

---

## Inland Redband Trout

### *Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*

---

Actinopterygii — Salmoniformes — Salmonidae

#### CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Apparently secure subspecies (G5T4)  
Statewide: Apparently secure (S4)  
ESA: No status  
USFS: Region 1: Sensitive; Region 4: No status  
BLM: Rangewide/Globally imperiled (Type 2)  
IDFG: Game fish

#### BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of essential population data for desert populations; habitat degradation in Idaho.

#### TAXONOMY

Inland redband trout, also called redband trout of the Columbia River basin by Behnke (2002), is a subspecies of rainbow trout. As described by Behnke, this subspecies also includes the steelhead (anadromous) life form from the interior rainbow trout complex and the large lake Kamloops trout. The rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* complex includes 5 additional subspecies. Rainbow trout were originally described by Walbaum in 1792 (Nelson et al. 2004).

#### DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

Inland redband trout are found in the interior Columbia River basin from east of the Cascades upstream to geologic barriers such as Shoshone Falls on the Snake River and Kootenai Falls on the Kootenai River and in the upper Fraser River (Behnke 2002). However they are not in the Clark Fork and Coeur d'Alene drainages. Inland redband trout are present in the Salmon and Clearwater drainage along with steelhead. However due to difficulties identifying juveniles of these 2 life forms, redband trout in these drainages will be included under the steelhead distribution. Current rangewide abundance in Idaho is unknown, however resident populations of redband trout above Hells Canyon and Dworshak dams are locally abundant in the Boise, Weiser, Payette, Owyhee and Wood/Malad river drainages.

#### POPULATION TREND

Resident populations of redband trout persist at some level in all major areas of historical distribution in Idaho. Population estimates for redband trout inhabiting desert habitats in southern Idaho are currently being developed but not complete at this time.

#### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inland redband resident trout are found in a range of stream habitats from desert areas in southwestern Idaho to forested mountain streams in central and northern Idaho. In all cases they prefer cool streams with temperatures <21 C (<70 F), however they can survive daily cyclic temperatures up to 27 C (80 F) for a short period of time (Wydoski

and Whitney 2003). Resident stream redband trout may attain a maximum size ranging from 15–46 cm (6–18 in) depending on location. Spawning occurs in the spring between February and June, depending on temperature and location. Diets are primarily drifting invertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic. Larger fish will occasionally consume other fish.

## **ISSUES**

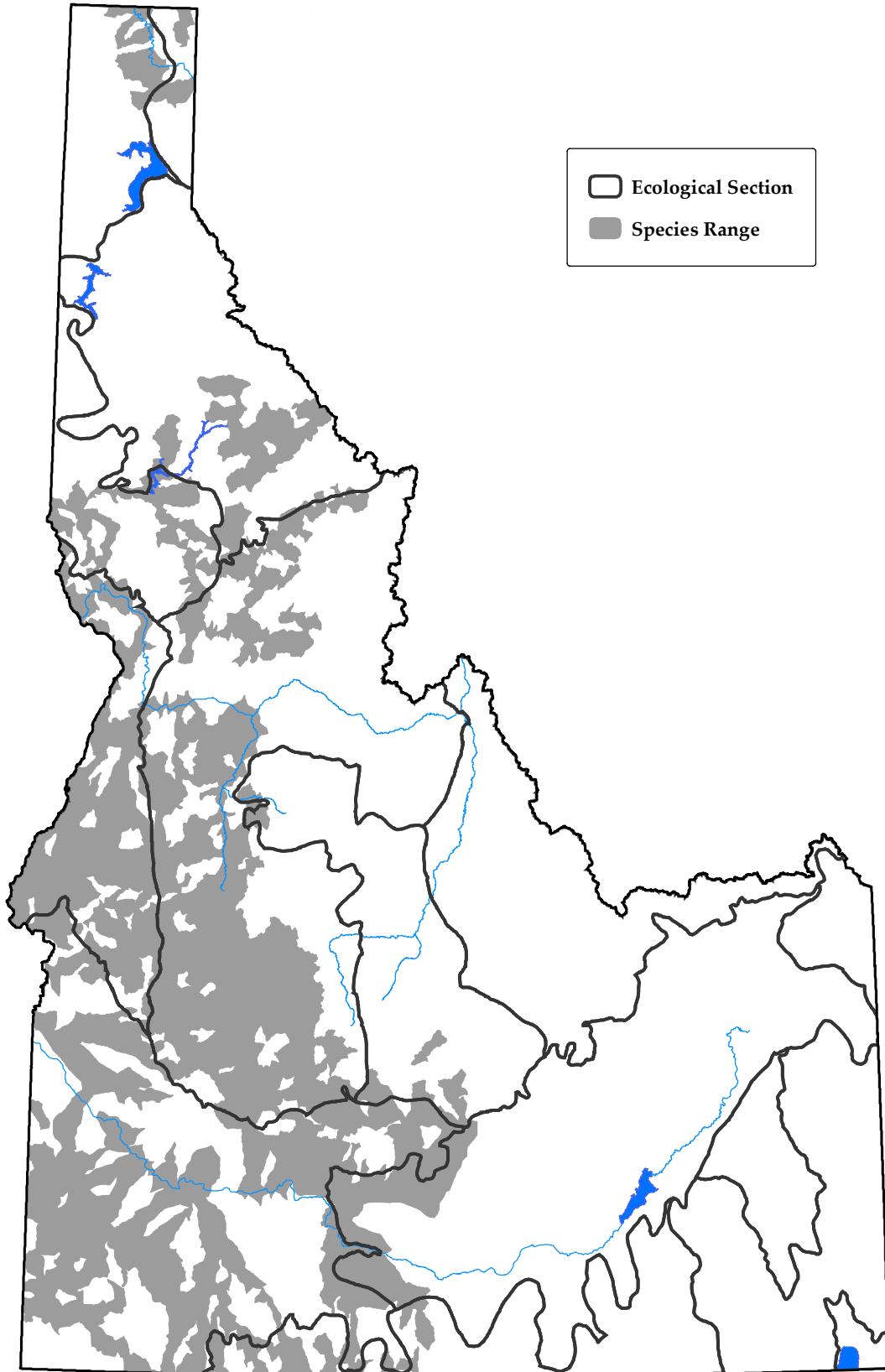
Habitat loss, fragmentation of current habitat, isolation of existing populations, and hybridization with coastal rainbow trout and cutthroat trout are the principal issues facing inland redband trout.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Continue statewide population distribution and trend monitoring program. Continue a sterile fish planting program in areas where inland rainbow trout and introduced hatchery fish overlap. Complete program to monitor the genetic purity of inland rainbow trout populations. Maintain or reestablish connectivity of current inland rainbow trout metapopulations. Develop conservation status and management plan.

# Inland Redband Trout

*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*



23 September 2005  
Fish information is from Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and displayed at the 6th code hydrologic unit.

