INTEGRATING BULL TROUT & SALMON RECOVERY IN THE YAKIMA BASIN

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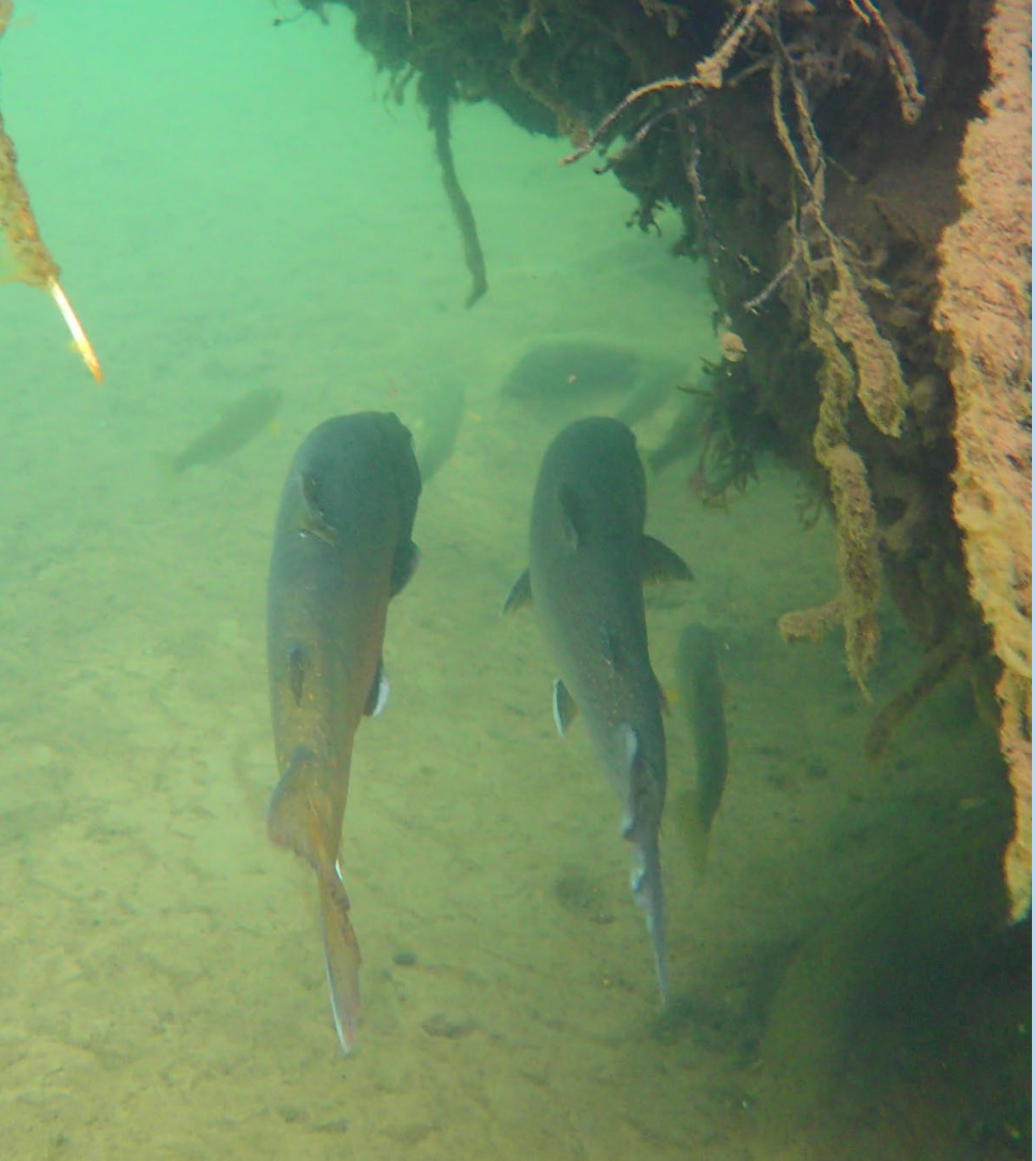
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board

BULL TROUT 101

- Latin name is Salvelinus confluentus
- Related to Artic Char, Dolly Varden & eastern Brook Trout
- Spawn & rear in very cold waters
- Long-lived repeat spawner
- Diverse migratory life histories
- Preys on other fish
- Once treated as a trash fish
- Listed as threatened in 1998
- Highly charismatic!



IS WHAT'S GOOD FOR SALMON GOOD FOR BULL TROUT?

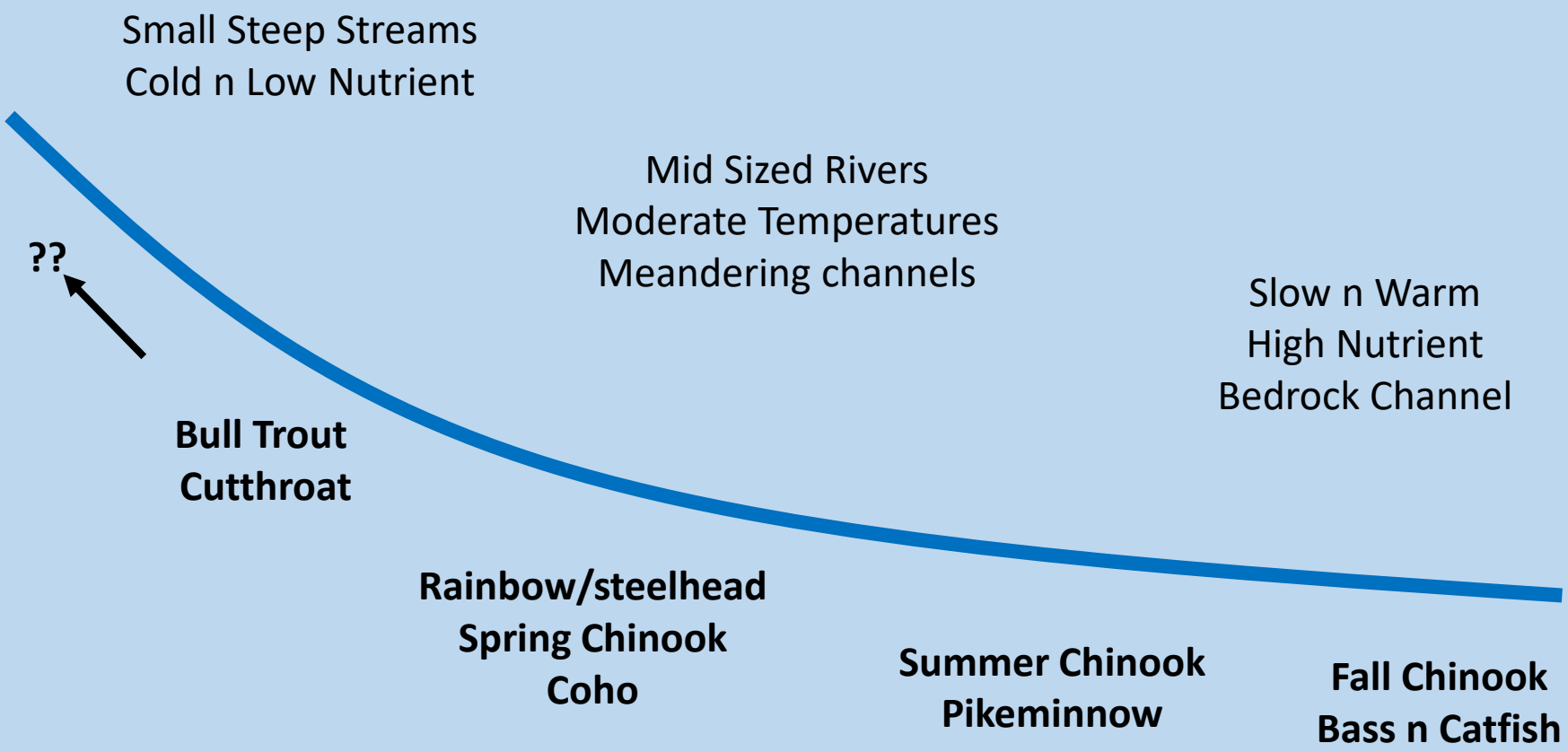
YES, BUT:

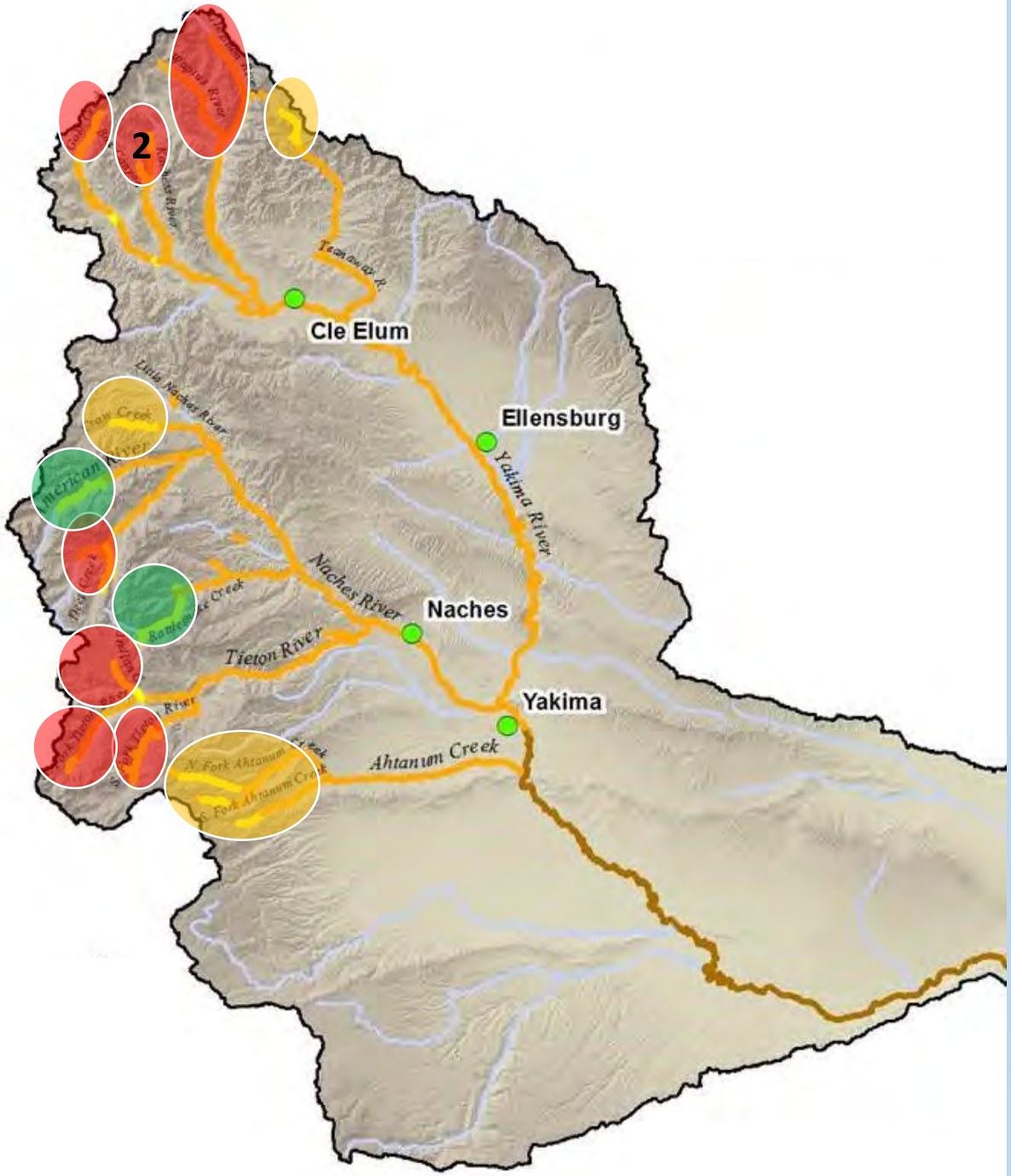
Bull trout make us focus on the coldest headwaters, above most anadromous production

Many bull trout populations are isolated in areas inaccessible to salmon

Even when they overlap, bull trout make us focus on different issues

THE CLIMATE CONTINUUM..





OVERLAP WITH ANADROMY

Of 13 Populations:

2 show strong overlap with anadromous production

3 are connected to but largely upstream of anadromous habitats

8 are isolated in areas above large dams without fish passage

DIFFERENT FOCUS AREAS:

Freshwater fishery regulations & enforcement

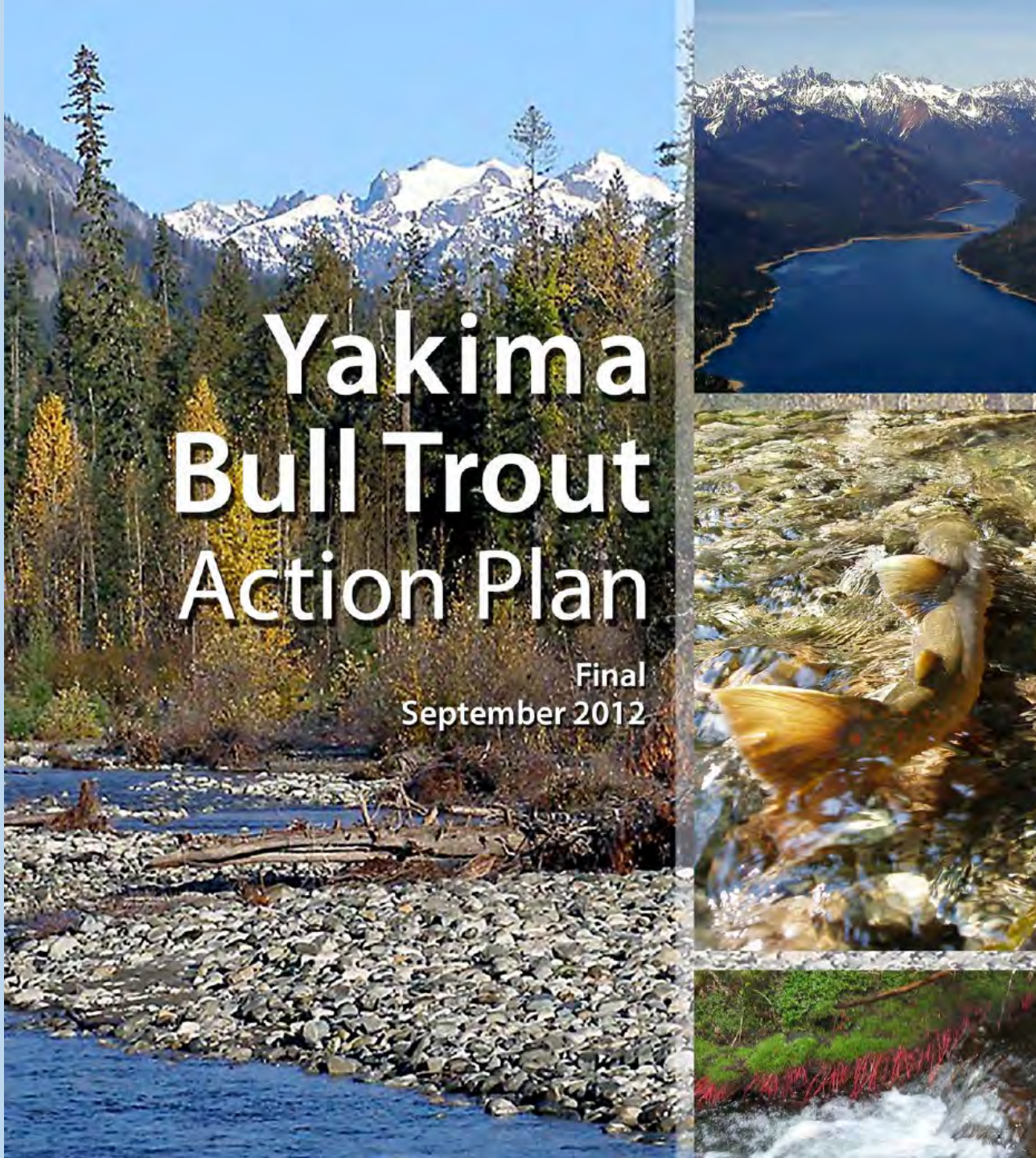
Issues with invasive species, especially brook, brown and lake trout

Incidental impacts of recreation in popular summer camping areas

Greater need for public education

Incorporating Bull Trout Into Our Recovery Efforts

1. **Include bull trout in our plans**
2. Build a active bull trout conservation community
3. Direct funding to bull trout priorities
4. Speak out about the value of bull trout



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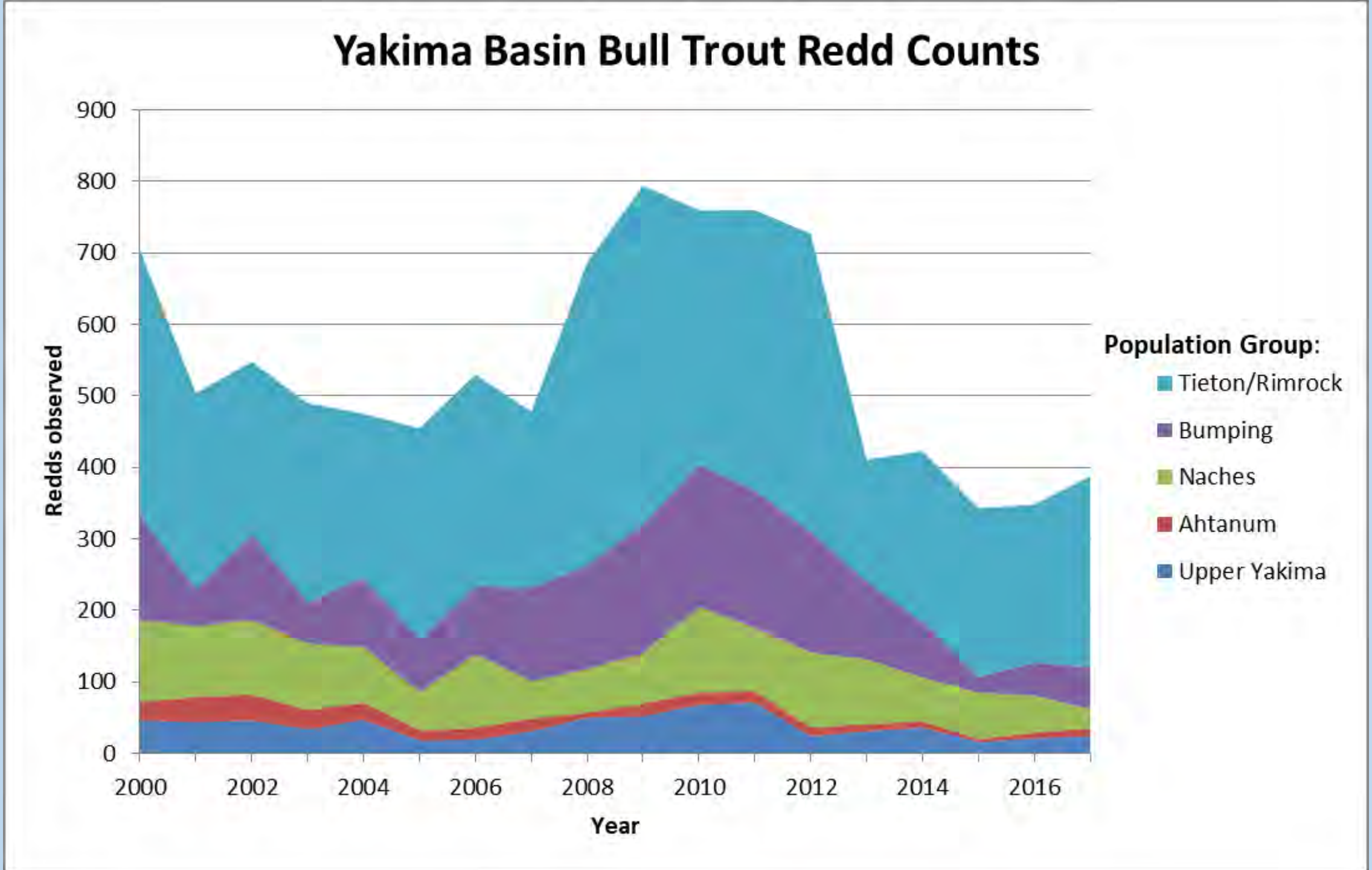
4. **Speak out about the value and needs of bull trout**

CHALLENGES

- Lack of dedicated funding
- Lack of consistent data on population status and trends
- Need for better assessment of climate impacts
- Lack of statewide and regional coordination

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increase coordination between WDFW, GSRO and USFWS?
- Find even a small amount of dedicated funding?
- Support creating Bull Trout Action Plans across the state?
- Convene a Washington Bull Trout Summit?
- Go home and speak up about bull trout and their unique needs?


Yakima Basin Bull Trout Redd Counts
Redds observed
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012
2014
2016
Year
Population Group:
Tieton/Rimrock
Bumping
Naches
Ahtanum
Upper Yakima