



WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT



Westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*) have long been considered biologically, recreationally and culturally important. Westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) are important to the Kalispel Tribe for cultural and subsistence purposes. The Kalispel Tribe is committed to serving its members, preserving its culture, and continuing the stewardship of its aboriginal lands.



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Many subspecies of cutthroat trout have been listed as endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and others are under review for potential future listing. In 1998 WCT were petitioned for listing under ESA as a threatened species. To date, the USFWS has determined that listing is not warranted. WCT are currently designated as a species of concern in both Idaho and Washington.

Westslope cutthroat trout historically occupied greater than 99% of the streams in the Pend Oreille River Basin, located in the Idaho Panhandle and NE corner of Washington. Over 310 miles of streams have been surveyed by the Kalispel Natural Resources Department (KNRD) since 1996 and only 35% of stream reaches contained WCT. The KNRD has established a programmatic objective to improve the status and increase the distribution of westslope cutthroat trout populations through conservation, protection, enhancement and restoration.

