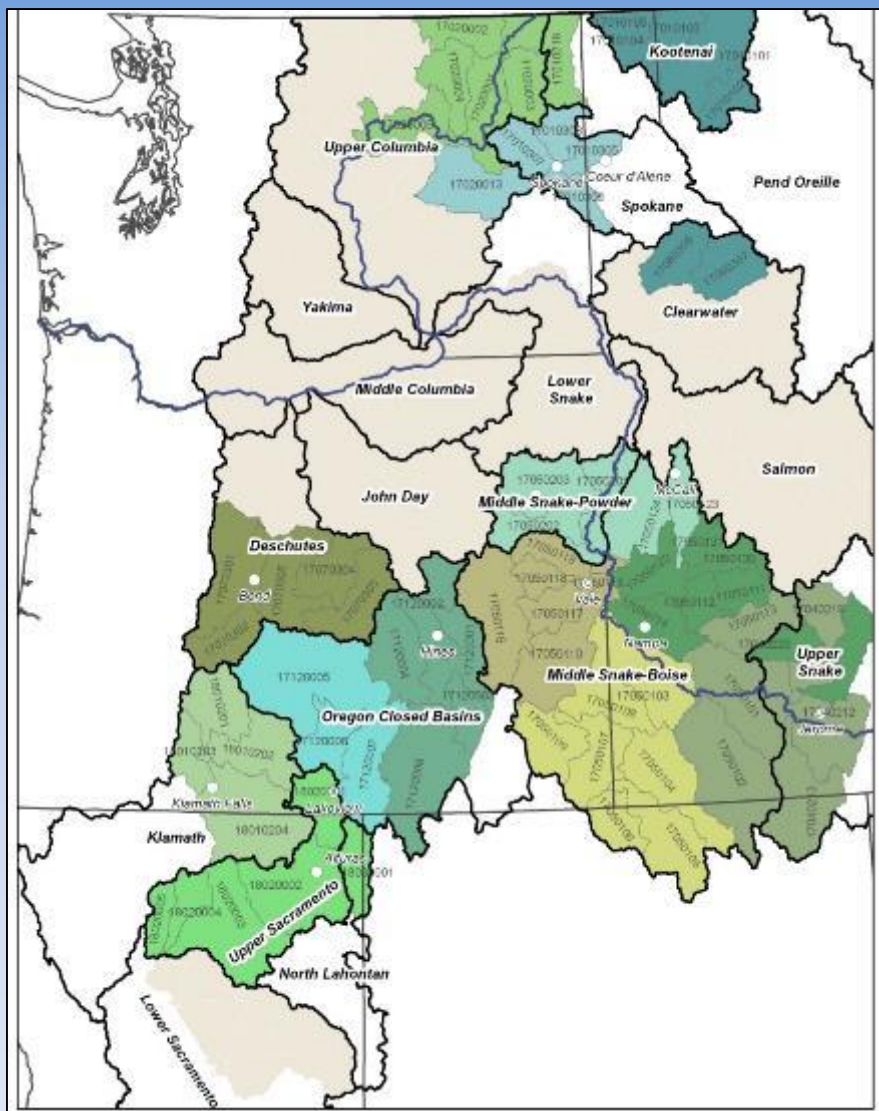
# Redband Trout Status Assessment



- Focus on basins outside the range of anadromy
  - Anadromous fish captured most of the conservation attention
  - Aligns with WNTI Strategic Plan
- Inland Cutthroat Trout Protocol used as a template.
  - Already developed
  - Successful for other interior trout species through WNTI

# Range-wide Status Assessment

## Data Collection



- 13 data collection workshops in winter 2012
- 1 workshop facilitator & GIS expert to maintain range-wide consistency
- 93 biologists and 15 data entry / GIS technicians
- Real-time data entry

# Range-wide Status Assessment

## Protocol Attributes

- Historical distribution
- Current distribution
- Barriers
- Genetic status
- Adult density
- Habitat quality
- Presence of non-native fish
- Stocking history
- Conservation populations
- Habitat connectivity
- Life history diversity
- Risks to conservation populations
- Conservation actions

# Range-wide Status Assessment

## Results Included

- **Genetic integrity**
  - 18% of current distribution tested, of which 8% not introgressed.
  - 82% not tested, of which 47% suspected not introgressed.
- **Non-native fish**
  - Present in 53% of streams & 23% of lakes
  - Historically stocked in 45% of streams & 98% of lakes
- **Habitat quality (streams)**
  - 32% excellent/good
  - 52% fair/poor
  - 16% unknown





# Range-wide Status Assessment

## Results Included

- **Land Ownership**
  - 47% Private
  - 45% Government
  - 8% Protected
- **Management Impacts**
  - Primary impacts include angling, grazing, timber, recreation, and roads
- **Highest Risk Factors**
  - Genetics, habitat quality, life history diversity



# **CONSERVATION AGREEMENT**

# Utility of a Conservation Agreement

- Facilitates Coordination and Communication
- Provides more certainty for interagency conservation actions
- Valuable for leveraging funds.
- Provides internal leverage.
- Added protection of species in areas of less protection.
- Helps ensure long term persistence of the species.
- Forum for partners addressing ESA concerns



# Interior Redband Trout Conservation Agreement

- Partners: 6 Western States, 4 Federal Agencies, 14 Tribes
- Initiated June 2012 using inland cutthroat trout subspecies agreements as a template.
- Technical and Policy Tribal coordination emphasized.
- Obtained additional input and interest from 14 of the 16 Tribes approached within species' range.
- Additional signatories were welcomed



BLM

# Interior Redband Trout Conservation Agreement

**Mission:** to assure long-term persistence of Redband within their historical range through improved cooperation, coordination, and actions among the agencies and entities that have legal mandates and are concerned with the status of Redband. The cooperation and coordination will lead to improved information sharing and understanding of the conservation needs of Redband.



WNTI

# Interior Redband Trout Conservation Agreement

- Agreement identified six specific goals
- These goals were rolled over into and improved in the Conservation Strategy
- Conservation agreement was signed by all partners.



ODFW

# **CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

# Utility of a Conservation Strategy

- Establishes forums for communication at the GMU level and between GMUs
- Develops a list of specific interagency conservation actions per GMU
- Helps ensure long term persistence of the species.
- Valuable for leveraging funds.

# Redband Strategy

- Initiated December 2014
- Identified logical GMUs.
- Reviewed different approaches to develop a conservation strategy.
- Included Goals and Objectives
- Agreed to use the 3-R approach (based on Shafer and Stein 2000) developed by TU (Haak and Williams)
- Included GMU-specific action items

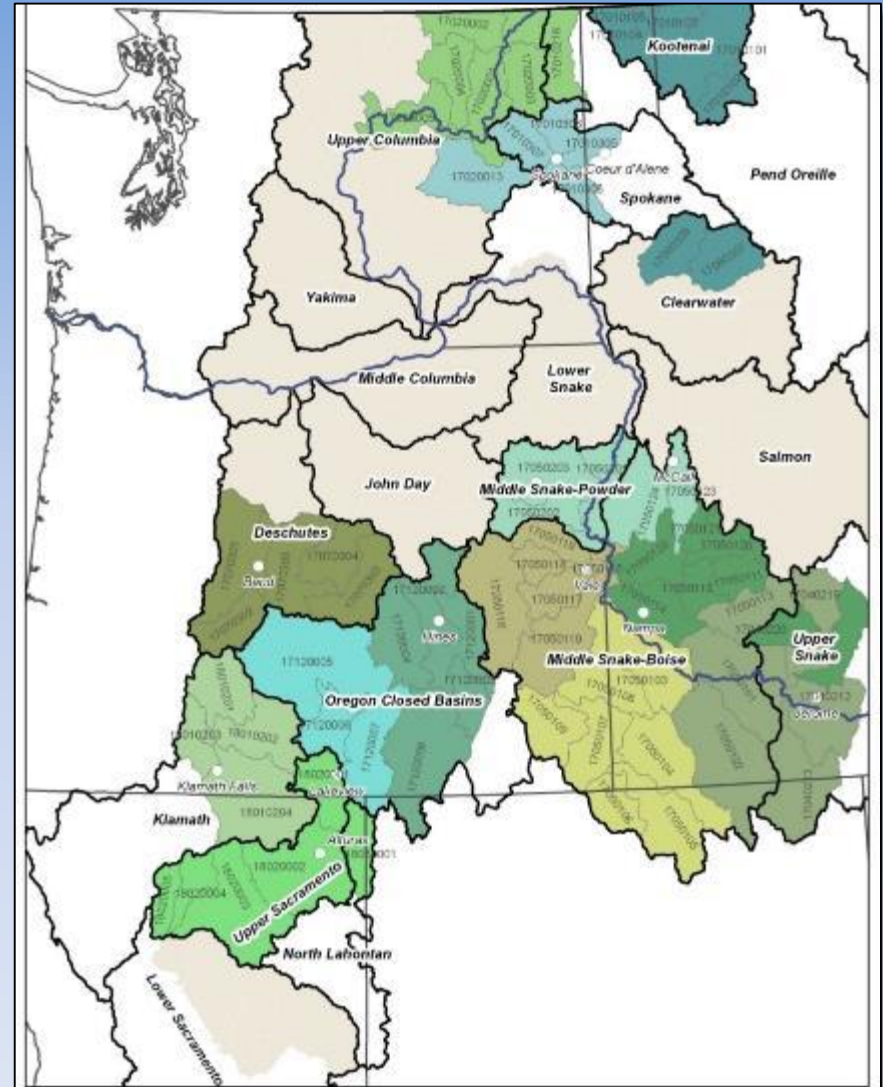


USFWS



# Redband GMUs

- Middle Snake (Boise), Upper Snake, and Middle Snake (Powder)
- Upper Sacramento, Upper Klamath, Goose Lake, and Surprise Valley
- Oregon Closed Basin (Need to re-examine eastern portion along Middle Snake)
- Deschutes
- Clearwater
- Kootenai
- Upper Columbia and Spokane





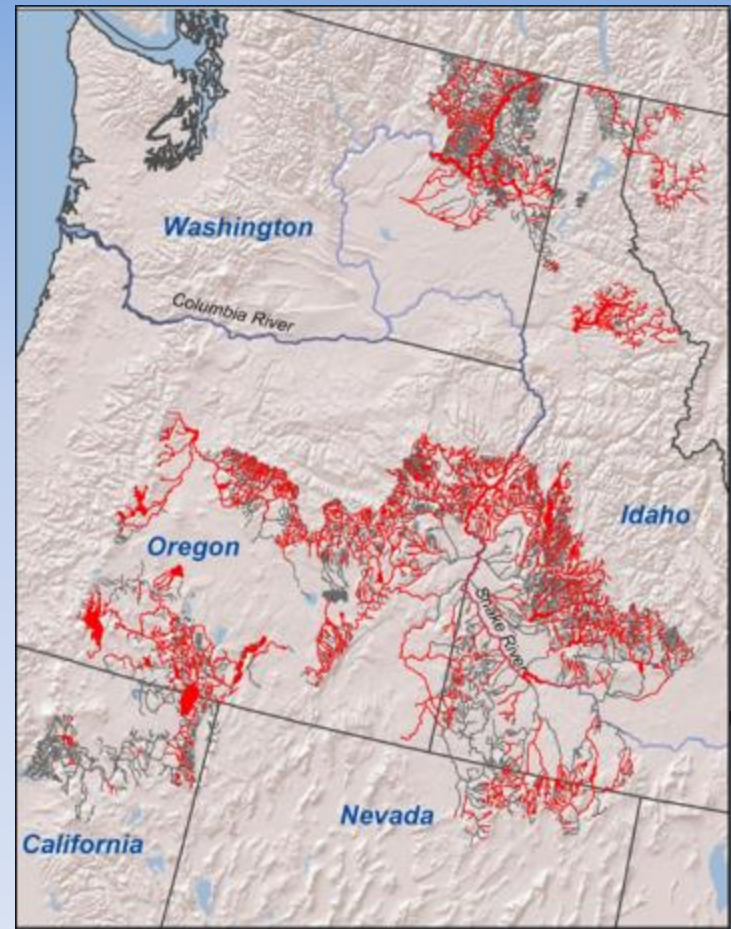
# 3-R Approach to Developing Conservation Strategies

- Used in past for BCT
- Refined for YCT
- Spatial quantification of 3Rs to support comparisons of population diversity over time and space.
- **Representation:** Genetic, Life History, Geographic
- **Resiliency:** Large populations and large intact habitats to protect against rapid environmental change
- **Redundancy:** Enough populations so some can be lost without jeopardizing species.



# Conservation Strategy Goals

- **Identify and manage Redband conservation populations** to achieve conservation objectives and provide recreational and subsistence opportunities.
- **Manage the genetic integrity** of core and conservation populations of Redband, with targets and strategies developed by GMU teams.
- Apply decision tools to **identify priority information gaps** for the management and conservation of Redband.



# Conservation Strategy Goals

- **Expand Redband distribution** within GMUs and across the historical range through expansion of some populations and restoration and/or reintroduction of other populations.
- **Develop and maintain a Redband database** and web portal to meet the following objective.
- Initiate an administrative framework that **improves cooperation and coordination** between agencies and entities involved in the conservation of Redband.



# Assessment/Agreement/Strategy...

## Redband Conservation Efforts

### Additional Lessons Learned

- Immense geographic range and resulting partner numbers required higher degree of coordination and a leader with the network and skills to cooperate with all involved.
- Many partners take longer to reach finish line. For example, collecting agreement signatures took 8 months.
- Helps with species protection and fundraising



OSU



# Assessment/Agreement/Strategy...

## Redband Conservation Efforts

### Additional Lessons Learned

- Requires Personnel Time
  - Agreement Preparation:  
June 2012-December 2013
  - Strategy Preparation:  
Dec 2014-Nov 2016
  - Several ways to decrease personnel cost through increased efficiencies
  - Use approaches already available.
  - Convene GMU Teams with other overlapping species-specific gatherings.
- Requires Goals and Objectives follow-through.



Colville Tribe

