**TITLE:** Visualizing the core of Idaho Fish & Game’s anadromous snorkel program

Alexa Ballinger
Anadromous Fisheries Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Abundance and spatial structure are key metrics for understanding the viability of Snake River steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) uses snorkel surveys to monitor the occupancy, density, and spatial distribution of Snake River Steelhead parr within and among populations. The agency's General Parr Monitoring program was established in 1985 to monitor long-term trends in parr density at “core” survey locations in Idaho’s Snake River Basin (n=216). Here we summarize mean parr densities at survey locations over time and across the landscape. In 2022, mean steelhead parr density was 3.5 fish/100 m2 (SD = 4.0) in the Clearwater River Basin and 1.9 fish/100 m2 (SD = 3.9) in the Salmon River Basin. Densities have steadily declined over the last 36 years in the Clearwater River basin, and despite transient peaks in density, the five-year mean for 2016-2022 (2.3 fish/100m2; SE = 0.4) is roughly 50% of the 1985-1990 mean (4.8 fish/100m2; SE = 1.0). Mean parr density in the Upper Selway River subbasin (2.3 fish/100m2; SE = 0.3) has generally fallen below the overall basin average, while Lochsa River subbasin density (5.9 fish/100m2; SE = 0.6) has generally been higher than the basin average. Within the Lochsa subbasin, parr density in Crooked Fork Creek (2.4 fish/100m2; SE = 0.5) is generally lower than thesubbasin average, while Fish Creek densities (12.3 fish/100m2; SE = 1.1) are generally higher than the subbasin average. Understanding the spatial and temporal variation within independent Snake River steelhead populations is necessary for making informed management decisions regarding localized spawning and rearing habitat for this declining species.