



Rogue–South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP)

Implementation Update

Dan VanDyke
Rogue District Fish Biologist

Background



- Developed in 2018–2021
- Adopted December 2021
- Rogue–South Coast SMUs
 - Winter Steelhead
 - Summer Steelhead
 - Coho Salmon
 - Coastal Cutthroat Trout
- Strategies and actions in 7 management categories



Habitat Actions - Passage



- Priority barrier list for Rogue
- Momentum for restoration
- Drought funds
- Infrastructure funds:
Rogue Watershed Resilience Initiative



The ability for fish to move freely to different parts of the basin where conditions meet their needs (e.g., spawning, rearing) is critical to population health and climate change resilience

Habitat Actions – Water Quality



- Riparian **protection**, restoration
- Reduce impacts of non-native minnows
- Encourage beavers
- Targeted sediment management



Build resilience in a warming climate and help plan species compete with non-native fish

Habitat Actions – Water Quantity



- Instream rights
- Water right acquisition
- Beavers, beaver emphasis areas
- Vesper Meadow flow monitoring



Build resilience to drought, reduced snowpack, and more frequent large storm events



Hatchery Actions



- Power restored at Cole Rivers Hatchery!
- Hatchery losses and adaptive management
- Repair, renovation needed (and happening)
- Full release at new acclimation site (Jumpoff Joe Cr)
- Anvil fire – early release of Chetco steelhead



Fishing Actions



- Implemented the *Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation* and *Wild Steelhead Harvest Tag*
- Updated fishing regulations consistent with the RSP
- Tracked status metrics relative to Conservation Status thresholds to determine annual regulations
- Wild winter steelhead harvest rates **consistently below RSP limits**; 5-year review in 2026
- Mark-selective fisheries for coho salmon and summer steelhead with targeted enforcement



Southwest Zone

Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation

Required for steelhead anglers; season begins Dec. 1

October 25, 2023

The Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation is required for all winter steelhead anglers fishing in the Rogue Basin or on the south coast from Dec. 1 to April 30. In addition, a harvest tag is required to keep wild winter steelhead in this area.

[Visit e-regulations](#)



Research and Monitoring



- Increased monitoring capacity
- Implemented new winter steelhead and coho salmon monitoring called for in the plan
- Maintained key long-term monitoring
- Pilot monitoring projects in the Rogue
- Completed research actions and initiated new projects

Monitoring in 2023



- Obtained a population estimate for Upper Rogue
- Creel surveys on Chetco and lower Rogue
- pHOS snorkel surveys in Chetco and Winchuck
- Severe weather limited access to South Coast spawning surveys during critical period



Status Dashboard



Between conservation status and desired status
 Above desired status
 below conservation status

SMU	Status Metrics	Desired Status (5/yr avg)		Conservation Status (2 yr/avg)	
		Metric Threshold	Current status	Metric Threshold	Current status
Winter Steelhead	Coastal Juvenile Abundance Index	≥ 80,000	64,892	< 40,000	76,603
	Coastal Juvenile Occupancy	≥ 90%	98%	< 75%	99%
	Rogue Wild Half-Pounder Index	≥ 1,000	681	< 300	285
Summer Steelhead	Rogue Summer Steelhead	≥ 11,000	7,151	< 3,250	6,168
Coho Salmon	Elk River Spawner Index	≥ 800	245	< 150	371
	Rogue Wild Coho Abundance	≥ 10,000	6,121	< 1,870	8,429
Cutthroat Trout	Coastal Juvenile Abundance Index	≥ 28,000	25,446	< 6,500	14,412
	Coastal Juvenile Occupancy	≥ 90%	96%	< 75%	95%

Summary



Habitat Actions

- Lot of progress on fish passage
- Some progress on water quality/quantity
- Ongoing issue with illegal marijuana



Angling Controls

- New validations implemented
- Harvest is below plan limits
- Some restrictions coming in 24/25



Monitoring

- Largely implemented
- Continue to refine
- Challenges with hiring/weather



Status

- In general, populations are doing well
- Steelhead half-pounders returns have declined from recent high-impact TBD
- Rogue summer steelhead deserve a shoutout

Where to go for information



RSP Website:

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/rogue_south_coast_multi-species_conservation%20and%20Management_plan.asp

- Annual Reports
- Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries
- Hatchery Program Summaries



Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation Website:

<https://myodfw.com/articles/rogue-south-coast-steelhead-validation>

