

# Lower Columbia Summer Steelhead SMU

ESA Designation:  
*Threatened 1998*

State Status:  
*Critical*

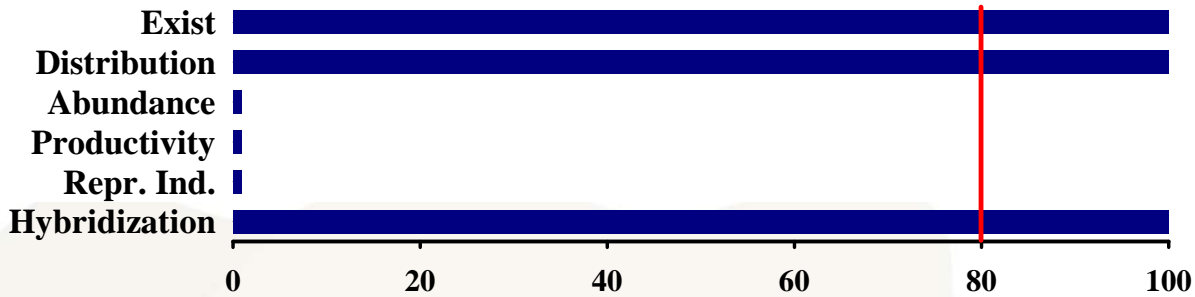
Interim Assessment:  
*At Risk*

This SMU consists of a single population in the Hood River. Hood River summer steelhead primarily inhabit the West Fork. The inherent habitat productivity in Hood River is limited by high gradient and glacial turbidity. The population met three of six criteria and its near term sustainability is at risk. Extensive and detailed data on populations throughout this SMU provide a high level of confidence in the assessment of interim criteria.

Population	Exist	Dist.	Abund.	Prod.	Ind.	Hybrid.
Hood	Pass	Pass*	Fail	Fail*	Fail	Pass

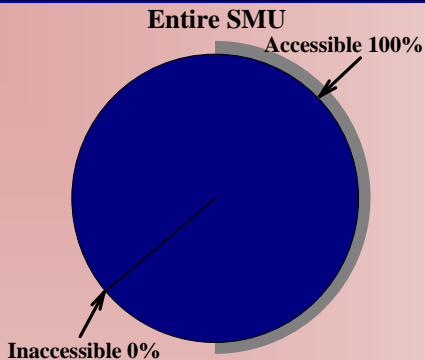
\*Inferred

Percent of Populations Meeting Criteria



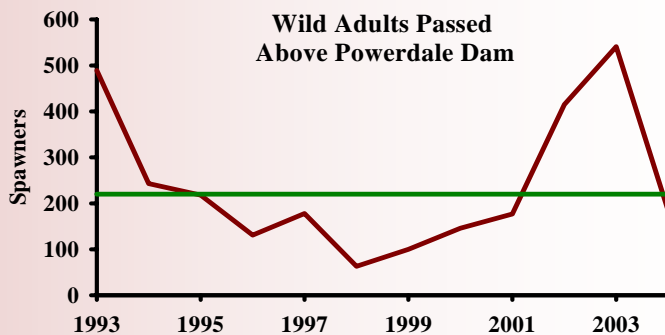
- All criteria met
- 4-5 criteria met
- < 4 criteria met
- Extinct

## Distribution – Pass



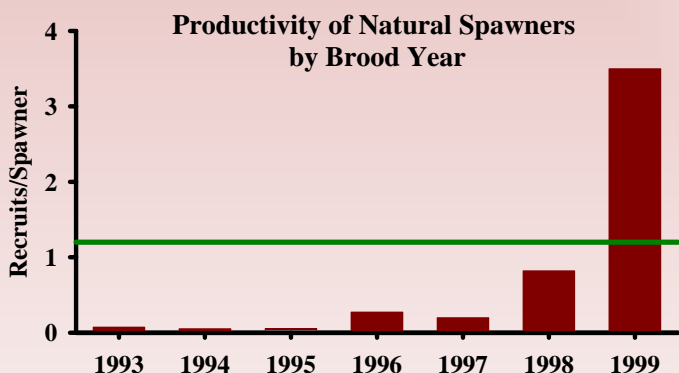
- All of the historical habitat in the Hood basin remains accessible today.
- Passage at Powerdale Dam in the lower mainstem Hood allows for continued access to the spawning grounds including the West Fork Hood River.

## Abundance - Fail



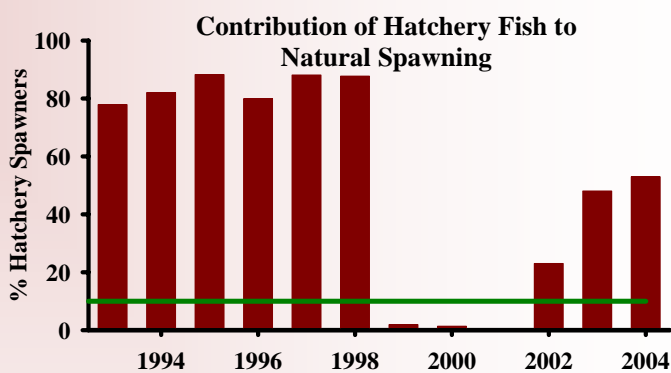
- The fish ladder at Powerdale Dam just upstream from the mouth of Hood River allows all returning adults to be identified and counted.
- Wild returns rose above the criterion threshold in 2002 and 2003, but fell below the criterion again in 2004.

## Productivity - Fail



- Productivity has been extremely low over the last seven broods, but has been greater the last four years.
- Productivity only once reached the productivity criterion of 1.2 recruits per spawner.

## Independence - Pass



- The Hood River summer steelhead hatchery program is integrated, meaning that wild fish are used to supplement broodstock, and hatchery fish are used to supplement natural spawning.
- Beginning in 1999 the number and origin of hatchery summer steelhead has been controlled by selectively passing fish at Powerdale Dam. Up to 50% of the summer steelhead passed above the dam may be hatchery fish.

## Additional Information

- The hatchery supplementation program underway in the Hood River includes significant monitoring to assess its effectiveness and to support adaptive management. The goal of the program is to rebuild the naturally-reproducing population while providing for a consumptive fishery.
- The Powerdale Dam has been scheduled for removal in 2010. Efforts will be made to establish a new monitoring site.
- Habitat conditions for steelhead are affected by irrigation withdrawals, logging in the upper watershed, and grazing and other agricultural practices in the lower watershed.