A large bull trout is swimming in a shallow, rocky stream. The water is clear, and the rocks are visible on the bottom. The fish is dark and has a mottled pattern on its side. The text is overlaid on the image in a light blue, bold, sans-serif font.


# UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF BULL TROUT IN THE YAKIMA BASIN

Yuki Reiss

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board  
Science and Management Conference

June 17-18, 2009

# USFWS Timeline

- 
- Listed in 1999 as “threatened” across range: coterminous listing (Columbia DPS)
  - 2002 Draft Recovery Plan (local team)
  - 2005 Final critical habitat ruling (much weakened from proposed)
  - 2007-8 Five Year Status Review (keep listing, evaluate DPS)

# USFWS Current Status

- **Proposal to de-list and re-list under DPS (2008)**
- **Federal ruling against critical habitat designation (2009)**
- **Resistance from project leaders to de-listing (2009)**

# YBFWRB Involvement

- Recovery Program Coordinator position
- Compiled status info and database
- Local recovery action plan for immediate use



# Bull Trout Projects on-tap

- **NF Tieton trapping/pit tag project**
- **Bull Trout Task Force**
- **Deep Creek culvert removal?**
- **Continued genetics sampling?**
- **Gold Creek hydrologic evaluation?**



Gold Creek Avalanche – Winter 2007-2008



# NF Tieton Population

- 2004 snorkel surveys: 6 juveniles, 2-3 adfluvial adults, 1 redd
- 2007-08: 30+ redds
- Genetic connection to Rimrock populations?
- Passage at Clear Lake Dam?



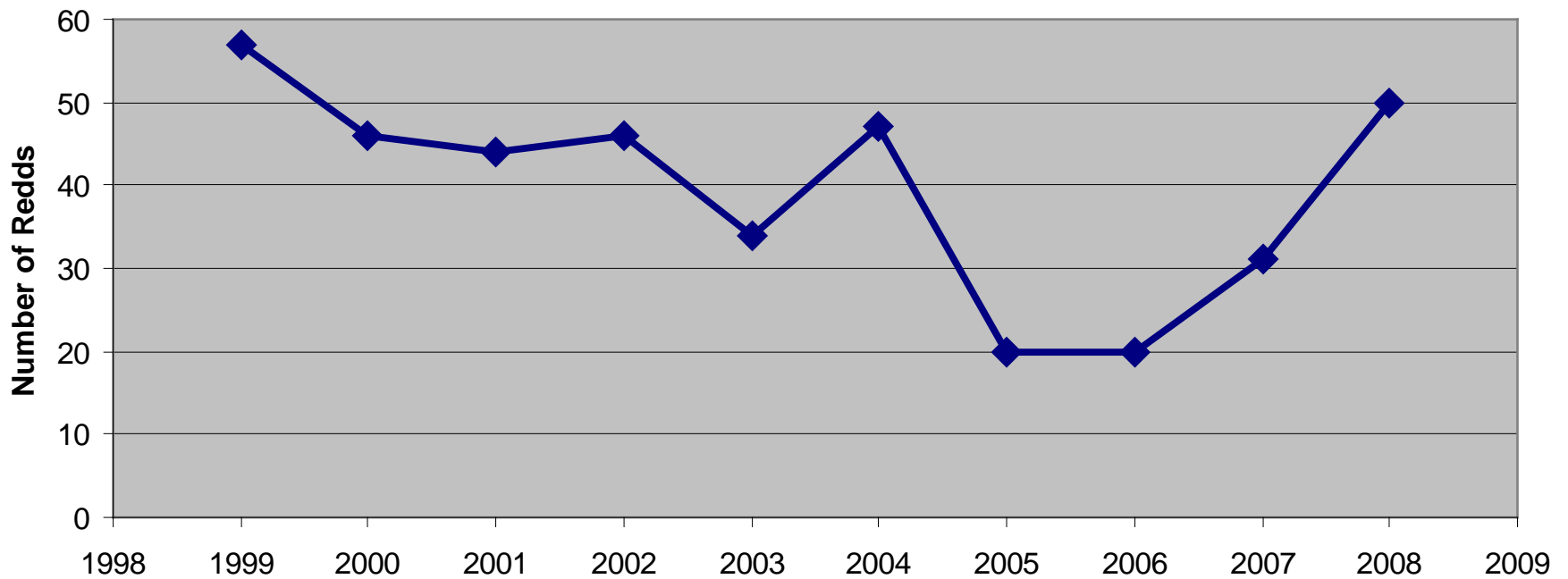
# Bull Trout Task Force

- **Americorps Lead (with bio background) and Washington Conservation Crew**
- **Creel surveys (esp lakes)**
- **Public education/outreach**
- **Recreation dam removal**
- **Brook trout removal**
- **Help with population monitoring and other projects as needed.**



# Population Trend Graph: Upper Yakima

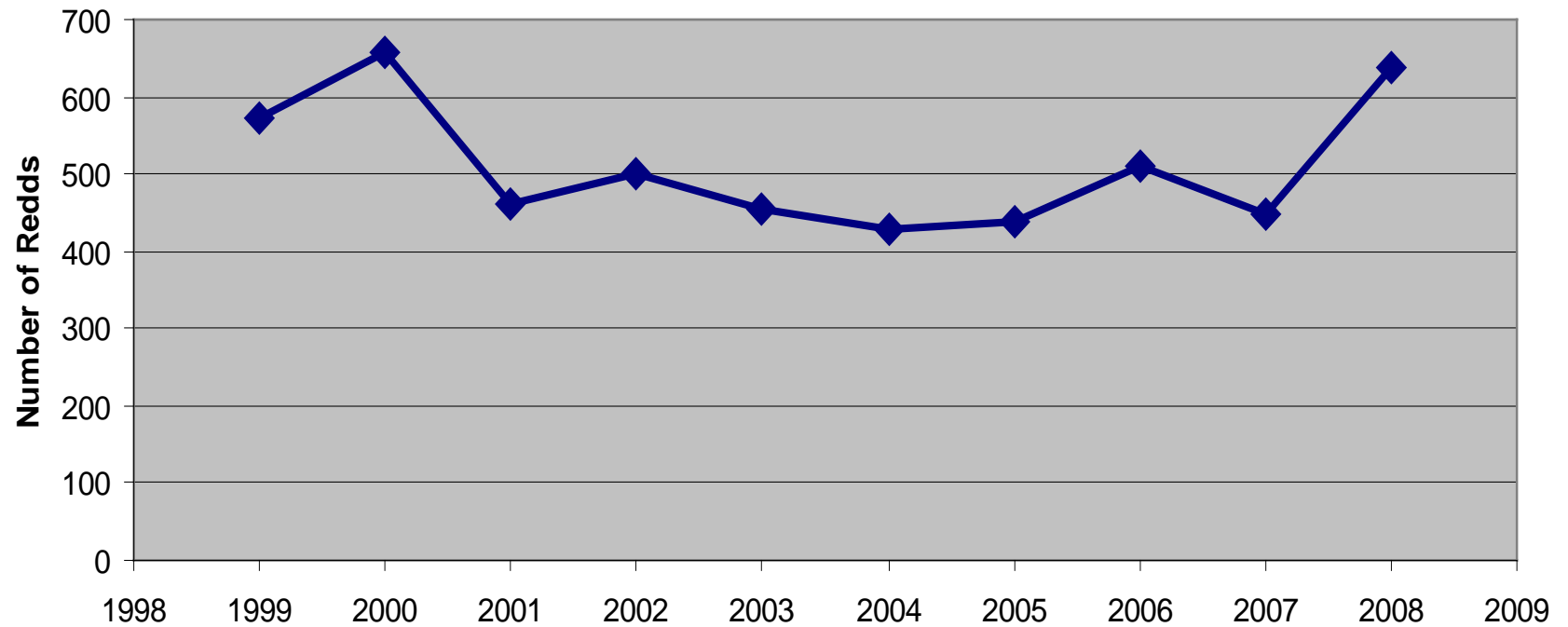
Upper Yakima Bull Trout Redd Counts  
(5 populations)





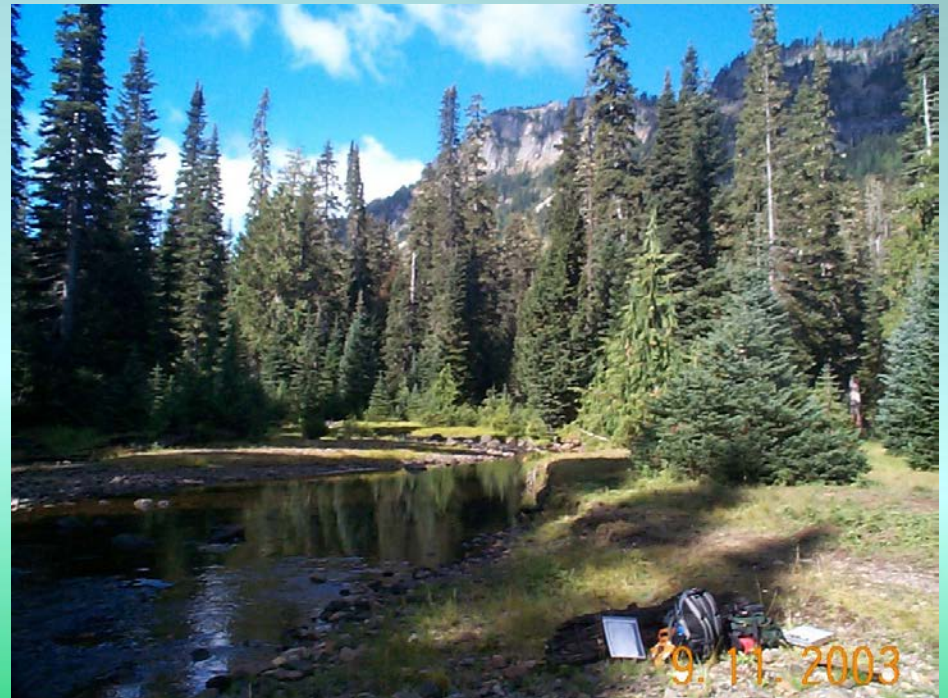
# Population Trend Graph: Naches

**Naches Bull Trout Redd Counts  
(10 populations)**



# Opportunistic surveys

- **NF Teanaway**
- **Upper Bumping River**
- **Upper Yakima River (Easton to Keechelus)**
- **Upper Cle Elum River**



# Want to help?

- **Report bull trout sightings**
- **Take a genetics sample if you find a dead bull trout**
- **Come survey or snorkel this fall!**