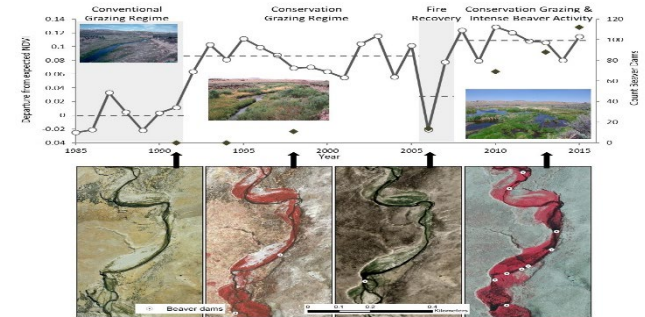




## Using Science to Advance Our Conservation Mission

Helen Neville, [helen.neville@tu.org](mailto:helen.neville@tu.org)

# TU: 360+ Gov't Affairs, Conservation, and Science+ staff



# Vol Opps staff & Grassroots lend considerable capacity/expertise!



Nooksak River, OR, eDNA sampling



"TU is a science-driven organization"

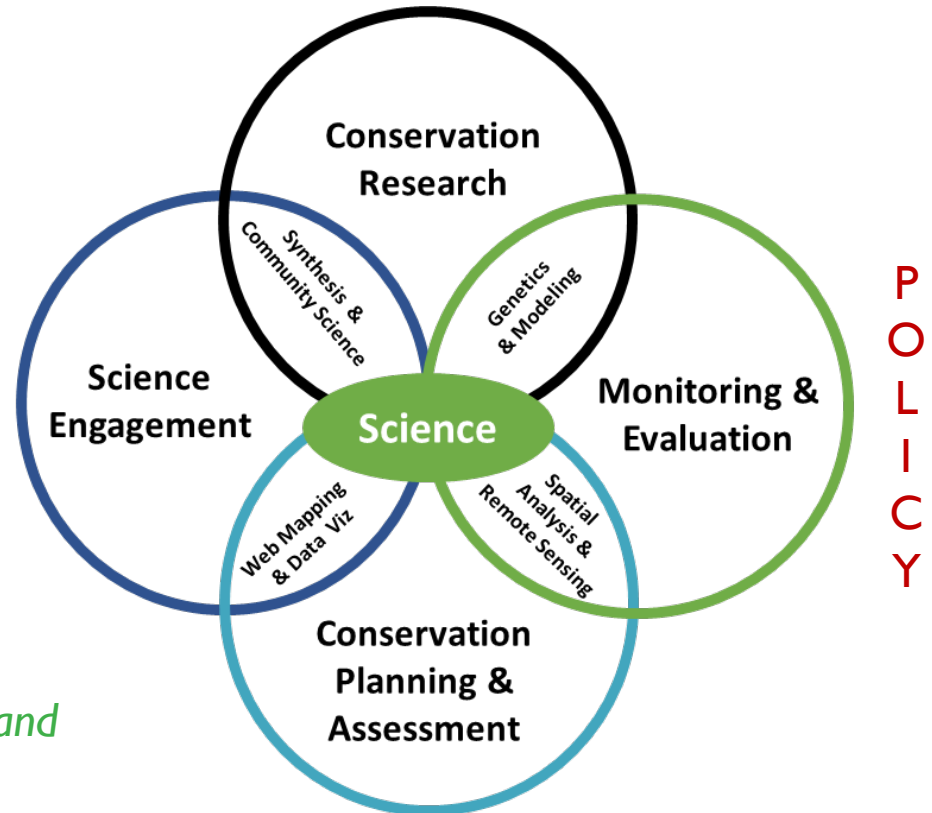
Chris Wood, *CEO/President*

# TU National Science, what we do:

- Conservation Planning and Assessment
  - Monitoring & Evaluation
  - Conservation Research
  - Science Engagement
- +specialized skills within each*

*Guidance, assessment, synthesis and tool-development within TU;*

*Research with various external agency, university and NGO partners*



# TU Science Vision:



We believe TU's conservation impact is maximized when we are all inspired by the natural aquatic world and when our conservation objectives, practices, and policies are enabled and guided by the best available science. TU Science provides the framework for this practice.

# TU National Science: Who we are



**Helen Neville, PhD**  
Senior Scientist



**Dan Dauwalter, PhD**  
Fisheries Science Director



**Brian Hodge, MS**  
Fisheries Scientist



**Louis Jochems, PhD**  
GIScience Director

**Matt Mayfield**  
Senior GIS Analyst



**Bryce Larson**  
GIS Analyst



**Haley Ohms, PhD**  
Salmon Biologist



**Gary Marston, MS**  
Steelhead Science Advisor

**Sabrina Beus**  
Assoc Project Manager



**Jason Barnes**  
Lahontan Biologist

**Emma Lundberg, PhD**  
Aquatic Resiliency  
Scientist



**Jordan Fields, PhD**  
Aquatic Resiliency  
Scientist

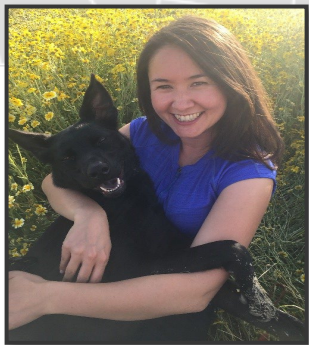
# State/region-based science staff



**Rene Henery , PhD**  
California Science Director



**Natalie Stauffer-Olsen, PhD**  
California Staff Scientist



**Mia Van Docto, MS**  
California Hydrologist  
(+ Conservation Hydrology Program)



**Jake Lemon**  
Monitoring and Community Science  
Manager



**Shawn Rummel , PhD**  
Northeast Coldwater Habitat Program  
Science Advisor

# Science Liaisons

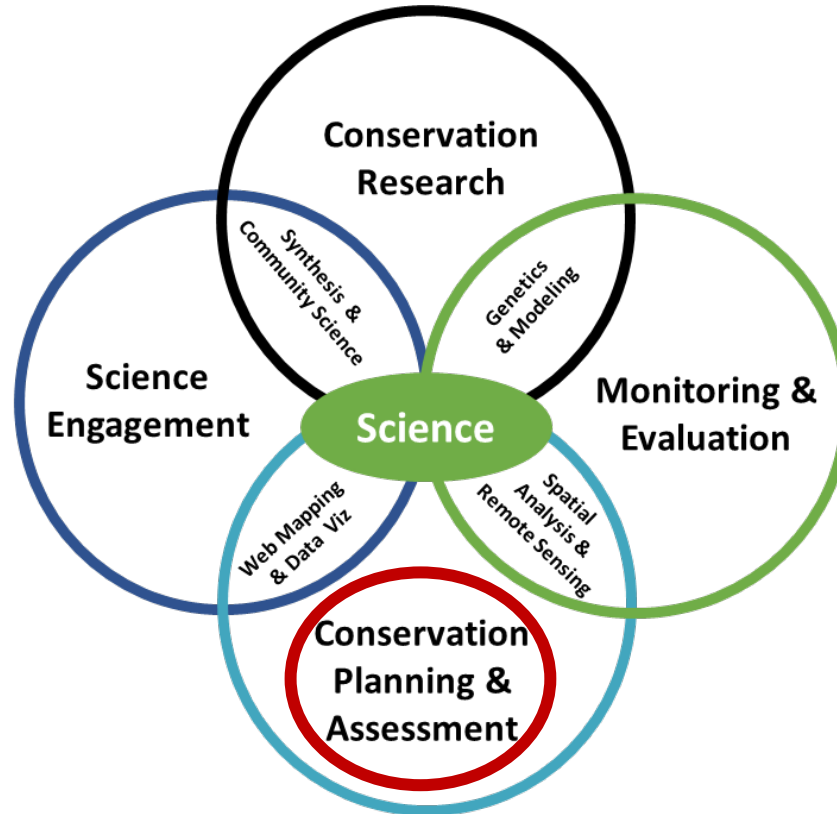


- Shawn Rummel
- Jake Lemon
- Mia Van Docto
- Christine Brissette
- Jim DeRito
- Mark Hieronymus
- Tasha Sorensen
- Jason Willis
- Kevin Terry
- Tommy Cianciolo
- Leslie Steen

*Help interconnect Science & Programs*



# Conservation Planning and Assessment



# Conservation Planning & Assessment:



## Conservation Success Index



## Portfolios for inland trout



### North American Journal of Fisheries Management

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ujfm20>

### Spreading the Risk: Native Trout Management in a Warmer and Less-Certain Future

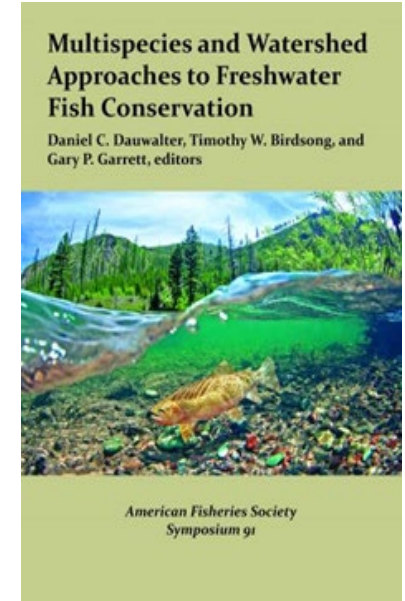
Amy L. Haak<sup>a</sup> & Jack E. Williams<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Trout Unlimited, 910 Main Street, Suite 342, Boise, Idaho, 83702, USA

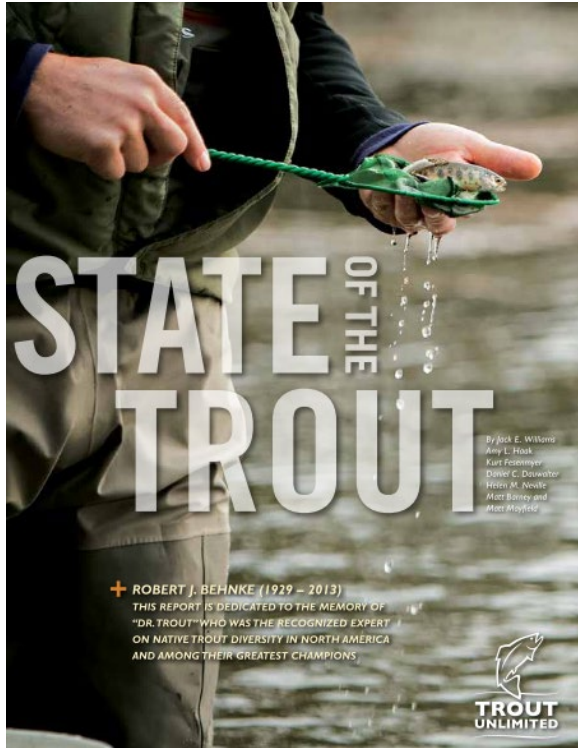
*Ecological, genetic and life history attributes:*

**“3 R’s”:**

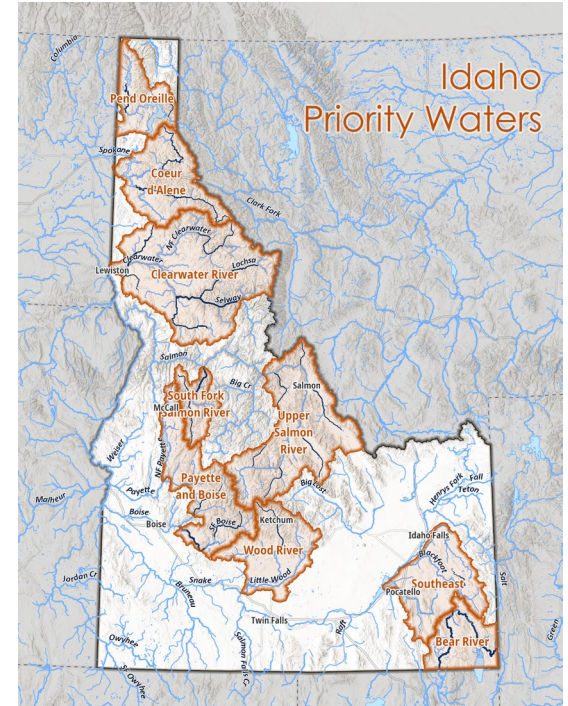
Representation  
Resilience  
Redundancy



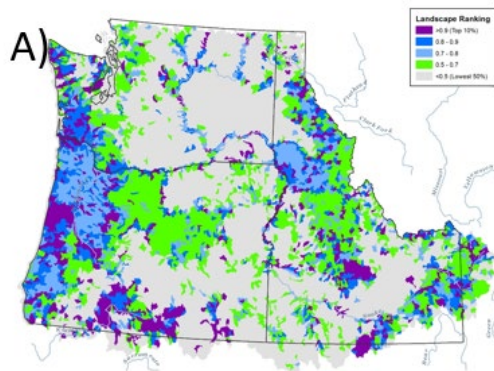
# Conservation Planning & Assessment:



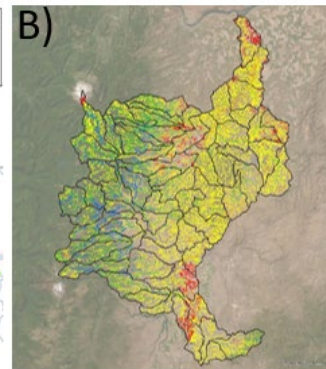
Region	Trotal Taxa	Climate Change	Ecology	Non-native Species	Water Treatment	Percent of Watersheds with Impaired Management
Pacific Coast	Central Cutthroat Trout					100
	Central Rainbow Trout					100
	Bull Trout					100
	Dolly Varden					10 - 25
	Columbia River Redband Trout*					14
Central Valley and Sierra Nevada	Klamath Redhead Trout					100
	Sacramento Redhead Trout					22
	East Lake Rainbow Trout					18
	California Golden Trout					49
	Little Kern Golden Trout					100
Interior Columbia Basin—Northern Rockies	Kern River Rainbow Trout					15
	Bull Trout*	EXTINCT WITHIN THIS REGION				
Interior Basins	Humboldt Cutthroat Trout					42
	Nehalem Cutthroat Trout					41
	Bull Trout					100
	Columbia River Redband Trout*					14
Colorado Plateau—Southern Rockies	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout					1
	Hatchery Cutthroat Trout					16
	Bonanza Cutthroat Trout					35
	Poudre Cutthroat Trout					0
	Armed Cutthroat Trout	EXTINCT				
Southwest	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout					11
	Nehalem Cutthroat Trout	EXTINCT				1
	Nahcotta Cutthroat Trout	EXTINCT				
Great Lakes—Upper Mississippi	Brook Trout*					10
	Lake Trout*					25
	Cala Trout					5
Mid-Atlantic	Brook Trout*					10
	Brook Trout*					25
	Albion Trout					5
Northeast	Brook Trout*					10
	Brook Trout*					25
	Silver Trout					5
Southeast	Brook Trout*					10
	Brook Trout*					25
	Brook Trout*					5



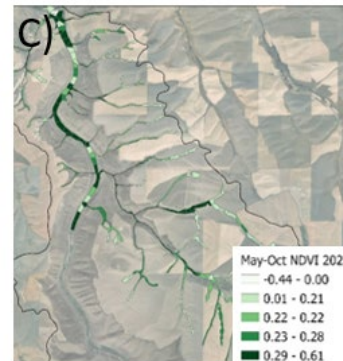
## Decision support tools for BLM and TU to identify process-based restoration opportunities



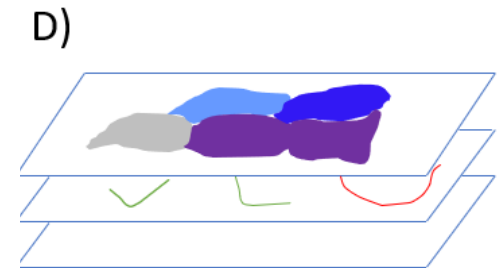
Native Fish Assessment



Beaver Capacity



Riparian Vegetation  
Status and Trend (NDVI)



Filterable datasets in a  
decision support tool

# Conservation Planning & Assessment



### BLM Eastern Oregon & Washington Restoration Decision Support Tool

#### Filter Subwatersheds

- Oregon Only
- Washington Only
- District Office
- Field Office
- Conservation Rank
  - Conservation Rank is at least   
(Range: 0.00 - 1.00)
- NDVI 2022
  - and   
(Range: 0.00 - 1.00)
- NDVI Trend (2020-2022)
  - NDVI Trend is

#### Multispecies Assessment ID OR WA

Relationship

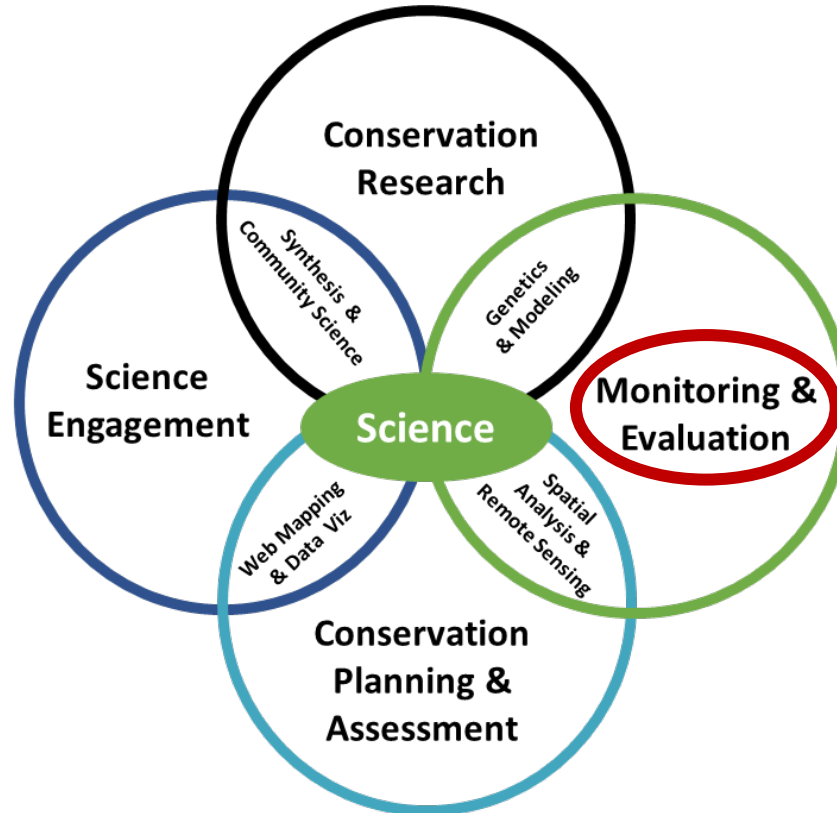
- ↖ Conservation Rank - State
- ↗ Predicted mean beaver dam capacity (per km)

Kilometers

Beaver Dam Capacity	Kilometers
1. Rare	~100,000
2. Occasional	~350,000
3. Frequent	~80,000
4. Persistent	~20,000

Esri, USGS | Oregon State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA  
Powered by Esri

**Multispecies Assessment Scaling:**





## RESTORATION MONITORING

A Get-Started Guide

*Internal resource*

Dan Dauwalter, Brian Hodge,  
Jim DeRito, Shawn Rummel,  
Helen Neville  
Trout Unlimited, Arlington, Virginia



## Apache Trout Monitoring Plan

2017



Credit: AZGFD

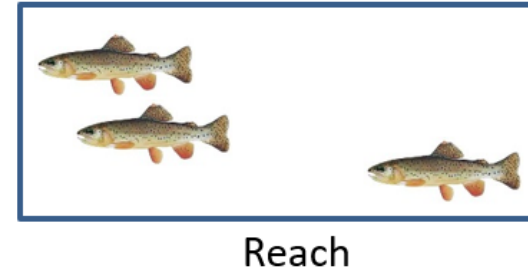
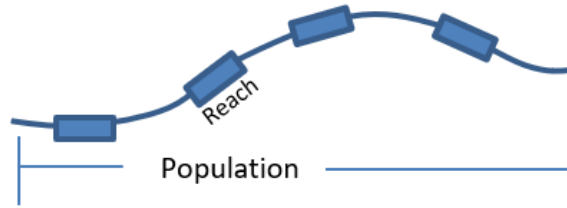
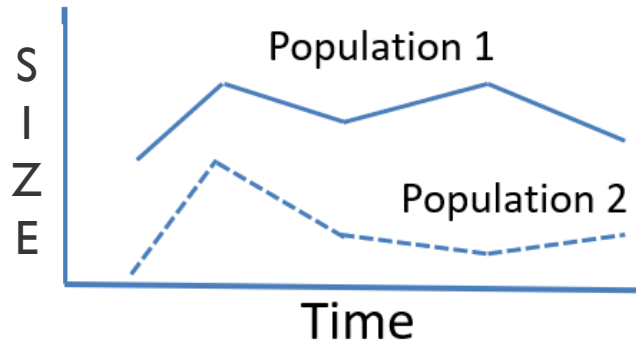
Apache Trout populations are influenced by both short-term, stochastic events such as wildfire and long-term non-native species and land use impacts. Because of the need to determine the status of individual populations after stochastic events as well as assessing long-term changes periodically over time, the goals and objectives outlined in this plan are based on accurately and precisely estimating the status of Apache Trout populations on a 5-year interval.

A monitoring plan for small and isolated trout populations

*External resource*

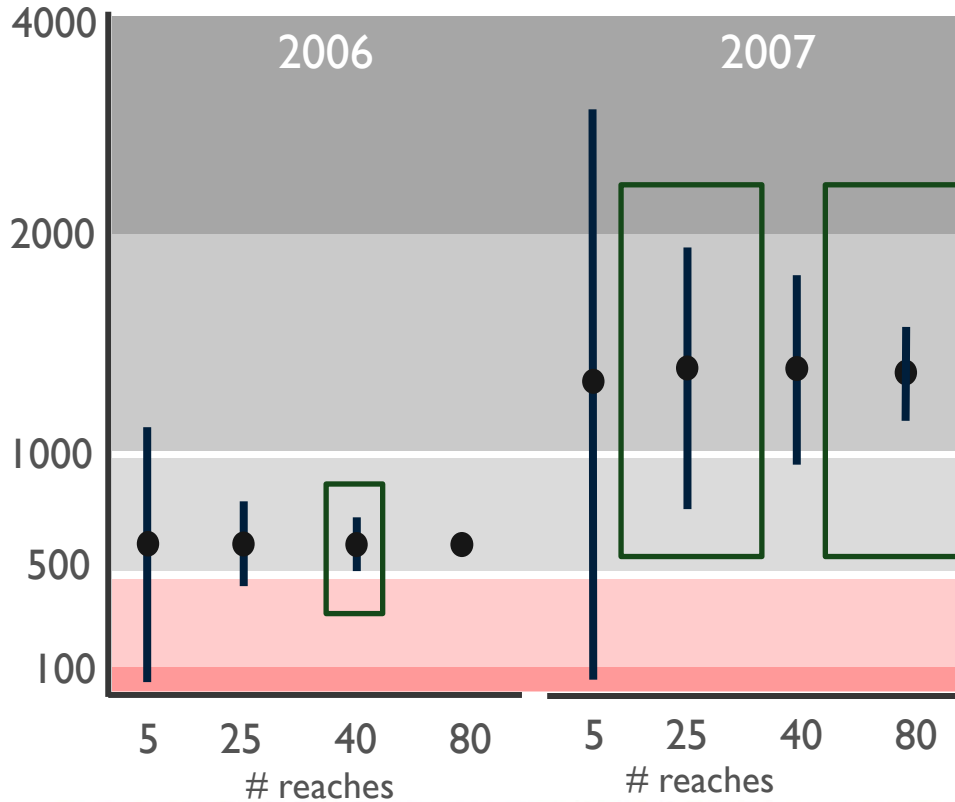
# Measuring population sizes is not so easy

*Differences in population size and dynamics, habitat characteristics, and sampling details influence ability to estimate accurately*

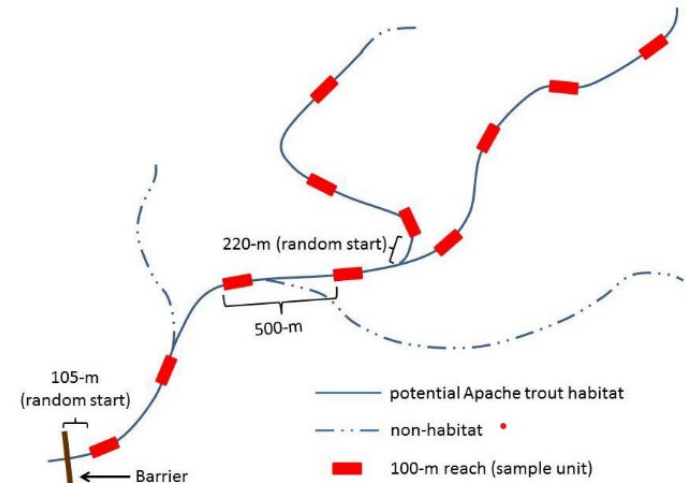




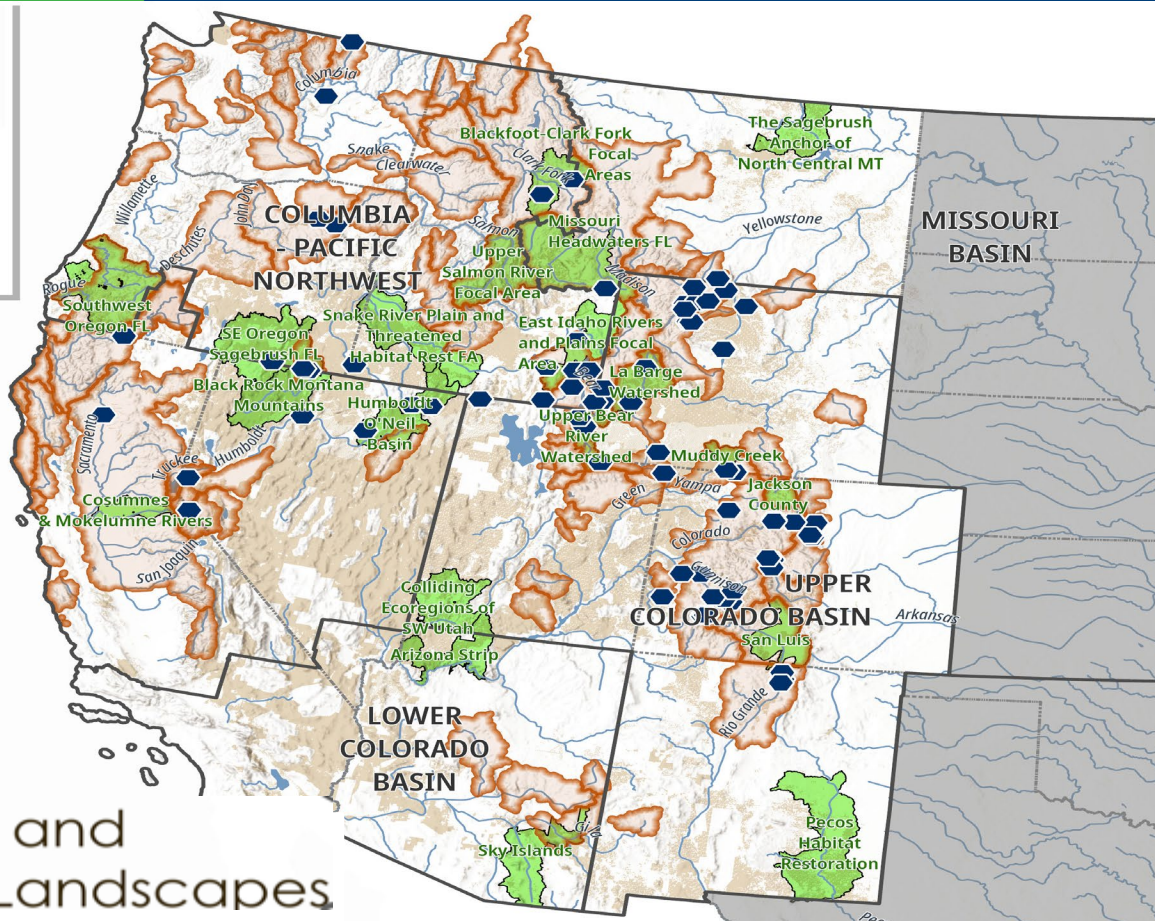
# Lots of science behind this!



*Need to consider in sampling design: Apache, and LCT*



# Monitoring and Evaluation – INFRASTRUCTURE \$\$\$



- TU Proposed Projects
- TU Priority Waters
- BLM Restoration Landscapes
- BLM Lands

TU Priority Waters and BLM Restoration Landscapes

# How do we measure and communicate the outcomes of our work?



North Fork Tincup Creek, ID



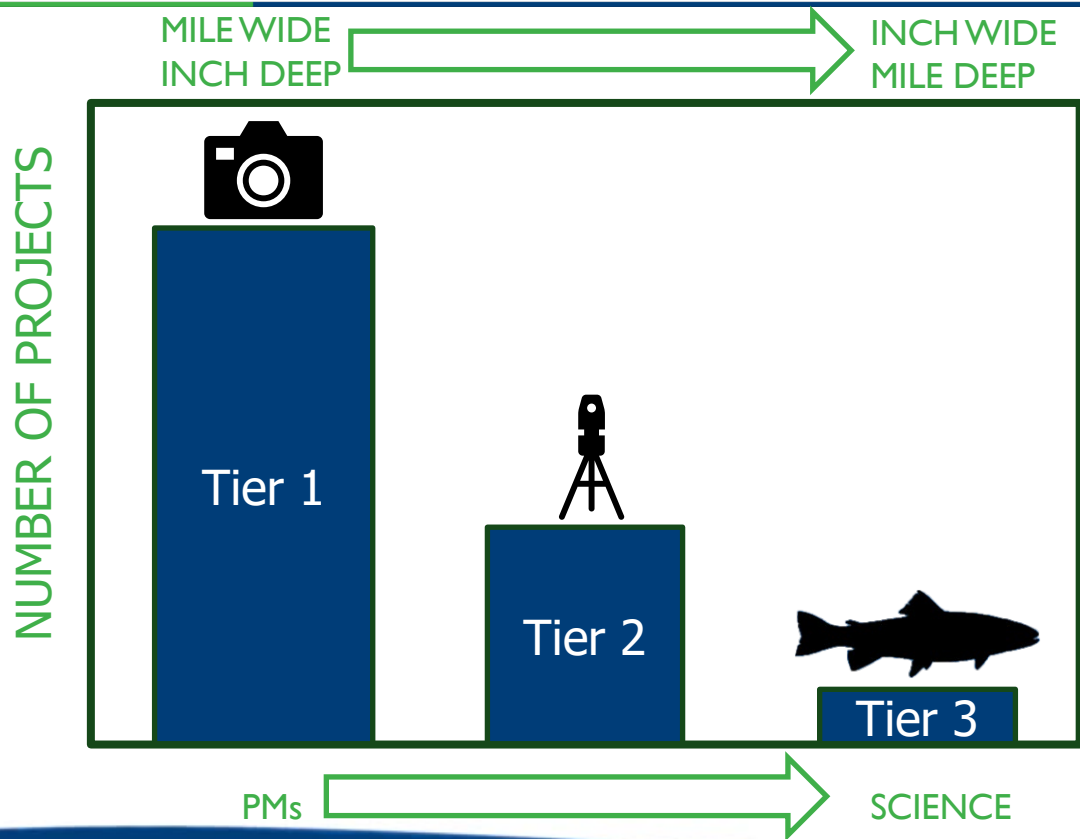
Klamath Basin, OR



# Process-Based Restoration Monitoring Handbook



# PBR monitoring framework



# Remote sensing for measuring impacts at scale

FEATURE

## Satellite and Airborne Remote Sensing Applications for Freshwater Fisheries

Daniel C. Dauwalter | Trout Unlimited, 910 Main Street, Suite 342, Boise, ID 83702. E-mail: ddauwalter@tu.org

Kurt A. Fesenmyer and Robin Bjork | Trout Unlimited, Boise, ID

Douglas R. Leasure and Seth J. Wenger | River Basin Center and Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA



NASA

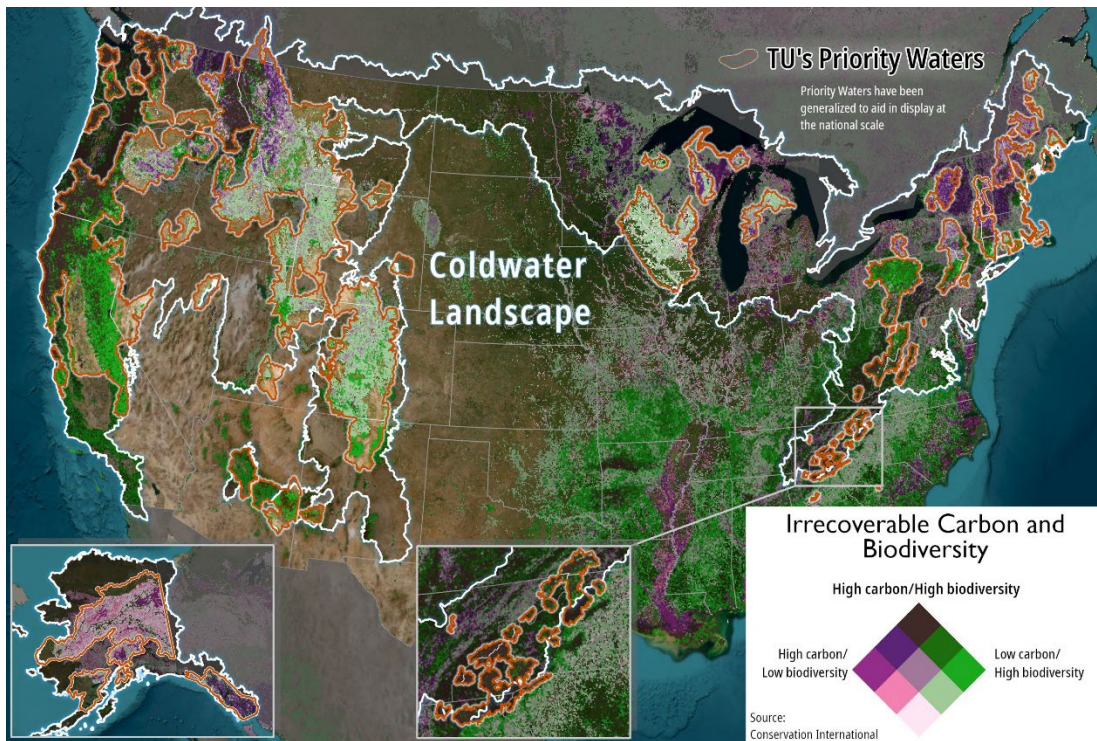


Photo credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center



Figure 4. Densitization of beaver ponds (yellow) from satellite imagery in Birch Creek, southeastern Idaho.

# Deepening Science of Nature-Based Solutions



**Emma Lundberg, PhD**  
Aquatic Resiliency Scientist



*Fisheries, PBR/beaver  
Human dimensions*

**Jordan Fields, PhD**  
Aquatic Resiliency Scientist



*Fluvial Geomorphology,  
Hydrology, Carbon  
Dynamics*



# Tools to estimate carbon benefits of your work

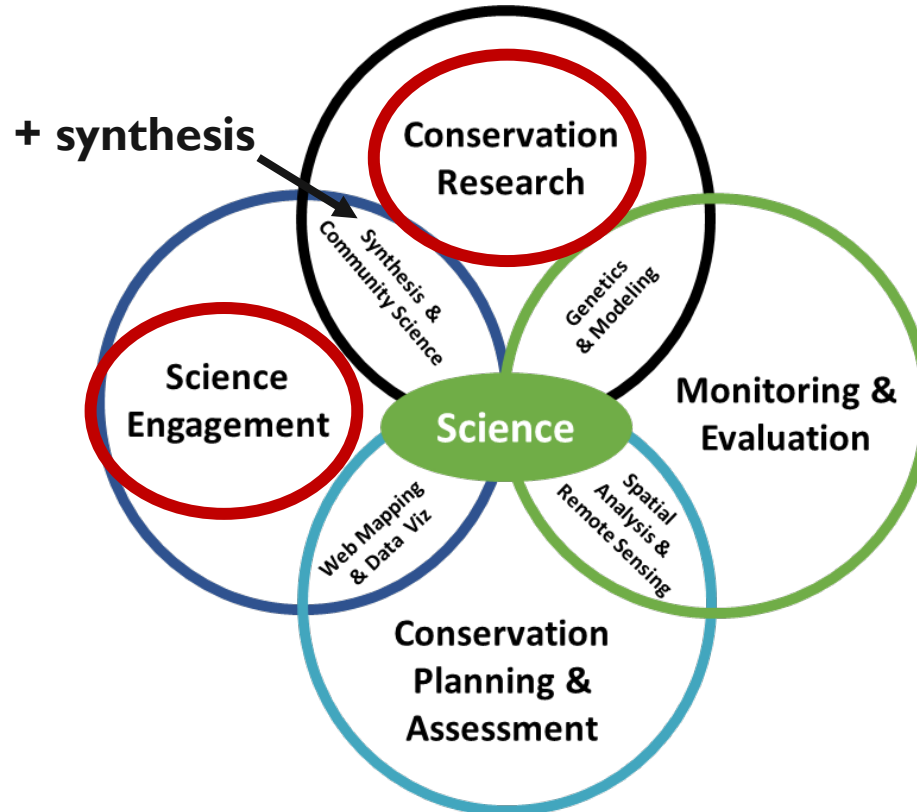


## **PLANT FOR OUR FUTURE**

**HOSTING TREE PLANTINGS TO RESTORE STREAMS,  
BUILD COMMUNITIES AND SEQUESTER CARBON  
DIOXIDE TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE**



# Science Engagement & Conservation Research



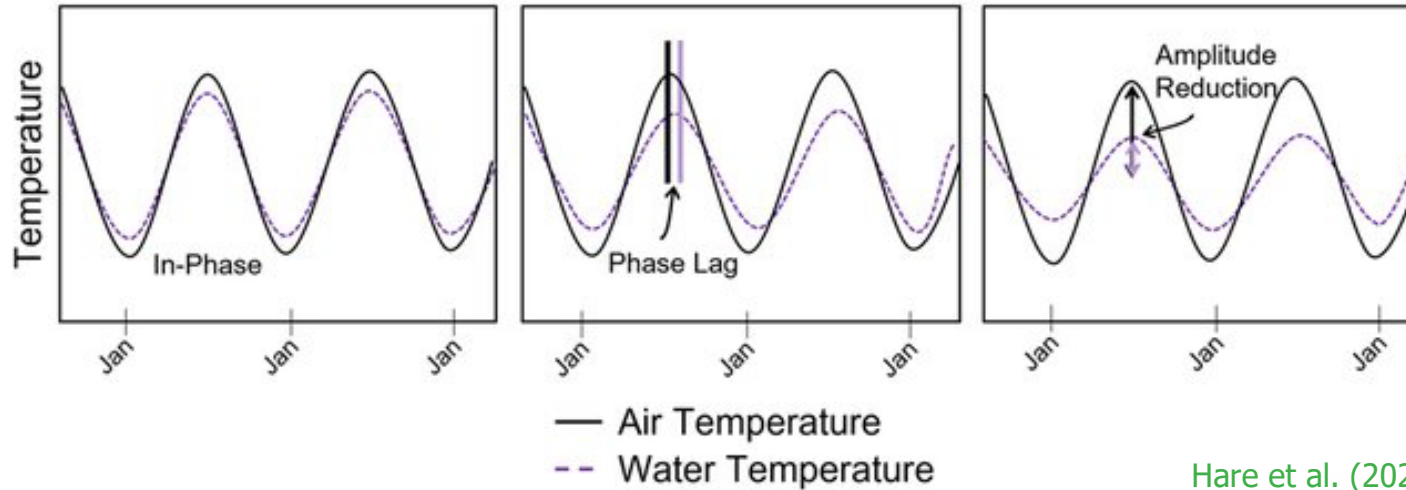
# Patterns of Air vs Water temp can provide insight on GW



Air-Coupled  
Signal

Shallow GW Influenced  
Signal

Deep GW Influenced  
Signal



Hare et al. (2023)

ARTICLE

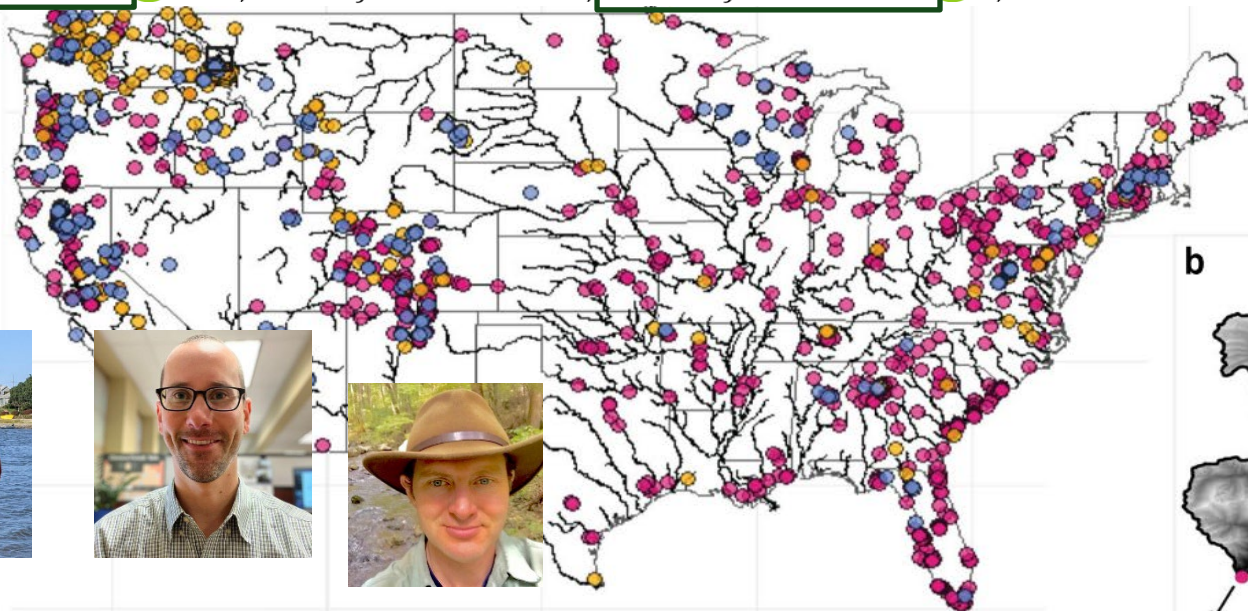
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-21651-0>

OPEN

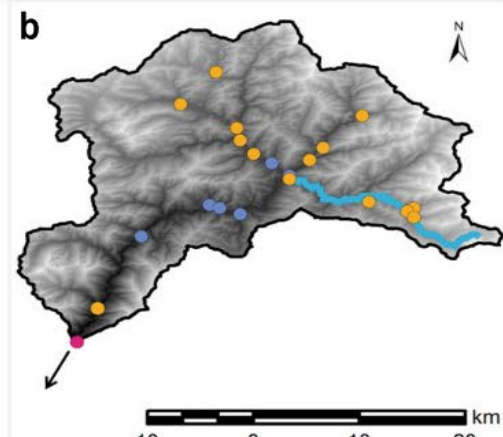
Check for updates

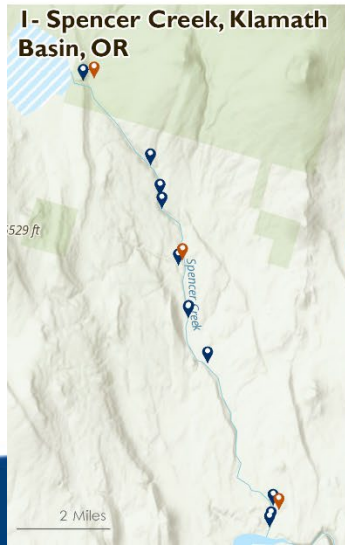
# Continental-scale analysis of shallow and deep groundwater contributions to streams

Danielle K. Hare<sup>1,2</sup>, Ashley M. Helton<sup>1,3</sup>, Zachary C. Johnson<sup>4</sup>, John W. Lane<sup>5</sup> & Martin A. Briggs<sup>5</sup>

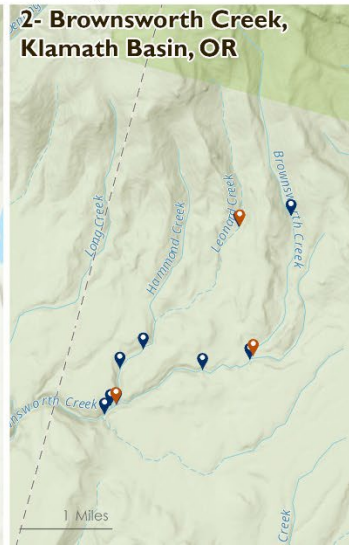


- Atmospheric Signature
- Shallow GW Signature
- Deep GW Signature



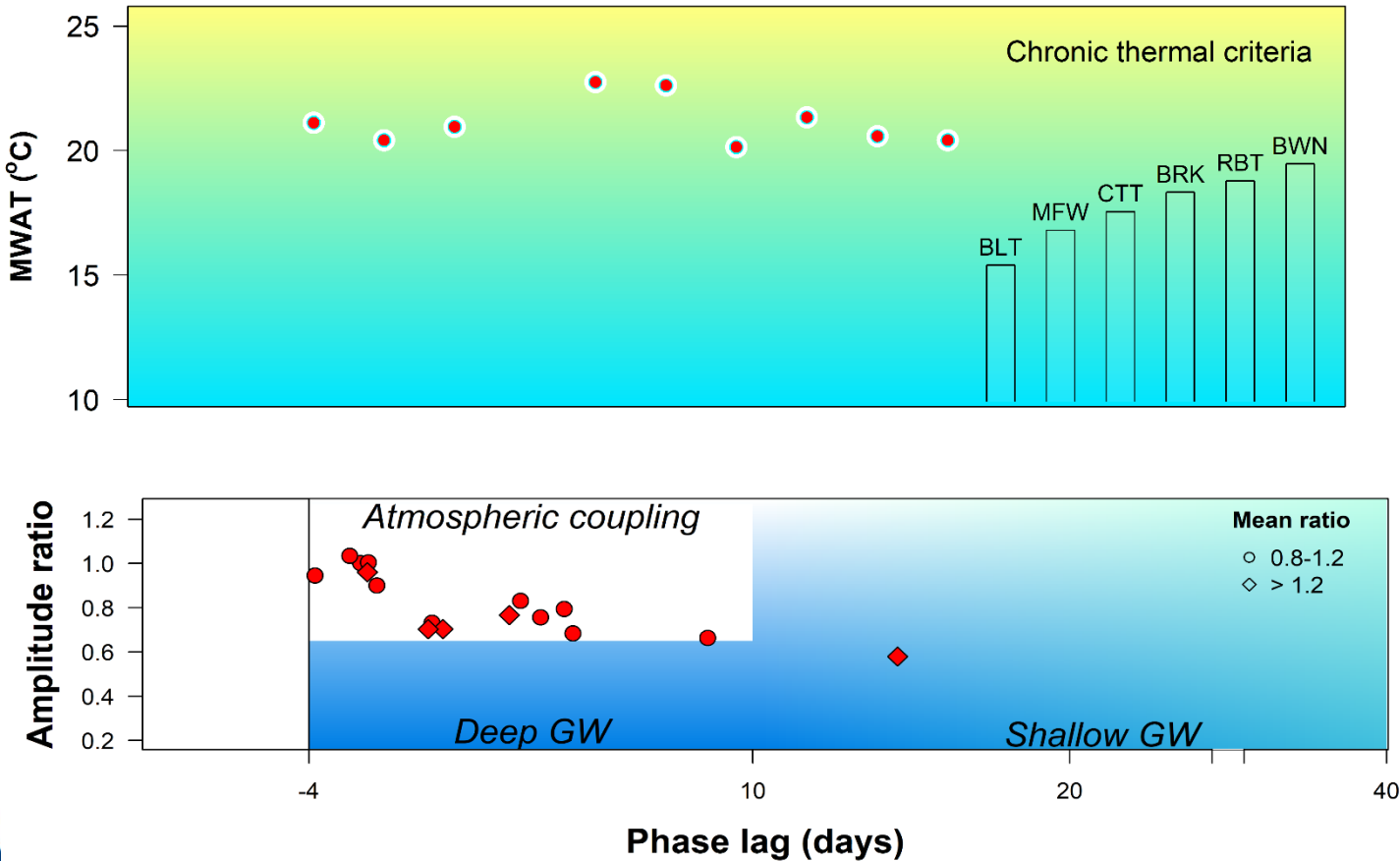


Sensor Type: Air Water



# Suitability x sensitivity

Spencer Creek (OR)

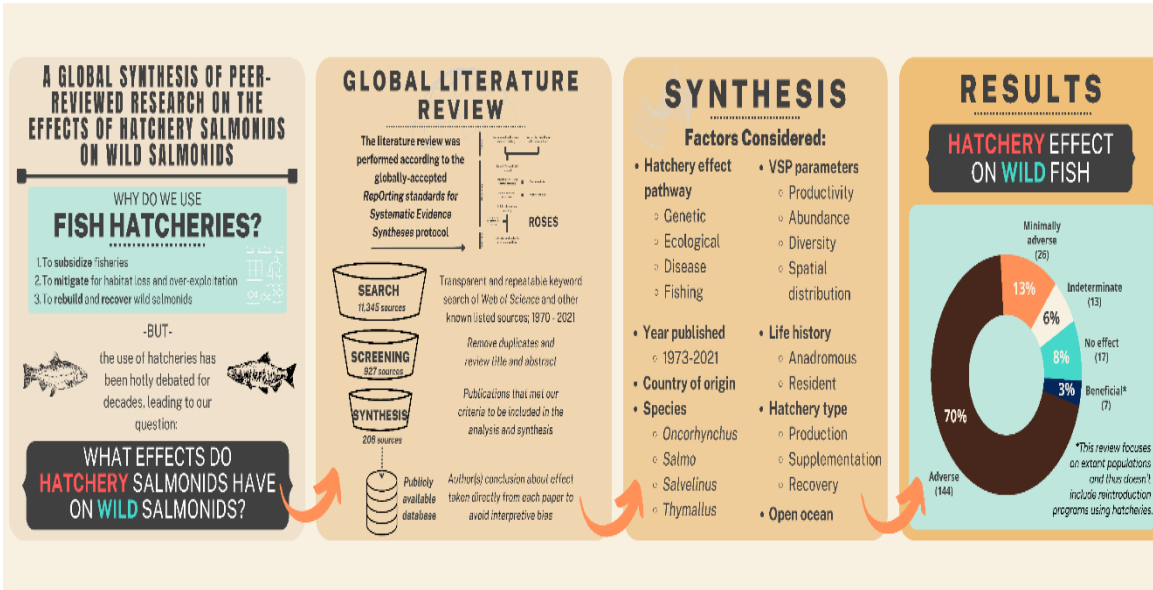


Useful information for understanding restoration effectiveness



## A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids

John R. McMillan<sup>1</sup> | Brian Morrison<sup>2</sup> | Nick Chambers<sup>3</sup> | Greg Ruggerone<sup>4</sup> |  
Louis Bernatchez<sup>5</sup> | Jack Stanford<sup>6</sup> | Helen Neville<sup>1</sup>



# Hatchery-Wild systems under environmental change



Trout Unlimited



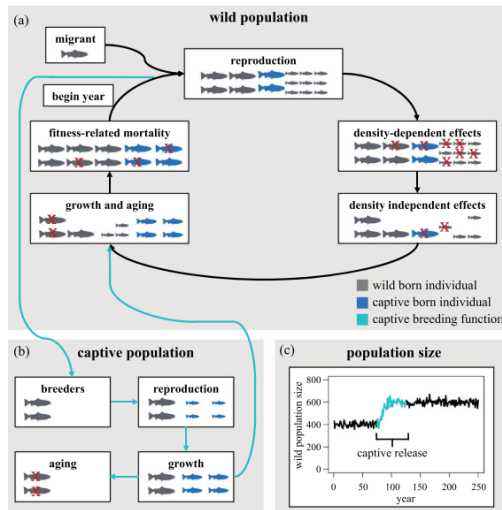
University of Idaho



Contributed Paper

## Long-term demographic and genetic effects of releasing captive-born individuals into the wild

Janna R. Willoughby <sup>1\*</sup> and Mark R. Christie <sup>1,2</sup>

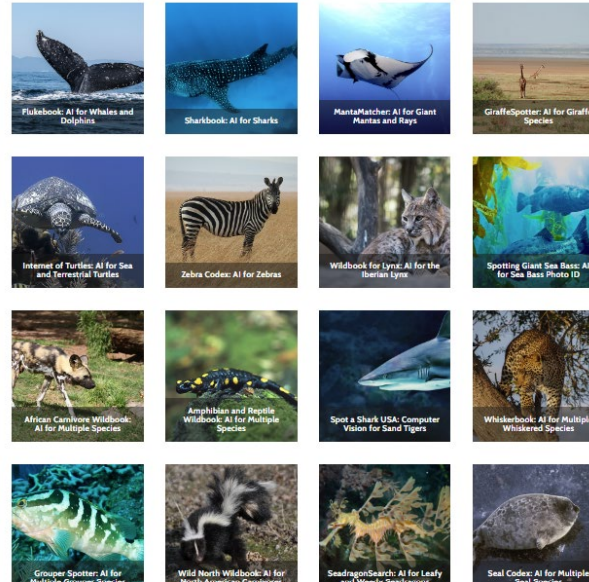
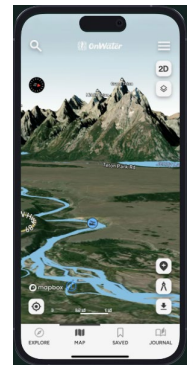


Realistic management scenarios

# Community Science: AI models to identify individual fish



coming soon...

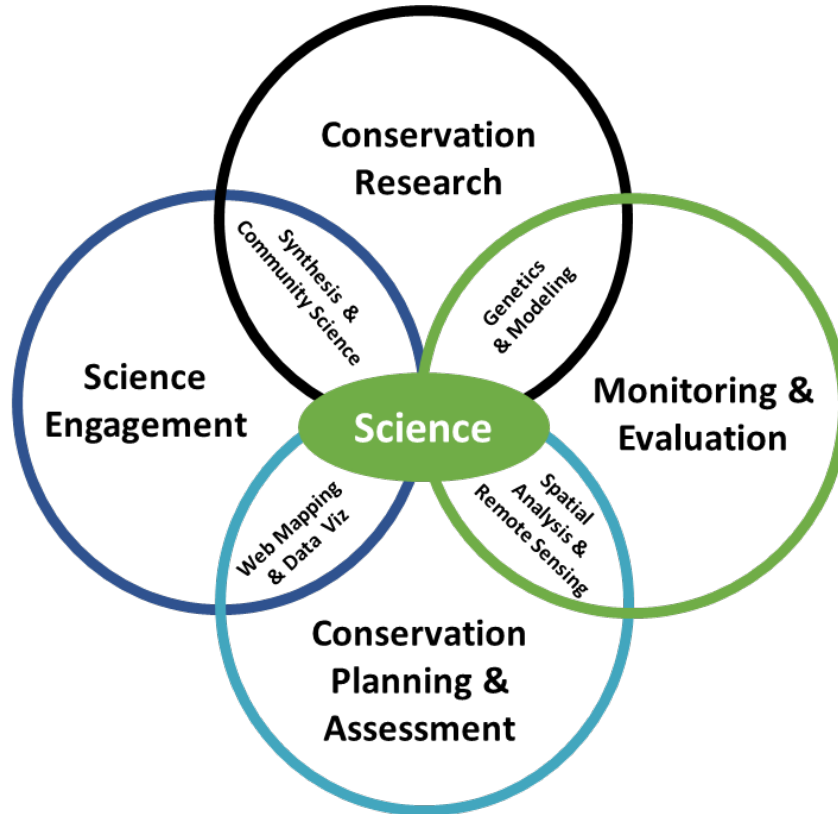


# WILDME





# Science to inform policy:



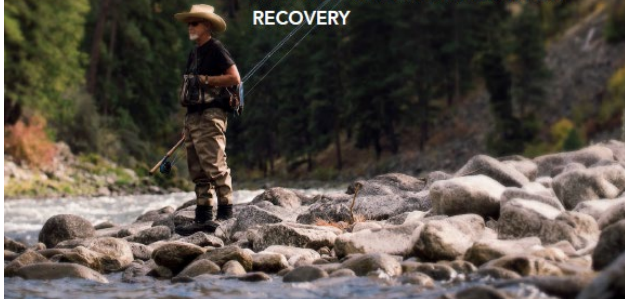
P  
O  
L  
I  
C  
Y

# Science to inform policy: Snake River Dams



## Why we need a free-flowing Lower Snake River

.....  
EXPLAINING THE IMPACTS DAMS  
HAVE ON SNAKE RIVER SALMON  
AND STEELHEAD AND WHY THEIR  
REMOVAL IS NECESSARY FOR FISH  
RECOVERY



**HELEN NEVILLE, PH.D.**

Senior Scientist  
Trout Unlimited



**JAY HESSE**

Director of Biological Services  
Nez Perce Tribe



**RUSS THUROW**

Emeritus  
Fisheries Research Scientist  
U.S. Forest Service

Various court decisions and rulings have put headwater streams at risk – TU priority

NWPR removed ephemeral streams but “couldn’t” quantify scope of impact: “unmappable”

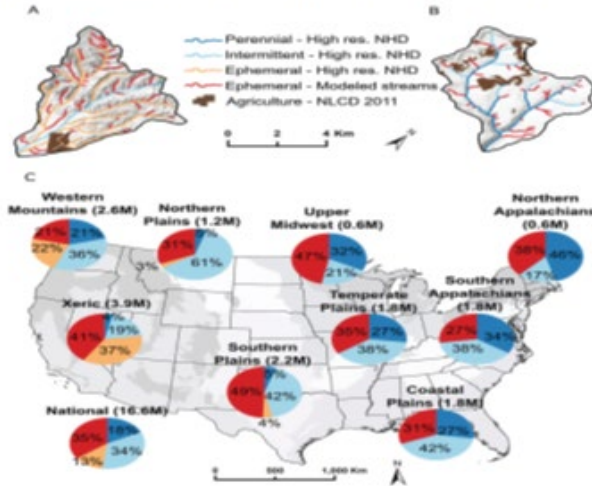


# Science to inform policy:



Large portion of USA streams lose protection with new interpretation of Clean Water Act

Kurt A. Fesenmyer<sup>1,5</sup>, Seth J. Wenger<sup>2,6</sup>, David S. Leigh<sup>3,7</sup>, and Helen M. Neville<sup>1,8</sup>



TU used as foundation for joining Amicus briefing and other advocacy efforts

~50%!



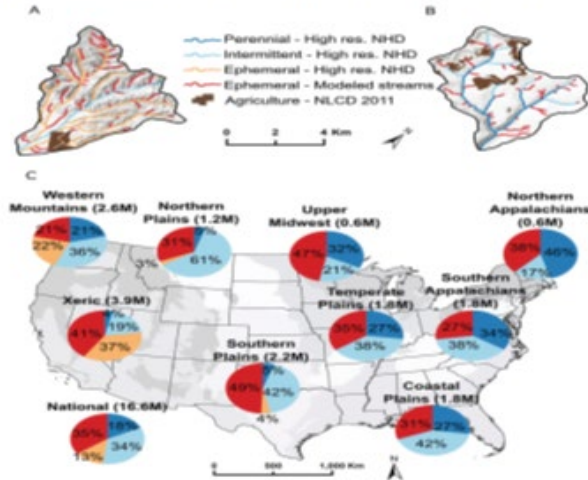
Repeal of NWPR

# Science to inform policy:



Large portion of USA streams lose protection with new interpretation of Clean Water Act

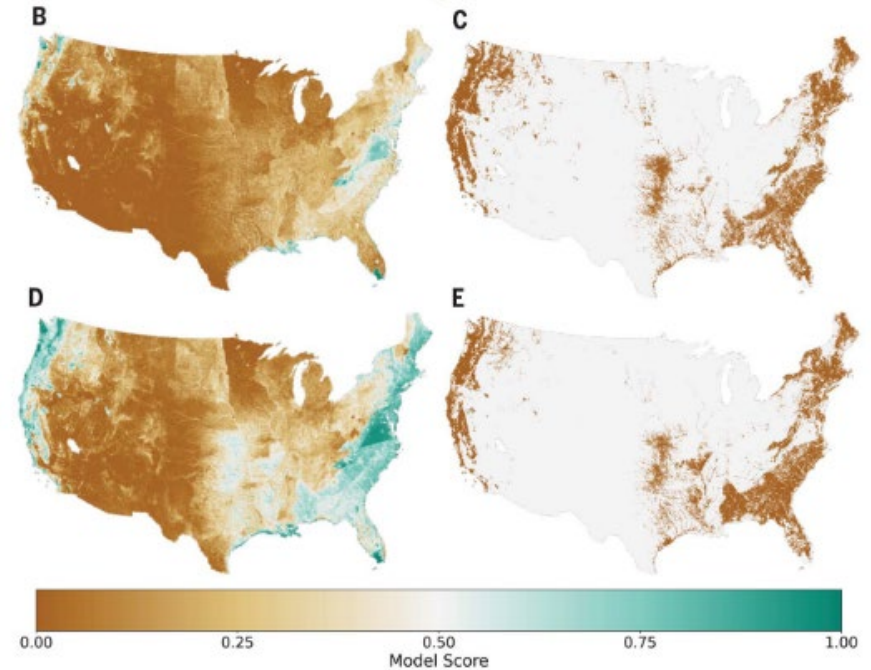
Kurt A. Fesenmyer<sup>1,5</sup>, Seth J. Wenger<sup>2,4</sup>, David S. Leigh<sup>3,7</sup>, and Helen M. Neville<sup>1,8</sup>



## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Machine learning predicts which rivers, streams, and wetlands the Clean Water Act regulates

Greenhill et al. 2024



# Species Status Assessment: Science to Inform Policy



## Apache Trout Monitoring Plan



Apache Trout populations are influenced by both short-term, stochastic events such as wildfire and long-term non-native species and land use impacts. Because of the need to determine the status of individual populations after stochastic events as well as assessing long-term changes periodically over time, the goals and objectives outlined in this plan are based on accurately and precisely estimating the status of Apache Trout populations on a 5-year interval.

A monitoring plan for small and isolated trout populations

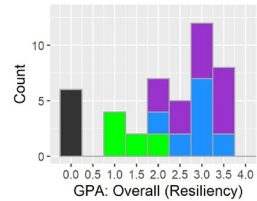


## Species Status Assessment for the Apache Trout *Oncorhynchus apache*



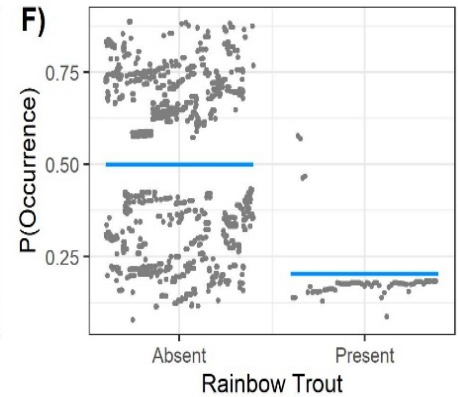
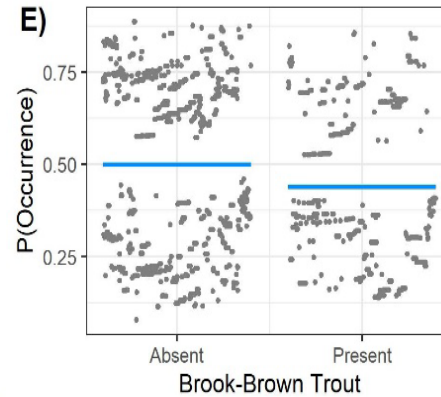
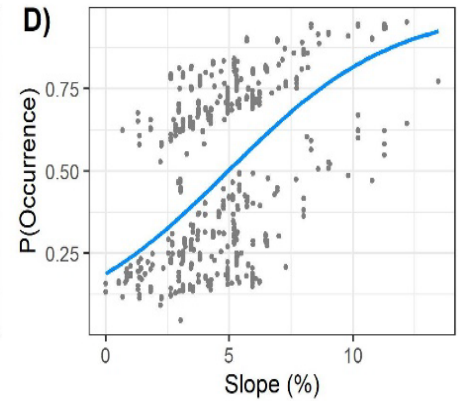
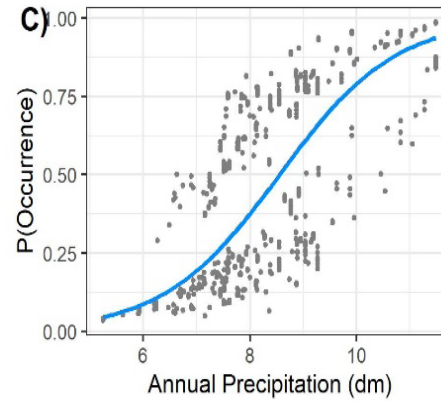
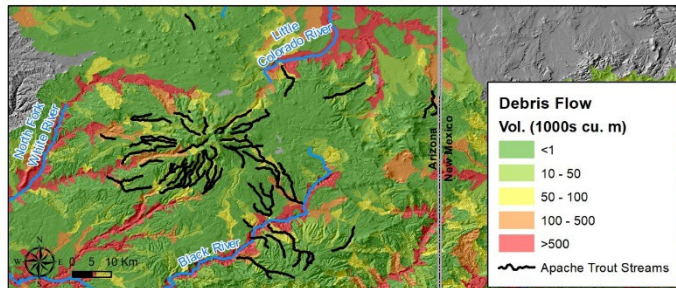
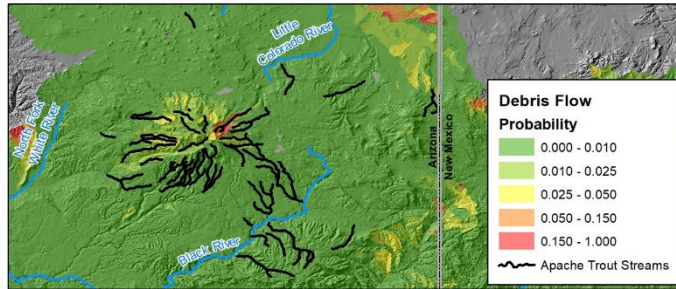
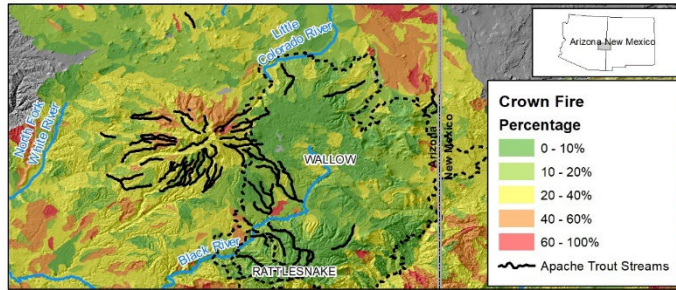
Apache Trout. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

September 2021



150 pages of comprehensive science synthesis and analyses

# Apache threats



# Species Status Assessment: Science to Inform Policy



## Apache Trout Monitoring Plan

2017



Credit: AZGFD

Apache Trout populations are influenced by both short-term, stochastic events such as wildfire and long-term non-native species and land use impacts. Because of the need to determine the status of individual populations after stochastic events as well as assessing long-term changes periodically over time, the goals and objectives outlined in this plan are based on accurately and precisely estimating the status of Apache Trout populations on a 5-year interval.

A monitoring plan for small and isolated trout populations

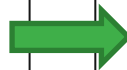
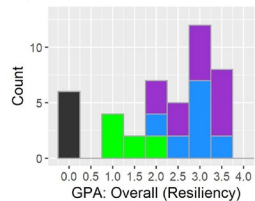


## Species Status Assessment for the Apache Trout *Oncorhynchus apache*



Apache Trout. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

September 2021



## Apache Trout (*Oncorhynchus apache*)

### 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Southwest Region  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

August 10, 2022





# Proposed Delisting of Apache Trout

PRESS RELEASE

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces recovery of Arizona's ESA-protected state fish, prompting delisting proposal**

Received: 17 March 2022 | Revised: 22 February 2023 | Accepted: 24 February 2023

DOI: 10.1002/tafs.10410

## ARTICLE

# Resiliency of Apache Trout habitats in a warmer and drier climate future

Daniel C. Dauwalter<sup>1</sup> | Rosalinda Gonzalez<sup>2</sup> | Tim Gatewood<sup>3</sup> | Zachary S. Beard<sup>4</sup> | Zachary Jackson<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Trout Unlimited, Boise, Idaho, USA

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

<sup>3</sup>White Mountain Apache Tribe, Whiteriver, Arizona, USA

<sup>4</sup>Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

<sup>5</sup>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Whiteriver, Arizona, USA

### Correspondence

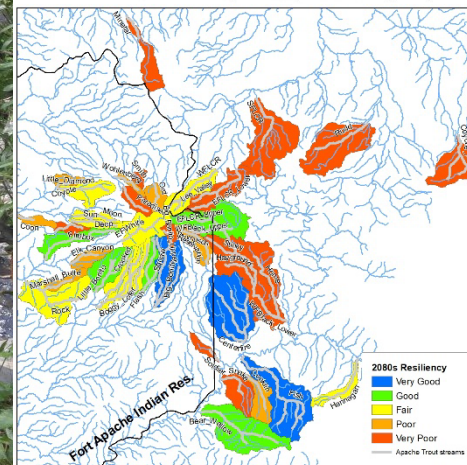
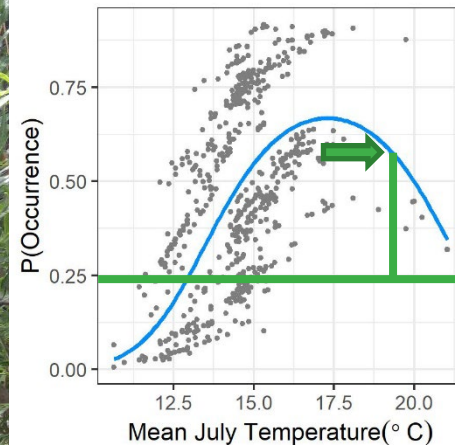
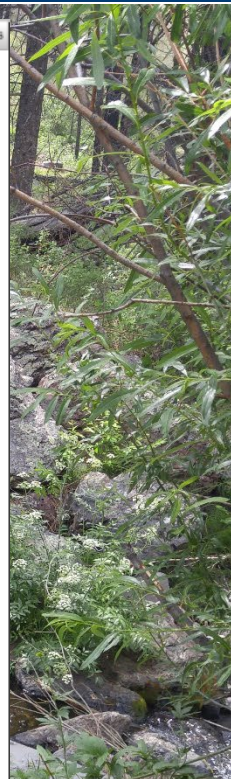
Daniel C. Dauwalter  
Email: [ddauwalter@tu.org](mailto:ddauwalter@tu.org)

### Abstract

**Objective:** The Southwest has the hottest and driest climate in the United States, and projections show that it will only get hotter and drier into the 2100s. The Apache Trout *Oncorhynchus apache* is native to the Southwest and is currently listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Our goals were to understand how climate factors influence the distribution of juvenile Apache Trout (<125 mm TL) and how climate change will influence the suitability of Apache Trout habitat into the 2080s.

**Methods:** We used a species distribution model to evaluate how climatic and other factors influence the distribution of juvenile Apache Trout. We used predictions from the model to evaluate how climate change might impact the suitability of streams designated for recovery of the species into the 2080s.

Check for updates



# Publishing builds our credibility in freshwater science:

(= past two years)



Western North American Naturalist 82(4), © 2022, pp. 660–676

Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

OPEN ACCESS | Article

## Thermal tolerance in cutthroat trout of the southern Rocky Mountains

Kevin B. Rogers<sup>1</sup>, Brendon J. Sucher<sup>2</sup>, **Brian W. Hodge<sup>3</sup>**, and Christopher A. Myrick<sup>4</sup>

## Physical habitat complexity partially offsets the negative effect of Brook Trout on Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in the peripheral Goose Creek subbasin

**Daniel C. Dauwalter<sup>1\*</sup>**, Michael A. Baker<sup>2</sup>, Sarah M. Baker<sup>3</sup>, Richard Lee<sup>1</sup>, and John D. Walrath<sup>4</sup>

Interns!

Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

OPEN ACCESS | Article

## Poor downstream passage at a dam creates an ecological trap for migratory fish

**Haley A. Ohms<sup>1\*</sup>**, Dereka N. Chargualaf<sup>2\*</sup>, Gabriel Brooks<sup>3</sup>, Cory Hamilton<sup>4</sup>, Eric P. Palkovacs<sup>5\*</sup>, and David A. Boughton<sup>6</sup>



Article

## Spatial Conservation Assessment for Native Fishes in the Lahontan and Central Nevada Basins, USA

**Daniel C. Dauwalter<sup>1\*</sup>**, Eric Miskow<sup>2</sup> and Chris Crookshanks<sup>3</sup>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Evolutionary Applications WILEY

## Population genomic monitoring provides insight into conservation status but no correlation with demographic estimates of extinction risk in a threatened trout

William Hemstrom<sup>1</sup>, **Daniel Dauwalter<sup>2</sup>**, Mary M. Peacock<sup>3</sup>, Douglas Leasure<sup>4</sup>, Seth Wenger<sup>5</sup>, Michael R. Miller<sup>1</sup>, **Helen Neville<sup>2</sup>**



REVIEW | Open Access | CC BY ND

## Closing the gap between science and management of cold-water refuges in rivers and streams

Francine H. Mejia<sup>1</sup>, Valerie Ouellet<sup>2</sup>, Martin A. Briggs<sup>3</sup>, Stephanie M. Carlson<sup>4</sup>, Roser Casas-Mulet<sup>5</sup>, Mollie Chapman<sup>6</sup>, Mathias J. Collins<sup>7</sup>, Stephen J. Dugdale<sup>8</sup>, Joseph L. Ebersole<sup>9</sup>, Danielle M. Frechette<sup>10</sup>, Aimee H. Fullerton<sup>11</sup>, Carole-Anne Gillis<sup>12</sup>, Zachary C. Johnson<sup>13</sup>, Christa Kelleher<sup>14</sup>, Barret L. Kurylyk<sup>15</sup>, Rebecca Lave<sup>16</sup>, Benjamin H. Letcher<sup>17</sup>, Knut M. Myrvoold<sup>18</sup>, Tracie-Lynn Nadeau<sup>19</sup>, **Helen Neville<sup>20</sup>**, Hervé Piégay<sup>21</sup>, Kathryn A. Smith<sup>22</sup>, Diego Tonolla<sup>23</sup>, Christian E. Torgersen ... See fewer authors ^

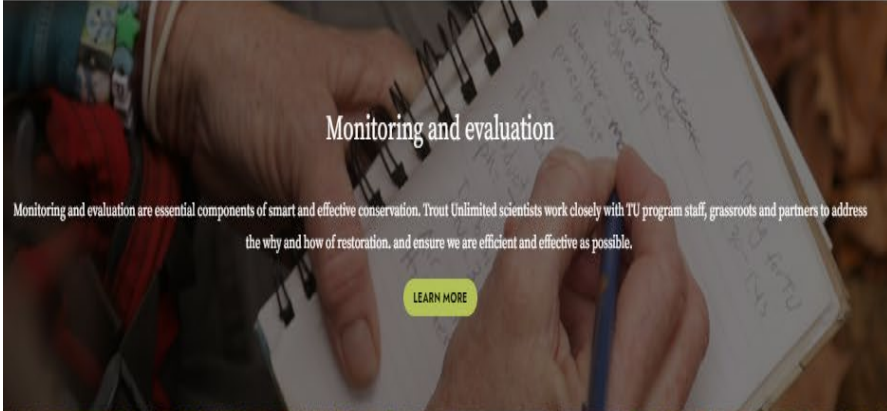


WILEY

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Fecundity trends of Chinook salmon in the Pacific Northwest

Michael J. Malick<sup>1</sup>, James P. Losee<sup>2</sup>, **Gary Marston<sup>3</sup>**, Mickey Agha<sup>3</sup>, Barry A. Berejikian<sup>1</sup>, Brian R. Beckman<sup>4</sup>, Matthew Cooper<sup>5</sup>



## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are essential components of smart and effective conservation. Trout Unlimited scientists work closely with TU program staff, grassroots and partners to address the why and how of restoration, and ensure we are efficient and effective as possible.

LEARN MORE



## Conservation research

Aquatic systems are complex and our understanding of how they function continues to evolve. Trout Unlimited scientists conduct a variety of research studies on fish and aquatic habitats to help ensure our efforts are consistent with the most current scientific knowledge of coldwater fisheries and their habitats.

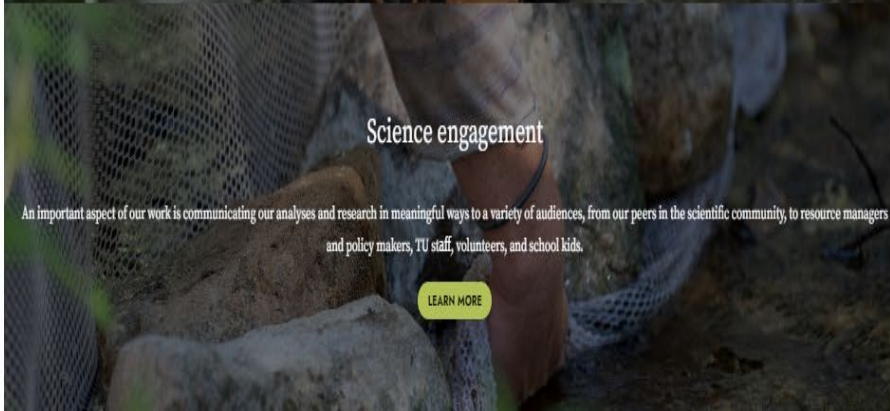
LEARN MORE



## Conservation planning

Conservation planning and assessment helps answer "where" questions related to trout and salmon populations to help inform, guide, and contextualize Trout Unlimited's work.

LEARN MORE



## Science engagement

An important aspect of our work is communicating our analyses and research in meaningful ways to a variety of audiences, from our peers in the scientific community, to resource managers and policy makers, TU staff, volunteers, and school kids.

LEARN MORE

# TU Science Vision:



We believe TU's conservation impact is maximized when we are all inspired by the natural aquatic world and when our conservation objectives, practices, and policies are enabled and guided by the best available science. TU Science provides the framework for this practice.

*Thank you!*