

Yakima Bull Trout Status & Bull Trout Task Force

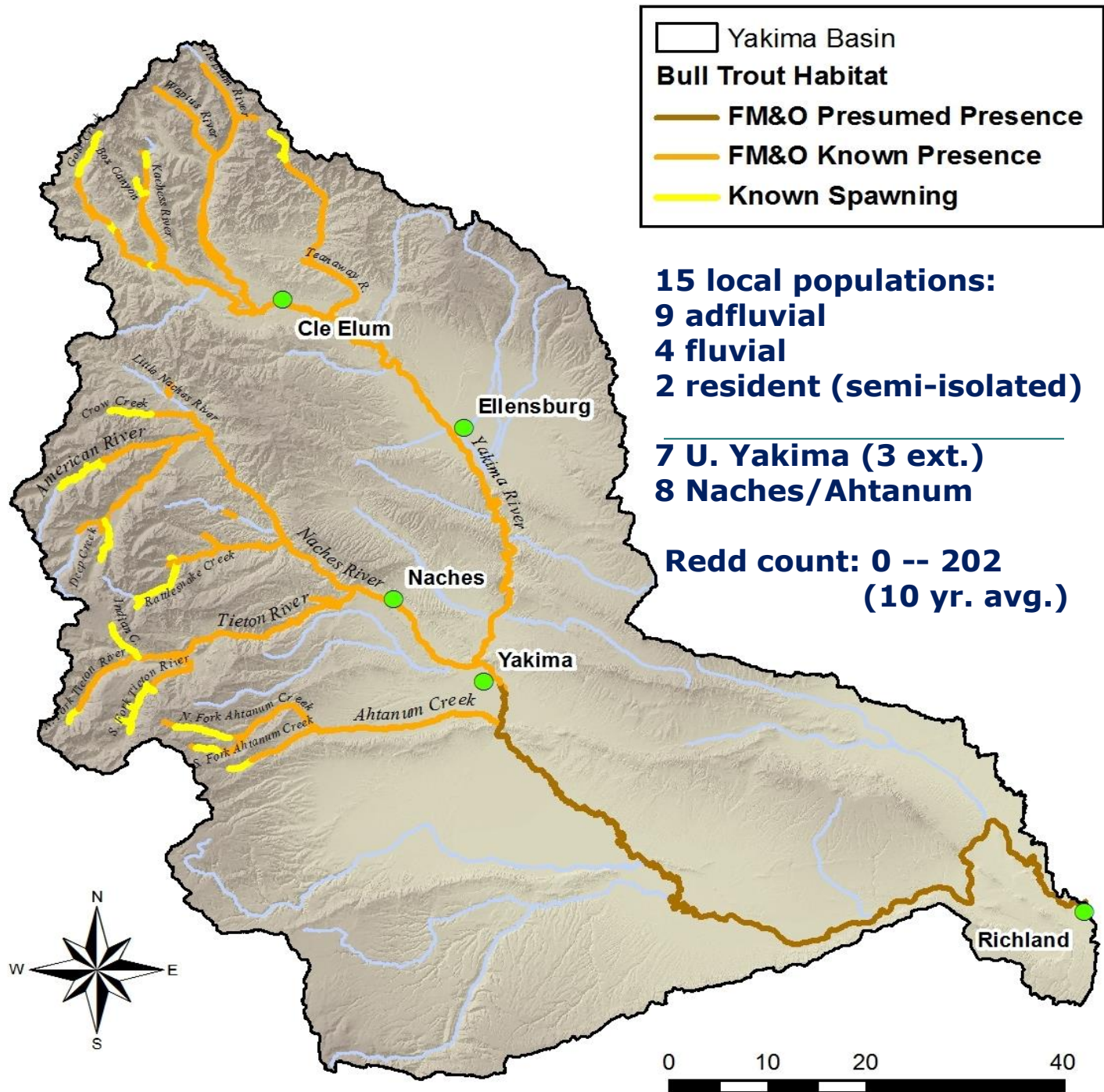
A bull trout with orange spots swimming in a rocky stream. The fish is the central focus, swimming from left to right. The water is clear, and the rocky bottom is visible. The background shows more rocks and water.

Eric Anderson - WDFW
Cassandra Weekes - MCF

Geographic Recovery Unit Area

Yakima Core Area - 15 local populations (12 gen. distinct)

- Ahtanum, N.F Tieton, S.F Tieton, Indian, Rattlesnake, American, Crow, Deep/Up. Bumping (1), N.F. Teanaway, Kachess, Box, Gold, Cle Elum, Waptus, U. Yakima.
 - 200+ redds (S.F. Tieton); 100+ redd avg. (Indian, Deep); 30 - 40 redds (Amer. & Rattle); 20 redds (N.F.Tieton)
 - Remainder = 5 – 15 redds.
 - Large Scale connectivity / passage issues & high risk for climate change.

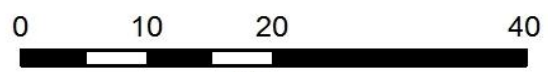
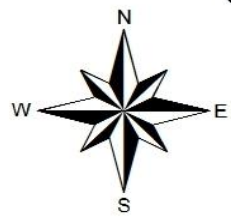


Yakima Basin
Bull Trout Habitat
 FM&O Presumed Presence
 FM&O Known Presence
 Known Spawning

15 local populations:
9 adfluvial
4 fluvial
2 resident (semi-isolated)

7 U. Yakima (3 ext.)
8 Naches/Ahtanum

Redd count: 0 -- 202
(10 yr. avg.)



Naches Populations (Redds) -- 10 year avg.

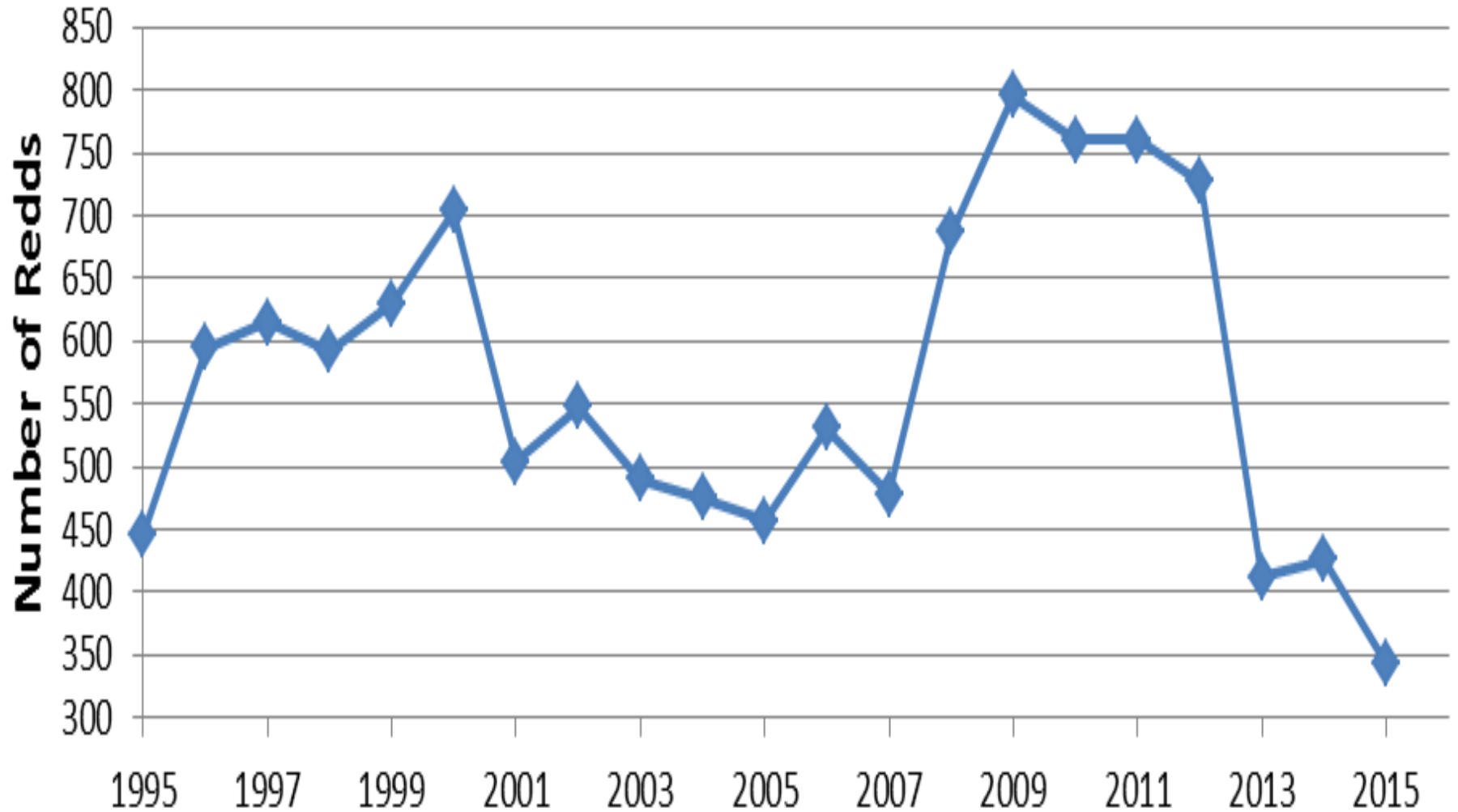
- **Ahtanum Creek (R) – Ahtanum (13)**
- **Naches River (F) – Rattlesnake (36), Crow (6), American (40)**
- **Rimrock Lake (Ad) – Indian (105), SF Tieton (202), NF Tieton (20)**
- **Bumping Lake (Ad) – Deep (132)**

Up. Yakima Pop. (Redds) - 10 yr. avg.

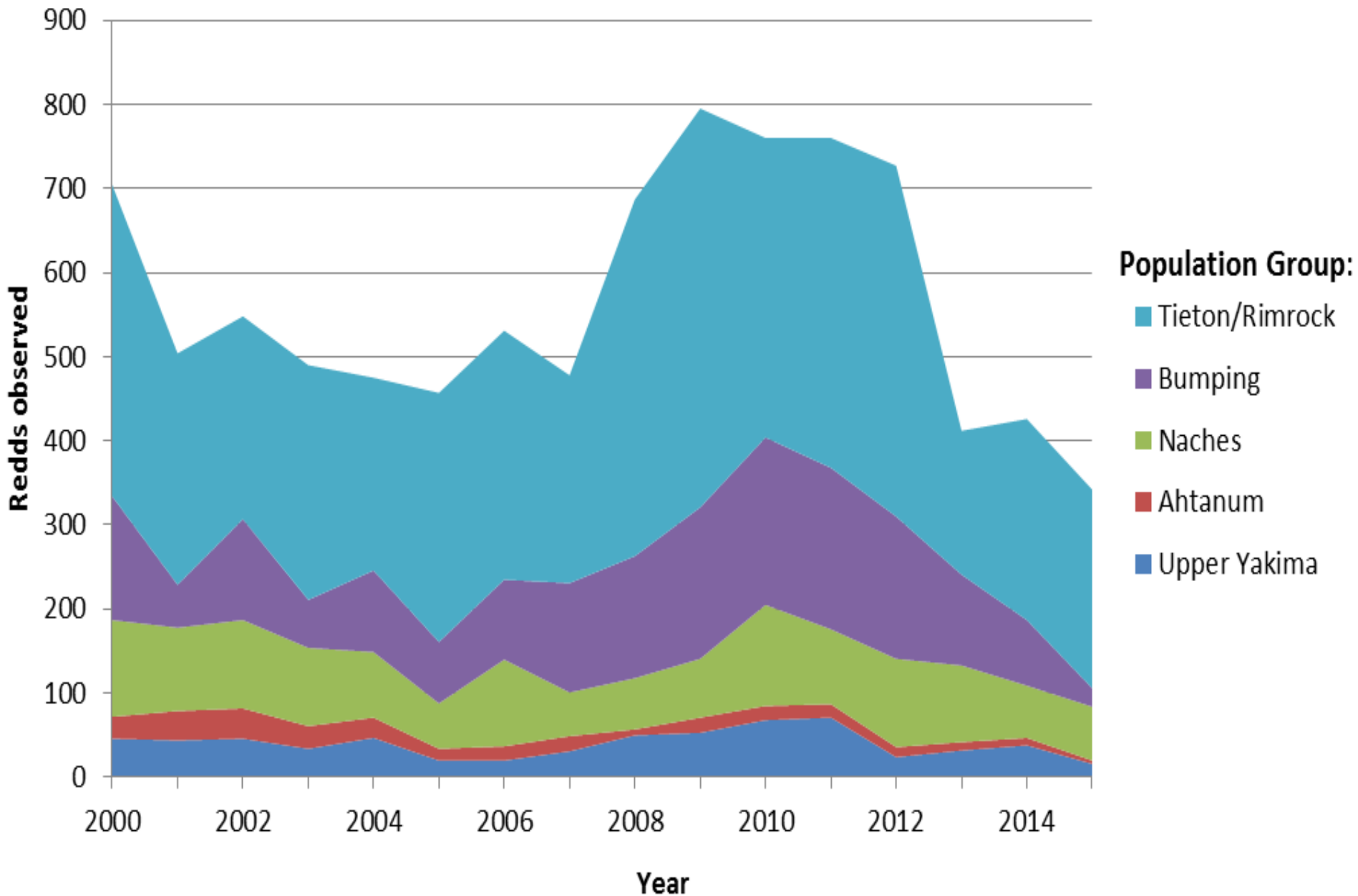
- **Kachess Lake (Ad) – Box Canyon (13), Kachess (11)**
 - **Keechelus Lake (Ad) – Gold (15)**
 - **N.F. Teanaway River (F/R) – 3 redds in 10 years, functionally extirpated**
-
- **Up. Yakima River (F) – 4 redds in 10 yr.**
 - **Cle Elum & Waptus Lakes (Ad)
No confirmed redds, functionally extirpated**

Yakima Basin Bull Trout Redd Counts

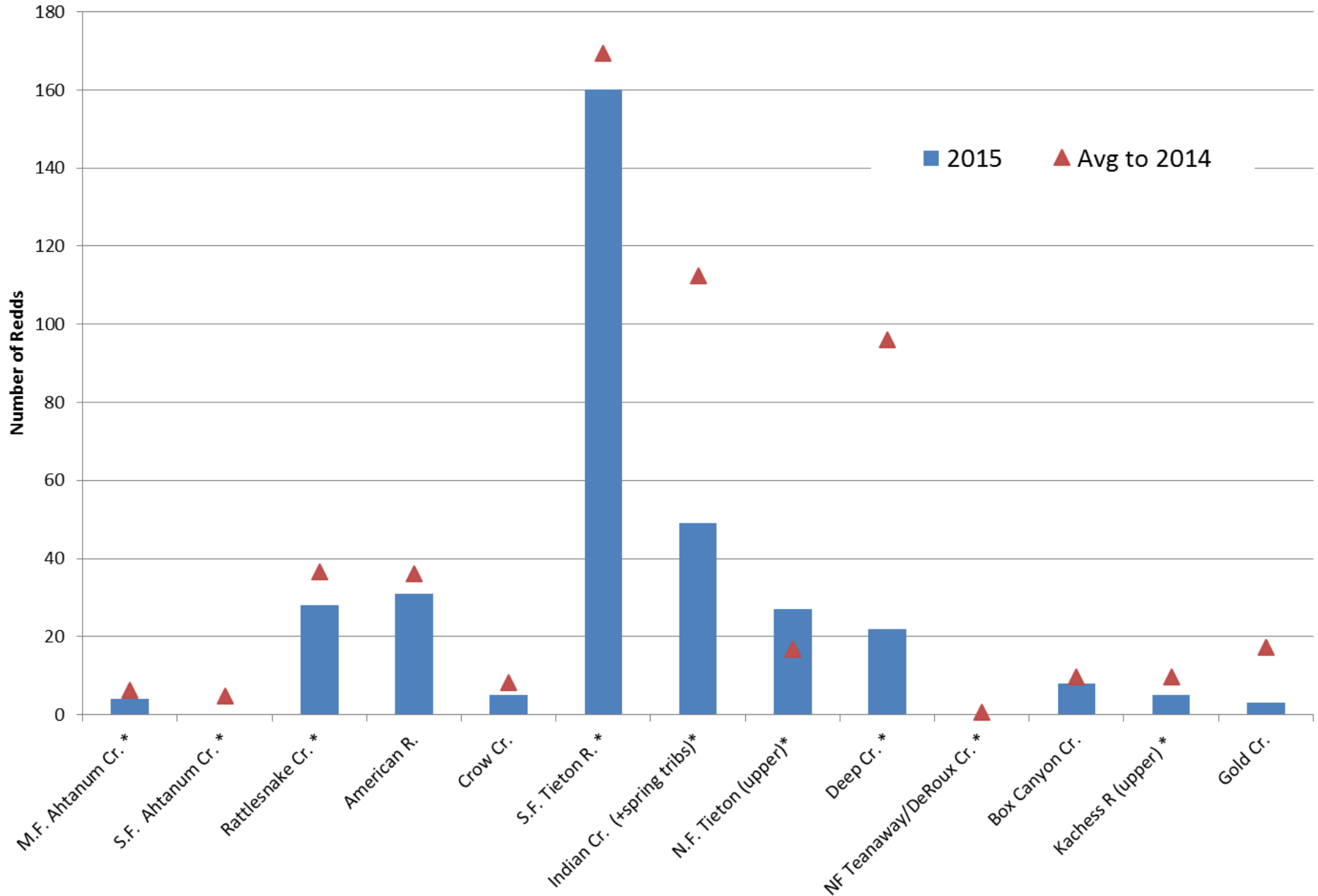
1995-2015



Yakima Bull Trout Redd Counts -- Major Population Groups



Yakima Basin Bull Trout Redds



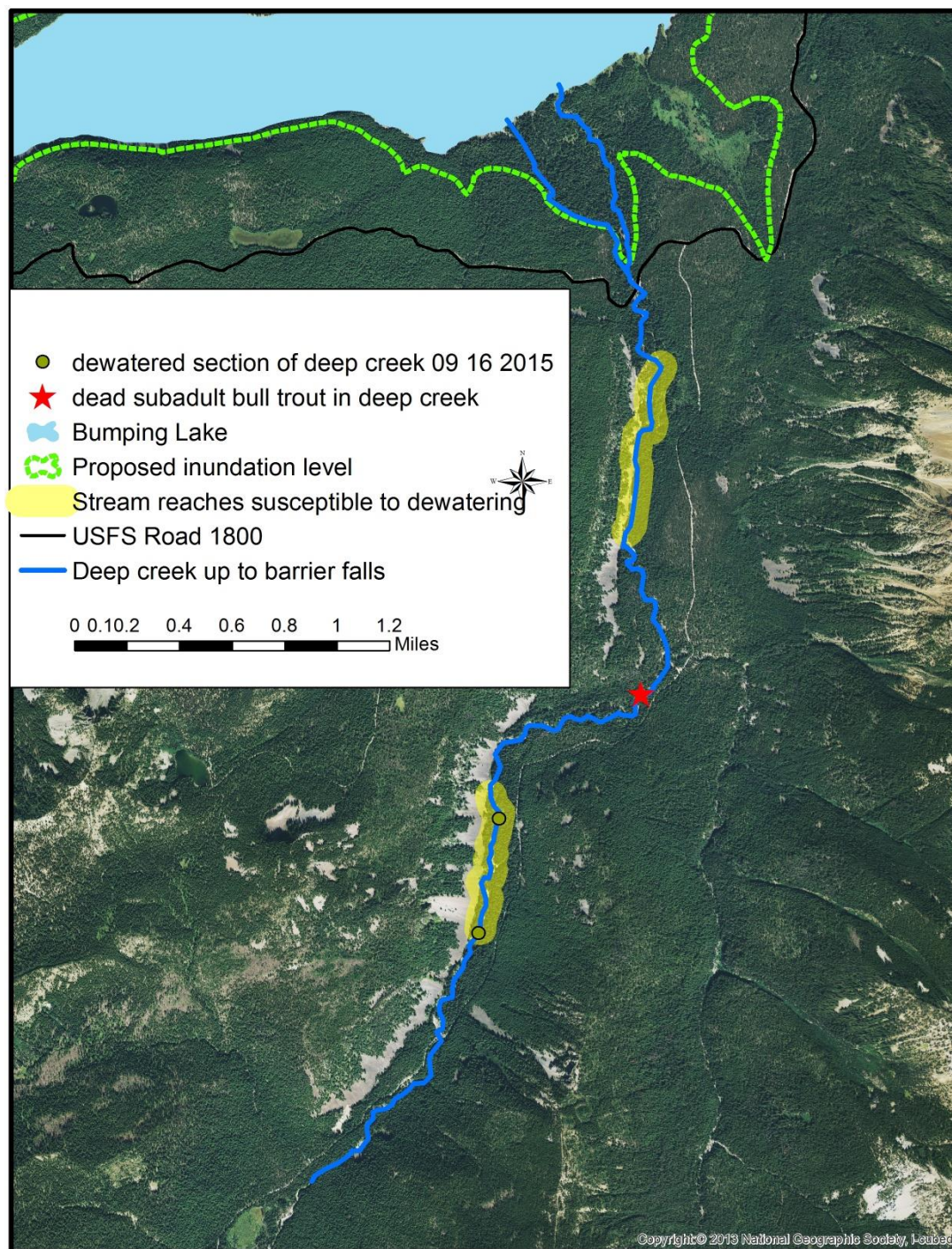
Indian Creek - North Spring Area



Deep Creek on the Bumping Reservoir Bed



Deep Creek



Box Canyon on the reservoir bed



Box Canyon flume



Bull Trout Recovery Efforts

◆ Emergency Actions

- Box Canyon temporary flume
- Fish salvage

◆ Population specific projects

- Gold Creek, Upper Kachess River, Box Canyon Creek, North Fork Tieton

◆ Yakima Basin

- Integrated Plan
- Bull Trout Enhancement Package
- Bull Trout Working Group
- Bull Trout Action Plan
- Bull Trout Task Force

◆ Rangewide

- USFWS Bull Trout Recovery Plan
- Bull Trout Vulnerability Analysis
- Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling



Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan

Final
September 2012



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A locally developed, up-to-date summary of bull trout populations in the Yakima Basin.

In 2016 the Bull Trout Working Group is reviewing and updating the actions in the BTAP, in addition to identifying the each action's status, next steps, link to other plans and notes.

Found online at:

www.ybfwrb.org

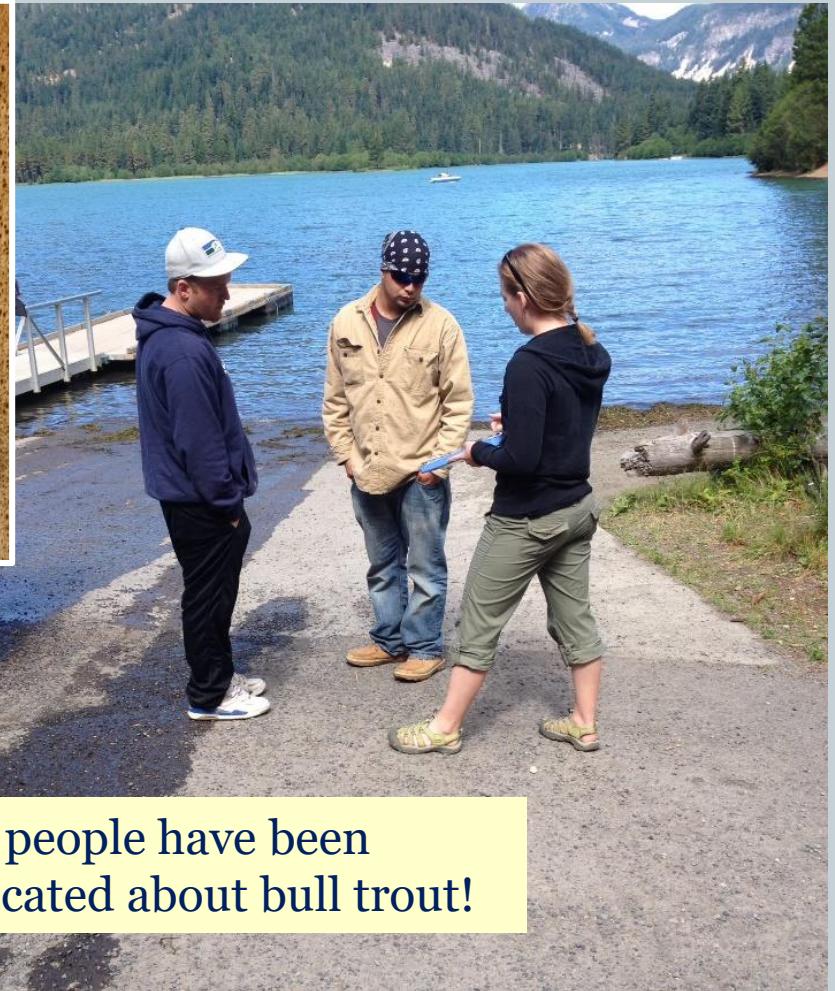
Bull Trout Task Force



- On-the-ground crew working to mitigate recreational impacts to bull trout
- Education & outreach
- Recreation dam removal
- Monitoring
- Assistance with research projects



Education & Outreach



**There are no lake trout here!
Release all bull trout!**

What Are Bull Trout?
Bull trout are a native species of char, meaning they have a dark body and light spots. Bull trout are found in several cold water lakes and rivers in the Yakima Basin. Bull trout live in Keechelus and Kachess lakes in Kittitas Co. and Bumping, Rimrock and Clear lakes in Yakima Co. Bull trout are federally listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act and have been closed to fishing/harvest in the Yakima Basin since 1992.

Anglers who catch a bull trout must release the fish unharmed without removing it from the water. Sacrifice your hook and not the fish – please cut your line if the fish swallows the hook.

What Are Lake Trout?
Lake trout, also called "mackinaw", are a non-native species of char introduced to Washington. **In the Yakima Basin they are only found in Lake Cle Elum, where fishing for them is legal with no minimum size or daily limit.** Lake trout can be distinguished from other charrs by the absence of pink spots and their deeply forked tail.

Bull Trout (Protected)

- Slightly forked tail
- Clear dorsal fin with no black markings
- Olive colored body with yellow, cream, or pink spots on sides

Lake Trout (Not Native, Not Protected)

- Deeply forked tail
- Light-colored spots or no spots on the dorsal fin
- White or cream-colored spots (never pink or red) on sides and back

Over 6,000 people have been directly educated about bull trout!

Release All Bull Trout

What Are Bull Trout?

Bull trout are a native species of char, meaning they have a dark body and light spots. Bull trout require cold, clean water. The presence of bull trout is a sign of a healthy river system. Bull trout are found in cold water lakes and rivers in the Yakima Basin. **Bull trout are federally listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act and must be released immediately.**

No Black On The Fin, Put It Back In!

Anglers should be aware that non-native brook trout have similar characteristics to bull trout, which are **protected** under the Endangered Species Act and may not be retained. Bull trout do not have black worm-like markings or spots on their dorsal fin, unlike brook trout.

Anglers who catch a bull trout must release the fish unharmed without removing it from the water. Sacrifice your hook and not the fish – please cut your line if the fish swallows the hook.



Bull Trout (Protected)

- Clear dorsal fin with no black markings
- Olive colored body with yellow, cream, or pink spots
- Slightly forked tail



Brook Trout (Not Native, Not Protected)

- Wavy black markings on the dorsal fin and along the back
- Dark green to brown-colored body with red and yellow spots with a blue halo
- Square tail

Photos taken by William Meyer, WDFW.





Recreation dam on Rattlesnake Creek

Before

After

Over 280 recreation dams removed!

Recreation dam on the SF Ahtanum Creek

Monitoring



- Monitor passage conditions in 13 locations
- Maintain 12 temperature loggers
- Conduct redd and snorkel surveys
- Perform exploratory surveys





Upper Kachess River fish salvage



Upper Kachess River fish salvage

Exploratory surveys and eDNA sampling



In 2016
exploratory
surveys are
tentatively
planned

Also potential to
collect eDNA
samples in the
Yakima Basin

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... and more!



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD



Washington
Department of
**FISH AND
WILDLIFE**

CWU

Learn. Do. Live.

Central
Washington
University



Mid-Columbia
FISHERIES
ENHANCEMENT
GROUP



A large, dark-colored salmon is resting on a rocky riverbed. The fish is positioned horizontally, facing left. The riverbed is composed of various sized rocks and pebbles, some of which are covered in fallen leaves. Several pieces of driftwood are scattered around the fish, some partially submerged in the water. The water is clear, and the surrounding area is lush with green vegetation, including grasses and small plants. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting, likely a stream or a small river.

Questions or comments?

