

Foskett Speckled Dace SMU

ESA Designation:

Threatened 1985

State Status:

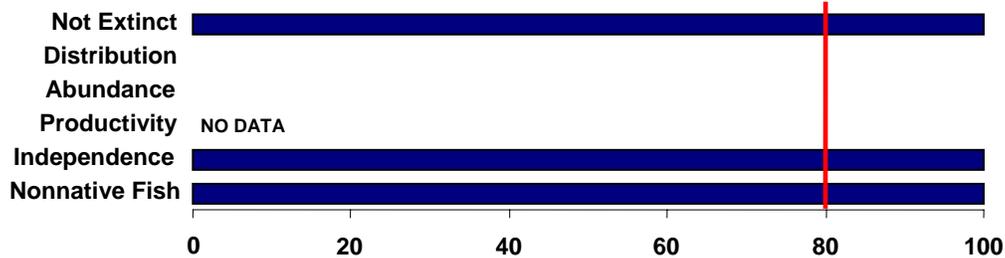
Threatened

Interim Assessment:

At Risk

The Foskett Speckled Dace SMU is comprised of populations that inhabit Foskett and Dace springs, small desert springs on the west side of Coleman Lake in Lake County, Oregon. This subspecies was initially known only from Foskett Spring. The second population, located approximately 0.8 kilometer south of Foskett Spring in Dace Spring, was established from an introduction of 100 fish from Foskett Spring in 1979-1980. The Foskett speckled dace was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1985. In 1987, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquired, through a land exchange, the 65 hectare parcel of land containing Foskett and Dace springs. Both springs were fenced to exclude livestock. Lack of recent monitoring efforts since 1997 and a reduction in the area of open water habitat, due to sedimentation and dense growth of aquatic macrophytes, remain as threats to the Foskett speckled dace population.

Percent of Populations Meeting Criteria



Foskett Spring



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

Abundance- fail

- Data describing the abundance of the Foskett speckled dace population from 1998 to 2004 are not available.
- An abundance estimate of nearly 28,000 fish was obtained in Foskett Spring in 1997, however most of the fish were found in a small pool located outside the cattle enclosure.
- An abundance estimate of 19 fish was obtained in Dace Spring. Only very large, presumably older dace were captured, suggesting recent recruitment failures.
- Foskett speckled dace fail the abundance criterion.

Hybridization and negative impacts of nonnative fishes- pass

- Interspecific hybridization and other immediate threats from non-native fishes have not been identified as issues for Foskett speckled dace.
- Foskett speckled dace pass this criterion.

Distribution- fail

- The distribution of Foskett speckled dace is limited to two small springs in the Warner Basin. The introduced population in Dace Spring totaled only 19 fish in 1996.
- Records are not available to evaluate whether Foskett speckled dace existed historically at other locations.
- Because of its highly restricted distribution, dependence on a single water source, and loss of habitat area from sedimentation and growth of aquatic macrophytes, Foskett speckled dace is vulnerable to catastrophic loss.
- Foskett speckled dace fail this criterion.

Additional Information

- In 2003, fish were collected from Foskett Spring and Twelvemile Creek for genetic analysis to determine whether these populations of speckled dace are unique, or should be considered to belong to the same subspecies (and SMU).
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has undertaken population estimates and detailed habitat assessments of the speckled dace in Foskett and Dace Springs.
 - Foskett Spring is visited several times each year by ODFW district biologists to determine the habitat status, i.e., whether obvious problems exist, and the presence of dace. In 2004, two size classes (age classes) were observed.
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Productivity- not assessed

- No data are available to assess productivity and the rate of population growth at the population level.
- This criterion was not assessed.

Reproductive Independence- pass

- All Foskett speckled dace are naturally produced. No hatchery program exists.
- Foskett speckled dace pass this criterion.