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Proposed Snake River Sockeye Recovery Plan

Snake River Coordination Group Meeting
November 12, 2014

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

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Topics

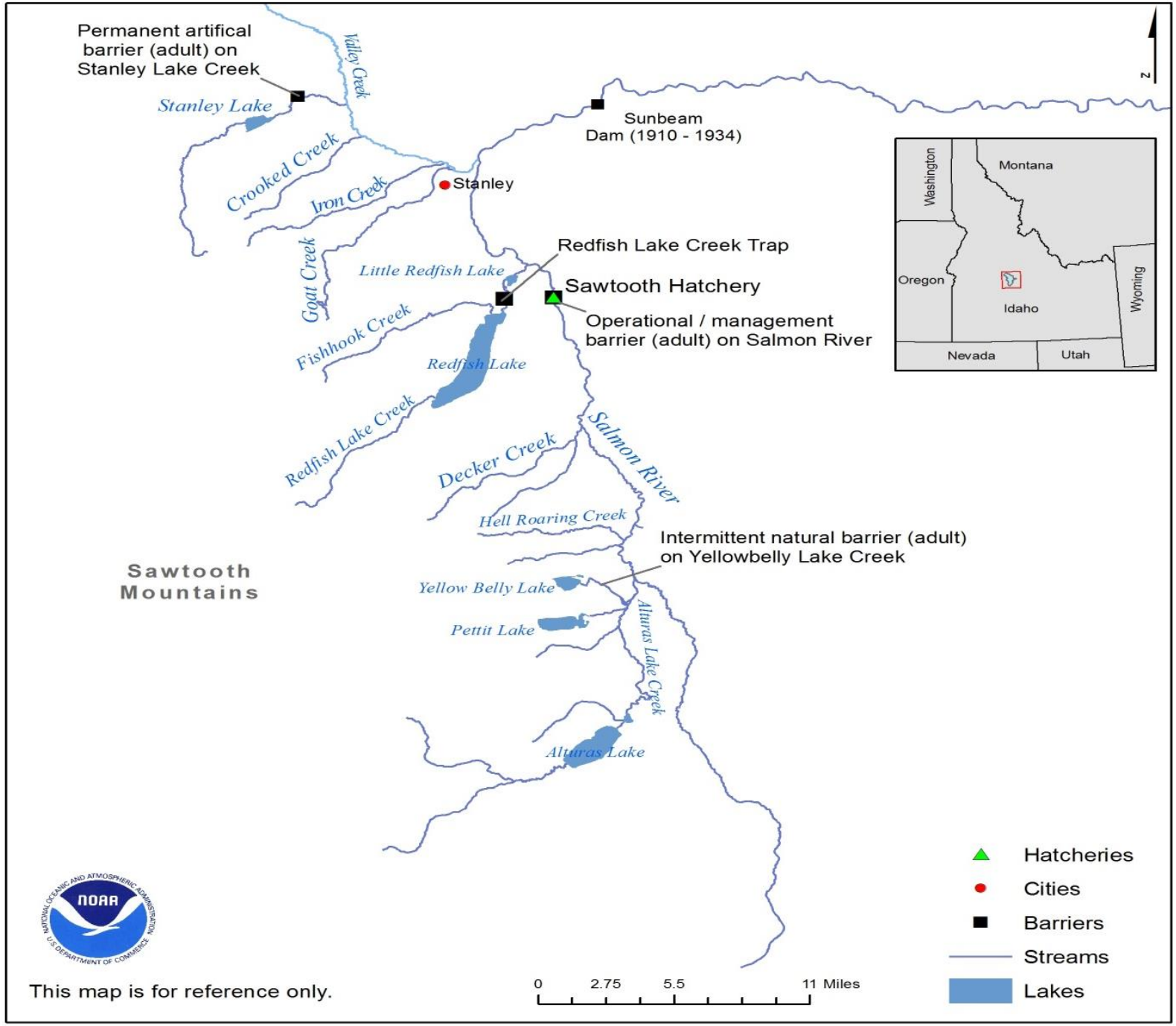
- Highlights from Proposed Recovery Plan
- Questions from public comments

Process to Develop Draft Recovery Plan

- NMFS forms Sockeye TAC: Spring 2012
- Held six TAC meetings: June 2012 to January 2014
- TAC provided technical information, review and comment
- Regularly briefed Snake River Coordination Group
- Posted draft chapters on NMFS Snake River web page

Recovery Plan Components

- Recovery objectives & criteria (viability & threats)
- Broad Sense goals
- Current status
- Limiting factors & threats
- Site-specific actions
- Estimates of time & costs to recovery
- Research, monitoring & evaluation to track progress
- Adaptive management built into implementation systems


Permanent artifical barrier (adult) on Stanley Lake Creek
Stanley Lake
Valley Creek
Crooked Creek
Iron Creek
Stanley
Sunbeam Dam (1910 - 1934)
Goat Creek
Little Redfish Lake
Redfish Lake Creek Trap
Sawtooth Hatchery
Operational / management barrier (adult) on Salmon River
Fishhook Creek
Redfish Lake
Redfish Lake Creek
Decker Creek
Salmon River
Hell Roaring Creek
Intermittent natural barrier (adult) on Yellowbelly Lake Creek
Sawtooth Mountains
Yellow Belly Lake
Pettit Lake
Alturas Lake Creek
Alturas Lake
Washington
Montana
Oregon
Idaho
Wyoming
Nevada
Utah
N
Hatcheries
Cities
Barriers
Streams
Lakes
0
2.75
5.5
11 Miles
This map is for reference only.

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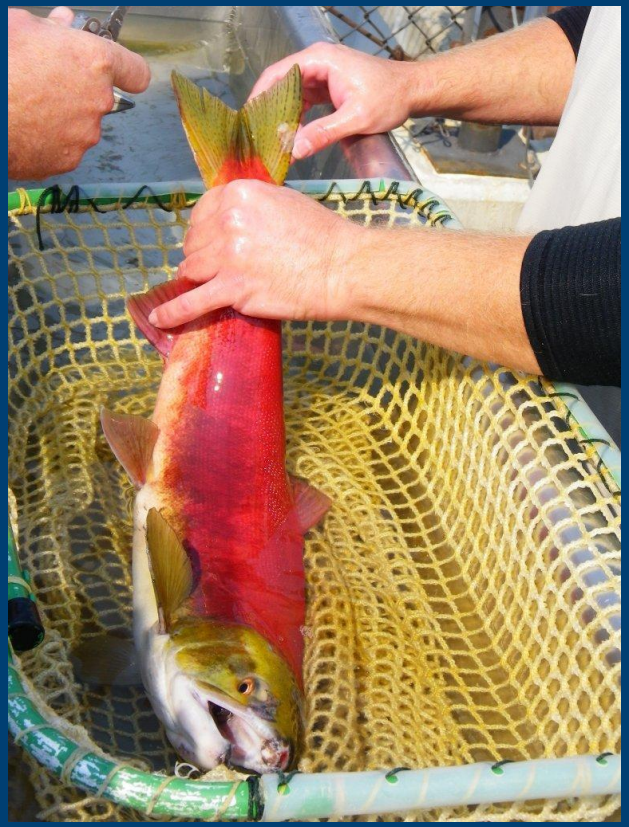
Draft Recovery Plan Chapters:

Section 2: Biological Background



- Spawn in Sawtooth Valley, rear for one to three years in lakes then migrate 900 miles downstream to ocean
- Captive broodstock program for Redfish Lake population started in 1991
- Returns are increasing

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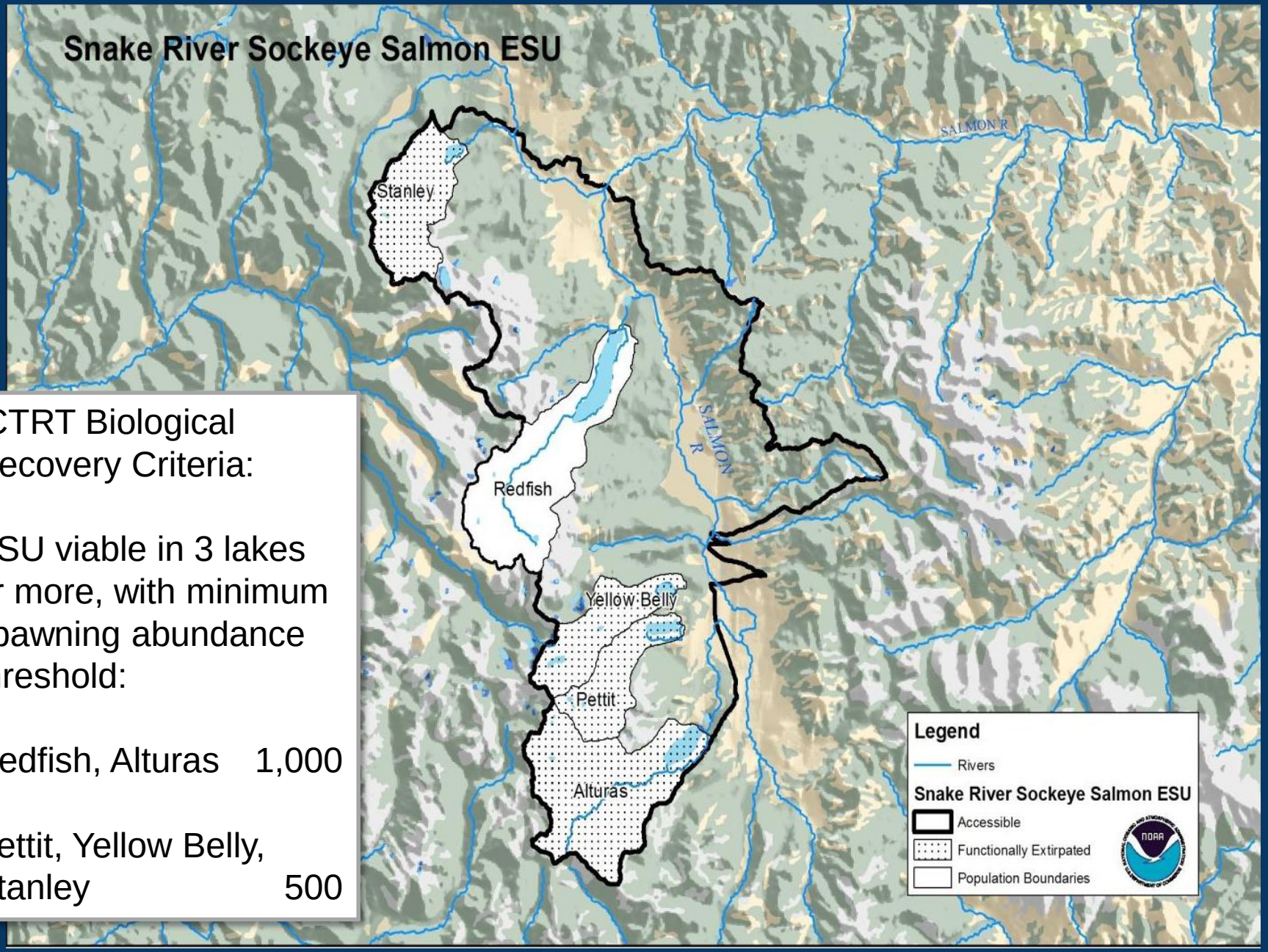
Draft Recovery Plan Chapters:

Section 3: Recovery Goals

- Primary goal is to ensure the species is viable and no longer needs ESA protection
- ICTRT biological viability criteria
- Threats criteria



ICTRT Biological Recovery Criteria:

ESU viable in 3 lakes or more, with minimum spawning abundance threshold:

Redfish, Alturas 1,000

Pettit, Yellow Belly, Stanley 500

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Draft Recovery Plan Chapters:

Section 5: Limiting Factors and Threats

- Habitat: Natal lakes and full life cycle
- Hydropower
- Hatcheries
- Fisheries
- Predation, disease, competition and toxics
- Climate change

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Draft Recovery Plan Chapters:

Section 6: Recovery Strategy

- Adaptive Management
- *Local level* (Sawtooth Valley and upper Salmon River)
  - Conserve genetic and life history diversity, spatial structure
  - Phased reintroduction strategy
- *Regional level* (migration corridor, estuary, plume, ocean)
  - Implement 2008/2010 FCRPS BiOp RPAs
  - Continue research and monitoring survival
- *Key Information Needs*
  - Options for spatial structure
  - Improving sockeye passage, lake research

Section 7: Actions

Recommendations for sequencing actions:

- Implement current captive broodstock program
- Reestablish self-sustaining anadromous sockeye populations in Redfish, Pettit and Alturas Lakes
- Protect and enhance existing habitat conditions and concern ecological processes
- Improve survival for all life stages in the migration corridor
- Carry out research, monitoring and evaluation actions

Sections 8-10

- Section 8: Effects Analysis
- Section 9: Time and Cost
  - Five-year period costs are $20,293,955
  - Total cost: $101,469,775 (over next 25 years)
- Section 10: Implementation
  - Partners
  - Implementation teams

Section 11: RM&E & Adaptive Management

- Phases for recovery
  - Phase 1: Captive broodstock
  - Phase 2: Re-colonization of Redfish and other lakes
  - Phase 3: Local adaptation
- Types of monitoring
  - Status and trends
  - Action effectiveness
  - Implementation and compliance
  - Key information needs
- Identify monitoring objectives for each recovery phase
- Adaptive management

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Questions from Public Comments

- General edits, clarifications and map corrections
- Expand discussion to clarify viability criteria ratings
- Expand threats and limiting factors discussion to include relative impact of one limiting factor versus another; which limiting factor, if corrected, would provide the most significant recovery potential?
- Questions why recovery plan defers to FCRPS BiOp for hydrosystem actions
- Add summary points from draft Ocean Module

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Questions from Public Comments

- Modify mainstem FCRPS operations to advance recovery of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead
- Lake trout risk to native fish
- Future role of sockeye hatcheries and concern about overdependence on hatcheries
- Need to describe how contingency plan will be developed (add to Chapter 10)
- Range of new actions proposed for Sawtooth NRA
- Improve analysis of survival by life stage and SARs

Next steps to finalize Proposed Plan