



ABUNDANCE, PRODUCTIVITY, AND LIFE HISTORY OF FIFTEENMILE CREEK STEELHEAD

BPA Project # 2010-035-00

Report covers work performed under BPA contract #(s) 64449

Report was completed under BPA contract #(s) 64449

1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

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Report Created 1-2017

This report was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy, as part of BPA's program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries. The views in this report are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of BPA.

This report should be cited as follows:

Pierson, K. J., D. M. Faber, and J. R. Ruzycki. Abundance, Productivity, and Life History of Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead, 1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016. BPA Annual Technical Report, Project # 2010-035-00.

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1. Executive Summary

Fish Population Status and Trends

We evaluated the population and life history characteristics of Fifteenmile Creek steelhead between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, a population listed as ‘threatened’ under the endangered species act. These steelhead are a part of the Mid-Columbia Distinct Population Segment for Columbia River steelhead. To achieve study objectives, we deployed a rotary screw trap to capture, tag, and enumerate out-migrating juvenile steelhead, and operated a combination resistance panel/video weir to capture and enumerate returning adult steelhead and estimate escapement. We continued to operate and maintain the in-stream PIT interrogation arrays during this period. The estimated efficiency of the entire array was 95% during the 2016 season for migrating adults. This year Fifteenmile experienced several periods of high water, including the first week in March which is start of the run, therefore decreasing our catch at the weir. A total of 51 returning wild adult steelhead, 6 wild steelhead kelts, and 19 wild steelhead carcasses were captured. The estimate for wild adult steelhead escapement to Fifteenmile Creek during the 2015-2016 season was 276 spawners, which is the third smallest adult abundance estimate since robust statistical methods began in 2003. The lowest escapement estimate for Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead being 225 adults in 2008 and the largest being 988 adults in 2004. We captured 851 juvenile steelhead, of which 850 were PIT-tagged. Using detection histories of PIT-tagged juvenile steelhead, we estimated smolt abundance to be 17,508 individuals (95% CI between 13,235 and 24,301); this is the fifth largest smolt estimate on record for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead – the smallest being an estimate of 7,436 smolts in 2007, and the largest being an estimate of 33,311 smolts in 2013. Using age compositions for juvenile outmigrants and returning adults, we reported smolt production in the watershed. The Smolt-to-Adult return (SAR) rates to Fifteenmile Creek were updated for the 2007-2014 smolt outmigration years and ranged from a low 0.59% in 2011 to a high of 3.57% in 2009. Since 2010, SAR estimates have been below the 2.0% goal of recovery. We found significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between SAR rates to Bonneville Dam and SAR rates to Fifteenmile Creek every year after the 2007 outmigration year, which is consistent with the survival observed between Bonneville Dam and Fifteenmile Creek, suggesting a high mortality rate during Columbia River residence as pre-spawn adults. Survival of returning adults of all ages from Bonneville Dam to Fifteenmile Creek for spawning years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 were similarly low and estimated to be 59%, 52%, 44% (95%CI, 42%-46%), 55% (95%CI, 28%-82%), 53% (95%CI, 50%-56%), 48% (95%CI, 47%-50%), and 47%(95%CI,44.6%-49.4%) respectively. The introduction of PIT detection at The Dalles Dam fish ladders has informed us that the majority of Fifteenmile Creek steelhead ascend the ladders and pass above the dam in the summer and fall before returning to Fifteenmile Creek in the spring to spawn. This is one potential source of pre-spawn mortality that may be mitigated with flow augmentation at The Dalles Dam during critical migration months (December to March), particularly at the ice/trash sluiceway. Other sources of pre-spawn mortality should also be investigated.

The addition of weir trapping for abundance estimates provides an accurate assessment of smolt production. With the development of newly implemented technologies, the Fifteenmile Creek watershed has developed into an ideally-sized watershed to monitor Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) parameters for a steelhead population recovery plan. Further increasing precision for smolt production estimates through the use of the PIT tag detections and trapping efficiency will be investigated to improve estimates, thereby

improving our ability to detect productivity changes from habitat modifications. Based on our smolt/adult results, we suggest additional habitat restoration activities are required to increase the productivity and abundance of the Fifteenmile Creek population.

Finally, Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) indicator and metric data that support and feed ODFW's Recovery Planning and BiOP reporting needs are summarized and compiled into a standard format (Coordinated Assessments Data Exchange Standard; (DES) at the population level and stored in a central server location. VSP data in DES format is quality-checked, reviewed, and approved for sharing by a data steward and the primary VSP data contact for each population(s). Upon reviewer approval, data in DES format is made available to the public and interested parties through upload on ODFW's Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Tracker (<http://odfwrecoverytracker.org/>), NOAA's Salmon Population Summary (SPS; <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=261:home:0>) database, and StreamNet (<http://www.streamnet.org/>). In addition, incidental mortalities and carcasses are interrogated for parasites and pathogens, which are uploaded to the National Wild Fish Health Survey database (<http://www.fws.gov/wildfishsurvey/>). Key metrics specific to Fifteenmile Creek for the current reporting period are also shown in the results.

2. Introduction

Fish Population Status and Trends

This project supports the Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Program Strategies:

- Assess the status and trend of natural and hatchery origin abundance of fish populations for various life stages.
- Assess the status and trend of adult productivity of natural origin fish populations.
- Assess the status and trend of juvenile abundance and productivity of natural origin fish populations.
- Assess the status and trend of spatial distribution of fish populations.
- Assess the status and trend of diversity of natural and hatchery origin fish populations.

This project answers or provides data to answer the F&W Program Management Questions:

- What are the status and trend of abundance of natural and hatchery origin fish populations?
- What are the status and trend of adult productivity of fish populations?
- What are the status and trend of juvenile abundance and productivity of fish populations?
- What are the status and trend of spatial distribution of fish populations?
- What are the status and trend of diversity of natural and hatchery origin fish populations?

The information generated from this project will significantly improve the quality of the viability status assessments and serve as a basis for evaluating long term changes in productivity that may result from tributary habitat improvement of an ongoing project that is funded through Bonneville Power Administration. That project has addressed habitat issues on Fifteenmile Creek and its tributaries for greater than twenty years (BPA, project #1993-040-00).

The Fifteenmile Creek watershed in North Central Oregon hosts a native population of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) that is without influence of previous hatchery augmentation (Newton and Nelson 2000). The Fifteenmile Creek steelhead are a subpopulation within the Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Middle Columbia River steelhead, which consists of all historical populations of steelhead in tributaries to the Columbia River upstream of the Hood River and Wind River systems, up to and including the Yakima River. This steelhead DPS was listed as ‘threatened’ by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) first on March 25, 1999 and relisted as a DPS on January 5, 2006 (71 FR 834, Figure 1).

Subsequently, a conservation and recovery management plan was developed for the Middle Columbia River steelhead DPS within Oregon state borders. The goal of the plan is to recover Middle Columbia River steelhead to a level that would allow the removal of threatened status, in addition to providing a long-term goal to recover the population sufficiently to provide “sustainable fisheries and other ecological, cultural, social and economic benefits for future generations” (Carmichael and Taylor 2010). The DPS-level recovery plan sets specific recovery goals for the areas within the DPS, which designates Fifteenmile Creek explicitly.

The Fifteenmile Creek steelhead population is considered the most inland winter race of steelhead in the Columbia River Basin, as designated by NOAA fisheries. However review of this designation may be

necessary at the next Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) status-review because the run-timing of adult steelhead passing Bonneville Dam has been inconsistent with known winter-run steelhead in the area. The population was identified as “must have viable” status by the Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team (ICTRT), and reaching viable status is essential for achieving DPS delisting. The ICTRT, Recovery Plan, and the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS-BiOp) have all identified this population as high priority for improving precision and accuracy of abundance, productivity, diversity, and spatial structure information. This status and trend monitoring by ODFW is designed to establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program for abundance, productivity, and life history of steelhead in the Fifteenmile Creek population. This work is critical to gaining a better understanding of the status of the population and DPS, monitoring and adapting recovery actions, and improving the knowledge of steelhead critical habitat.

To establish pertinent management actions for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead, this project seeks to:

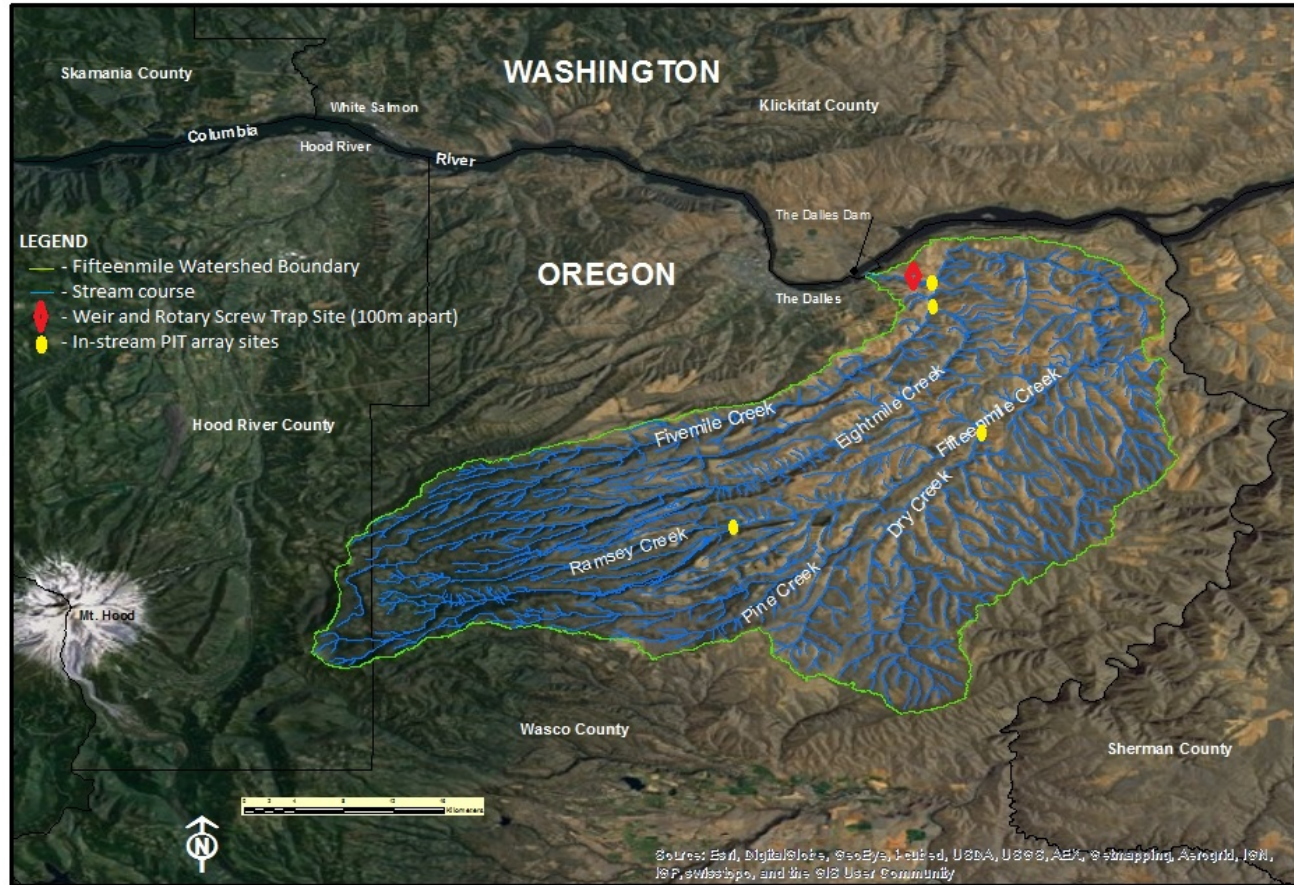
1. Improve accuracy and precision of estimates of spawner abundance
2. Improve accuracy and precision of estimates of abundance of stray hatchery fish
3. Determine life history characteristics (through metrics associated with life history attributes)
4. Determine population dynamics for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead

In order to accomplish these critical goals, population performance metrics were evaluated for Fifteenmile steelhead in 2016 including: age structure; hatchery fraction; adult life history characteristics; juvenile life history characteristics; smolt abundance; smolt migration survival; smolt-to-adult survival; spawner distribution; recruits-per-spawner; and smolts-per-spawner.

Population metrics were evaluated from data collected through the installation and operation of a weir trap to sample adult steelhead, a juvenile outmigrant trap (rotary screw trap), juvenile salmon surveys throughout the watershed, and from the installation of passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag arrays at strategic sites throughout the basin. Analyses integrate life-stage specific survival and life history information in order to derive and assess the performance metrics. The 2016 sampling season marks the sixth year of monitoring and research that has specifically addressed these objectives; however smolt outmigration has been monitored since 2006 through the use of PIT-tagged out-migrating smolts (Macnab and Springston 2009) from which essential data has been provided, and is included in this report. Smolt returns from prior years were also used in our analyses. This status and trend monitoring project is a long-term endeavor that will span multiple steelhead generations.

Maps

Watershed Map:



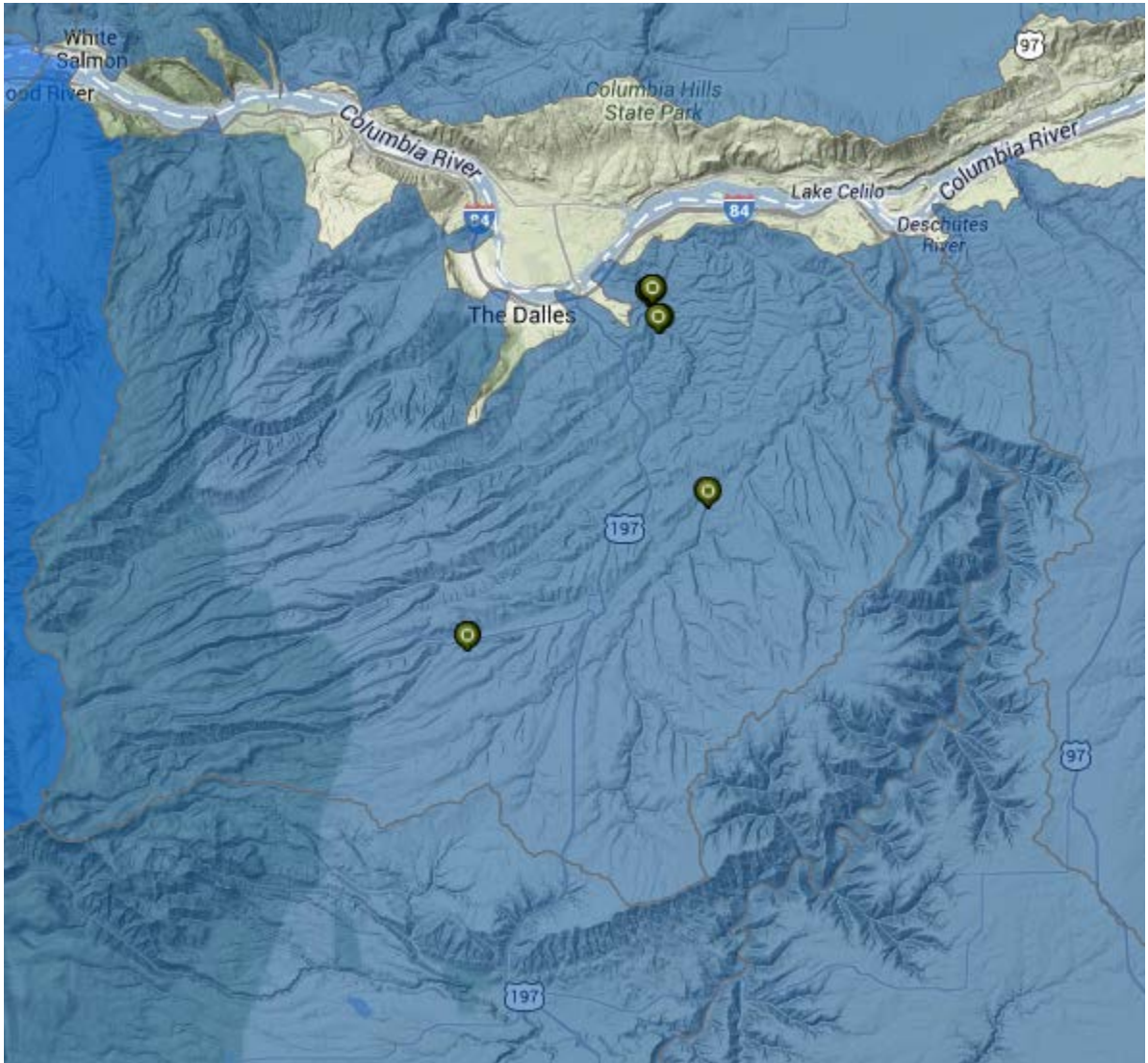
<Double-click to enter text>

Project Map:

<http://www.cbfish.org/Project.mvc/Map/2010-035-00>

Contract Map(s):

<http://www.cbfish.org/Contract.mvc/Map/60980>



3. Methods: Protocols, Study Designs, and Study Area

Protocol Title: [Interim Protocol- Fifteenmile Creek Adult and Juvenile Steelhead Abundance and Distribution 2010-035-00](#)

Protocol Link: <https://www.monitoringresources.org/Document/Protocol/Details/2176>

Protocol Summary: The purpose of this protocol is to describe installation and operation of a weir, adult trap, and underwater video cameras to: assess adult escapement; estimate productivity as adult recruits per spawner; determine the proportion of returns that are hatchery origin strays; determine adult life history patterns. We will use a combination of live box capture and video monitoring to count passage. Sample size should not be a factor unless the weir fails and we need to mark/recapture adults. All handled adults will be marked to maintain the maximum possible sample size.

Protocol Title: [Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead Spawning Surveys \(2010-035-00\)](#)

Protocol Link: <https://www.monitoringresources.org/Document/Protocol/Details/2177>

Protocol Summary: The purpose of this protocol is to describe spawning surveys that are done in Fifteenmile Creek, Eightmile Creek, Fivemile Creek, and Ramsey Creek (99.27mi total; 44.93 in Fifteenmile Creek, 24.32mi in Eightmile Creek, 20.02mi in Fivemile Creek, and 10.00mi in Ramsey Creek).

Study Area:

The Fifteenmile Creek drains approximately 370 square miles (966 km²) of the eastern slopes and foothills of the Cascade Range in north-central Oregon. From its headwaters in Mount Hood National Forest, Fifteenmile Creek flows northeast through the city of Dufur before turning north and then west and flowing into the Columbia River just downstream of The Dalles Dam (see map on page 12). The watershed lies entirely within the boundary of lands originally occupied by member tribes of the Confederated Tribes of The Warm Springs. Current land-ownership is largely private, except for the headwaters portions lying within the National Forest boundaries. The majority of private lands are used for agricultural production, including wheat and other grains, hay and alfalfa, orchard fruits, and cattle production. The major tributaries to Fifteenmile Creek, working downstream of the headwaters, are Ramsey Creek (entering Fifteenmile in the Dufur Valley), Pine Creek (entering Fifteenmile in the city of Dufur), Dry Creek (entering Fifteenmile downstream of the city of Dufur), and Eightmile Creek (entering Fifteenmile approximately 2.5mi upstream of its confluence with the Columbia River). Eightmile Creek is the largest tributary to Fifteenmile Creek, and its main tributary is Fivemile Creek, which enters Eightmile Creek approximately one mile upstream of the confluence of Eightmile and Fifteenmile creeks.

The Fifteenmile basin is situated at the eastern end of the Columbia River Gorge, a zone where the cooler, moister conditions typically found in the Gorge transition to the warmer, drier conditions typically found in eastern Oregon. As a result, many characteristics of the basin exhibit greater diversity than would be found in either the Gorge or further east. General flora community structure in the Fifteenmile

watershed ranges from pine- and fir-dominated coniferous forest in the headwaters, to mixed-oak-pine woodland in the middle to lower elevations, and finally to bunchgrass- and sagebrush-dominated grasslands in the eastern and low-elevation portions of the watershed (Clark 2003). Mean annual precipitation can vary widely within the watershed, and generally ranges from upwards of 70 inches in the headwaters to approximately 10 inches near the confluence of Fifteenmile Creek and the Columbia River. Precipitation falls primarily as snow during the winter months, but moderate-to-heavy fall and spring rainfall events are not uncommon.

The hydrologic regime in Fifteenmile Creek is characterized by high spring runoff (resulting from snowmelt, sometimes in combination with warm spring rains) followed by low summer and fall flows. Normally low summer discharge is typically compounded by stream and water-table withdrawals made primarily for crop irrigation and livestock watering. High summertime air temperatures are common, and as a result, summertime temperatures in many stream reaches in the lower and middle portions of the watershed can exceed the salmonid rearing threshold temperature of 17.8°C (Macnab and Springston 2009).

In addition to the wild population of steelhead native to Fifteenmile Creek, the native fish community includes coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), cutthroat trout (*O. clarkii*), Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*), western brook lamprey (*L. richardsoni*), northern pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*), redbelt shiner (*Richardsonius balteatus*), chiselmouth (*Acrocheilus alutaceus*), mountain sucker (*Catostomus platyrhynchus*), largescale sucker (*C. macrocheilus*), and several species of dace (*Rhinichthys* spp.) and sculpin (family Cottidae).

4. Results

Key Tables

Table 1. Summary table of key metrics for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead

Abundance and Life History:		95% CI			Notes
Natural Origin Spawner Abundance (NOSA)	Year	Estimate	Lower	Upper	
	2003	836	502	1170	Based on stratified spawning surveys
	2004	988	534	1442	Based on stratified spawning surveys
	2005	352	0	2231	Based on stratified spawning surveys
	2006	*	*	*	* No survey conducted
	2007	196	0	433	Based on stratified spawning surveys
	2008	129	46	213	Based on stratified spawning surveys
	2009	*	*	*	* No survey conducted
	2010	737	251	1222	Based on stratified spawning surveys
	2011	415	198	692	Based on weir mark-recapture
	2012	557	308	806	Based on weir mark-recapture
	2013	290	266	316	Based on video counts, weir data, and PIT array data
	2014	513	464	571	Based on video counts, weir data, and PIT array data
	2015	424	415	454	Based on video counts, weir data, and PIT array data
	2016	276	**	**	Based on video counts, weir data, and PIT array data

** Unable to reasonably estimate confidence interval due to extended period of weir failure.

Hatchery Origin Spawner Abundance (HOSA)		95% CI			Notes
Year	Estimate	Lower	Upper		
2011	17	8	28	Based on percentage of hatchery origin fish caught above the weir	
2012	27	15	39	Based on percentage of hatchery origin fish caught above the weir	
2013	21	19	23	Based on video data and video based escapement data	
2014	12	11	14	Based on video data and video based escapement data	
2015	8.2	8.15	8.28	Based on video data and video based escapement data	
2016	9.5	8.5	10.5	Based on video data and video based escapement data	

Adult Sex Ratio:	Year	Male	Female	n-captured
	2011	43.9%	54.1%	98
	2012	40.0%	60.0%	180
	2013	34.6%	65.4%	188

2014	37.3%	62.7%	158
2015	35.4%	64.6%	212
2016	35.1%	64.9%	77

Spawning Distribution, 2016:

		PIT Array
Stream Reach:	Fifteenmile – Lower ^a	27.3%
	Fifteenmile – Mid ^a	29.1%
	Fifteenmile – Upper ^a	12.7%
	Fivemile	1.8%
	Eightmile	25.5%
	Dry	0%
	Ramsey	3.6%

Values are percent of adult run

PIT Array: Spawning reach determined by PIT detection histories from the PIT array

^aLower Fifteenmile refers to the section of Fifteenmile Creek between the Fifteenmile/Eightmile confluence and the Fifteenmile/Dry confluence. Mid-Fifteenmile refers to the section of Fifteenmile Creek between the Fifteenmile/Dry confluence and the Fifteenmile/Ramsey confluence. Upper Fifteenmile refers to the section of Fifteenmile above its confluence with Ramsey Creek.

Adult Freshwater Age:

	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	n-aged
2011	62.7%	37.3%	0.0%	86
2012	69.7%	29.3%	1.0%	208
2013	70.4%	28.6%	1.0%	210
2014	60.8%	39.2%	0.0%	181
2015	64.1%	36.0%	0.0%	214
2016	43.9%	56.1%	0.0%	66

Adult Total Age:

	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7
2011	19.8%	59.2%	19.8%	1.2%	0.0%
2012	29.8%	51.0%	16.8%	1.4%	1.0%
2013	21.0%	64.3%	13.3%	1.4%	0.0%
2014	26.0%	60.8%	10.5%	2.2%	0.6%
2015	27.6%	51.9%	19.2%	1.4%	0.0%
2016	4.5%	59.1%	34.8%	1.5%	0.0%

Total age = FW age + SW age + number of years after first freshwater re-entry

Incidence of Repeat Spawning (Iteroparity):

	1st Spawn	2nd Spawn	3rd Spawn	n-fish
2013	92.1%	7.4%	0.5%	189
2014	93.6%	5.8%	0.6%	156
2015	97.2%	2.8%	0.0%	214

Determined from scale pattern analysis of adults captured at the weir

2016	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	66
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Smolt Abundance:

Year	Released (n)	Estimate	95% CI	
			Lower	Upper
2007	286	7436	4200	13349
2008	1232	7905	6953	9016
2009	2735	16549	15223	18016
2010	2135	26972	23361	31197
2011	2202	25817	21296	31414
2012	2527	25775	21962	30484
2013	2012	33311	28580	39842
2014	406	10601	6988	18624
2015	1394	8317	6941	8645
2016	848	17508	13235	24301

Smolt Age:

Year	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	n-aged
2011	80.3%	19.3%	0.4%	226
2012	78.9%	19.3%	1.8%	342
2013	80.0%	19.8%	0.2%	1859
2014	71.6%	28.2%	0.3%	387
2015	85.5%	14.5%	0.1%	1581
2016	56.3%	43.2%	0.5%	805

Survival:

95% CI

Smolt Migration, 2016:

Estimate	Lower	Upper
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Cormack-Jolly-Seber (CJS) model based on migrant juvenile steelhead tagged at Fifteenmile screw trap (n = 848)

% Surviving To Bonneville

77.9%	39.3%	98.4%
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Adult Migration, 2015-16:

% Bonneville to Fifteenmile

47%	44.6%	49.4%
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Based on detections at Bonneville and Fifteenmile

Production:

95% CI

Smolts-per-Spawner:
Year

Brood	Estimate	Lower	Upper
2006	20.7	13.1	34.2
2007	29.6	26.4	33.2
2008	82.3	74.4	91.2

2009	68.2	58.6	79.7	
2010	31.6	26.3	38.3	
2011	65.0	55.4	77.1	
2012	53.2	44.6	66.6	
2013	30.7	21	50.8	
2014*	28.6	22.7	34.9	*Estimates preliminary - missing one or more age class
2015*	23.2	17.6	32.3	*Estimates preliminary - missing one or more age class

Smolt-to-Adult Return Rates: Outmigration Year	Estimate	Lower	Upper	To Fifteenmile Creek, years shown refer to smolt outmigration years; return rates in percent
2007	2.45	1.17	5.04	
2008	3.57	2.67	4.77	
2009	2.05	1.58	2.65	
2010	1.22	0.83	1.78	
2011	0.59	0.34	1.01	
2012	0.67			*Preliminary estimates - not all ocean age-classes represented
2013*	0.89			

Recruits-per-Spawner: Brood Year	Estimate	95% CI		By brood year, based on 2011-2016 adult returns. * An estimate of the spawner abundance for 2009 & 2010 is made by reconstructing the unknown 3 - 6 yr old cohorts from brood years 2003 - 2006 based on the average proportion at age by brood year for years with observations.
2008	1.85			
2009	0.81			
2010	0.52			
2011	1.07			

Outside Influence & Straying:		Estimate	95% CI		
			Lower	Upper	
Hatchery Fraction, 2016	3.4%		-	-	Based on video data and video-based escapement est.
Stray Rates:					
of Fifteenmile Steelhead, 2016	5.4%		-	-	Based on PIT Tag detections of fish with known origins
into Fifteenmile Creek, 2016	1.3%		-	-	Based on PIT Tag detections of fish with known origins

Key Figures

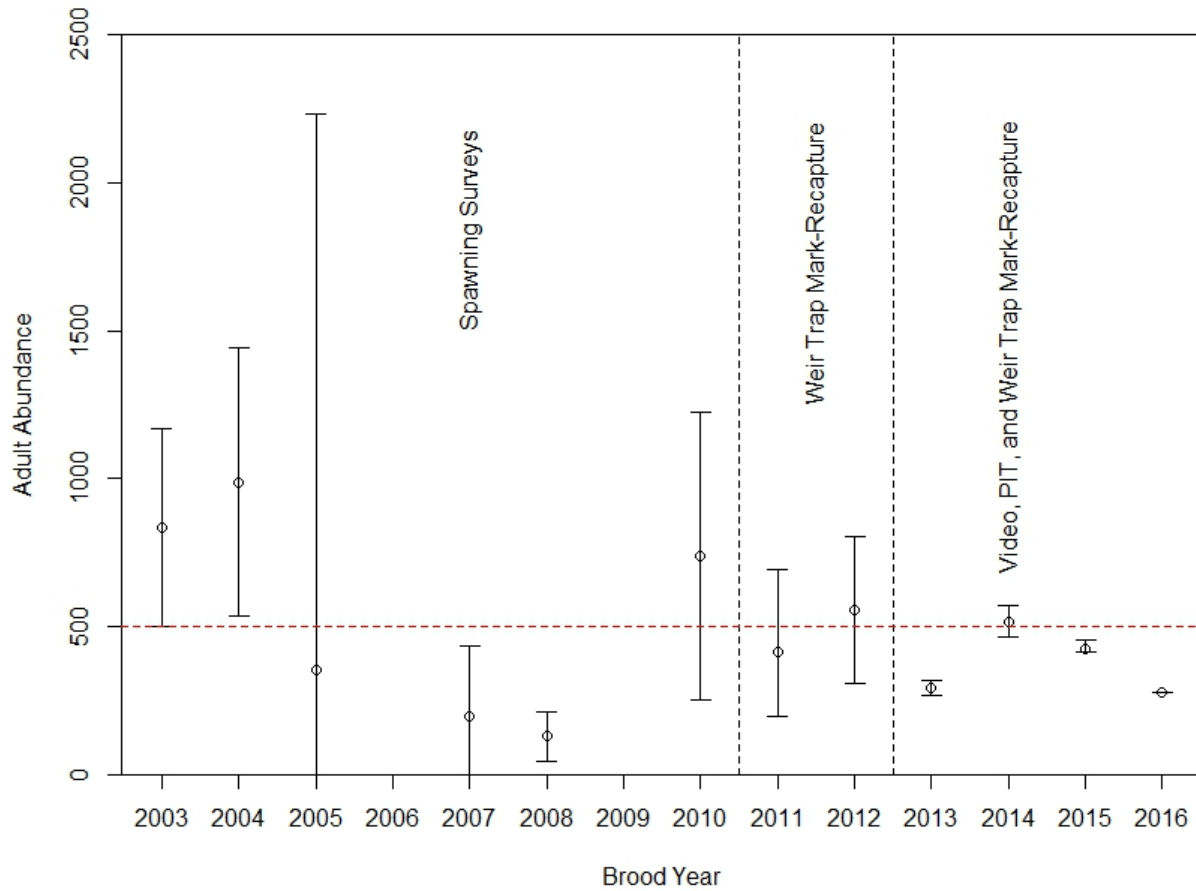


Figure 1. Time series of spawner abundance estimates for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead, presented by brood year. Before 2011, spawner abundance estimates were calculated based on redd counts and a fish-per-redd estimate from Deer Creek (Grande Ronde watershed, Oregon). For 2011 and 2012, spawner abundance estimates were produced using a Peterson-style mark-recapture estimator and mark-recapture data from the adult weir trap. Starting in 2013, spawner abundance was estimated from a combination of video-weir counts, weir-trap data, and PIT antenna array detection data. The dashed red line indicates the adult abundance threshold for population viability.

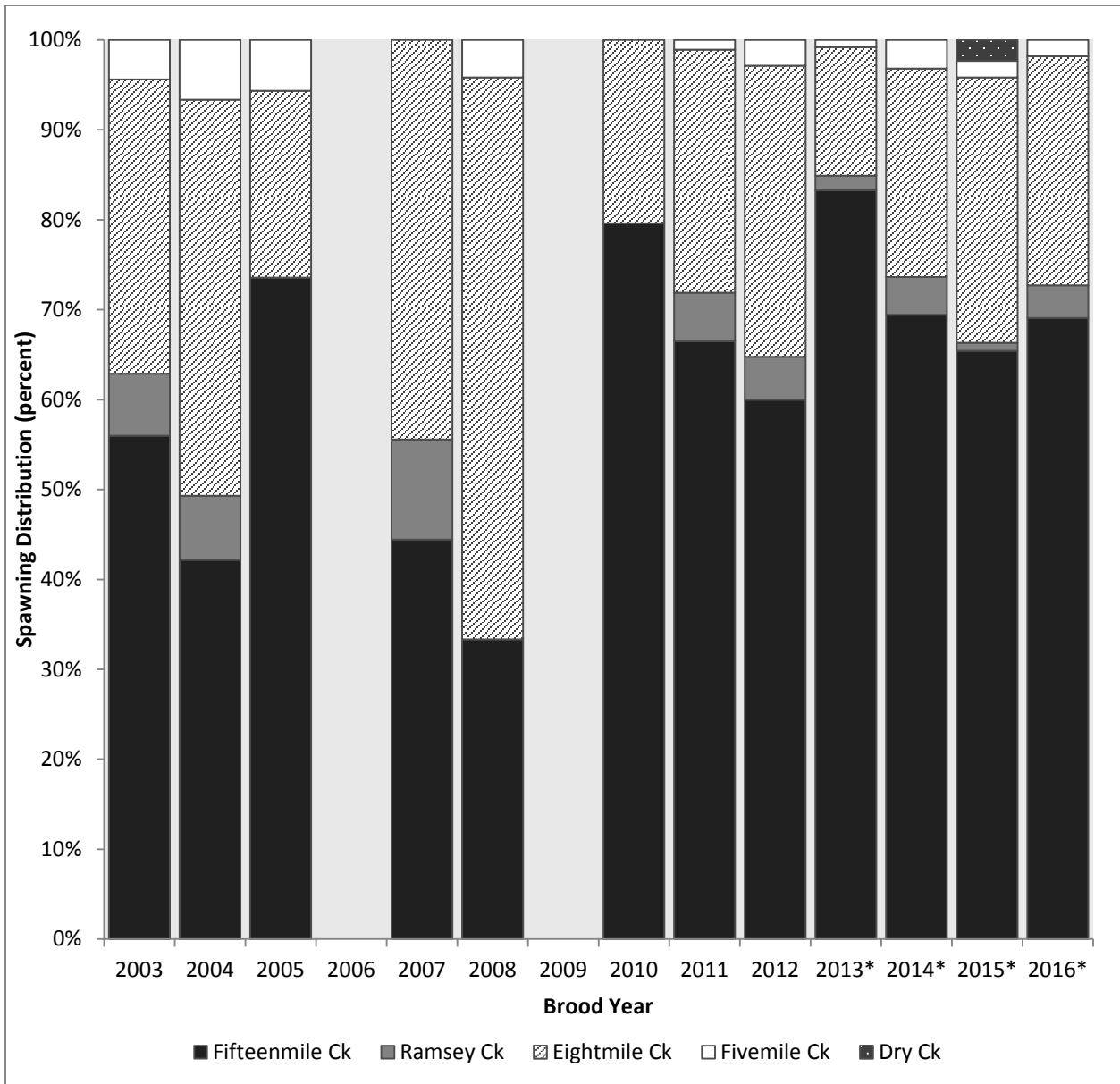


Figure 2. Time series of spawner distribution in Fifteenmile Creek, presented by brood year. Prior to 2013, spawner distribution was determined from redd counts, and therefore had the potential to include information from both natural-origin and hatchery-origin individuals. Starting in 2013 (displayed with a *), spawner distribution was determined from PIT array detections of PIT-tagged, natural-origin adult steelhead. The 2006 and 2009 brood years are intentionally omitted because not enough redd surveys were conducted to generate useful spawner distribution information.

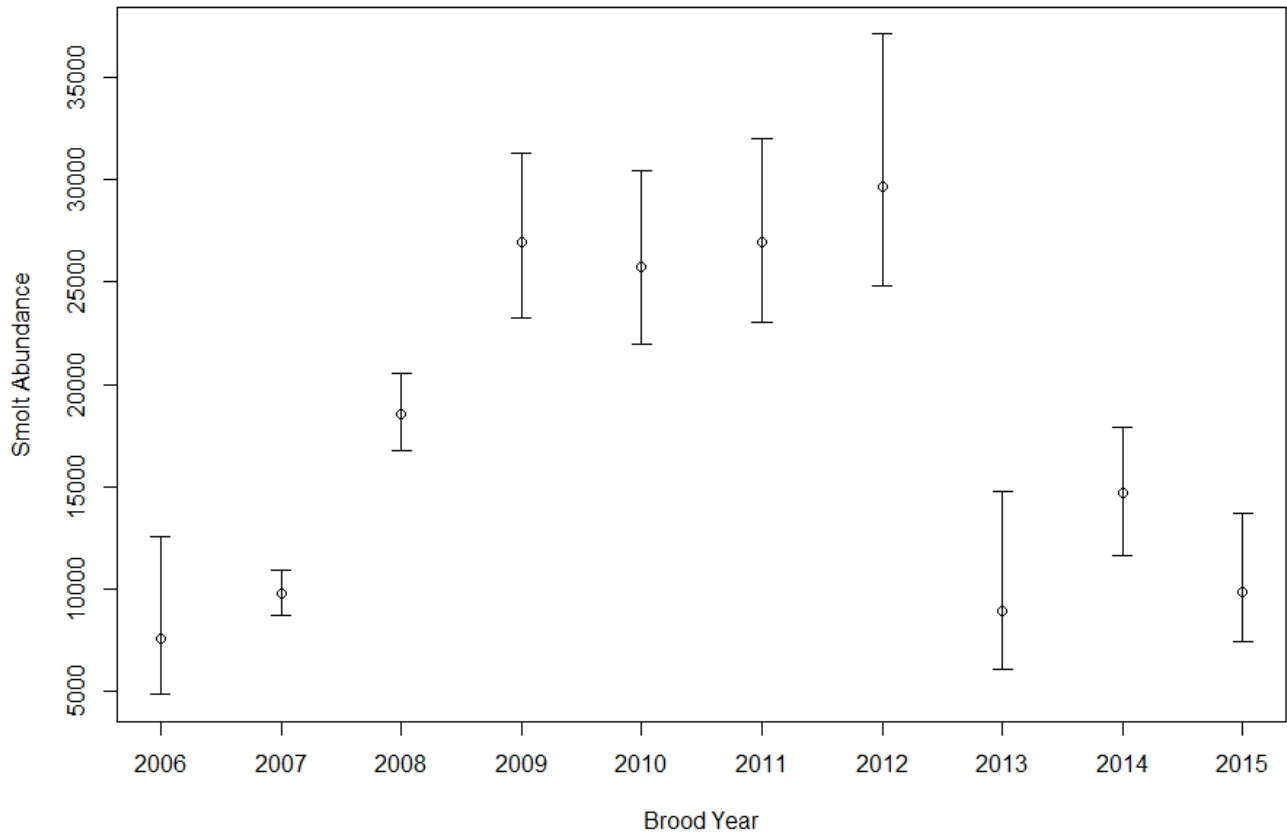


Figure 3. Time series of smolt abundance estimates for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead, presented by brood year. Brood year was determined from annual age-composition information resulting from scale sample analyses. Estimates for brood years 2014 and 2015 are preliminary as not all freshwater age classes are represented; we expect these estimates to increase as we continue to collect data.

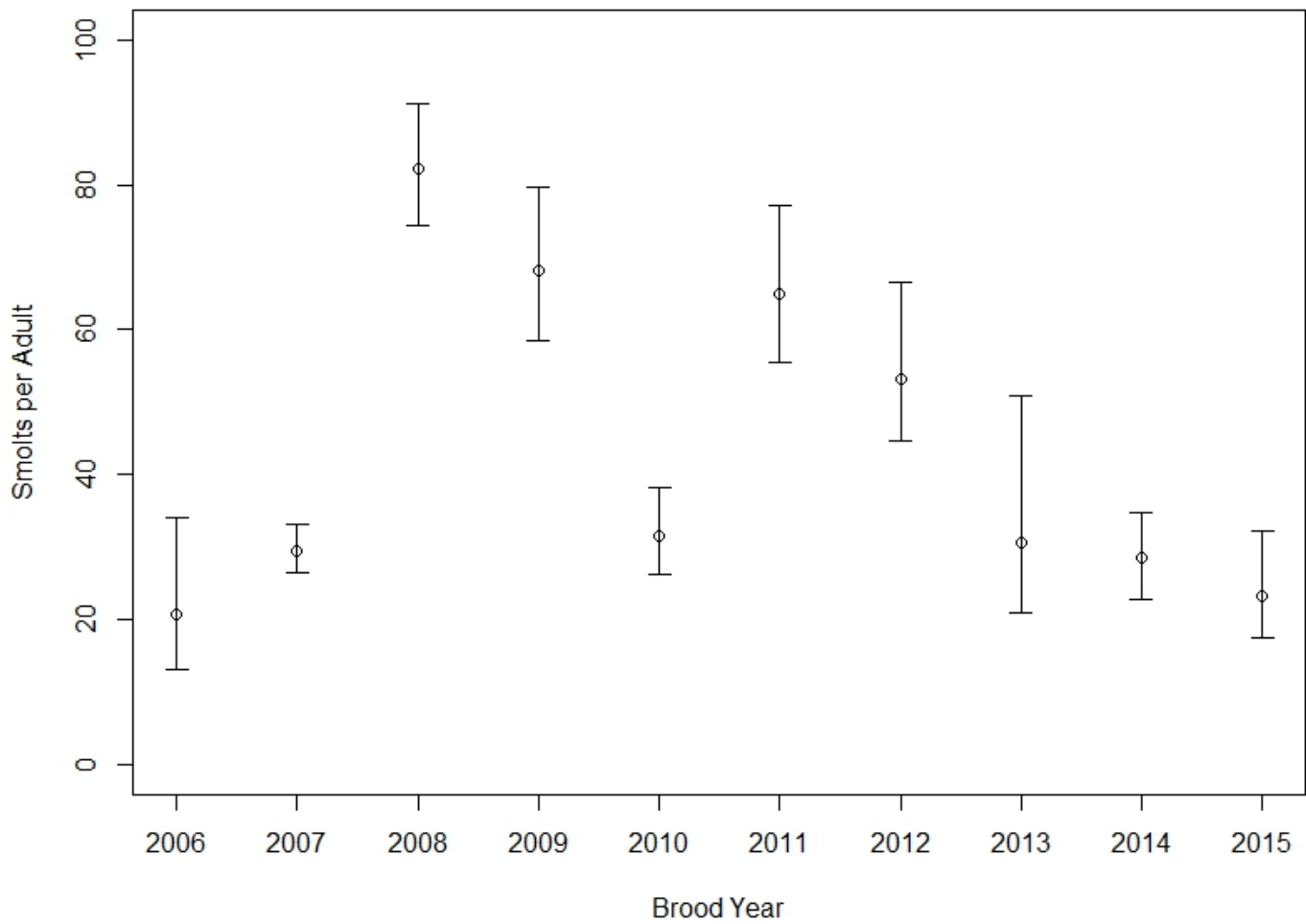


Figure 4. Time series of smolt production estimates for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead, presented as smolts-per-adult per brood year. Since spawner abundance estimates prior to 2011 had no associated measures of precision, we constructed the confidence intervals around these production estimates using the error associated with the smolt abundance estimates. Estimates for 2013 and 2014 brood years are preliminary – not all freshwater age classes are represented thus far in smolt migrations; we expect these estimates to increase as we continue to collect data.

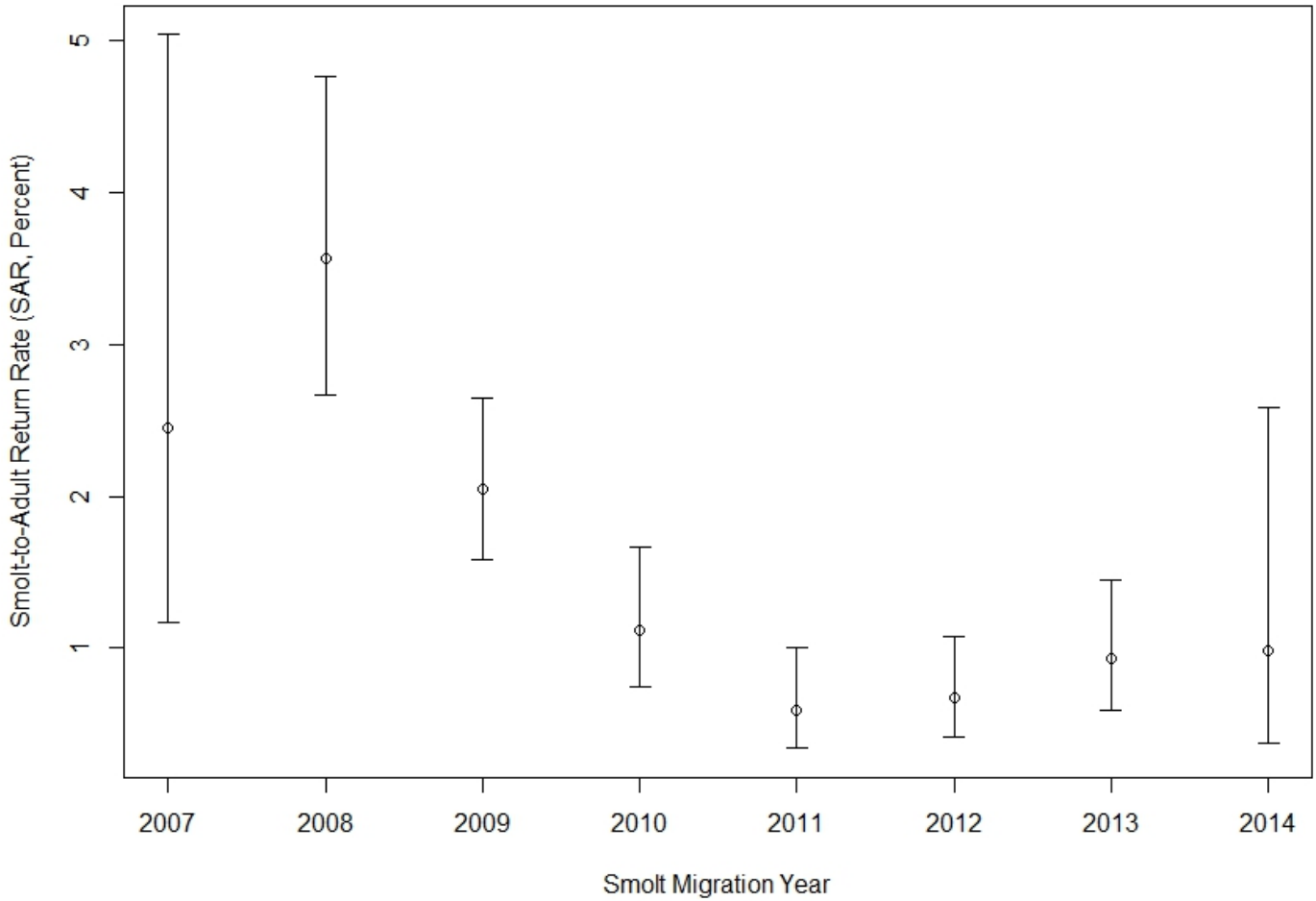


Figure 5. Time series of smolt-to-adult return rate (SAR) estimates for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead, presented by smolt migration year. These estimates represent return rates to Fifteenmile Creek (rather than to Bonneville Dam), and were produced with the Huggins closed-captures estimator using PIT detection data from the Fifteenmile in-stream PIT array and mainstem Columbia River interrogation sites. The estimate for 2014 is preliminary, as not all ocean age-classes are represented at this time; we expect these estimates to increase as we continue to gather data.

5. Synthesis of Findings: Discussion/Conclusions

Data Qualifications and Limitations

Escapement Estimation

We produced two estimates of adult steelhead escapement into Fifteenmile Creek starting in 2013 through 2016. In 2016, the Lincoln-Peterson mark-recapture estimate included kelt estimates and pit tags that were captured in the video chute. In 2013 through 2016, the estimate produced via the ‘combined approach’ – an approach that used data from all available sources (weir mark-recapture, PIT array, and video data) – was preferred over the Lincoln-Peterson mark-recapture estimate due to its increased precision. In 2016, this continues to be the case. Prior to 2013, the Lincoln-Peterson escapement estimate was preferred over redd-counts through spawning surveys because of the inherent variability and low precision of spawning surveys for estimating steelhead abundance. However, with the development and implementation of the ‘combined approach’ method, we found that this approach produces the most accurate and precise escapement estimates of all methods previously utilized for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead. This is due to the following: 1) our video-monitored bypass system continues to show extremely low error rates; 2) our concurrent trapping operations at the same site allow us to evaluate and correct for the error associated with visual misidentification of kelts; and 3) our PIT array provides us with accurate information about both the fraction of the run we sample with the video bypass as well as the adult-to-kelt survival rate. A potential source of error that may affect estimates produced by the ‘combined approach’ is the error that would exist if individuals were bypassing the weir using a route other than the video-monitored bypass chute. Prior to March 18, 2016, the weir had three periods of overtopping giving fish an alternate route to the chute. Based on the video data we missed 36.84% of the fish passing upstream during that time, which was used to expand the escapement estimate. The two cameras were working between March 18th and April 25th with no periods of overtopping, which is the time period that the calculations for escapement were produced. The detection probability within the video chute was 0.988, which means that there was a high likelihood that if a fish entered the chute it was captured on the video. In 2016, kelts were identified on the video clips therefore a logistic regression was not applied to the data, and therefore the ‘combined approach’ was able to use the viewed proportion of non-kelt fish.

Smolt Abundance Estimation

We produced two estimates of steelhead smolt abundance for the 2016 Fifteenmile Creek steelhead outmigration. As in previous years, the estimate based on all tagged and released individuals (17,508 smolts; 95%CI 13,235 to 24,301) was higher than the estimate based only on individuals known to be migrants (16,448 smolts; 95% CI 11,757 to 23,136). This method is especially useful as an alternative assessment of juvenile carrying capacity.

Adult Migration and Survival

Since PIT-antennas were installed in The Dalles Dam fish ladders in the spring of 2013, we have discovered that the majority of PIT-tagged Fifteenmile Creek adults pass upstream of The Dalles Dam in the summer and fall. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, a total of 73% (32 of 44), 87% (27 of 31) and 77% (23 of 30) returning Fifteenmile Creek steelhead that passed Bonneville Dam also passed The Dalles Dam respectively.

In addition, all but one of the fish that were detected in Fifteenmile Creek in their 2015-2016 spawning run, also ascended The Dalles Dam fish ladders. This necessitates downstream passage at The Dalles Dam before returning to Fifteenmile Creek to spawn in the spring, increasing the likelihood that they have to overwinter above the dam. This behavior of over-wintering in the Columbia River prolongs their exposure to Columbia River sport, commercial, and tribal fisheries, as well as potential adverse environmental conditions. Additional efforts to track the harvest of previously PIT tagged Fifteenmile Creek steelhead are warranted. In addition, the only benign route of passage downstream of The Dalles Dam, the Ice-Trash Sluiceway, is not operated during the period of 15 December to 1 March. This makes turbine routes or the navigation lock as the only available routes to return downstream to their natal Fifteenmile Creek until after 1 March. Through our observations of fish detected at Bonneville Dam, and subsequently detected in Fifteenmile Creek, the apparent survival of fish after passing Bonneville Dam heading to Fifteenmile in the Columbia River is approximately 38% to 59% (Tables 14 and 15, Appendix B). The lowest apparent survival took place in the 2012 outmigration year (39%). These low survival rates of pre-spawn steelhead for the relatively short migration from Bonneville Dam to Fifteenmile Creek deserve further investigation, including passage at The Dalles Dam. Similar to the John Day and Umatilla River populations, recovery of the Fifteenmile Creek population may be hindered at the adult life stage by impacts of FCRPS operation despite the successes of upstream passage and instream habitat improvements.

Adult Escapement

The natural-origin spawner abundance estimate for the 2016 brood year (276 adults) is the third smallest since 2003, and is below the viability threshold of 500 adults identified for the Fifteenmile Creek major population group in the Oregon Recovery Plan for Mid-Columbia Steelhead. Hatchery-origin spawner abundance for 2016 was the second lowest (9.5 spawners, 3.4%) since we began estimating it in 2011.

Smolt Abundance

Smolt abundance estimate for Fifteenmile Creek was 17,508 (95% CL: 13,235-24,301), which is the fifth lowest on record for outmigrating Fifteenmile Creek smolts. The percent of one year old juvenile steelhead captured at the Fifteenmile Creek rotary screw trap in 2016 (56.3% age 1) was much lower than during 2015 (85.5% age 1) and in all previous years, suggesting a cohort failure of the 2015 brood year.

Population Viability

The viability thresholds identified in the Recovery Plan for the Fifteenmile Creek population of steelhead are 500 spawners and production of 1.56 recruits-per-spawner (Carmichael and Taylor 2010). In terms of adult escapement, Fifteenmile Creek steelhead have met the threshold in 5 of the 14 years that escapement estimates have been possible. Those years are 2003, 2004, 2010, 2012, and 2014. In three of those years, lower bounds of confidence intervals were below the threshold abundance level. In terms of productivity, we have now been able to estimate productivity for the 2008-2011 Brood Years. Productivity has ranged from a low of 0.52 in 2010 to 1.85 in 2008, with three of four years under the viability threshold. Assessment of population viability is revisited at each BiOp review. Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead were recently downgraded in the most recent BiOP review from 'viable' to 'maintained' (Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2015). The ongoing monitoring efforts will inform adaptive management strategies to prioritize actions to boost Fifteenmile Creek steelhead production, in order to reacquire 'viable' status.

Finally, with the addition of weir trapping abundance estimates, an accurate assessment of smolt production could be conducted. Smolt production estimates have been lower and more variable during recent years during drought events suggesting that smolt production has been influenced by environmental

conditions. Further analysis of smolt variability in relation to environmental factors such as flow and temperature may lead to proactive management actions that could add resiliency into the Fifteenmile Watershed for the benefit of steelhead. With the development of newly implemented technologies, the Fifteenmile Creek watershed has developed into an ideally-sized watershed to monitor VSP parameters for a steelhead population recovery plan. Further increasing precision for smolt production through the use of the PIT tag detections and trapping efficiency will be investigated to improve estimates, thereby improving our ability to detect productivity changes from habitat modifications. Based on our smolt/adult results, we suggest additional habitat restoration activities are required to increase the productivity and abundance of the Fifteenmile Creek population.

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Appendix A: Use of Data & Products

Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) indicator and metric data that support and feed ODFW's Recovery Planning and BiOP reporting needs are summarized and compiled into a standard format (Coordinated Assessments Data Exchange Standard; DES) at the population level and stored in a central server location. VSP data in DES format is quality checked, reviewed and approved for sharing by a data steward and the primary VSP data contact for each population(s). Upon reviewer approval, data in DES format is made available to the public and interested parties through upload on ODFW's Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Tracker (<http://odfwrecoverytracker.org/>), NOAA's Salmon Population Summary (SPS; <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=261:home:0>) database and StreamNet (<http://www.streamnet.org/>). In addition, incidental mortalities and carcasses are interrogated for parasites and pathogens, which are uploaded to the National Wild Fish Health Survey database (<http://www.fws.gov/wildfishsurvey/>). Key metrics specific to Fifteenmile Creek for the current reporting period are also shown in the Results section.

Appendix B: Detailed Results

Biological Sampling

Returning Adult Migrants

The Fifteenmile Creek upstream-migrant weir and live trap was operated from November 18, 2015 to June 1, 2016. The weir was overtopped multiple times during the trapping season for a total of 48 days – on December 8-9, 2015, January 18-February 2, 2016, February 16-21, 2016 and March 6-17, 2016—resulting in a total of 149 days fished. Mean daily stream discharge ranged from 7.4 cfs to 427 cfs, while stream temperature ranged from 0 °C to 16.7°C. The first adult steelhead was caught on December 15, 2015, and catches peaked on April 28, 2016 (Figure 6). A total of 46 wild steelhead adults and five hatchery-origin adult steelhead were caught at the weir during the season (Table 2). Of the wild steelhead caught, three were previously PIT-tagged at the Fifteenmile rotary screw trap or weir in previous seasons. The 2016 wild adult steelhead run was composed of 67.6 percent females and 32.4 percent males (Table 3).

The kelt trap was operated from March 28th through June 1, 2016. A total of 6 wild steelhead kelts were trapped during the season, 2 of which were originally caught migrating upstream earlier in the season (Table 2). We also recovered the carcasses from a total of 18 wild adult steelhead upstream of the weir. Three of the wild carcasses were PIT-tagged recaptures from earlier in the season.

The video-monitored bypass chute was installed and operational with two cameras on December 21, 2015. For the entire duration of the trapping season, both cameras recorded based on motion detection parameters, however, camera 2 was not operational after April 25, 2016. The detection probability was calculated for the time period when both cameras were fully operational and fish were present, between March 18, 2016 through April 25, 2016. A total of 966 instances of hatchery and wild steelhead passage through the bypass chute were recorded. This included 531 instances of upstream travel and 435 instances of travel downstream (Table 4). Two Chinook salmon (one Hatchery and one Wild) were also recorded both ultimately moving upstream.

Juvenile Outmigrants

The rotary screw trap was operated intermittently from December 15, 2015 to March 13, 2016 and daily from then until June 1, 2016. High flows and debris rendered the trap inoperable a total of 5 days throughout the 148 day season. We captured 851 juvenile steelhead during the season, 850 of which received PIT tags and were released upstream via the release devices to test trap efficiency (Table 5). Of the 850 juvenile steelhead that received tags 42 were recaptured during the season, and there were 8 mortalities. The juvenile steelhead out-migration peaked in May (Figure 7). By-catch included 68 juvenile

Coho salmon, 3 juvenile Chinook salmon, 1181 juvenile dace, 749 juvenile sucker, 1 Redside shiner, 2 sculpin, 1280 Pacific lamprey ammocoetes, 336 Pacific lamprey macrophthalmia, and 8 adult lamprey.

PIT Interrogation

In-basin Detections

During the 2016 adult return season, the PIT antenna arrays in Fifteenmile Creek detected a total of 68 adult steelhead. Of those, 16 were originally tagged as juveniles at the Fifteenmile Creek rotary screw trap, three individuals were tagged at the Bonneville Adult Ladder, two individuals were originally tagged outside of the Fifteenmile Creek basin (one at the Lyle Falls Fish ladder, and one at the Sandtrap Ponds in Hood River), two were originally tagged as adults at the Fifteenmile Creek weir in a previous season (i.e. repeat spawners), and the remaining were adults that were tagged at the Fifteenmile Creek weir during the 2016 season. The Huggins Closed-Captures model in Program MARK was used to estimate the efficiency of the entire array (eight detection sites, 24 antennas) from the detection histories of adult steelhead tagged at and released above the weir; array efficiency for tagged adult steelhead was estimated to be 91.0% (95% CL, 80.4%–96.6%). The confidence interval is asymmetrical due to the asymmetrical nature of the model likelihood. This was the detection percentage of adults tagged at the Fifteenmile Creek adult trap. This estimate includes all flow conditions, tag loss, adult fallback, mortality, and seasonal effects during the 2016 trapping season, and assumes that adult fish trapped and tagged at the weir have the same detection probability as fish tagged as smolt that were not trapped at the weir. The detection efficiency of the PIT array located at the confluence of Fifteenmile Creek and Eightmile Creek, as measured by calculating the combined probability of detection (Equations 2 and 3 in Method #4050 at monitoringmethods.org) for known PIT tags passing over the antenna array, was 94.7% (Table 6).

For each PIT-tagged adult steelhead that was detected on the in-stream array, we assumed that the stream reach where the individual spent the most time was the stream reach in which the individual spawned. Through this assumption we were able to identify spawning reaches for the tagged adult steelhead (Table 7, Figure 8).

Out-of-Basin Detections

Since tagging operations in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed began in 2006, steelhead PIT-tagged in Fifteenmile Creek have been detected outside the watershed at detection sites throughout the Columbia River and its tributaries. In 2006 and 2007 only juveniles were detected, however beginning in 2008, returning adults were detected. Since 2009, individuals at every life-stage (juvenile, adult, and kelt) have been detected (Table 8). In early 2013, two interrogation arrays were installed that significantly added to our understanding of the movement habits of Fifteenmile Creek steelhead: 1. Detection

capability was added to the adult ladders at The Dalles Dam (PTAGIS interrogation site code 'TDA') and, 2. An antenna array was installed in the Deschutes River near its confluence with the Columbia River (PTAGIS interrogation site code 'DRM'). During the 2015-2016 adult migration period, 15 of 29 Fifteenmile Creek PIT-tagged adult steelhead that were detected passing upstream of Bonneville Dam were also detected passing upstream of The Dalles Dam. Eleven of the individuals detected at The Dalles Dam were subsequently detected at the array at the mouth of the Deschutes River or its tributaries; one was subsequently detected at the McNary Dam, one strayed into Shitike Creek, and one was a mortality on the Columbia River in the Zone 6 fishery.

Surveys

Spawning Ground Surveys

Three passes of spawning ground surveys were conducted at the index reaches of Fifteenmile Creek in-between April 20, 2016 to May 19, 2016. Following the modified design described in monitoring methods for this season's surveys, we found a total of 7 redds in the sampled units (Table 9).

Natural-Origin Adult Escapement

Weir Mark-Recapture Estimate

The Schnabel form of the Lincoln-Peterson mark-recapture abundance estimator was one of two methods used to estimate the escapement of natural-origin adult steelhead returning to Fifteenmile Creek in 2016. Using the weir, kelt trap, and video chute kelt and pit tag numbers, natural-origin escapement was estimated to be 262 adults with an approximate 95% confidence interval of ± 71 adults (Table 10).

Combined Approach – Video-Based Estimate

The second natural-origin escapement estimate, which used a combination of counts at the video-monitored bypass chute and kelt survival data from weir and PIT array data, produced a slightly larger escapement estimate of 276 adult steelhead. Video capture efficiency was very high (98.8%) during times of weir operation, therefore the estimate is accurate, but we are unable to reasonably estimate the precision due to extended periods of weir failure.

Smolt Abundance

Trapping Efficiency Estimates

Detection data from Fifteenmile Creek PIT tagged steelhead were analyzed with the Huggins Closed-Capture model to determine efficiencies for the Fifteenmile Creek screw

trap, the Bonneville Dam corner collector and juvenile bypass system, and the Columbia River estuary trawl for the 2016 outmigration. The analysis was conducted on two datasets: the set of all juvenile steelhead released above the screw trap in 2016, and the set of tagged juvenile steelhead from the rotary screw trap determined to be actual migrants from detection histories. The efficiency of the screw trap was 4.8% based on the all-released juvenile steelhead dataset (95% CI, 3.5% to 6.4%, n = 848; Table 11), and 4.4% based on the set of known migrants (95% CI, 23.1% to 6.2%, n = 725). Based on the all-released dataset, the PIT arrays at Bonneville Dam detected 17.4%, and there were no detections at the estuary trawl. When only known migrants were analyzed, the efficiency to BON increased to 18.3%.

Smolt Abundance Estimates

The Huggins estimates of the Fifteenmile screw trap's efficiency were used to generate two smolt abundance estimates for the 2016 season: one abundance estimate based on the total number of juvenile steelhead trapped and another based only on juvenile steelhead determined to be migrants because they were detected moving downstream past the PIT tag arrays in the immediate vicinity of the trap. The juvenile steelhead abundance estimate based on all juvenile steelhead trapped was 17,508 (95% CI, 13,235 to 24,301; Table 12), while the estimate based on known migrants was 16,448 (95% CI, 11,757 to 23,136).

Survival

Juvenile Survival

Survival of Fifteenmile Creek PIT-tagged juvenile steelhead was estimated for the all-fish-trapped dataset at different migration-stages (including survival from upstream release to the screw trap, and from the screw trap to Bonneville Dam) for the 2016 outmigration using PIT detections and the Cormack-Jolly-Seber model with a Markov-Chain Monte Carlo estimator in Program MARK. Survival between the release devices and the rotary screw-trap was 82.7% (95% CL, 56.4%-98.6%; Table 13). Survival from the screw-trap to Bonneville Dam was 77.9% (95% CL, 39.3%-98.4%, Table 13). Survival and residualization of juvenile steelhead are indistinguishable using the CJS model with the all-fish-trapped dataset.

Smolt-to-Adult Return Rates

Smolt-to-adult return (SAR) rates for steelhead to both Bonneville Dam and Fifteenmile Creek from the 2007 through 2013 outmigration years were estimated using PIT detections and the Huggins closed-capture model. Data for smolt years 2011-2013 were updated to reflect adult returns to Bonneville in 2014 and to Fifteenmile Creek in 2015 (Tables 14, 15). At Bonneville Dam, SARs ranged from 1.09% (95% CI, 0.73%-1.62%) in 2011 to 6.74% (95% CI, 4.58% to 7.20%) in 2008, while SARs to Fifteenmile Creek ranged from 0.59% (95% CI, 0.34% to 1.01%) in 2011 to 3.57% (lower: 2.67%; upper 4.77%) in 2008. The SAR estimates

to Bonneville were significantly greater compared to those to Fifteenmile Creek ($p < 0.05$) in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Production

Recruits per Spawner

An estimate of recruits-per-spawner, or adult-to-adult production, requires information regarding age composition of adult and juvenile populations, as well as reliable annual estimates of spawner abundance. Given those, estimates are still not possible until a majority of ocean age-classes from a single brood year have returned to spawn. We have calculated recruits per spawner for the broodyears where a minimum of three return years' are represented (Age 3-5), and update that metric as recruits continue to arrive and spawn. Using a combination of spawning surveys and weir capture results, we were able to calculate recruitment for the broodyears' 2008-2011.

Smolts per Adult

Juvenile production, measured as the number of smolts produced per adult, was calculated for each brood year from 2006 to 2014 (Figure 4, Section 4 – Results, above). In 2016, we were able to update both the 2013 and 2014 metrics. With the added 2016 data, juvenile production ranged from a low of 20.7 smolts-per-adult (95% CI, 13.1 to 34.2) for the 2006 brood year to a high of 82.3 smolts-per-adult (95% CI, 74.4 to 91.2) for the 2008 brood year.

Life History Characteristics

Adult Run Timing

Using Bonneville Dam detections from all available years (2008–2016) of previously PIT-tagged Fifteenmile Creek steelhead, the median timing of adult Fifteenmile Creek steelhead returning to Bonneville Dam is August 14 (middle 95 percent arriving between June 8 and October 17; Figure 9). Using captures and detections at the weir and on the PIT array in Fifteenmile Creek for the 2012-2016 brood years, the median date of arrival of the natural origin steelhead spawning run in Fifteenmile Creek is March 25 (middle 95 percent arriving between January 13th and May 2; Figure 10).

Adult Age Structure and Iteroparity

The age structure of adult steelhead returning to Fifteenmile Creek in 2016 was determined through either visual scale analysis or a combination of scale analysis and PIT tag detection histories. We were able to determine freshwater age, saltwater age, and total age of 62 wild adult steelhead that were caught or detected in Fifteenmile Creek (Table 16).

Of those, 25 (40.3%) individuals were determined to be freshwater age 1, and 37 (59.7%) individuals were freshwater age 2.

Steelhead that overwinter in the Columbia River and tributaries before reaching their spawning grounds do not show a final annulus on their scales before spawning (Lisa Borgerson, ODFW, personal communication). Therefore, the total age for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead was determined by adding freshwater age plus saltwater age plus the number of years after first spawning event (counting that spawning event). Of the 62 wild adults with legible scales, 2 individuals (3.2%) were age 3, 36 (58.1%) were age 4, 23 (37.1%) were age 5, and one (1.6%) were age 6. None of the fish caught in 2016 displayed iteroparity. However, based on Pit tag detections from in-stream arrays there were 4 instances of repeat spawning in Fifteenmile creek during the 2015-2016 Migration year.

Juvenile Age Structure

We successfully aged 96.2% (805 of 837) of all juvenile steelhead sampled for scales during the 2016 trapping season using scale pattern analysis. Of the 805 fish with legible scales, 56.3% (453 individuals) were age 1, 43.2% (348 individuals) were age 2, and 0.5% (4 individual) was age 3 (Table 17; Figure 11).

Stray Rates

We detected one known wild stray steelhead in the 2016 season, resulting in a stray rate of 1.3% for wild adult steelhead into the Fifteenmile watershed.

Fifteenmile Creek steelhead were detected at PIT arrays throughout the lower and middle Columbia River basin. During the spring of 2016, two of the 37 PIT-tagged Fifteenmile adult steelhead with PTAGIS interrogation records were last detected in a Columbia River tributary other than Fifteenmile Creek, resulting a stray rate of Fifteenmile Creek steelhead of 5.4 percent.

Hatchery Fraction

We used data from the video-monitored bypass chute to calculate the effective hatchery fraction for 2016. Based on the video chute, there were 7 Hatchery origin fish moving upstream and there was a net downstream movement of 1 kelt which was adjusted to 9.5 to account for the detection error rate. We used this hatchery estimate and the 'combined approach' estimate of 276 to arrive at a hatchery fraction estimate of 3.4%.

Tables.

Table 2. Summary of the number of wild and hatchery-origin upstream-migrant and kelt steelhead captured at the Fifteenmile Creek adult weir, kelt traps or screw trap. Carcasses encountered above the weir during this time period are also listed.

Trap	Source	Status ¹	Number Caught	Male	Female
Upstream	Wild	New	48	16	32
		Native Recap.	3	1	2
		Out-of-Basin Recap.	0	-	-
	Hatchery	New	4	2	2
		Recap.	1	1	0
	<i>subtotals</i>		<i>Wild</i>	<i>51</i>	
		<i>Hatchery</i>	<i>5</i>		
Kelt	Wild	New	4	1	3
		2016 Recap.	2	1	1
		Native Recap.	0	-	-
	Hatchery	New	0	-	-
		Recap.	0	-	-
	<i>subtotals</i>		<i>Wild</i>	<i>6</i>	
		<i>Hatchery</i>	<i>0</i>		
Carcass	Wild	New	15	5	10
		2016 Recap.	3	1	2
		Native Recap.	0	-	-
	Hatchery	New	1	1	0
		Recap.	0	-	-
	<i>subtotals</i>		<i>Wild</i>	<i>18</i>	
		<i>Hatchery</i>	<i>1</i>		
Grand Totals²		Wild	75		
		Hatchery	6		

¹ Status refers to tag status upon capture. ‘New’ refers to individuals that had not been previously tagged or marked. ‘Native Recap’ refers to individuals that were tagged at the Fifteenmile Creek weir or screw trap during a previous year. ‘Stray recap’ refers to wild individuals known or assumed to be straying from a population outside of the Fifteenmile Creek watershed (as evidenced by tags or marks that can be traced to specific sources) – this includes individuals we captured that were tagged at Bonneville Adult Fish Facility as adults (these fish were assumed to be of Fifteenmile origin). ‘2016 Recap’ refers to individuals that were tagged at the Fifteenmile weir trap earlier in the 2016 trapping season.

² Grand totals are of unique adult individuals captured.

Table 3. Sex ratio of wild adult steelhead captured at the Fifteenmile weir (live-box and kelt trap) during their respective spawning seasons.

Year	% Male	% Female	# Captured
2011	43.9%	54.1%	98
2012	40.0%	60.0%	180
2013	34.6%	65.4%	188
2014	37.3%	62.7%	158
2015	36.7%	63.3%	199
2016	32.8%	67.2%	67

Table 4. Number of recorded instances of adult and kelt steelhead passing through the video-monitored bypass chute during the 2016 spawning run. Observations are separated by apparent origin, direction of travel (upstream or downstream past the weir), and sex. Unknown fish were captured on the camera but their origin could not be identified.

Origin	Direction	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Natural (Unclipped)	Up	176	228	93	497
	Down	112	223	36	371
Hatchery (Adipose Clipped)	Up	8	4	7	19
	Down	3	3	4	10
Unknown Origin	Up	3	3	9	15
	Down	11	22	21	54
	Total	313	483	170	966

Table 5. Number of juvenile fish trapped, PIT-tagged, and trap mortalities at the Fifteenmile Creek rotary screw trap during the 2016 trapping season (December 15, 2015 to June 1, 2016).

Species	#Trapped	#PIT Tagged	#Mortalities
Adult Lamprey	8	NA	0
Bullfrog	1	NA	0
Chinook parr/smolt	3	3	0
Chinook Recap	1	NA	0
Coho parr/smolt	67	67	0
Coho Recap	4	NA	0
Crayfish, native	433	NA	0
Dace	1181	NA	0
Lamprey Ammocoete	1280	NA	0
Lamprey Macrophthalmia	336	NA	0
Redside Shiner	1	NA	0
Sculpin	2	NA	0
Steelhead parr/smolt	848	847	3
Steelhead, RECAP	37	NA	5
Sucker	749	NA	0
Unknown fry	885	NA	0

Table 6. Detection efficiencies for the in-stream PIT arrays in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed. Efficiencies were estimated using the Huggins Closed Captures model in Program MARK, and are shown by year (since installation) for each array as well as totaled for each site.

Interrogation Site	Array	Year					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Confluence of Fifteenmile and Eightmile	Fifteenmile	1.000	0.944	0.972	0.952	0.999	0.947
	Eightmile	1.000	0.996	0.999	0.994	0.999	1.000
	<i>Site Total</i>	<i>1.000</i>	<i>0.978</i>	<i>0.994</i>	<i>0.978</i>	<i>0.999</i>	<i>0.974</i>
Confluence of Fifteenmile and Dry	Fifteenmile	-	0.999	1.000	0.998	0.997	1.000
	Dry	-	0.952	1.000	0.962	1.000	1.000
	<i>Site Total</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>0.999</i>	<i>1.000</i>	<i>0.995</i>	<i>0.999</i>	<i>1.000</i>
Confluence of Fifteenmile and Ramsey	Fifteenmile	0.986	0.996	1.000	0.997	0.996	1.000
	Ramsey	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
	<i>Site Total</i>	<i>0.986</i>	<i>0.996</i>	<i>1.000</i>	<i>0.997</i>	<i>0.998</i>	<i>1.000</i>
Confluence of Eightmile and Fivemile	Eightmile	0.999	0.994	0.998	0.998	0.999	0.999
	Fivemile	1.000	0.998	1.000	1.000	0.999	*
	<i>Site Total</i>	<i>0.999</i>	<i>0.996</i>	<i>0.998</i>	<i>0.998</i>	<i>0.999</i>	<i>0.999</i>

*Could not measure, no fish detected entering creek.

Table 7. Apparent spawning distribution for PIT-tagged adult steelhead detected by the PIT array on the Fifteenmile Creek watershed from 2012 to 2016. Spawning reach was determined by PIT detection histories from the PIT array; spawning area was assumed to be the location an individual spent the most time before prior to detection at a more downstream antenna.

Stream Reach	Percent of Run				
	2012 (n=151)	2013 (n=129)	2014 (n=104)	2015 (n=178)	2016 (n=55)
Fifteenmile – Lower ^a	29.1%	53.5%	29.5%	48.3%	27.3%
Fifteenmile – Mid ^a	17.9%	19.4%	23.2%	20.8%	29.1%
Fifteenmile – Upper ^a	6.6%	10.1%	16.8%	3.9%	12.7%
Fivemile	9.9%	1.5%	3.2%	1.1%	1.8%
Eightmile	23.8%	14.0%	23.2%	23.6%	25.5%
Dry	9.9%	0.8%	0.0%	1.9%	0%
Ramsey	2.6%	0.8%	4.2%	0.56%	3.6%

^aLower Fifteenmile refers to the section of Fifteenmile Creek between the Fifteenmile/Eightmile confluence and the Fifteenmile/Dry confluence. Mid Fifteenmile refers to the section of Fifteenmile Creek between the Fifteenmile/Dry confluence and the Fifteenmile/Ramsey confluence. Upper Fifteenmile refers to the section of Fifteenmile above its confluence with Ramsey Creek.

Table 8. Numbers of Fifteenmile Creek PIT-tagged steelhead that were detected at interrogation sites outside of the Fifteenmile Creek watershed. Totals presented are number of unique individuals detected outside of the Fifteenmile Creek watershed in a given year. Also shown are the number of PIT-tagged juveniles that were released above the Fifteenmile Creek screw trap each year.

Year:		2006	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	2016
Juvenile	Tagged juveniles released:	131	294	1247	2831	2154	2299	2527	2012	610*	1835*	847
	BON	13	33	162	260	441	95	73	163	39*	169*	150
	HRM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2*	0
	TWX	3	5	22	57	49	23	30	46	2*	36*	8
	<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>40*</i>	<i>201*</i>	<i>158</i>
Adult	BON	-	0	11	42	89	94	39	34	50	50	20
	WSH	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	LFF	-	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
	JDJ	-	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	0
	JD1	-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	MC1	-	0	2	3	5	2	2	2	1	1	1
	MC2	-	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
	MCJ	-	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ORB	-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ICH	-	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
	LMJ	-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult	LTR	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	GRA	-	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
	TDA	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	25	19	10
	DRM	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	17	11	2
	WSR	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
	TR1	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	TWX	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	SHK	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	RC	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	<i>Total</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>35</i>
Kelt	BON	-	0	0	0	3	6	15	19	6	6	1
Kelt	TWX	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	JDJ	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TDA	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	4	0
	DRM	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0
	LFF	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	PD7	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	<i>Total</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>

¹Detection Site codes refer to the following interrogation sites: BON = Bonneville Dam interrogation complex; TWX = Columbia River estuary trawl interrogation; WSH = Warm Springs Hatchery interrogation, Deschutes River; LFF = Lyle Falls Fishway, Klickitat River; JDJ = John Day Dam juvenile interrogation; JD1 = Lower John Day River interrogation; MC1 = McNary Dam Oregon shore interrogation; MC2 = McNary Dam

Washington shore interrogation; MCJ = McNary Dam juvenile interrogation; ORB = Walla Walla River interrogation at Oasis Road Bridge; ICH = Ice Harbor Dam interrogation, Snake River; LMJ = Lower Monumental Dam juvenile interrogation, Snake River; LTR = Lower Tucannon River interrogation; GRA = Lower Granite Dam interrogation, Snake River; TDA = The Dalles Dam interrogation complex; DRM = Deschutes River Mouth in-stream array; WSR=Warm Springs River PIT Array; TR1= Lower Trout Creek; RC= Rock Creek Complex; PD7= Columbia River Estuary; SHK=Shitike Creek PIT Array

*Juvenile numbers presented for 2014 and 2015 also include fish tagged in electrofishing effort in Fall 2013 and Fall 2014, respectively.

Table 9. Numbers of steelhead redds found in survey reaches on spawning ground surveys during the 2016 spawning season.

Stream	Reach Information				Redd Counts			Total
	Stratum Number	Reach ID	Type	Length, mi	Pass 1	Pass 2	Pass 3	
Fifteenmile	7	3 4	I	1.46	1	0	1	2
	8	4 5	I	0.77	0	0	0	0
Eightmile	3	4 5	I	1.24	4	1	-1*	4
	4	2 3	I	0.88	0	0	1	1
Ramsey	1	1 2	I	1.06	1	0	-	1
	1	5	I	1.00	4	0	-	4
	2	1						
Total Redds								12

*The redd identified in pass 2 was determined not to be a redd on pass 3.

Table 10. Abundance estimate for wild adult steelhead returning to Fifteenmile Creek in 2016, using two different methods of estimation. The weir mark-recapture estimate uses the Schnabel form of the Lincoln-Peterson estimator. The 'combined approach' uses data from all available sources to produce an estimate with greater precision than had been previously possible, including: 1) error-adjusted video counts, and adult-to-kelt survival rates from 2) adult steelhead PIT-tagged at the weir, and 3) PIT interrogation data.

Method	Estimate	95% Lower	95% Upper	Comment
Weir Mark-Recapture	262	190	334	Based on 51 fish marked at the weir ¹ and 22 marked fish found in 115.352 fish subsequently examined for marks (at the weir, dip trap and in the video)
Combined Approach	276	275	277	Based on video counts, weir catch data, and PIT array data

¹This number includes previously unmarked fish trapped and marked at the weir, as well as 'native recaptures' – individuals caught at the weir that were originally tagged at the Fifteenmile Creek rotary screw trap or at the weir in previous seasons.

Table 11. Capture efficiency of PIT tagged juvenile steelhead captured and released upstream of the Fifteemile rotary screw trap. Recapture rates further downstream at Bonneville Dam PIT detections sites [Juvenile Bypass (JBS) or the Powerhouse II corner collector (BCC)], and at the Columbia River Estuary Trawl (TWX).

Trap Efficiency

Year	n	Screw Trap			Bonneville Dam			Estuary Trawl		
		Estimate	L95%CL	U95%CL	Estimate	L95%CL	U95%CL	Estimate	L95%CL	U95%CL
2007	286	3.8%	2.1%	6.8%	11.2%	8.0%	15.4%	1.7%	0.7%	4.1%
2008	1232	15.6%	13.7%	17.7%	13.4%	11.6%	15.4%	1.8%	1.2%	2.7%
2009	2735	16.5%	15.2%	18.0%	9.6%	8.5%	10.7%	2.1%	1.6%	2.7%
2010	2135	7.9%	6.8%	9.1%	20.6%	18.9%	22.4%	2.2%	1.7%	3.0%
2011†	1208	7.0%	5.6%	8.5%	3.8%	2.9%	5.0%	1.2%	0.7%	1.9%
2011††	994	11.8%	9.9%	13.9%	4.2%	3.1%	5.7%	0.9%	0.5%	1.7%
2012†	1489	11.6%	10.1%	13.3%	3.1%	2.4%	3.9%	1.4%	1.0%	2.0%
2012††	1038	7.3%	5.8%	9.0%	2.2%	1.5%	3.0%	0.9%	0.5%	1.5%
2012†††	2527	9.8%	8.8%	10.8%	2.7%	2.2%	3.3%	1.2%	0.9%	1.6%
2013†††	2012	6.0%	5.0%	7.0%	7.4%	6.4%	8.6%	2.3%	1.7%	3.0%
2013**	1546	8.3%	7.0%	9.7%	10.2%	8.7%	11.8%	3.2%	2.4%	4.2%
2014†††	406	3.8%	2.2%	5.8%	6.8%	4.6%	9.5%	0.6%	0.0%	1.6%
2014**	278	6.0%	3.6%	9.0%	11.3%	7.9%	15.3%	0.9%	0.2%	2.4%
2015†††	1394	16.8%	16.1%	20.1%	9.8%	9.5%	12.7%	0.02%	0.01%	.35%
2015**	1127	20.9%	18.6%	23.4%	12.3%	10.5%	14.3%	0.001%	<0.001%	.0098%
2016†††	848	4.8%	3.5%	6.4%	17.4%	14.9%	0.81%	-	-	-
2016**	725	4.4%	3.1%	6.2%	18.3%	15.7%	21.3%	-	-	-

† Fifteemile Creek release only; †† Eightmile Creek release only; ††† Fifteemile and Eightmile combined releases; **Based on migrant individuals (from PIT data)

Table 12. Abundance estimates of smolts emigrating from Fifteenmile Creek based on the trap efficiency at the Fifteenmile rotary screw trap. The model used to generate trap efficiencies was a Huggins-Closed capture model (Huggins et al 1991).

Fifteenmile Watershed Smolt Abundance Estimates – Based on Trapping Efficiency

Year	Released (n)	Fifteenmile Watershed		
		Estimate	L95%CL	U95%CL
2007	286	7436	4200	13349
2008	1232	7905	6953	9016
2009	2735	16549	15223	18016
2010	2135	26972	23361	31197
2011	2202	25817	21296	31414
2012*	2527	25775	21962	30484
2012**	2229	21021	20158	21851
2013*	2012	33311	28580	39842
2013**	1546	18717	15905	22213
2014*	406	10601	6988	18624
2014**	278	4664	3103	7831
2015*	1394	8317	6941	8645
2015**	1127	5395	4824	6054
2016*	848	17508	13235	24301
2016**	725	16448	11757	23136

* Based on all juvenile steelhead tagged and released

** Based on individuals determined to be actual migrants (from PIT detection data)

Table 13. Single release survival rate estimates of juvenile steelhead captured and released upstream of the rotary screw trap on Fifteenmile Creek. Survival estimates are also shown for migrations between all downstream detection points (Bonneville Dam PIT tag array detections, and Estuary PIT- tag trawl detections). We used a Cormack-Jolly-Seber survival model in the program Mark to generate the probability distributions using Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulations.

Single Release survival for fish released upstream to →

		Upstream release to Fifteenmile Screw Trap			Fifteenmile Screw trap to Bonneville			Bonneville Dam to Estuary Trawl		
Year	n	Estimate	L95%CL	U95%CL	Estimate	L95%CL	U95%CL	Estimate	L95%CL	U95%CL
2007	286	39.3%	24.0%	64.9%	85.3%	58.2%	98.9%	*	*	*
2008	1232	57.8%	49.4%	67.9%	88.2%	66.5%	98.8%	76.5%	46.3%	98.1%
2009	2735	82.8%	70.5%	95.7%	84.3%	64.8%	98.2%	69.0%	34.9%	97.7%
2010	2135	92.6%	81.3%	99.4%	81.8%	61.4%	98.1%	60.2%	25.1%	97.4%
2011†	1208	77.6%	46.4%	97.9%	*	*	*	*	*	*
2011††	994	82.3%	56.7%	91.5%	*	*	*	*	*	*
2012†	1485	93.5%	77.3%	99.5%	*	*	*	*	*	*
2012††	1034	71.4%	36.9%	99.5%	*	*	*	*	*	*
2012†††	2519	93.3%	76.8%	100%	*	*	*	*	*	*
2013†††	2012	90.4%	70.9%	99.7%	82.8%	44.9%	99.5%	76.5%	47.4%	97.2%
2014†††	406	82.8%	44.9%	100%	61.8%	11.7%	99.9%	*	*	*
2015†††	1394	93.2%	83.4%	99.7%	66.3%	27.7%	98.8%	14.6%	0%	63.0%
2016†††	848	82.7%	56.4%	98.6%	77.9%	39.3%	98.4%	*	*	*

* Lacked sufficient sample size to produce reasonable estimate.

† Released upstream of screw trap in Fifteenmile Creek.

†† Released upstream of screw trap in Eightmile Creek.

††† Fifteenmile and Eightmile creeks combined releases.

Table 14. Smolt-to-adult return (SmAR) rates and apparent survival rates in the Bonneville Pool for Fifteenmile Creek steelhead. Confidence intervals are derived from closed-capture estimates, assuming steelhead tagged as smolt will return to Fifteenmile Creek to spawn. Apparent survival in Bonneville pool, is assuming the fish passing Bonneville are destined to go to Fifteenmile Creek.

Smolt Outmigration year	Number Released (n)	Smolt to Adult % To Bonneville			Smolt to Adult % To The Dalles Dam			Smolt to Adult % To Fifteenmile Creek			Apparent Survival Bonneville to Fifteenmile
		Estimate	L95% CL	U95% CL	Estimate	L95% CL	U95% CL	Estimate	L95% CL	U95% CL	
2007	286	4.20%	2.40%	7.24%	-	-	-	2.45%	1.17%	5.04%	58%
2008	1232	6.74%	5.47%	8.28%	-	-	-	3.57%	2.67%	4.77%	53%
2009	2735	3.77%	3.12%	4.55%	-	-	-	2.05%	1.58%	2.65%	54%
2010	2135	2.44%	1.86%	3.18%	-	-	-	1.12%	0.75%	1.67%	46%
2011	2202	1.09%	0.73%	1.62%	-	-	-	0.59%	0.34%	1.01%	54%
2012	2527	1.74%	1.30%	2.33%	1.23%	0.86%	1.74%	0.67%	0.42%	1.08%	39%
2013	2042	1.71%	1.23%	2.38%	1.32%	0.91%	1.92%	0.93%	0.59%	1.45%	54%
2014*	406	2.22%	1.16%	4.20%	1.23%	0.51%	2.92%	0.98%	0.37%	2.59%	44%

Bold/Italic: significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between Bonneville adult returns rate and adult returns to Fifteenmile Creek.

*Estimates for 2014 smolt outmigration are preliminary as not all year classes have returned.

-Prior to 2010 there was not a PIT tag array at The Dalles Dam.

Table 15. Return-year-specific apparent survival of Fifteenmile Creek adult steelhead (previously tagged at the Fifteenmile Creek rotary screw trap as juveniles) in the main stem Columbia River above Bonneville Dam assuming 100% detection efficiency at Bonneville Dam. Spawning migration year is defined as between April 1 of the first year to April 1 of the second year. Apparent survival in Bonneville pool, is assuming the fish passing Bonneville are destined to go to Fifteenmile Creek.

Spawning Migration Year	Detection Efficiency of Fifteenmile Creek PIT array	Number passed Bonneville	Number Detected in Fifteenmile Ck.	Bonneville Pool Apparent Survival %	L95% CL	U95% CL
2009-2010	Unknown	44	26	59%	*	*
2010-2011	Unknown	87	45	52%	*	*
2011-2012	94%**	94	39	44%	42%	46%
2012-2013	95%**	31	17	55%	52.3%	57.8%
2013-2014	98%**	34	18	53%	50%	56%
2014-2015	97%**	44	21	48%	47%	50%
2015-2016	91%**	30	14	47%	42.0%	49.6%

*Confidence level not possible because efficiency of Fifteenmile Creek PIT array was not known. However, efficiency of PIT array was likely very high due to the configuration of pass-thru PIT antennas deployed adjacent to a fish passage barrier (weir). The easiest passage option was through the PIT antennas.

** Actual detection percentage of adults tagged at Fifteenmile adult trap. This efficiency estimate includes all flow conditions, tag loss, adult fallback, mortality, and seasonal effects. Actual detection efficiency of the PIT array located at the confluence of Fifteenmile Creek and Eightmile Creek, as measured by known PIT tags passing over array antennas, was 99.5%.

Table16. Freshwater and total age for 66 adult steelhead trapped (including kelts and carcasses) in Fifteenmile Creek during the 2016 season. Total age is the sum of freshwater and ocean ages, plus years since fish first reentered freshwater to spawn.

Freshwater Age	Total Age					subtotal	% of <i>total</i>
	3	4	5	6	7		
1	3	25	1	0	0	29	43.9%
2	0	14	22	1	0	37	56.1%
subtotal	3	39	23	1	0	66	
% of <i>total</i>	4.5%	59.1%	34.8%	1.5%	0.0%		

Table 17. Age composition by trapping year of juvenile steelhead captured and tagged at the Fifteenmile rotary screw trap. In 2011 and 2012, we aged approximately 10% of the total number of individuals caught; in 2013 through 2016 we aged all individuals with readable scales.

Year	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	# Fish Aged
2011	80.3%	19.3%	0.4%	226
2012	78.9%	19.3%	1.8%	342
2013	80.0%	19.8%	0.2%	1,859
2014	71.7%	28.1%	0.3%	385
2015	85.5%	14.5%	0.06%	1,581
2016	56.3%	43.2%	0.5%	805

Figures.

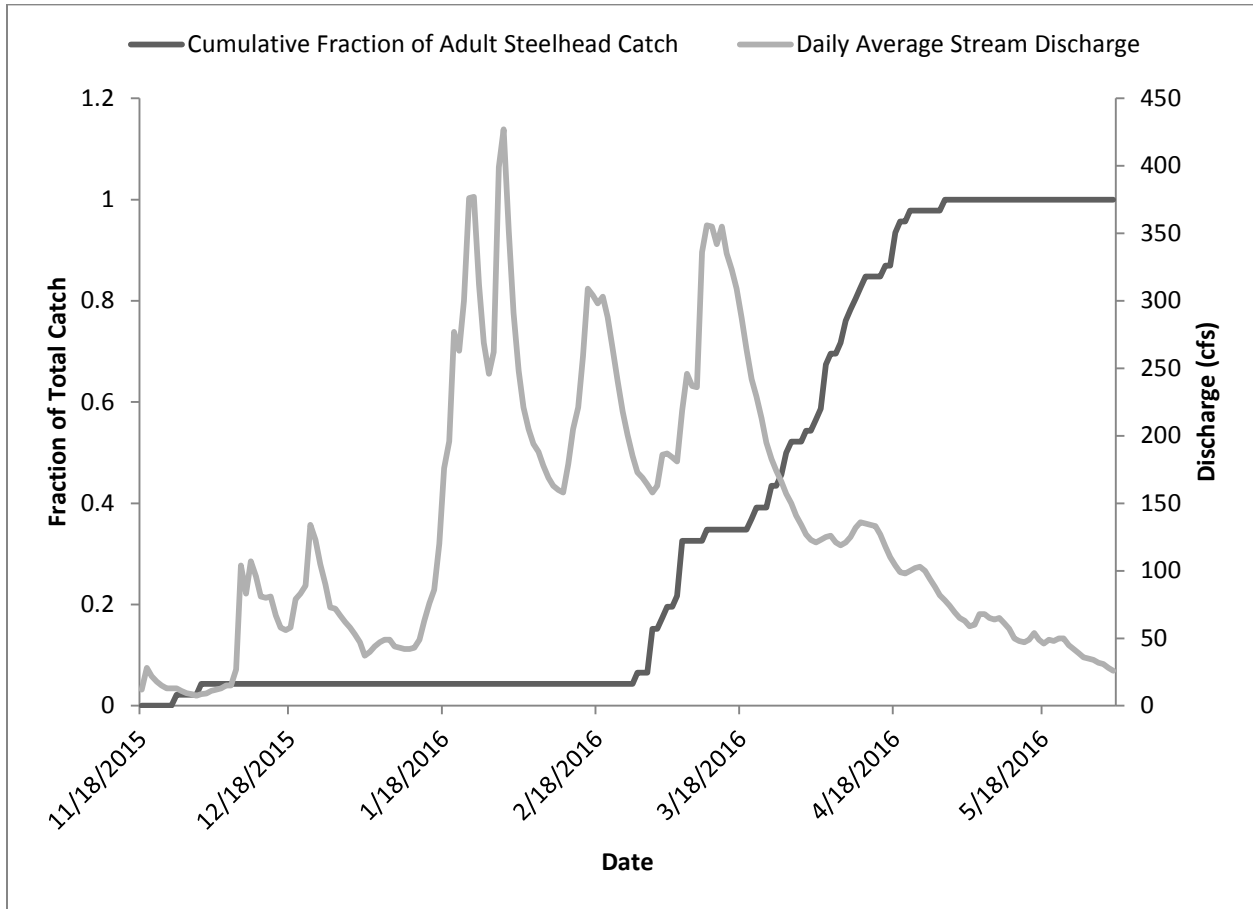


Figure 6. Cumulative numbers of wild adult steelhead captured at the Fifteenmile Creek weir (not including kelts) during the 2016 trapping season (1 December, 2015 to 1 June, 2016). Also shown is the mean daily discharge of Fifteenmile Creek.

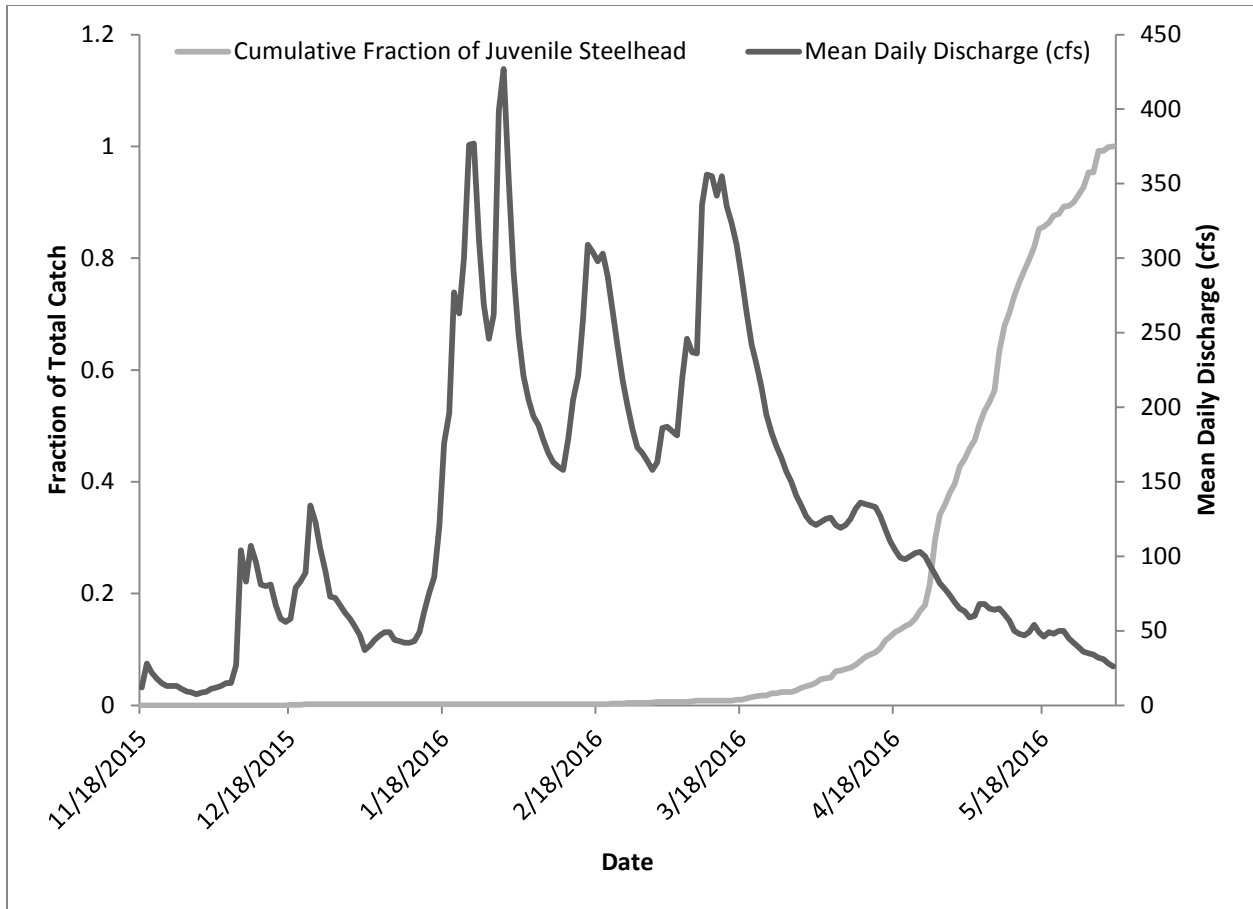


Figure 7. Cumulative capture of juvenile steelhead at the Fifteenmile Creek rotary screw trap during 2016. Mean daily discharge at the Oregon Department of Water Resources gauging station on lower Fifteenmile Creek is shown for comparison.

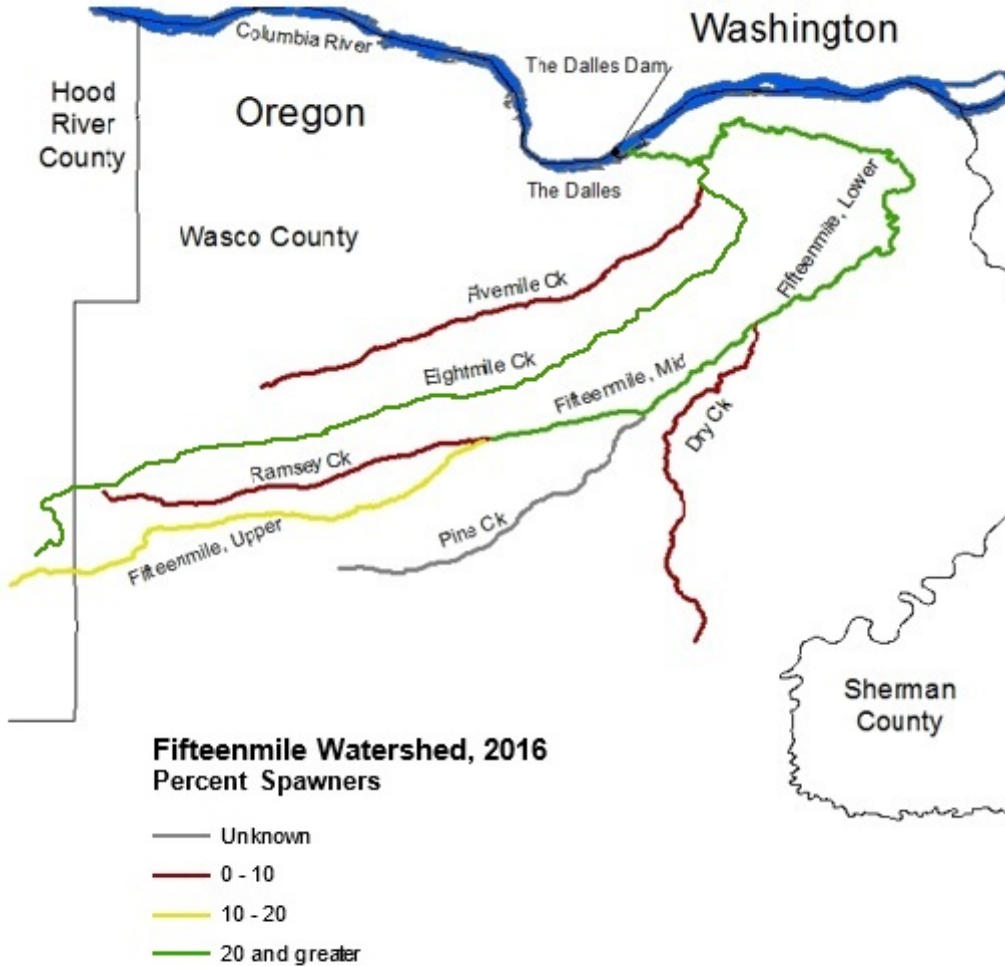


Figure 8. Distribution of spawning adult steelhead in Fifteemile Creek during the 2016 spawning season, shown as percent spawners by major stream reach. The distribution of spawners was determined from PIT antenna data for 55 PIT-tagged adult steelhead detected on the Fifteemile Creek in-stream arrays during the 2016 spawning season.

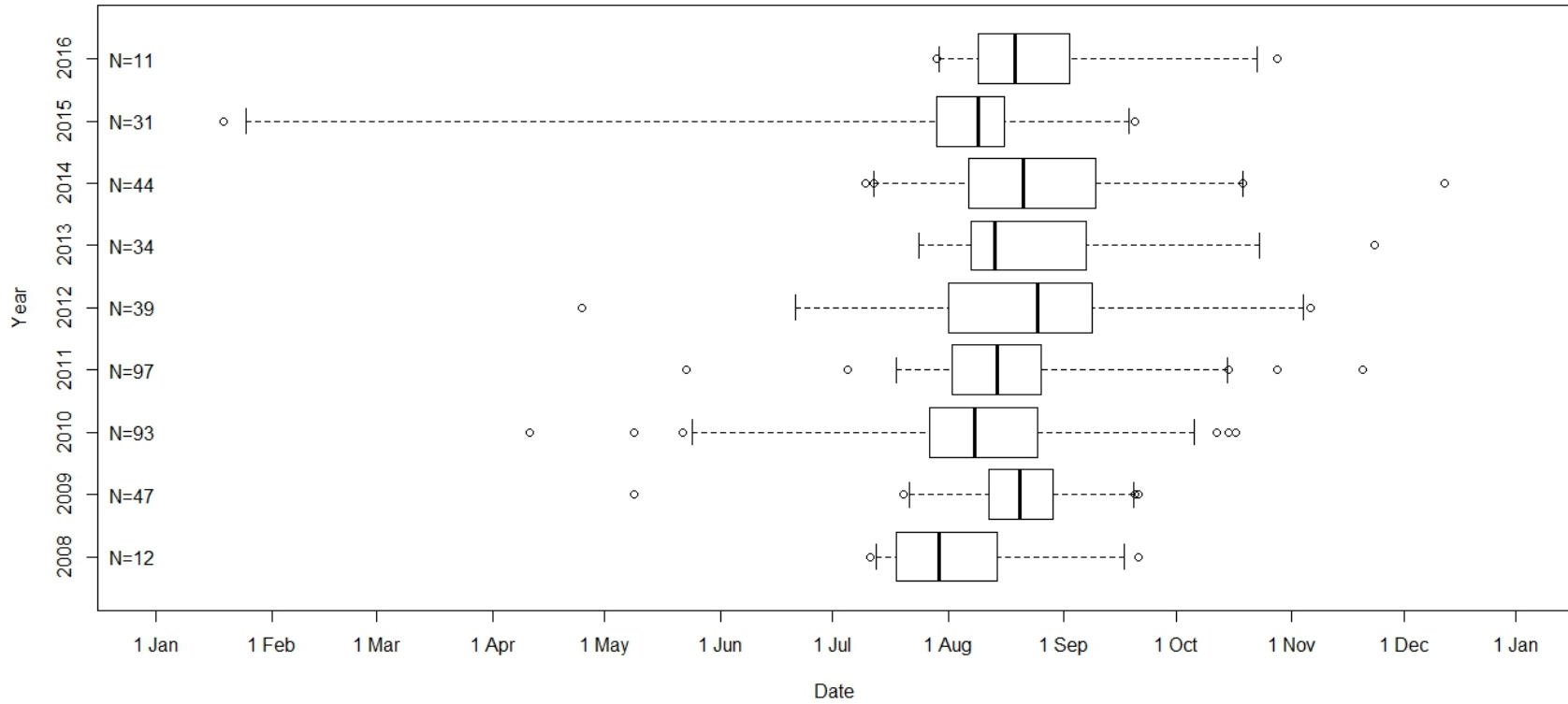


Figure 9. Time series of adult Fifteenmile Creek steelhead run-timing at Bonneville Dam, presented as box plots. Box plot whiskers encompass the middle 95 percent of the run distributions; boxes encompass the middle 50 percent of the run distributions; dark vertical lines within each box represent the median of the run distributions. Sample sizes shown next to the vertical axis are numbers of tagged individuals returning in each particular year.

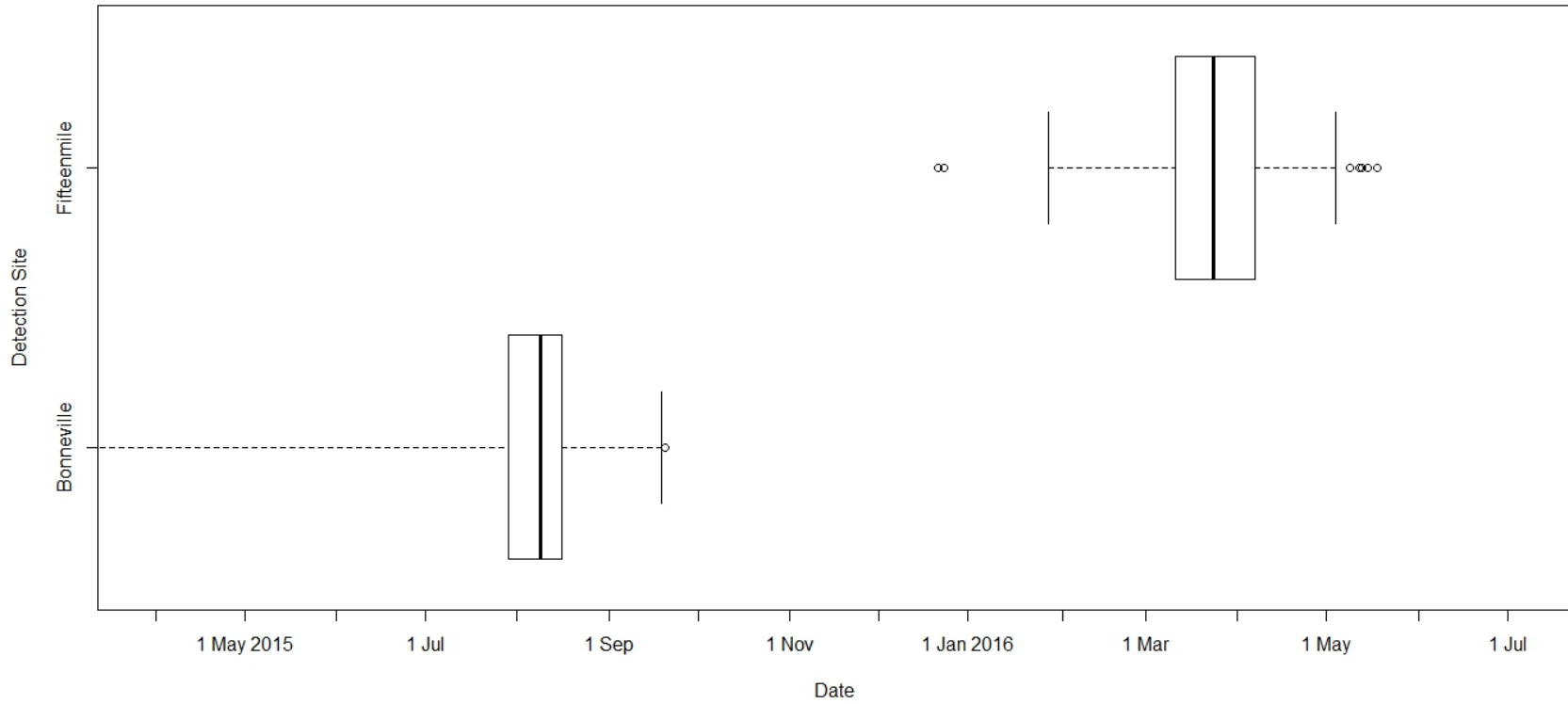


Figure 10. Run timing of the 2016 brood year adult Fifteenmile Creek steelhead run at Bonneville Dam (summer 2015) and at the Fifteenmile Creek adult weir (spring 2016), presented as box plots. Box plot whiskers encompass the middle 95 percent of the run distributions; boxes encompass the middle 50 percent of the run distributions; dark vertical lines within each box represent the median of the run distributions.

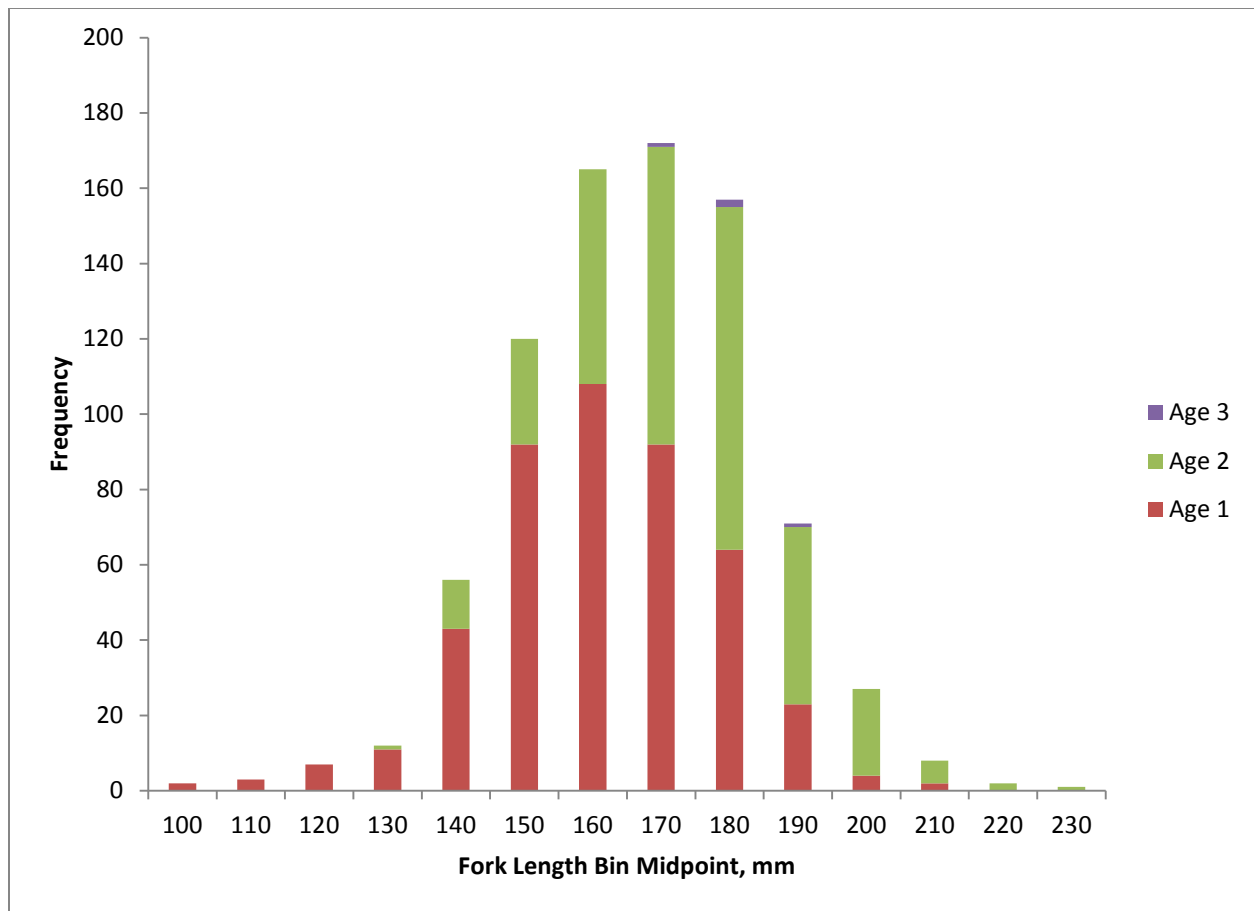


Figure 11. Length-frequency histogram and age composition of juvenile steelhead trapped in the Fifteenmile Creek rotary screw trap during 2016.

Appendix C: List of Metrics and Indicators