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April 4, 2017

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee members

**FROM:** Nancy Leonard

**SUBJECT:** Putting aquatic species on the map: the eDNAAtlas and eDNArchive for aquatic taxa in western North America

#### BACKGROUND:

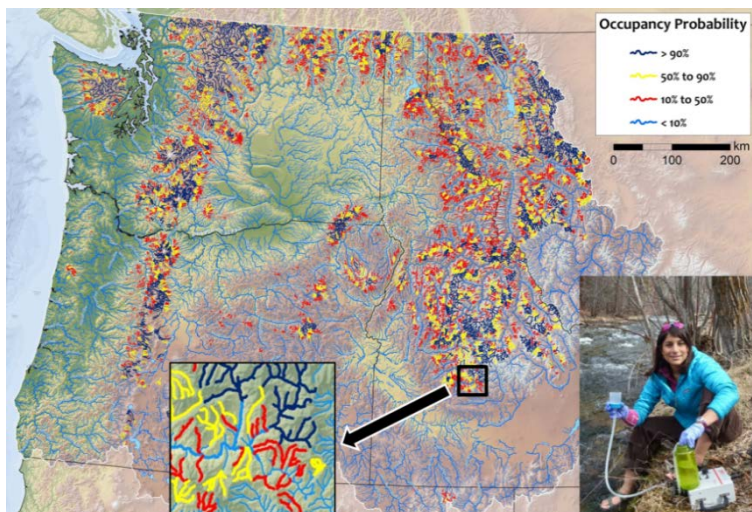
**Presenter:** Michael Young, Research Fisheries Biologist (USFS)  
Dan Isaak, Research Fisheries Biologist (USFS)

**Summary:** We describe eDNA sampling and share first-year field results from the range-wide eDNA-based inventory of bull trout in the Northwestern U.S., featuring crowd-sourced sampling of ~3,000 sites. Project results constitute the first phase of the Aquatic eDNAAtlas, an open-access database depicting eDNA sampling results throughout Western North America and the eDNArchive, and eDNA-based biodiversity catalog.

**Relevance:** Bull trout is one of the focal (important) resident fish species for the Program ([Appendix N](#)). Bull trout are addressed under the *Resident Fish Mitigation* and the *Mainstem Hydrosystem Flow and Passage Operations* Program Strategies (see [general measures section](#)). The 2014 Program has an interim bull trout population objective to maintain a stable and increasing population trend. Bull Trout is one of the species targeted as part of the Program's *refine program goals and objectives task*.

**Background:** Effective conservation and management of societally important cold-water and other native fishes during an era of rapid environmental change, nonnative species invasions, and urbanization will require unprecedented levels of interagency coordination and high-quality information to guide decision-making. Strategic investment strategies and prioritization will be required because conservation needs always exceed available resources. Fundamental to any prioritization scheme is precise information about species distributions across broad areas to show current status, trends, and risks. One focal species for such efforts is the bull trout, an ESA-listed species that occurs at low densities within thousands of streams designated as critical habitat across the Northwest. Because gauging the status of bull trout at broad scales is precluded by the difficulty and expense of traditional sampling, estimates of its present distribution are imprecise and changes in occupancy status uncertain. That uncertainty comes at a cost; stakeholders may not be able to efficiently target their limited conservation resources, may forego or delay land management critical for other objectives, and may even avoid monitoring populations because of the added burden of obtaining sampling permits.

To reduce this uncertainty, the Boise Spatial Streams Group developed and published the Climate Shield habitat occupancy model, which accurately predicts the probability of bull trout (and cutthroat trout) presence across the Columbia River basin (Figure 1) and makes spatially explicit projections (1-km resolution) about climate refugia for species under a suite of climate and invasive species scenarios. For this and related projects e.g., the NorWeST stream temperature model and database, we engaged hundreds of biologists working for dozens of agencies and leveraged their raw data to develop databases worth over \$10,000,000, attesting to the effectiveness of crowd-sourcing environmental data collection. But the Climate Shield project also re-emphasized the need for a coordinated, broad-scale effort to precisely categorize habitat occupancy by bull trout across its historical range in the U.S., because many of these potential climate refugia have rarely or never been sampled.



**Figure 1.** The 5,332 locations that potentially provide spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout in the northwestern U.S. (Isaak et al. 2015). The status of bull trout (present/absent) in 1,000–2,000 of those habitats is unknown because sites have rarely or never been sampled. We are using cost-efficient, highly sensitive eDNA surveys to census these habitats. Photo shows typical eDNA sampling equipment that a single person carries to a site.

A revolutionary advance in detecting aquatic species—environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling—provides a way forward. Environmental DNA is DNA shed by organisms and collected by filtering water, and scientists at the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation (NGC) have pioneered developments in this field, which include the first reliable eDNA assay for salmonid fish species, the first that distinguishes bull trout from other species of char, the first to demonstrate the efficiency of detection of salmonids in streams, and the first to apply eDNA sampling at broader

scales to describe salmonid species occupancy. Following an NGC protocol that was field-tested by hundreds of resource agency partners, a one-person crew can collect an eDNA sample in under 15 minutes. And because even a single DNA molecule on a filter can be detected with high reliability, species detection with eDNA sampling is remarkably sensitive. Heightened interest in using eDNA methods has driven collaborations between the NGC and biologists from partner agencies throughout western North America on projects including population inventories, seasonal patterns of species movement, invasive species detection, and effectiveness monitoring of chemical treatments or electrofishing to remove nonnative species.

Foremost among those efforts is the range-wide, eDNA-based inventory of local populations of bull trout across its U.S. range. This relies on crowd-sourced eDNA sampling of potential natal habitats identified by the Climate Shield model or designated as critical habitat for spawning and rearing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Biologists from dozens of agencies have contributed time and matching funds to collect ~3,000 samples to date, a total expected to exceed 10,000 at the project's conclusion in 2018. The results are expected to be invaluable to researchers trying to understand patterns of habitat occupancy by bull trout. To be most valuable to all stakeholders, however, these data need to be easily shared within a consistent database structure that permits user-driven data summaries and analyses that are essential for decision making. To that end, we are developing the aquatic **eDNAAtlas**, an online, open-access database of eDNA sampling results. Building on the foundation of the NorWeST and Climate Shield webpages, an interactive ArcGIS Online-based website is being developed for the eDNAAtlas that will provide downloadable data in formats desired by users. An electronic pipeline for delivering

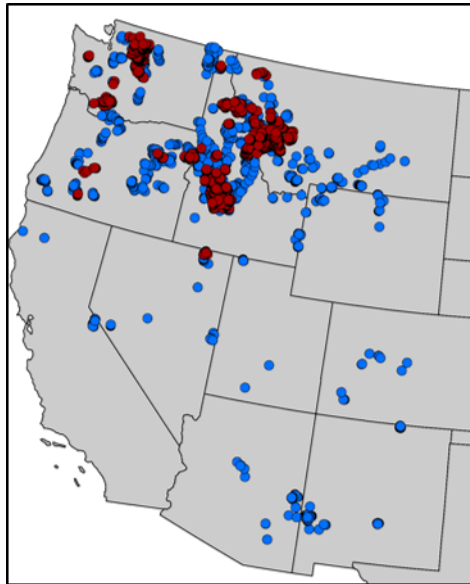


Figure 2. Locations already sampled as part of eDNA-based projects involving the NGC (excluding AK and Canada) as of March 2016. Color denotes those samples related to the range-wide bull trout project (red;  $n = 2,988$ ) and those representing sampling for all other species (blue;  $n = 3,495$ ).

consistent results from the NGC to the Boise Spatial Streams Group has been built and tested. Bull trout are the flagship species for this effort and those data are available now, but we envision extending this to the 30+ species that are tested at the NGC (Figure 2) on the ~10,000 samples to be analyzed by late summer 2017, with new data to be added semiannually. In addition, the samples themselves constitute a near-permanent catalog of biodiversity—an **eDNAArchive**—because each sample can be stored indefinitely and analyzed for the presence of many species at any later time. Collectively, these data tools will enable users to make efficient, strategic assessments of species status, trend, and distribution, detect and track nonnative species invasions, and evaluate habitat restoration success and fish passage.

**More Info:**

Range-wide Bull Trout eDNA project:

[https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/BullTrout\\_eDNA.html](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/BullTrout_eDNA.html)

Cold-Water Climate Shield project:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/ClimateShield.html>

National Genomics Center for Wildlife & Fish Conservation:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/research/genomics-center/edna/>

National Stream Internet project:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/NationalStreamInternet.html>

NorWeST Stream Temperature project:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/NorWeST.html>

# Putting aquatic species on the map: The eDNA Atlas and Archive for aquatic taxa in western North America

Michael Young, Dan Isaak, Kevin McKelvey, Michael Schwartz  
U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station



National Genomics Center  
FOR WILDLIFE AND FISH CONSERVATION



## NGC members

Kevin McKelvey  
Michael Schwartz  
Kellie Carim  
Taylor Wilcox  
Tommy Franklin\*  
Caleb Dysthe  
Samuel Greaves



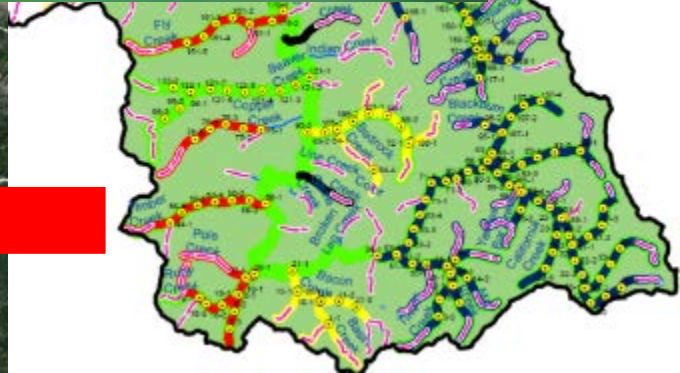
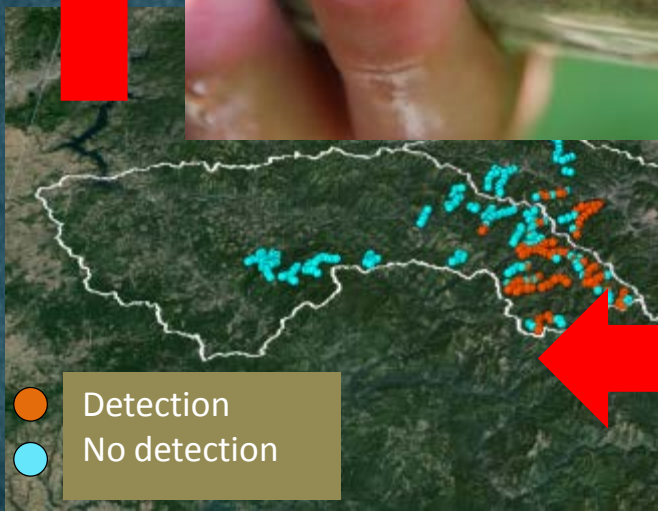
## BSSG members

Dan Isaak  
Dave Nagel  
Dona Horan  
Sherry Wollrab  
Sharon Parkes  
Matt Groce



# Project evolution

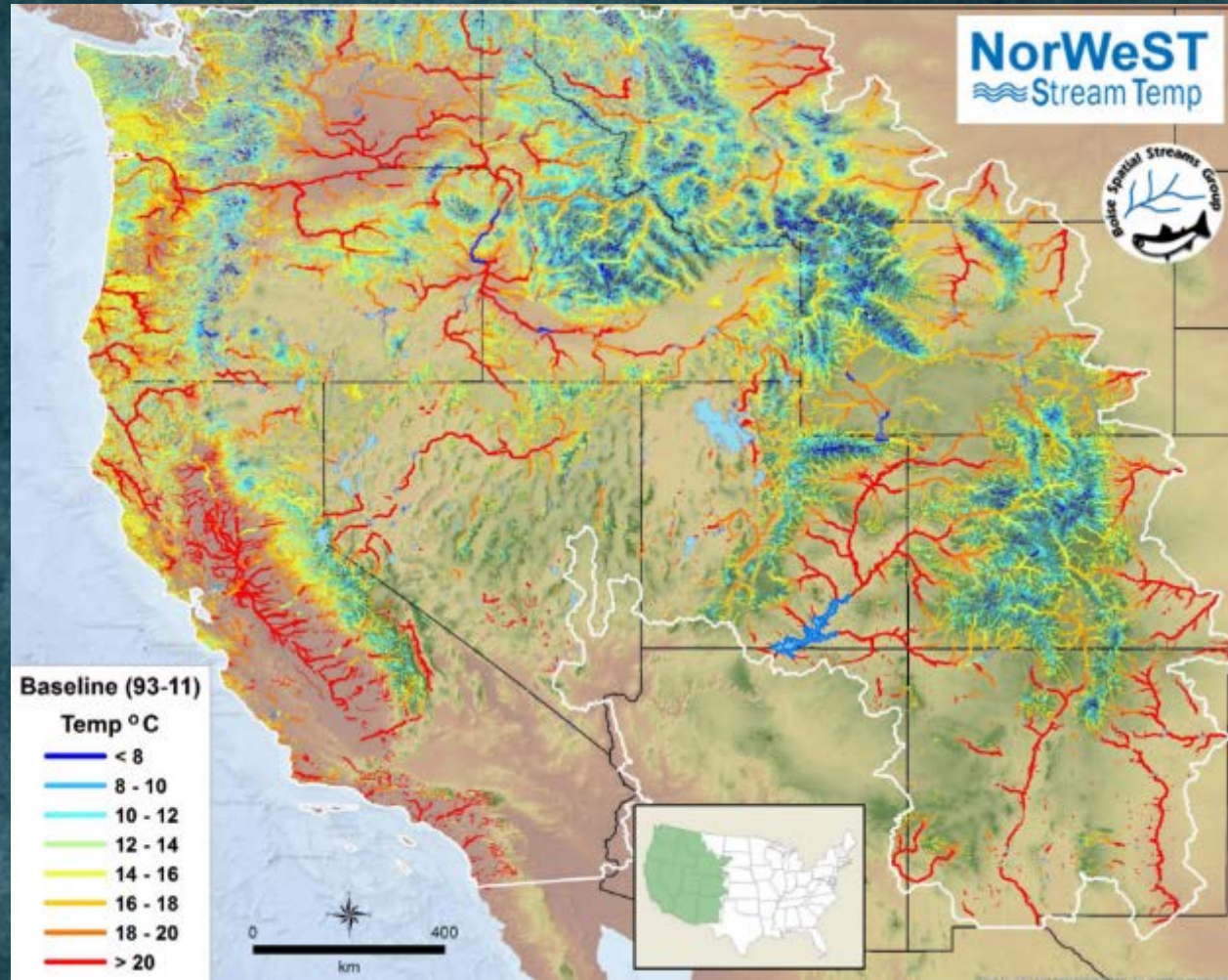
- Origin: concern about a focal species
  - Juvenile bull trout
- Understanding its distribution
  - Climate Shield model
  - Uncertainty
- eDNA sampling
  - What is it
  - Why use it
- Bull trout + eDNA
  - Where to look
  - Early results
- All species + eDNA
  - eDNAAtlas
  - eDNArchive



# Why choose juvenile bull trout?



- ESA-listed as threatened
- Presence dictates land & water management & planning
- Widespread in PNW
- Often rare
- Difficult to detect
- Juveniles constrained by water temperature, vulnerable to nonnative spp.
- = candidate for occupancy modeling to identify suitable habitat





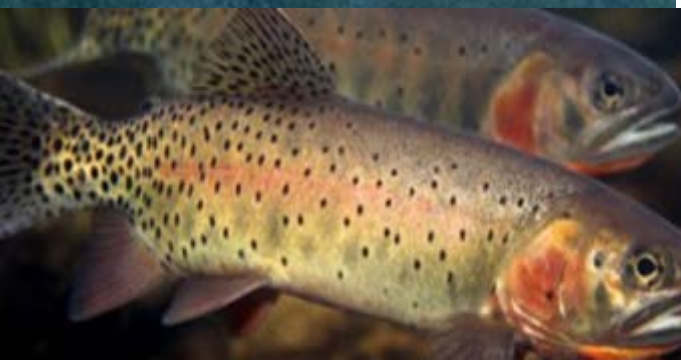
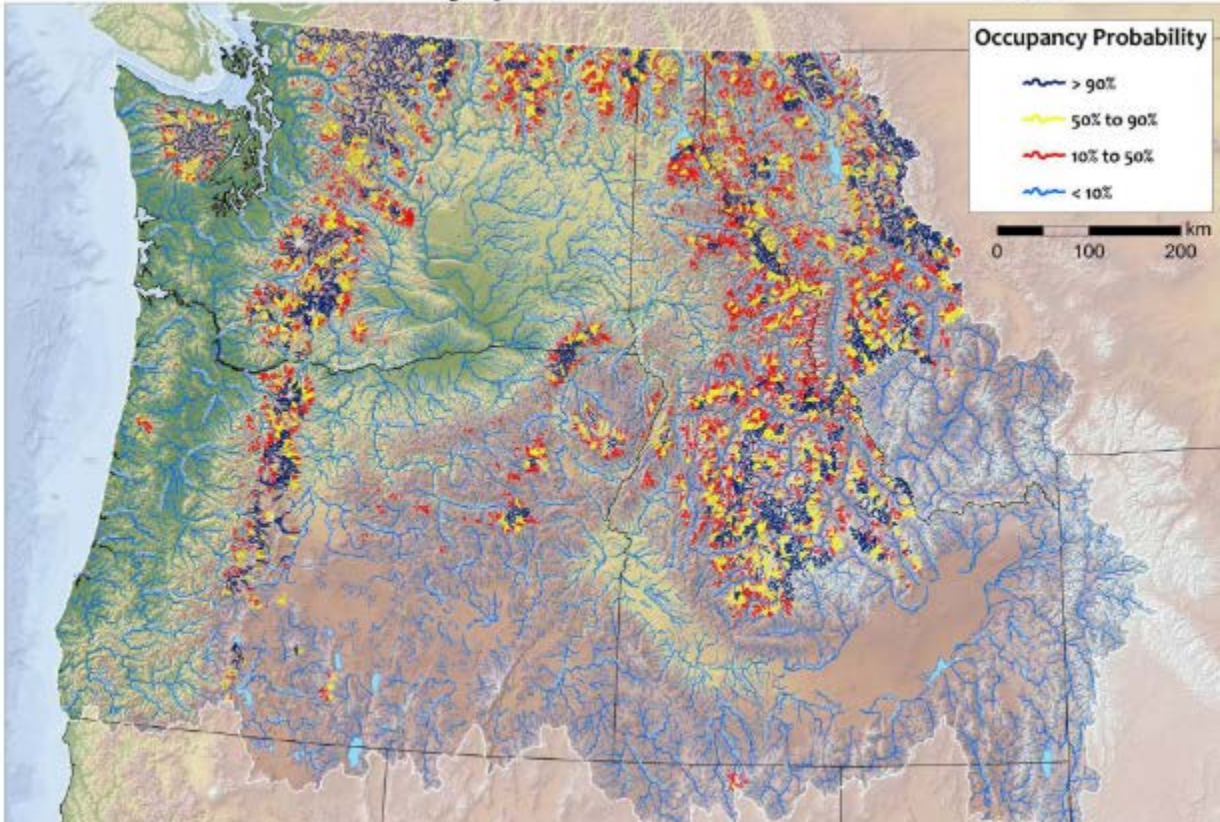
# Identifying climate refugia for native trout – the Climate Shield

- Climate to cold-water habitat
- Predictions
  - Accurate & sufficient
  - Address invasive species
  - Empirical
  - Precise & range-wide
- Projections
  - Address climate change
- Many unsampled potential habitats
  - Validation?



<https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/ClimateShield.html>  
or Google “cold-water climate shield”

*Climate Shield Cold-Water Habitats for Juvenile Bull Trout* Scenario: 1980s, 0% Brook Trout



~3700 potentially occupied cold-water habitats: which ones are?

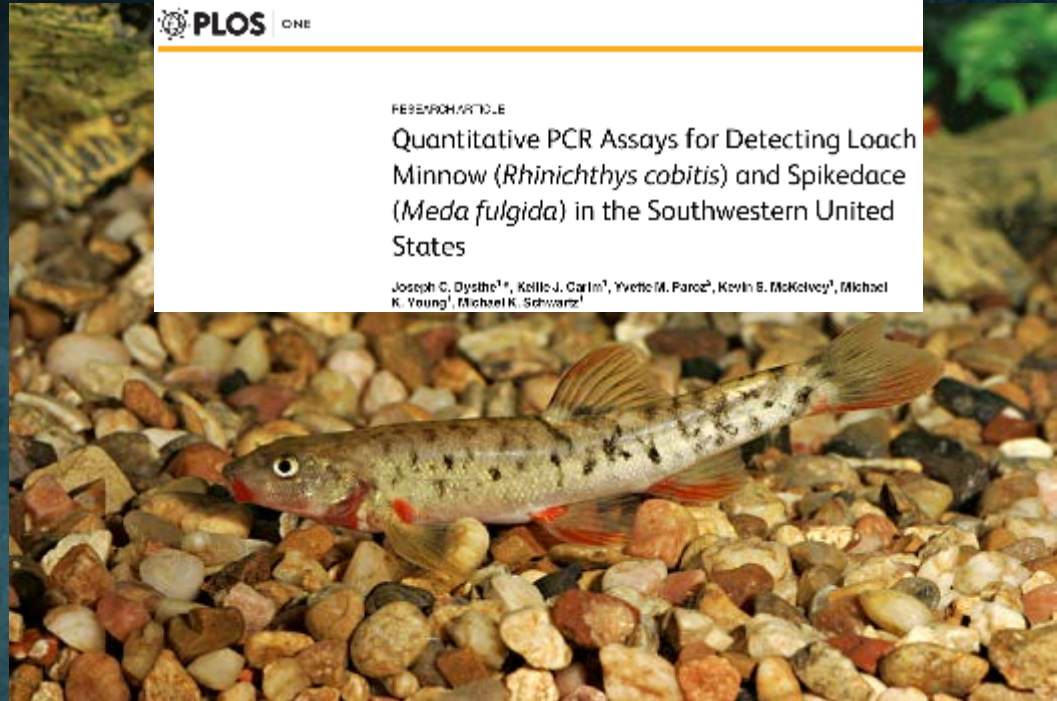
# Conventional sampling issues

- Harmful
- Expensive & time-consuming
- Ineffective
  - Rare native species
  - Invasion fronts & removal survivors
- Is there an alternative?

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Quantitative PCR Assays for Detecting Loach Minnow (*Rhinichthys cobitis*) and Spikedace (*Meda fulgida*) in the Southwestern United States

Joseph C. Dwyer<sup>1\*</sup>, Kelle J. Garim<sup>1</sup>, Yvette M. Paroz<sup>2</sup>, Kevin B. McKelvey<sup>3</sup>, Michael K. Young<sup>1</sup>, Michael K. Schwartz<sup>1</sup>



# What is eDNA sampling?

- Collection of DNA from the environment
- The indirect detection of species presence
  - Bird dog
  - Elk tracking



Siberian permafrost cores contain DNA from prehistoric plants and mega-fauna in the absence of preserved fossils



American Bullfrog

- Fish & Wildlife
  - Mammoths in permafrost
  - Neanderthal in soil
- Aquatic application
  - American bullfrogs in France in 2008

# Why use eDNA sampling: efficiency

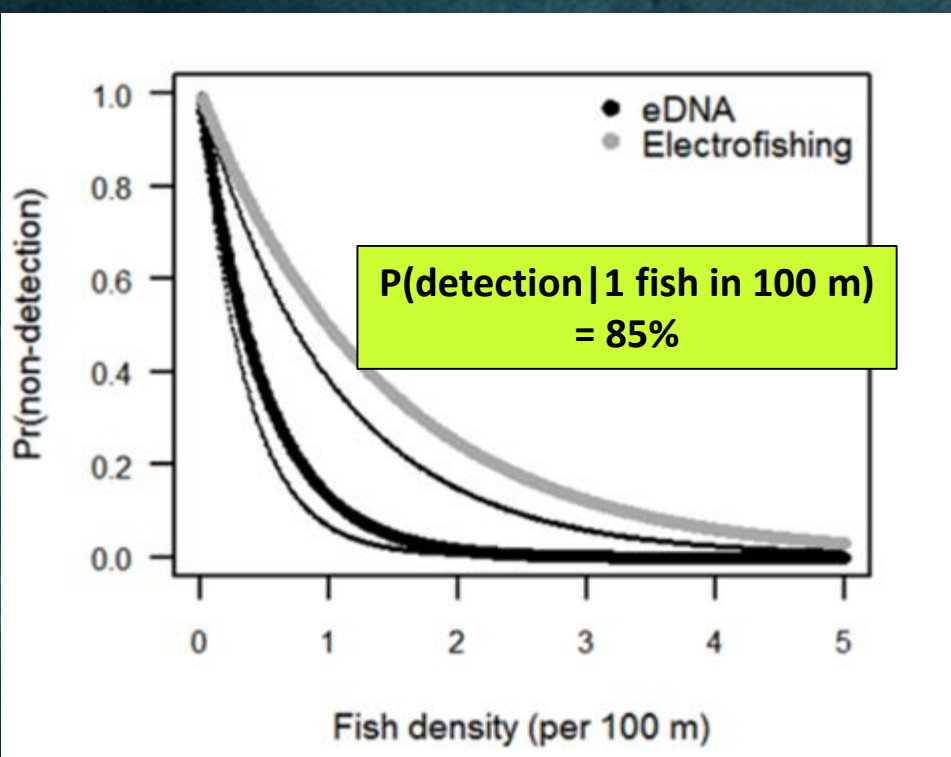
- Fast
- Portable
- Stable
- Cost: pennies on the dollar, minutes on the hour
- Rapid, broad-scale surveys are feasible



# Why use eDNA sampling: accuracy

- Reliably\* species-specific
- Sensitivity: high & quantified
  - Release rate: ~500 copies/sec
  - Detection threshold: 1 copy
- Very good at detecting rare species
- Occupancy estimates are robust

DNA Source	DNA Concentration Copies / ul	N	Proportion Successful
Brook Trout	315.5	40	1
	62.5	40	1
	12.5	40	1
	2.5	40	1
	0.5	40	0.825



OPEN ACCESS Freely available online PLOS ONE

## Robust Detection of Rare Species Using Environmental DNA: The Importance of Primer Specificity

Taylor M. Wilcox<sup>1\*</sup>, Kevin S. McKelvey<sup>1</sup>, Michael K. Young<sup>1</sup>, Stephen F. Jane<sup>2</sup>, Winsor H. Lowe<sup>3</sup>, Andrew R. Whiteley<sup>2</sup>, Michael K. Schwartz<sup>1</sup>

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Biological Conservation**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/bioco](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/bioco)

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Understanding environmental DNA detection probabilities: A case study using a stream-dwelling char *Salvelinus fontinalis*

Taylor M. Wilcox<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Kevin S. McKelvey<sup>a</sup>, Michael K. Young<sup>a</sup>, Adam J. Sepulveda<sup>c</sup>, Bradley B. Shepard<sup>d,1</sup>, Stephen F. Jane<sup>e</sup>, Andrew R. Whiteley<sup>f</sup>, Winsor H. Lowe<sup>b</sup>, Michael K. Schwartz<sup>a</sup>

# Why use eDNA sampling: revolutionary

- Apply a consistent approach
- Craft a sampling design
- Engage the stakeholder community
- Defensible, precise, broad-scale occupancy estimates for priority species in real time for reasonable cost

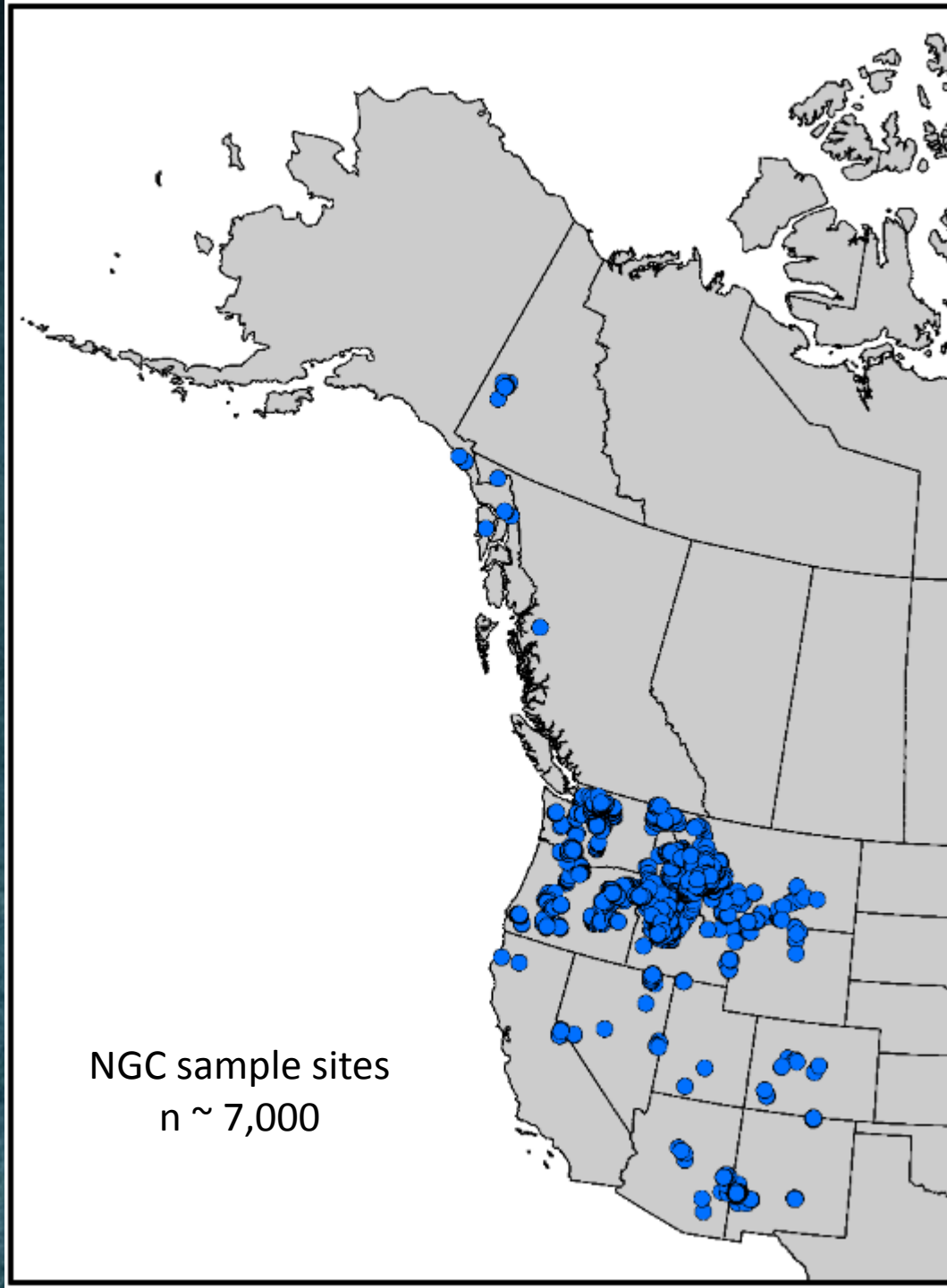
## A Protocol for Collecting Environmental DNA Samples From Streams

Kellie J. Carim, Kevin S. McKelvey, Michael K. Young, Taylor M. Wilcox, and Michael K. Schwartz



## eDNA: many species

- Trout: rainbow, westslope cutthroat, Yellowstone cutthroat, brown
- Charr: bull, brook, Dolly Varden, lake, Arctic
- Salmon: Chinook, chum, coho, pink, sockeye
- Arctic grayling
- Any salmonid
- Pacific & brook lamprey
- Game fish/invaders: northern pike, sauger, walleye, smallmouth bass
- Non-game fish: sculpin (several), northern leatherside chub, loach minnow, spinedace
- Amphibians: Rocky Mountain tailed frog, western toad
- Mussels: western pearlshell, California floater
- Invertebrates: opossum shrimp, Snake River Physa
- North American river otter
- Harlequin duck
- Your species here...



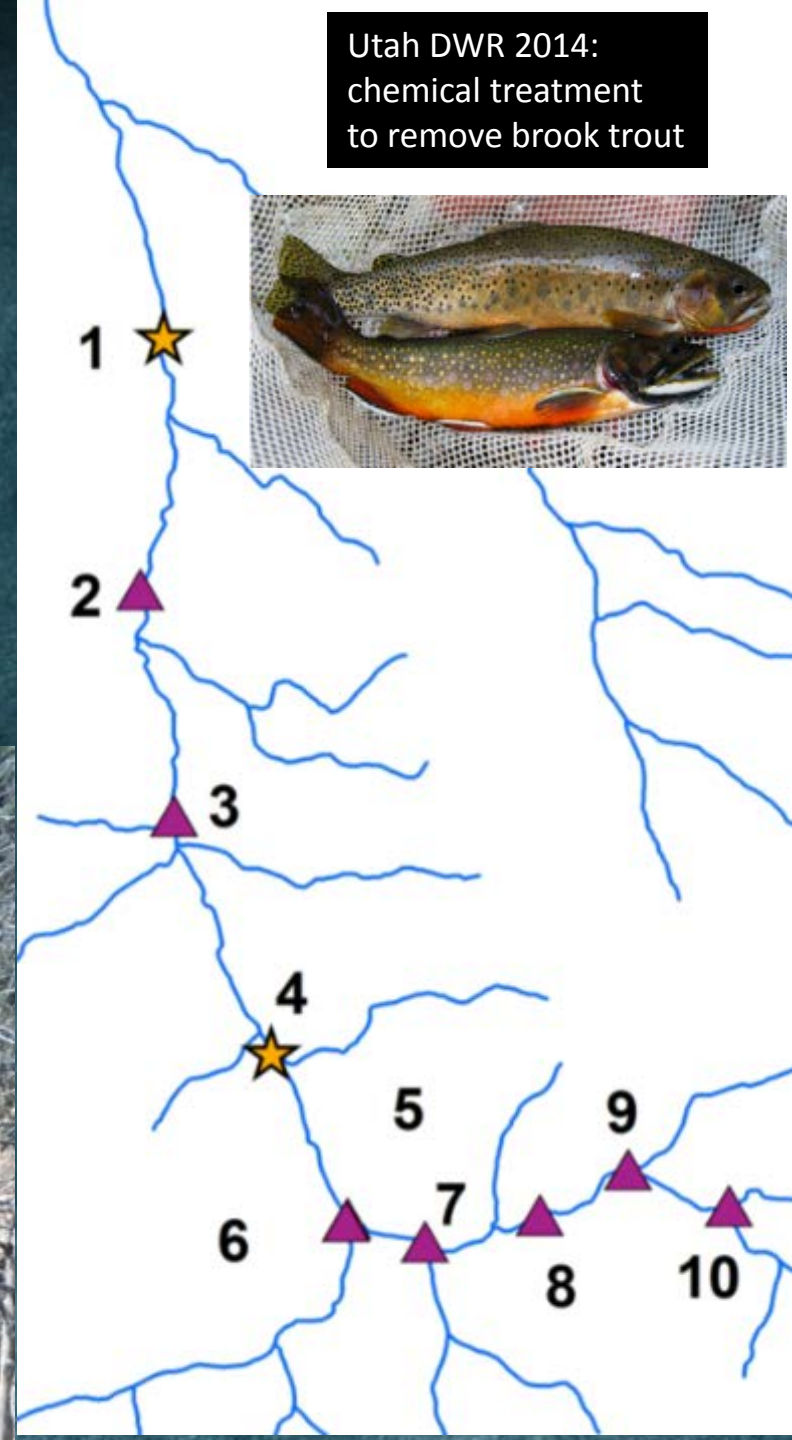
# Applications: Detecting invasive species

- Have non-native species arrived?
- Have they been eradicated?
- Does the non-native species barrier work?

- Where to sample?



Utah DWR 2014:  
chemical treatment  
to remove brook trout

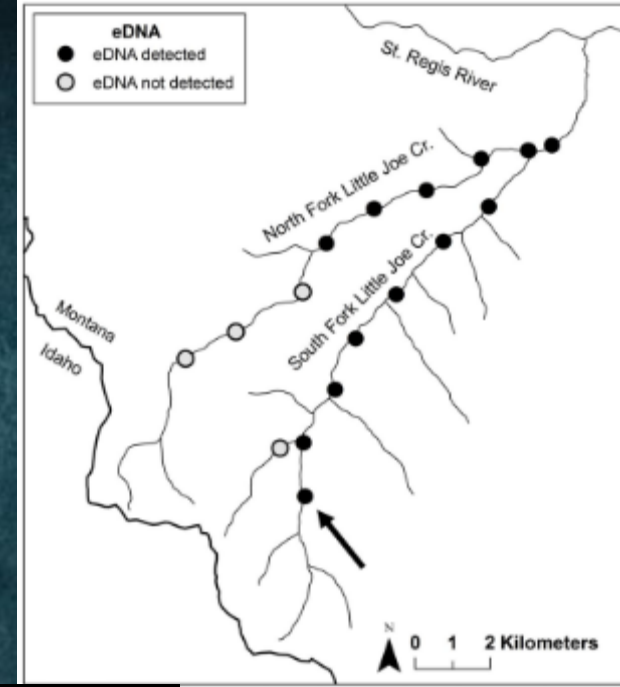
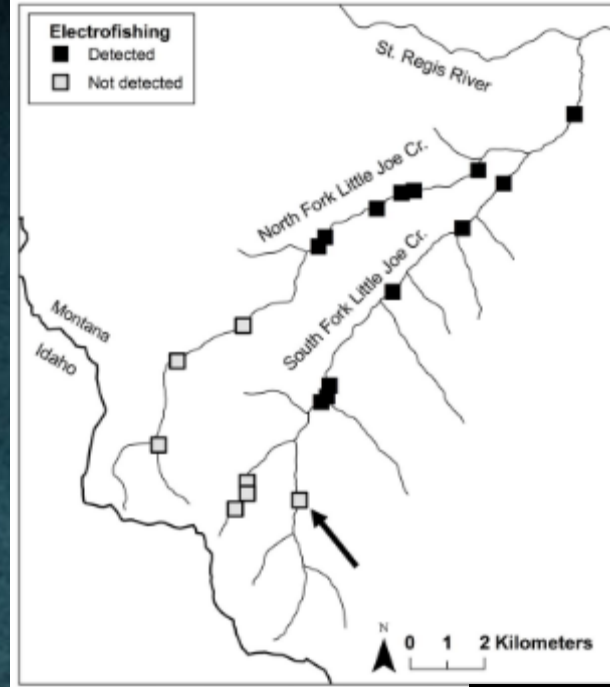




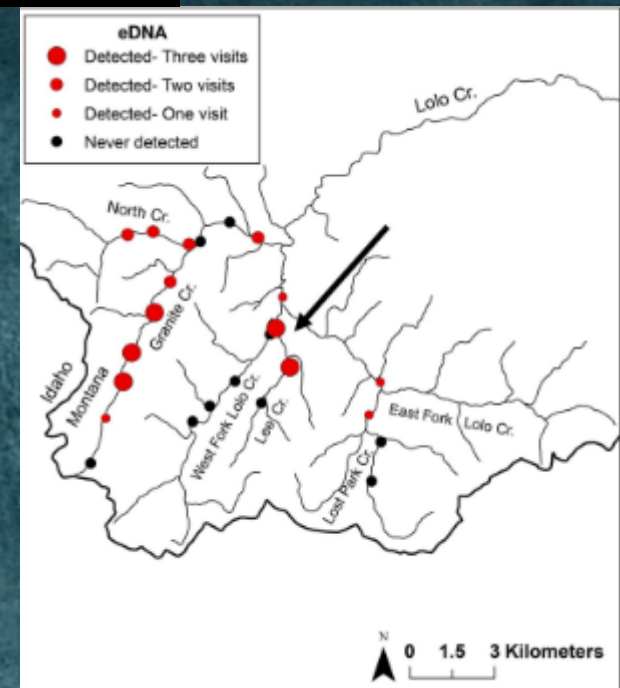
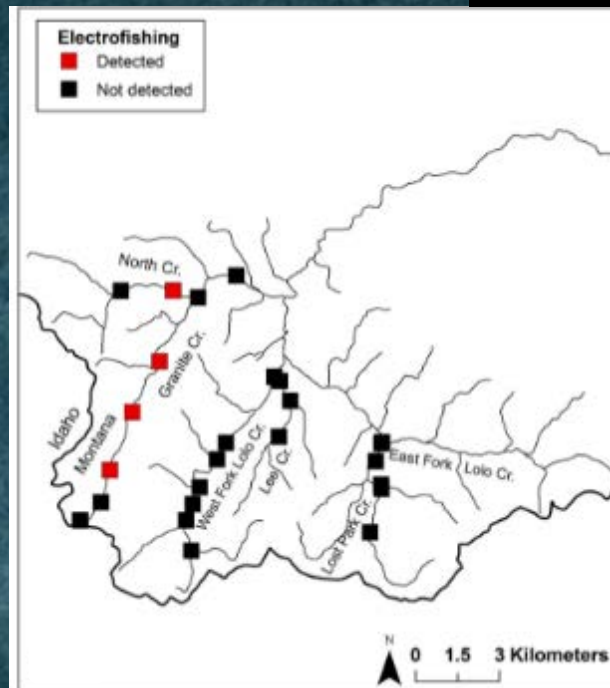
# Applications: detecting bull trout

- ESA listed as threatened
- Dictates land & water management & planning
- Widespread - rare
- Difficult to detect
- Juveniles constrained by environment/community
- = ideal candidate for eDNA sampling

- Test: Montana 2014
- Confirmed known habitats
- Discovered new ones



McKelvey et al. 2016



# The range-wide, eDNA-based inventory of bull trout: Coordinators

Michael Young, Dan Isaak, Kevin McKelvey, Michael Schwartz, Tommy Franklin, Kellie Carim, Taylor Wilcox, Wade Fredenberg, Matt Groce, Dave Nagel, Dona Horan, Sherry Wollrab

## Collaborators

Bureau of Land Management  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Chehalis Tribe  
Clark Fork Coalition  
Coeur d'Alene Tribes  
Great Northern LCC  
Idaho Conservation League  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Idaho Power Company  
Kalispel Tribes  
Lewis River Bull Trout Working Group  
Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Mount Rainier National Park  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy

Nez Perce Tribes  
North Cascades National Park  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Trout Unlimited  
University of Washington  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Forests:  
Beaverhead-Deer Lodge, Boise, Colville, Deschutes, Flathead, Gifford Pinchot, Helena, Idaho Panhandle, Lolo, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Payette, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Wenatchee  
Regions 1, 4, and 6  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Whitefish Institute  
Wild Fish Conservancy  
Yakama Nation

## Sponsors

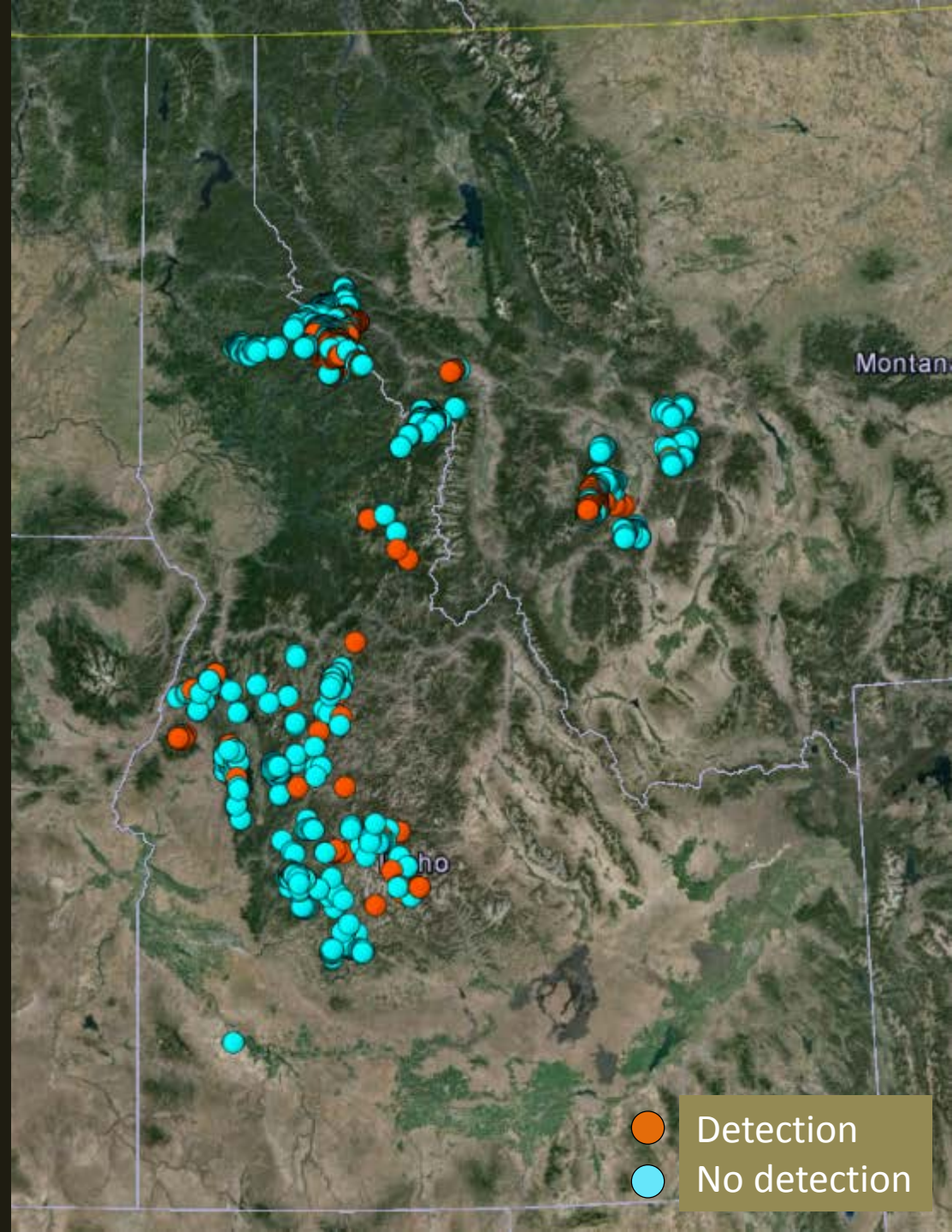


## Institutional Support

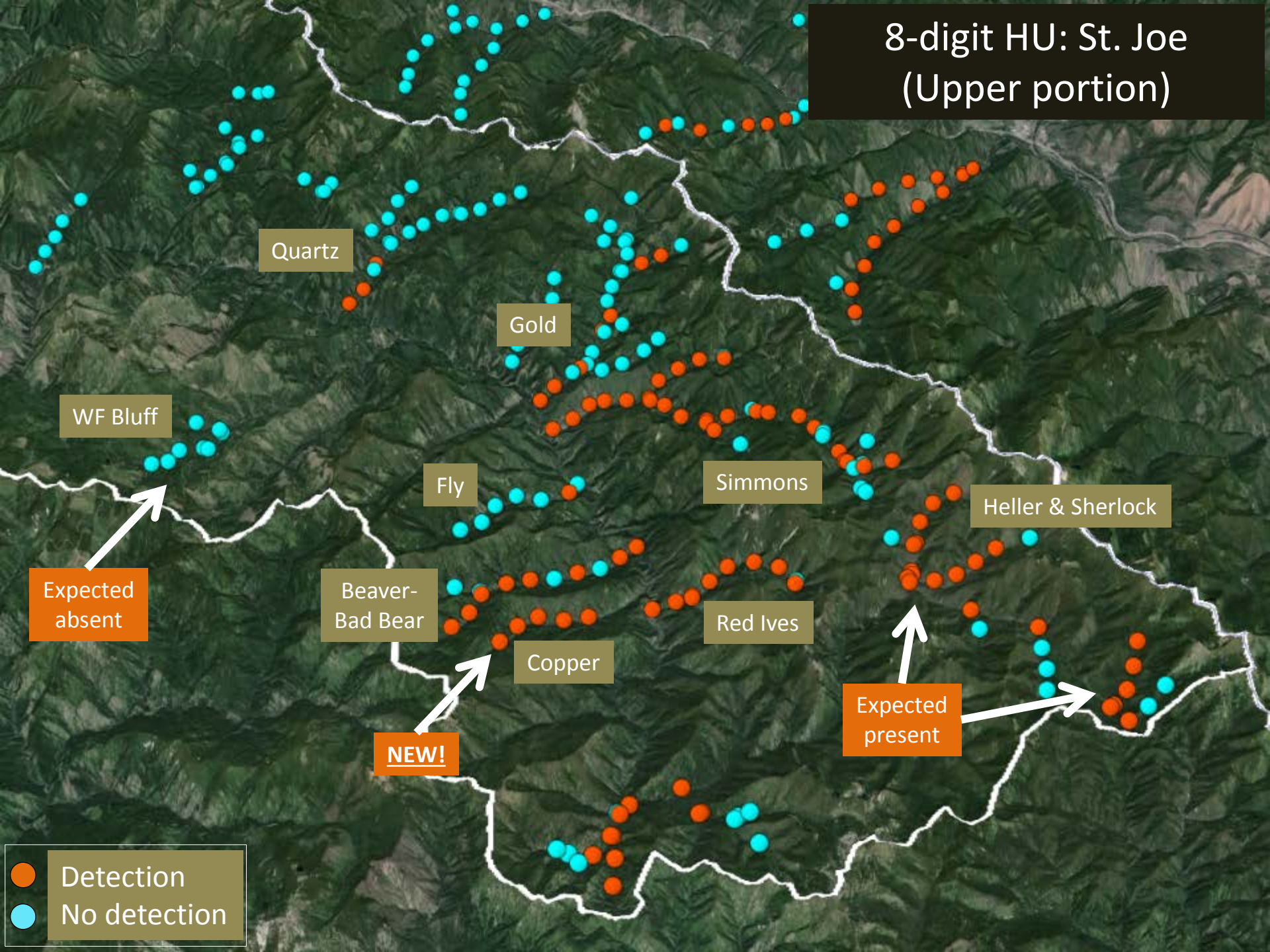


# Project framework

- Target: natal bull trout habitats
  - Cold-water habitats that are part of the Climate Shield
  - USFWS-designated critical habitat for bull trout spawning & rearing
- Grain & Scope
  - Sites at 1-km intervals
  - All 8-digit U.S. HUs
- Timing
  - 2015: 500+ samples
  - 2016: 3,000+ samples
  - 2018: the rest of the range
- Goals
  - Better ability to forecast bull trout futures
  - Consistent, reliable, range-wide map of bull trout
  - **Support the stakeholders**



# 8-digit HU: St. Joe (Upper portion)



Quartz

Gold

WF Bluff

Fly

Simmons

Heller & Sherlock

Expected absent

Beaver-Bad Bear

Red Ives

**NEW!**

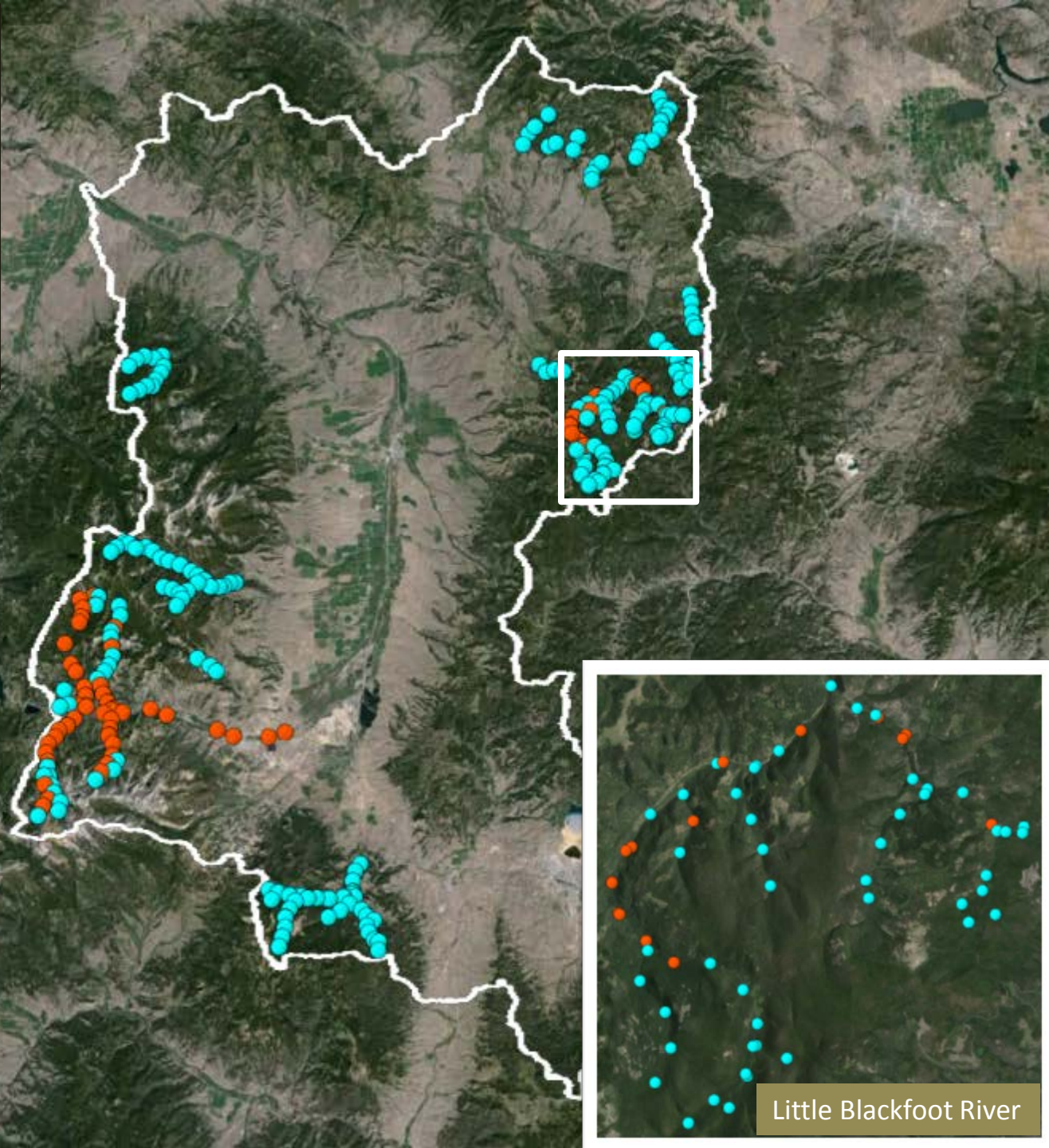
Copper

Expected present

- Detection
- No detection

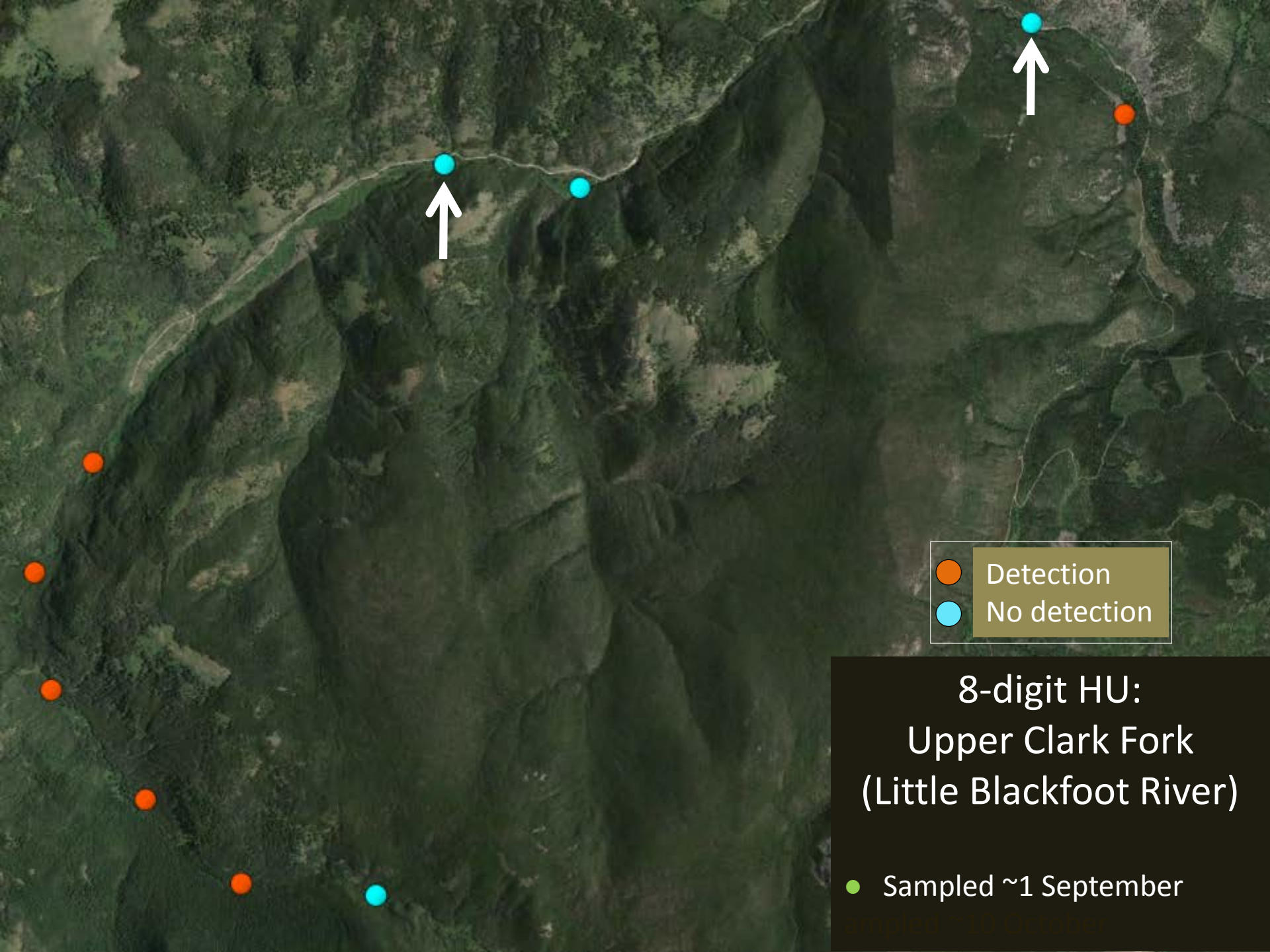
# 8-digit HU: Upper Clark Fork

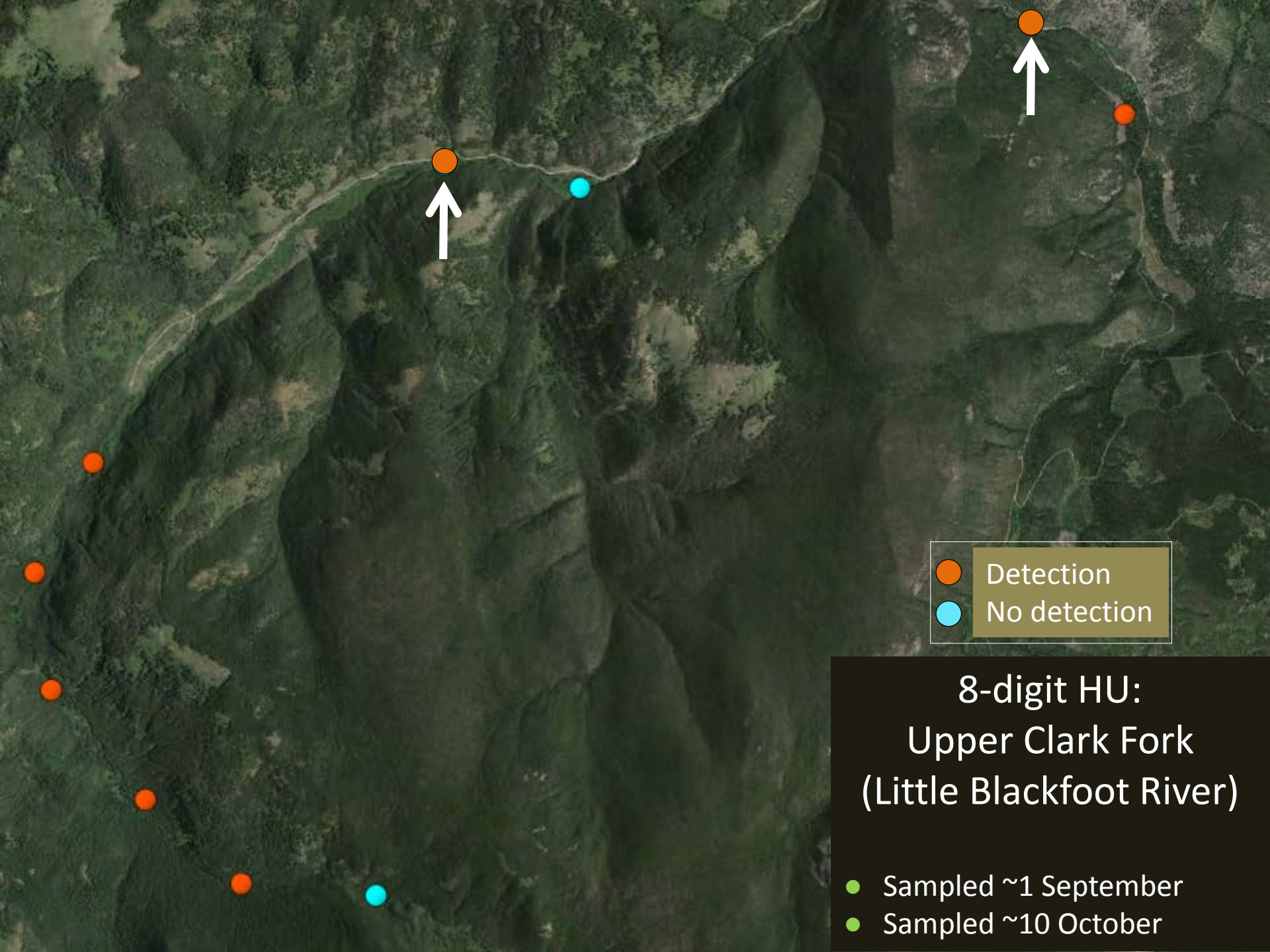
- Crowd-sourced
- Confirmed expectations
- Rediscovery
- Rapid corroboration



- Detection
- No detection

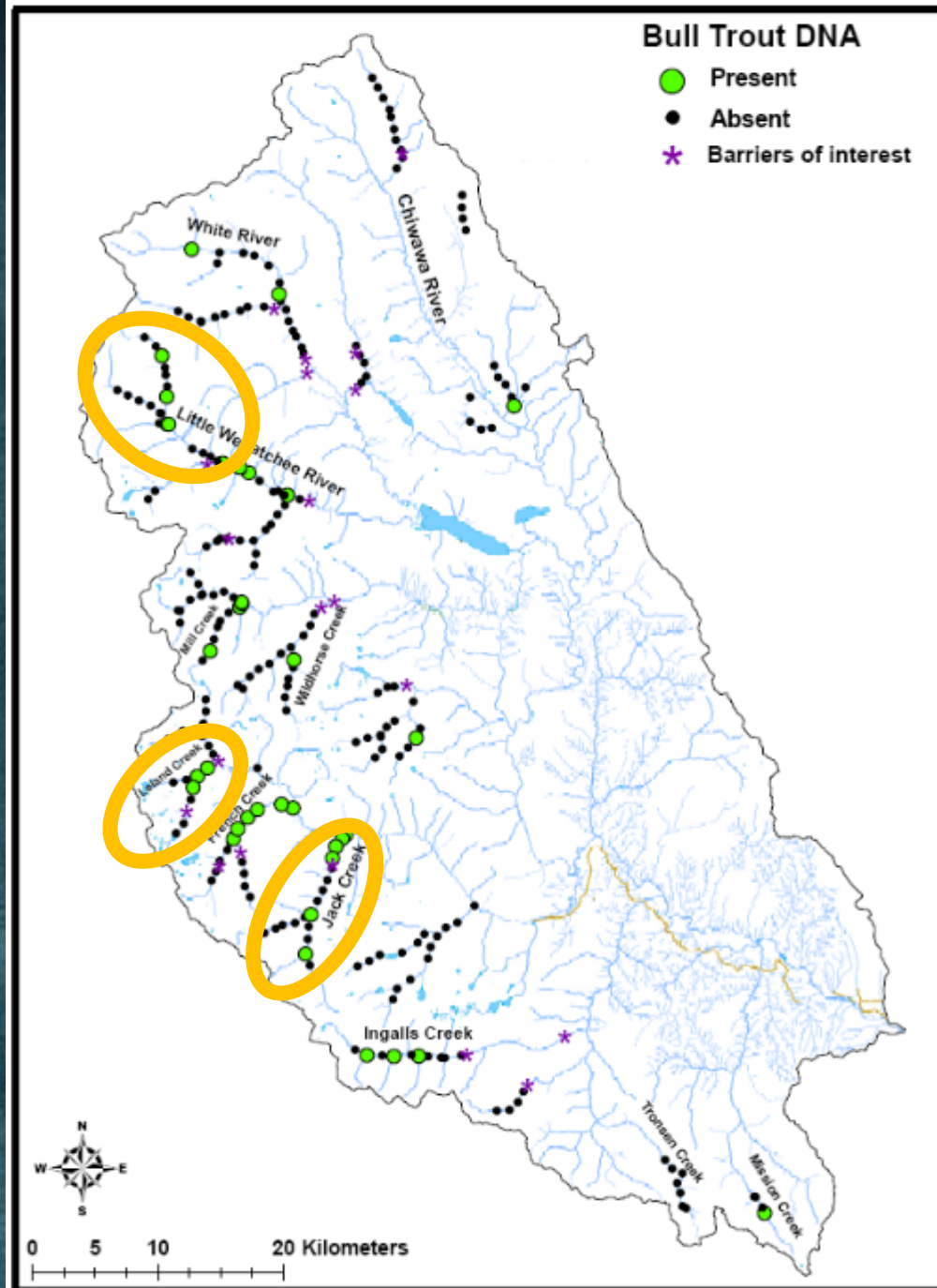
Little Blackfoot River





# 8-digit HU: Wenatchee

- WNTI-supported
- USFWS/WDFW/WFC sampling
- New populations above barriers





# The Rangewide Bull Trout eDNA Project: want to help?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
Rocky Mountain Research Station  
Air, Water, & Aquatic Environments Program

ABOUT AWAE RESEARCH PROJECTS, TOOLS, & DATA PUBLICATIONS CONTACT US

## The Rangewide Bull Trout eDNA Project

The bull trout is an ESA-listed species with a historical range that encompasses many waters across the Northwest. Through once abundant, bull trout have declined in many locations and are at risk from a changing climate, nonnative species, and habitat degradation. Informed conservation planning relies on sound and precise information about the distribution of bull trout in thousands of streams, but gathering this information is a daunting and expensive task. To overcome this problem, we completed 1) predictions from the range-wide, spatially precise Climate Shield model on the location of natal habitats of bull trout with 2) a sampling template for every 5-digit hydrologic unit in the historical range of bull trout, based on the probability of detecting bull trout presence using environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling (McKelvey et al. 2016). The template consists of a master set of geospatially referenced sampling locations at 1-km intervals within each cold-water habitat. We also identified sampling locations at this same interval based on the USFWS's designation of critical spawning and rearing habitat. Based on field tests of eDNA detection probabilities conducted by the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, this sampling approach will reliably determine the presence of populations of bull trout, as well as provide insights on non-spawning habitats used by adult and subadult fish. The result will be a rapid, robust, and repeatable range-wide assessment of natal habitats of this species, completed by 2015.

- Visit our website:  
[www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/BullTrout\\_eDNA.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/BullTrout_eDNA.html)

or Google “rangewide bull trout eDNA project”

- Contact us to get your “library card”
- Follow the simple instructions

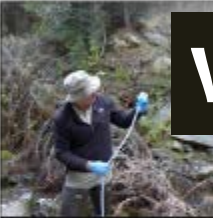
## A Protocol for Collecting Environmental DNA Samples From Streams

Kellie J. Carim, Kevin S. McKelvey, Michael K. Young, Taylor M. Wilcox, and Michael K. Schwartz



our eDNA surveys for  
 here throughout their  
 1) were identified using the  
 12 streams (Isaak et al.  
 1 are also shown on the  
 red, so please review the

# Website: Get bull trout hunting directions



rather, if you can sample one or more cold-water habitats in their entirety, then we welcome your participation.  
 To make that possible, we will provide you with all you need to conduct eDNA field sampling for juvenile bull trout. That includes:

- 1) A protocol that explains how to collect eDNA samples.
- 2) Additional guidelines specific to the bull trout eDNA survey project.
- 3) A map and spreadsheet of eDNA points to guide your sampling.
- 4) The loan of a pump set with a battery & charger. We operate a "tool library" i.e., you can reserve a pump set for use during a particular time. The number of pump sets is limited and demand is high, so it's important to reserve one. It's also critical to return it when you are done to permit others to start their sampling. If you want to buy your own pump set—which gives you more flexibility with respect to when you sample—we can give you the specifications.
- 5) Field kits for the collection and storage of eDNA samples. To ensure consistency in sampling and guarantee sterility of the supplies, we prefer to provide the field kits to you.

Once sampling is complete, return the pump set, field kits, and collected samples. In a few weeks, we'll share with you whether and where bull trout were present. And at the end of each year, we'll post an interactive map of the results of sampling across the range of bull trout on our [results page](#).



field sampling instructions ("Participating in the Bull Trout eDNA Survey, Important caveats"). To get started, print or plot the map of showing the 8-digit HUC to be sampled and identify which potential bull trout streams are of interest (and can be sampled in their entirety). Files may be periodically updated, so confirm that you have the most current versions before starting field work. Next, download the Excel file with the eDNA sample site coordinates (note that a GIS unit will be required for accurate field navigation).

## Bull Trout eDNA Sample Sites

Scenario: 1980s, 0% Brook Trout  
 NHD Unit: 17080002 (Lewis)

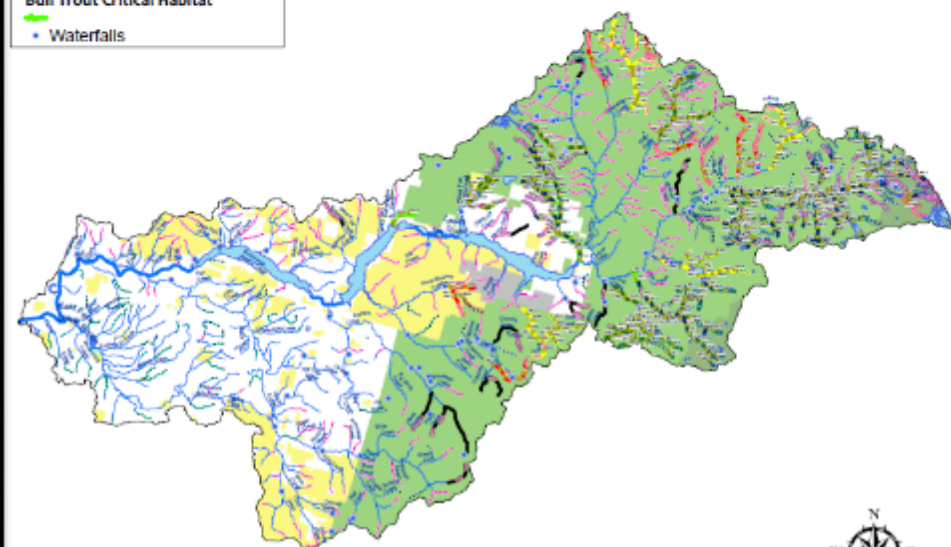


**Legend**

- eDNA Sample Site (N=355)  
 Note: The 355 sites on this map occur on streams having <10% slope and a probability of bull trout occurrence >25%.
- Intermittent Flowlines**
- Slope > 10%**
- Probability of Occupancy (%)**
- Bull Trout Critical Habitat**
- Waterfalls

**Land Ownership**

- No Data
- BLM
- BOR
- USFWS
- USFS - Nonwilderness
- USFS - Wilderness
- COE
- NPS
- Other Federal
- Tribal
- State/City
- TNC
- Private
- Other/Unknown



Map - UTM NAD83														
HUC8	HUC_Name	Stream	Site_ID	Patch_ID	Zone	Easting	Northing	P	T	Q	S	CHSR	CS	Ownership
17030000	Lower Yakima		229-1	250	10	669090	5098888	0.49879	7.5	0.59	7.7	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	Satus Creek	238-1	258	10	669006	5099003	0.49879	7.5	0.63	7.1	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	Satus Creek	242-4	258	10	673083	5098900	0.49879	7.5	4.18	9.4	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	Satus Creek	242-5	258	10	672146	5099159	0.49879	7.5	4.18	6.4	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	Satus Creek	242-6	258	10	671172	5099084	0.49879	7.5	4.18	4.9	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	Satus Creek	242-7	258	10	670216	5099001	0.49879	7.5	4.18	4.7	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		287-1	260	10	673289	5103447	0.32799	9.1	0.52	4.8	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		367-1	260	10	673552	5104756	0.32799	9.1	0.45	4.5	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		367-2	260	10	672643	5104941	0.32799	9.1	0.45	4.6	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Yatama Creek	314-1	260	10	679174	5103569	0.32799	9.1	1.6	3.3	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Yatama Creek	314-2	260	10	672335	5103174	0.32799	9.1	1.6	7	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Yatama Creek	315-1	260	10	673583	5104205	0.32799	9.1	2.31	2.5	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		386-1	263	10	667176	5105519	0.59466	8	0.4	7.4	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		390-1	263	10	670738	5107385	0.59466	8	0.46	7.2	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		390-2	263	10	670117	5106433	0.59466	8	0.46	8.8	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		390-3	263	10	669242	5105955	0.59466	8	0.46	6.9	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		438-1	263	10	668759	5106896	0.59466	8	0.3	9.2	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima		438-2	263	10	667774	5107021	0.59466	8	0.3	5.9	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Logy Creek	353-1	263	10	664888	5104024	0.59466	8	0.64	8	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Logy Creek	386-1	263	10	667095	5105615	0.59466	8	1.32	3.4	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Logy Creek	384-2	263	10	666130	5105445	0.59466	8	1.32	1.4	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Logy Creek	384-3	263	10	665405	5104875	0.59466	8	1.32	2.4	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Logy Creek	404-1	263	10	668795	5106790	0.59466	8	2.06	5.9	0	1	Tribal
17030000	Lower Yakima	North Fork Logy Creek	404-2	263	10	668090	5106477	0.59466	8	2.06	4	0	1	Tribal



Go sample, mail everything back, and then...



chaos or efficiency?



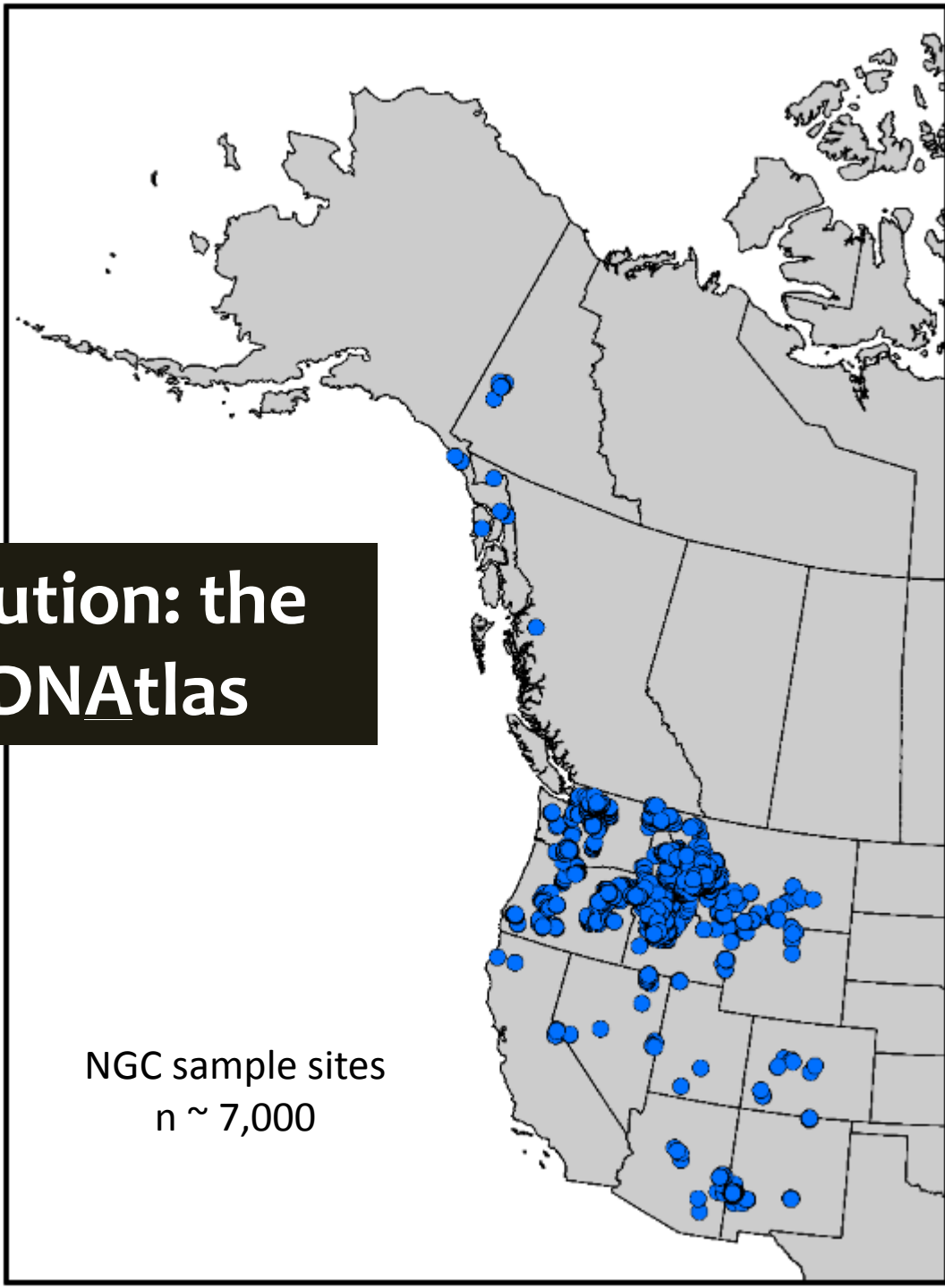
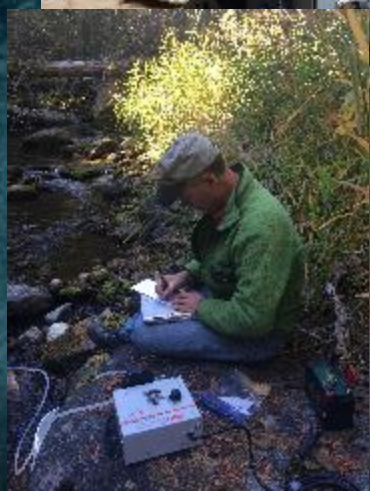
## eDNA results:

### chaos or efficiency

- Ease can equal redundancy
- Data often regarded as proprietary
- Lack of consistent data delivery



**Solution: the  
eDNAAtlas**



NGC sample sites  
n ~ 7,000

# Steps in eDNA Atlas Database Development

Data collected with standard protocol

QA/QC procedures  
(laboratory & data)

## A Protocol for Collecting Environmental DNA Samples From Streams

Kellie J. Carim, Kevin S. McKelvey, Michael K. Young, Taylor M. Wilcox, and Michael K. Schwartz

General Technical Report  
RMRS-GTR-355

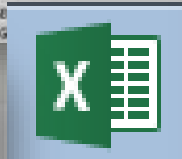
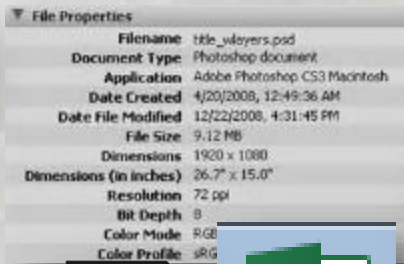


	A	B	C
1			
2	Stream: Elk Creek		
3	Georeference: 610234 E, 4402546 W		
4			
5	Date	Time	Temp (°C)
6	7/15/2005	21:23	15.59
7	7/15/2005	21:53	15.11
8	7/15/2005	22:23	14.64
9	7/15/2005	22:53	14.32
10	7/15/2005	23:23	13.86
11	7/15/2005	23:53	13.55
12	7/16/2005	0:23	13.24

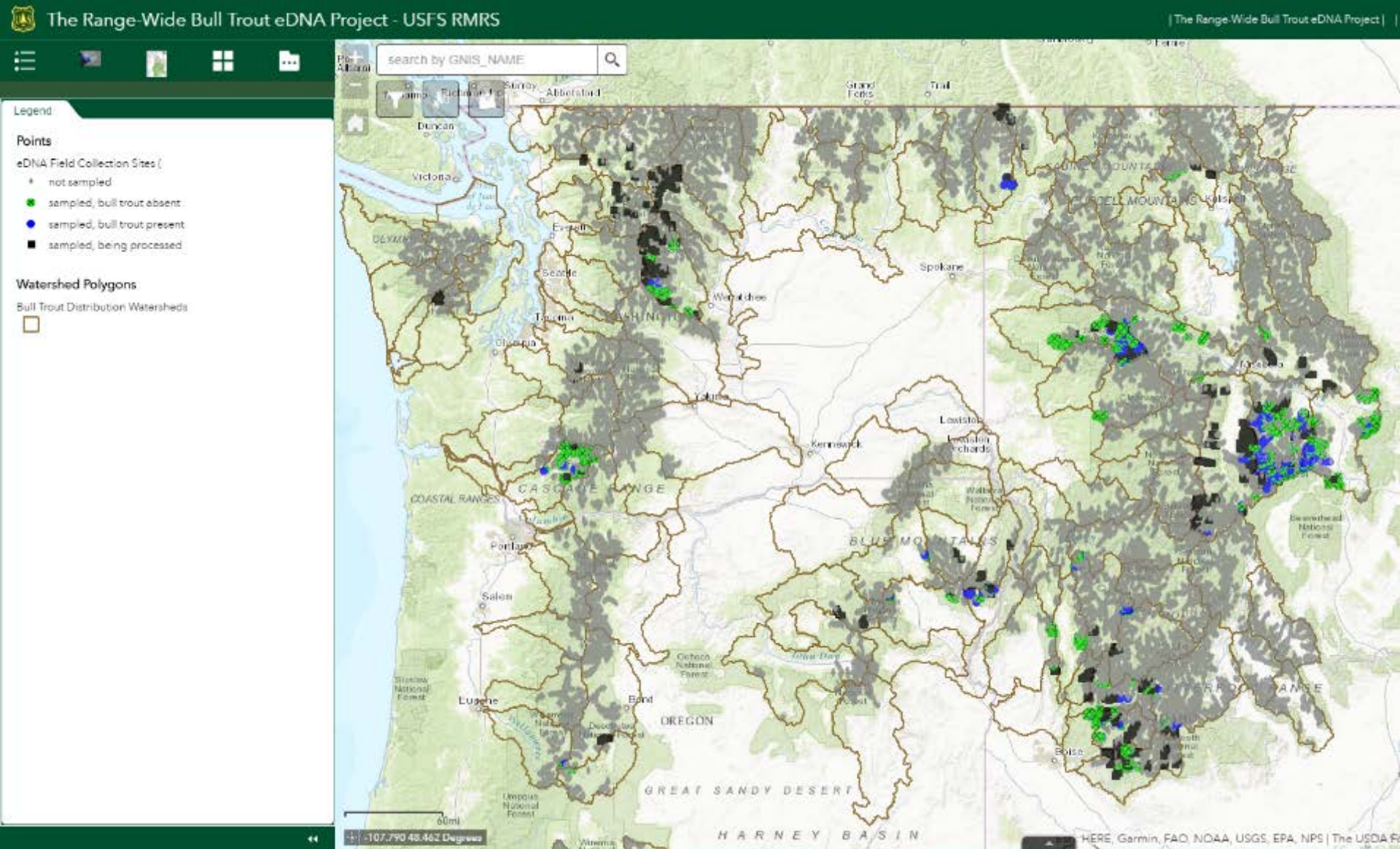


Metadata documentation &  
website delivery in user-  
friendly formats

Pipeline for data entry  
(relational & geospatial)



# eDNAAtlas: open-access data portal



# eDNA Atlas: open-access data portal

The Range Wide Bull Trout eDNA Project - USFS RMRS | The Range-Wide Bull Trout eDNA Project

search by GNIS\_NAME

Legend

**Points**

- eDNA Field Collection Sites (
- not sampled
- sampled, bull trout absent
- sampled, bull trout present
- sampled, being processed

**Stream Line Segments**

- Climate Shield Natal Habitat Patches
- <11°C and occurrence probability >0.10
- USFWS Spawning and Rearing Critical Habitat

**Watershed Polygons**

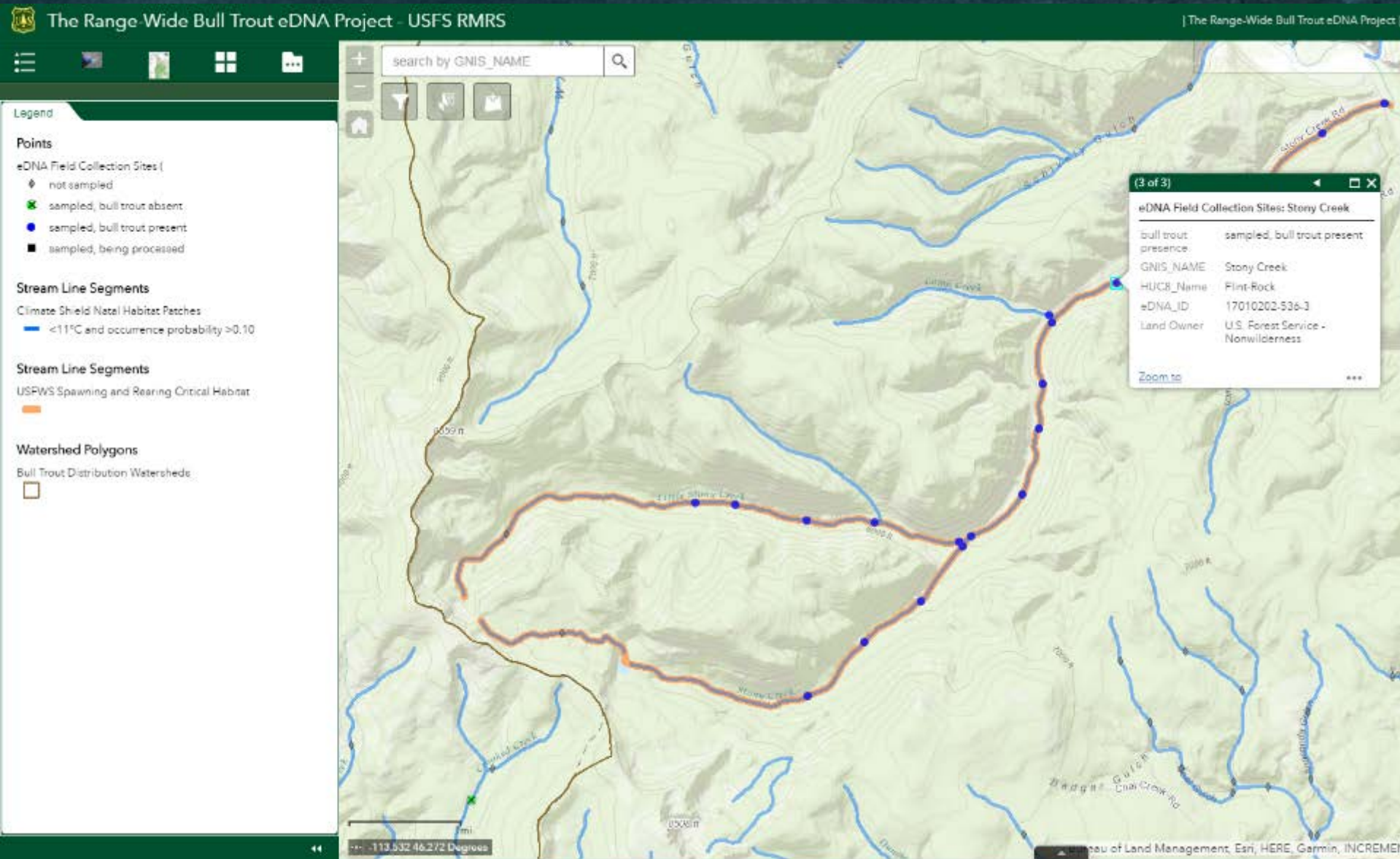
- Bull Trout Distribution Watersheds

**eDNA Field Collection Sites: Stony Creek**

bull trout presence	sampled, bull trout present
GNIS_NAME	Stony Creek
HUC8_Name	Pin-Rock
eDNA_ID	17010202-536-3
Land Owner	U.S. Forest Service - Nonwilderness

Zoom to

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENTAL

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based GIS application. The main area is a topographic map of a watershed with a brown boundary. A stream network is shown in blue, with a segment highlighted in orange. Several blue dots are placed along the stream, representing collection sites. A popup window on the right shows details for a site named 'Stony Creek', including its status as 'sampled, bull trout present', its GNIS name, HUC8 name, eDNA ID, and land owner. The left sidebar contains a legend with categories for points, stream line segments, and watershed polygons. The top of the page has a search bar and navigation icons. The bottom of the page shows a scale bar and coordinate information.

# eDNAAtlas: open-access data portal

The Range-Wide Bull Trout eDNA Project - USFS RMRS | The Range-Wide Bull Trout eDNA Project

search by GNIS\_NAME

Legend

**Points**

- not sampled
- sampled, bull trout absent
- sampled, bull trout present
- sampled, being processed

**Stream Line Segments**

Climate Shield Natal Habitat Patches

- <11°C and occurrence probability >0.10

**Stream Line Segments**

USFWS Spawning and Rearing Critical Habitat

- 

**Watershed Polygons**

Bull Trout Distribution Watersheds

- 

(3 of 3) eDNA Field Collection Sites: Stony Creek

bull trout presence	sampled, bull trout present
GNIS_Name	Stony Creek
HUC8_Name	Flint-Rock
eDNA_ID	17010202-536-3
Land Owner	U.S. Forest Service - Nonwilderness

Zoom to

eDNA Field Collection Sites | Climate Shield Natal Habitat Patches | USFWS Spawning and Rearing Critical Habitat | Bull Trout Distribution Watersheds

Options Filter by Map Extent Zoom to Clear Selection Refresh

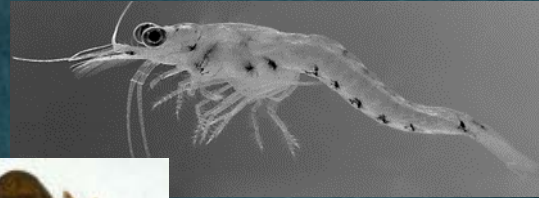
BT_Present	BTPresentT	Date_Coll	DateSource	GNIS_NAME	HUC8_Name	COMID	Site_ID	REACHCODE	SummerQ	S1_93_11	eD
1	not sampled			Little Stony Creek	Flint-Rock	24310661	508-4	17010202000476	4.12	7.73	9.2
3	sampled, bull trout present	6/20/2016		Little Stony Creek	Flint-Rock	24310661	508-1	17010202000476	4.12	8.72	6.6
	sampled, bull trout present	6/20/2016		Stony Creek	Flint-Rock	24309879	491-1	17010202000123	9.14	8.93	7.9

**Now: bull trout**  
**Soon: all species**



# eDNAArchive

- 1 eDNA sample = many species
- Permanent archives of biodiversity
- ~10% of samples run for other spp.



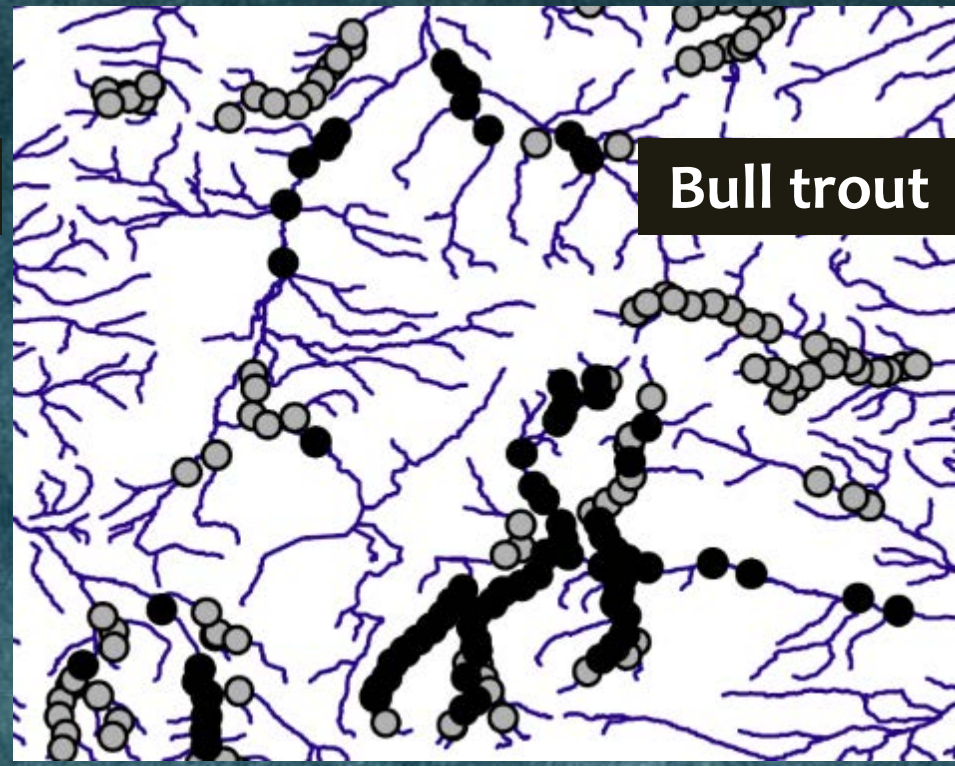
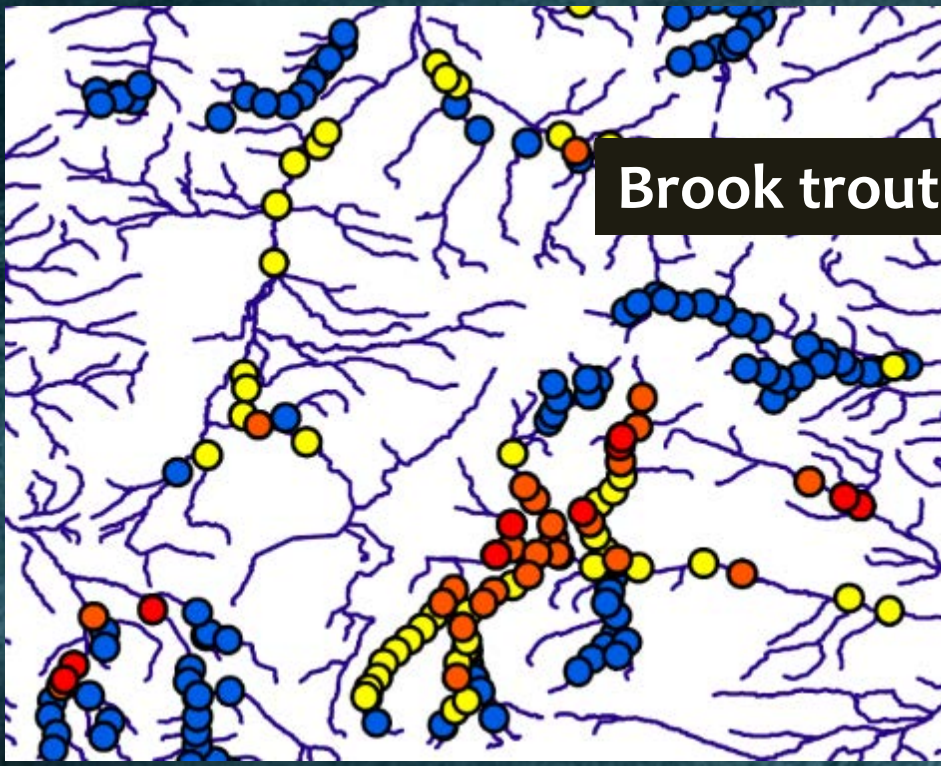
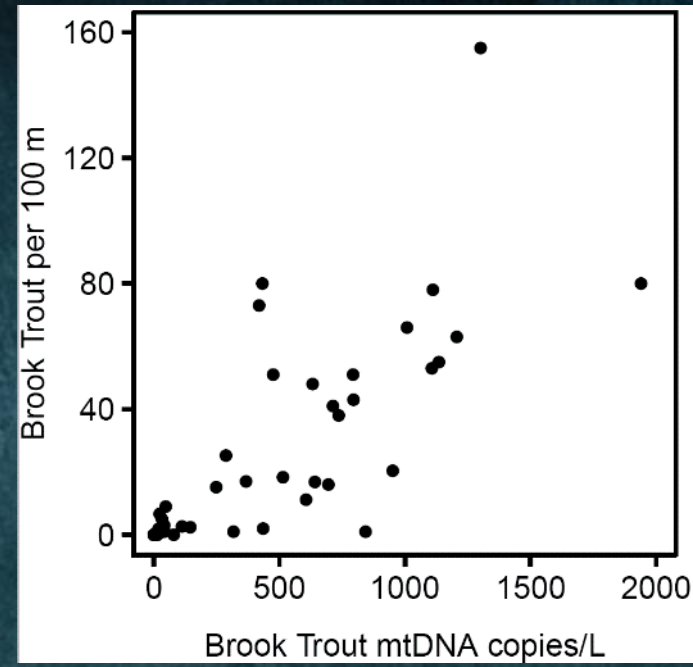
# eDNAAtlas & Archive Advantages

- 1) **Efficiencies of scale: each contributor is part of a massive biological sensing network**
- 2) **As the database grows, its value compounds**
- 3) **Fieldwork savings: analyze archived samples**
- 4) **Database evolves with input from managers**
- 5) **Consistency & open access fosters communication within & among agencies**
- 6) **No reinventing of technical wheels (i.e., website/database design, geospatial stuff, sampling protocols, etc.)**



## Other options

- eDNA assay development
  - \$7.5K/taxon
  - 2–3 months\*
- Beyond presence
  - Abundance
  - Co-occupancy
  - Multi-species assessments
- Sample analysis
  - \$85, 1<sup>st</sup> species
  - \$35, all other species
  - 56-hour turnaround
  - All gear provided\*
- Questions?





The End