

Coyote Lake Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

ESA Designation:
Threatened 1975

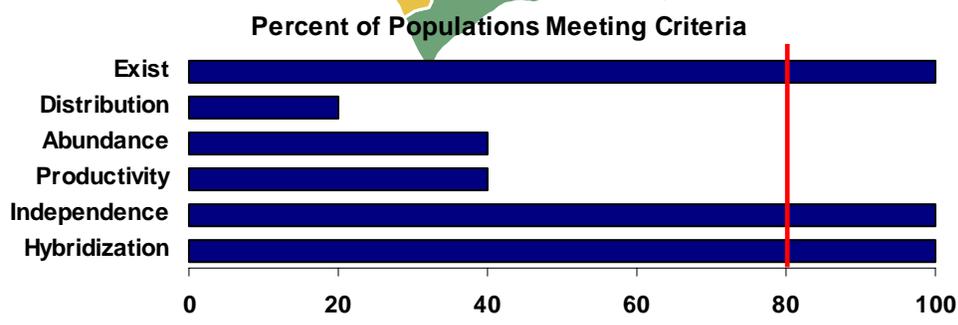
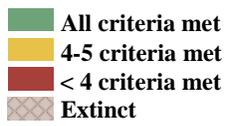
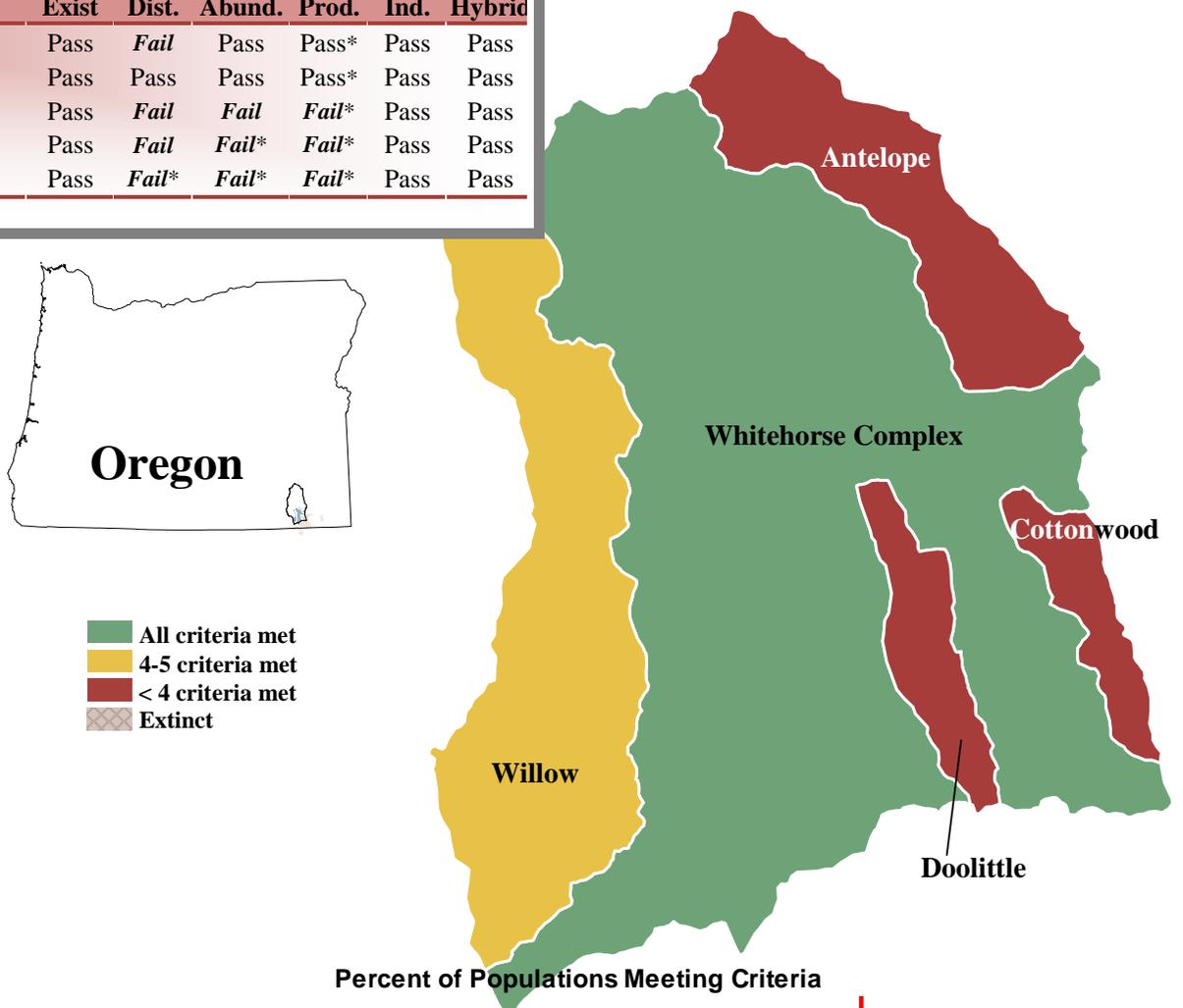
State Status:
Threatened

Interim Assessment:
At Risk

Lahontan cutthroat trout in the Coyote Lake basin are likely descendants of populations inhabiting pluvial Lake Lahontan during the Pleistocene era. The Coyote Lake SMU is comprised of five native cutthroat trout populations. Distribution is naturally fragmented, restricted by barrier falls and a discontinuous stream network. Three populations have low abundance and limited productivity. Ten naturalized populations were established during the 1970s in Alvord Lake basin and Catlow Valley for conservation purposes. These populations were not evaluated in this review. The SMU passes three of the six interim criteria and is classified as ‘at risk’. Limited data sets and inferences from other information for populations in this SMU provide a qualified level of confidence in the assessment of the interim criteria.

Population	Exist	Dist.	Abund.	Prod.	Ind.	Hybrid
Willow	Pass	<i>Fail</i>	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass
Whitehorse Complex	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass
Doolittle	Pass	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Fail</i> *	Pass	Pass
Cottonwood	Pass	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Fail</i> *	<i>Fail</i> *	Pass	Pass
Antelope	Pass	<i>Fail</i> *	<i>Fail</i> *	<i>Fail</i> *	Pass	Pass

*Inferred

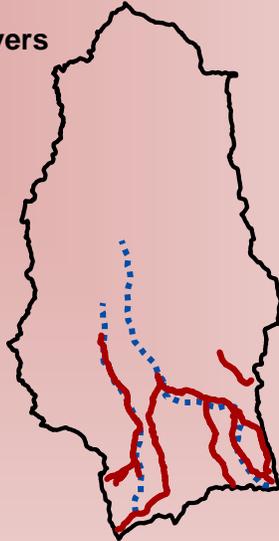


Distribution - Fail

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

Major Rivers

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- Populations in the SMU are naturally isolated. Historically streams flowed into pluvial Coyote Lake. These streams are no longer connected due to desiccation of Coyote Lake, a drier climate, and irrigation diversions and withdrawal.
- Distribution varies according to water year and annual fluctuation of instream flows.
- Willow, Antelope, Doolittle, and Cottonwood populations are isolated from other populations and fail the criterion. Distribution in Antelope and Cottonwood creeks is extremely limited, less than ten km.

Productivity - Fail

- Data available to appropriately evaluate the productivity criterion are insufficient. Instead the criterion is assessed based on the qualitative evaluation of current abundance, distribution, habitat quality, and connectivity.
- Willow and Whitehorse pass the criterion due to evidence of increasing abundance, adequate distribution, and lack of year class failures. Antelope, Cottonwood and Doolittle fail the criterion due to limited distribution and abundance population, isolation, and limited habitat quality.
- Drying in the lower portion of Little Whitehorse Creek due to drought and grazing disrupts connectivity of Little Whitehorse to the greater Whitehorse system, this periodic connection potentially reduces productivity in the Whitehorse Complex

Additional Information

- Coyote Lake Lahontan cutthroat trout are native trout sustained by natural production and pass the reproductive independence criterion.
- Following the implementation of a new grazing regime in 1989 and the establishment of the Trout Creek Mountain Working Group, habitat conditions are significantly improving throughout the SMU.

Abundance - Fail

- Population estimates for Coyote Lakes populations have occurred every five years since 1985. ODFW last evaluated abundance in 1999.
- Willow and Whitehorse complex populations both exceeded 500 adults and pass the abundance criterion. Doolittle and Cottonwood populations were estimated to contain less than 120 adults and fail the criterion.
- Data are not available for the Antelope population.
- Abundance fluctuates with habitat quality and water year.

Hybridization - Pass

- Lahontan cutthroat trout are the only fish species present in Willow, Whitehorse, and Antelope basins. Hybridization with non-native species is not a concern. All populations pass the hybridization criterion