

Title: Yakima Basin Bull Trout Radio Telemetry Study

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Abstract:

The uncertainty regarding the distribution, migratory patterns, and habitat preferences of some populations of adult and sub-adult bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) in the Yakima basin constrains effective management for the species. Although much is known about the adfluvial populations, there is still a lack of information on the fluvial and resident forms. In-order to increase our knowledge of fluvial and resident bull trout populations; a radio telemetry study was started in the fall of 2003. Radio-tagged fluvial bull trout (adults and sub-adults) are already providing significant information on movement patterns, habitat preferences and over-wintering areas. As the study progresses, we intend to document and report on spring/summer movement patterns, pre- and post-spawning movements and evaluate connectivity between populations.

This presentation will include a brief overview of our current knowledge of bull trout spawning populations in the Yakima basin as well as detailed information on the current radio telemetry work. Information will include bull trout trapping/capture techniques, surgical (transmitter) implantation, genetic tissue and scale sampling, fixed and mobile tracking (ground and air), snorkel surveys, temperature monitoring, and bull trout movement patterns and habitat preferences.

For Oral PowerPoint Presentation at Bull Trout Session.