

Title:

Upper Cle Elum Bull Trout Surveys

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Summary of Presentation:

Of the nine recognized bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) stocks in the Yakima Basin, the Cle Elum/Waptus Lake stock remains the only one whose status is listed as unknown. During the summer of 2002 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began a two-year study to examine bull trout presence, habitat use, and spawning activity in the upper Cle Elum River drainage. Presence was investigated utilizing night snorkeling and adhering to the AFS protocol described in Peterson *et al* (2002). Bull trout presence was confirmed in the upper Cle Elum but they exist in small numbers. Surveyors observed a total of 26 fish, almost all juveniles, in 34 person-days of effort covering nine kilometers of stream. Redd surveys were conducted using the standard method utilized by the WDFW since 1984 on most of the bull trout spawning streams in the Yakima Basin. Two reaches of the mainstem upper Cle Elum River totaling 5.3 km in length were extensively surveyed. Surveys were also conducted in four small tributaries. No definite bull trout redds were found during these surveys although nine large redds of unknown origin were observed in the 1.3 km mainstem reach located just below Hyas Lake. The study will continue in the Cooper and Waptus River watersheds in 2003.