

Salmon Reintroduction Efforts in the Blocked Areas of the Upper Snake River Watershed

CRB Toxics Reduction Working Group Meeting – The Dalles, OR
October 10, 2019

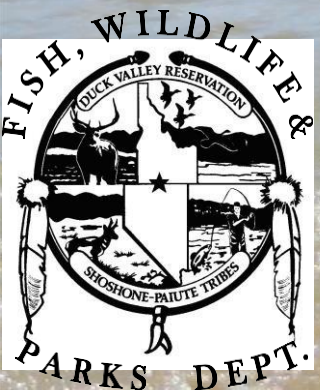


Focus of Presentation

- Ceremonial Salmon Releases of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (SPT) and Burns Paiute Tribe (BPT)
- Upper Snake River Tribes Hells Canyon Complex Fisheries Resource Management Plan
- Toxics in the Upper Snake River Watershed



**SPT Ceremonial Salmon Releases
in the East Fork Owyhee River
2015-2016 & 2019**

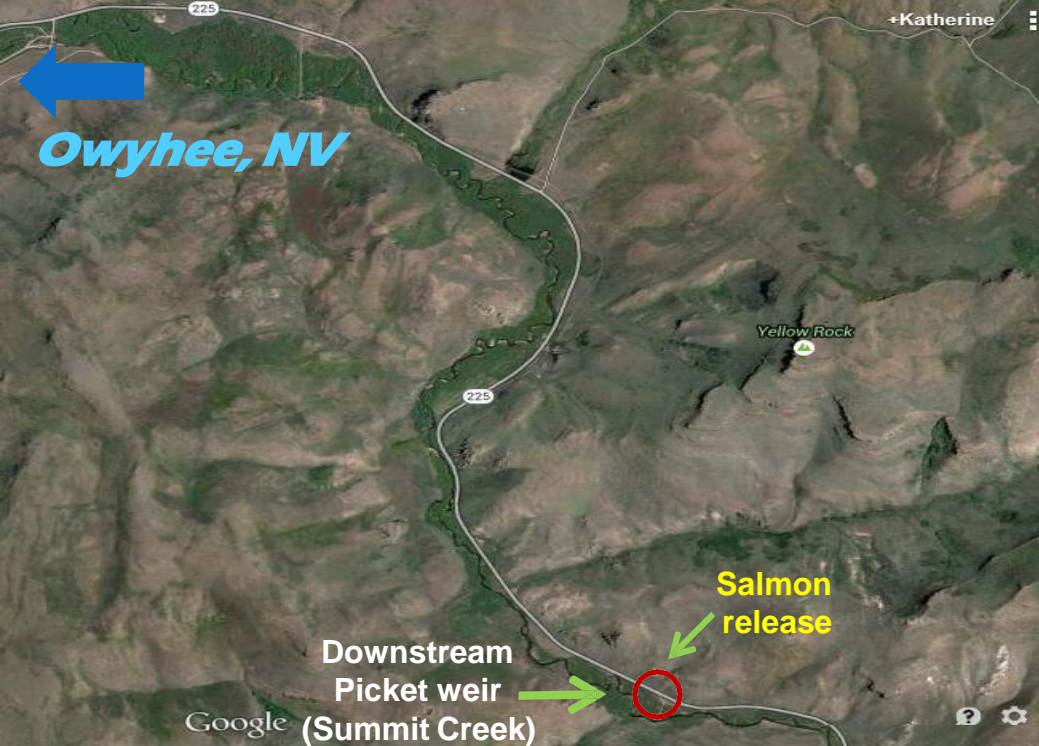


Duck Valley Indian Reservation





Release Sites



Spear-making Workshop



The Release

- First time since 1928 tribal members were able to fish at Duck Valley
- Idaho Fish & Game Dept. transported 199 adult Chinook salmon from Hells Canyon Dam
- Chinook salmon averaged 14 pounds



GUEST OPINION
Wolves demonized, with
no regard for reality
OPINIONS, D2

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
IDAHO STATE STAR
PLAYING FOR MEXICO
SPORTS, A8



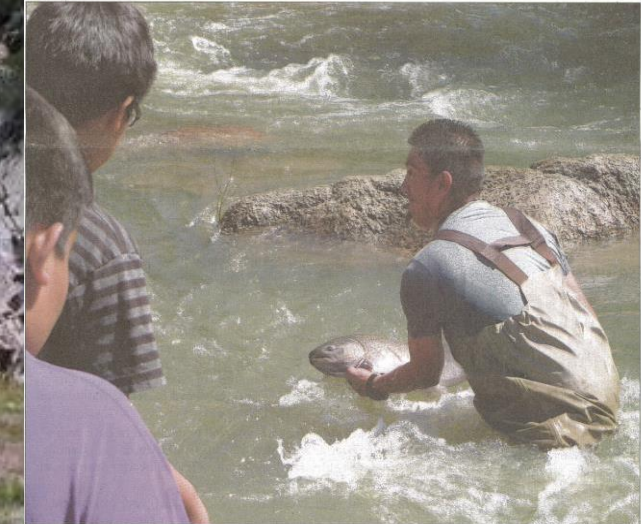
IDAHO OUTDOORS
COOL TRIP TO THE DESERT?
GET THERE BEFORE SUMMER

The Owyhee Desert, in Southwest Idaho, northern Nevada and southeastern Oregon, offers stunning scenery, fun trips, cool wildlife and neat campsites, but no matter your pleasure, don't wait much longer to go, our Roger Phillips advises. [EXPLORE, E1](#)

RETURN TO THE RIVER

SALMON SWIM IN OWYHEE AFTER 87-YEAR ABSENCE

Shoshone Paiute fishermen relearn traditions that once were part of everyday life



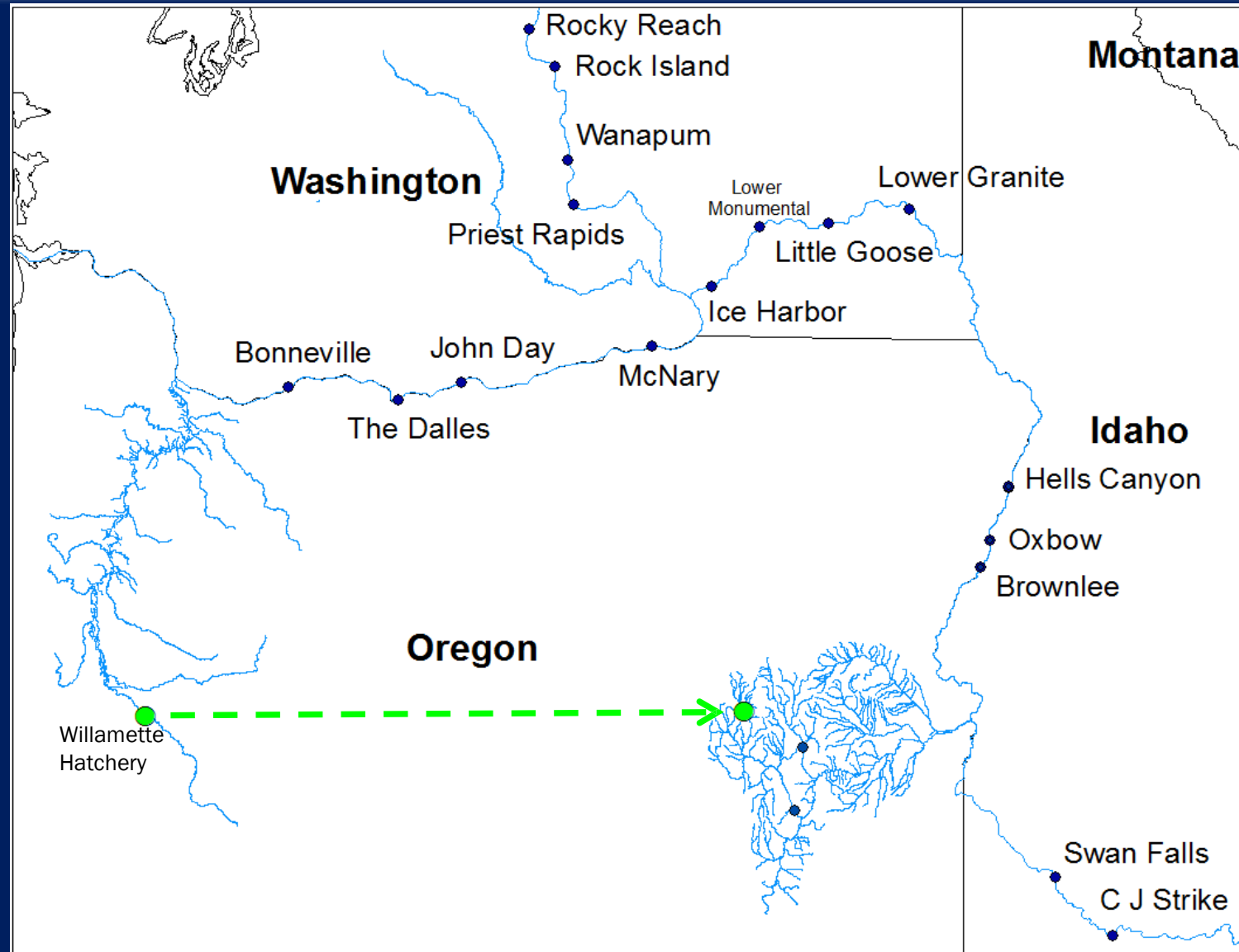
Shoshone Paiute Fisheries

For the first time since the Owyhee Dam was built in 1928, salmon were returned to the Owyhee River in Nevada by the Shoshone Paiute Tribes on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, about 130 miles south of Boise. The tribe was able to fish for salmon for both ceremonial reasons and subsistence in a historic event not seen for three generations. Above, Shoshone Paiute Fisheries staffer Josh Coons releases a chinook salmon into the Owyhee on May 28, one of 199 salmon trapped and released for the event. Rocky Barker explains what it took to bring back the fish. [DEPTH, D1](#)

BPT Ceremonial Salmon Releases in the Upper Malheur River (2016 – 2019)



Geographic Context



The Release



- 200 adults from Dexter Trap (Willamette Hatchery)
- Released May 25th and June 15th at Malheur Ford (Malheur National Forest)
- “Male only” to avoid ESA issues
- First salmon in 98 years



The Fishery



- Tribal members use traditional/contemporary methods
 - No license or tag required
 - Public or tribal lands
- BPT and public regulated separately
- BPT conducted monitoring of harvest and fish distribution
- Open areas/dates



Fishery Jointly Regulated By BPT and ODFW





USRT Fisheries Resource Management Plan

- Developed in Response to the Hells Canyon Complex Relicensing Process
- The Plan is Multi-phased and Full Implementation Likely 30 – 50 Years
- Three Goals Identified in the Plan:
 - Goal 1 – Ceremonial Fishery
 - Goal 2 – Sustainable/Harvestable Populations of Spring/Summer Chinook and Steelhead
 - Goal 3 – Sustainable/Harvestable Population of Fall Chinook
- Target Waterbodies Include: Boise, Bruneau/Jarbridge, Malheur, Owyhee, Payette, Snake, and Weiser Rivers
- Major Challenges to Implementation:
 - Idaho
 - Dams Without a Means of Fish Passage
 - Fish Availability and Current Allocation Calculations
 - Water Quality Impairments and Unsuitable Habitat



Toxics in the Upper Snake River Basin

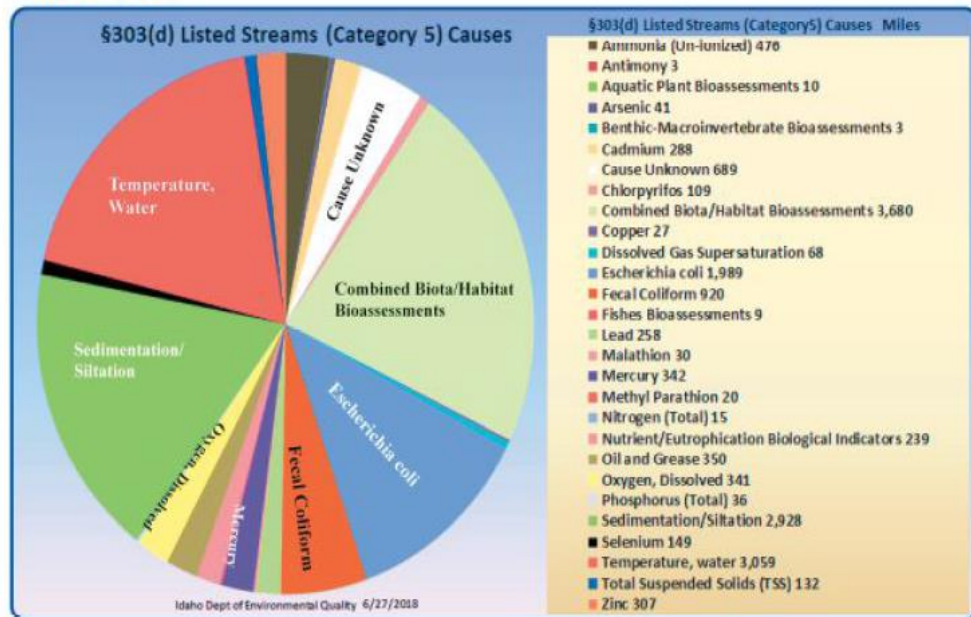




Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

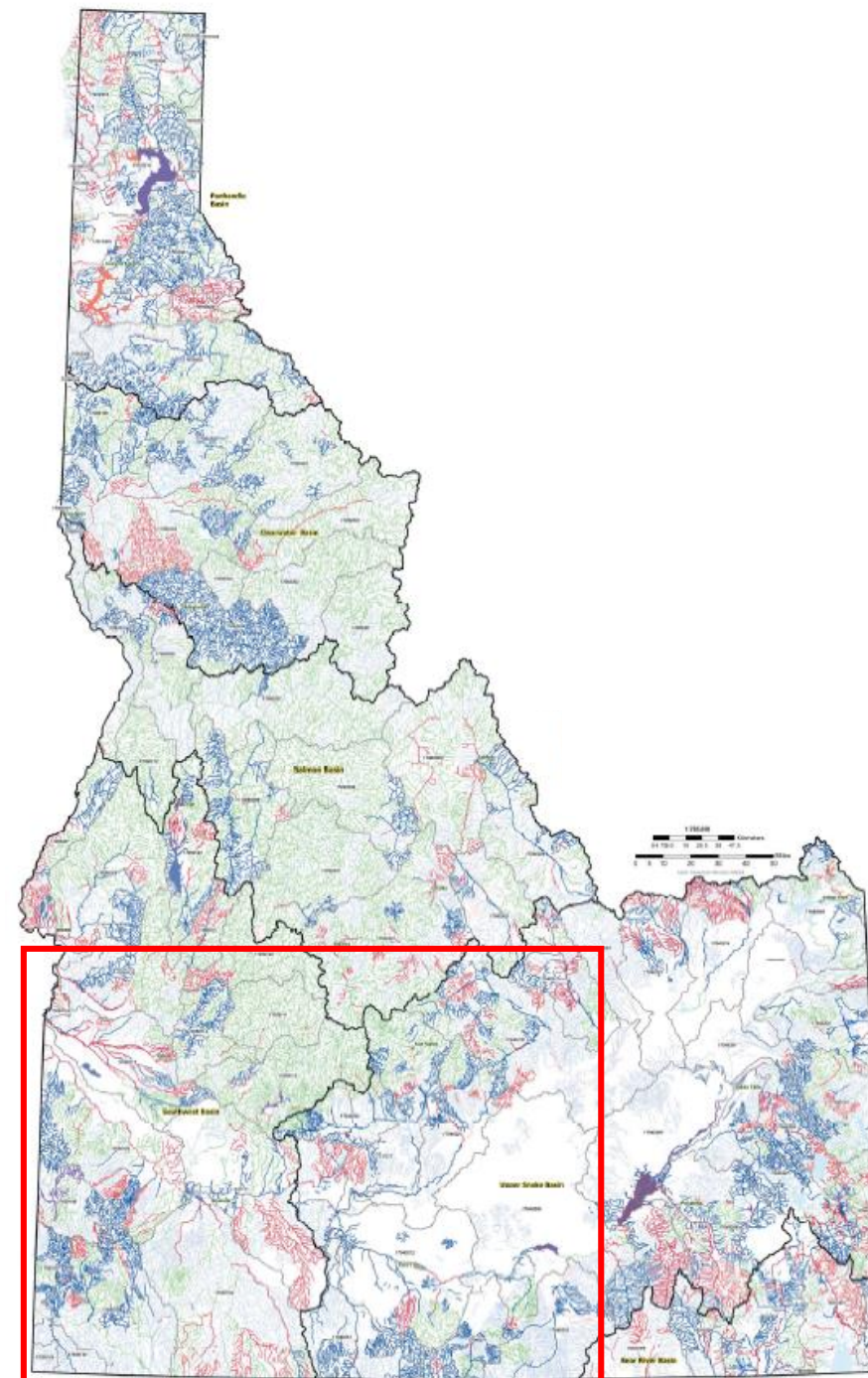
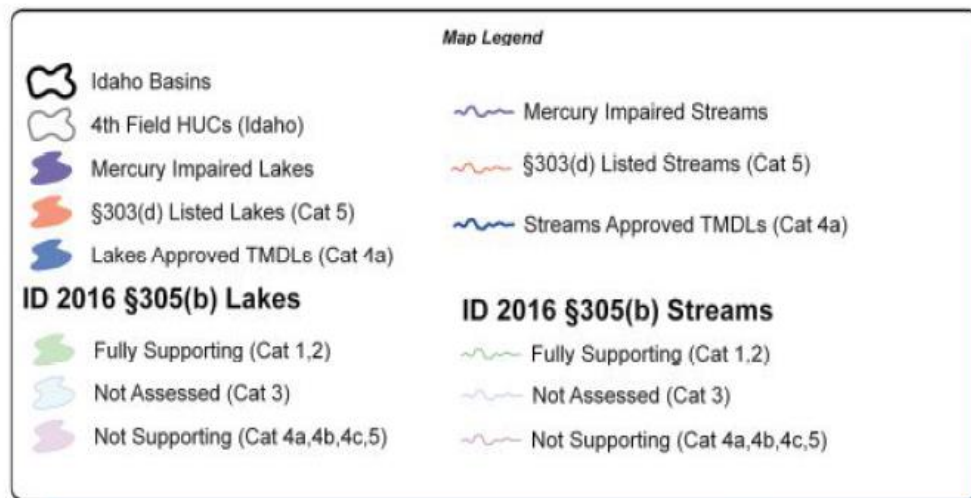
2016 Integrated Report

Rivers-Streams



Rivers-Streams

SUPPORT STATUS	MILES
Fully Supporting	31,398
Not Assessed	29,534
Not Supporting	34,404



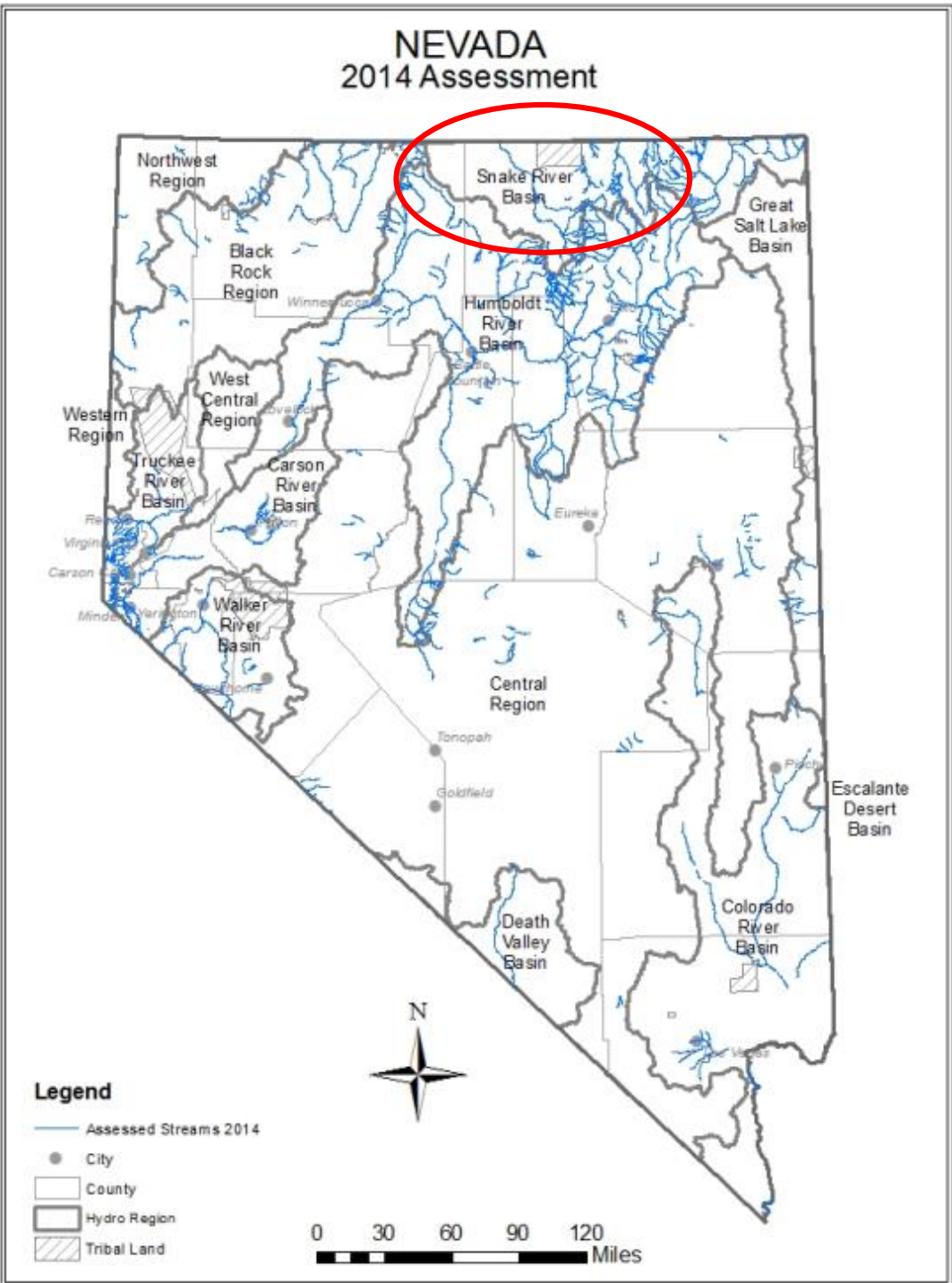
Of the 660 waterbody segments assessed for the Nevada 2014 Integrated Report, 207 segments were determined to be Category 5, also known as the 303(d) List.

Summary of Category 5 waters

Waterbody Type	Total Length/Area Evaluated	Total Length/Area in Cat. 5
Streams	6,490.2 miles	2,567.1 miles
Lakes and Reservoirs	228,461 acres	82,560 acres
Wetlands	56,493 acres	47,195 acres

Causes of Impairment in the Snake River Basin

- Iron
- pH
- Temperature
- Sulfates
- Total Dissolved Solids
- Escherichia coli
- Cadmium
- Copper
- Turbidity
- Zinc
- Mercury
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
- Manganese
- Nickel
- Phosphorus
- Selenium
- Arsenic
- Oxygen, Dissolved

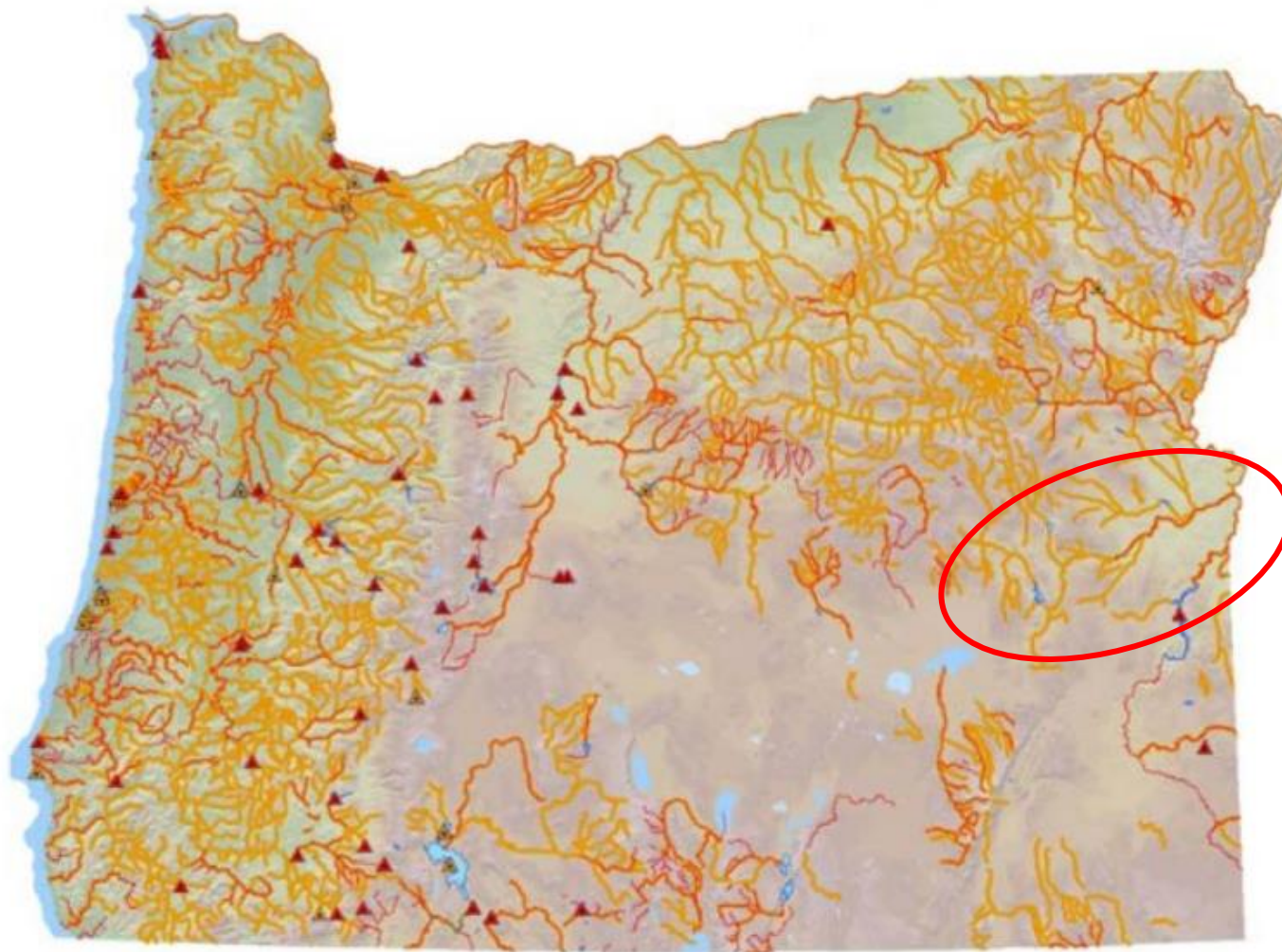


Malheur (Upper and Lower)

Pollutants:

- Chlorophyll a
- DDT 4
- Dieldrin
- E. Coli
- Fecal Coliform
- Flow Modification
- Habitat Modification
- Iron
- pH
- Nutrients
- Sedimentation
- Temperature
- Toxics
- Turbidity
- Alkalinity
- Ammonia
- Biological Criteria
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Arsenic
- Cadmium
- Chromium
- Copper
- Lead
- Nickel
- Phosphate Phosphorus
- Silver
- Zinc

Surface Water Quality



Impaired – 303(d) list, TMDL needed
(for one or more pollutants)

Streams Lakes

Impaired – 303(d) list, TMDL approved

(for one or more pollutants, or impaired by non-pollutants)

Streams Lakes

From Report:
*Oregon's 2017
Integrated Water
Resource
Strategy*

“More than 1,530 water bodies are impaired and not meeting water quality standards, including more than 70 lakes and reservoirs, and about 24,500 stream miles. “