



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Carly Guillory
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RE: Fish presence in Medford streams

I am writing to provide you with updated information on fish distribution in streams within the boundary of the City of Medford. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will continue to survey Medford streams in coming years, and will forward you periodic updates regarding the species of fish present and the locations where we have documented their presence.

Lone Pine Creek: In a new sighting as of today, the presence of juvenile steelhead is confirmed to Temple Drive and approximately stream mile 1.8 on Lone Pine Creek (collected via dipnet December 7, 2010). A citizen reports seeing fish farther upstream near Springbrook Road.

Previously steelhead had been documented only as high as Highway 62 and approximately stream mile 1.4, based on a survey in May 1991 (juvenile steelhead found during either snorkeling or single pass electrofishing). Based on a review of stream gradient, ODFW believes that historic fish distribution extended to about stream mile 4.0 near Foothill Road.

Lazy Creek: Seining conducted in November 2009 found brown bullhead in pools between a culvert on the golf course and the large culvert at the power substation off Calle Vista. Previously fish had been found only as far upstream as the culvert crossing near Black Oak Drive at approximately stream mile 1.0. The survey crew captured numerous five to ten inch juvenile steelhead and one 15 inch cutthroat (electrofishing survey March 1999). ODFW believes that historic fish use extended farther upstream.

Larson Creek: Fish use in Larson Creek is confirmed from its confluence with Bear Creek up to stream mile 3.9 (above North Phoenix Road and just downstream from the East Lateral). Juvenile steelhead were found at this location during an electrofishing survey in March 1998. For the Middle Fork Larson Creek ("Mud Creek" on some maps), fish access has been restored thanks to a project at an irrigation diversion, but fish have not yet been found in the tributary. For the North Fork Larson Creek (the unnamed tributary to north), fish use has not been confirmed; we hope to survey for winter-time use by salmonids during high flow events. Partial



barriers to fish passage are present on lower Larson Creek, and some sections of the creek flow through concrete channels. Restoration opportunities are numerous.

Gore Creek: Fish use is confirmed to at least stream mile 0.7 in the vicinity of the railroad tracks, based on an electrofishing survey conducted in March 2004. In a more recent survey, an upstream migrant trap was operated in US Cellular Community Park by volunteers in ODFW's Salmon Trout Enhancement Program. The trap captured 22 juvenile steelhead between December 2007 and February 2008. One juvenile coho was reported as well. ODFW believes that historic fish use extended farther upstream.

Swanson, tributary to Whetstone Creek: Steelhead have been confirmed to Highway 62 at approximately stream mile 3.3, based on a brief ODFW electrofishing survey conducted in January 2008. ODFW believes that historic fish use extended farther upstream. Additionally, an upstream migrant trap was operated in Whetstone Creek below Table Rock Road, by volunteers in ODFW's Salmon Trout Enhancement Program. Both juvenile steelhead and juvenile coho were collected between February 2005 and March 2006.

Elk Creek: Steelhead use has been confirmed to approximately stream mile 0.5, based on ODFW seining upstream from Beall Lane in January 2007. ODFW believes that historic fish likely occurred farther upstream, but a culvert barrier blocking all fish passage is located at Highway 99.

Crooked Creek: Green sunfish were found up to the Happy Valley Road crossing at approximately stream mile 2.8 during an electrofishing survey conducted in March 1999. ODFW believes that historic fish use extended farther upstream in Crooked Creek and in Hansen Creek, a tributary entering from the south along Highway 99. ODFW has received a report from a landowner near stream mile 4.0 that trout have been observed in that vicinity of Crooked Creek in the past.

Juvenile steelhead have been confirmed using lower Crooked Creek. Nine juveniles were seined below a culvert in the Winco parking lot in November 2005. This long culvert likely blocks fish migration during most stream flows.

Sincerely,



Dan Van Dyke
Rogue District Fish Biologist