



Endangered Species Act Alert 2002-3

RE: USFWS Decides Not to List Coastal Cutthroat Trout
DATE: July 1, 2002

In April of 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) proposed to list coastal cutthroat trout in Southwest Washington and the lower Columbia River as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Last week, the Service determined that this population is not likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, and therefore does not need ESA protection.

Since the Service proposed to list this population in 1999, new analysis on the population's status, as well as new measures to protect the fish, have made listing unnecessary. While these fish are not as abundant as they were historically, the populations in Southwest Washington and the lower Columbia River now appear to be relatively healthy, due in part to changes in land management regulations and practices that have reduced threats to the fish and their habitat. Washington State's Forest Practices regulations, as well as recently developed Habitat Conservation Plans, are specifically mentioned for helping to prevent population decline.

The original proposal to list this population of cutthroat was based on suspected declines in the abundance of anadromous (sea-run) cutthroat, habitat loss, and the potential effects of hatchery-reared coastal cutthroat on wild cutthroat.

The population of cutthroat trout affected by this decision extends from the tributaries of Grays Harbor south to the mouth of the Columbia River and East to the Dalles Dam. Cutthroat trout in the Portland Metropolitan area are included.

Additional Resources:

US Fish & Wildlife Service press release: <http://news.fws.gov/newsreleases/r1/AB00BA0C-9A7F-4658-A0F490BA2E574A35.html>

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If you have questions or comments about this ESA Alert, please contact Megan Callahan Grant (mcallahan@parametrix.com), ESA Program Policy Analyst, who can direct them to the appropriate specialist.