

# RECOVERY in the SPOTLIGHT

Salmon & Steelhead in the Little Salmon River



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Snake River  
spring/summer  
Chinook salmon

*(Oncorhynchus  
tshawytscha)*

Snake River  
Basin steelhead

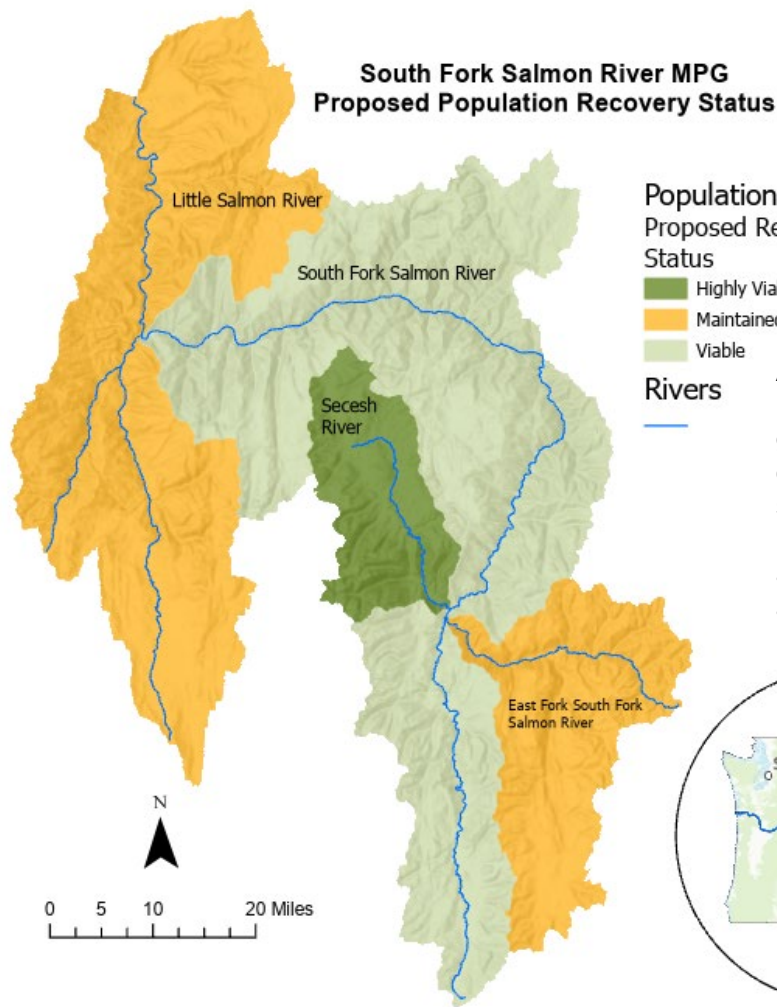
*(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*

**Recovery  
Actions  
for  
Achieving  
Major  
Population  
Group  
Viability**

- Reduce and prevent sediment delivery. Continue road decommissioning where the high density of roads still deliver sediment to streams.
- Improve riparian function.
- Remove or replace fish passage barriers.
- Reduce impacts of water diversions to minimize habitat reductions and elevated temperatures caused by reduced base flows.
- Improve water quality (reduce stream temperatures and contaminant concentrations where elevated).
- Improve planning for climate change effects by continuing to monitor stream temperature and validate fish distribution in modeled cold water refugia.
- Operate the Rapid River Chinook salmon hatchery program to minimize interactions with wild fish.

# Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon

## South Fork Salmon River (SFSR) Major Population Group (MPG)



As of 2022, all four populations within the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR) major population group (MPG) are considered to be at **high risk**<sup>1</sup> of extinction within 100 years. The map (left) shows the **proposed recovery status** for each population, as determined by NOAA Fisheries and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to achieve MPG viability.

### Natural-origin Spawner Abundance Estimates in the SFSR MPG

Population	Minimum Abundance Threshold <sup>2</sup>	5-year geometric means <sup>3</sup>		
		2005-09	2010-14	2015-19
Little Salmon	500	Insufficient data		
Secesh	750	435	1,043	468
South Fork Salmon	1,000	628	913	160
East Fork South Fork Salmon	1,000	129	709	359

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>[2022 5-Year Review: Summary & Evaluation of Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon \(NMFS 2022\)](#).

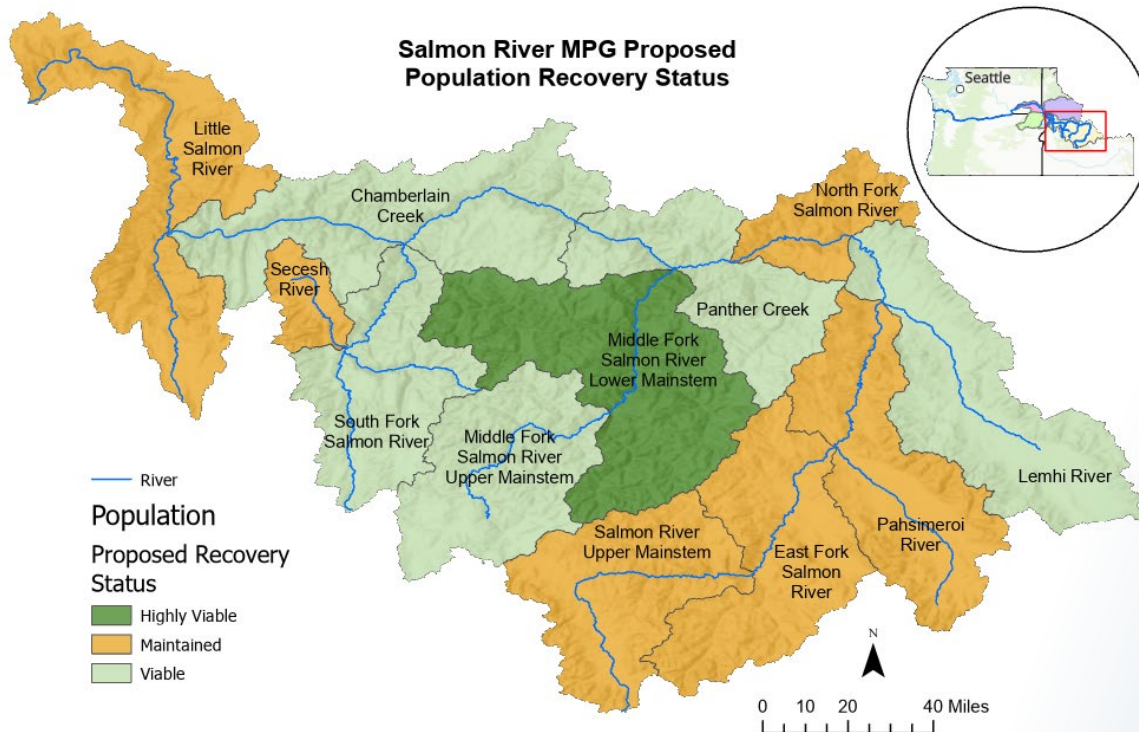
<sup>2</sup>[ESA Recovery Plan for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon and Snake River Basin steelhead \(NMFS 2017\)](#).

<sup>3</sup>[Biological Viability Assessment Update for Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Listed Under the Endangered Species Act: Pacific Northwest \(Ford et al. 2022\)](#).

# Snake River Basin Steelhead

## Salmon River

### Major Population Group (MPG)



As of 2022, the Salmon River major population group (MPG) is not viable<sup>1</sup>. Only the Little Salmon River population is achieving its viability target based on ten-year geometric mean abundance estimates of natural-origin spawners. The Panther Creek population is at high risk and all remaining populations are considered to be at a maintained status. While there are multiple scenarios for achieving MPG viability, the map (above) shows the **proposed recovery status** for each population, as determined by NOAA Fisheries and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game<sup>2</sup>.

### Minimum Natural-origin Spawner Abundance Thresholds for Recovery<sup>2</sup>

Population	Minimum Abundance Threshold <sup>2</sup>
Little Salmon	500
Chamberlain	500
Secesh	500
South Fork Salmon	1,000
Panther	500
Middle Fork Salmon Lower	1,000
Middle Fork Salmon Upper	1,000
North Fork Salmon	500
Lemhi	1,000
Pahsimeroi	1,000
East Fork Salmon	1,000
Upper Salmon	1,000

### Natural-origin Spawner Abundance Estimates in the Salmon River MPG

Population / Region of Origin <sup>a</sup>	5-year geometric means <sup>3</sup>	
	2010-14	2015-19
Little Salmon / Rapid River	49	18
South Fork Salmon River	1,142	449
Secesh River	158	80
Big / Camas / Loon Creeks	4,219	1,807
Lemhi River	379	177
Pahsimeroi River	183	41
Upper Salmon River	327	105

<sup>a</sup>PIT-tag-based population estimation method based on mixture model and tag detection network.

#### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>[2022 5-Year Review: Summary & Evaluation of Snake River Basin Steelhead \(NMFS 2022\)](#).

<sup>2</sup>[ESA Recovery Plan for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon and Snake River Basin steelhead \(NMFS 2017\)](#).

<sup>3</sup>[Biological Viability Assessment Update for Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Listed Under the Endangered Species Act: Pacific Northwest \(Ford et al. 2022\)](#).