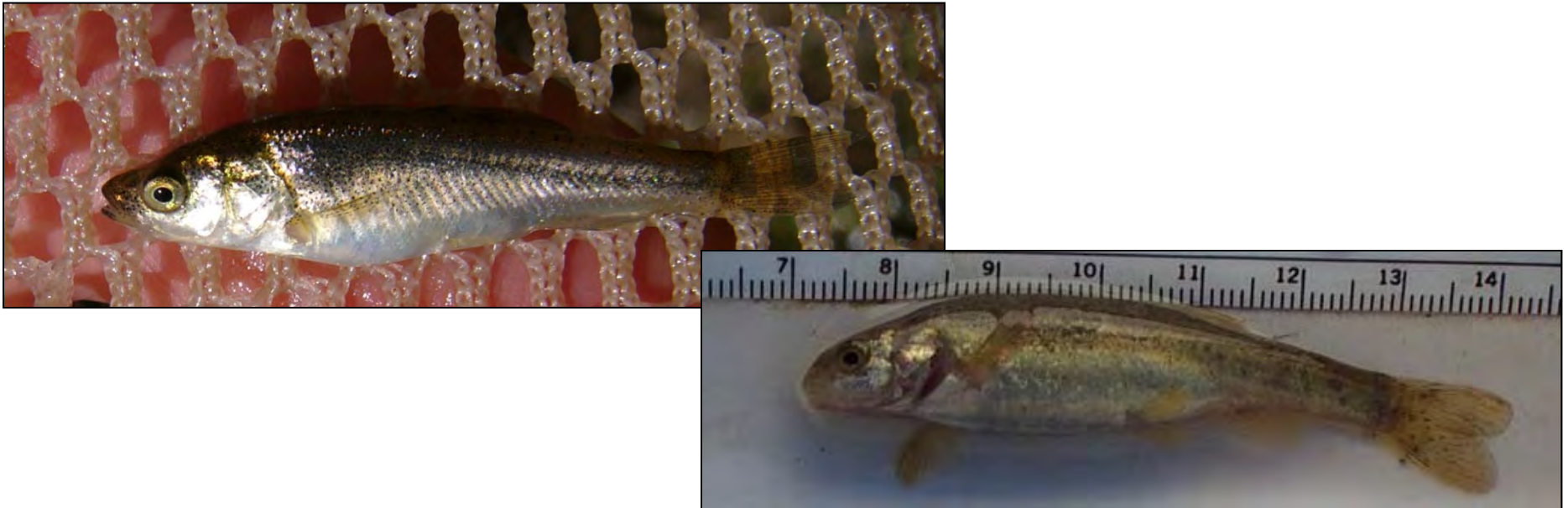
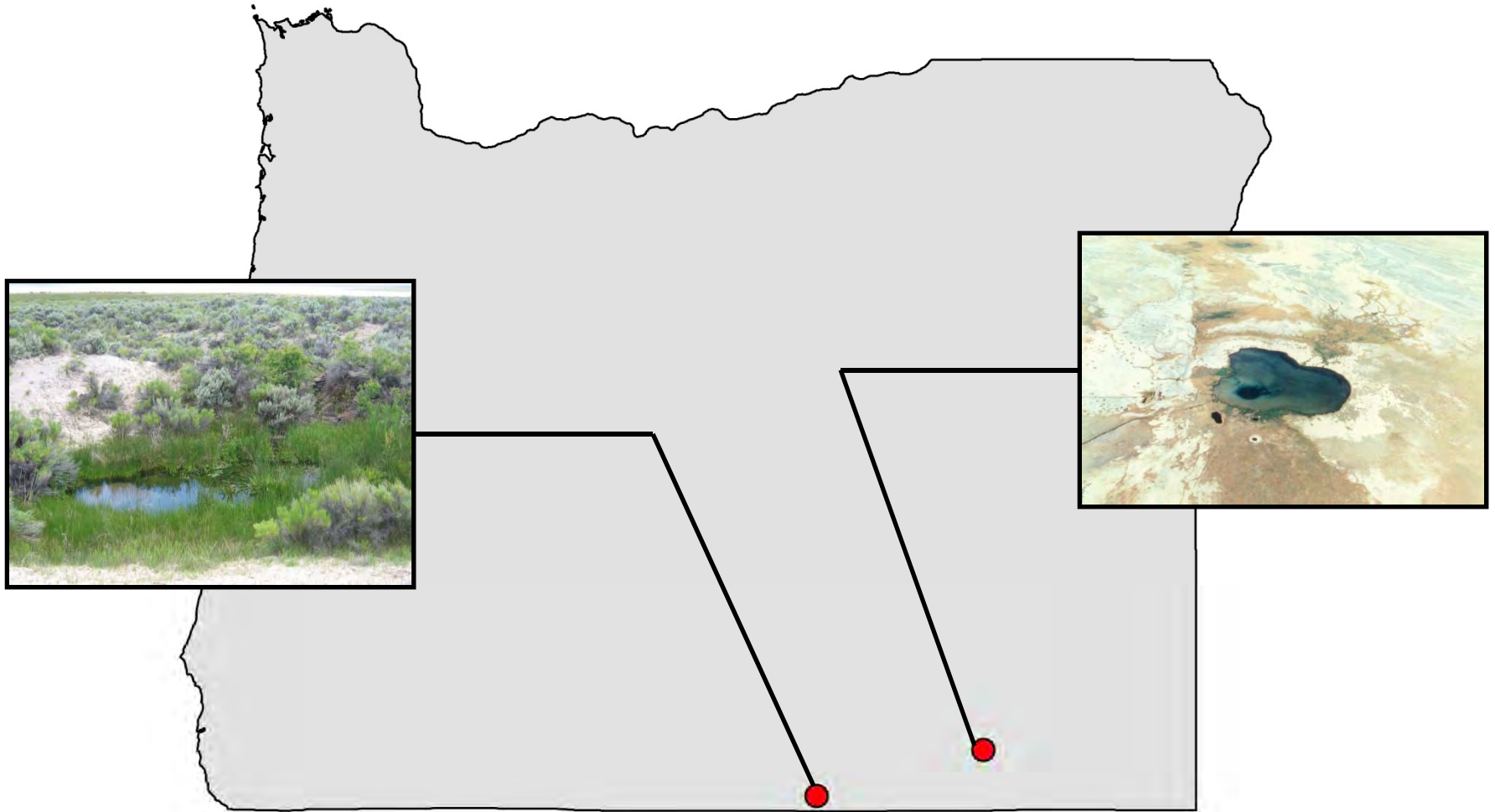


Review of Borax Chub and Foskett Speckled Dace

With Proposed Rulemaking to Remove from the State
List of Threatened and Endangered Species



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Borax Lake Chub and Foscett Speckled Dace

- Small minnows native to isolated locations in southeastern Oregon
- Naturally occur at relatively low abundance
- Listed as Endangered (Borax Lake Chub) or Threatened (Foscett Speckled Dace) species

Rationale for Federal and State Protected Status

Borax Lake Chub – 1982

- Altered lake elevation due to 'chipping' of the shoreline crust (FR 47)
- Potential geothermal development (FR 47)
- Lack of protected habitat (FR 47)
- Automatically placed on the State List due to Federal listing [OAR 635-100-0105(2)(a)]

Foskett Speckled Dace – 1985

- Mechanical modification of habitat [i.e., past construction of a rock dam (FR 50)]
- Potential for excessive use by livestock (FR 50)
- Lack of protected habitat (FR 50)
- Automatically placed on the State List due to Federal listing [OAR 635-100-0105(2)(a)]

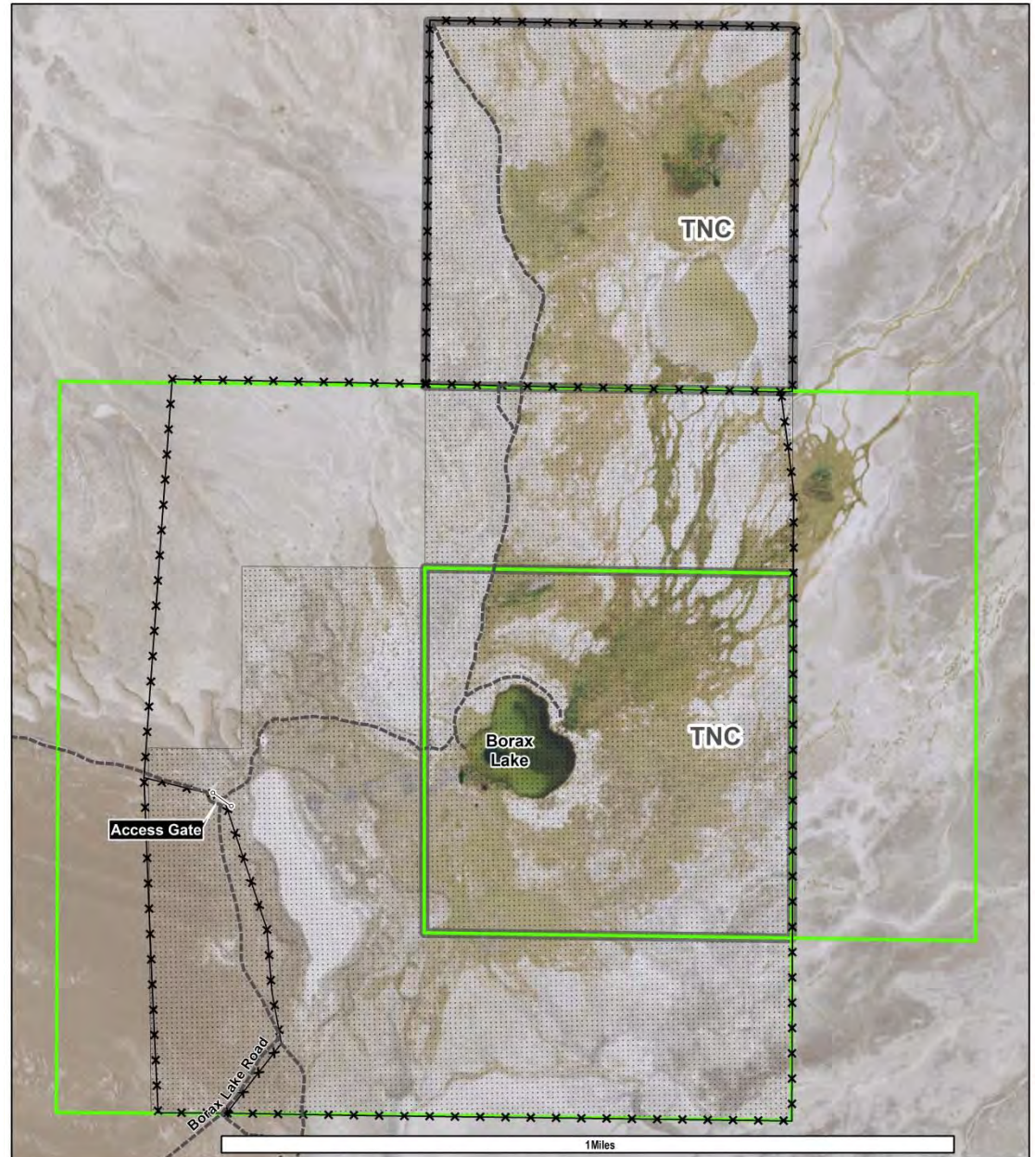
Conservation and Monitoring Activities

Borax Lake

Borax Lake Chub

- 1982 – Designated critical habitat (259 ha)
- 1983 – TNC leased 129 ha of private land (TNC subsequently purchased this land in 1993)
- 1983 – BLM designated 129 ha of public land as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- 1991 – ODFW acquired water rights to Borax Lake
- 2000 – Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act, (BLM 2005 Steens Andrews Resource Management Plan)
- 2011 – Perimeter fence surrounding critical habitat
- 2016 – Draft Cooperative management Plan

Periodic monitoring since 1997

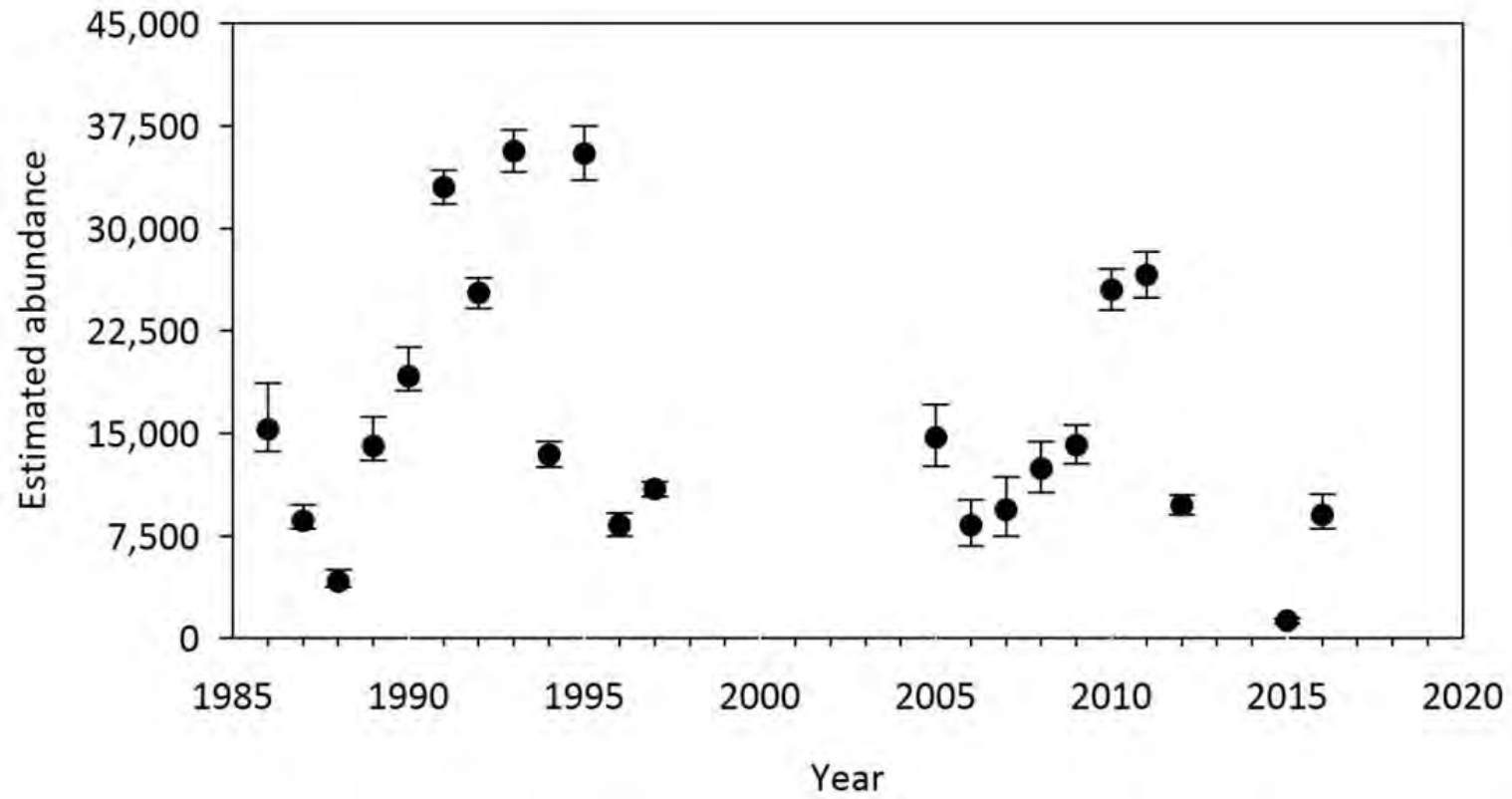


- Borax Lake ACEC
- Critical Habitat
- Primitive or Unknown Surface
- Fence
- TNC Property Boundary



Burns District BLM, Oregon
No warranty made by the BLM for use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.
12/9/2016 slenton-Burns GIS

Borax Lake Chub



Foskett Speckled Dace

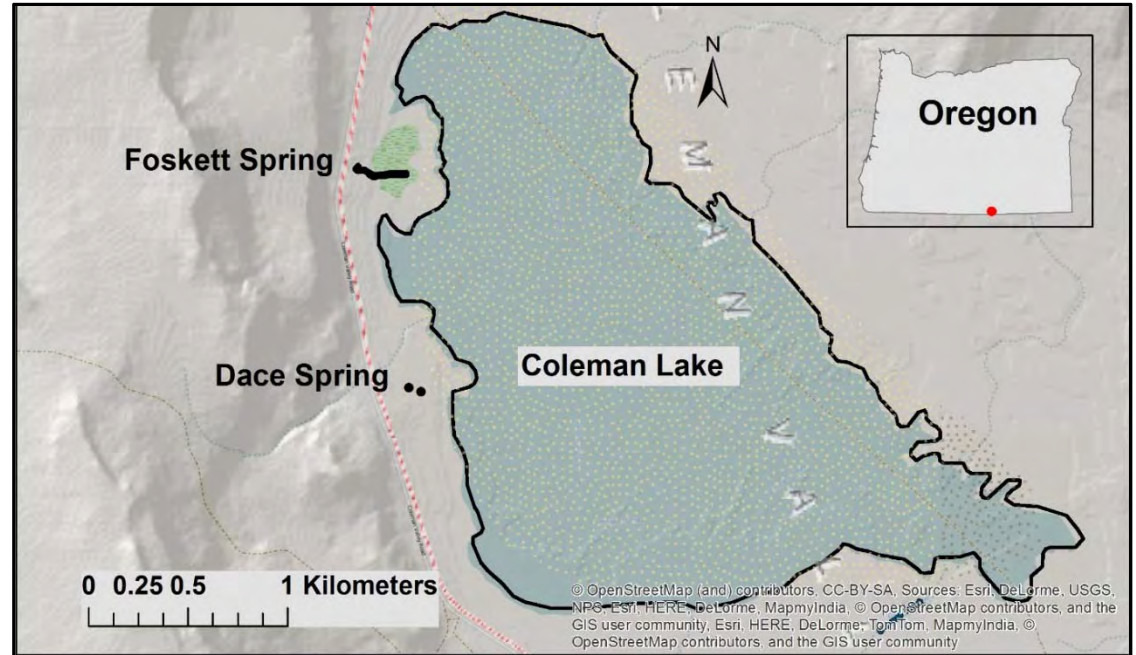
1987 – BLM acquired a 65-ha parcel of land containing Foskett and Dace springs and fenced 28 ha to exclude cattle from springs

2009 – BLM and USFWS created two spring-fed pools at Dace Spring and began transferring Foskett Speckled Dace to these pools

2012 – BLM conducted habitat modifications to maintain open-water habitat at Foskett Spring

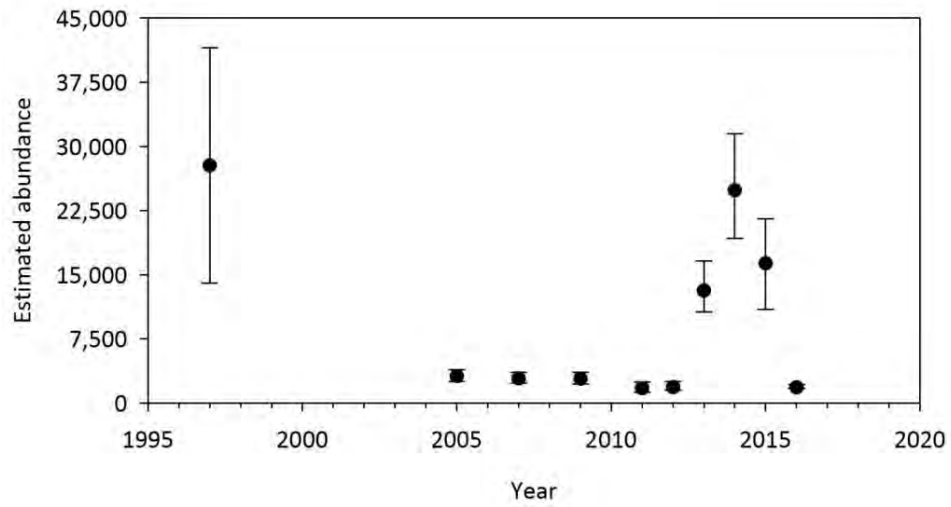
2015 – BLM, USFWS, and ODFW completed a Cooperative Management Plan to guide long-term management of Foskett Speckled Dace

Periodic monitoring since 1997, and observations ca. 1985

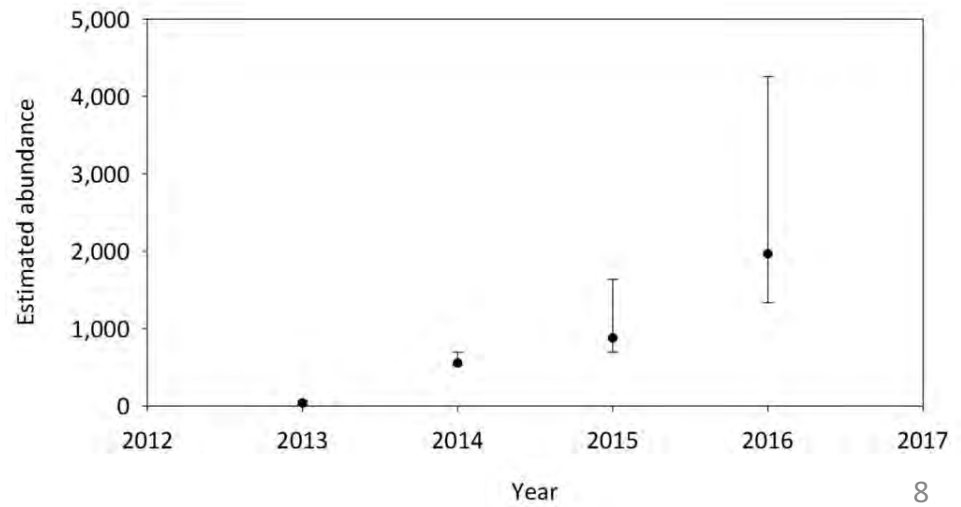


Foskett Speckled Dace

Foskett Spring

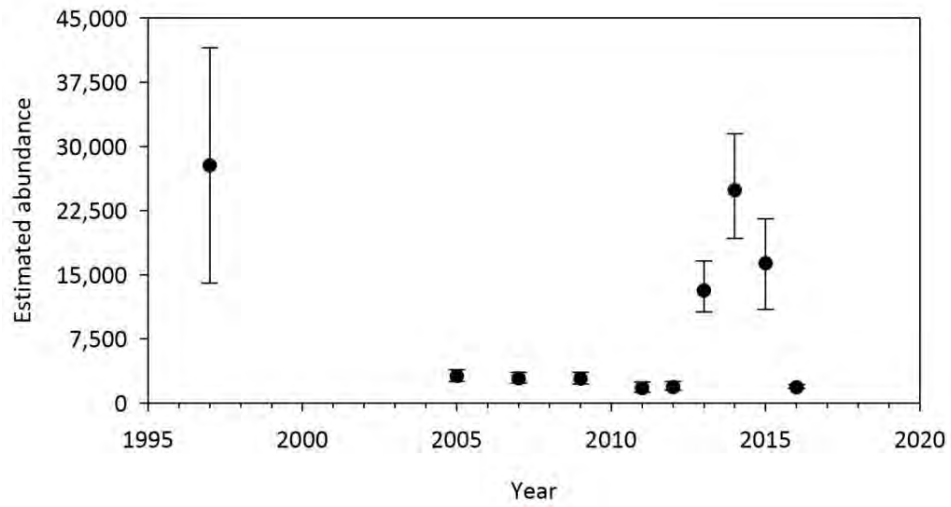


Dace Spring

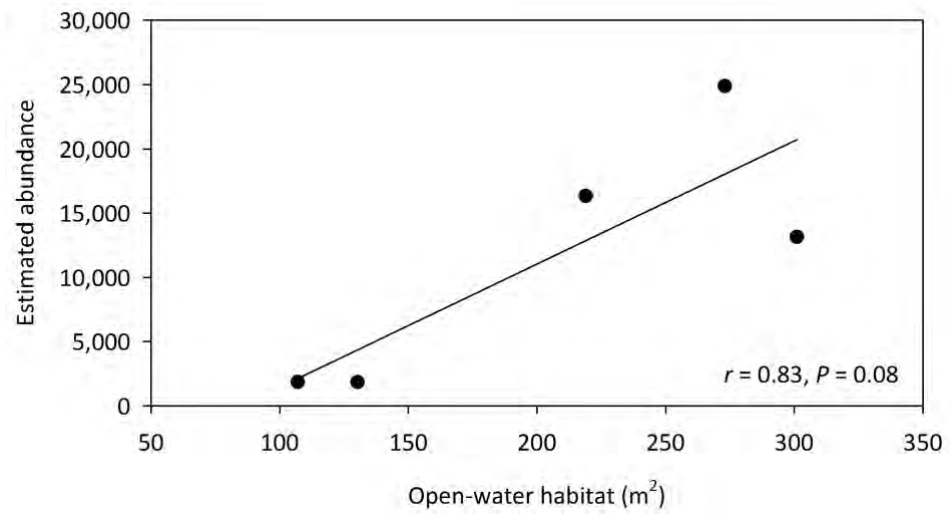


Foskett Speckled Dace

Foskett Spring



Open-water habitat and abundance



Oregon State Delisting Criteria

Oregon State Delisting Criteria

State Criterion 1: The species is not in danger of extinction throughout a significant portion of its range

- This criterion has been met for Borax Lake Chub and Foskett Speckled Dace
 - The current range of both species encompasses their known historical ranges
 - Current ranges are managed for conservation on public (BLM) and/or private (TNC) land
 - Abundance varies among years, but no long-term negative trends are apparent

Oregon State Delisting Criteria

State Criterion 2: The natural reproductive potential of the species is not in danger

- This criterion has been met for Borax Lake Chub and Foskett Speckled Dace
 - Age-0 fish consistently observed during surveys
 - Multiple size-classes of fish consistently observed

Oregon State Delisting Criteria

State Criterion 3: The species is not undergoing deterioration of its range or primary habitat

- This criterion has been met for Borax Lake Chub and Foskett Speckled Dace
 - No reduction in the range of either fish since monitoring began
 - Primary habitat has been protected and restored

Oregon State Delisting Criteria

State Criterion 4: Overuse of the species or its habitat for commercial, recreational, or scientific purposes is not likely to occur

- This criterion has been met for Borax Lake Chub and Foskett Speckled Dace
 - Habitat is protected from commercial use
 - Public access to habitat is restricted to foot traffic
 - No harvest allowed
 - Only infrequent scientific or educational use
 - E.g., abundance monitoring and genetic assessments

Oregon State Delisting Criteria

State Criterion 5: Existing state or federal programs adequately protect the species

- This criterion has been met for Borax Lake Chub and Foskett Speckled Dace
 - Primary habitat is protected (BLM and/or TNC)
 - Most of surrounding land is protected from geothermal development (Borax Lake Chub)
 - Water rights obtained by ODFW (Borax Lake Chub)
 - ODFW will place these species on the State Sensitive Species List

Public Comment and Solicited Peer Review

Public Comment

- Public meetings
 - Burns, Oregon – November 7, 2016
 - Lakeview, Oregon – November 10, 2016
 - Salem, Oregon – November 21, 2016
- Written comments
 - One written comment received

Solicited Peer Review

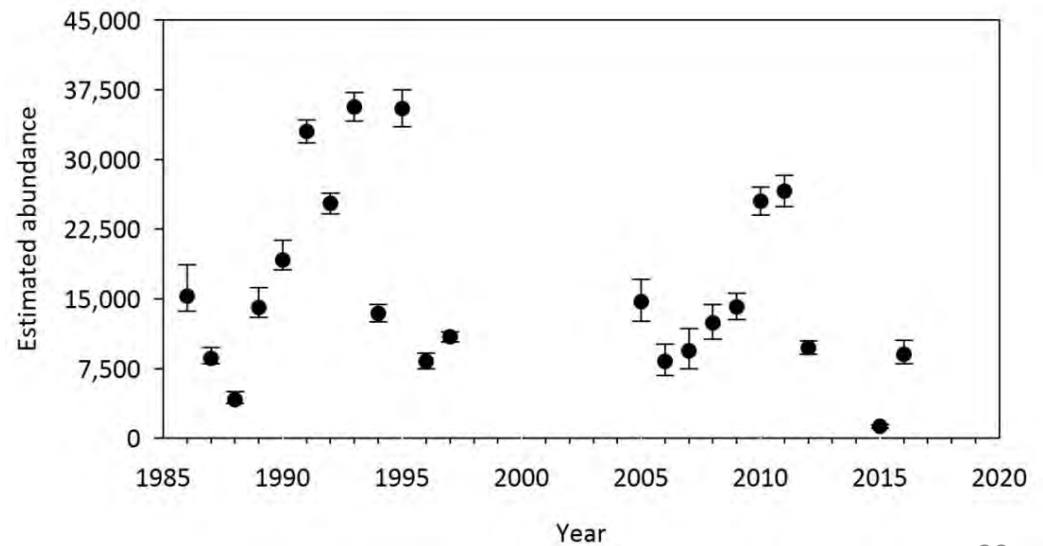
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Support removal of Foskett Speckled Dace from the State List
 - Support removal of Borax Lake Chub from the State List
- US Bureau of Land Management
 - Support removal of Foskett Speckled Dace from the State List
 - No comment on Borax Lake Chub
- The Nature Conservancy
 - No comment on Foskett Speckled Dace
 - Support down-listing of Borax Lake Chub from Endangered to Threatened on the State List
 - Do not support removal of Borax Lake Chub from the State List

Public and Peer Comments

- *These species will not receive conservation and management attention if removed from the State List*
 - Cooperative management plans have been developed to guide the long-term management of these species
 - Foscett Spring Speckled Dace Cooperative Management Plan
 - Borax Lake Chub Cooperative Management Plan (draft)

Public and Peer Comments

- *Concern for Borax Lake Chub fluctuating abundance*
 - Historic abundance thresholds based on the first two years of available data (1986 and 1987)
 - Borax Lake Chub well within common conservation thresholds for abundance
 - E.g., 50/500 rule



Public and Peer Comments

- *Potential for future threats at Borax Lake (e.g., nonnative species, habitat alteration, geothermal development)*
 - ODFW personnel observed a nonnative species in 2013 at Borax Lake
 - No nonnative species observed since 2013 despite substantial sampling effort
 - Cooperative Management Plan provides guidance for frequent site visits and outlines emergency contingency plans
 - State Sensitive Species status, current federal status, and habitat status (i.e., Oregon Category 1 habitat) offer protections

Decision Options

Decision Options

- Borax Lake Chub
 1. Remove Borax Lake Chub from the State List
 2. Change the status of Borax Lake Chub on the State List from Endangered to Threatened
 3. No Action: retain Borax Lake Chub on the State List

- Foscett Speckled Dace
 1. Remove Foscett Speckled Dace from the State List
 2. No action: retain Foscett Speckled Dace on the State List

- Staff Recommendation
 - Remove Borax Lake Chub and Foscett Speckled Dace from the State List