

# Oregon chub removed from Endangered Species List

CORVALLIS — The Oregon chub has become the first fish in the United States to be taken off the federal Endangered Species List as the result of population recovery.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the delisting today during a ceremony at Finley National Wildlife Refuge near Corvallis, which provides habitat for Oregon chub.

Listed as endangered in 1993 when there were only about 1,000 fish remaining, the Oregon chub has grown to an estimated 140,000 fish. The recovery was attributed to a multi-agency campaign to recover the Oregon chub population through securing new habitat, improving floodplain management and transplanting fish to more than 20 new locations.

Curt Melcher, director of the Oregon Department of Fish and



PHOTO BY RICK SWART/ODFW

Oregon chub, which are found exclusively in Oregon's Willamette Valley, were listed as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act in 1993. Recently, the chub made history after becoming the first fish to be taken off the Endangered Species List because its population has increased to the point where it no longer faces extinction.

Wildlife, said Oregon is proud to have the first fish to achieve delisting and hailed this accomplishment as a major milestone under the Endangered Species

Act and a testament to the power of cooperation and collaboration.

"The Oregon chub is the first fish in the nation to be recov-

ered under the Endangered Species Act because of the sustained effort by many individuals and organizations," said Melcher. "Collaborating and applying the best possible science helped recover the Oregon chub and benefited many other species as well."

"Our success here is a good reminder that by working together species recovery is possible."

The Oregon chub (Oregonichthys crameri) is a small minnow found only in the Willamette River basin of western Oregon. This little speckled fish reaches a maximum length of three inches and spends its entire life in low velocity sloughs and marshes.

At one time, Oregon chub thrived throughout lowland areas of the Willamette Valley.

However, its numbers declined due to habitat losses associated with flood control,

dam construction, and agricultural practices, coupled with competition and predation from the introduction of nonnative species such as bass, bluegill and mosquitofish.

The recovery effort was spearheaded by the Oregon Chub Working Group, which includes representatives from the ODFW, USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, Oregon State University, the McKenzie River Trust and the Grand Ronde Tribe and others.

The voluntary assistance of private landowners was also pivotal to the recovery effort, according to Brian Bangs, ODFW's Oregon chub project leader.

For more information, visit ODFW's Oregon chub webpage at [www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/species/chub.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/species/chub.asp).

## Sailors from 1B

After finding themselves trailing by a single basket at the end of the first period, 14-12, the Sailors went on a 10-3 scoring run in the second quarter to enter the half leading 22-17.

Sophomore guard Hunter Simington sparked the second-

period rally with a steal and fastbreak bucket to tie the score at 14. Senior forward Chris Free then nabbed a steal and put the Sailors ahead on a fast-break lay-up.

Though Alsea was able to sink a 3-pointer on its next possession, it was the only basket of the quarter for them as the Sailors high-pressure defense forced multiple turnovers and blocked shots, along with extra possessions from rebounding by freshman post Dominic Wells and senior guard Jack Hardisty.

Coming back from the half,

Alsea managed to score a pair of quick buckets before the Sailors made an adjustment on defense, forcing the Wolverines to rethink their offensive strategy. Meanwhile, rebounding from Free and Wells held Alsea to single-shot opportunities, with pressure from sophomore Tyler Packebush and Hardisty at the point limiting those shooting opportunities.

The Sailors entered the fourth quarter ahead 39-29 as Tucker held Alsea's top scorer, Micah DeWolfe, to just 11 points in the game.

Tucker and Free scored the

first five points of the period as the Sailors went on to outscore the Wolverines 12-10 in the quarter and secure the win, 52-41.

Ford led all scoring with 22 points, eight rebounds, three steals and one blocked shot. Free had his third-consecutive double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Simington had nine points, three rebounds and five steals. Wells had five points, eight rebounds, one steal and a blocked shot.

Hardisty had three points and six rebounds for the Sailors.

"It feels great," Free said after the win. "No one on this team has ever made it this far into the playoffs, and that was one of our goals this season."

Today, the Sailors will face Lowell for a chance to secure a trip to the state 1A playoffs.

Tipoff is set for 1:30 p.m. at Northern Christian University, 828 E. 11th Ave., in Eugene.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens, and \$4 for children in kindergarten through eighth grades.

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## Decision from 1B

of public input we received related to this project," says Michele Jones, Central Coast

Ranger District and ONDRA District Ranger. "I feel the end result is a decision that addresses the complex issues on the dunes, including public access for recreation and

ecosystem restoration needs."

With the designated routes decision now final, the Forest Service will begin implementation this spring. Initial implementation will include posting signs and notices identifying which areas and routes are open to motorized use.

Public education regarding the management changes will be the primary focus of implementation efforts. Also as part of implementation, user-created routes that have not been designated in the final ROD will be signed as closed, blocked, or allowed to naturally revegetate, and will no longer be available for motorized use.

The Siuslaw National Forest

is now focusing attention on the Dunes Restoration Strategy, a multi-partner collaborative effort aimed at planning and implementing ecological restoration of the Oregon Dunes.

Facilitated by the Forest Service, the Dunes Restoration Strategy brings together stakeholders representing a variety of interests (including motorized and non-motorized recreation advocates, biologists, community members, and more) to focus on the mutual goal of restoring the ecological functionality of the Oregon Dunes.

To view the final ROD, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/project](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project).

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