

Lower Deschutes River Fish Population Status Update



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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**



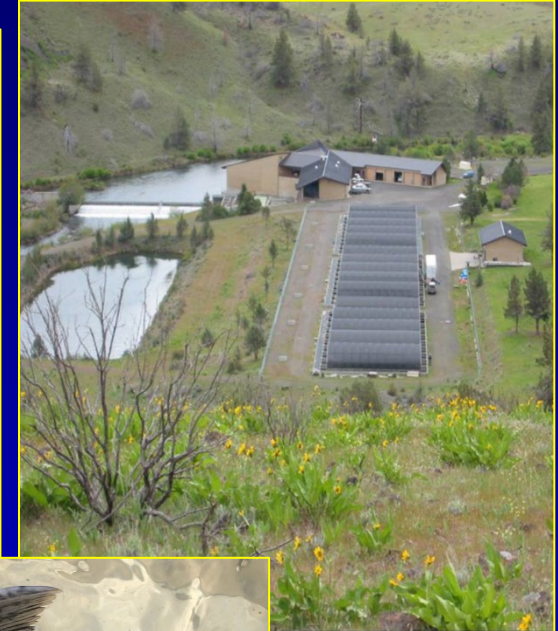
Updates

- Steelhead
- Spring and Fall Chinook
- Coho
- Redband Trout
- Smallmouth bass



Steelhead, Coho, and Fall Chinook Sites/Methods

- Mark-Recapture
- Sherars Falls
- Trap Counts
 - Warm Springs National FH
 - Pelton Trap
- Carcass surveys, tag returns

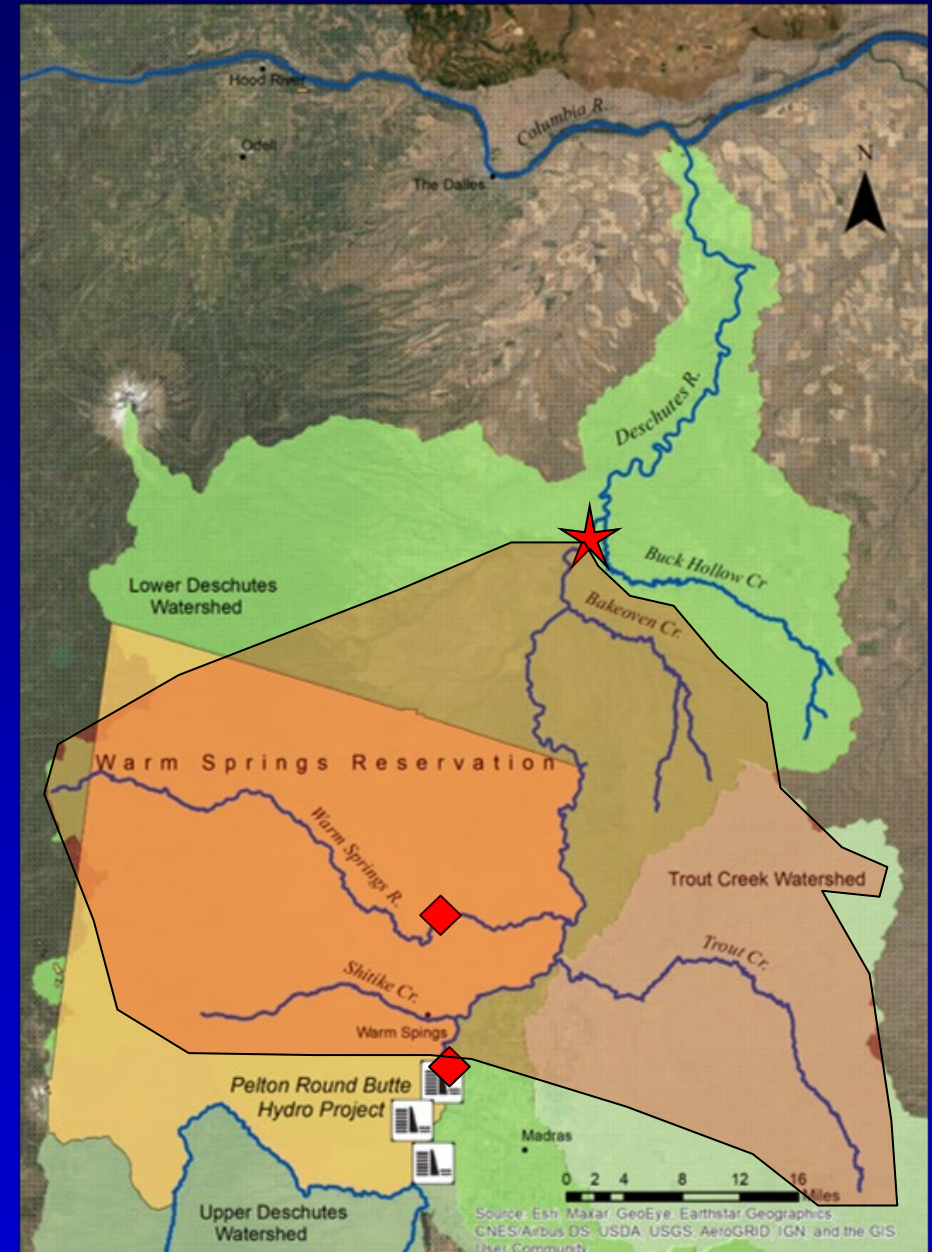


Steelhead Run Estimates

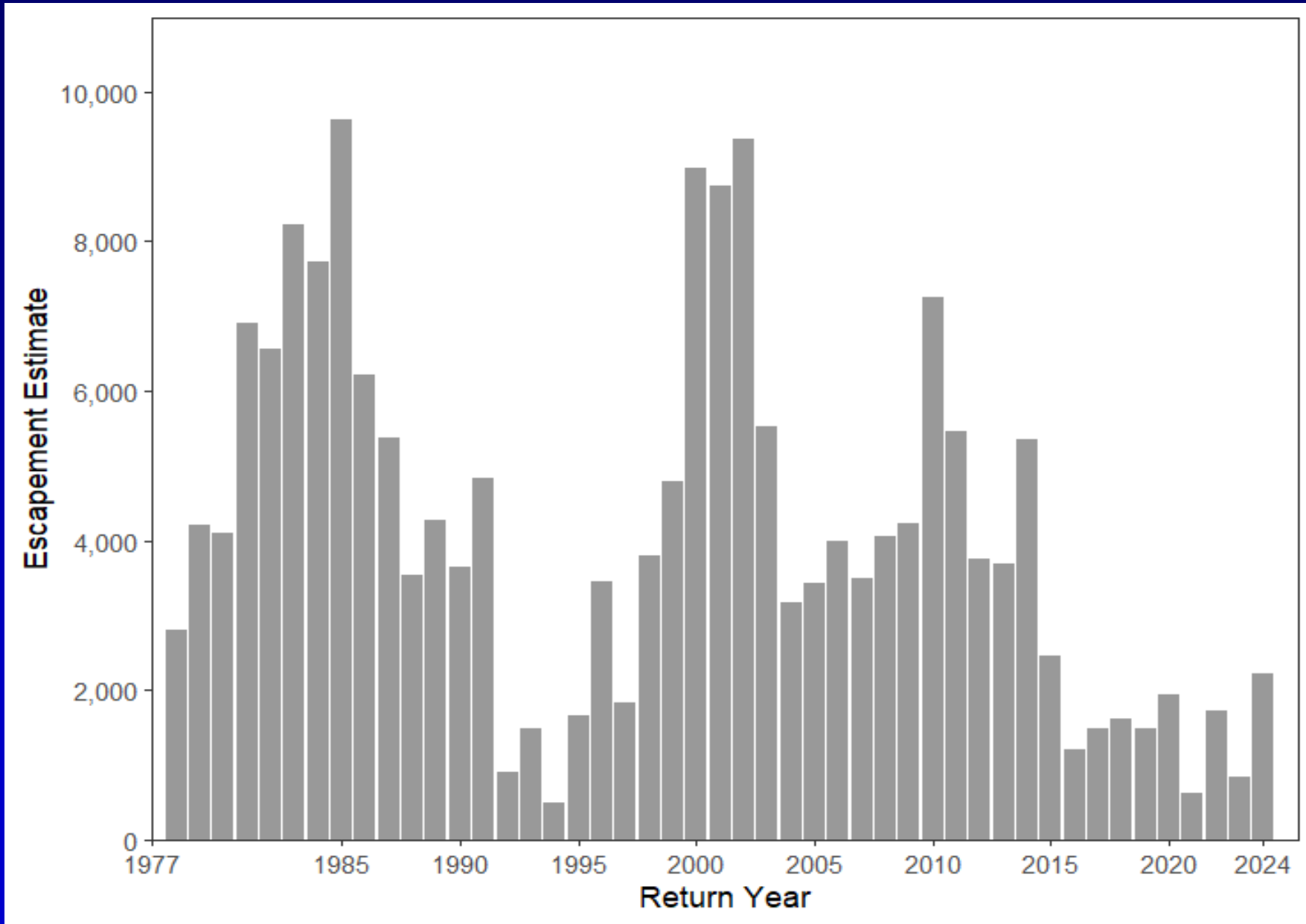
Mark-Recapture

- Sherars Trap
- Pelton Trap
- Warm Springs National FH
- Out-of-basin Tag Returns and PIT tag detections

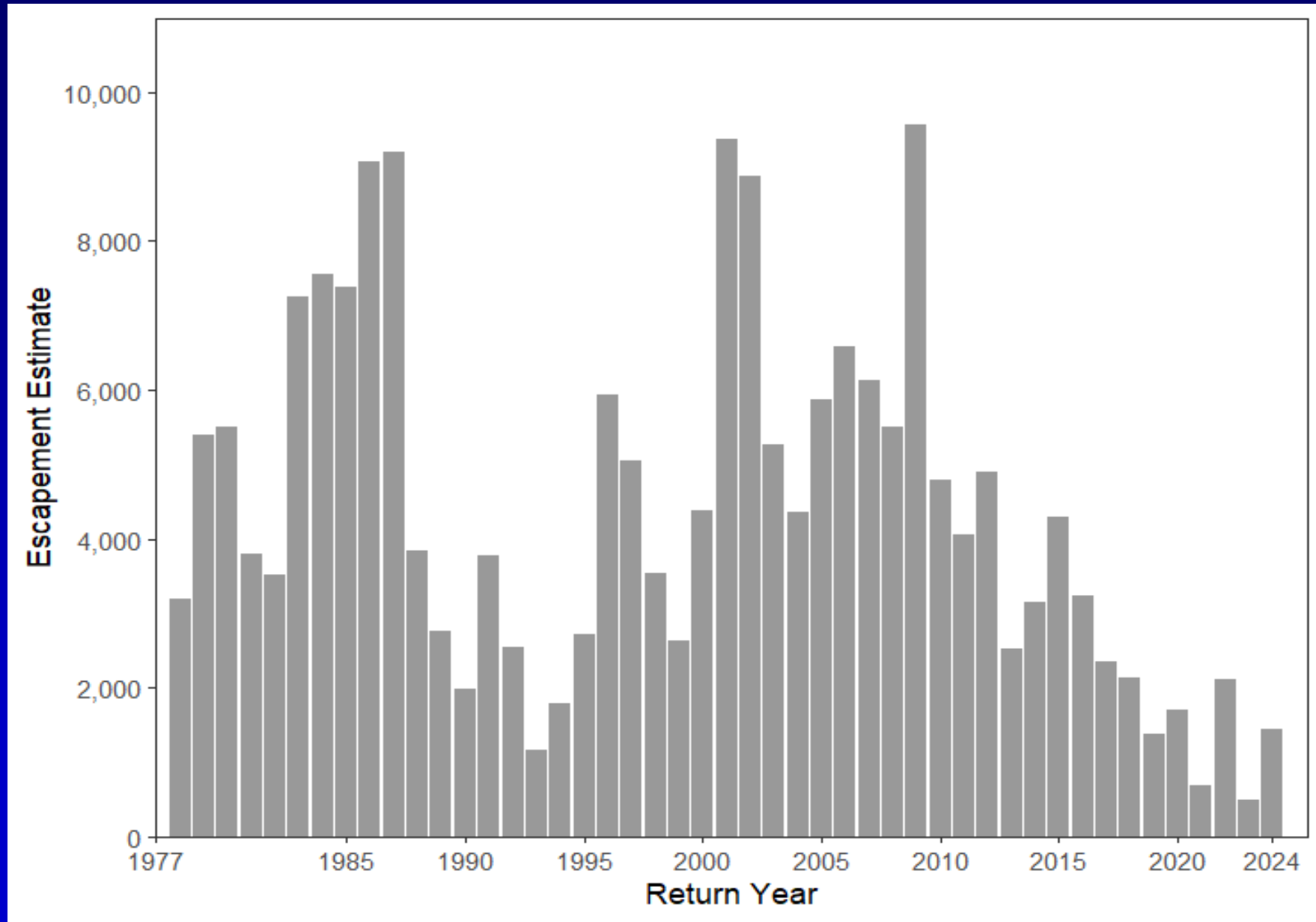
Run estimates for Above Sherars Falls



Wild Steelhead Above Sherars



Round Butte Hatchery Steelhead Above Sherars Falls



Stray Hatchery Steelhead Above Sherars Falls

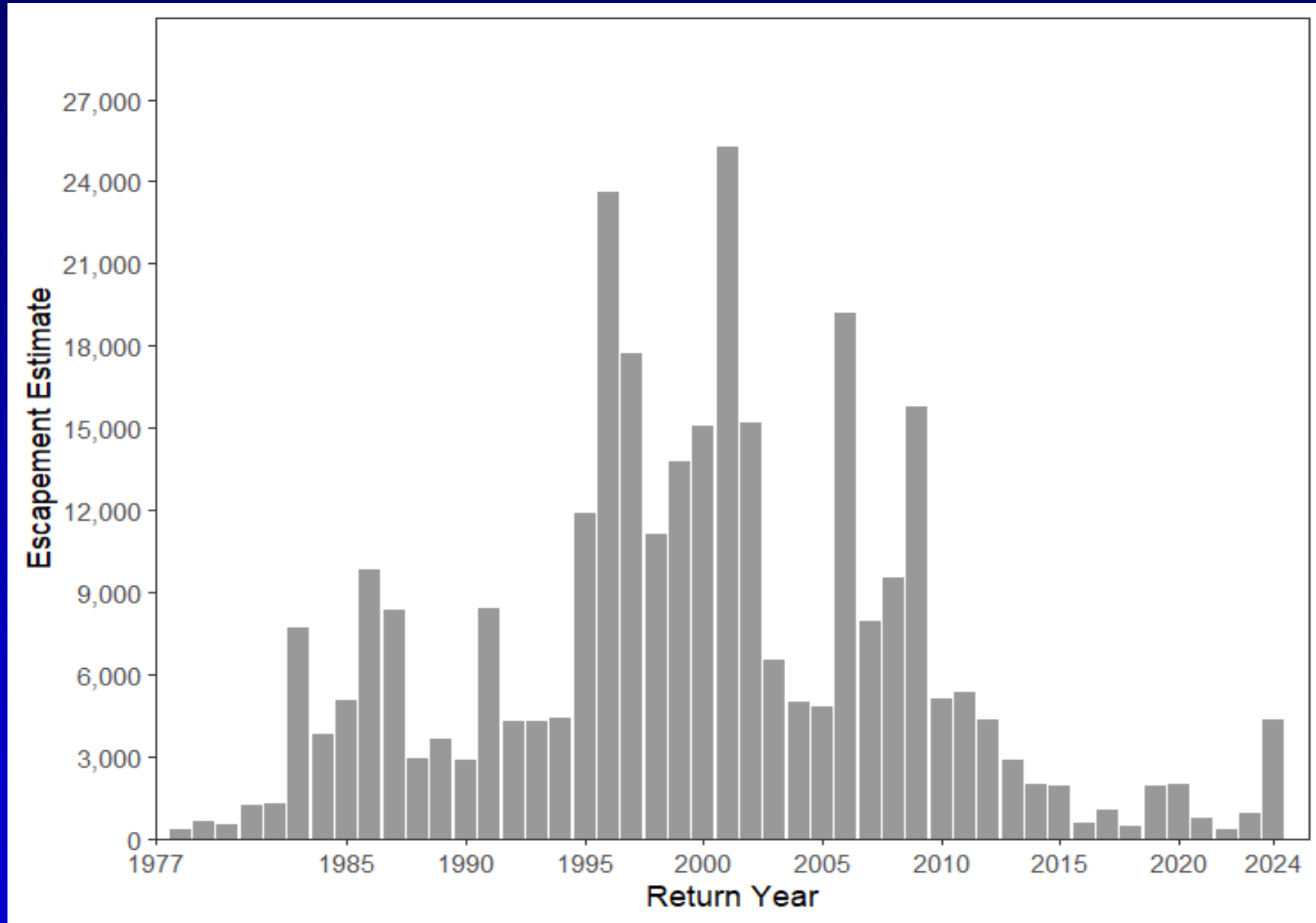


Table 11.	Estimated number of steelhead that migrated upstream of Sherars Falls on the Deschutes River, by run year. <i>Preliminary estimates.</i>						
Run Year	Wild	Wild Temporary Strays excluded (PIT tags)	Round Butte Hatchery	Stray Hatchery	Stray Hatchery Temporary Strays excluded (PIT tags)	Total Hatchery	Total Hatchery Temporary Strays excluded (PIT tags)
2019-20	1,492	1,233	1,382	1,898		2,798	
2020-21	1,935	1,712	1,701	1,987		3,631	
2021-22	611	523	687	713		1,586	
2022-23	1,730	1,574	2,110	353	176	2,608	2,290
2023-24	837	594	491	939	351	1,609	876
2024-25	2,338	1,174	1,446	4,950	1,834	6,689	3,250

Status Summary – Steelhead Fishery

Steelhead angling and retention currently open under permanent rule

- Per Deschutes Steelhead Fishery Framework:
 - 9,900 Wild Summer Steelhead Over Bonneville between July 1 – July 31
 - 23,100 Wild Summer Steelhead Over Bonneville between July 1 – August 31
- Total forecast for Wild Summer Steelhead over Bonneville:
 - 20,100

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted</i>				
		2024	2024	2025
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	126,200	179,154	73,900
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	4,000	9,409	6,500
	(wild)	1,800	3,484	2,600
	A-Index (total)	89,900	121,579	55,600
	(wild)	32,400	36,543	19,000
	B-Index (total)	32,200	48,166	11,800
	(wild)	4,000	4,115	1,100

Coho Run Estimates

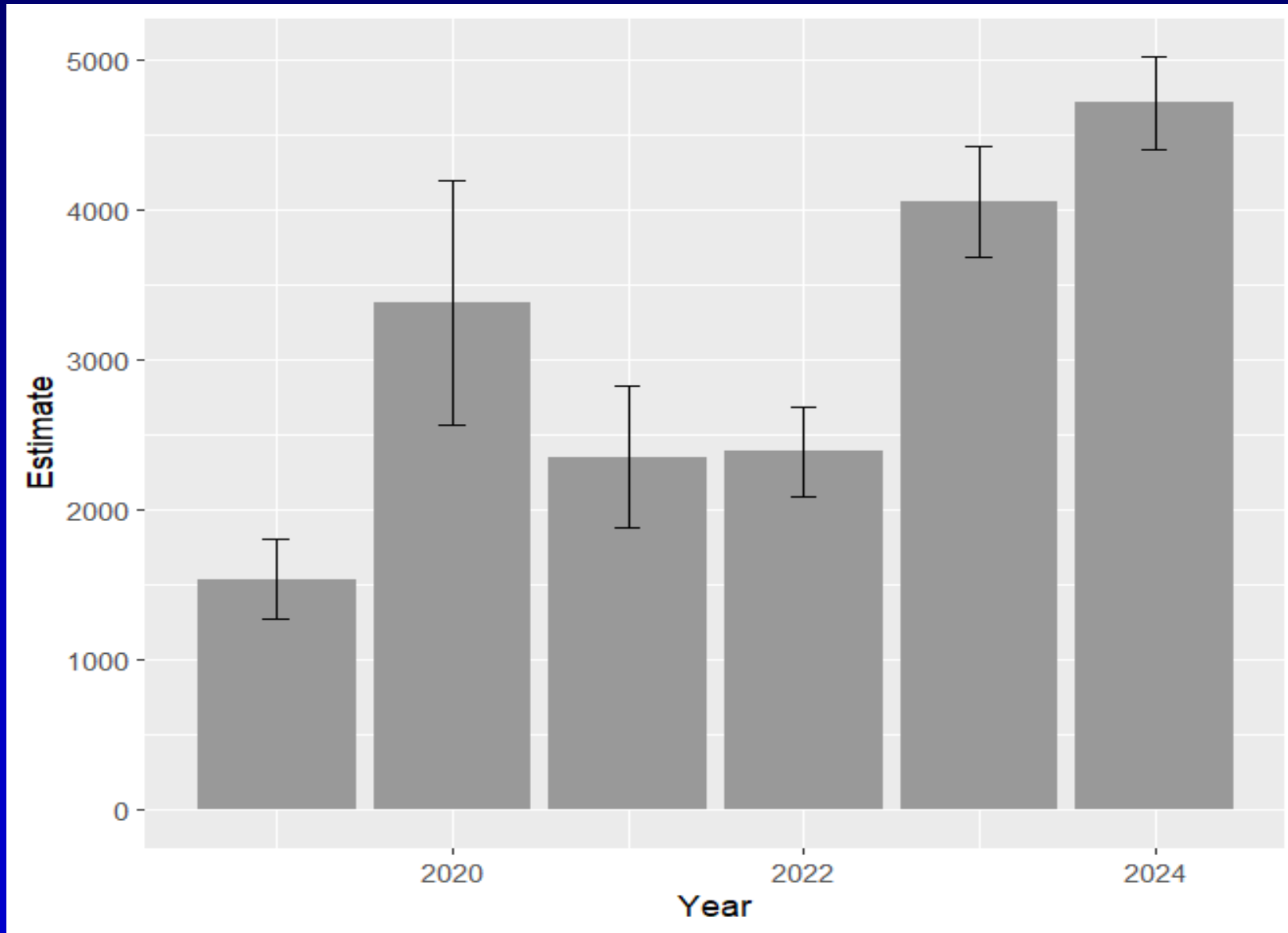
Mark-Recapture

- Sherars Trap
- Pelton Trap
- Warm Springs National FH

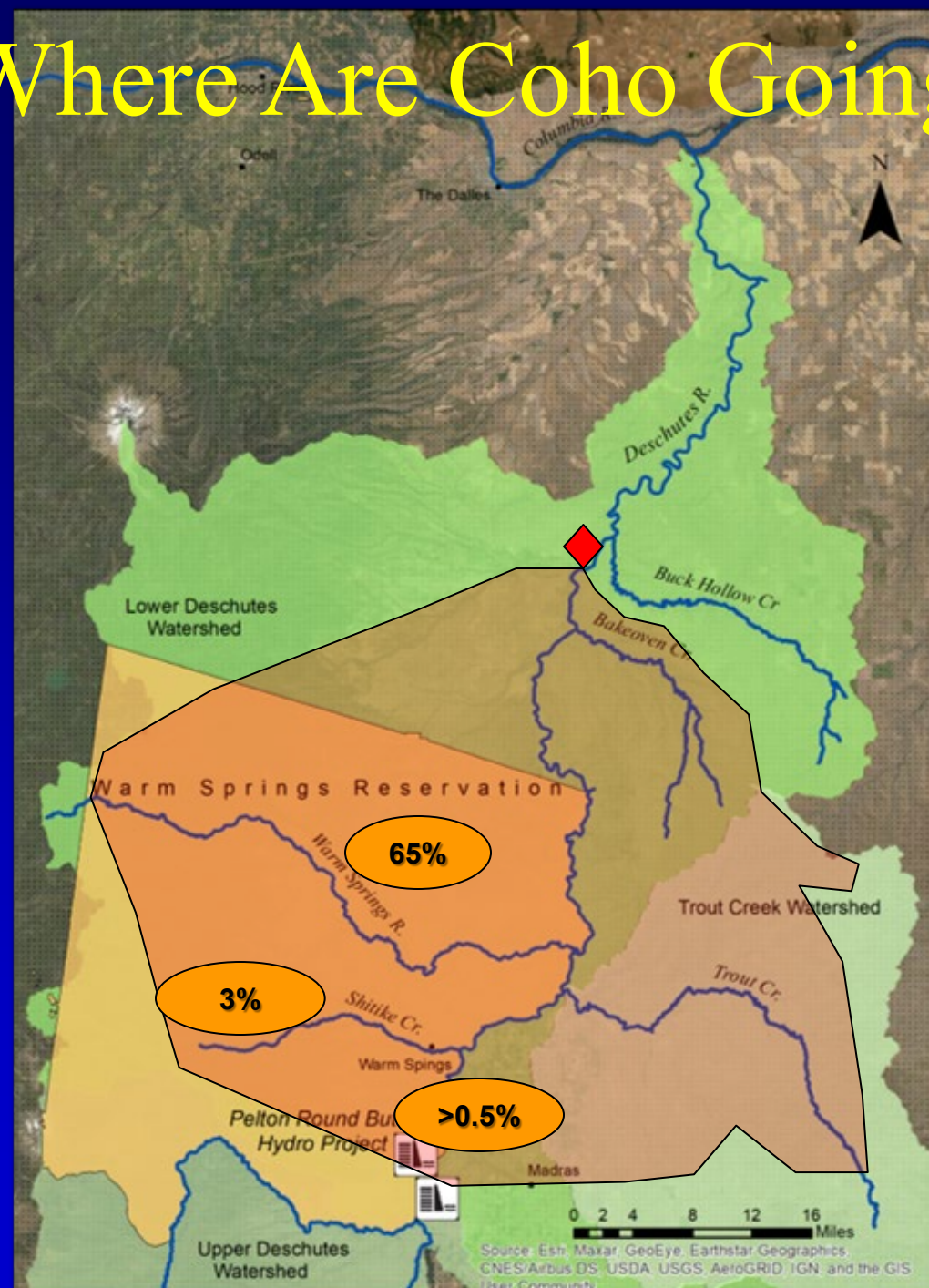


Run estimates for Above Sherars Falls

Coho Above Sherars Falls



Where Are Coho Going?



Fall Chinook Run Estimates

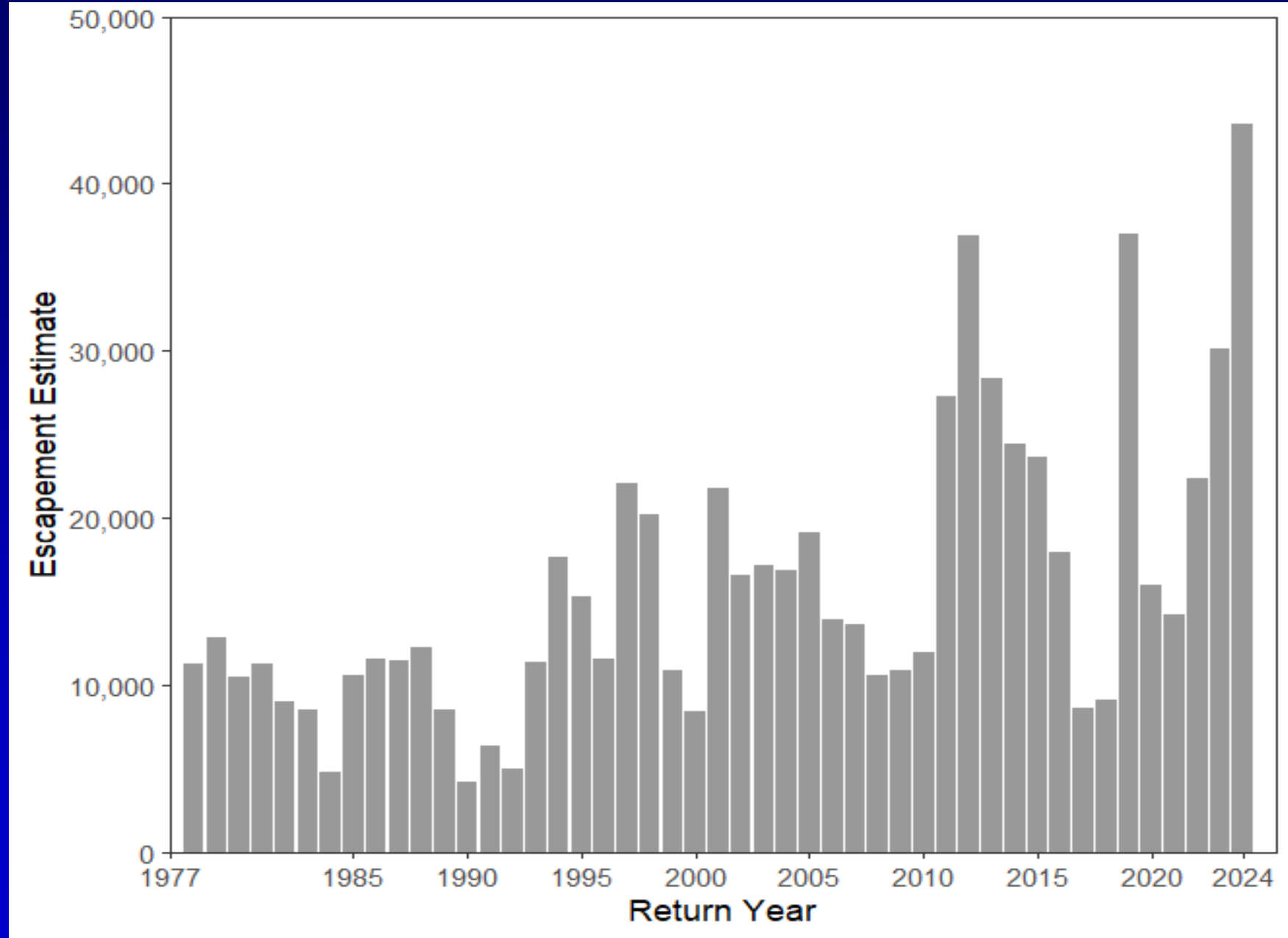
Mark-Recapture

- Sherars Trap
- Pelton Trap
- WSNFH
- Carcass surveys
- Creel surveys
- Redd Flights
- Scale Reads

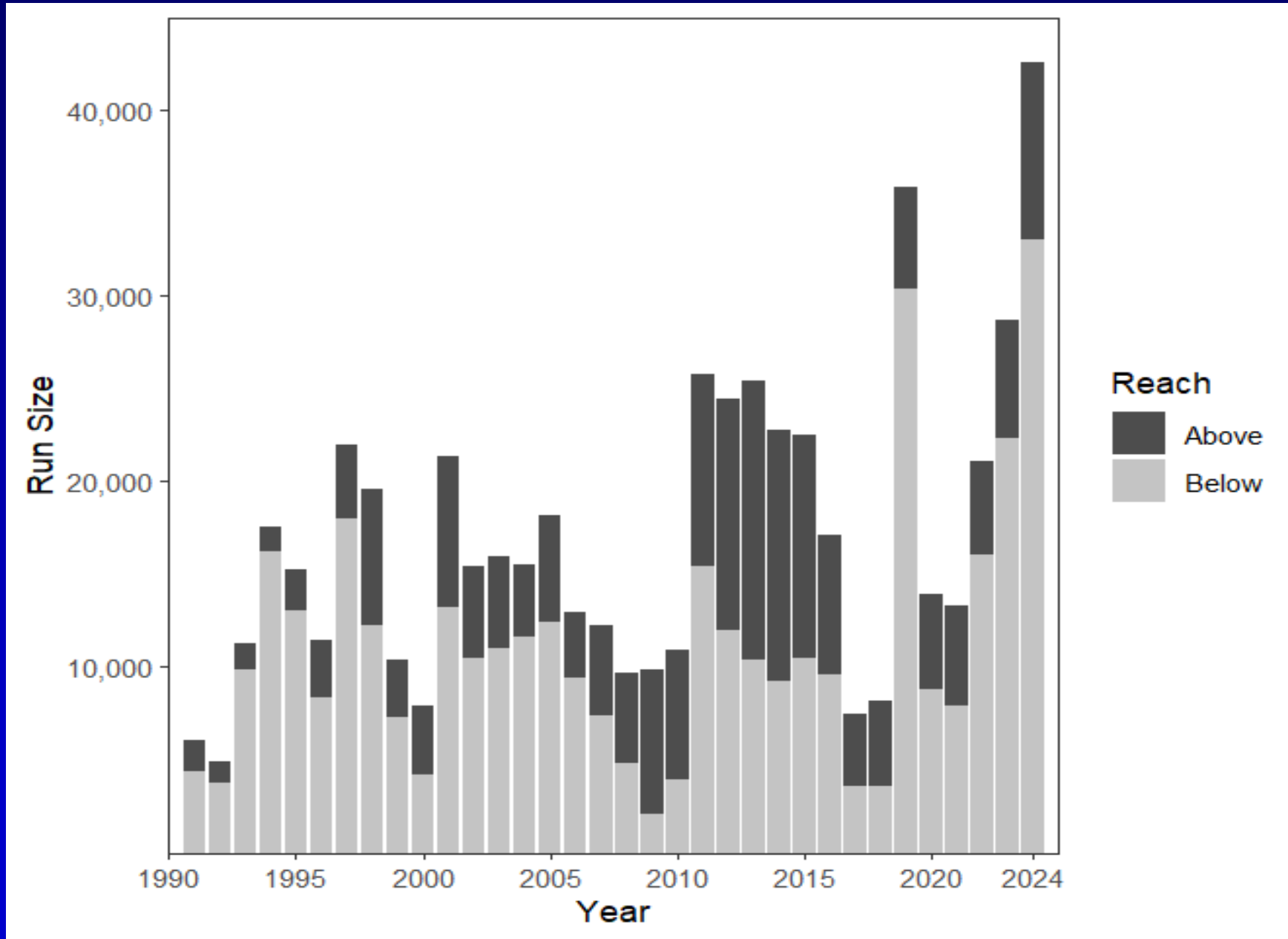


All River Run Reconstruction

Wild Fall Chinook All River Run Reconstruction Estimates



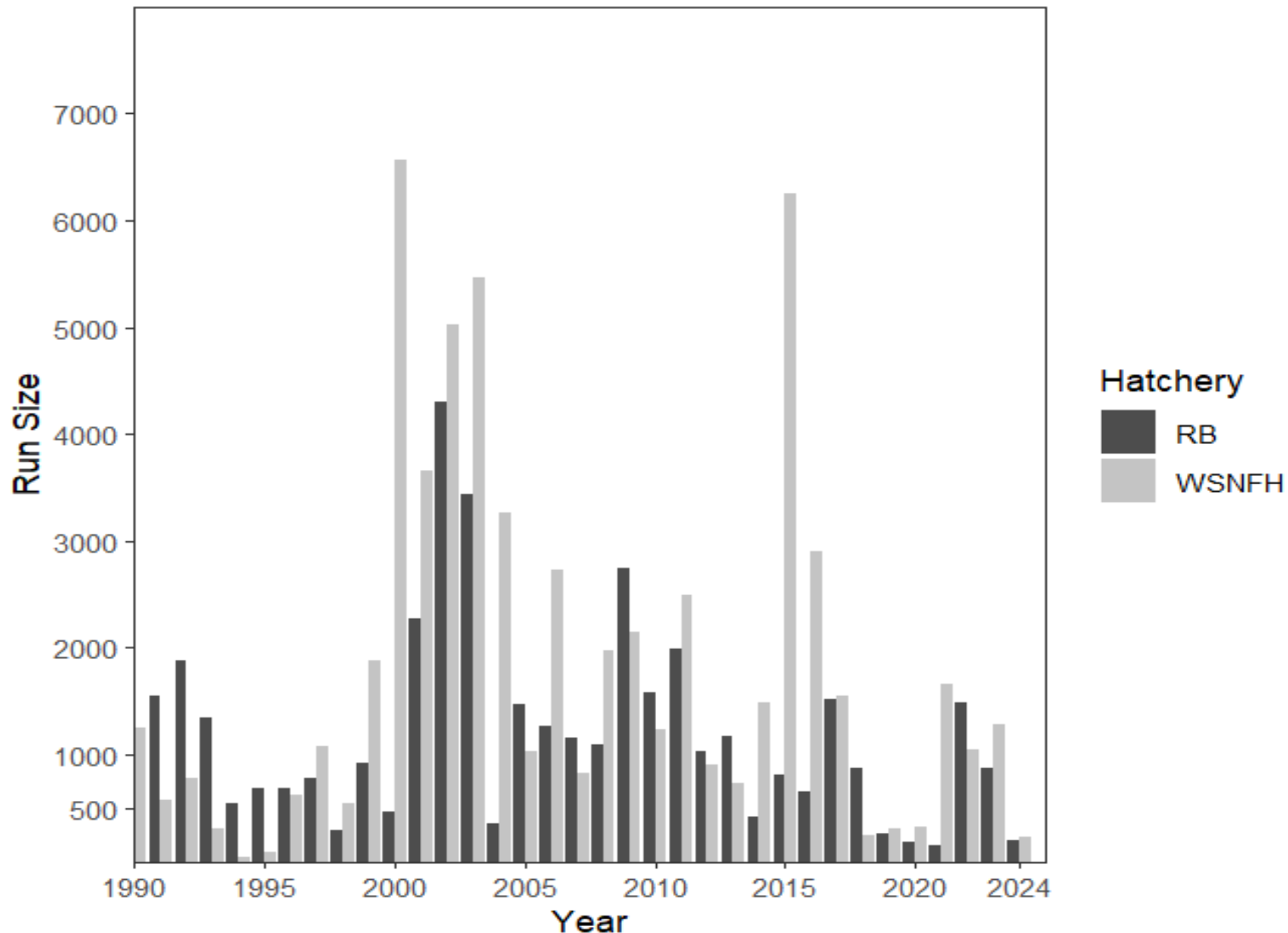
Wild Fall Chinook All River Run Reconstruction Estimates



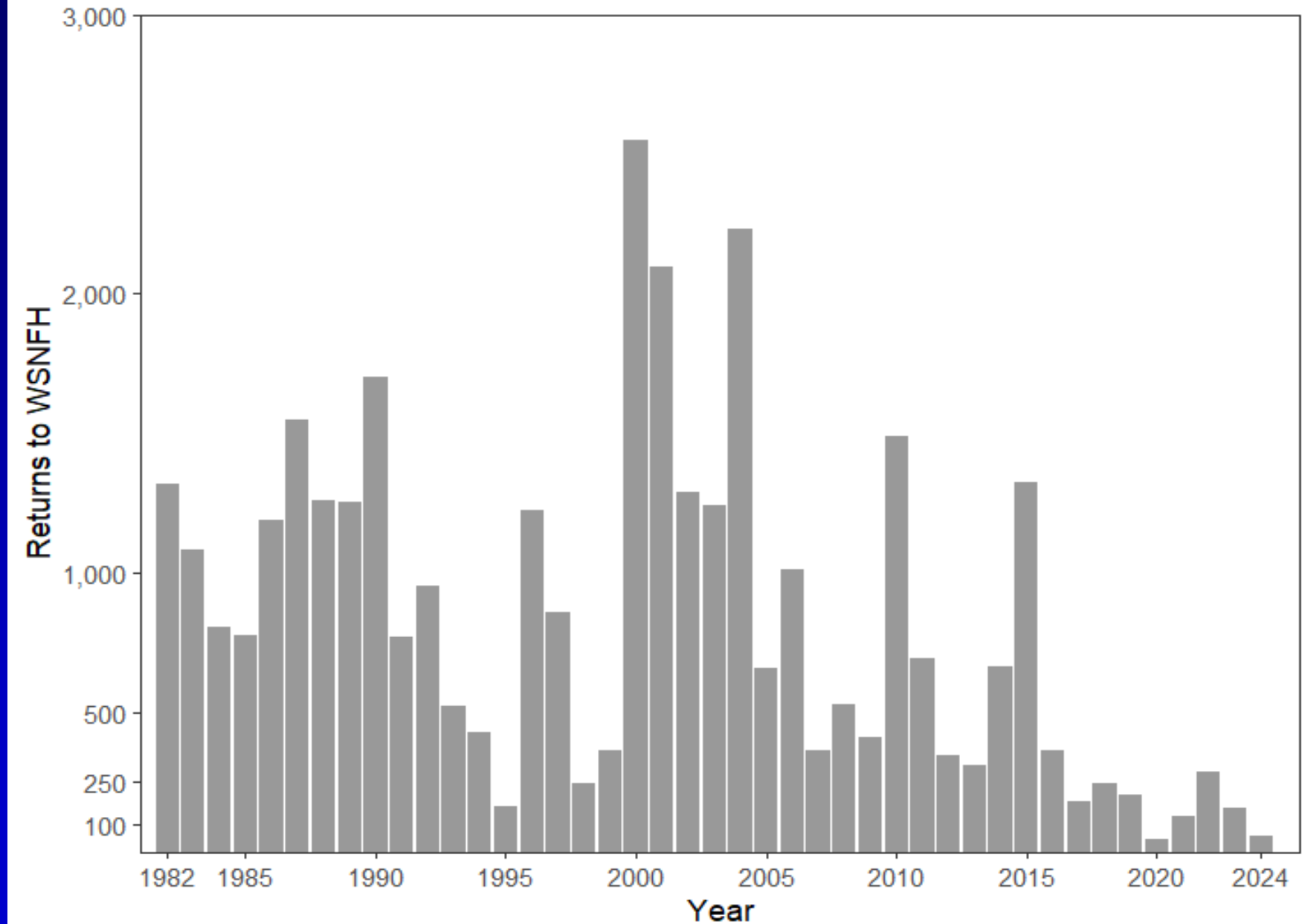
Spring Chinook Run Estimates

- Not associated with Sherars Trap
- Wild Run Size Enumerated at Warm Springs National
- Hatchery Production at Round Butte Hatchery (ODFW) and Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery (USFWS)

Adult Hatchery Spring Chinook Returns



Wild Spring Chinook Returns to WSNFHH



Deschutes Trout Monitoring

2019 to 2025: Continued previous studies since 2014

- Conducted Population & Growth Estimates

Below Sherars Falls

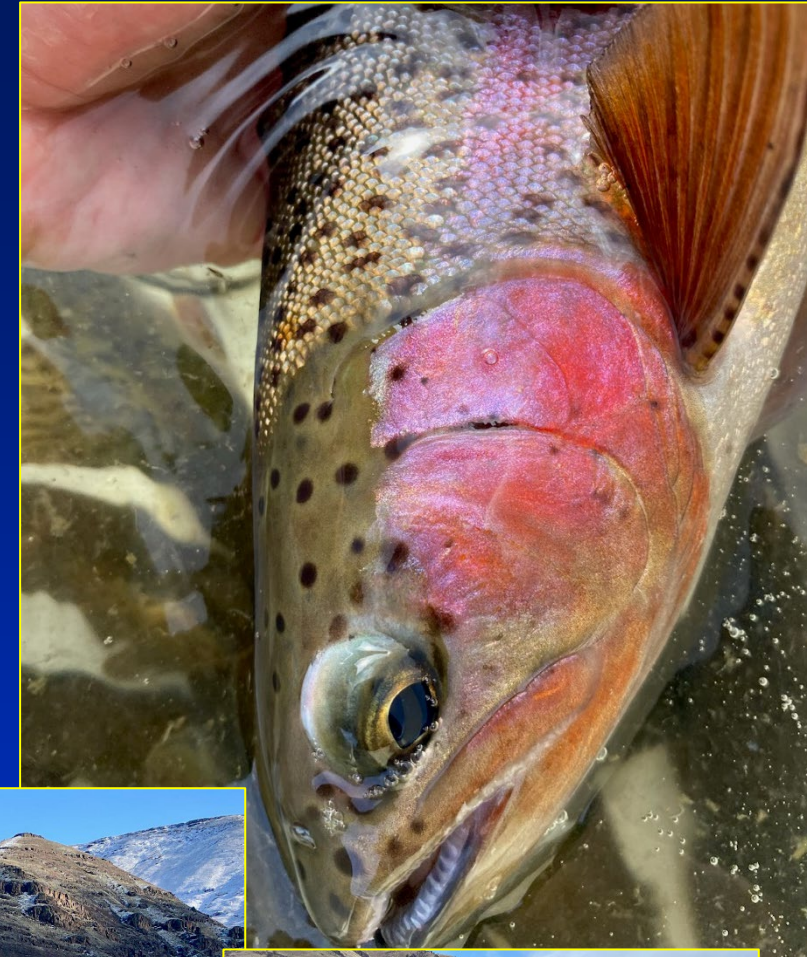
- Jones Canyon

Above Sherars Falls

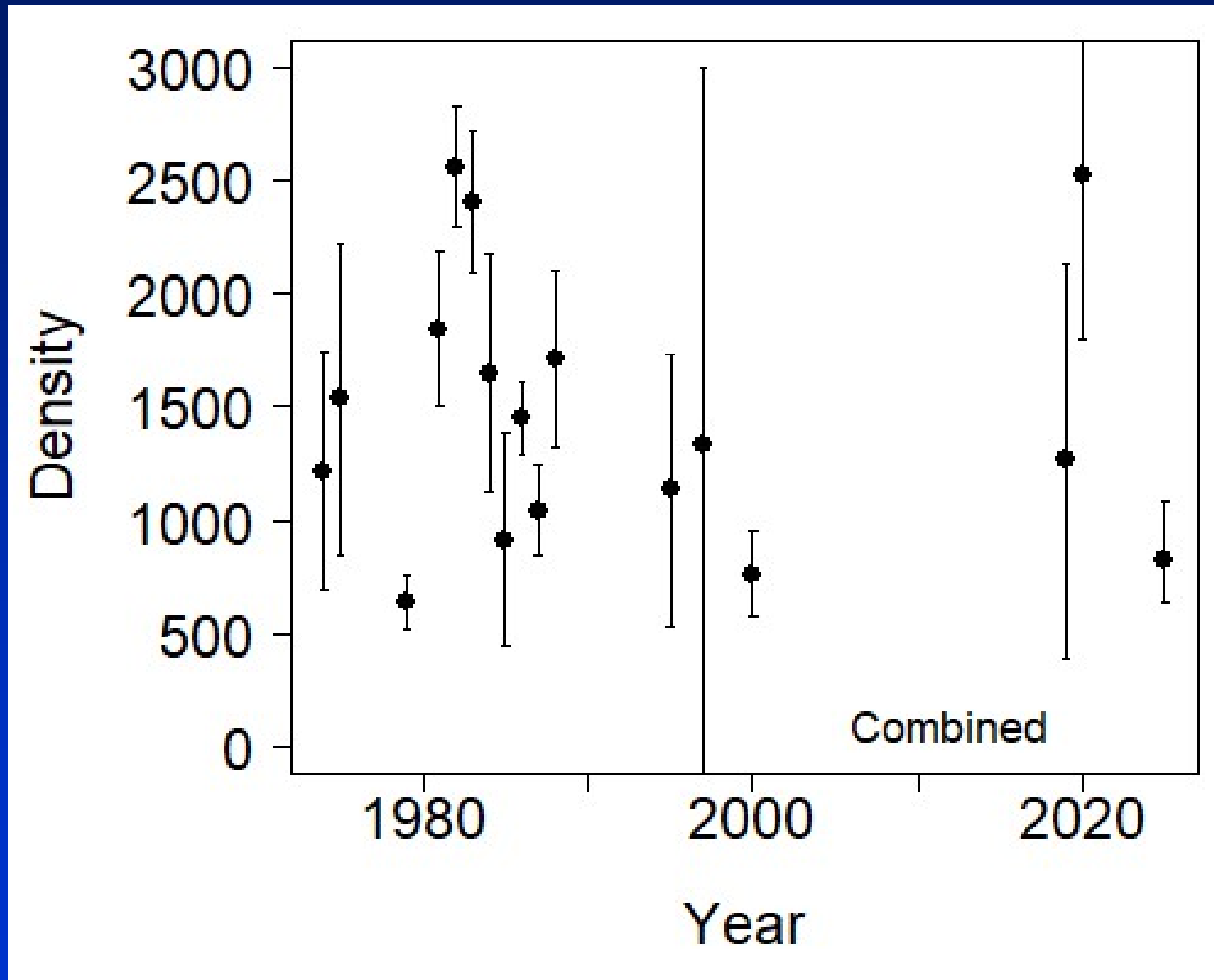
- Nena Creek

- North Junction

- Trout Creek



Nena Creek Section Fish Per Mile

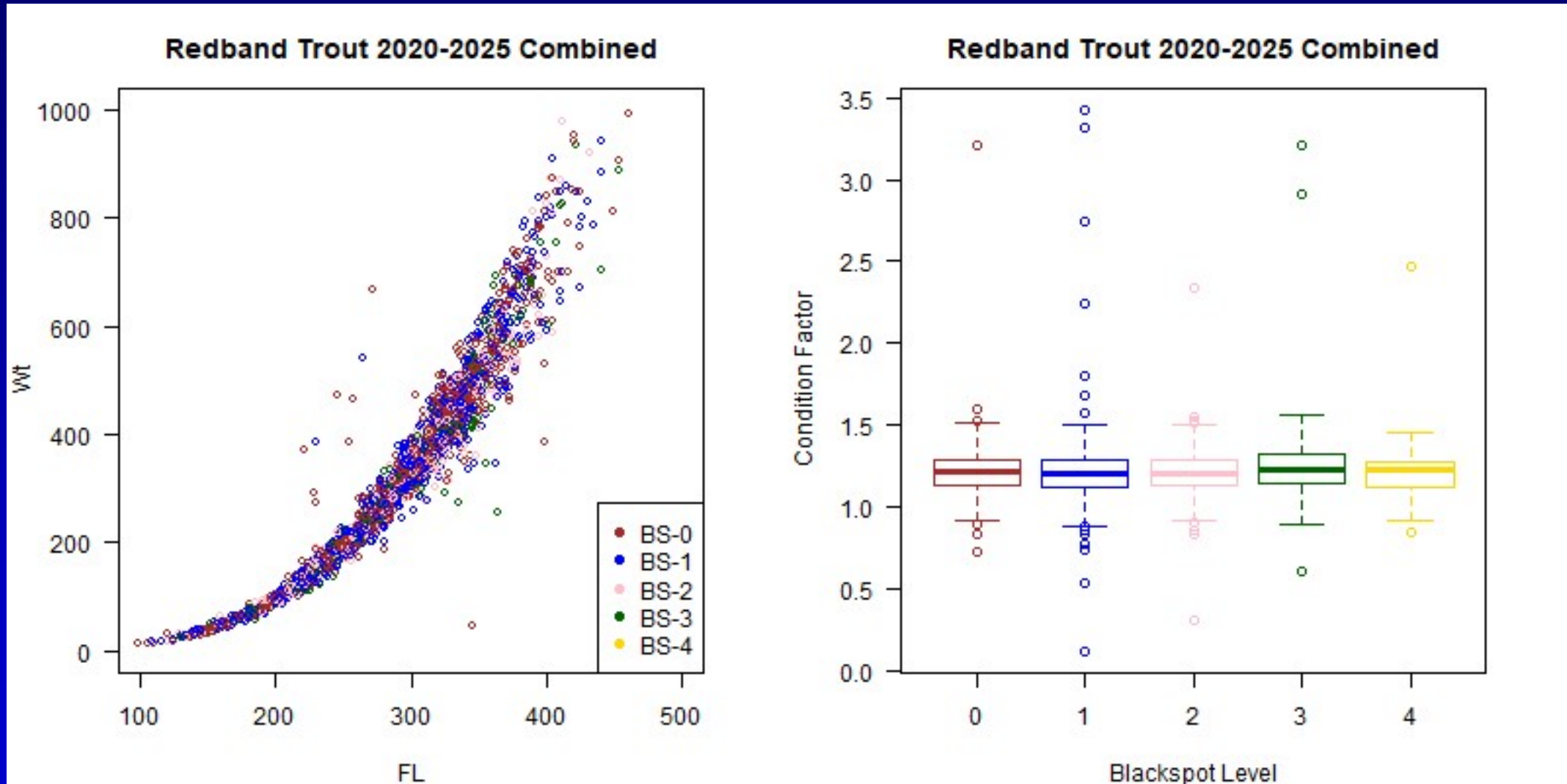


Michelle Jones, 2025

Black Spot Disease



Black Spot Infection Rate and Body Condition, all sites & years 2020-2025



Smallmouth Bass



Findings

- Distributed from RM 26 (Ferry Canyon) to mouth, heavily concentrated below RM 12 (Harris)
- PIT tagged individual displaying long migration patterns
- Leaving the Deschutes in September
- Re-entering the Deschutes April-June
- No evidence of Natural Reproduction



Status Summary – All Species

- Steelhead Returns Low
- Wild spring Chinook Returns are Critical
- Fall Chinook Returns are Robust
- Redband Trout Densities are Good
- Smallmouth Bass continue to seasonally occupy lower 12 miles (summer months)



Thanks to
U.S.F.W.S. Sport Fish Restoration
Confederates Tribes of the Warm Springs Natural Resources
Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery
Round Butte Fish Hatchery
Portland General Electric
ODFW Trap Operators, Creelers
ODFW Michelle Jones, Biometrician

Questions?

