



# Idaho Steelhead Status and Management Update

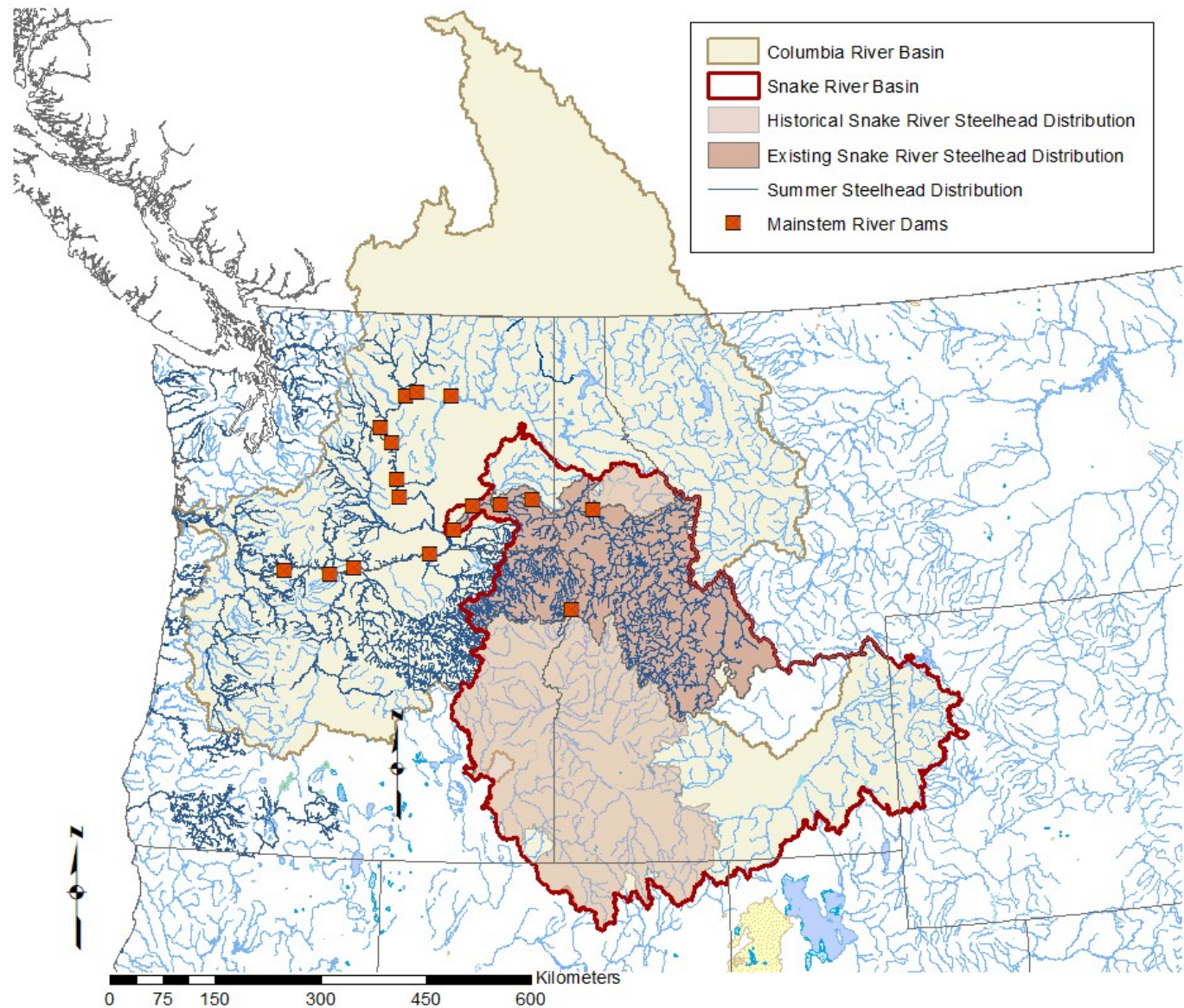
Marika Dobos

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

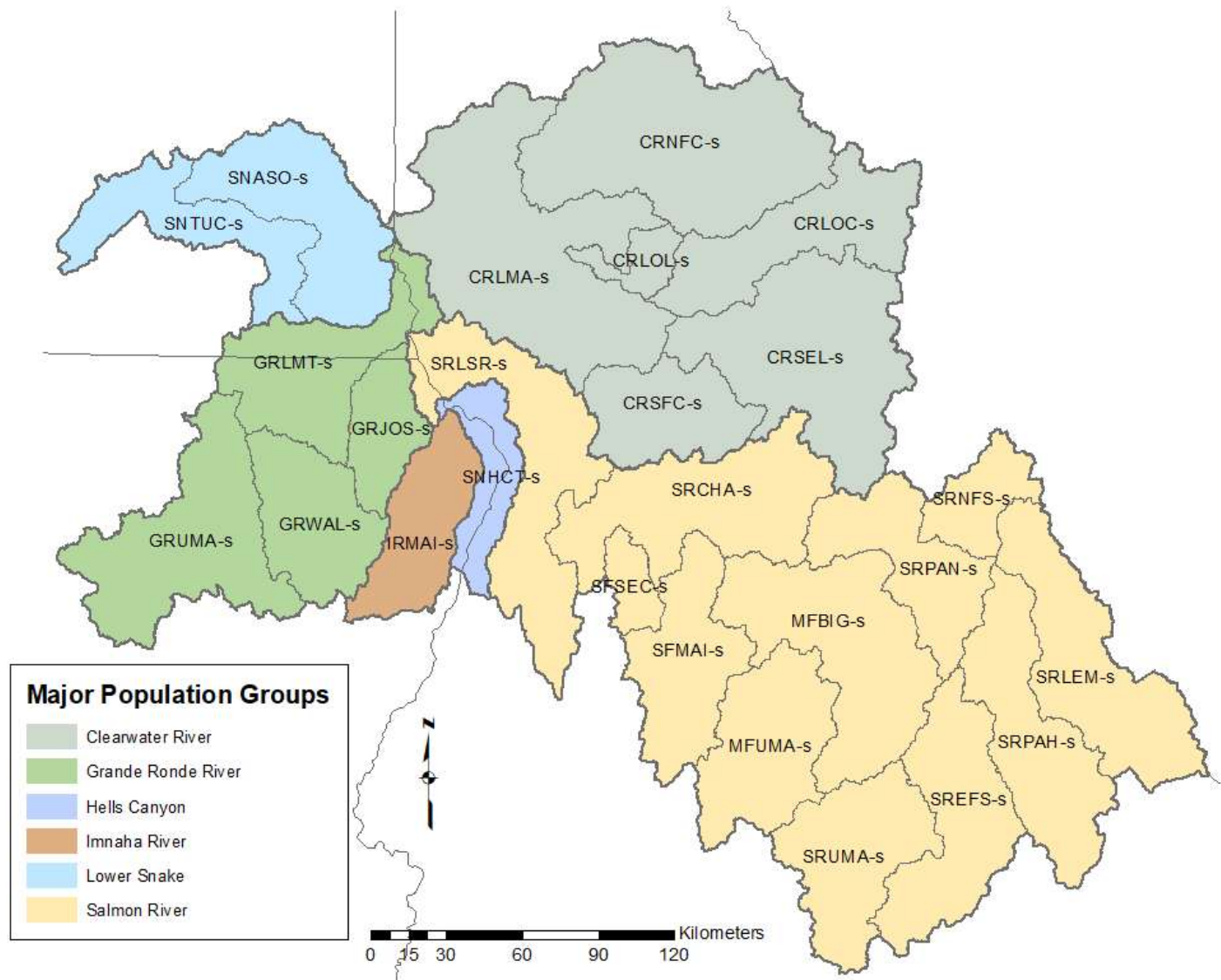


# Snake River Basin

- The largest tributary to the Columbia River (43%)
- 41% of historical habitat accessible
- Hells Canyon Dam (1967)
- Dworshak Dam (1973)
- Lower Granite Dam (1975)

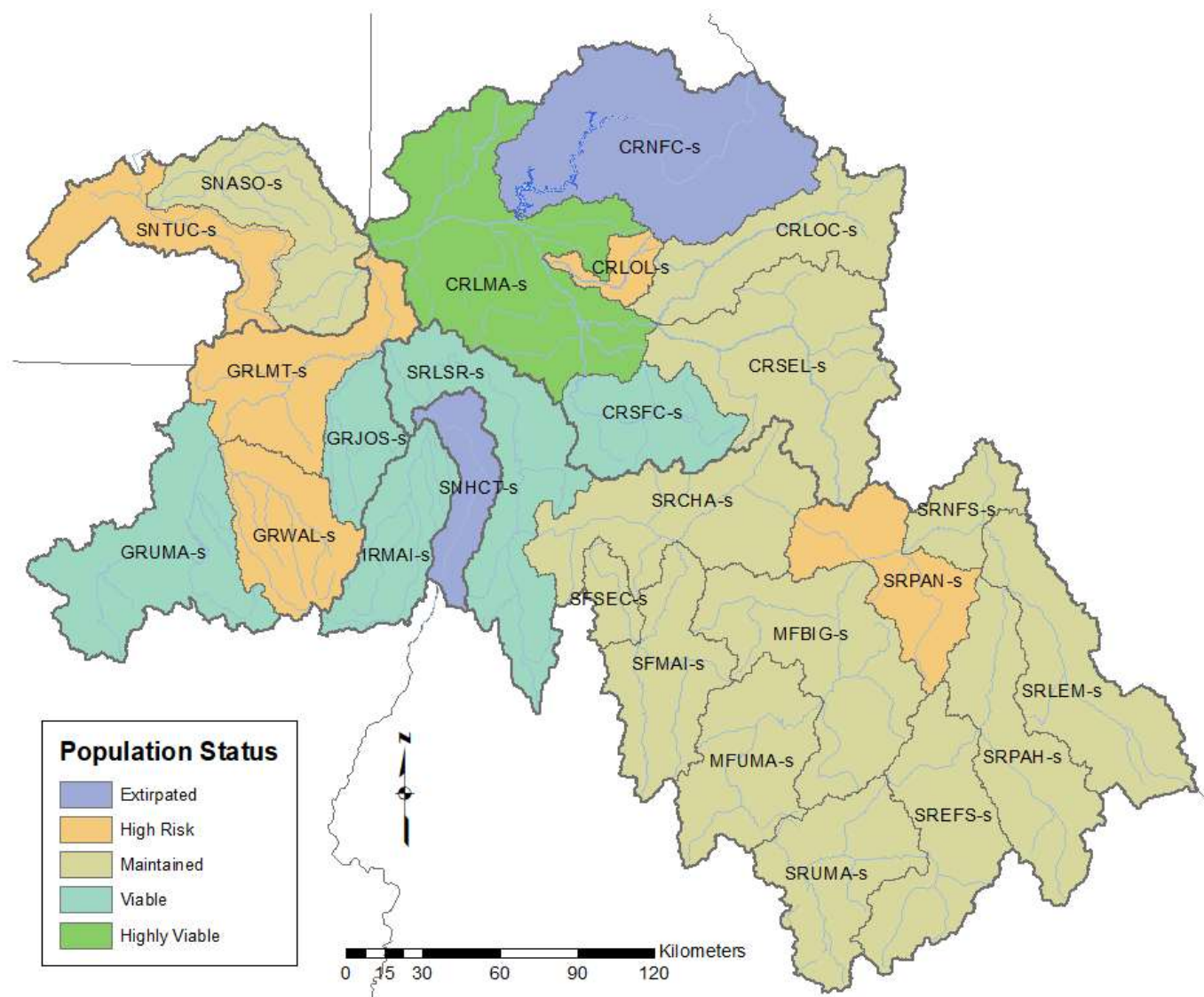


# Snake River Summer-Run Steelhead DPS



# Status by Population

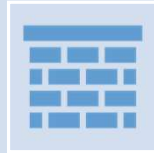
2022 5-year review



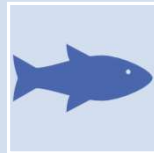
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# Monitoring Idaho Steelhead Populations

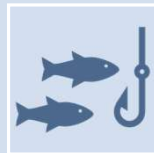
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Lower Granite Dam  
Escapement



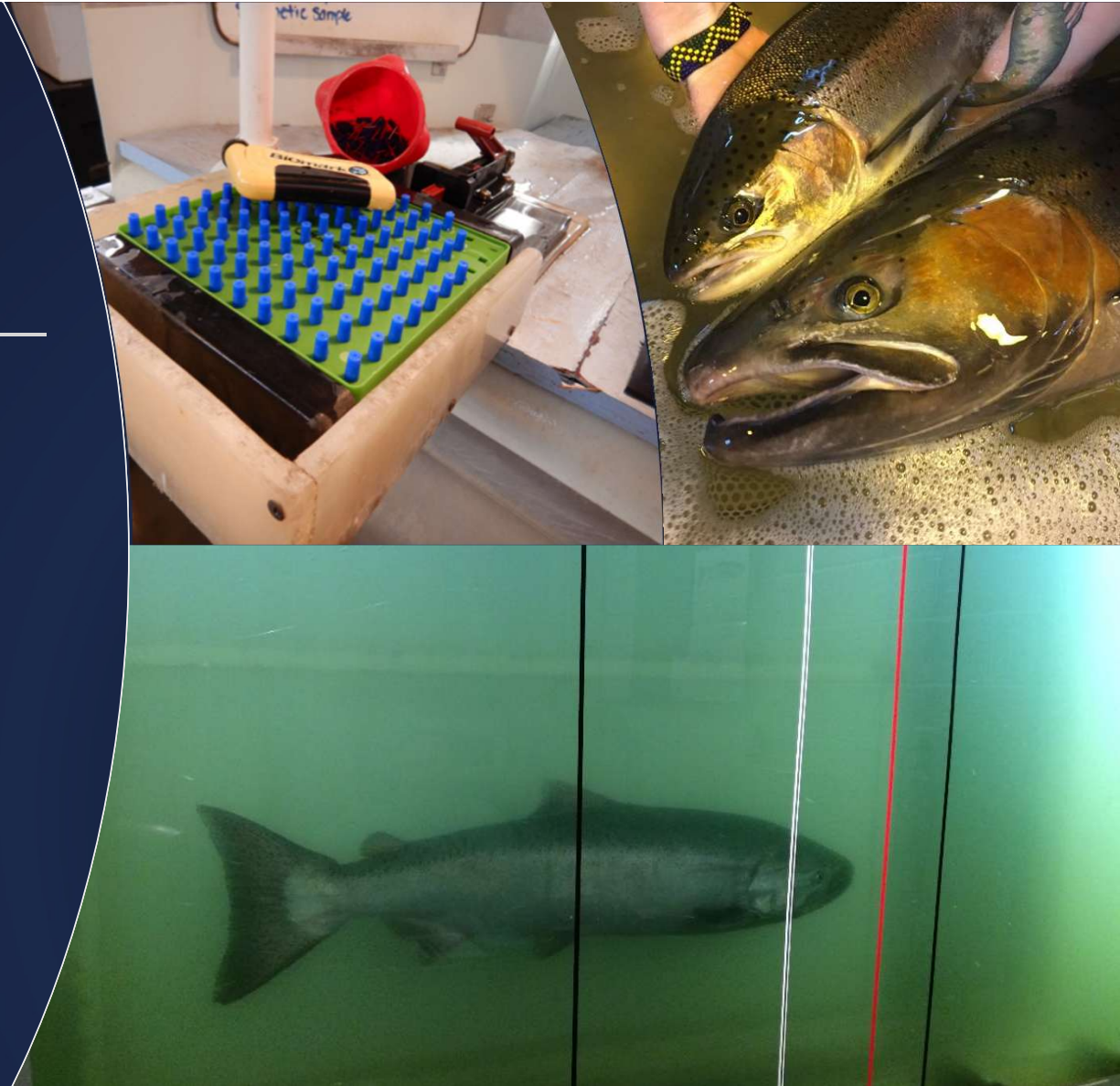
Spawning Escapement



Angler Reporting

# Lower Granite Dam

- Window counts
- Timing by group via PIT tags
- Size
- External marks and tags
- Age (scales on wild fish)
- PIT tag wild fish
- Genetic demographics (fin tissue)



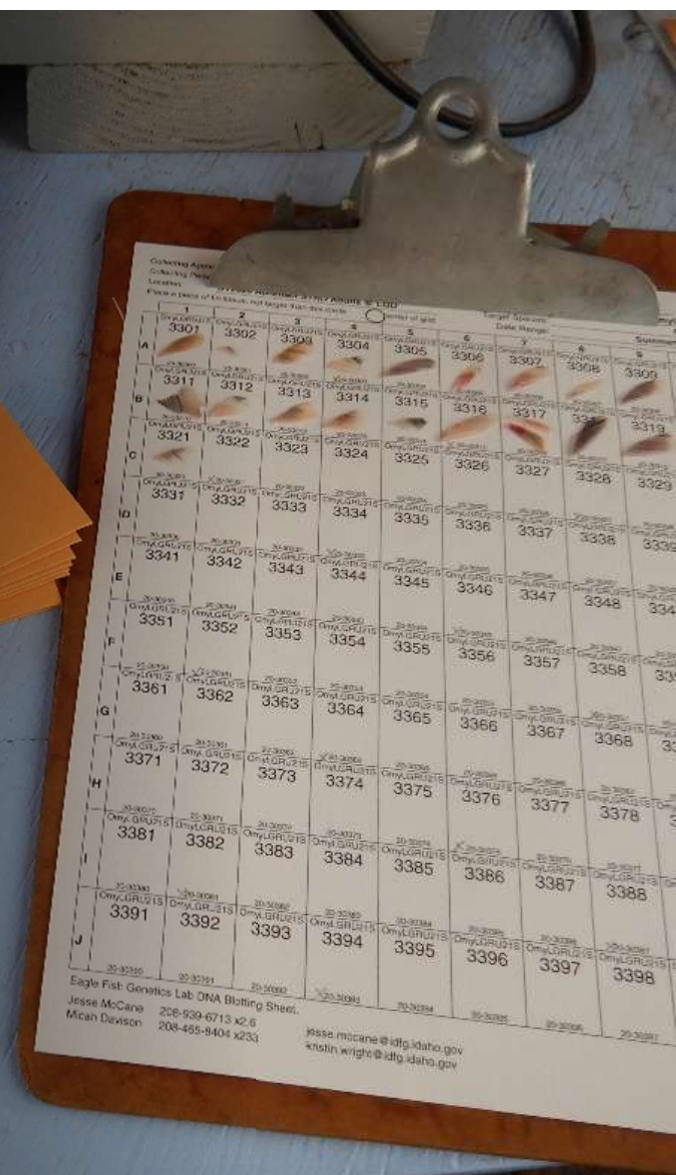
# Run Decomposition at LGD

Hatchery fish → Parentage-based tagging (PBT)

- Hatchery reared
- Brood year
- Year and site released

Wild fish → Genetic stock identification (GSI)

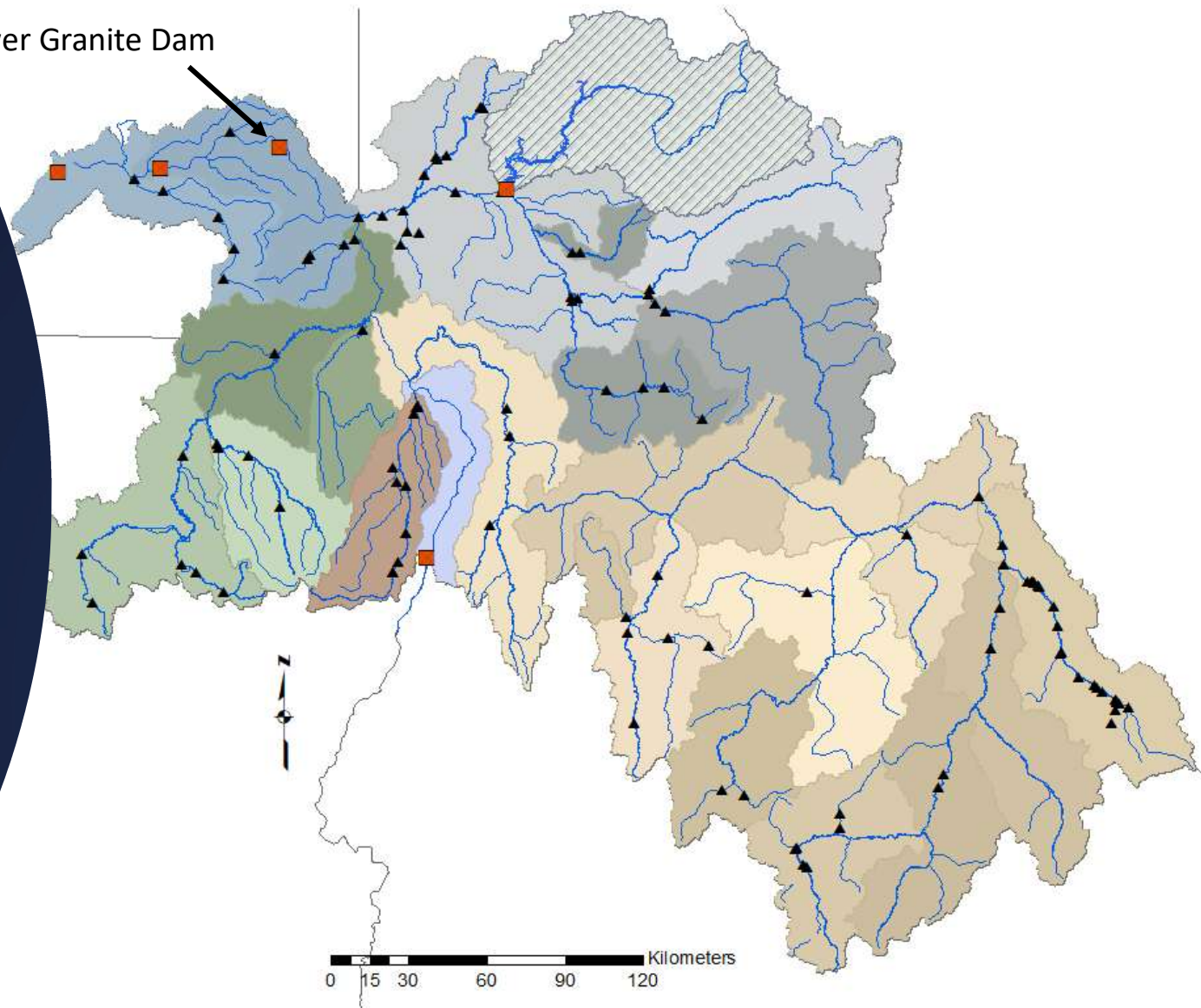
- Wild stock origin (10 Snake River stocks)



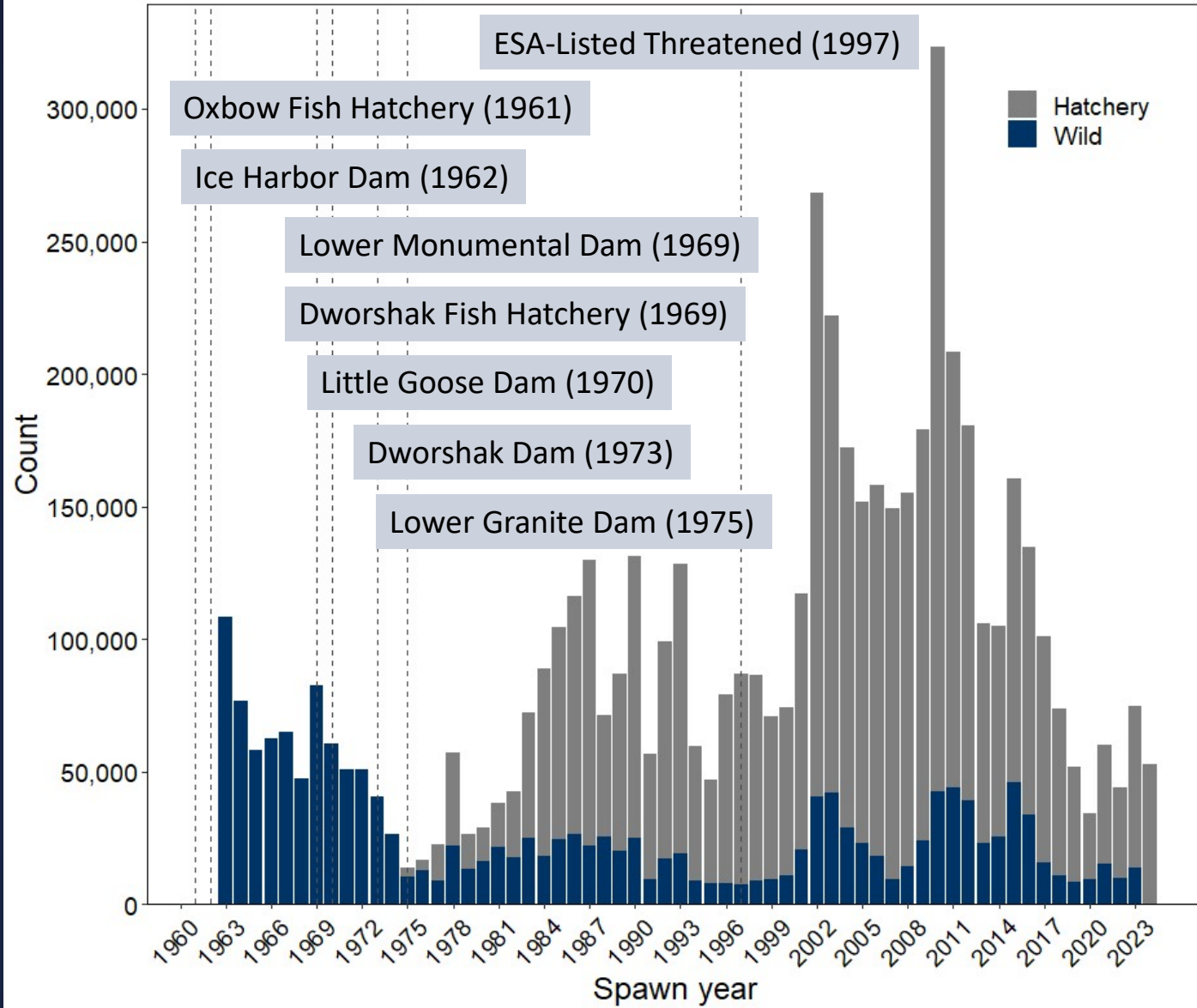
# Wild Fish Escapement to Tributaries

- Bayesian nested patch occupancy model
- Probabilistic estimates of upstream migration routes
- Abundance estimates

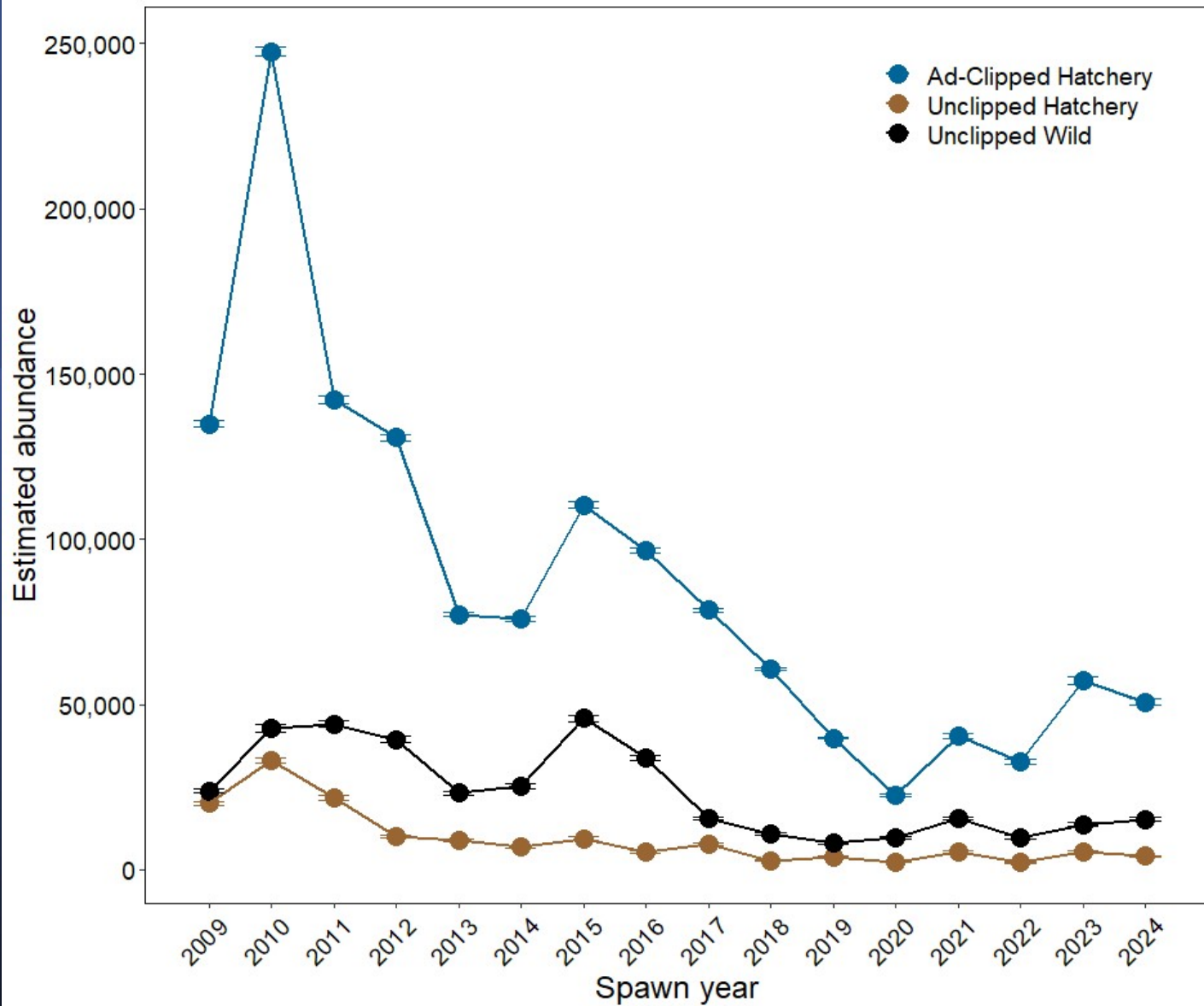
Lower Granite Dam



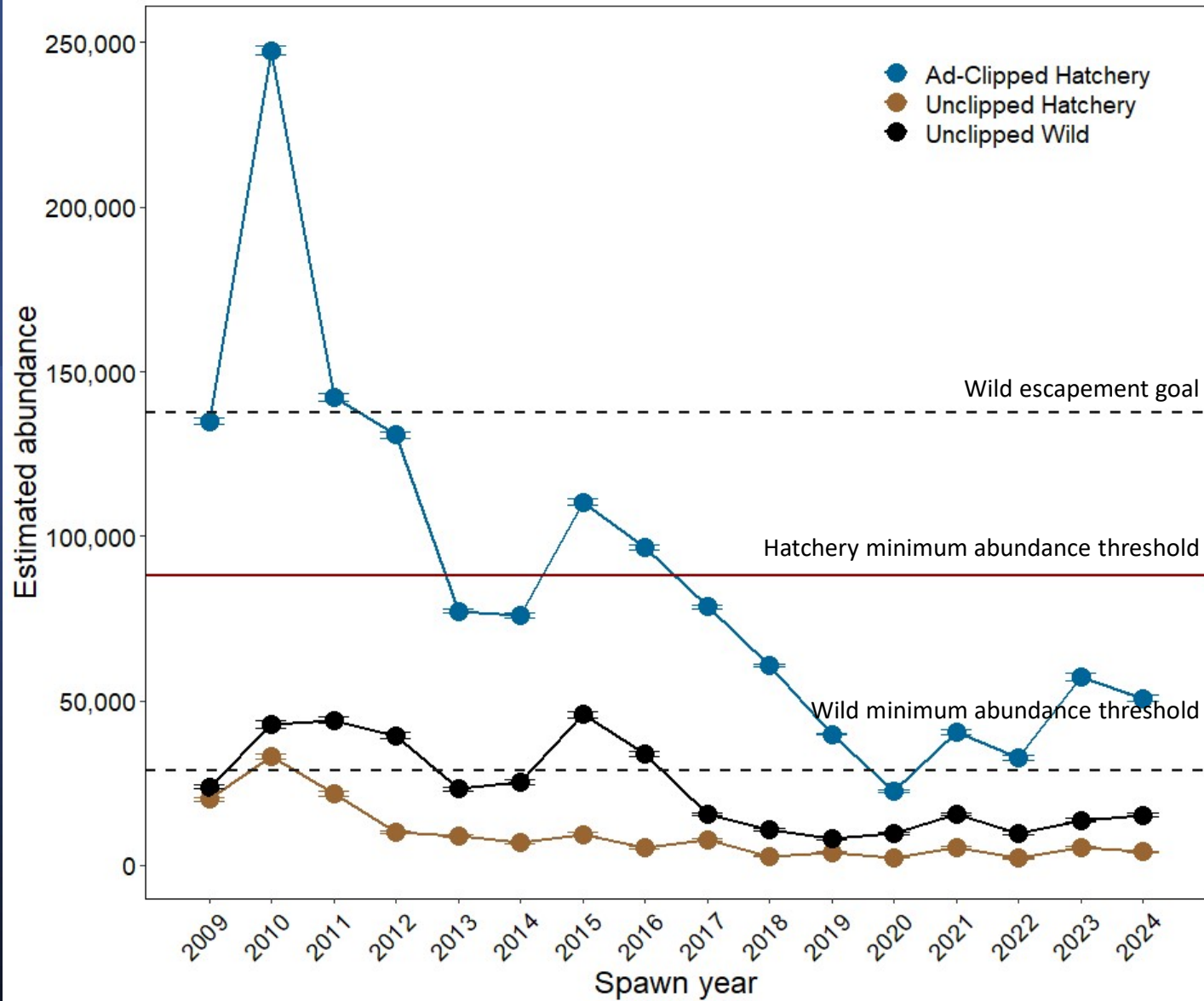
# Snake River Dam Window Counts



# Lower Granite Dam Abundance

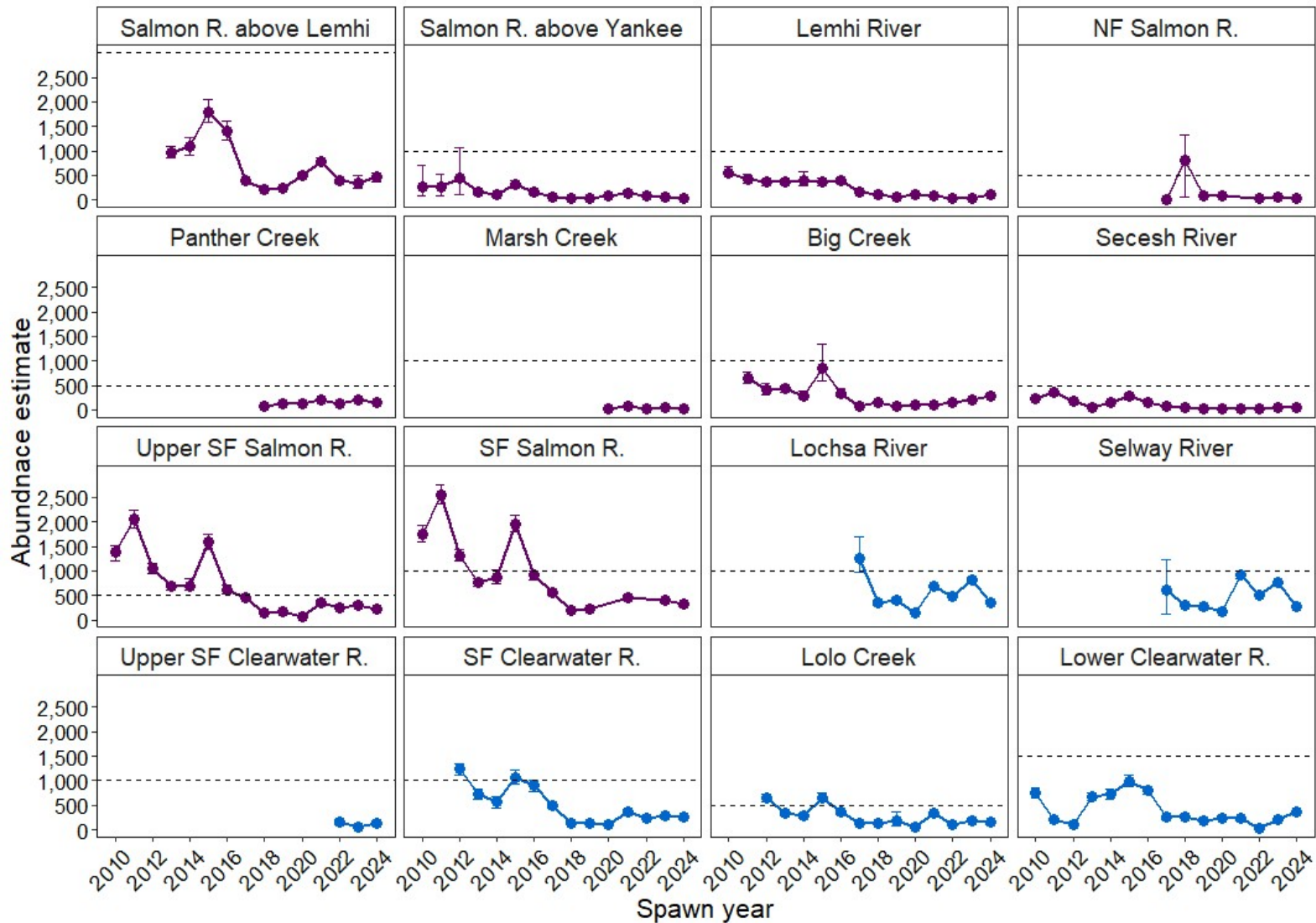


# Lower Granite Dam Abundance





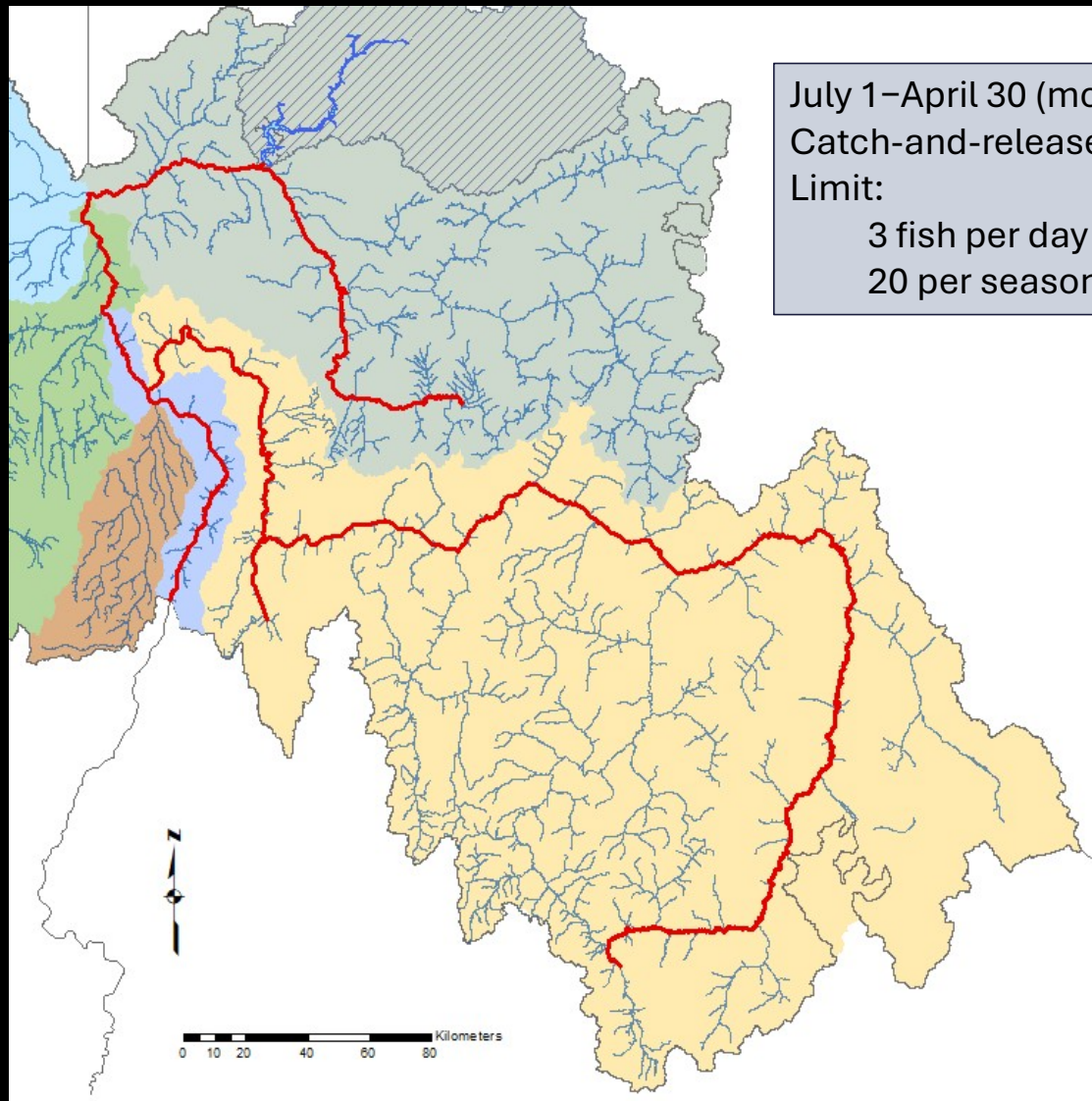
# Wild Fish Spawning Escapement



Data provided by NPT Fisheries

Clearwater River Salmon River

# Available Fisheries in Idaho



Basin	Kilometers	Miles
Clearwater River	227	141
Salmon River	659	409
Snake River	175	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>659</b>





Biggest Challenges to  
Steelhead in Idaho

# What are we doing to improve steelhead populations and fishing opportunities?

- Habitat improvements
  - In-stream rehabilitation
  - Water rights, fish screens, working with private landowners
  - Flow augmentation (Spring Valley Reservoir study)
- Understanding predator populations and dynamics
- Extensive monitoring programs
- Using the best science to guide management decisions

# Concluding Thoughts and Acknowledgments

- Steelhead are a valued and iconic species in Idaho
- Steelhead have remained below goals
- Good knowledge of Idaho steelhead populations
- Anglers and fishers have opportunities to fish and harvest steelhead
- It takes a village!

