

LOWER COLUMBIA – COWLITZ WINTER STEELHEAD

STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS	2002 STATUS
Depressed	Unknown

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

There are no adequate abundance trend data available for Cowlitz winter steelhead, so their status is **Unknown** in 2002 but may be Depressed because access to 80% of the historic habitat of this stock has been lost due to dam construction.

STOCK DEFINITION

Cowlitz winter steelhead were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning downstream of Mayfield Dam takes place in the lower mainstem Cowlitz River and in Ostrander and Salmon creeks. Spawning also takes place in Olequa, Stillwater, Whittle, Arkansas, and Delameter creeks. Cowlitz winter steelhead are also trucked above the three dams on the Cowlitz River and released into the Tilton River and Lake Scanewa, the uppermost reservoir. Spawning occurs in the Tilton River, the Cispus River and its tributaries, and the upper Cowlitz and its tributaries.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from March to early June.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: No genetic analysis has been done on naturally spawning Cowlitz winter steelhead. Cowlitz Hatchery late winter steelhead, derived from native broodstock, were sampled in 1996, however comparisons of allele frequencies between this stock and other lower Columbia steelhead stocks for determining stock distinctiveness are not very informative (Myers et al. 2002).

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **wild** production.