

(BTHD3), (b) any additional waters identified by FWS as bull trout spawning and rearing proposed critical habitat, and (c) all waters upstream of the areas (as indicated on the use designation maps) identified in (a) and (b) except for a few relatively large tributaries where EPA has data showing this use does not occur, or the water body has not been identified as habitat needed to protect the designated use of bull trout. EPA requests comment on its methodology for designating waters for the bull trout juvenile rearing and spawning use and on the specific waters identified.

*ii. Salmon and Steelhead Core Juvenile Rearing.* In developing this proposal, EPA judged that the ODFW database could not be used to differentiate core (high-density) juvenile rearing from non-core (low-density) juvenile rearing. In addition, there is generally very little available information on juvenile rearing density for Oregon's river basins. Therefore, as recommended in the Temperature Guidance, EPA elected to use surrogate information to help identify areas where summertime core salmon and steelhead juvenile rearing is likely. Waters used by spring chinook to spawn in the late summer months (August through mid-September), waters used over the summer by migrating and foraging adult bull trout, and waters upstream of these areas are likely to also support and be used for core salmon and steelhead juvenile rearing for two reasons. First, ODFW's database indicates juvenile rearing occurs in these waters, and second, the temperatures needed for core rearing are similar to those that occur in waters that support adult spring chinook holding to spawn as well as those that support migrating and foraging adult bull trout. See EPA Temperature Guidance.

The Ecotrust study on anchor habitat in the North Coast Basin was one juvenile rearing density study EPA relied upon to identify waters where the salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing designated use should be proposed. This study identified areas of core juvenile rearing habitat for coho (salmon), steelhead (trout), and chinook (salmon). Use of this information resulted in EPA proposing that three stream segments be designated for salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing in the North Coast Basin (Necanicum River, Ecola Creek and Plympton Creek) where there is no spring chinook spawning. Most of the waters identified in this study were also waters where the ODFW database showed spring chinook spawning to occur in or upstream of these areas.

In summary, EPA is proposing to designate a salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing use for: (a) Waters where ODFW distribution and timing information shows chinook spawning occurs on or prior to September 15; (b) waters where known or probable adult bull trout migration and foraging occurs in July or August based on the ODFW database; (c) waters where scientifically credible information (specifically the Ecotrust study) shows core salmon or steelhead rearing (such information was only available for the North Coast Basin); and (d) all waters upstream of the waters identified in (a), (b), or (c), except for a few relatively large rivers where the information in (a), (b) and (c) showed that these life stages are not occurring in the river and the designation is not necessary to ensure delivery of cold water downstream.

EPA requests additional scientifically-credible data or information regarding core juvenile rearing areas that it could use to identify those waters where this use should be designated. In particular, EPA seeks information on coho and steelhead juvenile rearing density and timing. EPA would consider such data or information in EPA's final use designations.

Other data and information that may be appropriate for commenters to review and evaluate EPA's designated uses include: (1) Waters identified by ODFW as juvenile rearing habitat where ODEQ monitoring data from any year shows that maximum water temperatures are at or below 16°C/61°F (the proposed numeric criterion for this use); (2) waters identified by ODFW as juvenile rearing habitat where ODEQ temperature modeling indicates maximum water temperatures can meet 16°C/61°F; (3) information from NOAA Fisheries describing critical sub-populations; (4) ODFW information on high density spawning areas; and (5) waters above a certain elevation that are identified by ODFW as steelhead and/or coho juvenile rearing with no chinook rearing. Use of this data could potentially increase the number of waters for which EPA promulgates the salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing designated use.

Although EPA is soliciting additional data or information that may be helpful in designating this use, EPA believes the water bodies EPA is proposing to designate for salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing provide sufficient spatial coverage to protect this use. As can be seen by viewing the use designation maps, EPA is proposing to designate salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing for significant portions of each basin. EPA, after discussions

with NOAA Fisheries, believes it is important for each existing salmon and steelhead population to have a portion of their rearing habitat designated for this use. EPA believes it has achieved this by designating this use for a portion of most of the sub-basins in each of Oregon's basins used by salmon and steelhead.

It is also important to recognize that waters EPA is proposing to designate as salmon and trout juvenile rearing and migration use (See section III.B.2.iii) with an associated 18°C/64°F criterion, will provide a significant amount of water with 16°C/61°F maximum temperatures that support salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing because attaining 18°C/64°F in the lower elevation waters will require that a significant portion of the upstream waters be colder than 18°C/64°F. Thus, EPA believes that the salmon and trout juvenile rearing and migration summer maximum criterion will, in effect, protect additional upstream waters for salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing. EPA requests comment on its methodology for identifying waters for the salmon and steelhead core juvenile rearing use and on the specific waters identified.

*iii. Salmon and Trout Juvenile Rearing and Migration.* EPA proposes to designate a salmon and trout juvenile rearing and migration use for: (a) Waters where ODFW distribution and timing information shows chinook, chum, coho or steelhead rearing occurring in July or August; (b) waters where ODFW distribution information shows rainbow trout rearing use; and (c) all waters upstream of the waters identified above. The data and information supporting these determinations is contained in the ODFW database.

*iv. Salmon and Steelhead Migration.* EPA proposes to designate a salmon and trout migration use for waters where ODFW distribution and timing information indicates there is no rearing use in July or August or information suggests a lower mainstem river is primarily a migration corridor during the period of summer maximum temperatures, and there is evidence that temperatures naturally reach or exceed 20°C/68°F. Specifically, EPA is proposing a salmon and steelhead migration use for the lower Willamette River (50 miles upstream from the confluence with the Columbia River), the John Day River (from the confluence with the North Fork River downstream to the confluence with the Columbia River), and the portion of the Snake River in Oregon (from the Washington-Oregon border to Hells Canyon Dam). The data and information supporting