

## Alvord Cutthroat Trout

The Alvord basin of Southeastern Oregon and northwestern Nevada is a closed endorheic basin of the Great Basin. During the late Pleistocene Lake Alvord covered the valley floor. As the lake dried, approximately 10,000 years ago, cutthroat trout were restricted to the remaining permanent springs and creeks. The Alvord cutthroat trout was known to occupy Trout Creek in Oregon and Virgin Creek in Nevada, but probably also existed in larger streams in the basin (Williams and Bond 1983). Characters of Alvord cutthroat trout were provided by Behnke (1992) and was recently formally described as *Oncorhynchus clarki alvordensis* in Behnke (2002). The Alvord Cutthroat Trout SMU is comprised of one extinct population in the Alvord Lake basin (Table 1).

**Table 1. Populations and existence status of the Alvord cutthroat trout SMU.**

Exist	Population	Description
No	Trout	Trout and Little Trout creeks

Rainbow trout were thought to be introduced into Trout Creek in the 1920s. Introgression of Alvord cutthroat trout with introduced rainbow trout was first noted in collections made by Carl Hubbs in 1934 (Behnke 1992, Williams and Bond 1983). Trout collected in the 1970s exhibited only rainbow trout characters (Behnke 1992), indicating the rapid extinction of Alvord cutthroat trout through hybridization.