

## Summary of the 2001 Bull Trout Study Results through February 25, 2002

### Detection Summary:

- This summary includes fixed-site telemetry data through 18 February, aerial survey data through 16 February, and boat survey data through 25 February.
- Based on current telemetry data, there are 14 trout in the mainstem Columbia River, 5 in the Wenatchee River basin, 7 in the Entiat River basin, and 12 in the Methow River basin (Table 1). One trout has died and was recovered in the forebay of Rock Island Dam on 3 August, 2001.
- Of the 14 trout located within the mainstem of the Columbia River, 1 was detected near the exit of the Rocky Reach adult fish ladder. Two other fish were last detected within the tailrace of Rock Island Dam.
- Efforts to locate the two fish last detected within the Rock Island tailrace have been unsuccessful. Efforts included both aerial and boat surveys. The latter being conducted during both daytime and nighttime.
- Of the remaining 11 trout detected within the mainstem Columbia River, 6 were detected between Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams, 3 between Rocky Reach and Wells dams, and 2 upstream from Wells Dam.
- Of the 5 fish detected in the Wenatchee River basin, 3 reside between the mouth of the Wenatchee River and Leavenworth, 1 between Leavenworth and Tumwater Dam, and 1 between Tumwater Dam and Lake Wenatchee.
- Of the 7 fish detected in the Entiat River basin, all 7 are located in the Mad River.
- Of the 12 fish detected in the Methow River basin, 1 was last detected in Buttermilk Creek (a tributary to the Twisp River), 5 in the Twisp River above the confluence of Buttermilk Creek, and 6 in the mainstem Methow River (3 between the mouth of the Methow River and Libby Creek, 2 between Libby Creek and the Twisp River, and 1 upstream from the Twisp River confluence).
- Since 14 December, 2 radio-tagged bull trout from the Wenatchee Basin, 1 from the Entiat Basin, and 1 from the Methow Basin have migrated into the mainstem Columbia River.
- Research in the Flathead Basin in Montana suggests that bull trout tend to use deepwater habitat during the daytime and migrate into littoral areas at night to feed. On 31 January we began nighttime boat surveys in Rocky Reach and Rock Island reservoirs to see if bull trout moved into shallow water during the night. During that survey a total of 6 tagged fish were detected, which is the greatest number of tagged trout detected during any boat survey. Furthermore, two of the six fish detected during that survey had not been detected within a two month period prior to the survey.
- Of the 38 surviving trout, 3 have not been detected recently. Two were last detected during aerial surveys in the Wenatchee Basin on 30 May and 13 June 2001. Another trout was last detected during an aerial survey in the Methow Basin on 29 June 2001. These fish may be living in unsurveyed tributaries or the upper portions of watersheds that are outside the survey area, or they may be dead.

**Table 1.** The last known location of radio-tagged bull trout (N=38) for the period of May 15 to February 18, 2002, as identified by release location. This table does not include the bull trout that has expired, and is located in the forebay of Rock Island Dam.

Release Location	Location of Last Detection									Total
	Hydroelectric Project			Basin				Below	Columbia	
	RIS <sup>1</sup>	RRH	Wells	Wen.	Ent.	Met.	Okan.	RIS <sup>2</sup>	River <sup>3</sup>	
RIS Tailrace				1	1				1	3
RIS Forebay	1					2				3
RRH Tailrace				4	2	1			4	11
RRH Forebay	1	1			4	2			3	11
Wells Tailrace						3			2	5
Wells Forebay						4			1	5
<b>Totals:</b>	2	1	0	5	7	12	0	0	11	38

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Both fish were last detected by the aerial array located in the Rock Island tailrace, which is located approximately 400m downstream.

<sup>2</sup> This refers to any detections below the Rock Island tailrace (i.e., Wanapum pool, Wanapum Dam, and Priest Rapids Dam).

<sup>3</sup> This refers to any detection during aerial or boat surveys within the mainstem Columbia, and excludes detections at dams.