

Wilderness Fish

A very large but certainly not comprehensive look at where to find fish in US designated Wilderness Areas

Volume 3:

**Wilderness Areas Q through Z
plus bibliography, the “no fish list,” and a really cool section that explains the pictures of beer labels**



by Mapdawg



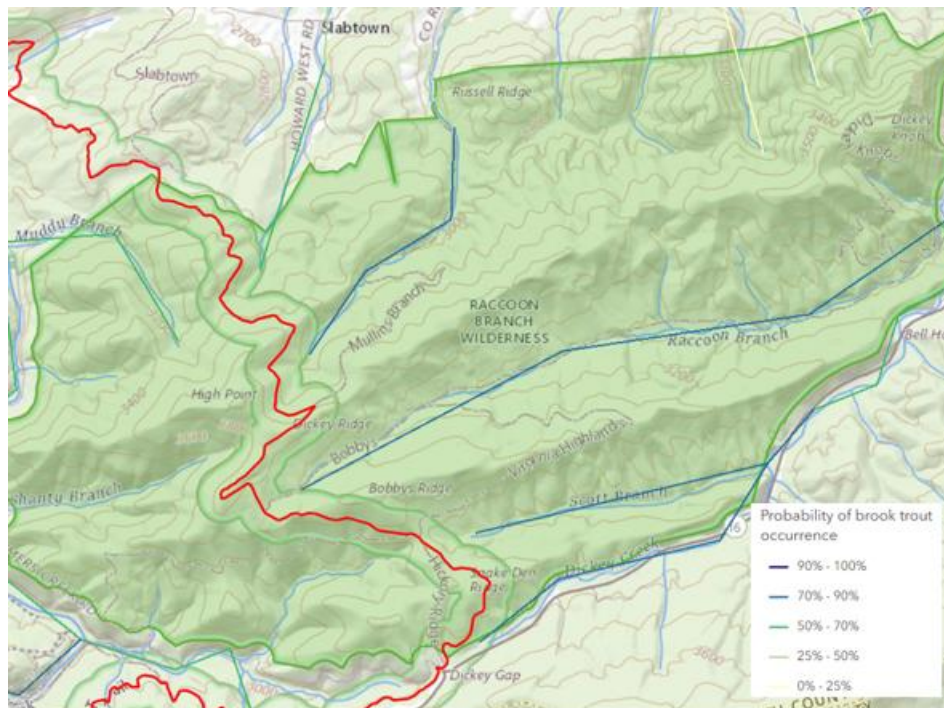
Quinn Canyon Wilderness (NV)

Hooper Creek flowing north out of the wilderness has brook trout and rainbow trout. (Nevada DOW 2017)

Deep Creek has a stable population of Bonneville cutthroat trout transplanted from Goshute Creek in 1999. (Nevada Dept of Wildlife et al 2006)



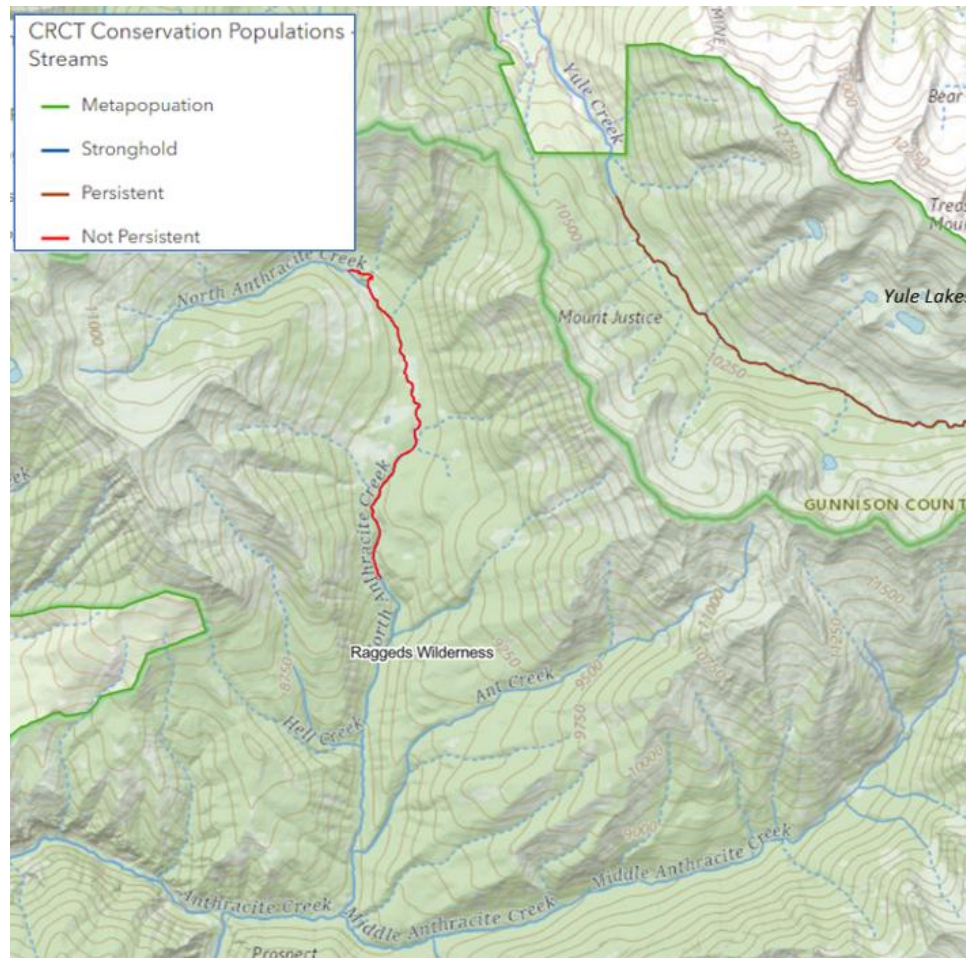
Raccoon Branch Wilderness (VA)



A persistent population of brook trout coexists along with rainbow trout in the western portion of the wilderness in tributaries of Comers Creek, which flows north to the South Fork Holston River. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

Raccoon Branch and Scott Branch, which flow east but also end up in the South Fork Holston, have high probabilities of brook trout along with parallel trail access with trailheads on a real road. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

Raggeds Wilderness (CO)

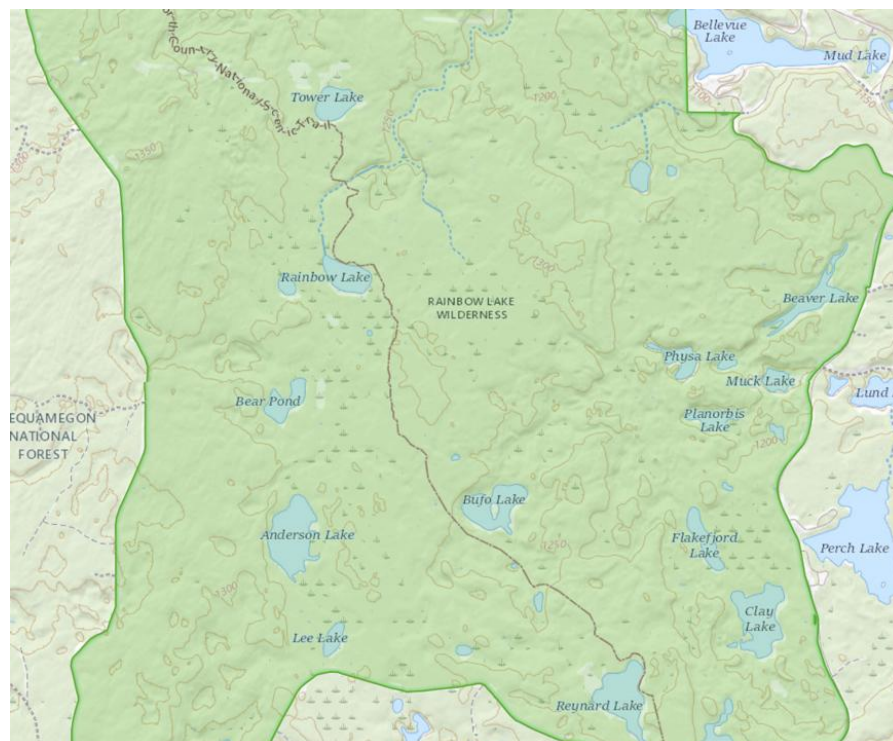


A population of Colorado cutt's occupies North Anthracite Creek. (Hirsch et al 2013; TU CRCT 2019; SWFF May-Jun 2013, p. 48)

Anthracite Creek through Dark Canyon also holds rainbows, with a good trail running along it. (SWFF Jan-Feb 2018, p. 46) It's a six-mile hike up the trail from the wilderness boundary to get to the downstream end of the cutthroat stretch.

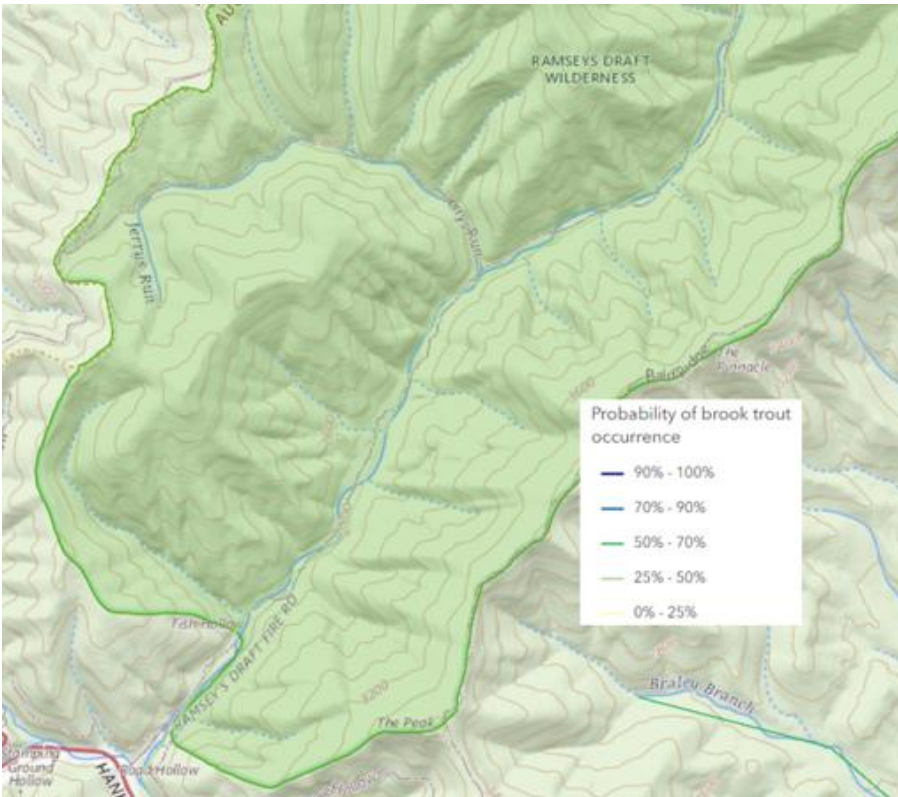
In the northeast corner of the wilderness Yule Lakes at 12,000 feet have a brook trout population sustained by stocking. (SWFF May-Jun 2014, p. 34)

Rainbow Lake Wilderness (WI)



Panfish are abundant in Rainbow Lake and other lakes in the wilderness. (US Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF 2023)

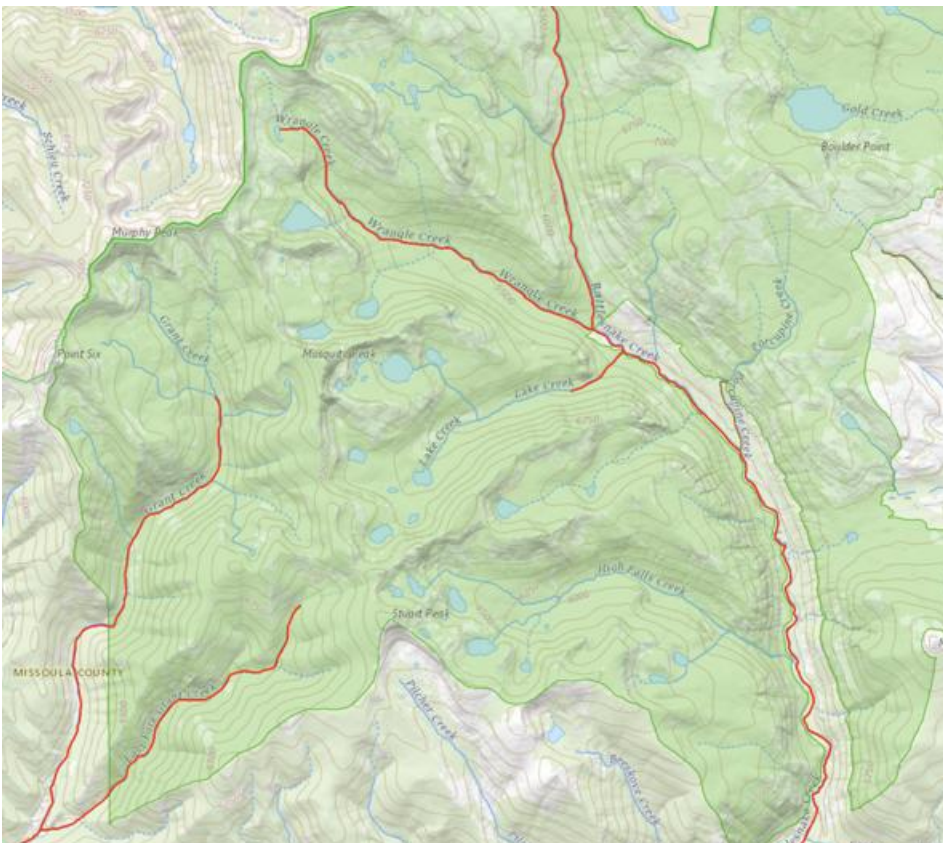
Ramsey's Draft Wilderness (VA)



Ramsey's Draft is a stream running down the center of the wilderness with a stronghold population of brook trout. The Draft is a headwater tributary of the Calfpasture River, which flows to the southwest into the Maury River and eventually the James River. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

It's hard to see on the map with the color choices, but the Draft has a 25 to 50% probability of encountering brook trout along its whole length. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014) It also has parallel trail access along most of its length.

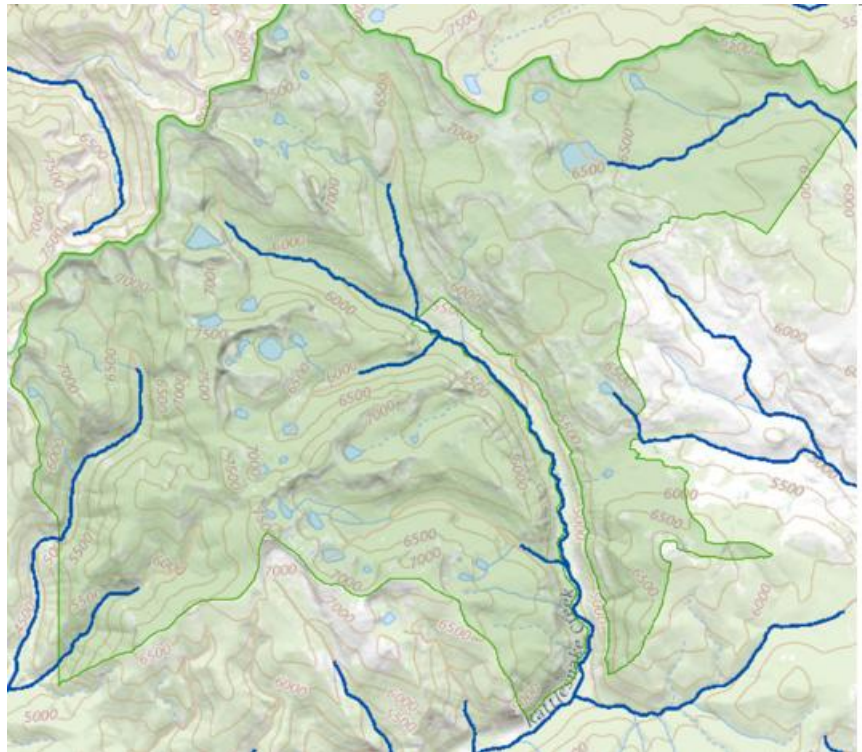
Rattlesnake Creek Wilderness (MT)



There is critical habitat for bull trout in Grant Creek and Rattlesnake Creek, tributaries to Blackfoot River. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Rattlesnake Creek Wilderness (MT)

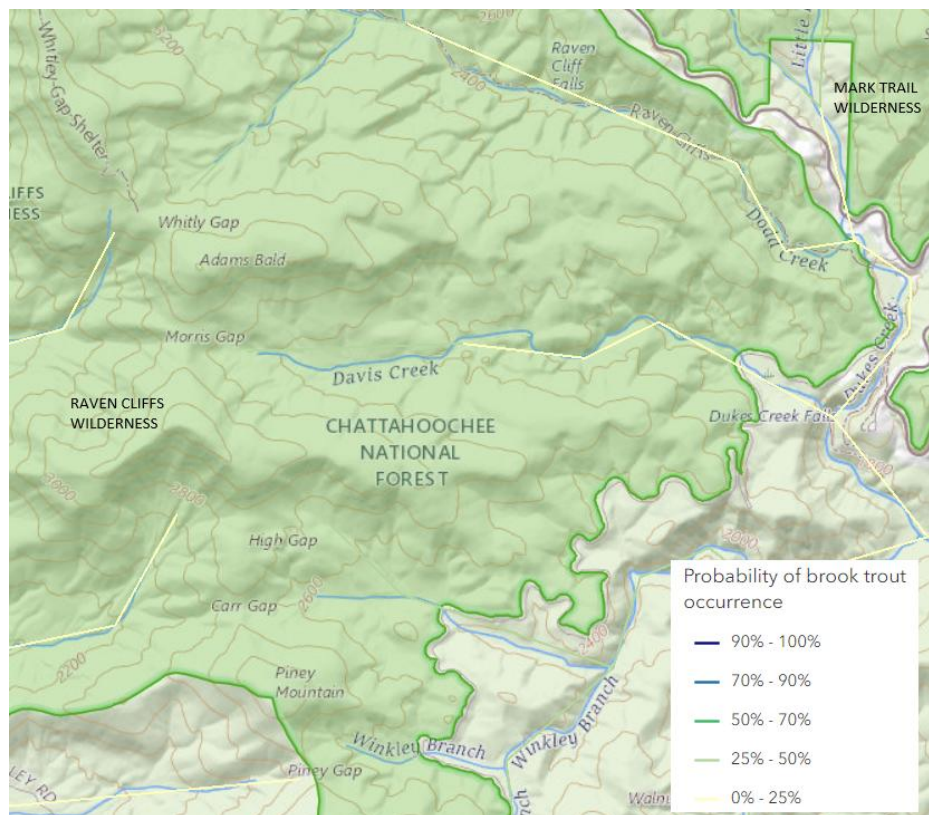
Westslope cutthroats occupy Grant Creek, Rattlesnake Creek and Gold Creek, all flowing south toward the Blackfoot and Clarks Fork. (Mayfield)



Raven Cliffs Wilderness (GA)

There are populations of brook trout in tributaries of Dukes Creek and Dodds Creek draining east toward the Chattahoochee River in the eastern part of the wilderness, with good trail access. There are also brown trout and rainbow trout in Winkley Branch. (TU 2019, Southern Appalachian brook trout)

Brook trout probabilities are low. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)



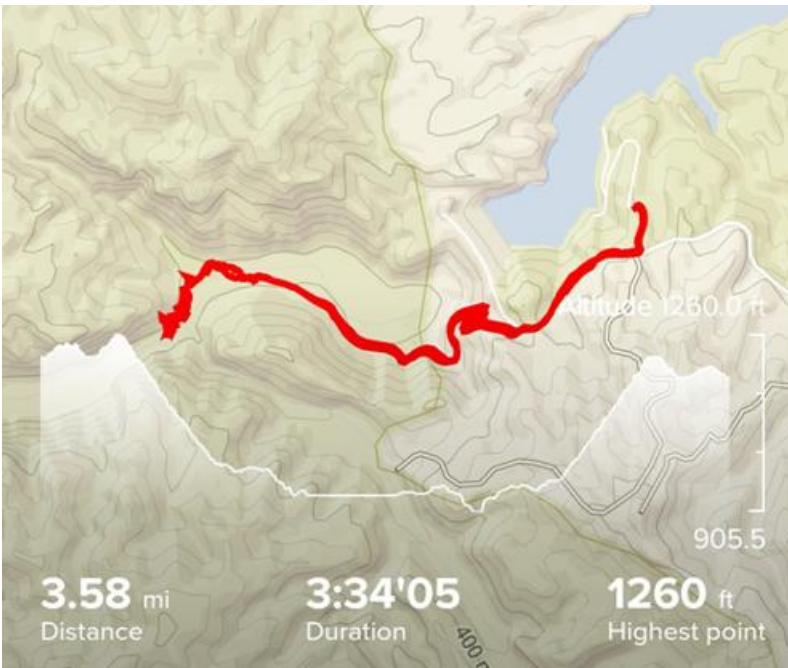
Rawah Wilderness (CO)



Brook trout and cutthroat trout (neither native) have been found in the Rawah Lakes, headwaters of Rawah Creek at 10,000-plus feet of elevation. It's about a 7-mile hike up either Rawah Creek Trail or the West Fork Laramie River trail. (iNaturalist 2022)

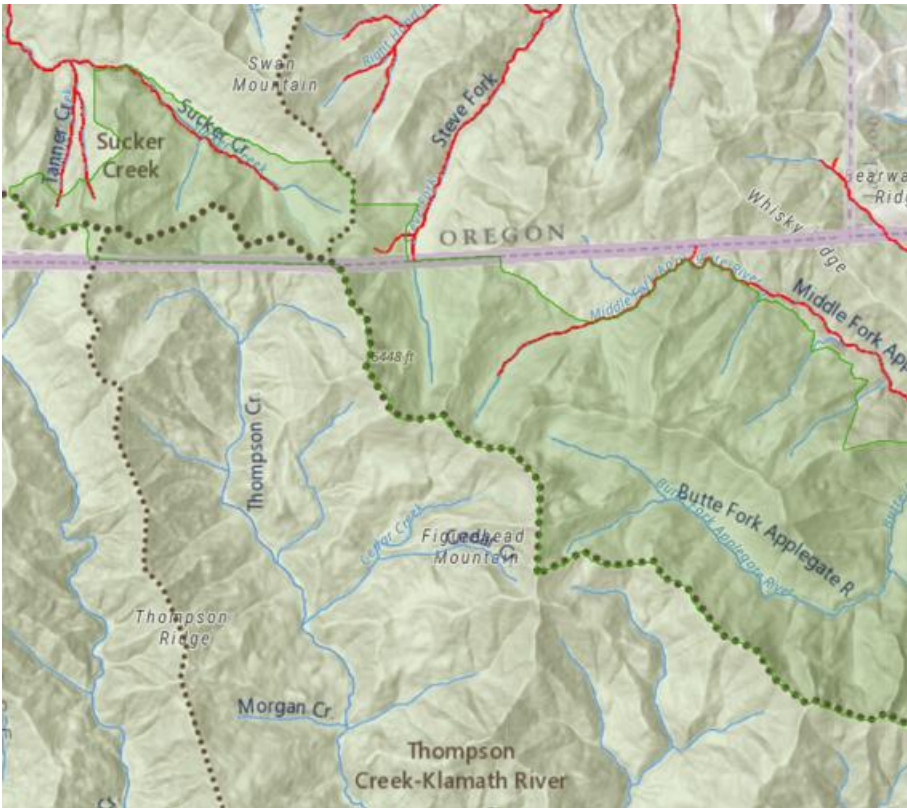


Rawhide Mountains Wilderness (AZ)



I hiked the upper mile of the Bill Williams River below the Alamo Lake Dam on July 11, 2020. It was 118 deg F in late afternoon, flow was about 24 CFS. The water was off color, visibility about 2 feet. I managed to get a largemouth bass on a black sparkle wooly bugger drifted across pools and retrieved against the current. (Number 20) Wish I had a picture, but the only good picture I got was video of a beaver crossing the river.

Red Buttes Wilderness (CA-OR)

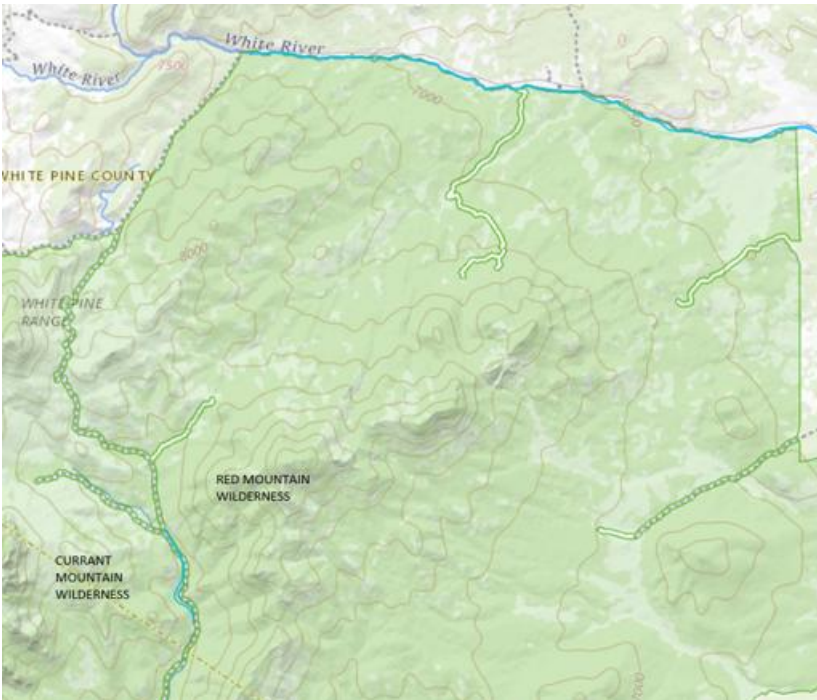


There are coastal cutthroat trout in upper headwaters of the Middle Fork Applegate River and Sucker Creek, in the Illinois River drainage. (StreamNet 2019)

In August 2025 I didn't find cutts, but I did find a bunch of small rainbows (a common theme in these parts) in the Butte Fork of the Applegate River. (Number 90). I also didn't have my landing net with me, so the hat had to fill in.



Red Mountain Wilderness (NV)



The wilderness boundary generally follows the centerline of the White River, with a road parallel to the river offering easy access. Nevada DOW says there are rainbow, brown and brook trout. (Nevada DOW 2017)

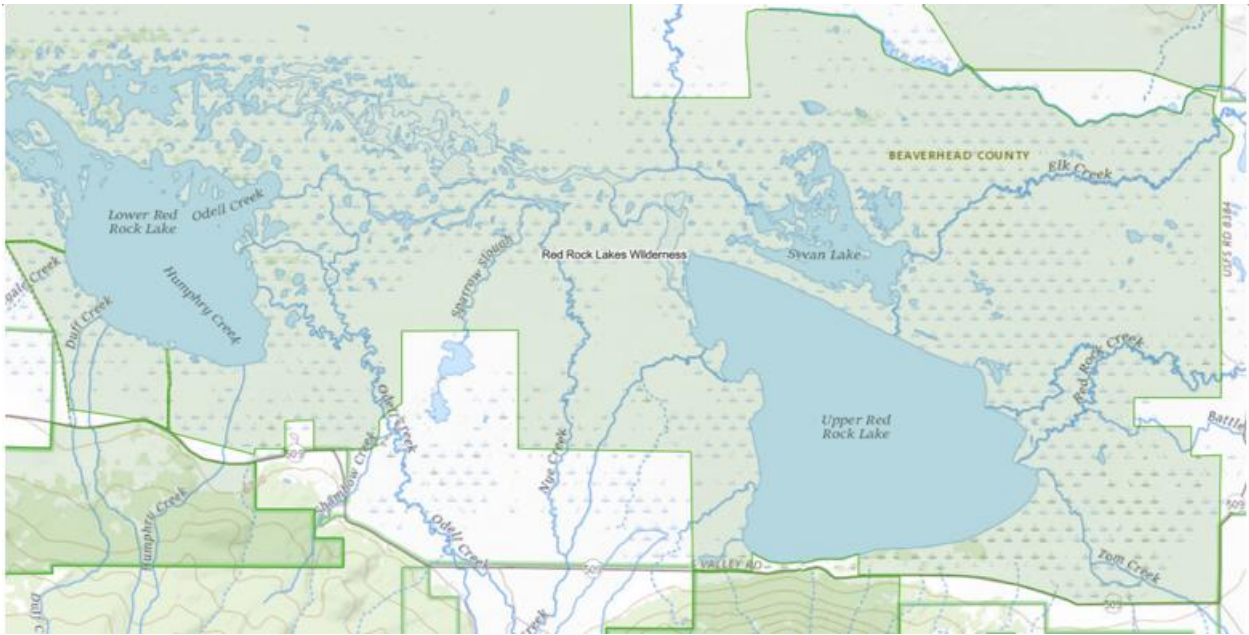


I caught a rainbow trout in October 2022 from a pool that actually lies on top of a driveway into a campsite on the south side of the river. I was all excited about it, but upon further review I was about 130 feet outside the wilderness, the campsite and driveway were cherry-stemmed out. Frustrating, but I know for sure there's trout in that river.

By the way, I also had a trout hooked in a culvert pool in Currant Creek, located in a road cherry-stem about 60 feet from the southwestern part of the Red Mountain Wilderness, across the street from the Currant Mountain Wilderness.



Red Rock Lakes Wilderness (MT)



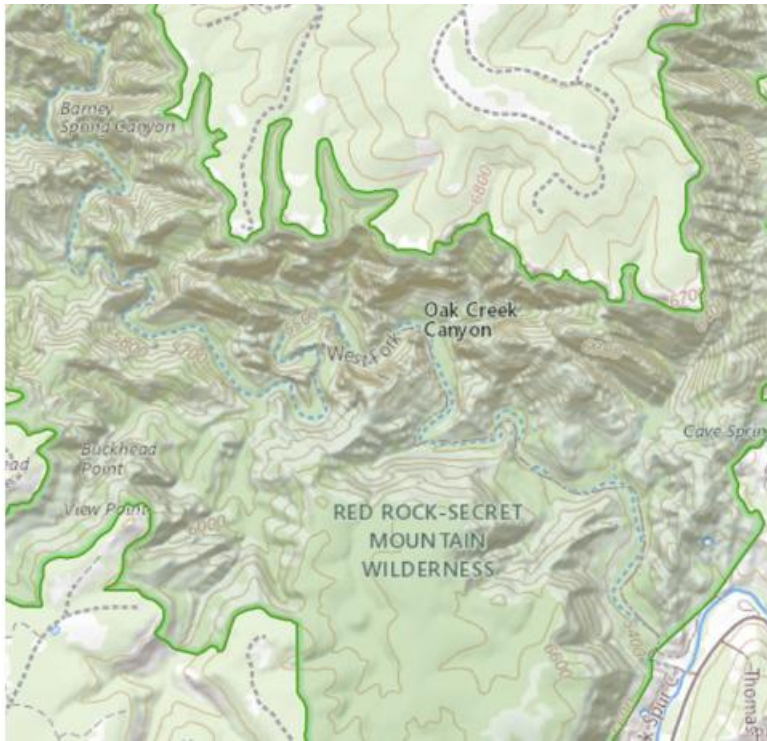
One of the last populations of adfluvial Arctic Grayling in the lower 48 spawns in Odell Creek and Red Rock Creek. These creeks as well as Elk Springs Creek also support populations of both native westslope and non-native Yellowstone cutthroats and brook and rainbow trout. In addition to trout the lakes also hold mountain whitefish, burbot, white and longnose sucker and mottled sculpin. (USF&WS June 2009 Red Rock Lakes NWR)



In August 2024, Cathie and I camped at the Upper Lake Campground, and I hiked up the Sparrow Pond trail to O'Dell Creek, and then fished down the creek into the wilderness. Slim pickings until I got to an old beaver dam, where I had many looks at a dry fly and finally caught a westslope cutthroat. (Number 79)



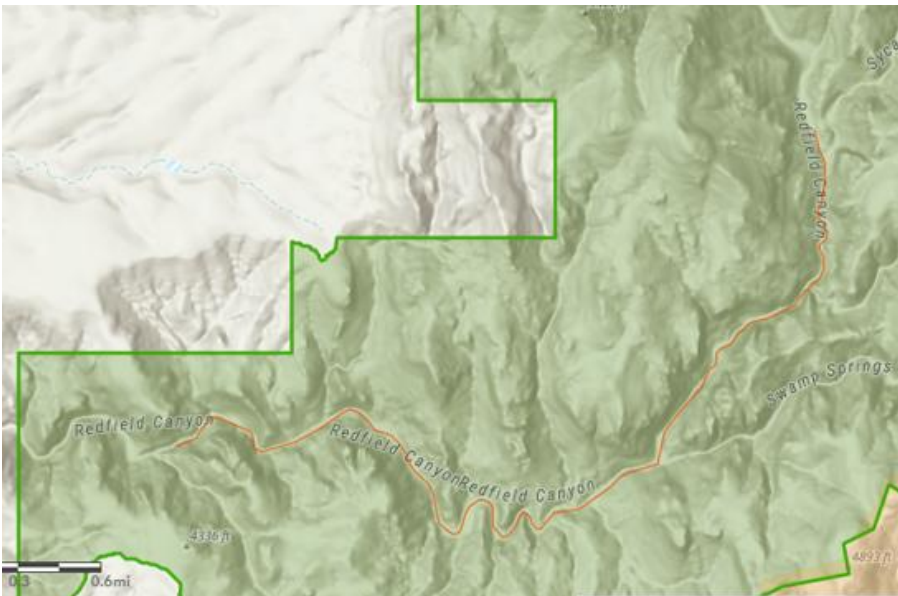
Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness (AZ)



Gila trout are in West Fork Oak Creek, as of October 2017. I know they are there not because I caught them there, but because I put them there. I was part of a hike-in native trout stocking project with Arizona Fish and Game, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and Trout Unlimited. (Number 14) The coolest part was telling other hikers what we were doing, and hearing one parent tell his kids "Those are fish heroes!"

Hikers willing to hike in the creek above the end of the trail could catch brown trout in 2014, (SFWW Mar-Apr 2014, p. 26) but I think they were eradicated ahead of the Gila trout stocking.

Redfield Canyon Wilderness (AZ)



There is critical habitat for loach minnow in Redfield Canyon. Much of the same stretch is also Gila chub critical habitat. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

The 2010 status review of the desert pupfish reports an attempted establishment of a population in Swamp Spring Canyon, tributary to Redfield Canyon, although success of the effort has not been confirmed. (USF&WS Arizona Ecological Services 2010)

Redfield Canyon Wilderness (AZ)

Redfield Canyon throughout the wilderness, together with Swamp Spring Canyon, holds desert sucker, Gila chub and Gila topminnow (oddly enough, Habimap does *not* show loach minnow). The range of these fish stops just short of Galiuro Wilderness upstream. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022)



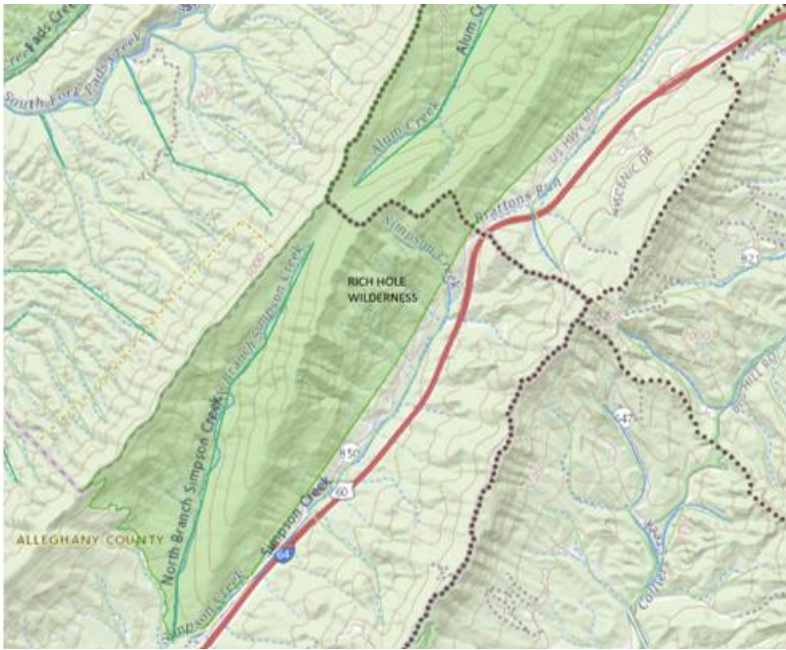
In late August 2021 I hiked in from Jackson Cabin (after driving 14.8 miles on a *really bad* road to get to the cabin) and waded up this highest upstream stretch. I found good clear, cool, continuous flow, lots of tadpoles, but did not see any fish at all. Conditions look great, I'm sure I just missed them...

I tried again Labor Day weekend 2023, hiking down into the canyon from the trailhead on the southwest side of the wilderness (haven't found a name for it). I got to the creek and hiked "upstream" over a dry creek bed for a mile before I found water and, shortly afterwards, longfin dace.



I hereby nominate the longfin dace to be the state fish of Arizona. Yes, I know, Arizona has its very own endemic trout, which is spectacular in its own right. But the Apache trout has a very limited range, and it doesn't occur in the desert, even though most of Arizona is desert. The longfin dace, however, is the fish I find in desert wildernesses when there is nothing else. It is tenacious, clinging to life in little, drying-up puddles in intermittent streams. It is the only fish I've found in many places, and the list of these places is growing. It has even survived the onslaught of introduced fish, which can't be said of the gila topminnow or desert pupfish. The longfin dace *is* Arizona.

Rich Hole Wilderness (VA)



A stronghold population of brook trout exists in tributaries of Bratton's Run in the northern portion of the wilderness, which flows to the northeast into Maury River. There is also a persistent population of brook trout in the southern part of the wilderness in tributaries of Simpson Creek, which flows southwest into the Cowpasture River. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

Both streams have a moderate probability of holding brook trout. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014) Simpson Creek has good parallel trail access.

Rich Mountain Wilderness (GA)

Georgia Department of Natural Resources shows pretty much every stream in the wilderness as a trout stream. (Georgia DNR 2022, shown on map)

There are low to moderate probabilities of brook trout in some of these streams (DeWeber and Wagner 2014, not shown), the others with trout are likely holding rainbows.



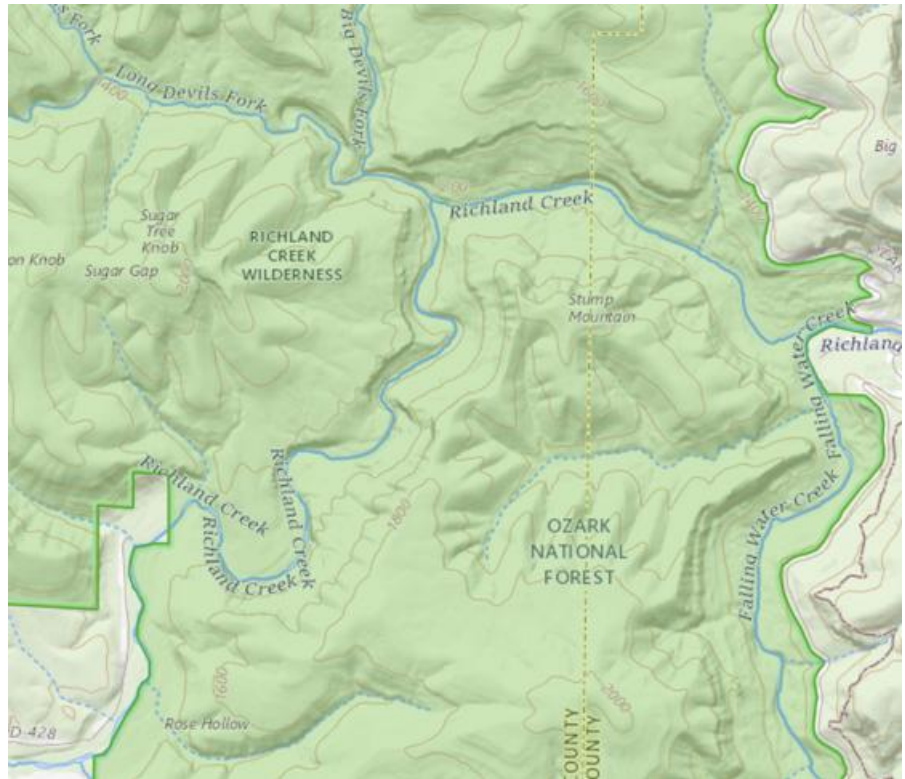
Richland Creek Wilderness (AR)

Richland Creek through the length of the wilderness is a designated wild and scenic river. Arkansas manages the stream as a smallmouth bass fishery. (USDA Forest Service Ozark-St Francis NF, Richland 1996),



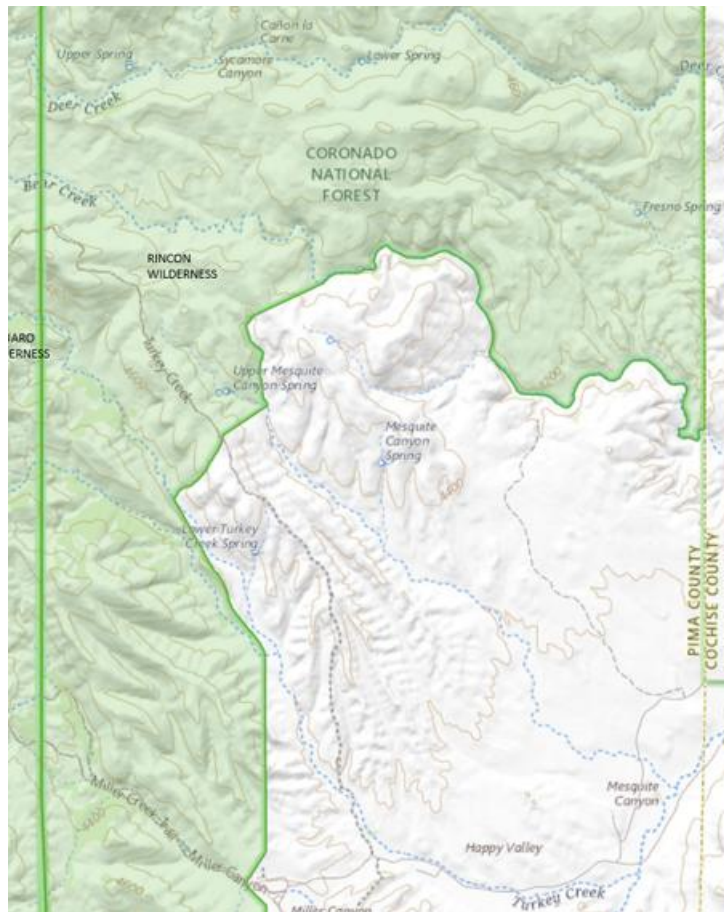
The orangethroat darter (*Etheostoma spectabile*)

There is a record of orangethroat darter at Six Finger Falls on Falling Water Creek, tributary to Richland Creek. (iNaturalist 2022)



Rincon Mountain Wilderness (AZ)

Several tanks, some of fairly good size, exist mostly toward eastern side of wilderness. (USGS 2021) Several intermittent streams, including Bear Creek, Turkey Creek and Miller Canyon, supposedly hold longfin dace. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022)

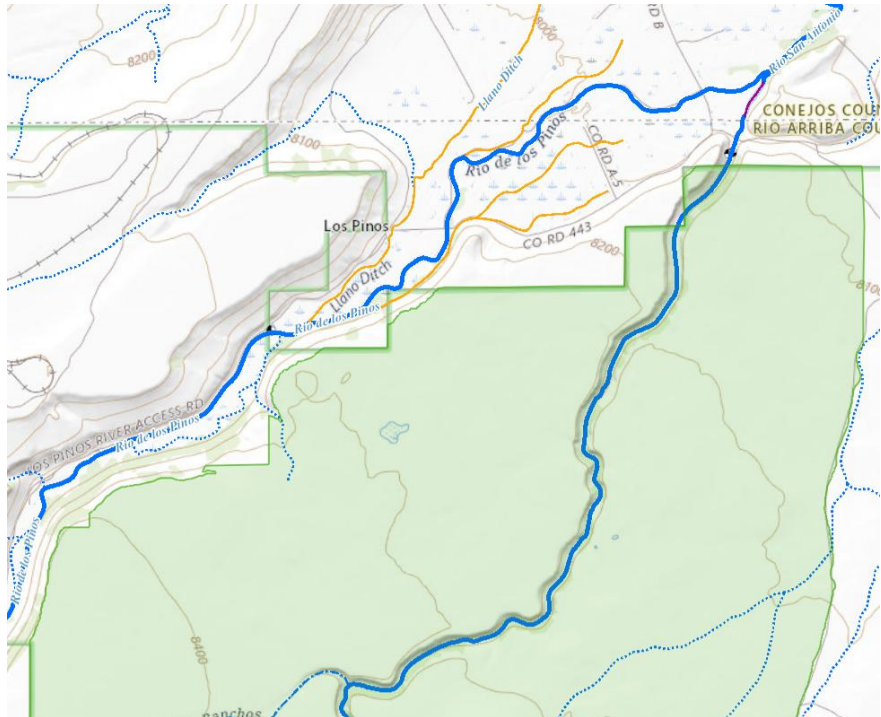


I hiked up Miller Canyon the entire length up into Saguaro National Park, looking for water and finding very little. Just a couple of small pools with nothing but bugs in them. The picture is the *biggest* one of them...

Rio San Antonio Wilderness (NM)

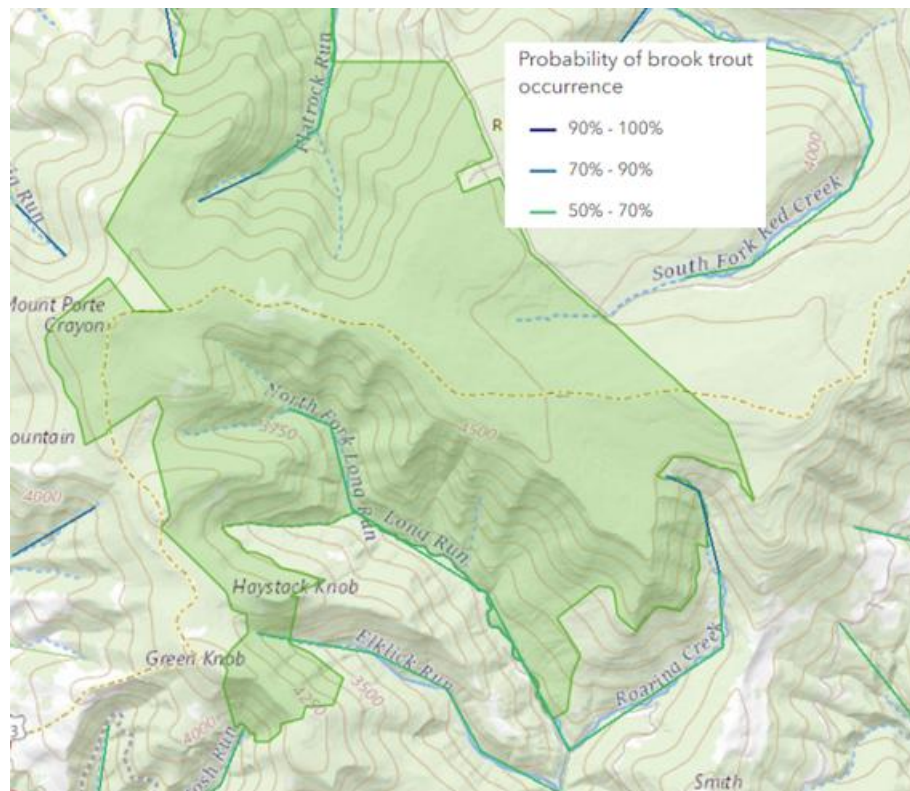
Much of Rio San Antonio appears to be perennial through the wilderness. (USGS 2021)

There are recorded catches of brown trout and rainbow trout from Rio de los Pinos just outside the wilderness (Fishbrain 2023), if there's enough water some of these fish likely make it up Rio San Antonio as well.

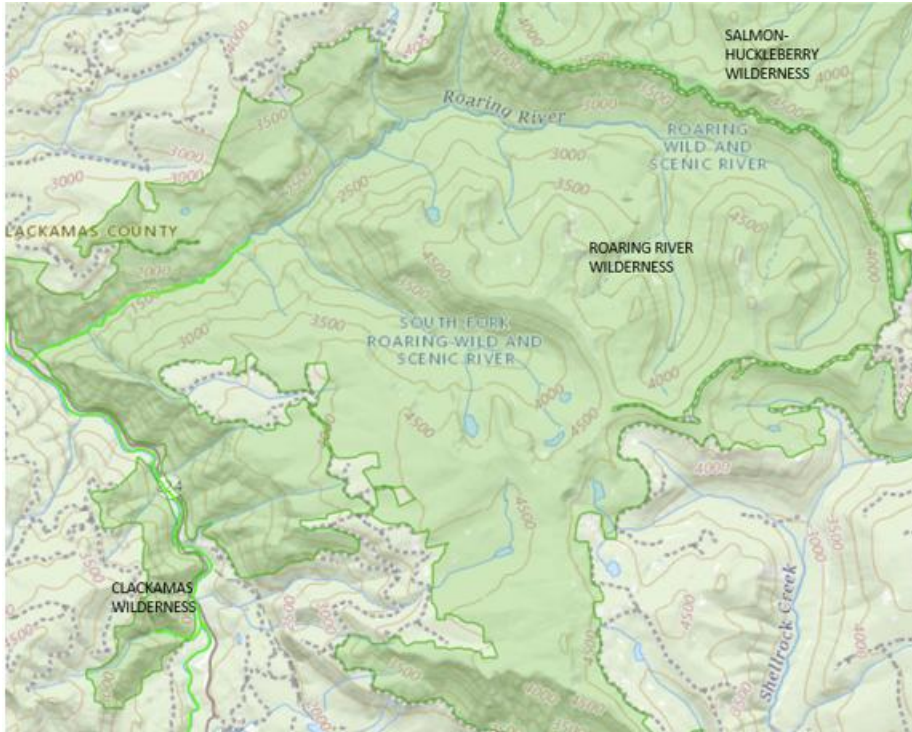


Roaring Plains West Wilderness (WV)

There is a brook trout stronghold, together with browns and rainbows, in headwaters of Seneca Creek. Long Run flows into Roaring Creek, which flows into Seneca Creek about 2 miles upstream of North Fork South Branch Potomac River. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range) There is a moderate probability of finding brook trout in Long Run as well as in Flatrock Run flowing north out of the wilderness. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

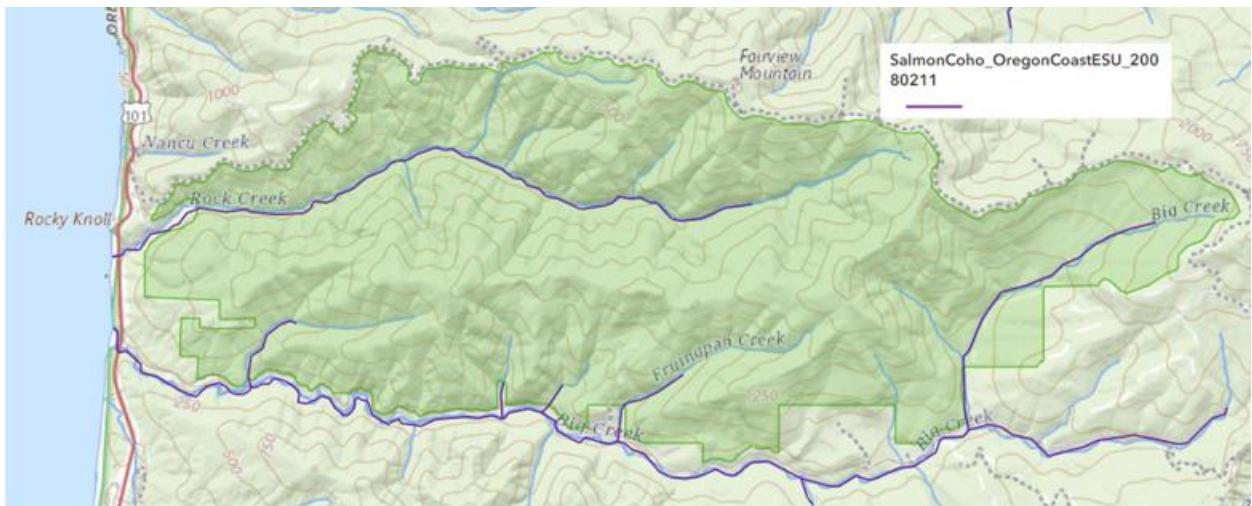


Roaring River Wilderness (OR)



Lower reaches of the Roaring River within the wilderness hold spring chinook, coho and winter steelhead. (shown on map) Coastal cutthroat make it all the way up the Roaring and its tributaries, as well as the Clackamas tributaries in the southern part of the wilderness. (StreamNet 2019)

Rock Creek Wilderness (OR)



There is critical habitat for coho salmon in Big Creek and its tributaries and in Rock Creek. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) Both streams also hold coastal cutthroats and winter steelhead, while Rock Creek has Pacific lamprey. (StreamNet 2019)

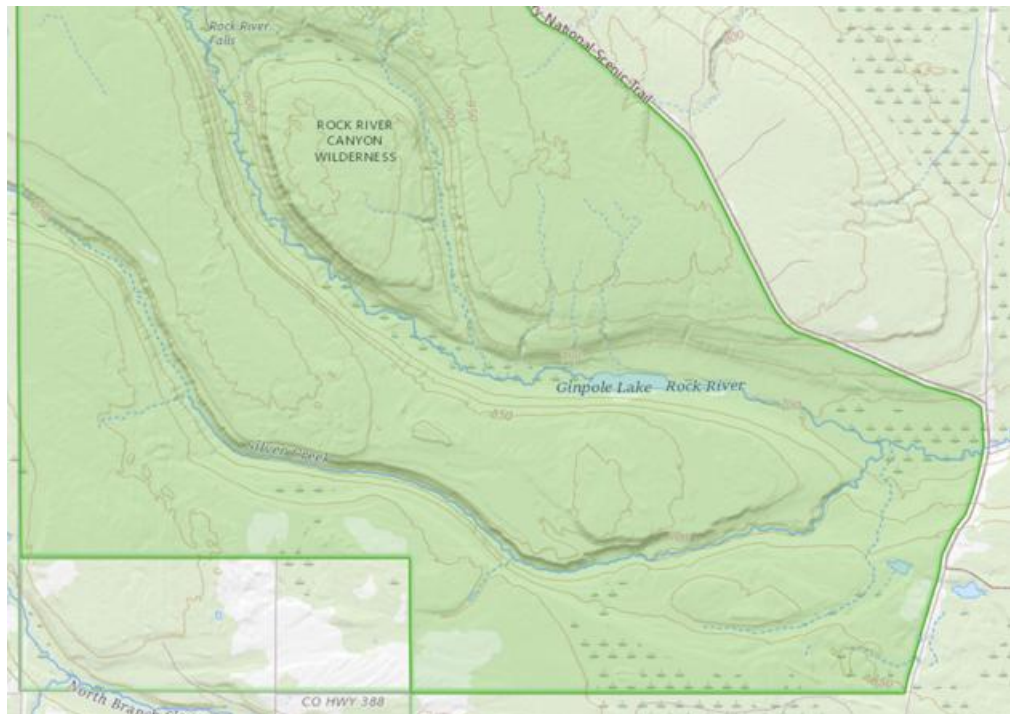
Rock Creek Wilderness (OR)

In December 2025 I thought I might find steelhead, the water was up, but I just managed to net a handful of sculpin in some slow side channels (number 100, a milestone!). I did hook into a very nice looking coastal cutt just downstream from the boundary in the campground area, so I know they are there!



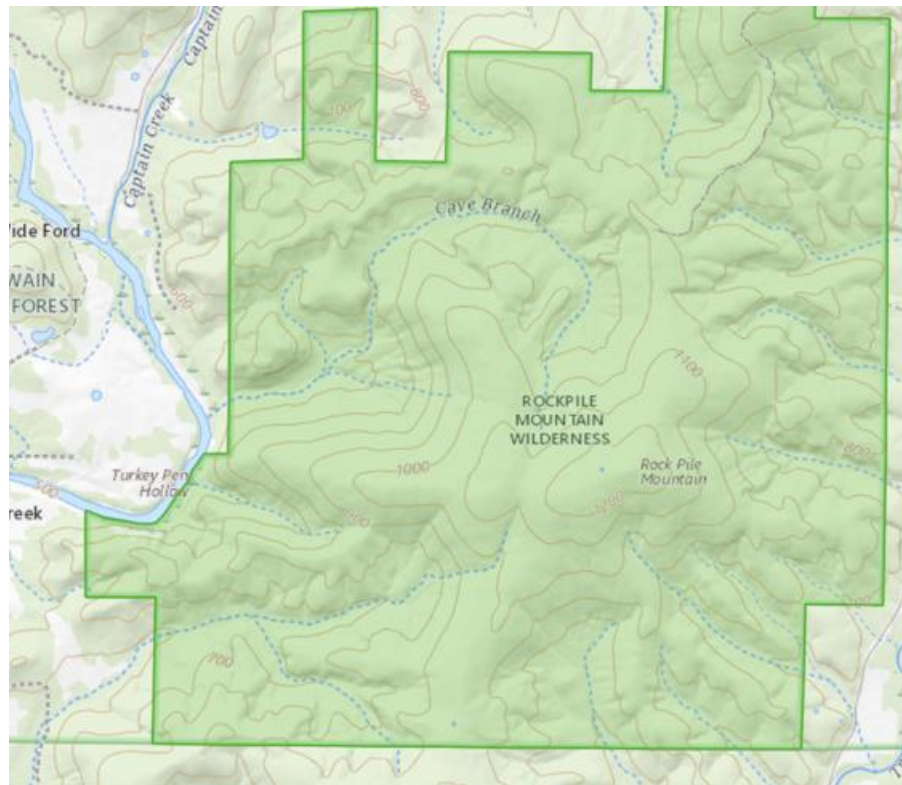
Rock River Canyon Wilderness (MI)

Rock River flows a short distance into Lake Superior. The trails are on the canyon rim, access along the river may be a bit difficult. Fish in the river include rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, coho salmon, and northern pike. (American Park Network 2022)

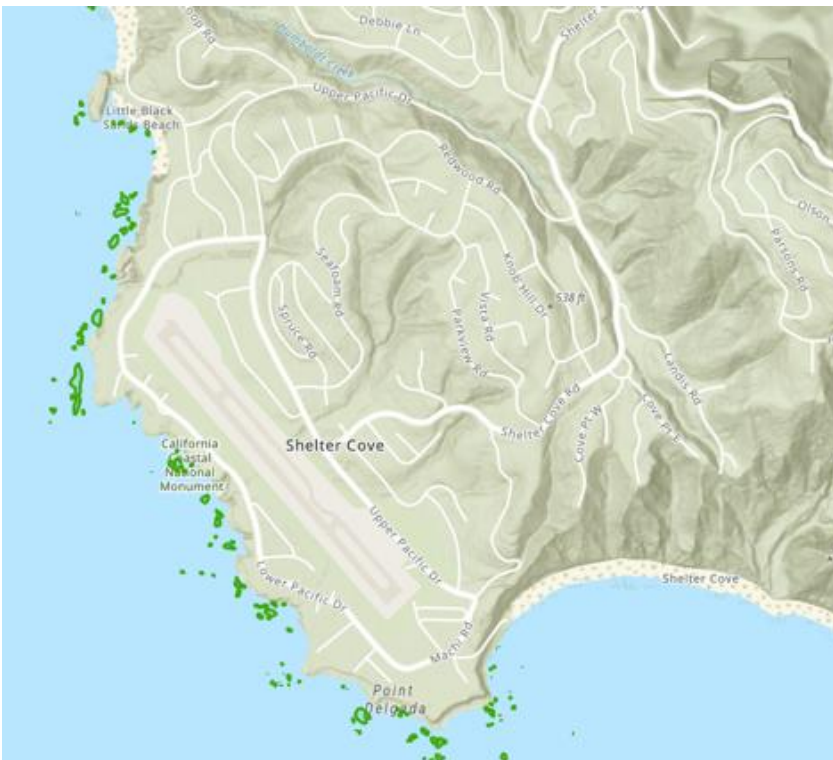


Rockpile Mountain Wilderness (MO)

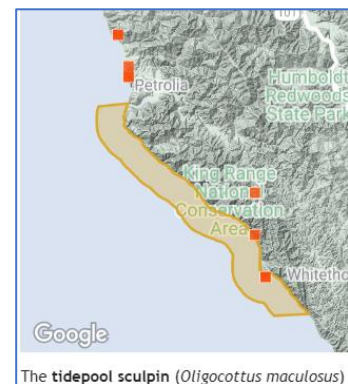
The streams within the wilderness are all short, intermittent runs in hollows draining Rockpile Mountain, but a portion of the wilderness boundary is along the St. Francis River. The river holds largemouth bass and others. (Fishbrain 2022)



Rocks and Islands Wilderness (CA)



Near King Range Wilderness, assorted near shore fish occur in tidepools and adjacent coastal water. (US BLM, Arcata, 2012)



Records include tidepool sculpin, as well as starry flounder, petrale sole, cabezon, black rockfish and grass rockfish. (iNaturalist 2022)

Rocks and Islands Wilderness (CA)

The map shows an area near the south end of King Range Wilderness. In February 2026 I visited some rocks near the Punta Gorda end of the wilderness in the north. I found tidepool sculpin (Number 103), along with elephant seals that did an effective job of keeping me out of some of the tidepools.

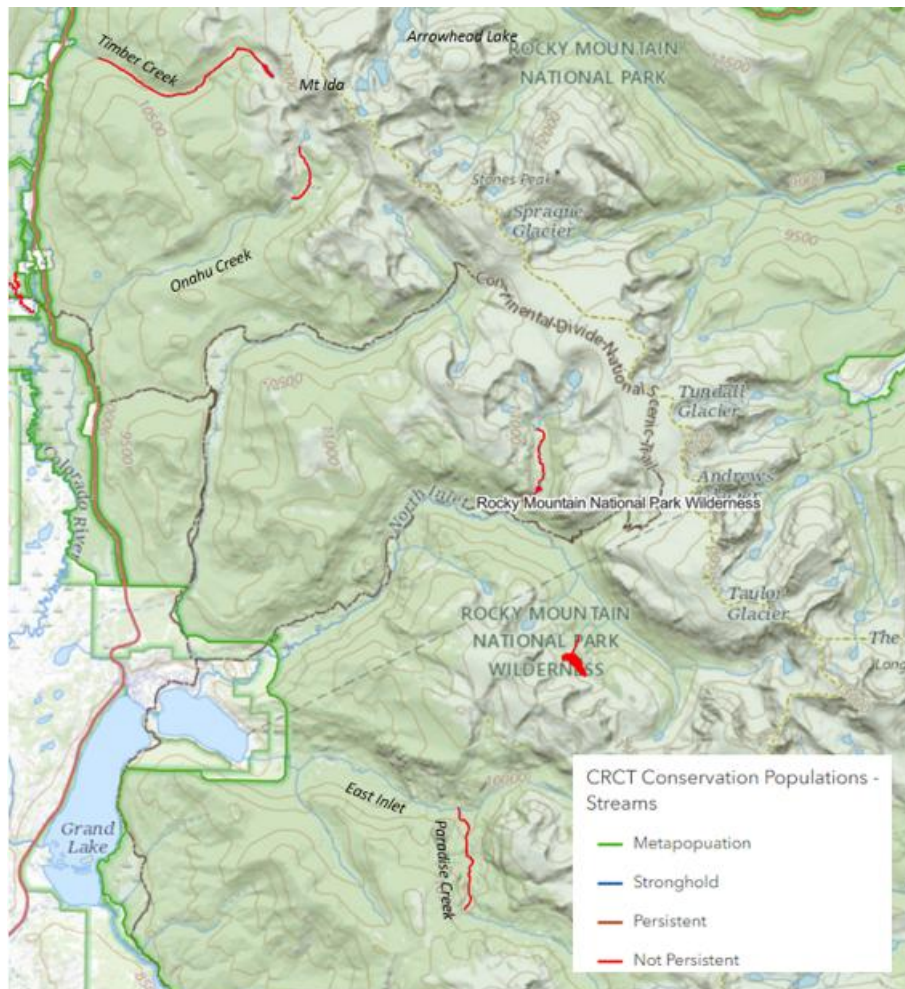


Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness (CO)

In the Colorado River drainage on the west side of the park genetically pure Colorado cutthroat populations occur above barriers in Timber Creek and Onahu Creek (right), North Inlet and East Inlet (below). (Hirsch et al 2013; TU CRCT 2019)

There are brook trout in Tonahutu Creek, (SWFF Nov-Dec 2014, p. 18) and likely many other places as well.

Hike along Continental Divide trail to Arrowhead Lake, east slope of Mount Ida, to catch greenback (supposedly) cutthroats. Supposedly the cutts are descendants of 1993 re-establishment of greenbacks after previous greenbacks were determined to be Colorados. (AA Jan-Feb 2011, p 51)

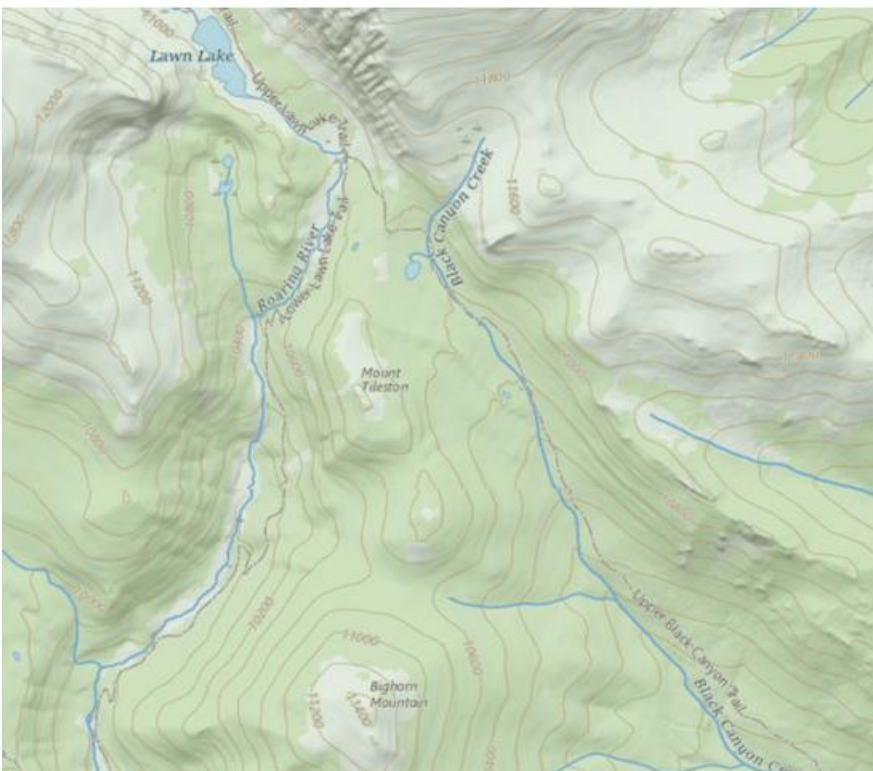


Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness (CO)



Dream Lake, southwest of the Estes Park entrance, tributary to Tyndall Creek-Glacier Creek-Big Thompson River, and easily accessible from the road (about a mile hike) is another lake with alleged greenbacks. Seems kind of crowded. (SWFF Mar-Apr 2009, p.7; SWFF Nov-Dec 2012, p. 6)

More about the park in general in SWFF, May-Jun 2016, p. 48.

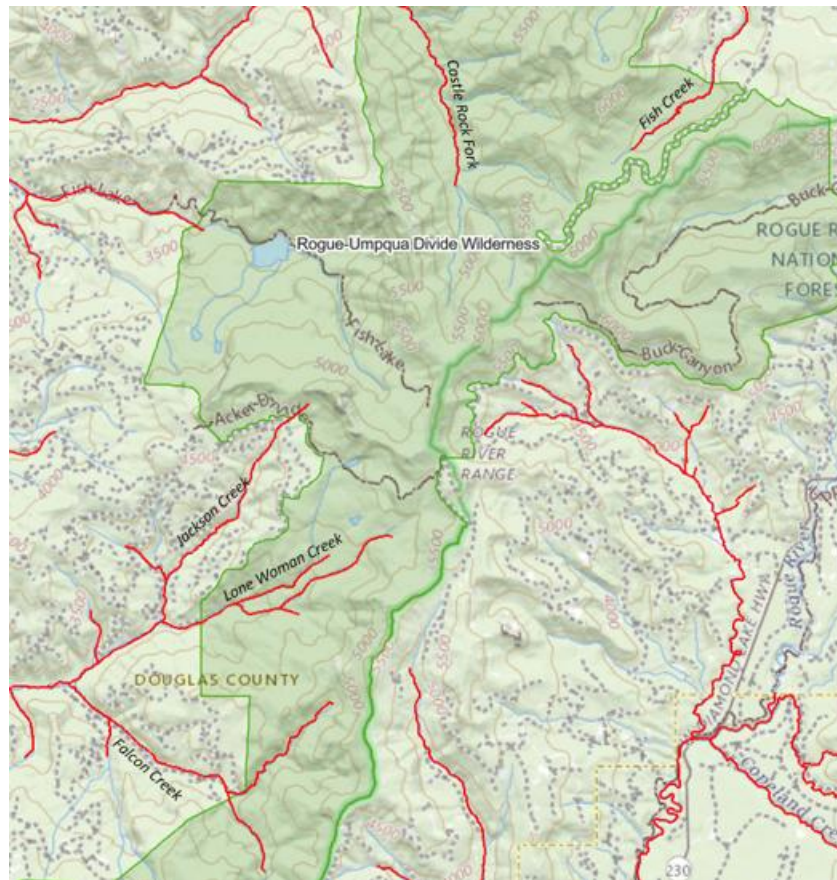


Lawn Lake is another lake with alleged greenback cutthroats, on the Roaring River, 4 miles on the Roaring River trail north of the Horseshoe Park area, west of Estes Park on the Fall River. (SWFF Mar-Apr 2008, p. 12) Roaring River itself also has alleged greenbacks. (SWFF Sep-Oct 2013, p. 20)

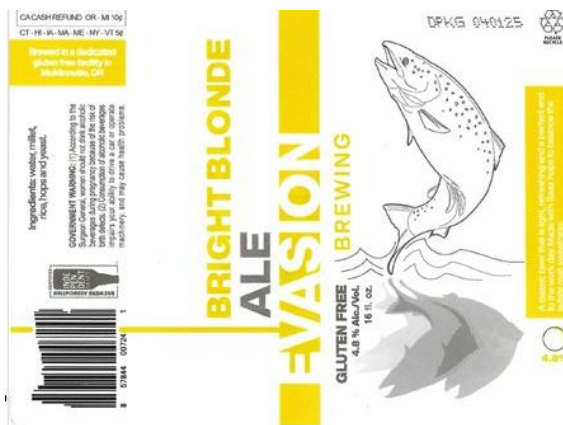


Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness (OR)

There are coastal cutthroat trout in South Umpqua tributaries Castle Rock Fork and Jackson Creek, and in North Umpqua tributary Fish Creek. Winter steelhead in Castle Rock Fork. (StreamNet 2019)



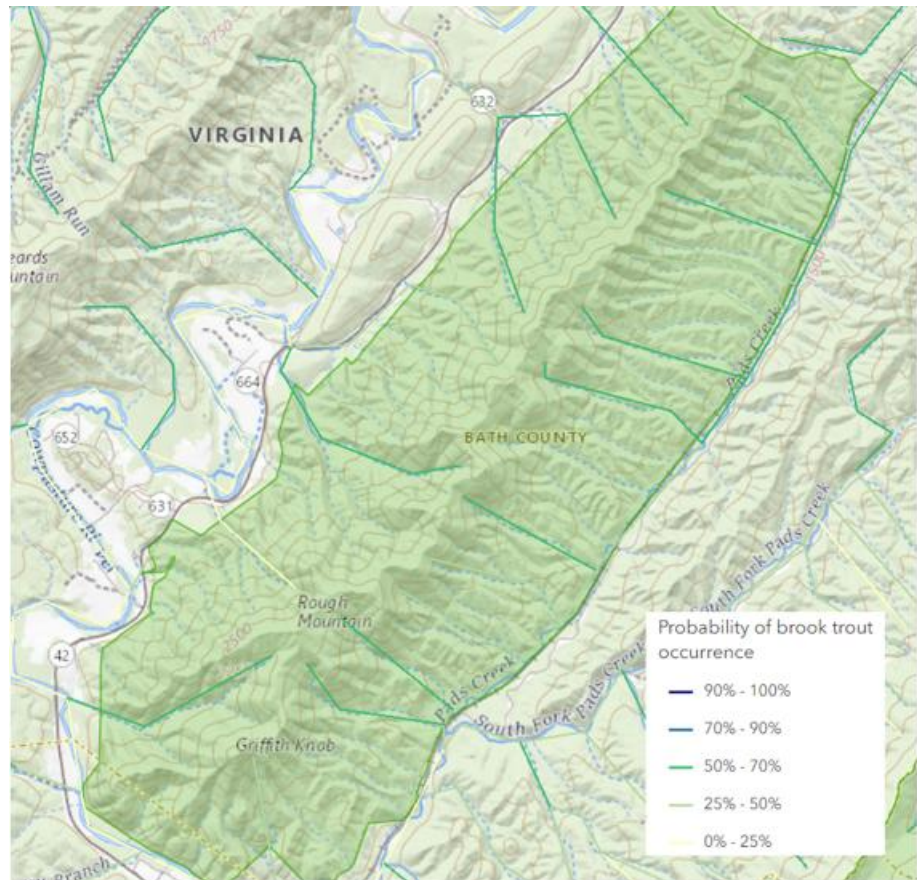
In September 2025 I found that there were also rainbows in Fish Lake Creek. (Number 95)



Rough Mountain Wilderness (VA)

Pad Creek, a Cowpasture River tributary, runs in and out of the southern edge of the wilderness and receives multiple stockings of catchable trout each year. The Cowpasture runs near the north edge of the wilderness and also receives multiple stockings, some tributaries coming off of the Rough Mountain ridge likely have trout from these stockings. (VA DWR, 2022)

Tributaries on both slopes have low to moderate probability of the occurrence of brook trout. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)



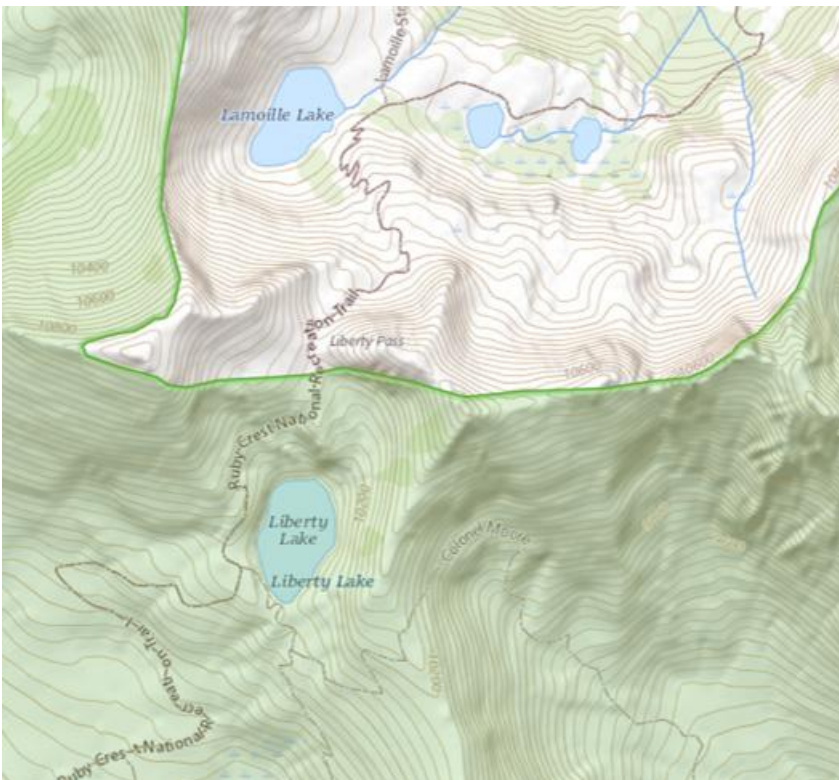
Round Island Wilderness (MI)

The wilderness is an island in Lake Huron, so there are certainly fish, although there appears to be no perennial surface water on the island and the wilderness boundary ends at the waterline. It's still likely that you can stand on the shore in the wilderness (if you're allowed to) and catch cisco, herring, alewife, smallmouth bass and trout and salmon.



Ruby Mountains Wilderness (NV)

Native population of Lahontan cutthroats in Long Canyon Creek and tributaries. Furlong Creek has the more genetically pure fish. Brookies cohabitate. Further south, Smith Creek system has moderate densities of nearly pure Lahontans, again with brookies as well. (USF&WS and NV F&W 2009, p. 23; TU LCT 2020)



Liberty Lake is 3 ½ miles and 1100 feet in elevation up and over Liberty Pass from the end of the road in Lamoille Valley, Favre Lake is just a little farther. Plenty of brook trout. There are even a few lakera in Liberty Lake. (SWFF Jan-Feb 2017, p. 57.)

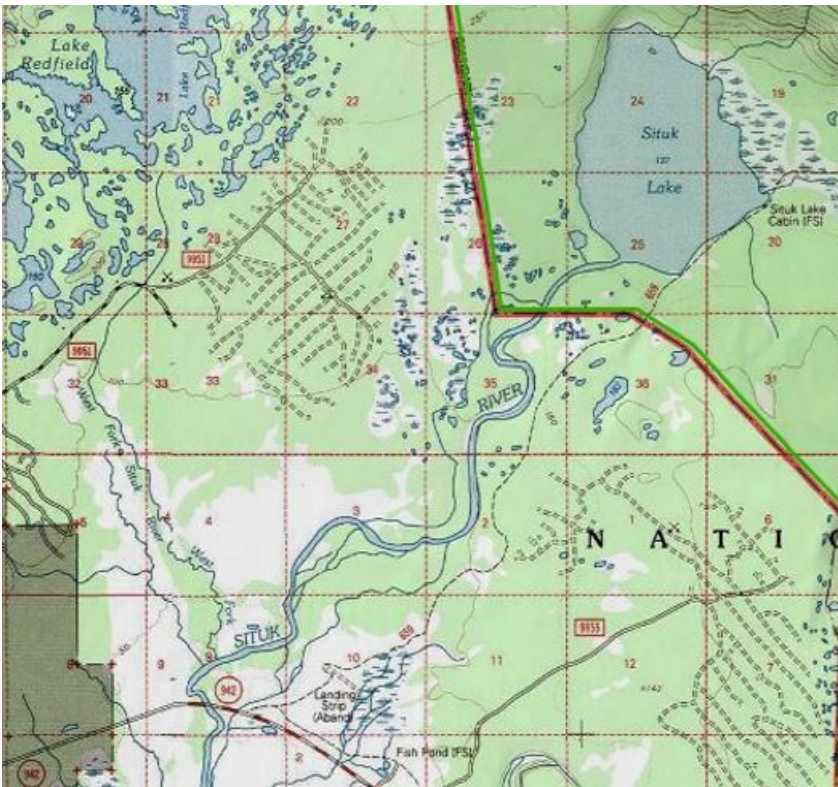
There appears to be brook trout in pretty much every stream in the wilderness. (Nevada DOW 2017)

Ruby Mountains Wilderness (NV)

I hiked in to Liberty Lake in July 2021. The lake is spectacular, and there are certainly fish in it. I had a couple of hits but didn't land any. The toughest part was the people; there had to be at least 30 people camping around the southern end of the lake. I had a hard time finding any accessible shoreline that wasn't already occupied by someone bathing, cooking, washing dishes or sunning themselves. Rare in a wilderness, and very frustrating.



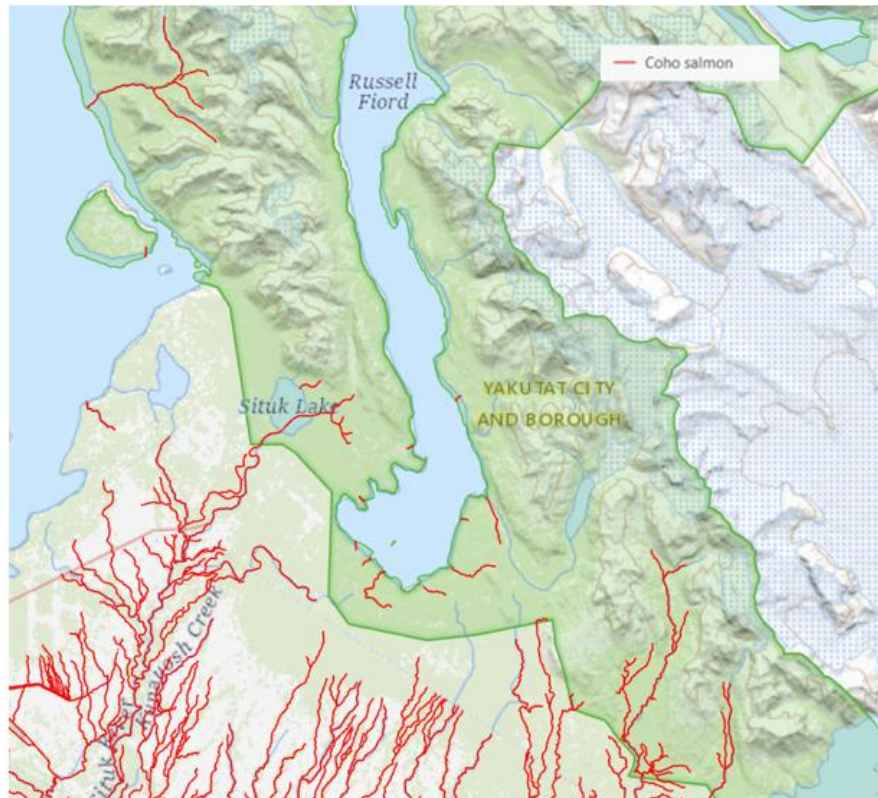
Russell Fjord Wilderness (AK)



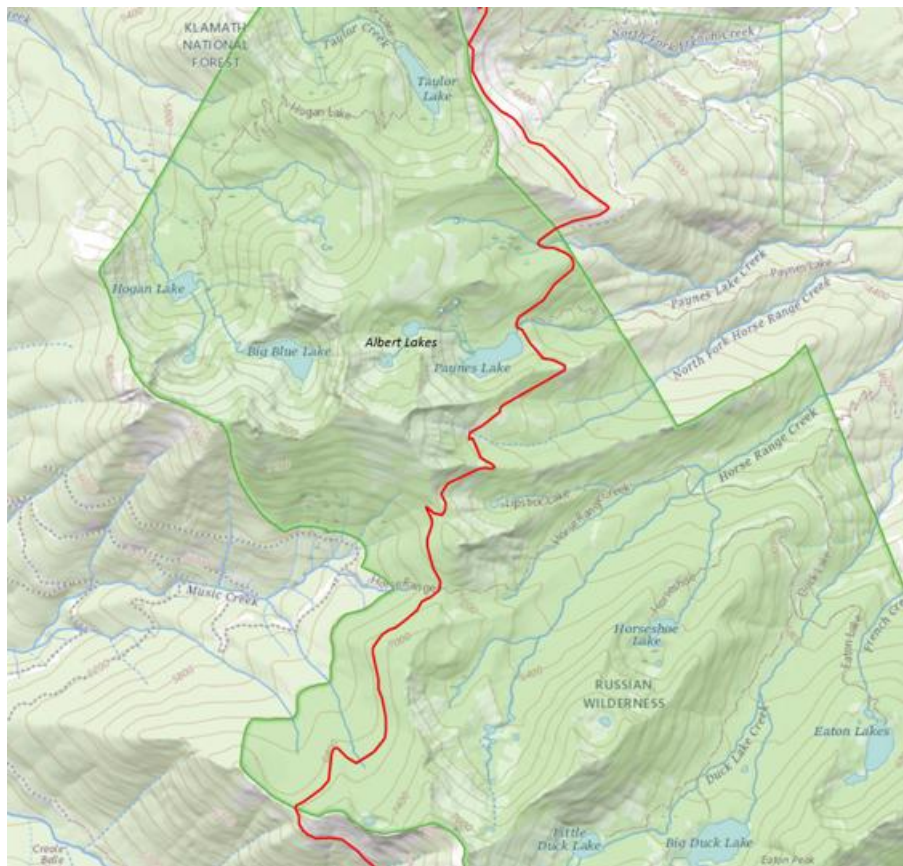
The Situk River is “arguably the most storied steelhead river in all of Alaska.” Hike upstream from Nine Mile Bridge along established trails towards Situk Lake. (Steelheader's Journal 2014, p. 96)

Russell Fjord Wilderness (AK)

The Situk also hosts chinook, chum, pink and sockeye salmon. Cohos run up the Situk as well as a few other streams. (ADFG 2023)



Russian Wilderness (CA)



There are records of brook trout in Albert Lake, Taylor Lake and Little Duck Lake, all with good trail access. (iNaturalist 2022) The red line on the map is the Pacific Crest Trail.

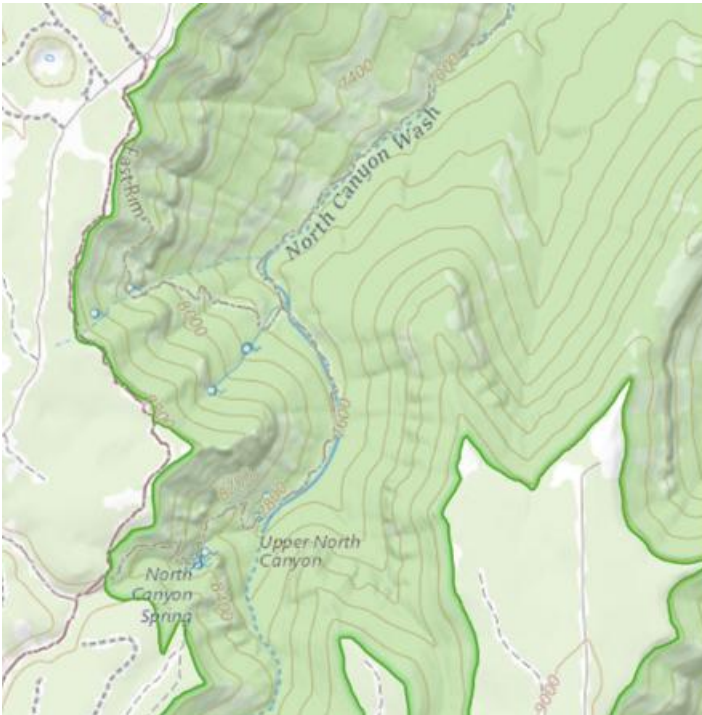


Russian Wilderness (CA)

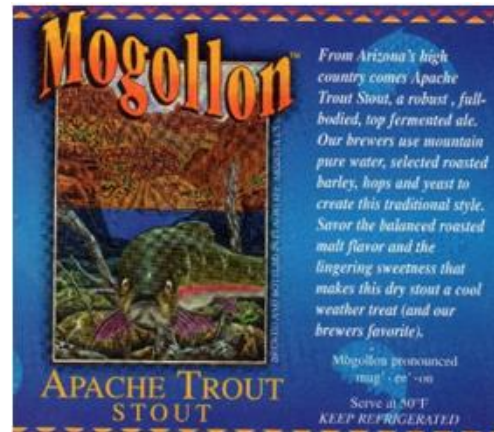
On July 4, 2025, Taylor Lake looked pretty but I couldn't find any fish in it. I tried Taylor Creek just downstream from the lake on my way out and found this aggressive brook trout. (Number 84)



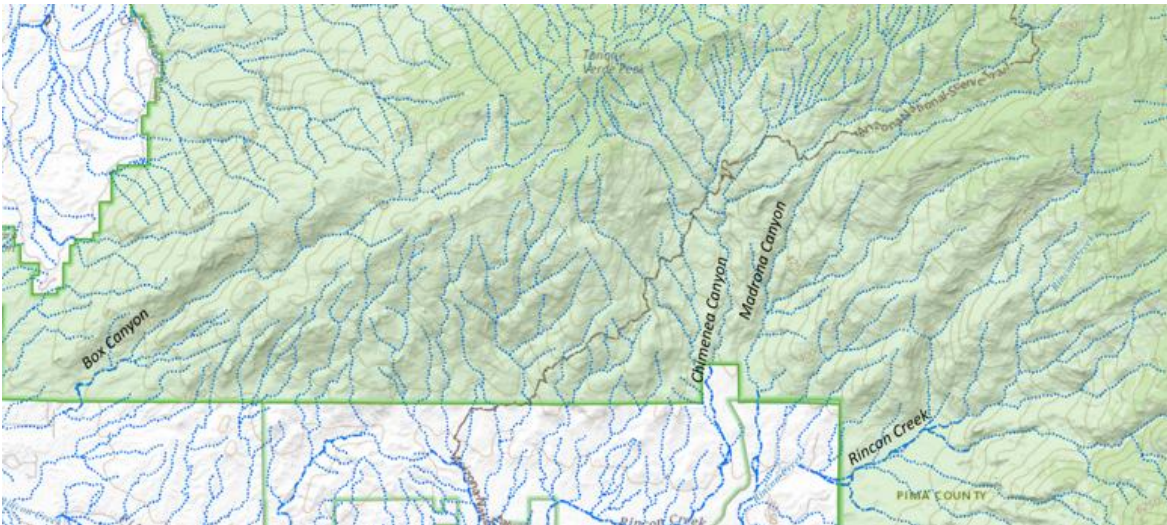
Saddle Mountain Wilderness (AZ)



I hiked down from the North Rim with Bubba in October 2007. When we hit the creek at the bottom of the trail all the water was covered with snow- kind of a bad feeling after all the work to get down there. We went upstream and found open water, though, and then caught a bunch of Apache trout. They are not native here, but the story is they were planted by AZGF as emergency brood stock for the Apache trout hatchery program. Nice fish. (Number 4) (SWFF Sep-Oct 2015, p.24)



Saguaro Wilderness (AZ)



USGS says there is no perennial water in the wilderness, but there appears to be sufficient water in intermittent streams, including Box Canyon, Chimenea Canyon, Madrona Canyon and Rincon Creek, to support fish. All four of these streams supposedly hold desert sucker, Gila topminnow and longfin dace. Some small watercourses flowing north off of Tanque Verde Ridge may hold Gila chub as well. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022)

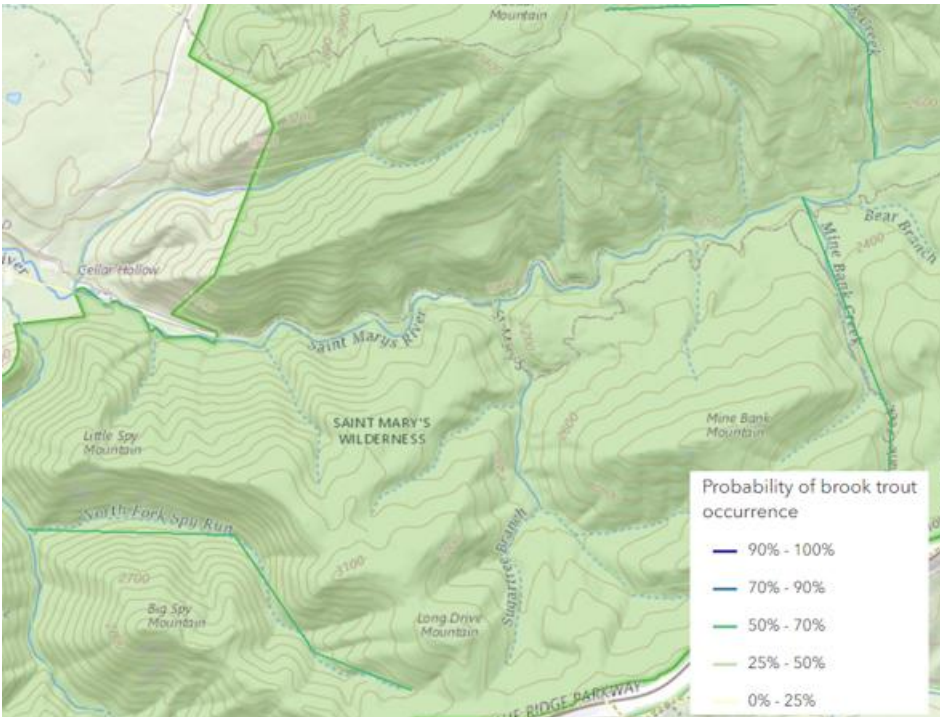


Saint Lazaria Wilderness (AK)



Located at the entrance to Sitka Sound, the wilderness apparently does not include maritime waters, but there is a lagoon and intertidal waters will hold fish. Halibut were supposedly caught from the shore in the past. (USF&WS 1988 Alaska Maritime NWR, p. II-256)

Saint Mary's Wilderness (VA)



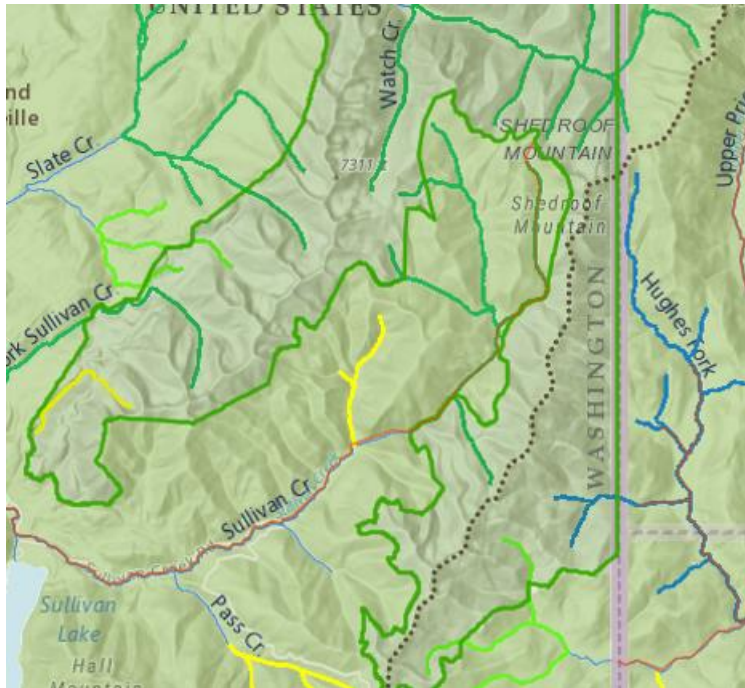
A persistent population of brook trout occupies upper tributaries of Saint Mary's River throughout the wilderness. The Saint Mary's River flows southwest and becomes the South River before merging with the Maury River. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

The map shows a low to moderate probability of brook trout in the main St. Marys (DeWeber and Wagner 2014), but I was fortunate to find them.

I caught several small brook trout in late April, 2023, in the main stem St. Mary's River. Cathie and I hiked about a mile up the St. Mary's Falls Trail. She left me alone to go back to the car near the beginning of the hike, I told her I'd be safe, then I managed to slip and fall full-body into the river, and got a 2-inch long cut across my wrist on the rocks as I fell. Hard to live that one down... (Number 62)



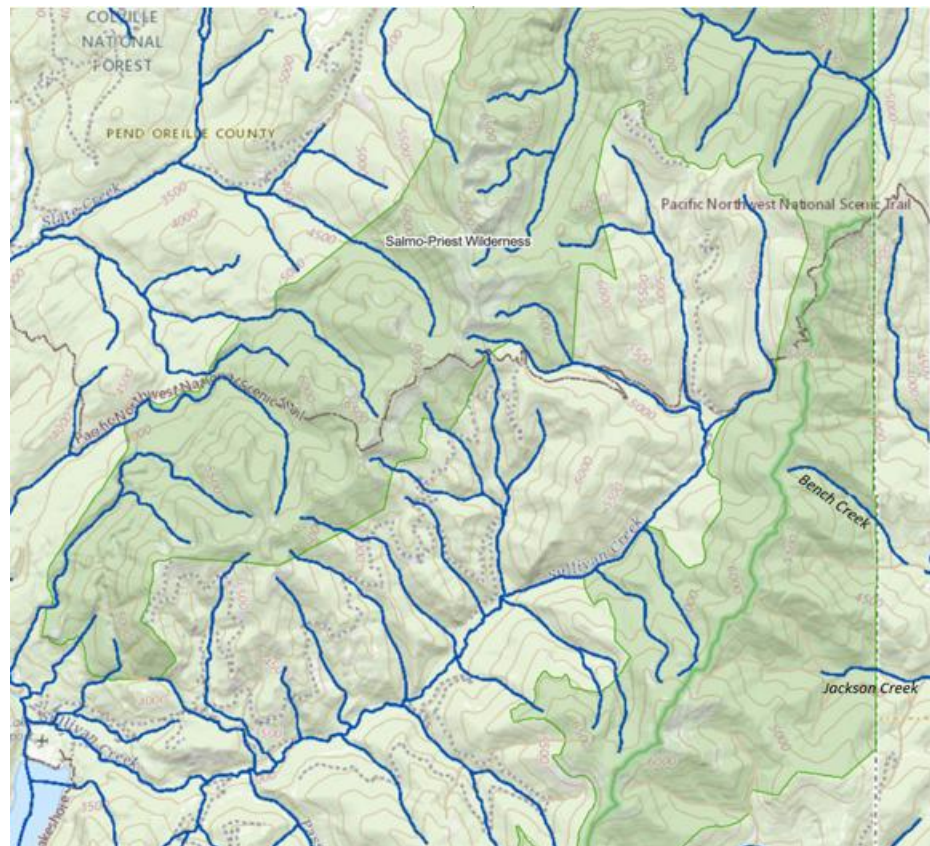
Salmo-Priest Wilderness (WA)



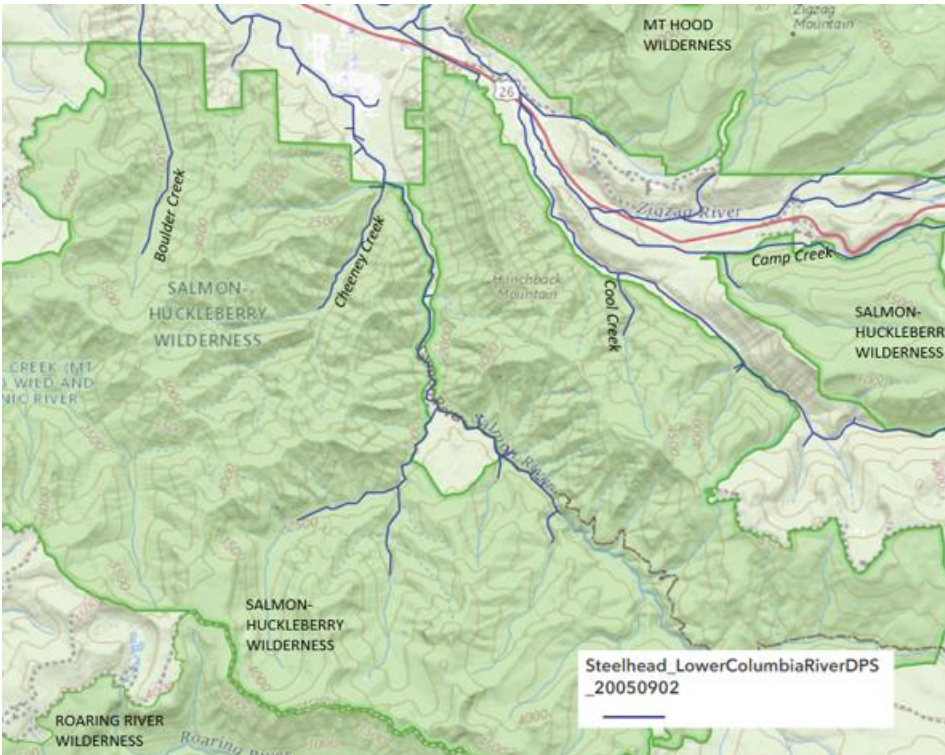
Climate Shield predictive model shows a high probability of bull trout in Jackson Creek, tributary of Hughes Fork Priest River in the southeastern corner of the wilderness. (USDA Climate Shield 2020)



Pretty much every stream in the northern and western portions of the wilderness holds westslope cutthroats, plus Sullivan Creek tributaries on the west slope of the mountains in the eastern part of the wilderness and Jackson Creek and Bench Creek on the eastern slope. (Mayfield)



Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness (OR)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in Cool Creek, Boulder Creek, upper Salmon River and tributaries, as well as in Zigzag River tributary Camp Creek in the separate eastern portion of the wilderness. The main stem Salmon River and its East and West Forks are also chinook critical habitat, while Cool Creek and the Salmon and its forks also hold coho salmon. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

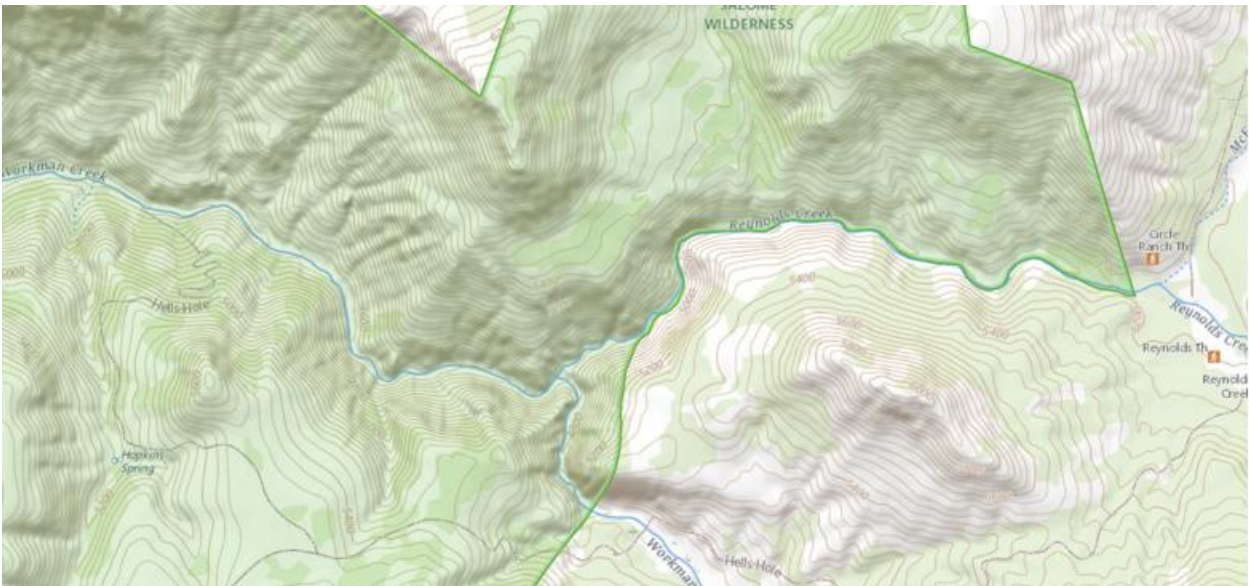
Climate Shield predictive model shows a high probability of bull trout farther upstream from the steelhead and salmon habitat in the Salmon River. (USDA Climate Shield 2020, shown on map)

Coastal cutthroats are resident in pretty much every stream in the wilderness. (StreamNet 2019)



Salome Wilderness (AZ)

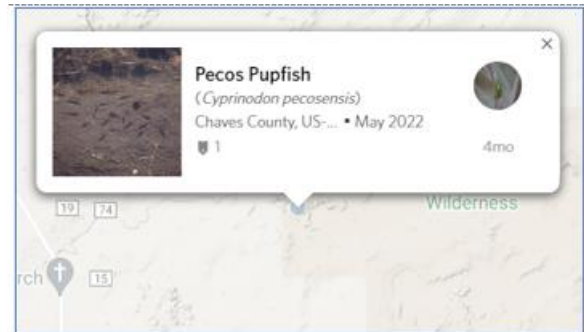
I tried walking in on the trail to the Hell Hole around 2008, but didn't find fish there. I tried at least twice from the Reynolds Creek approach working downstream, including November 2019, fishing in the snow, and with a broken elbow (that I did not yet know was broken). No fish. I was thinking some people have no sense. Then I went in 2 miles along Reynolds Creek in August 2020, fell and cracked my head open and sprained my foot (it was a very painful drive to Globe). Extremely low water conditions, late summer in a non-snow year. But I found fish! Bunches of long fin dace in shrinking pools. Remarkable fish, I don't know how they survive there, but they do. (Number 27)



Salt Creek Wilderness (NM)



The wilderness is part of the Bitter Lake NWR. The refuge has 24 species of fish recorded, although the documentation does not identify whether they were found in the wilderness portion or elsewhere. (USF&WS 1998 Bitter Lake, p 21 and appendix D) The wilderness includes Salt Creek and several sinkholes. There is at least one record of rare Pecos pupfish, and one of unspecified *Gambusia* at the Ink Pots. (iNaturalist 2022) Other species in the refuge include Pecos gambusia, plains and rainwater killifish, and several Cyprinidae.

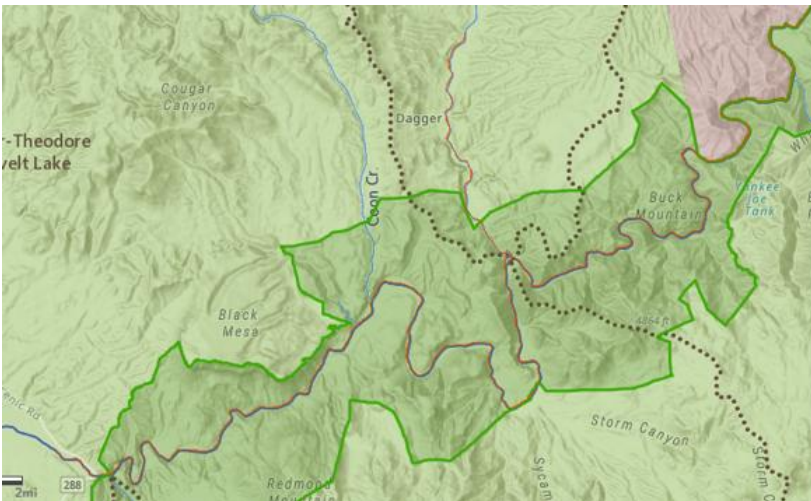
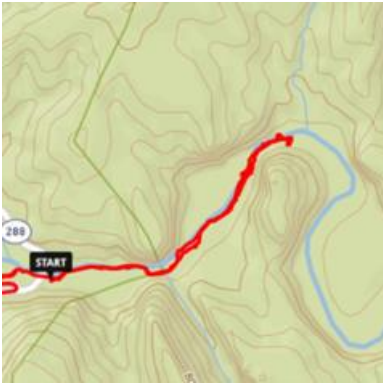


Salt River Canyon Wilderness (AZ)

In June 2021 I kayaked up from the AZ 288 bridge about 0.8 miles. Fished a couple of pools at the head where current was coming in, and caught a largemouth bass on a beadhead flash bugger. (Number 37)



Salt River Canyon Wilderness (AZ)



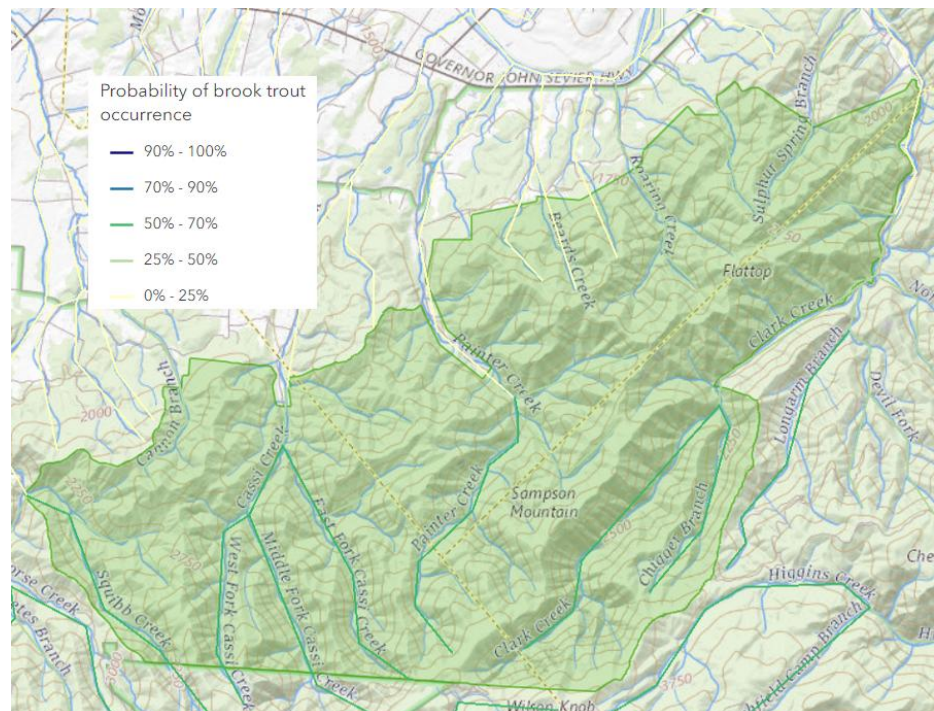
There is critical habitat for Razorback sucker in Salt River through length of the canyon, also in Cherry Creek flowing into the canyon from the north. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

The entire length of the Salt River within the wilderness also supports longfin dace, speckled dace, roundtail chub and Sonora sucker. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022)

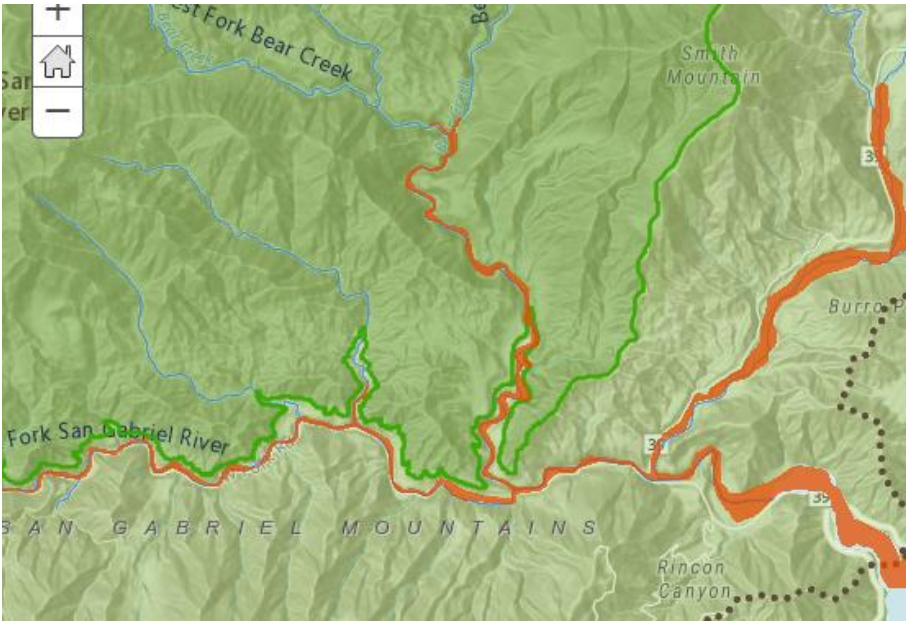
Sampson Mountain Wilderness (NC)

There is a population of brook trout in Squibb Creek in the extreme southwestern part of the wilderness, draining northwest into Horse Creek and eventually the Nolichucky River. (TU 2019, Southern Appalachian brook trout)

There are low to moderate probabilities of presence of brook trout in streams throughout the wilderness. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)



San Gabriel Wilderness (CA)



Critical habitat for the Santa Ana sucker extends up Bear Creek from the West Fork of the San Gabriel River into the southern part of the wilderness. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

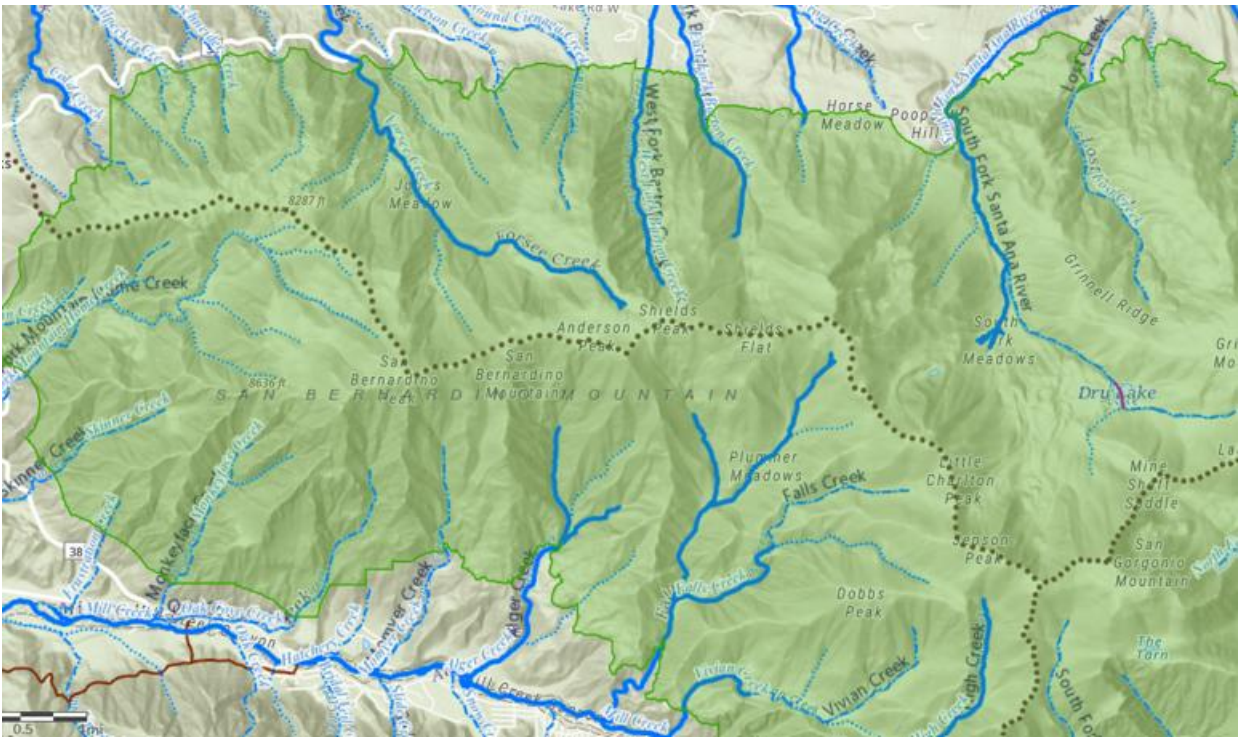
Santa Ana sucker and speckled dace occur in lower gradient reaches of Bear Creek, rainbow trout are resident throughout Bear Creek and Devil's Canyon. (O'Brien et al, 2011)

I tried Devil's Canyon in May 2022, nice hike, beautiful stream, no fish.



San Gorgonio Wilderness (CA)

The Whitewater River has intermittent flow but is not within the native range of any fishes. In the northwest corner of the wilderness perennial tributaries of the Santa Ana River flowing north and Mill Creek flowing south are within native range of coastal rainbow trout. The north flowing Santa Ana tributaries are also with the range of Santa Ana speckled dace and arroyo chub. (UCal Davis, PISCES 2022)



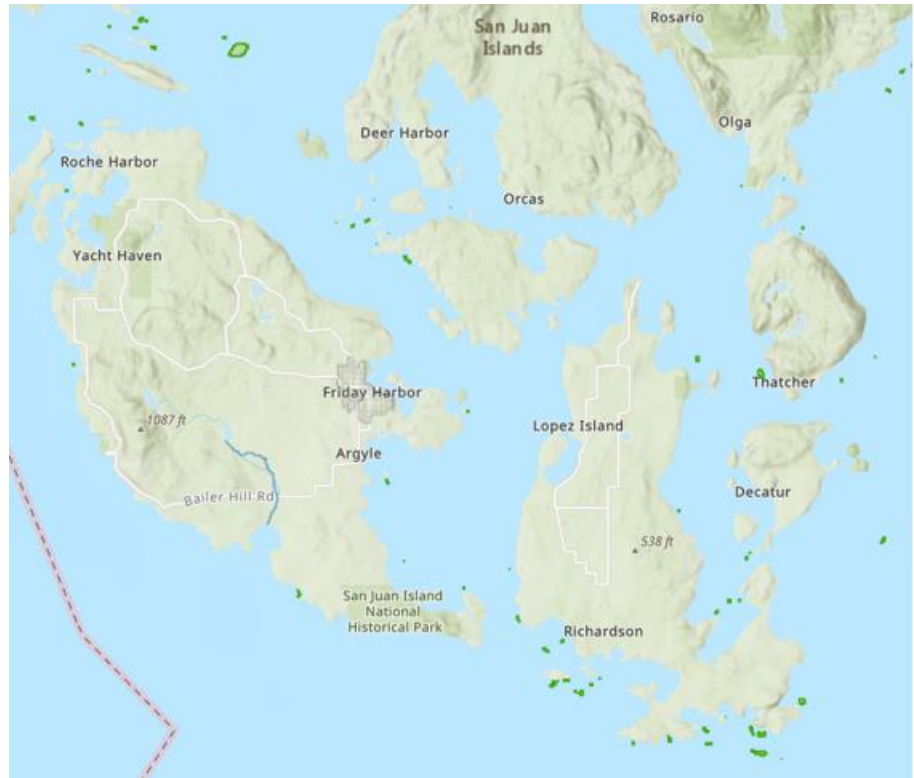
San Jacinto Wilderness (CA)

Herkey Creek in the southern unit of the wilderness appears to be the only perennial stream in the wilderness (USGS NWIS 2022) and is within native range of coastal rainbow trout. (UCal Davis PISCES 2022)

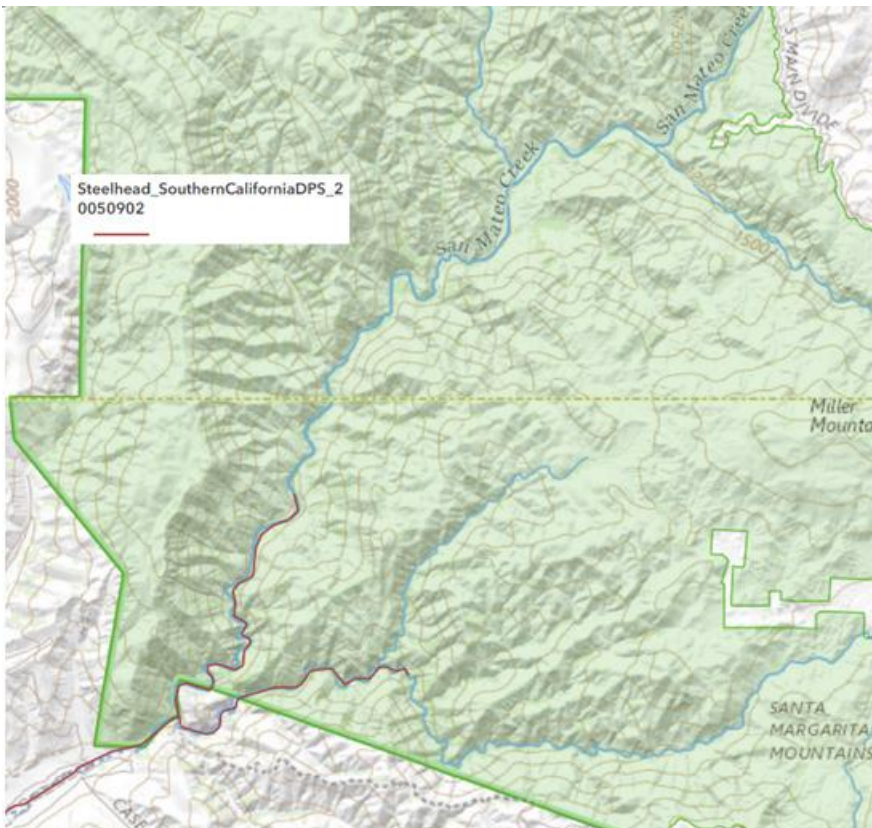


San Juan Wilderness (WA)

The wilderness consists of a couple of dozen small islands and exposed rocks in the San Juans in Puget Sound (or the Salish Sea, or whatever they call it now). Some even seem reachable by wading from the larger islands at low tide. They are certain to hold tide pool and other near shore fish, including sculpins and rockfish. (USF&WS 2010 Protection Islands and San Juan Islands)



San Mateo Canyon Wilderness (CA)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in San Mateo Creek. That means there's water there, with possibly some fish, although I don't believe there's actually been steelhead there for a while. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

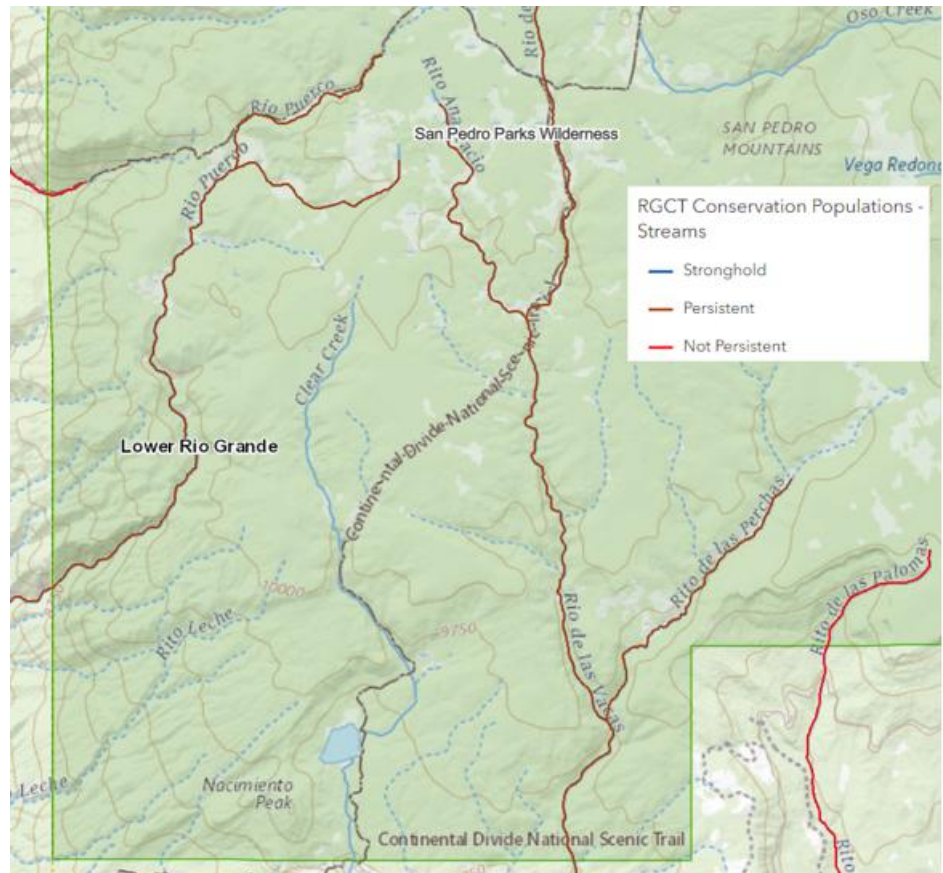
Rainbows that may be steelhead were in San Mateo Canyon in 1999. (Stephenson, 1999)

San Pedro Parks Wilderness (NM)



I hiked up the Los Pinos Trail on Labor Day weekend, 2021. Actually I had to ride (and push, I'm old) the mountain bike from a locked property owner gate about 2.8 miles to the trailhead *before* I began the 3-mile hike with a 2000 foot elevation gain to over 10,000 feet. It was worth it: beautiful park-like setting, tiny Rio Puerco headwater, and plenty of Rio Grande cutthroats. Clear water, fish could see me, but I still didn't need to get on my belly and slither up to approach. Which is good because of the cow pies. (Number 45)

There is a persistent population of almost genetically pure Rio Grande Cutthroats in Rio de las Vacas in the southern watershed of Wilderness, with good streamside trail access. A persistent population of Rio Grande Cutthroats occupies Rio Puerco and tributaries in western watershed of Wilderness. (Bakevich et al 2019; TU RGCT 2019)



San Pedro Parks Wilderness (NM)

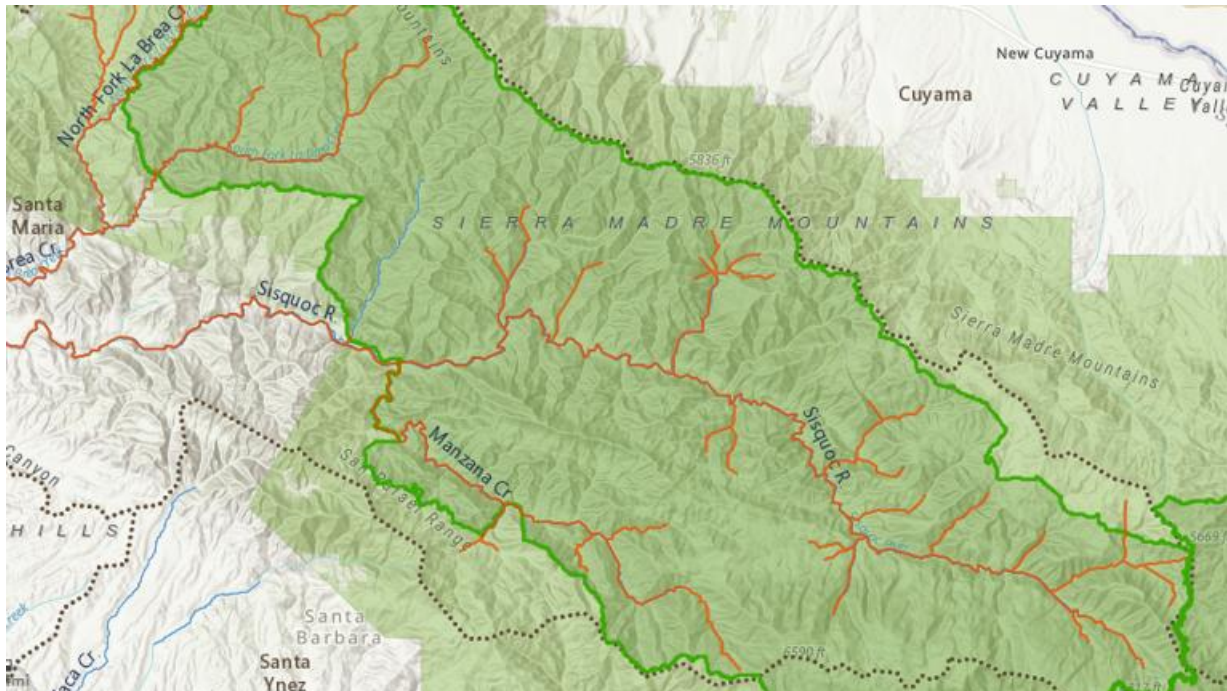


Rio Puerco cutthroat

Rio de las Vacas, tributary Rito Anastacio and nearby Clear Creek have Rio Grande cutthroats as well as a few browns and rainbows. (SWFF May-Jun 2012, p. 38)

The Rito de las Perchas tributary of Rio de las Vaca has nothing but Rio Grande cutthroats. (SWFF Mar-Apr 2010, p. 42)

San Rafael Wilderness (CA)



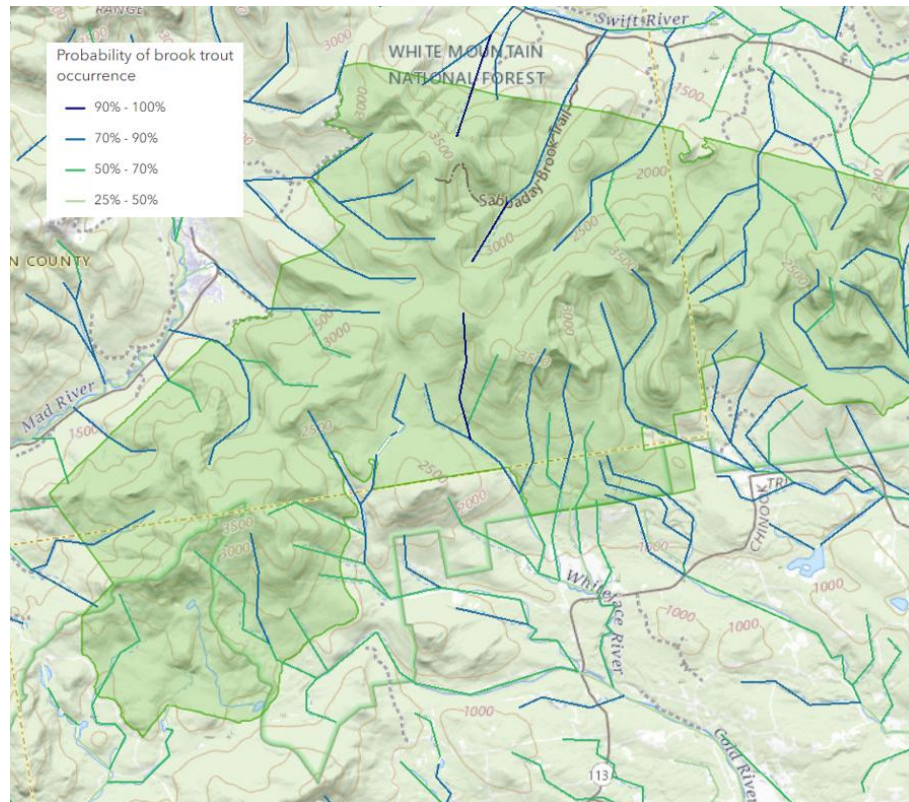
Critical habitat for steelhead exists in Sisquoc Creek system, including Manzana Creek and La Brea Creek tributary systems. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

There are records of rainbow trout in upper reaches of Sisquoc Creek and Manzana Creek. (iNaturalist, 2022)



The rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is a trout and species of salmonid

Sandwich Range Wilderness (NH)



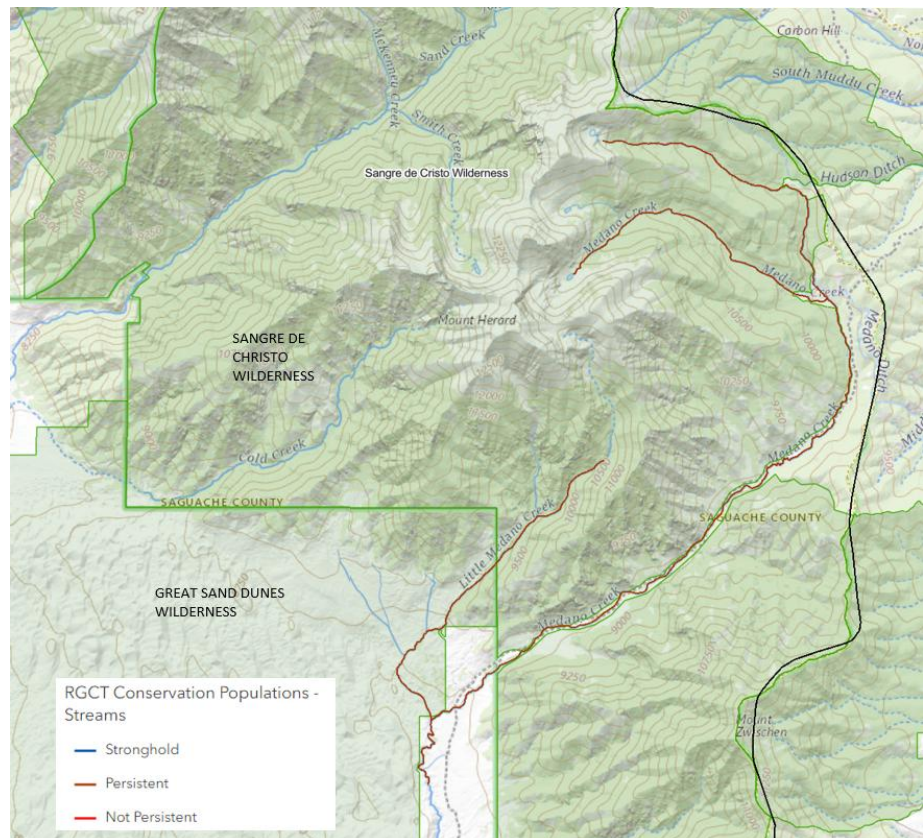
Secure stronghold populations of brook trout reside in the northeastern portion of the wilderness in the Swift River drainage, in the Cold River drainage in the southeastern portion of the wilderness, and in the Mad River drainage in the western part of the wilderness. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

There is a pretty good chance of finding brook trout just about everywhere. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

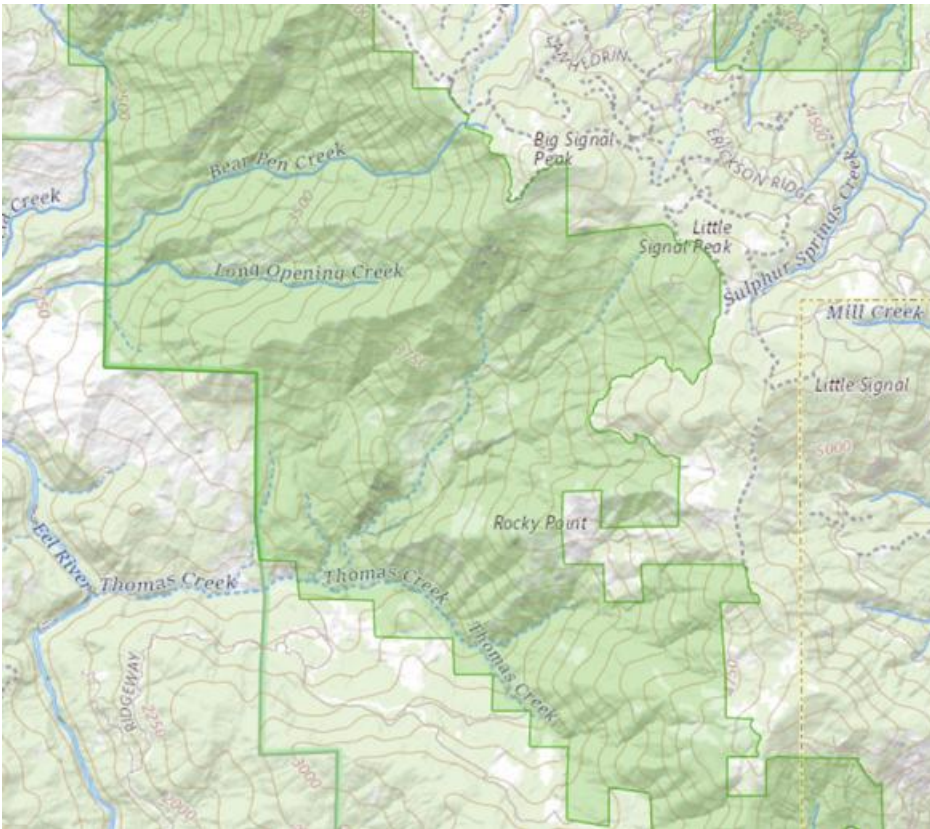
Sangre de Cristo Wilderness (CO)

Rio Grande Cutthroats reside in the lower portion of Little Medano Creek in Great Sand Dunes Wilderness; upper reaches and main Medano Creek are in Sangre de Cristo Wilderness (Bakevich et al 2019; TU RGCT 2109)

Sand Creek has Rio Grande cutthroats, although likely with some Yellowstone cutthroat introgression. Approach over the dunes from the west or over the pass from the east. (SWFF Sep-Oct 2018, p.38)



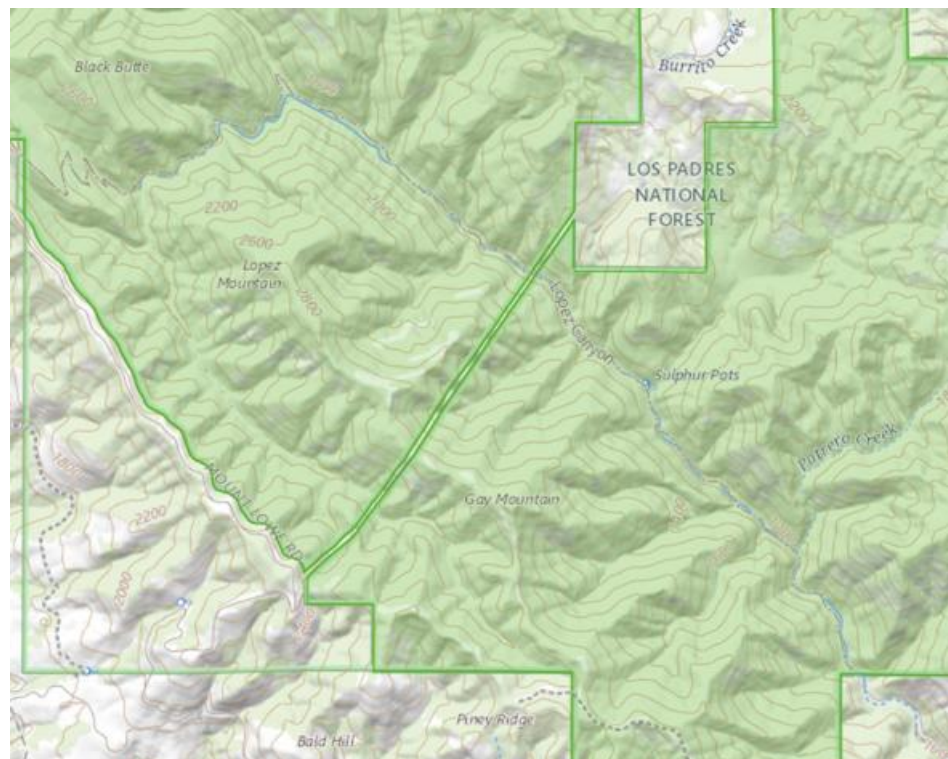
Sanhedrin Wilderness (CA)



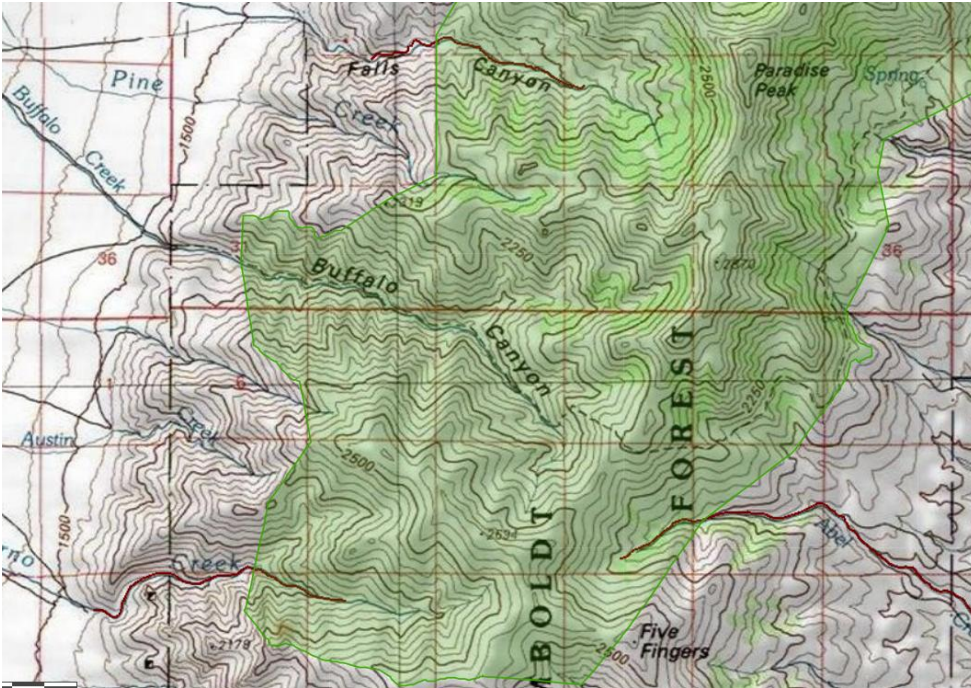
The Bear Pen Creek watershed and the segment of the Eel River that it flows into are home to ten native species of fish, including coastal rainbow trout; Humboldt sucker; Pacific, river and brook lamprey; three-spine stickleback; coho and chinook salmon; and winter and summer steelhead. (UCal Davis PISCES 2022) The neighboring Thomas Creek watershed covers most of the rest of the wilderness and is within range for the same fishes, although it appears to have less reliable flow than Bear Pen Creek. (USGS NWIS 2021)

Santa Lucia Wilderness (CA)

Lopez Canyon has perennial flow, and flows outside the wilderness into Lopez Lake, an impoundment of Arroyo Grande Creek. (USGS NWIS 2021) The watershed holds native populations of prickly sculpin, coastal rainbow trout, Pacific lamprey and, at least at some time, South Central California Coast steelhead. (UCal Davis PISCES 2022) It looks like good parallel trail access for much of the length of the canyon.



Santa Rosa-Paradise Peak Wilderness (NV)



Abel Creek, draining eastward, has a natural population of pure Lahontan cutthroats. West slope creeks Falls Canyon and Andorno Creek have restored populations. All populations are less than 50 fish per mile. (USF&WS and NV F&W 2009, p. 23; TU LCT 2020)

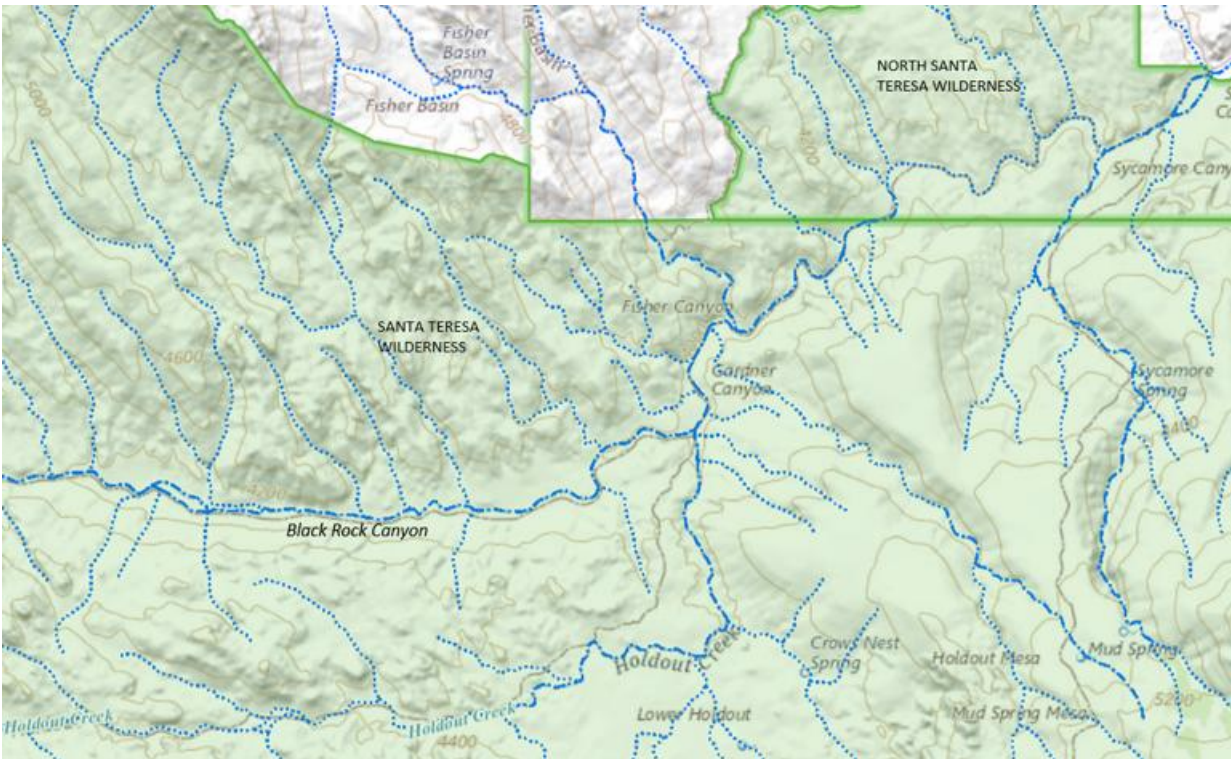
West slope streams Rebel Creek, Buffalo Creek and McConnell Creek all have brook trout. (Nevada DOW 2017)

In July 2023 I hiked into the wilderness along Buffalo Creek. Water was clear and cool, I can certainly believe it holds brookies, but I didn't find any. I didn't stay long as I had left Cathie and Phoebe (the Maltese) at the trailhead with a whole lot of Mormon crickets. If you aren't familiar with Mormon crickets, they are crunchy and about the size of a golf ball. Or maybe a tennis ball. Cathie puts up with a lot, but I didn't want to push it...



Santa Teresa Wilderness (AZ)

Black Rock Canyon shows as intermittent flow, but the aerials look promising. (USGS 2021)
There is supposedly both longfin dace and speckled dace through the canyon. (AZF&G Habimap 2022)

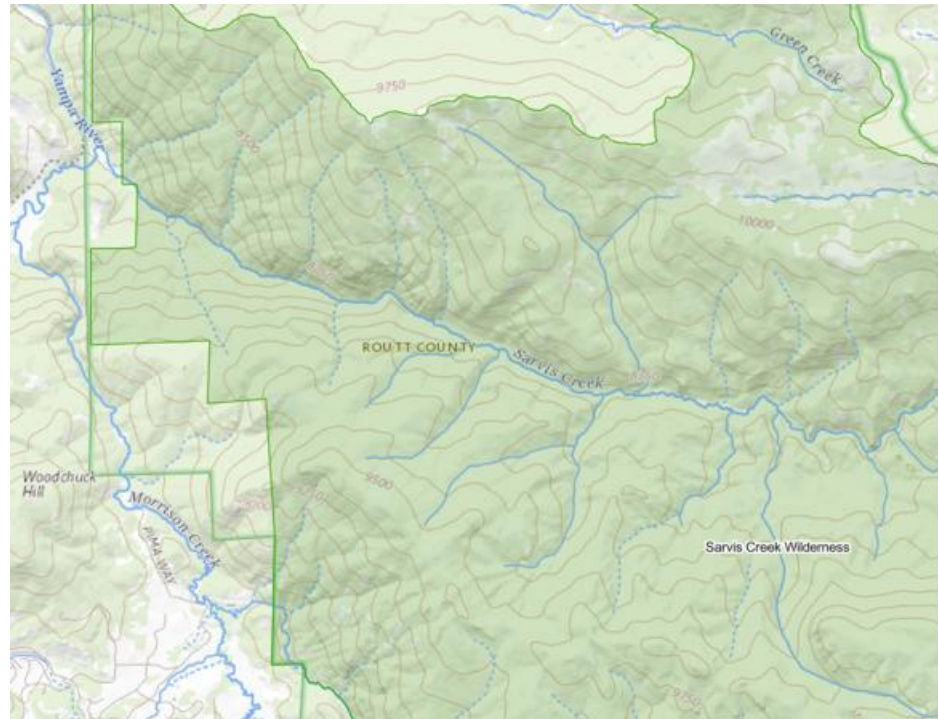


In June 2023 I hiked about a quarter-mile up Black Rock Canyon from the North Santa Teresa Wilderness. Water flow was continuous and looked really good. Plenty of life, but it was tadpoles and bugs, no fish. As an incurable optimist, I have to think there may be fish farther up...

Sarvis Creek Wilderness (CO)

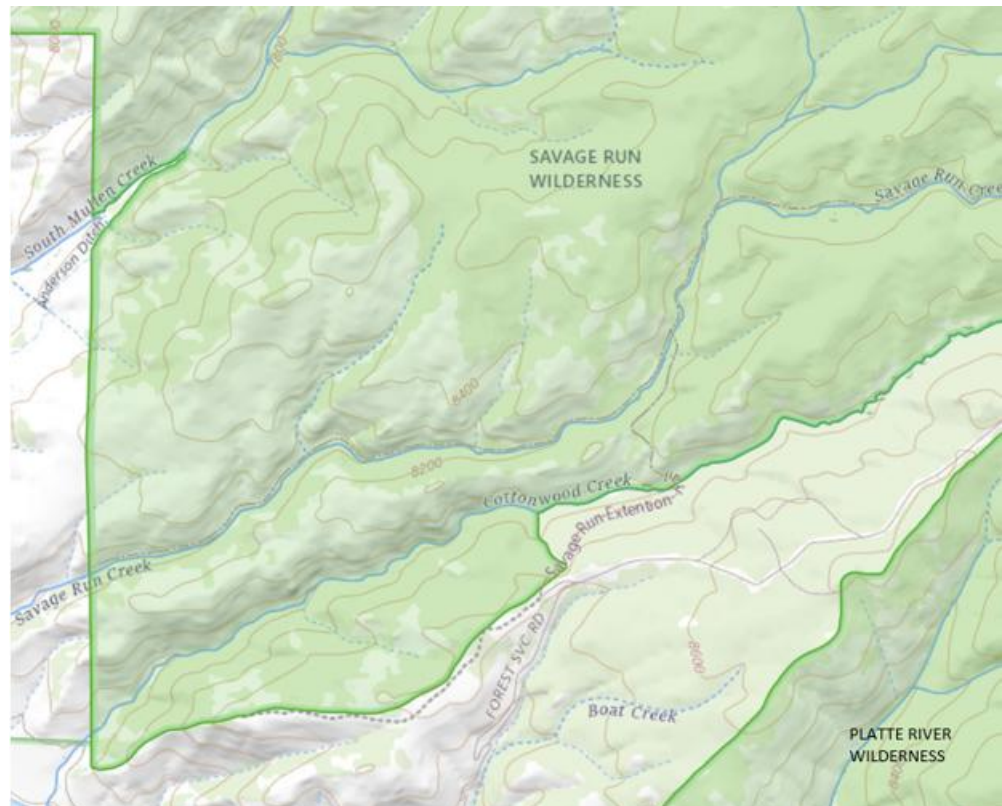
Western Rivers Conservancy reports rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish in their project site downstream from the wilderness, some of these fish most certainly make it into the wilderness stretch. (Western Rivers Conservancy, 2023)

Sarvis Creek has parallel trail access from the downstream end.

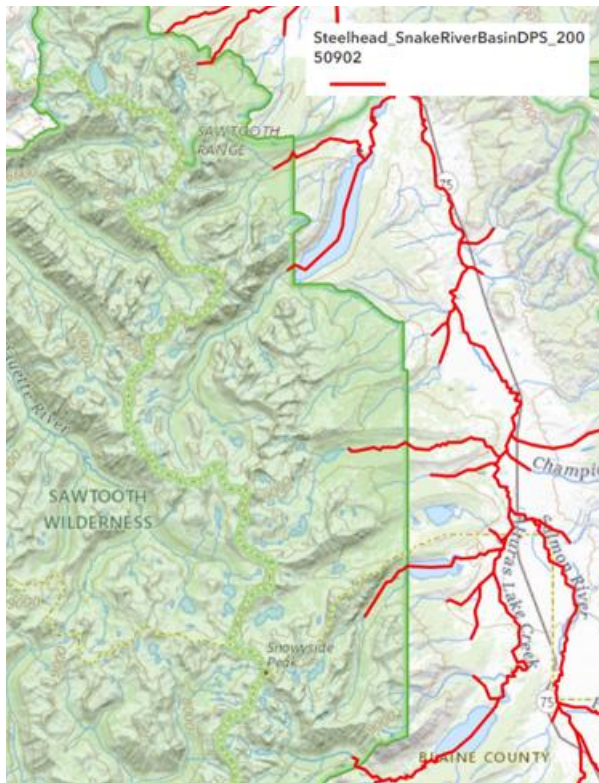


Savage Run Wilderness (WY)

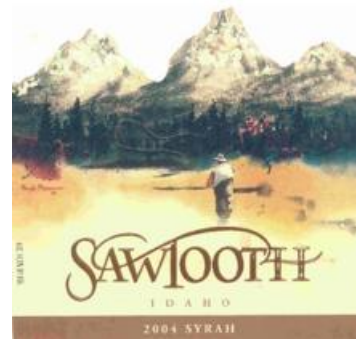
Brook trout occupy Savage Run Creek through the center of the wilderness. Savage Run Trail provides parallel creek access for much of the length of the creek. (US Forest Service Medicine Bow-Routt, 2023)



Sawtooth Wilderness (ID)

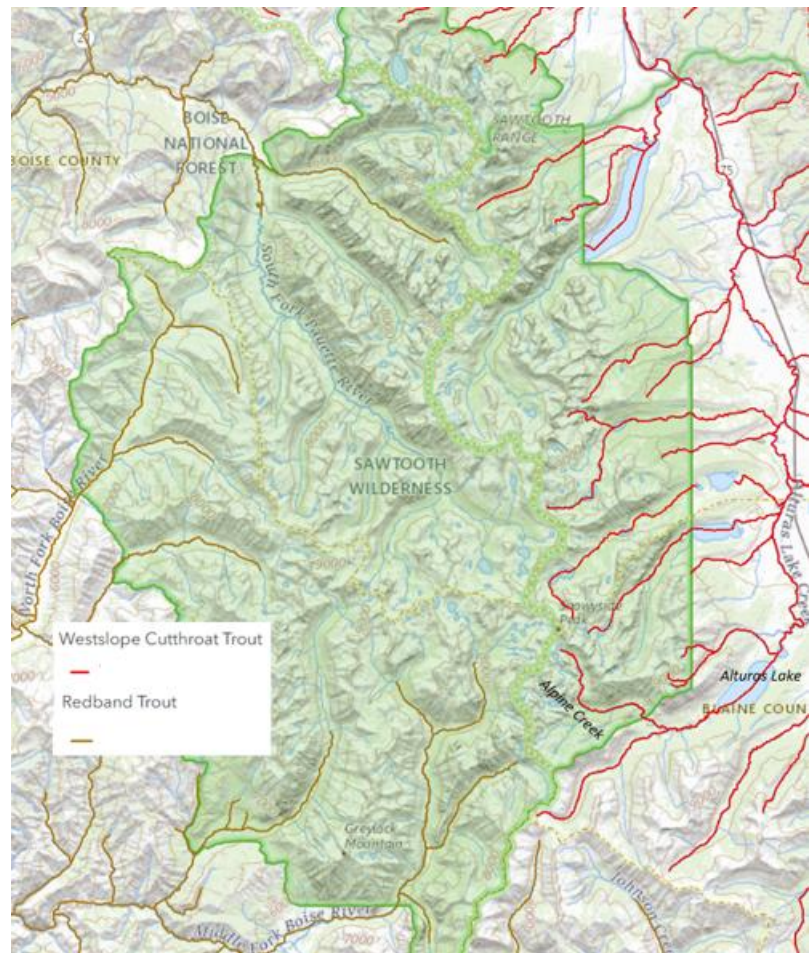


There is critical habitat for steelhead in the very upper reaches of eastward flowing tributaries of the Salmon River along the eastern edge of the wilderness. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

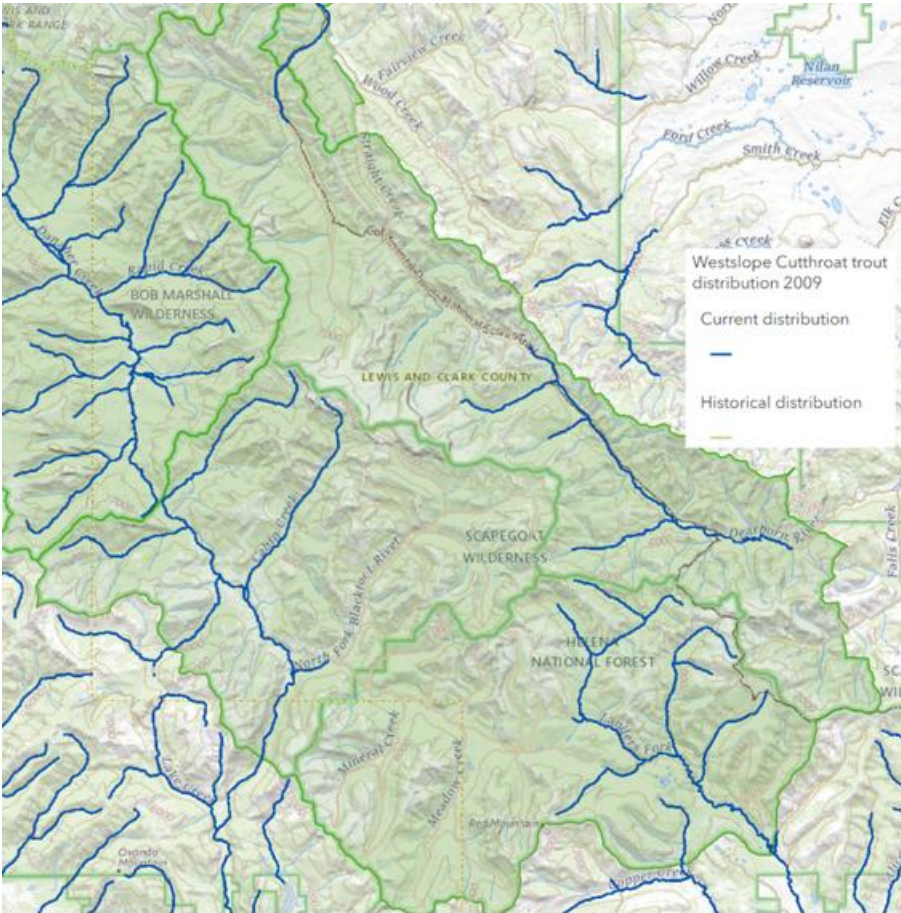


Critical habitat for bull trout exists in headwaters of South Fork Payette River and North and Middle Forks Boise River in the western part of the wilderness, and in Alpine Creek above Alturas Lake in the southeastern portion of the wilderness. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) Climate Shield predictive model shows a high probability of bull trout in South Fork Payette system and Alpine Creek. (USDA Climate Shield 2020)

Redband trout on the west slope, west slopes on the east slope, seems kind of backwards, go figure. Redbands reside in Payette River and Boise River tributaries on the west slope of the Sawtooth Range. Salmon River tributaries on the east slope of the range hold westslope cutthroats, the cutthroat of the Salmon River drainage. (Mayfield)



Scapegoat Wilderness (MT)



Not quite as richly endowed as its neighbors to the north and west, this wilderness still holds populations of westslope cutthroats in the North Fork (FF Mar-Apr 2008, p 35) and the Landers Fork of the Blackfoot River, as well as in the Dearborn River on the east slope of the divide. (Mayfield)

Critical habitat exists for bull trout in North Fork Blackfoot River. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) Climate Shield predictive model shows high probability of bull trout throughout the upper tributaries of North Fork Blackfoot River and through the upper tributaries of both Landers Fork of the Blackfoot and Copper Creek, a Landers Fork tributary. (USDA Climate Shield 2020)

Selawik Wilderness (AK)

“Selawik” is the Inuqiat word meaning “place of the sheefish,” although ADF&G doesn’t seem to think there are any sheefish there now. (ADFG 2023) The thousands of lakes and streams in the Selawik NWR, which includes the large wilderness area, support populations of northern pike, Arctic grayling and burbot. (USF&WS 2011 Selawik)



Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (ID, MT)

I caught westslope cutthroats in Sawtooth Creek and Roaring Lion Creek, tributaries of Bitterroot River near Hamilton, July 2016. Sawtooth Creek was a suggestion from Chuck Stranahan at Stranahan's Fly Shop in Hamilton. I told him I wanted to catch native cutts on a wilderness stream. Once he was convinced I was serious, knew what I was doing, and had no desire to add to the traffic congestion on the mainstem Bitterroot, he got very free with the advice. Couple of days after Sawtooth Cathie and I hiked up Roaring Lion Creek and got more Westslope cutthroats. Literally the following week the Roaring Lion Fire hit, I understand it pretty much devastated everything we hiked through that day. (Number 11)

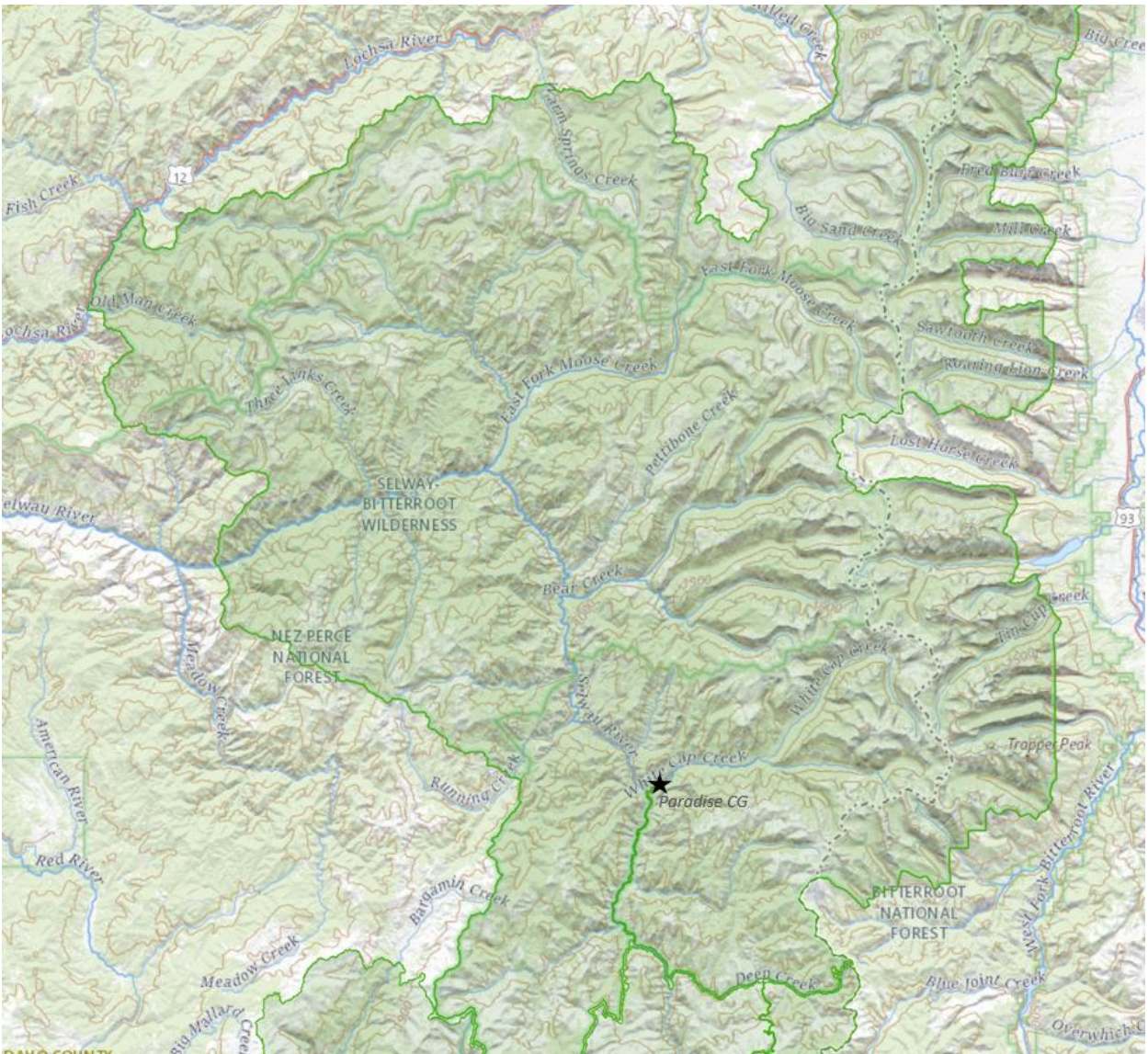
There are westslope cutthroats in Mill Creek, Fred Burr Creek, Bear Creek, Big Creek and multiple lakes to the north of Roaring Lion and Sawtooth. (NWFF Sep-Oct 2016, p.43)



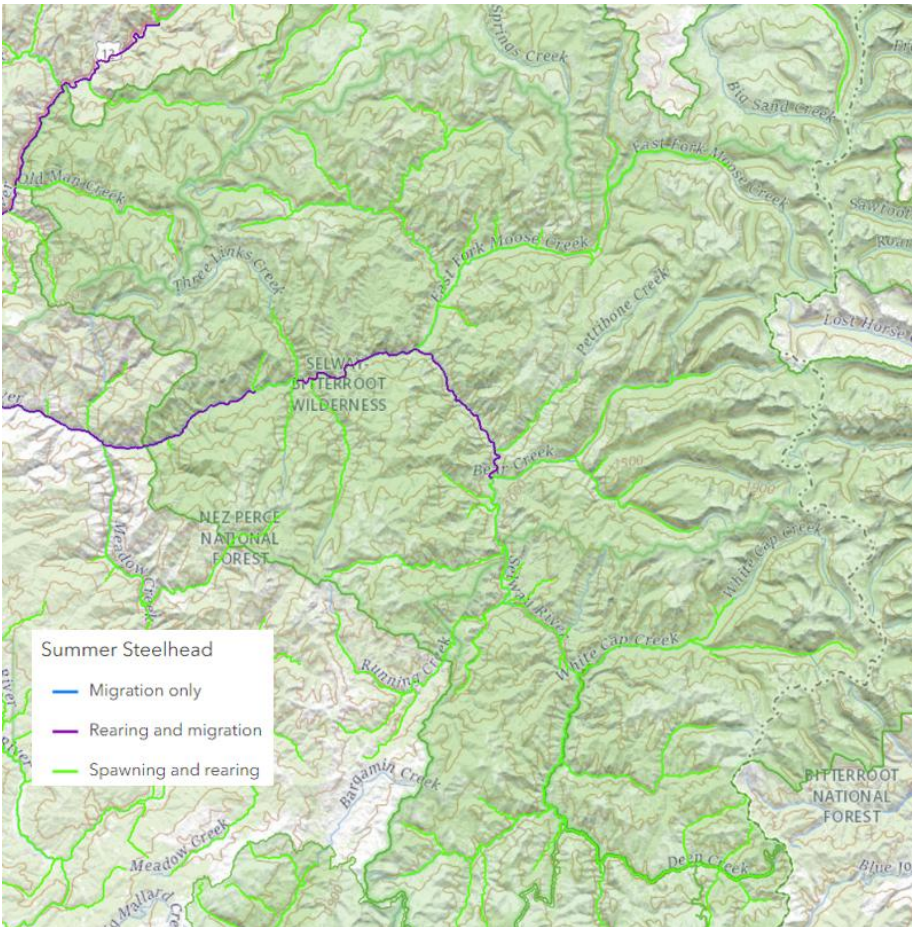
Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (ID, MT)



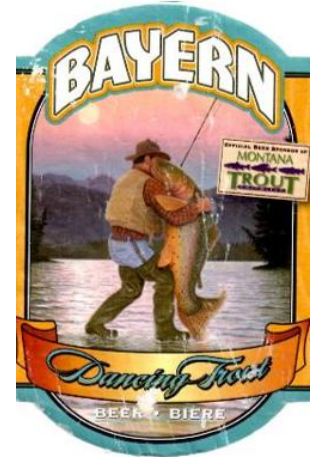
Actually, the entire wilderness is riddled with westslope cutthroats; Many Bitterroot River tributaries and Lochsa River tributaries, and almost all Selway River tributaries as well as the main Selway River all hold populations. (Mayfield) You can float the Selway after driving up a 25-mile cherry stem accessed from the Bitterroot valley, up and over the Continental Divide to Paradise Campground. Riverside trail access for 56 miles also starts at Paradise, with trails also following larger tributaries like Moose Creek and Bear Creek. (NWFF Jan-Feb 2019, p. 49)



Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (ID, MT)



Steelhead occur in Selway River and all tributaries. (StreamNet 2019) Critical habitat for bull trout exists in most of the same streams as for steelhead, plus some east flowing Bitterroot tributaries. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

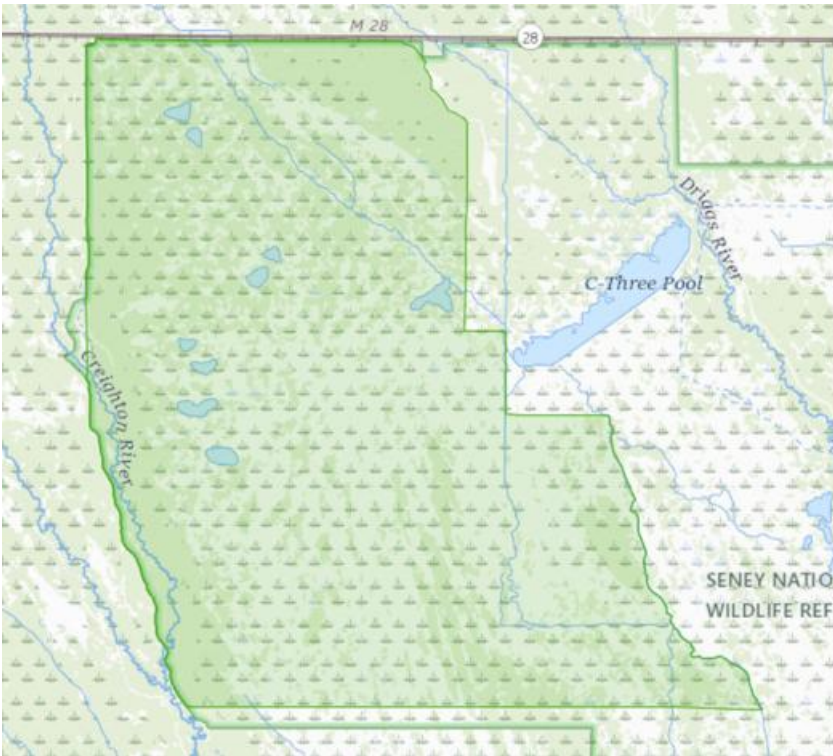


Semidi Wilderness (AK)

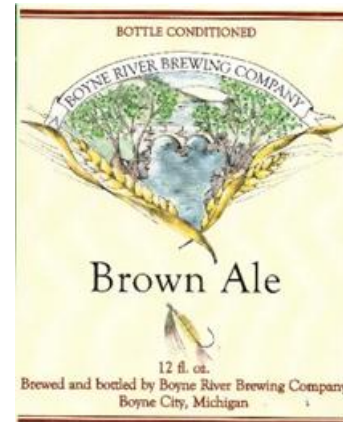


Wilderness boundaries include near shore waters, so there will be Pacific herring, Pacific cod, sand lance and other near shore fishes. (USF&WS 1988 Alaska Maritime NWR, p. II-203)

Seney Wilderness (MI)



Northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, brown bullhead, and bluegill are in the pool system. Species of fish that are in the rivers and streams within the boundaries of the wildlife refuge of which Seney Wilderness is a part also include walleye, smallmouth bass, brook trout, and brown trout. (USF&WS, Seney, 2009)



Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (CA)



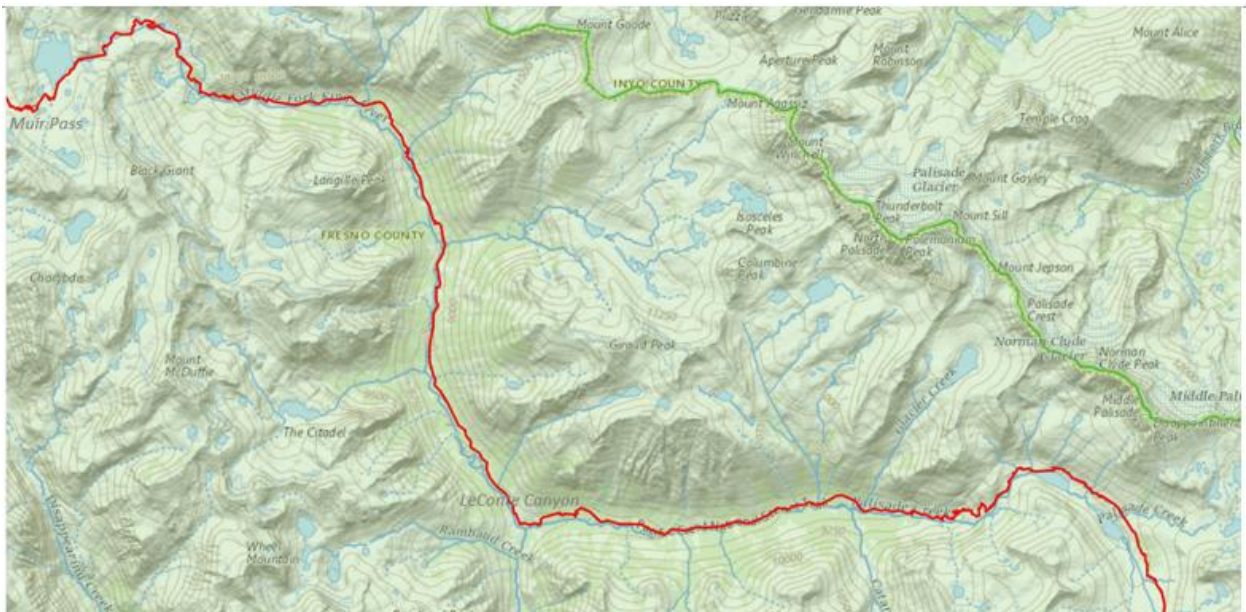
In late July 2017, I caught rainbow trout in Marble Fork of the Kaweah River near Potwisha campground, following a high-energy raft trip downstream on the main stem earlier in the day. (Number 13)



Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (CA)



The John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail crosses much of the wilderness in both parks. Starting in the north, the PCT follows South Fork San Joaquin with its large brown and rainbow trout for about 4 miles. The PCT then follows Evolution Creek, full of golden trout, through a spectacularly beautiful valley. Above the valley, Evolution Basin holds several lakes, including Evolution Lake and Sapphire Lake, with goldens. (Beck 2000; SWFF Nov-Dec 2008, p. 6; SWFF Jan-Feb 2020, p. 51)



The PCT crosses Muir Pass from the San Joaquin drainage into the Kings River drainage. The trail follows Middle Fork Kings several miles through scenic LeConte Valley, which has a good population of rainbows, goldens and hybrids. The PCT then follows Middle Fork King tributary Palisades Creek upstream, to Palisade Lakes, both creek and lakes are full of goldens. (Beck 2020)

Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (CA)

Across Mather pass the PCT then follows South Fork Kings River for a few miles before the river dives into the Kings River Gorge and the trail heads east. South Fork Kings has plentiful golden trout. PCT then passes several small brook trout lakes and larger Lake Marjorie, also with brookies, on the way to Pinchot Pass. (Beck 2000)

South of Pinchot Pass the PCT passes Twin Lakes, full of brook trout; Woods Creek, a very nice fishing stream with rainbows and goldens; and then follows South Fork Woods Creek upstream toward Rae Lakes. (Beck 2000)



Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (CA)

As the PCT approaches Kearsarge Peak and the trail from Onion Valley on the east side of the crest, the South Fork Woods Creek connects Dollar Lake, Arrowhead Lake and Rae Lakes (on previous map), which hold lots of brook trout. South of Kearsarge Pass trail, Bubbs Creek has brookies and goldens through the Vidette Meadows, which is pretty much the last good fishing until past Forester Pass. (Beck 2000) Onion Valley, by the way, is one of the most direct approaches to the PCT from the east, a road from Independence follows a cherry-stem into the John Muir Wilderness to within 6.8 trail miles from the PCT.



Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (CA)

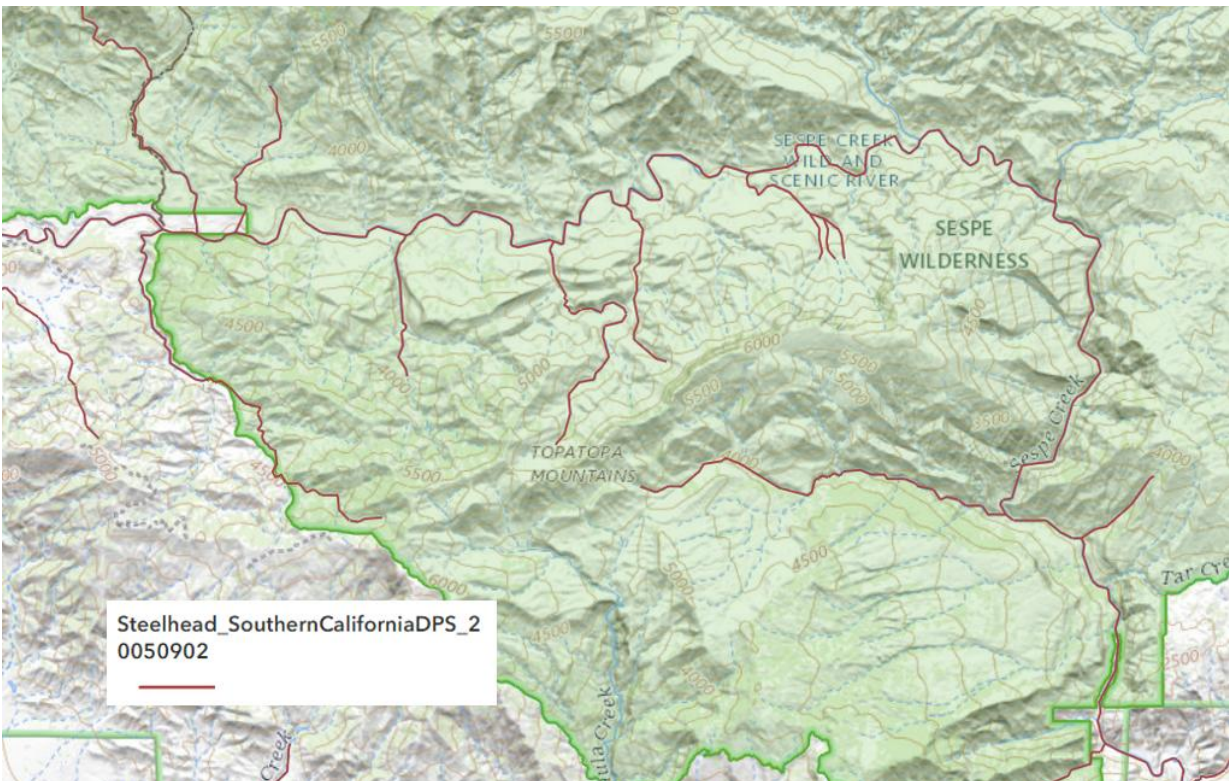


The PCT crosses Forester Pass into the Kern River drainage. South of the pass Tyndall Creek has a reputation as a spectacular fishing stream with relatively large goldens and brookies. Wright Creek, Wallace Creek and Whitney Creek all hold golden trout.

Guitar Lake and Timberline Lake are just below Mount Whitney, and have good golden trout populations. (Beck 2000) A hiker can approach over the very crowded trail that Whitney-climbers us from the east, or over a connection from the John Muir Trail to the west.



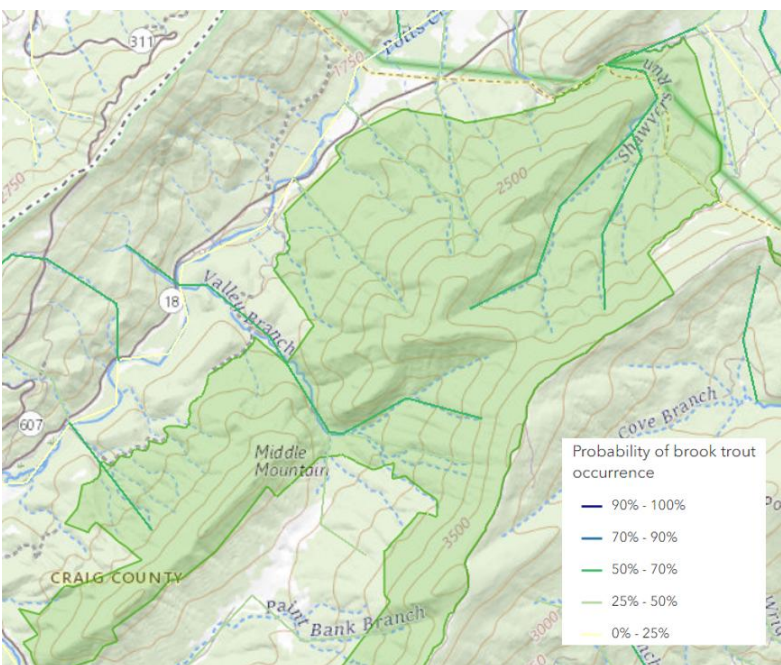
Sespe Wilderness (CA)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in Sespe Creek system. I'm still looking for a source that says there's actually been steelhead recently. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) Maybe not for steelhead, but Sespe Creek is designated as a wild trout stream by CA Fish & Game (as of 2020), as well as a Wild and Scenic River.

The Santa Paula River barrier removal project scheduled for completion in 2018 would remove the last barrier to upstream migration for steelhead. (SWFF Mar-Apr 2018, p. 31) A trail parallels river in the wilderness from the upstream, western end.

Shawvers Run Wilderness (VA)



Persistent populations of brook trout are in Shawvers Run and Valley Branch, which both flow north into Potts Creek, which flows northeast into the Jackson River, which merges with the Cowpasture River to form the James River. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

The probability of finding brook trout is moderate in both Shawvers Run and Valley Branch. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

Sheep Mountain Wilderness (CA)

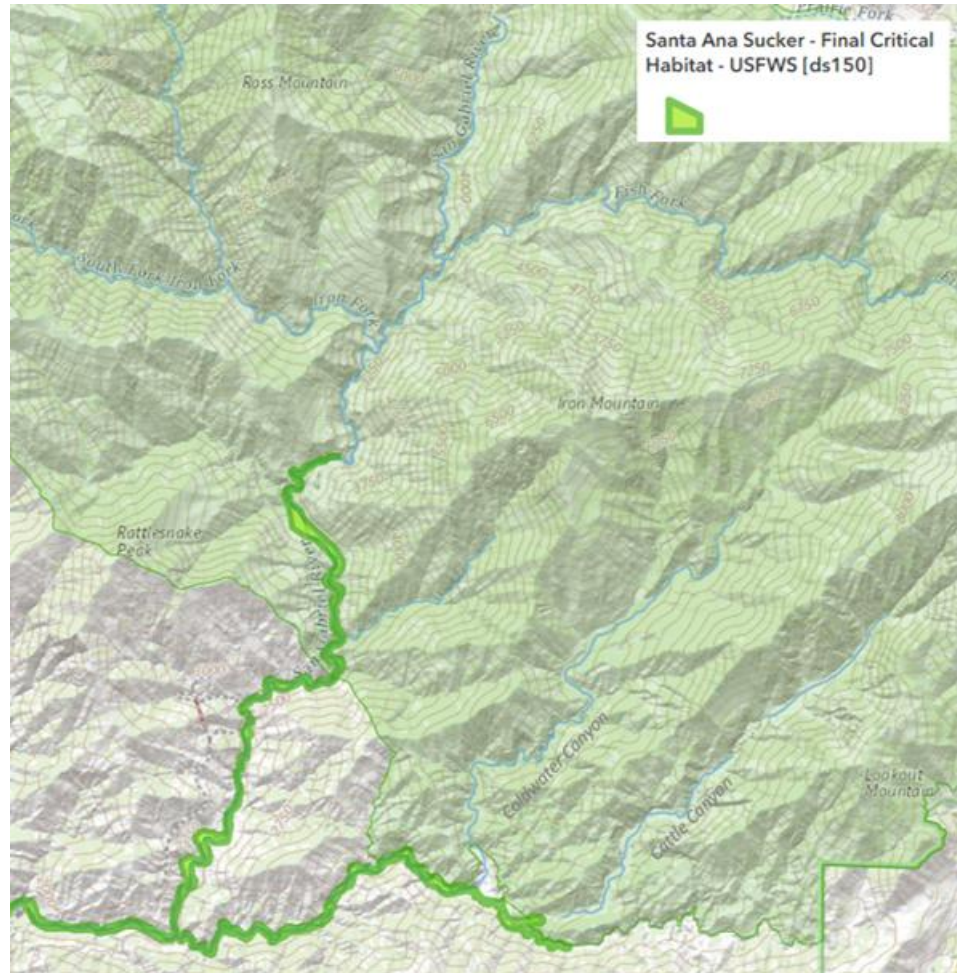


In early May 2022 I caught a bunch of small rainbow trout in the San Gabriel over the first half mile inside the wilderness boundary. I was passed on the trail both while fishing and while hiking out by several hundred (no kidding!) hikers (the term applies loosely to some) on their way to jump off the “Bridge to Nowhere” while hanging from a bungee cord. One of the group leaders invited me, but... (Number 47)

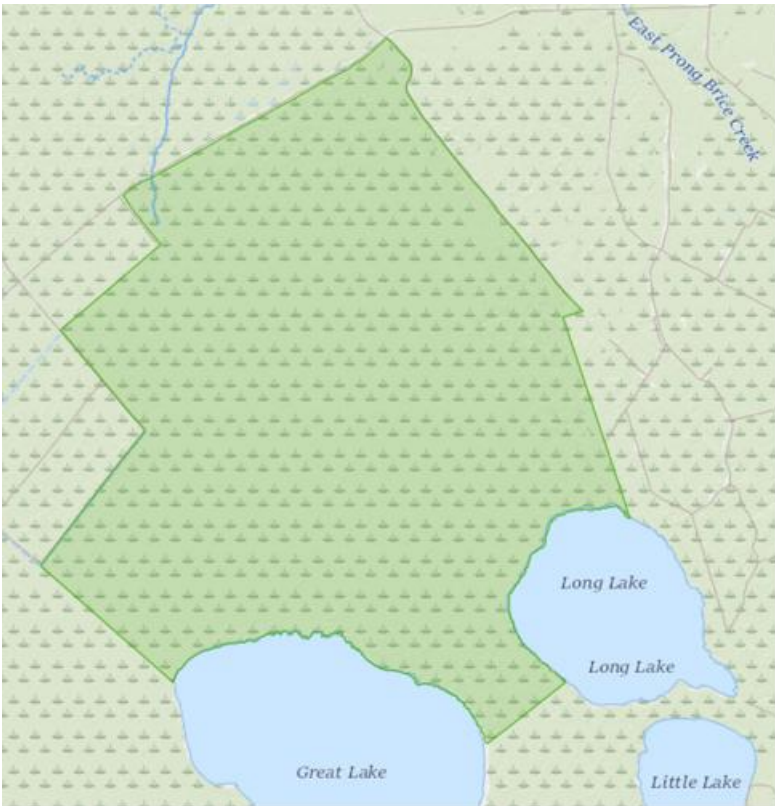


Santa Ana sucker and speckled dace occur in lower gradient reaches of East Fork San Gabriel River and Cattle Canyon, rainbow trout throughout the East Fork and Cattle Canyon, as well as Coldwater Canyon, Iron Fork and Fish Fork. (O'Brien et al, 2011) Red line is the PCT.

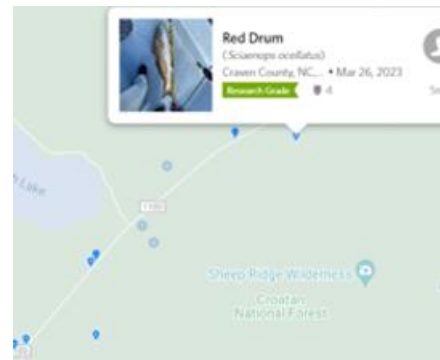
Critical habitat for the Santa Ana sucker extends up the San Gabriel River into the southern part of the wilderness. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)



Sheep Ridge Wilderness (NC)

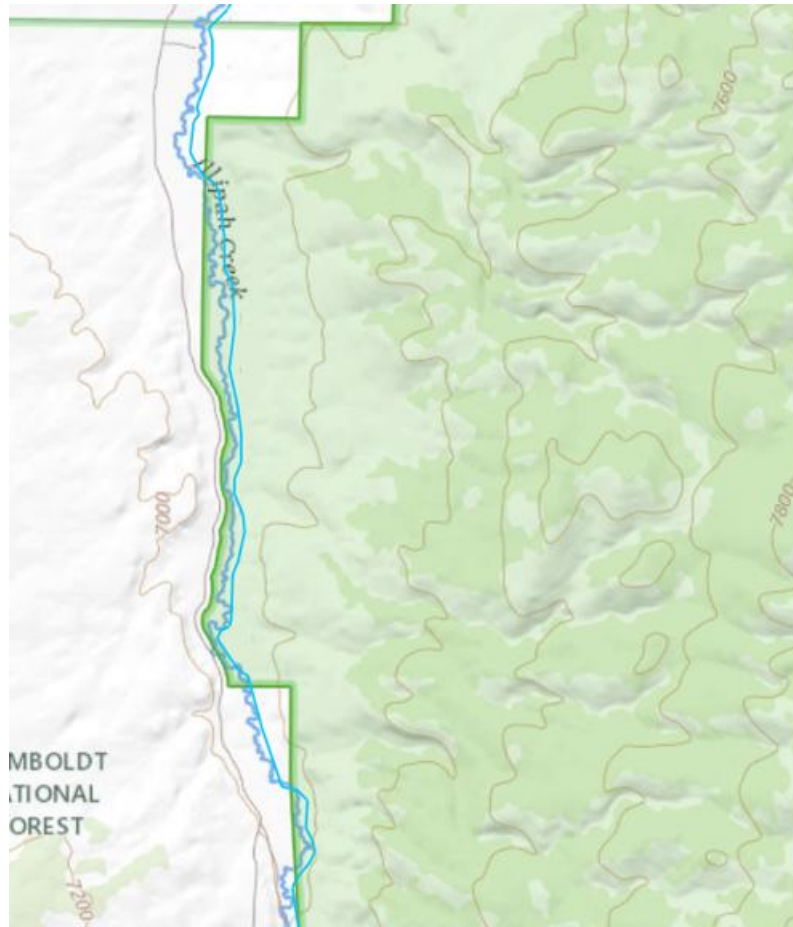


A raised bogland or pocosin located in the coastal plain, with perennial Brice Creek extending into the northern edge of the wilderness. There are records of mud sunfish, which appears throughout the pocosin region of Croatan National Forest. There is also a record of red drum, apparently from Brice Creek, which is a bit of a surprise. (iNaturalist, 2023) This type of environment also may have small ponds or depressions, which may also hold fish.



Shellback Wilderness (NV)

Illipah Creek flows just inside the western edge of the wilderness with a parallel road providing access. The creek holds brown trout and rainbow trout. (Nevada DOW 2017)

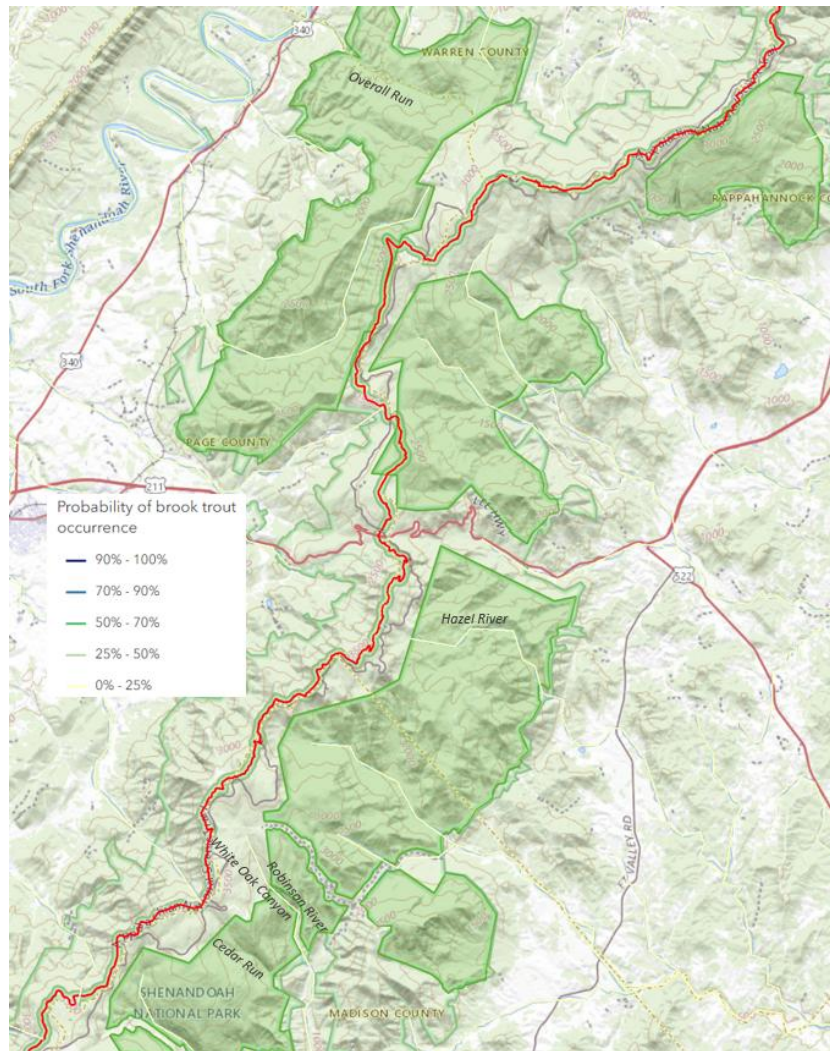


Shenandoah Wilderness (VA)

Shenandoah Wilderness (VA)

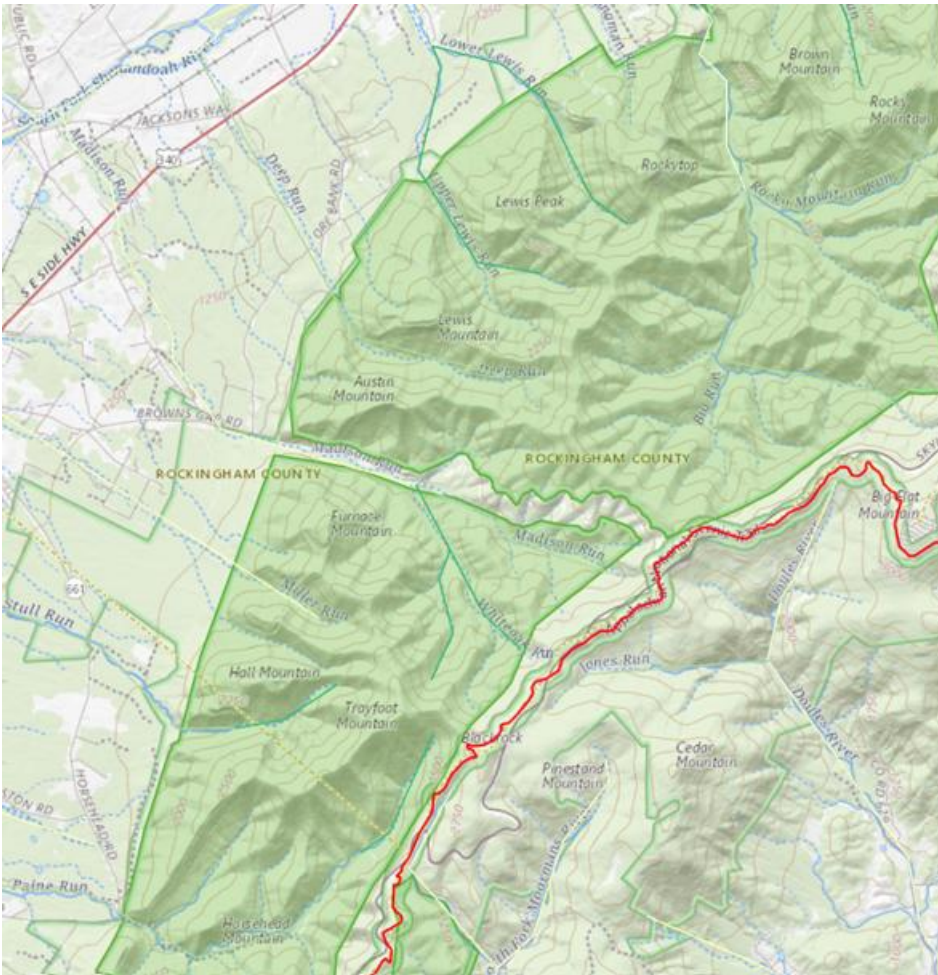
1987-ish, Hazel River-ish. I don't have any specific records, but I remember details. Following directions I got at a TU meeting, I pulled up to a road crossing on County Road 600, looked down at the riverbed and felt quite a bit of disappointment on finding *no water*. And this was Virginia, not Arizona. I was there, though, so I figured "why not." Grabbed the rod and started walking up the stream bed. Started seeing puddles, then trickles. A mile up from the road it started to actually look like a creek. Two miles and the forest had closed in above me. I was walking on high banks looking down into little pools that each had one or two bright little brook trout. More like hunting than fishing, I could crawl up to the edge of the high bank, look down into the pool and pick my target. I didn't realize it at the time but this was a day that really locked my brain into wilderness fly fishing. (Number 2)

The northern unit of the wilderness has a persistent population of brook trout in Overall Run, flowing toward the Shenandoah Valley. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)



The predictive model tells me these streams are not rich in brook trout, but we found some... (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

Shenandoah Wilderness (VA)



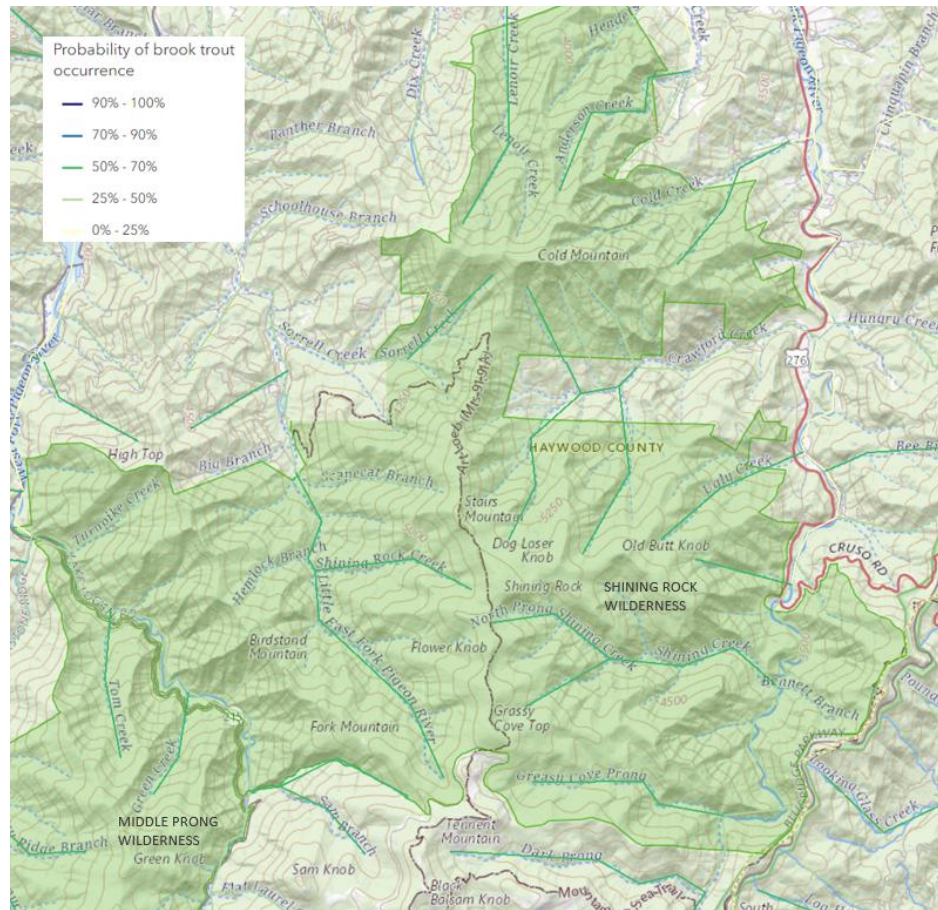
In the southernmost units of the wilderness there are persistent populations of brook trout in Shenandoah tributaries Big Run and Paine Run; Madison Run is cherry-stemmed out. Other populations of brook trout occur throughout the rest of the wilderness. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

Harry Murray wrote about fishing the small streams for brook trout. (FF Feb-Mar 2013, p. 52)

Cathie and I hiked Cedar Run, part of the Cedar Run-White Oak Canyon loop, in April 2023. I caught a single brook trout in the pool where the outbound trail first crosses the stream; got the camera ready for the next one (after all, I had two strikes and a fish on the first three casts), but alas, there was no next one...



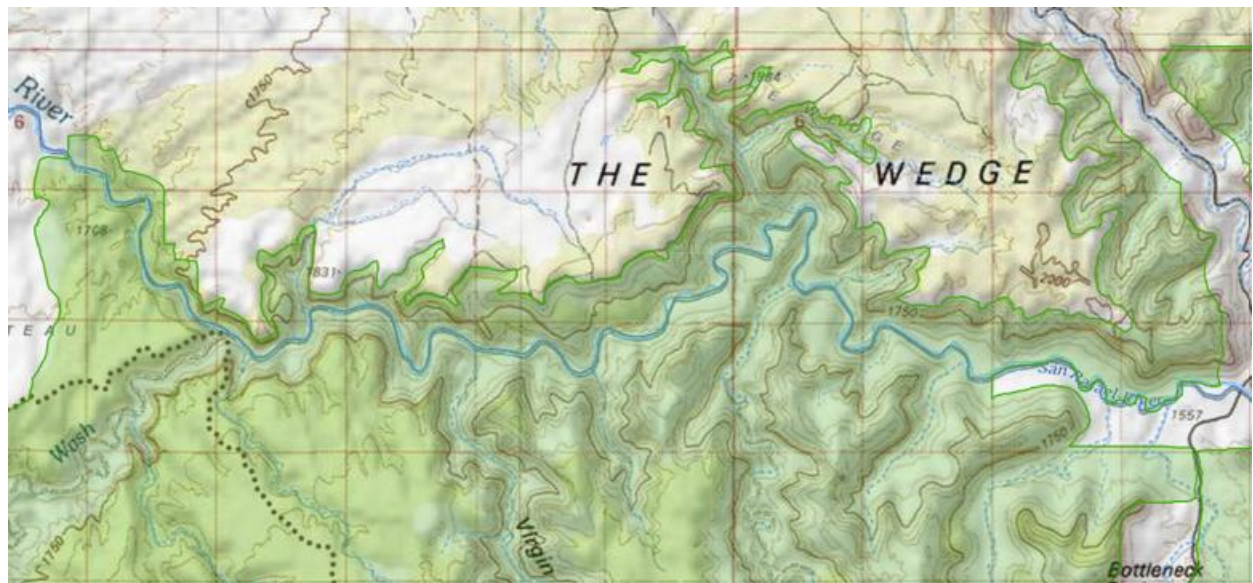
Shining Rock Wilderness (NC)



A resilient population of brook trout occupies Little East Fork Pigeon River and tributaries in center of the wilderness. There is a redundant population in West Fork Pigeon River along southwestern edge of the wilderness, with a cherry-stemmed road parallel. Other populations of brookies are in north- and east-flowing tributaries of East Fork Pigeon River, including Lenoir Creek, Henderson Branch, Cold Creek, Crawford Creek, Ugly Creek and Shining Creek. (TU 2019, Southern Appalachian brook trout) Good road access exists, including from Blue Ridge Parkway.

Probabilities of brook trout presence are moderate in most streams in the wilderness. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

Sid's Mountain Wilderness (UT)



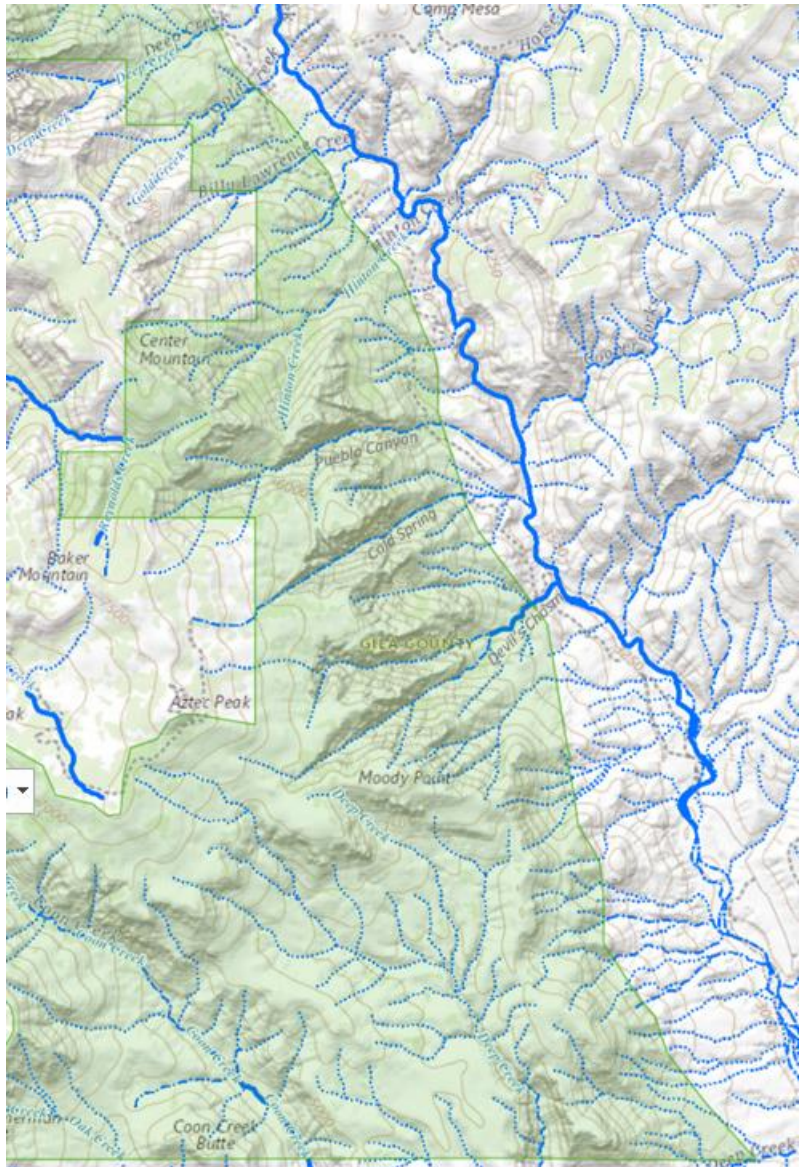
USGS NHD shows perennial surface water in the San Rafael River crossing the wilderness. (Utah AGRC 2020) Bluehead suckers are abundant in the San Rafael River within and near the wilderness; the abundant record location is the east end of the wilderness, near the road crossing. (Utah DNR, 2006)

Sierra Ancha Wilderness (AZ)

There is perennial flow in Coon Creek in the southern part of the wilderness. (USGS 2021) There is supposedly both longfin dace and desert sucker in Coon Creek, as well as in some other streams that USGS shows as intermittent, including Deep Creek (northern portion of the wilderness, not the southern one), Pueblo Canyon, and Hinton Creek. (AZF&G Habimap 2022)



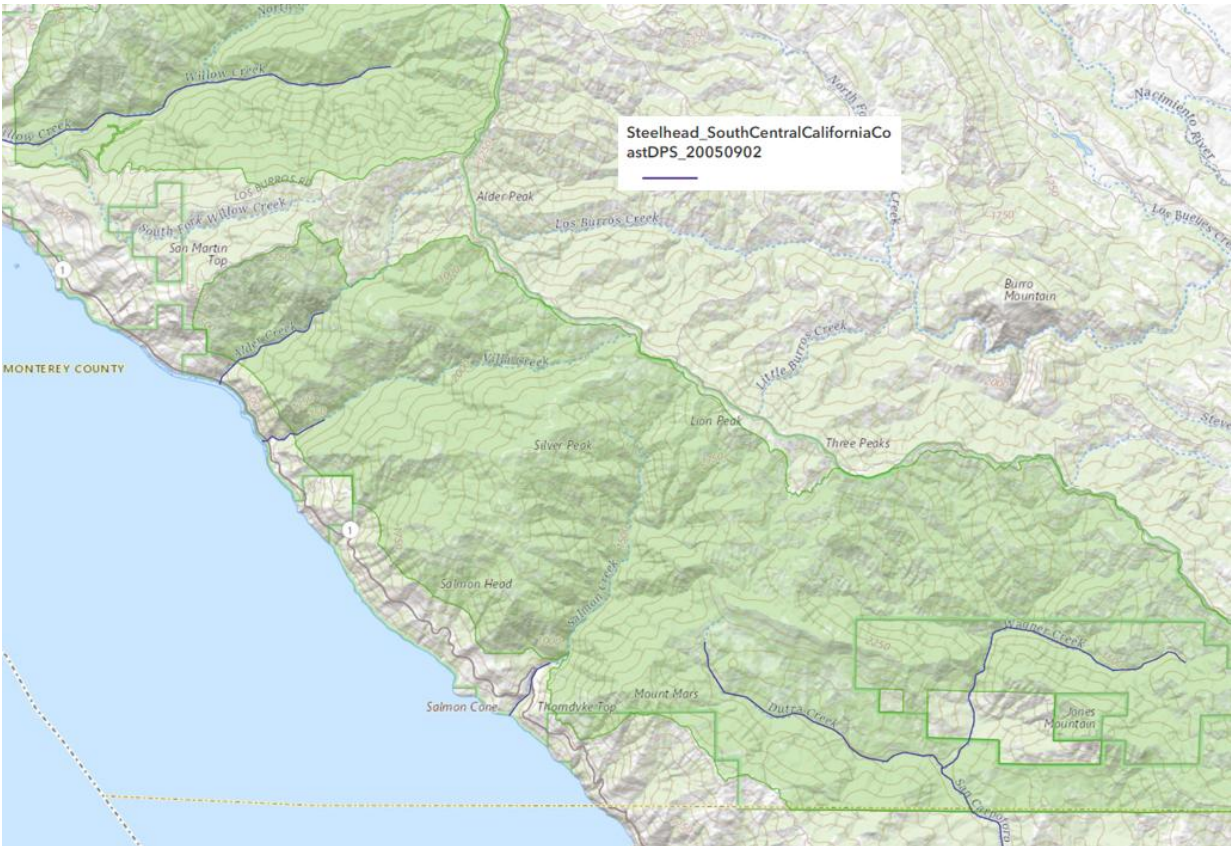
In June 2023 I hiked about a quarter-mile into the wilderness up the Devil's Chasm streambed, based on reports of good water flow and its proximity to Cherry Creek. I found good flow, some nice invertebrates, but no fish. Somewhat painfully, I found a *whole bunch* of longfin dace literally on the road, not next to the road but *on the road* as I crossed Cherry Creek two miles downstream from Devil's Chasm on the drive out.



I tried Devil's Chasm again in June 2024. This time there was no flow across the road, but the creek still looked nice. No fish, however.

I also tried Coon Creek in the southwestern corner of the wilderness. I hiked into Coon Spring, which seems to be the main source of the creek. I found a few small, disconnected pools, but no fish. I suppose I might find more water if I hike downstream and cover the mile or so before the creek leaves the wilderness, but I don't have any reason to expect much. I'm starting to have my doubts about this wilderness, although there is still a lot of ground (and alleged water) that I haven't covered.

Silver Peak Wilderness (CA)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in Wagner Creek/San Carpofaro Creek, flowing through Fort Hunter-Liggett. Also in tiny coastal streams Villa Creek and Alder Creek at western end of the wilderness (ESRI, USF&WS 2016). There is a rainbow trout record from Salmon Creek in the center of the wilderness (iNaturalist 2024). As of 2024, fishing is allowed in Salmon Creek from Memorial Day to Sep 30.

Simeonof Wilderness (AK)



The wilderness includes maritime waters within a mile of the coast, which means it includes plenty of Pacific herring, Pacific cod and sand lance as well as other assorted near shore fishes. Three streams on the island host runs of pink, chum and coho salmon. (USF&WS 1988 Alaska Maritime NWR, p. II-203; ADFG 2023)

Sipsey Wilderness (AL)

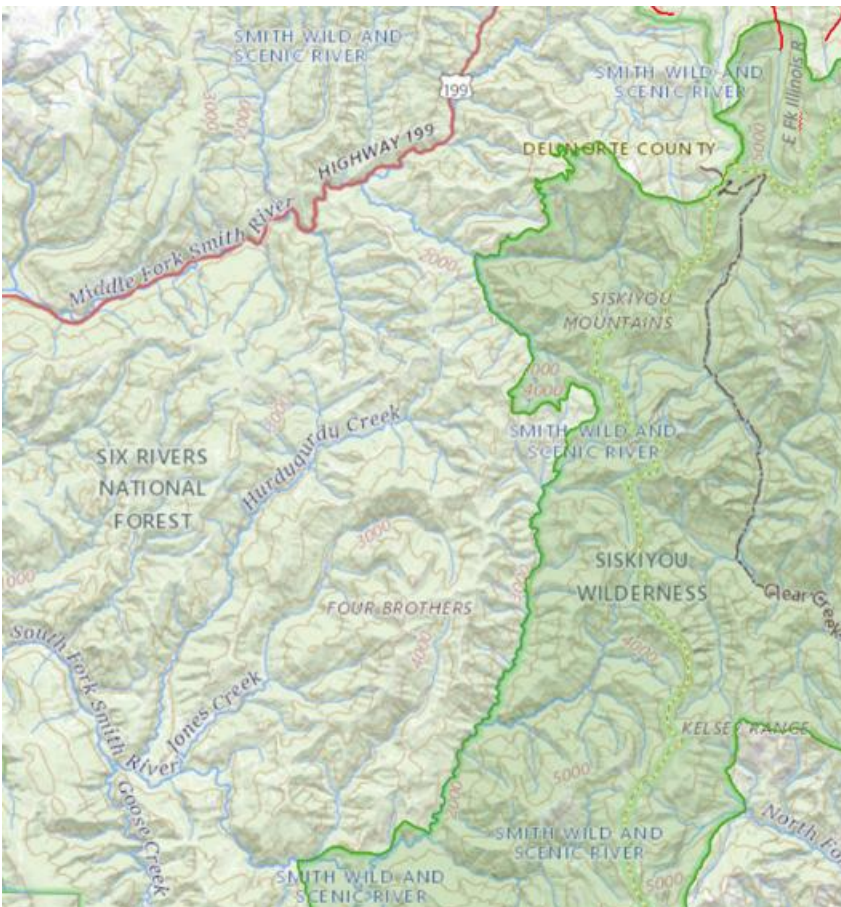


Lots of fish- all streams are part of the drainage of Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River. Species include Alabama and warrior bass, longear sunfish, creek chub, longnose gar, bluegill and Mobile logperch. (iNaturalist 2023)

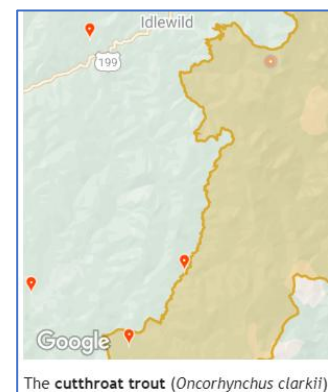


The Alabama bass (*Micropterus henshalli*)

Siskiyou Wilderness (CA)



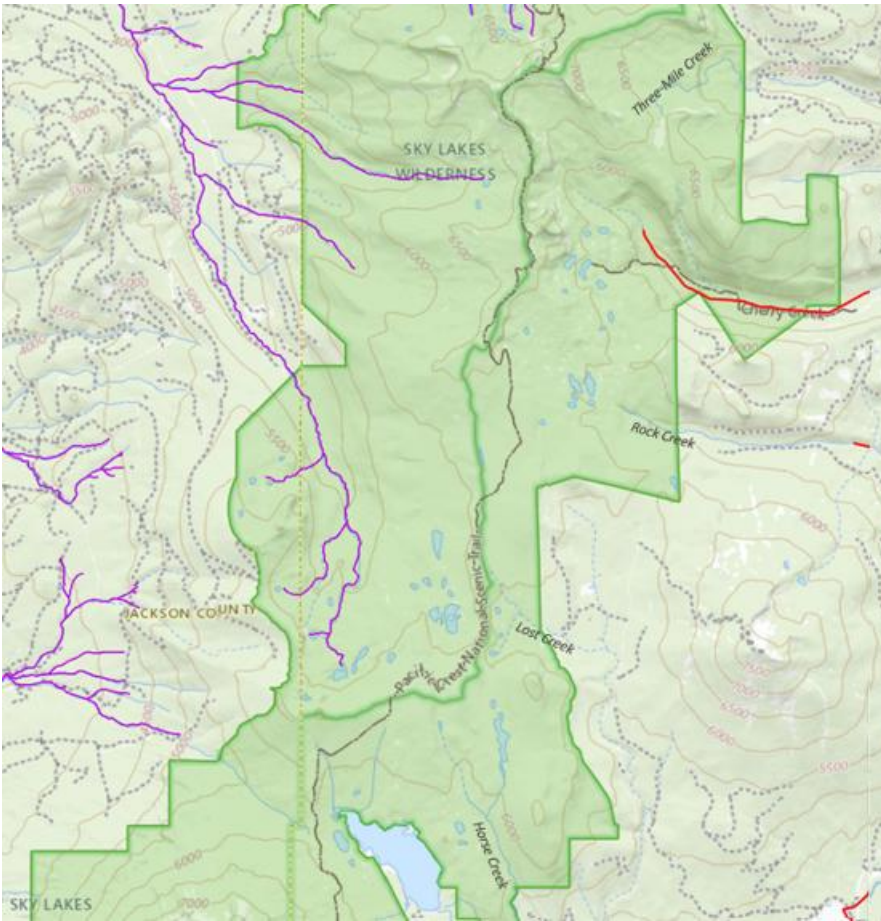
There are records of coastal cutthroat trout in the headwaters of the middle Fork Smith River in the northern part of the wilderness, and in South Fork Smith River in the southern part of the wilderness. (iNaturalist 2022)



The cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*)

Coastal cutthroats also occur in the East Fork Illinois River in the far northern part of the wilderness. (StreamNet 2019)

Sky Lakes Wilderness (OR)



Bull trout are present in Cherry Creek and Rock Creek. (USF&WS Klamath RU Bull Trout 2015) Climate Shield predictive model shows low to moderate probability of bull trout in Threemile Creek, Cherry Creek, Rock Creek, Lost Creek and Horse Creek on the eastern slope of wilderness. (USDA Climate Shield 2020). Critical habitat for bull trout exists in Cherry Creek, draining towards Agency Lake. (red lines on map, ESRI, USF&WS 2016) Cherry Creek also has a moderate density population of redband trout. (Mayfield)

West slope creeks in the Rogue River drainage hold coastal cutthroats. (purple lines on map, StreamNet 2019)

In August 2025 I struck out in Heavenly Twins Lakes and three or four of the Seven Lakes Basin lakes, although they were all very pretty! I did manage to catch some small rainbows in the South Fork Rogue. (Number 93)



I had to do some bushwacking to get to the river where it came out of the wilderness. Coming out through the monster Douglas firs as the Sun was setting was a bit disorienting, I found myself (maybe "found" isn't the right word here) going in circles. It took two GPS map apps and my watch to get out of there.

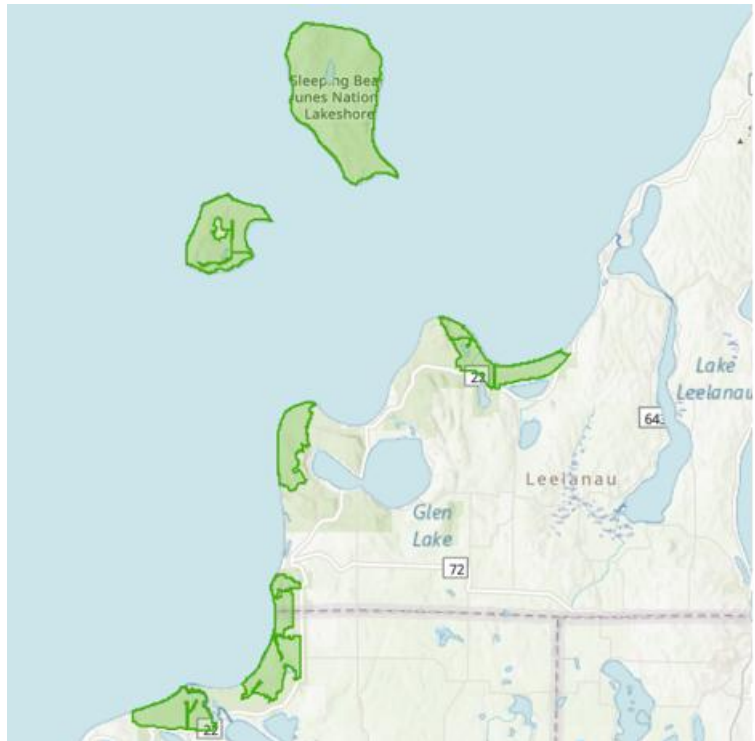


Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness (MI)

Freshwater drum, common shiner, carp, banded killifish, smallmouth bass, round goby and alewife in waters adjacent to the wilderness. (iNaturalist, 2022)

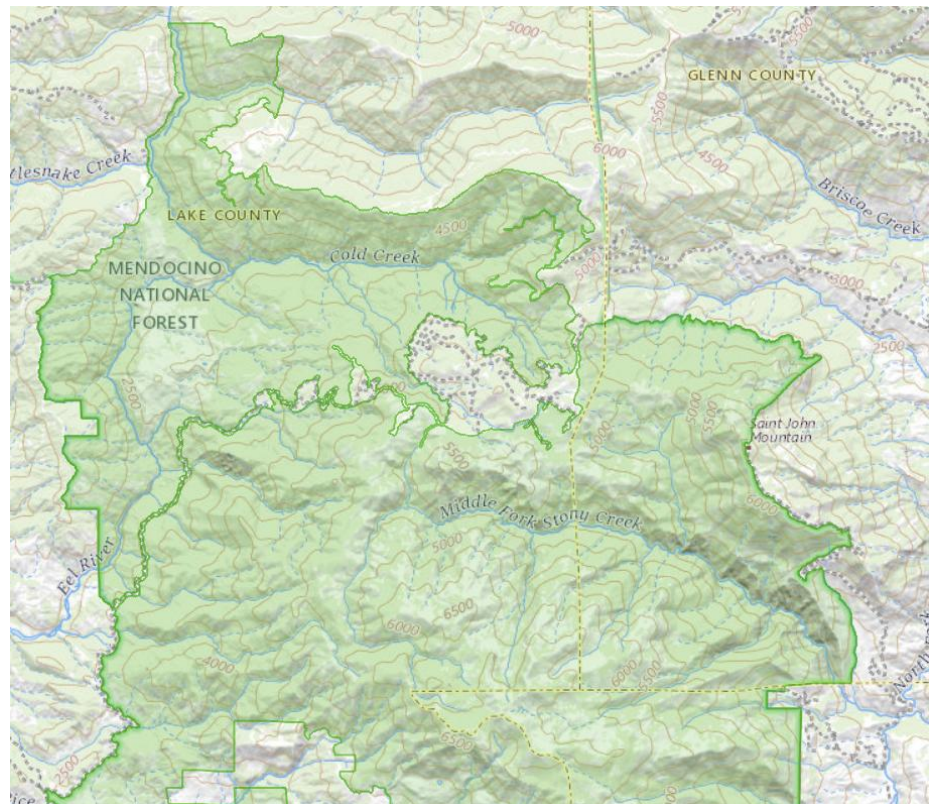


There are records of burbot, common shiner and central mudminnow on the Lake Michigan coast in the southern unit of the wilderness near Crystal Lake. (North American Native Fishes 2022)

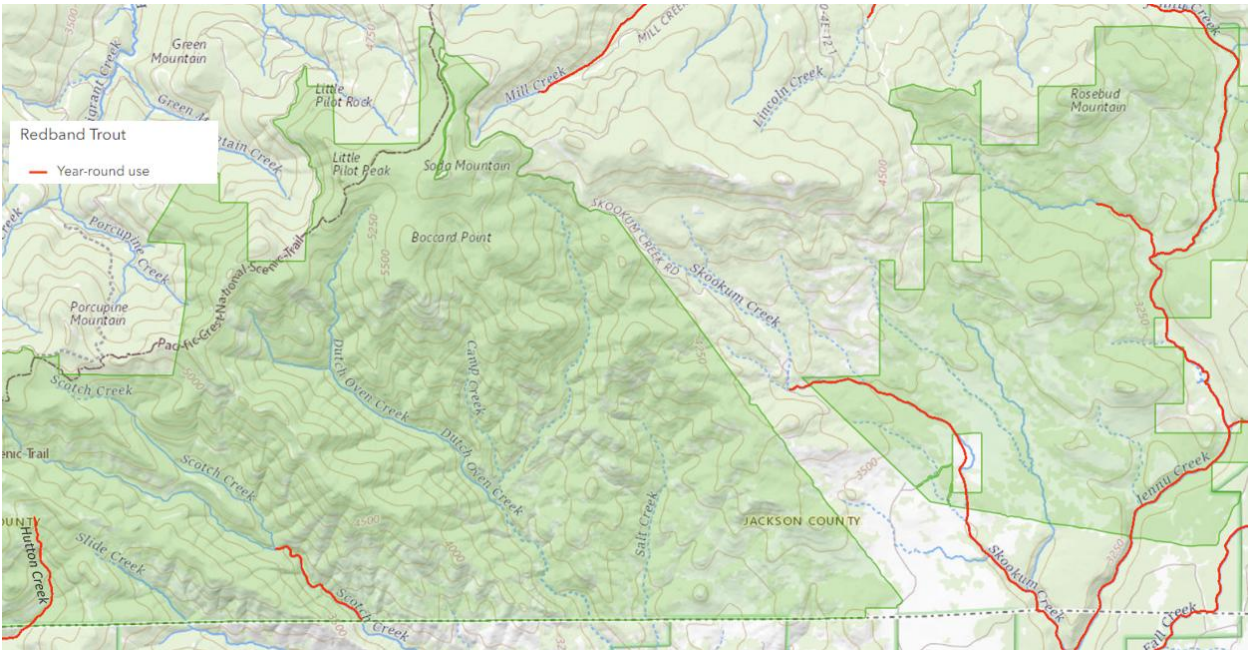


Snow Mountain Wilderness (CA)

The east slope streams in Snow Mountain Wilderness drain to the Sacramento Valley and are part of the native range of the Sacramento pikeminnow, although there is a pikeminnow record in the upper Eel River in the northern part of the wilderness. (iNaturalist 2022)



Soda Mountain Wilderness (OR)

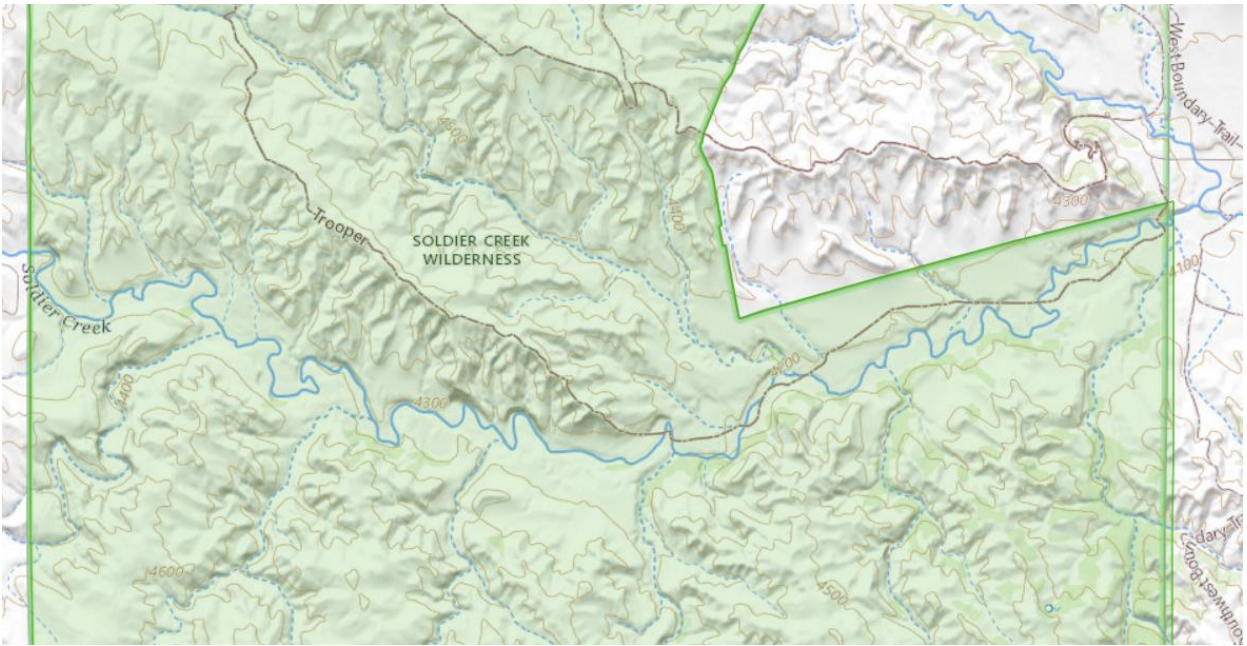


There are redband trout in south-flowing Klamath River tributaries Jenny Creek, Scotch Creek and Hutton Creek. Spring and fall chinook occur in Camp Creek. Summer steelhead are in Camp Creek and Hutton Creek. (StreamNet 2019)

In late June 2025, I caught several redband trout and some nice speckled dace in Jenny Creek (number 82).



Soldier Creek Wilderness (NE)



Soldier Creek and other nearby waters collectively hold brook, brown and rainbow trout as well as largemouth and rock bass, bluegill, and crappie. (SWFF Jan-Feb 2009, p. 15)

South Baranof Wilderness (AK)



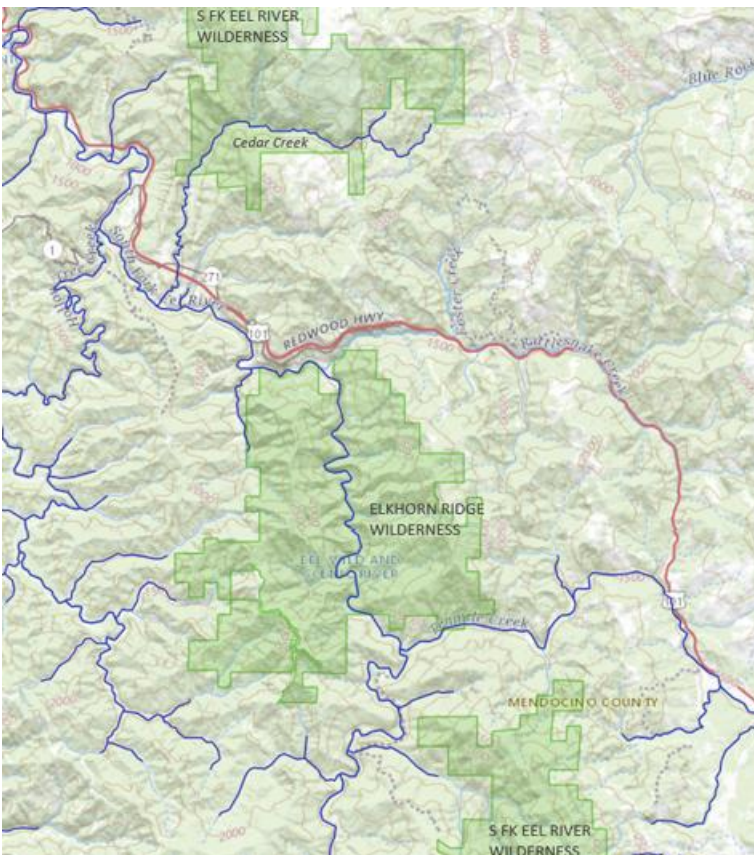
Coho, pink and chum salmon; cutthroat and Dolly Varden occur in several west coast locations. (ADFG 2023) There are also steelhead in Maksoof River at the southern end of the wilderness, although ADFG 2023 data only shows them in the lowest reaches of the river. (ADF&G CUTTHROAT 2016)

South Etolin Wilderness (AK)

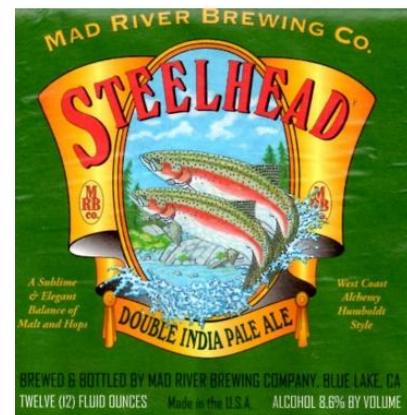


Coho, chum, pink and sockeye salmon; plus cutthroat, steelhead and Dolly Varden occur in the Hatchery Lake outfall in the northwest corner of the wilderness. The same fish minus the sockeyes are in McHenry Anchorage Creek on the west side of island. At the southern end of island in the Krogh Lake system, coho, cutthroat and Dolly Varden occur above the lake, plus pinks and chum below it. Coho, cutthroat and Dolly Varden appear in small streams on Onslow Island to the south of Etolin Island. (ADF&G CUTTHROAT 2016; ADFG 2023)

South Fork Eel Wilderness (CA)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in Cedar Creek, tributary to South Fork Eel River. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) That's actually Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness in the middle between the northern and southern portions of South Fork Eel Wilderness.



South Fork San Jacinto Wilderness (CA)



Partially armored three-spine stickleback occur in the South Fork San Jacinto below Hemet Lake. (Swift et al, 1993, p. 123) South Fork San Jacinto is also within native range of coastal rainbow trout and arroyo chub. (UCal Davis PISCES 2022)

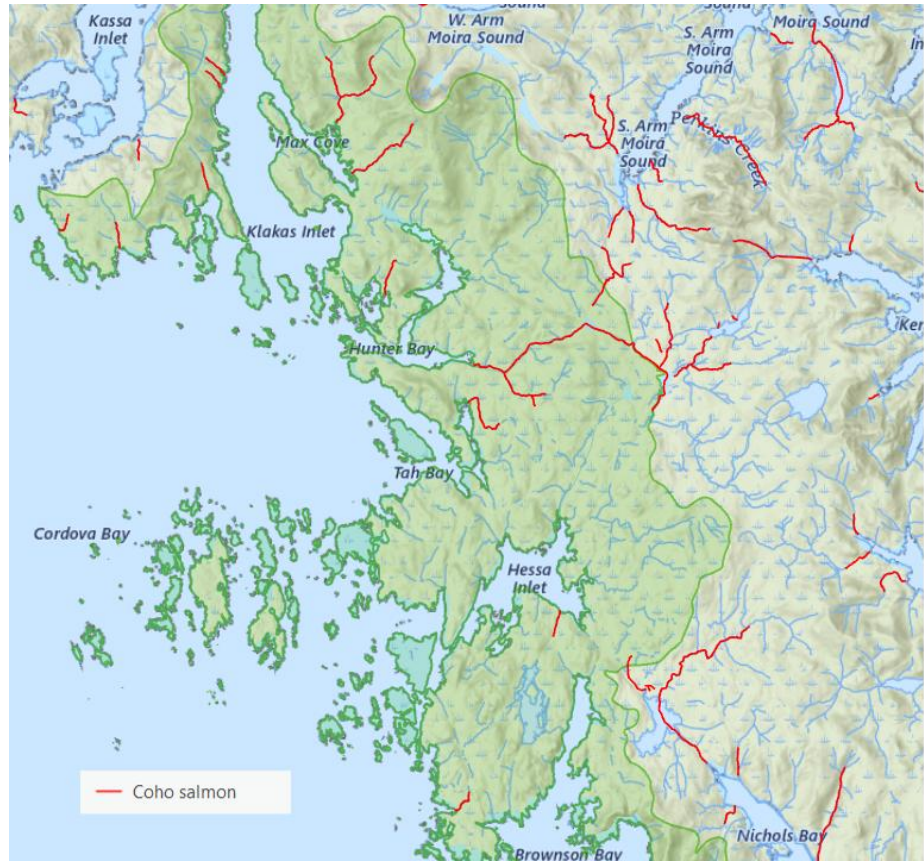
South Jackson Mountains Wilderness (CA)



The possibility of finding fish in this wilderness seems pretty slim. Trout Creek on the eastern edge of the wilderness allegedly holds brook trout, but it's on the opposite side of the road from the wilderness (NDOW 2019). USGS NHD shows Jackson Creek as perennial where it runs alongside a road and corresponding cherry stem that separates North Jackson Mountains Wilderness and South Jackson Mountains Wilderness. The creek barely crosses the wilderness boundary on one or two places, providing the only perennial surface water in the wilderness. NDOW says this stretch doesn't have game fish, but it's worth a look. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

South Prince of Wales Wilderness (AK)

Steelhead and sockeyes run up a couple of major streams; pink and chum salmon run in these and some shorter coastal streams. Cohos are perhaps the most widespread salmonid in the wilderness. (ADFG 2023)



South San Juan Wilderness (CO)

There is a genetically unaltered persistent population of Colorado cutthroats in upper reaches of Navajo River. (Hirsch et al 2013; TU CRCT 2016)

A pure population of Rio Grande cutthroats occupies upper reaches of Rio de los Pinos, flowing south out of the wilderness toward the Rio Grande. (TU RGCT 2019)

There are big brown trout in meadow reaches of Elk Creek, tributary of Conejos River, in the southern part of the wilderness. (SWFF May-Jun 2009, m p. 8)

Rainbows and cutthroats are in the South Fork Conejos as well as nearby Twin Lakes, Timber Lake and Glacier Lake. (SWFF Jul-Aug 2017, p. 23)



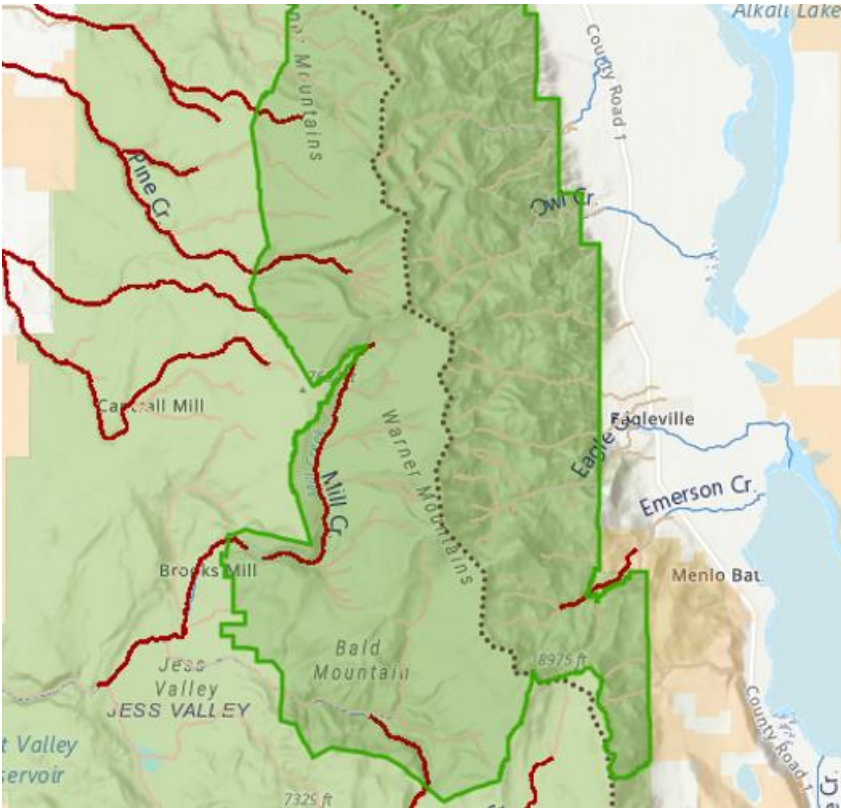
South Sierra Wilderness (CA)



October 31, 2020 I hiked about 2.5 miles along the Pacific Crest Trail upstream from Kennedy Meadows trailhead, as far as the footbridge. I caught brook trout and several pale looking golden trout, likely rainbow hybrids, in South Fork Kern River. (Number 32)



South Warner Wilderness (CA)



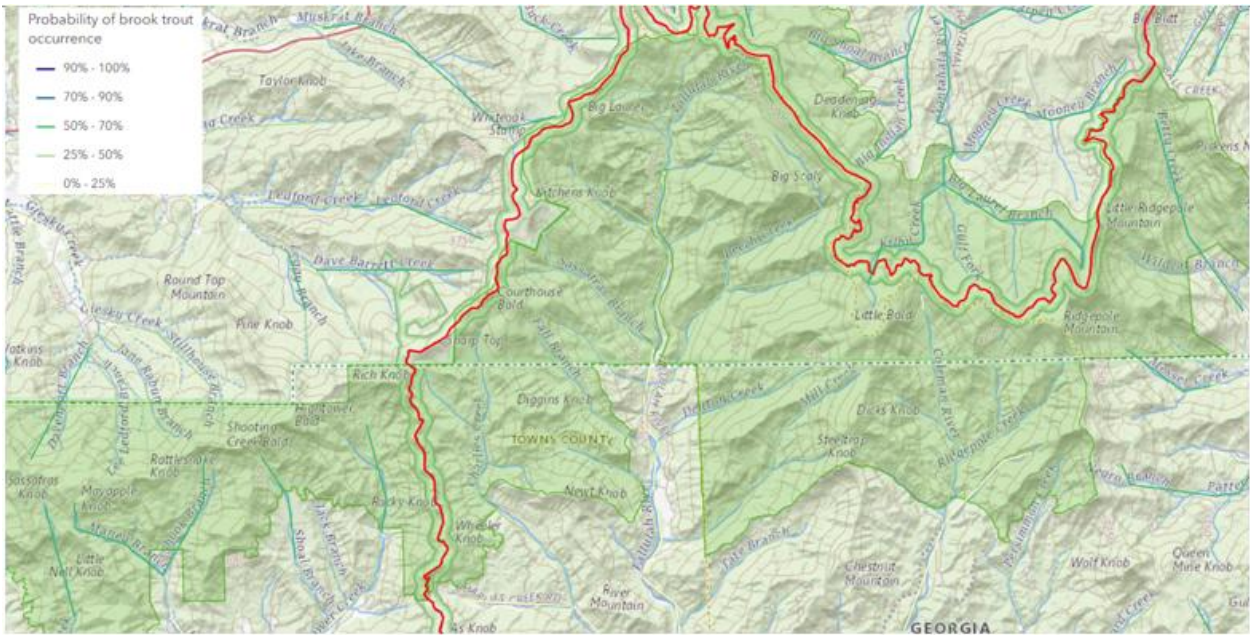
On the west slope of Warner Mountains, high densities of redband trout occur in East Creek and Mill Creek, tributaries of south Fork Pit River in the southern part of wilderness; there are also redbands in Pine Creek, tributary to South Fork Pit River in the central part of the wilderness and in North Fork Shields Creek, tributary to North Fork Pit River, in the northern part of the wilderness. On the east slope of Warner Mountains, redbands occupy Emerson Creek, an interior drainage. (Mayfield)



Instead of watching fireworks on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I chose to hike into Mill Creek Falls and Clear Lake. I was rewarded with a very nice brown trout out of Clear Lake, at the north end of the lake near the outfall. (Number 109)

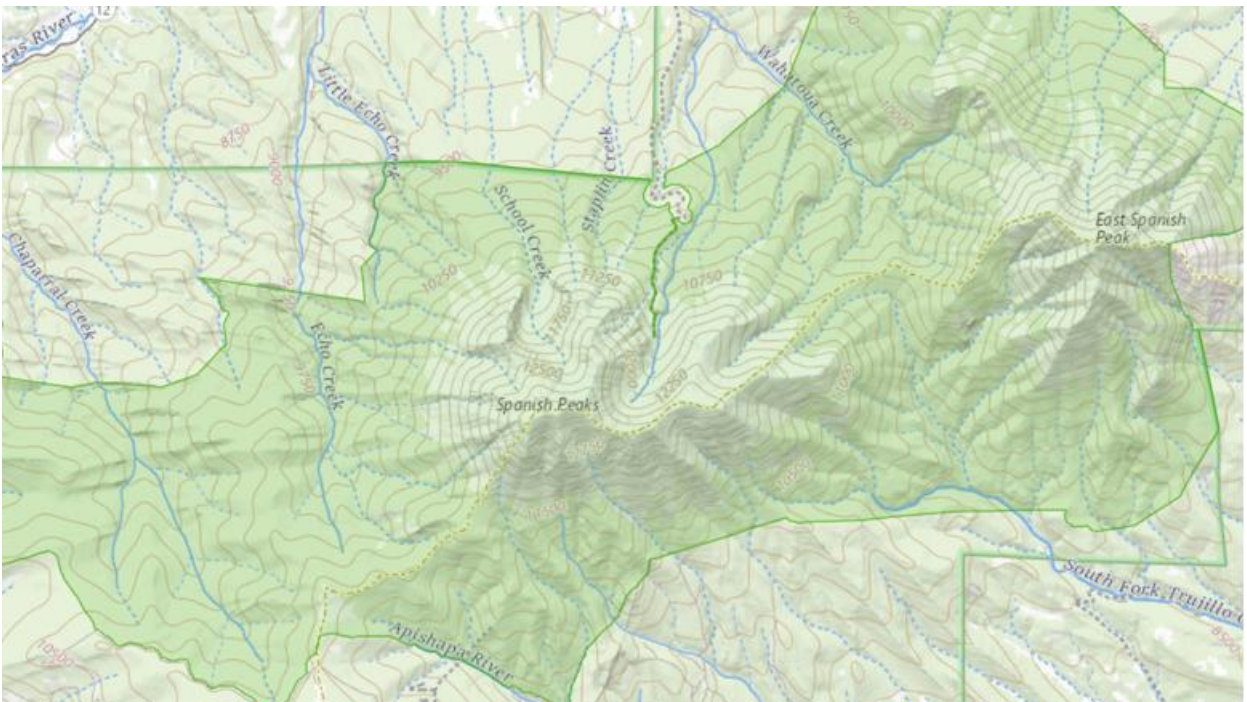


Southern Nantahala Wilderness (GA, NC)



There are populations of brook trout in multiple watersheds: Giesky Creek in the western portion of the wilderness in the Hiwassee watershed; the south-flowing Tallulah River system, tributary to the Tugaloo and Savannah Rivers, with tributaries including Sassafra Branch, Fall Branch, Coleman River, Mill Creek and Beech Creek also holding rainbows; north-flowing Nantahala River tributaries include Kilby Creek and Big Laurel Branch; and in the far eastern part of the wilderness Betty Creek flows east to the Little Tennessee River and has rainbows as well as brookies. (TU 2019, Southern Appalachian brook trout) Probability of brook trout occurrence is generally low to moderate. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

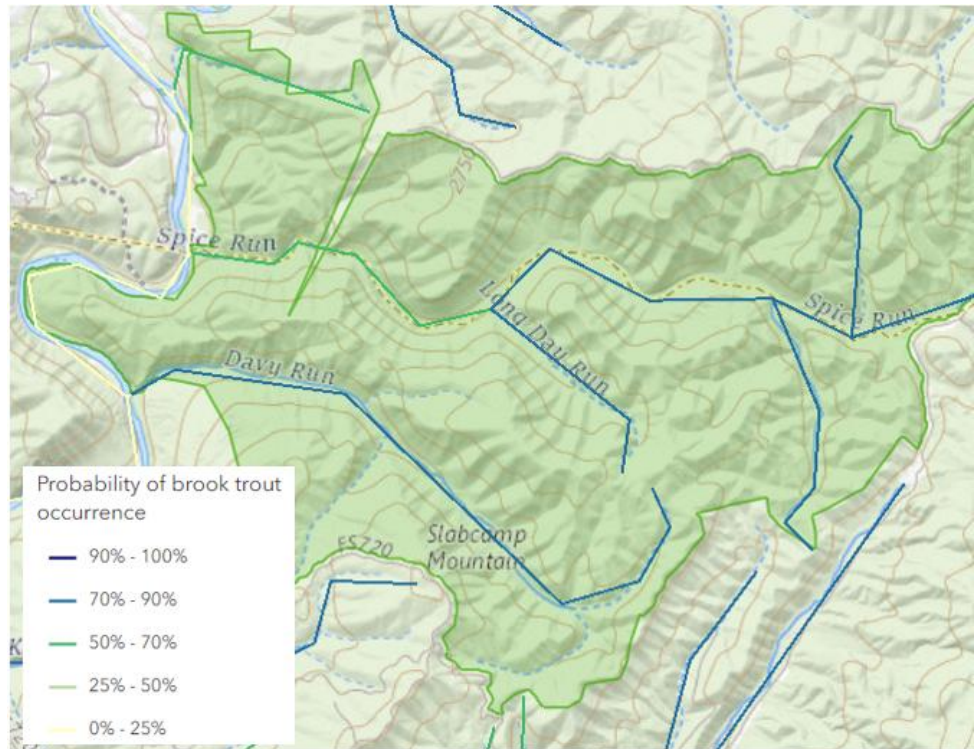
Spanish Peaks Wilderness (CO)



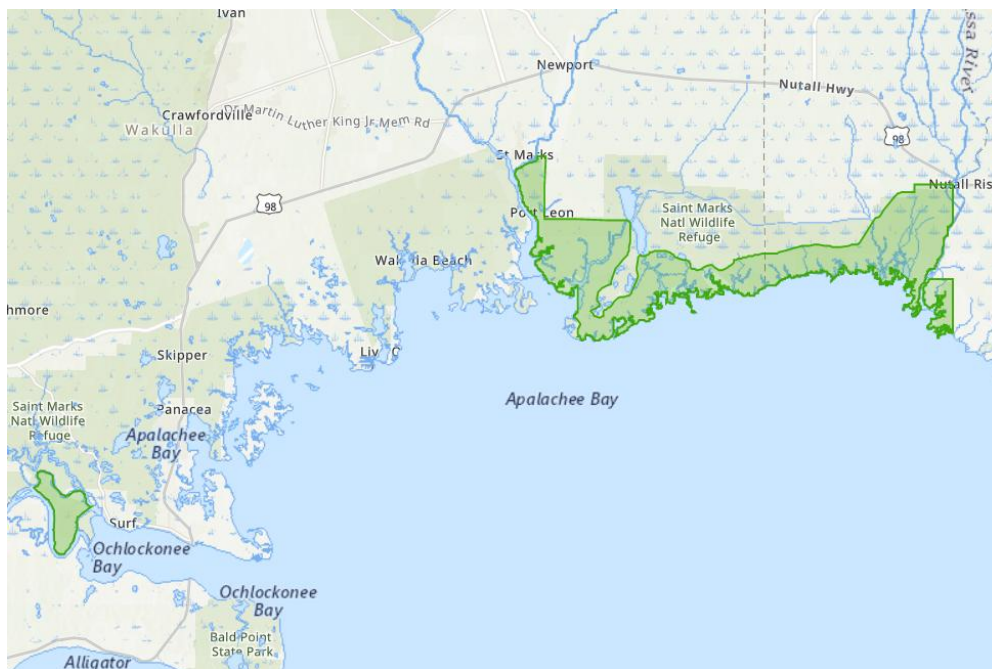
It's not the greatest reference, but several real estate listings of ranches for sale seem to confirm that there are a lot of brook trout in Wahatoya Creek flowing out of the wilderness. South Fork Trujillo Creek, Echo Creek and Chaparral Creek all seem to also have sufficient flow to hold trout.

Spice Run Wilderness (WV)

Greenbrier River tributaries Spice Run and Davy Run are both perennial through most of the wilderness. (USGS 2022) Probability of finding brook trout is moderate near the Greenbrier, high in upstream segments. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014) There is a record of smallmouth bass in Spice Run. (Fishbrain 2022)



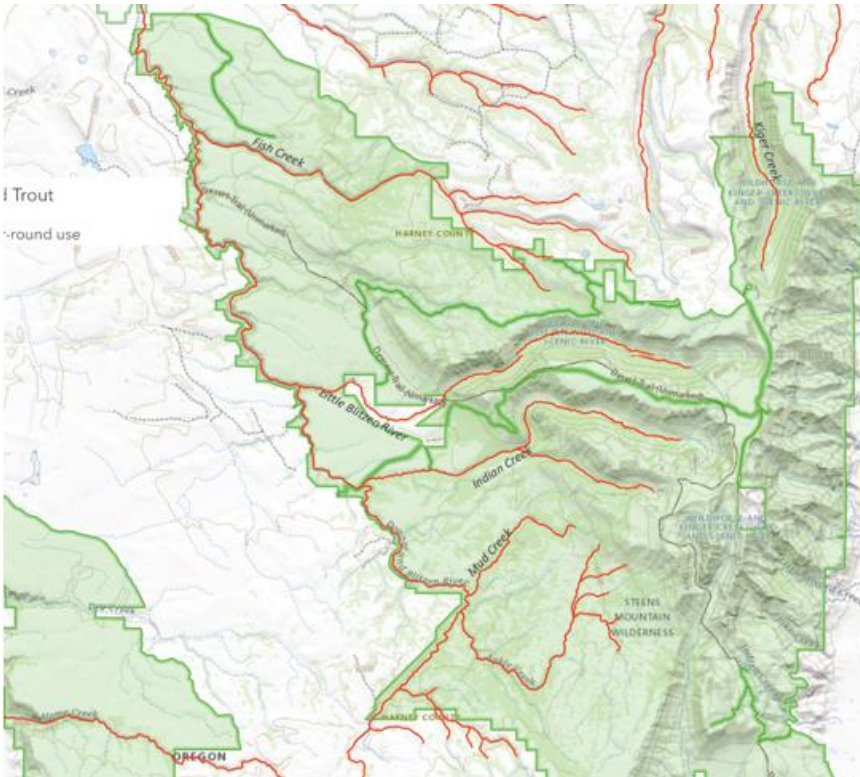
St. Marks Wilderness (FL)



The National Wildlife Refuge in which the wilderness sits has a high diversity of aquatic habitats, including open bays, tidal creeks, estuaries, blackwater rivers, spring runs, fresh and brackish impoundments, freshwater ponds, and wooded wetlands.

These habitats support over 145 species of fish. The largest portions of the wilderness are salt marsh bordered by waterways. Common fish include redfish, croaker, spot and striped mullet. (USF&WS, St. Marks, Oct 2006)

Steens Mountain Wilderness (OR)



There are low density populations of redband trout throughout the streams flowing west off of the Steens Mountain crest. Kiger Creek flows north out of the eastern part of the wilderness. On the west side of the wilderness the Donner und Blitzen main stem flows inside the western wilderness boundary, collecting tributaries Ankle Creek, Mud Creek, Indian Creek, Little Blitzen River and Fish Creek. Home Creek crosses the western outparcel of wilderness ending in the Catlow Valley. (Mayfield)

Donner and Blitzen River is accessible from at least two trailheads adjacent to the wilderness. (AFF Jul-Aug 2020, p.51)

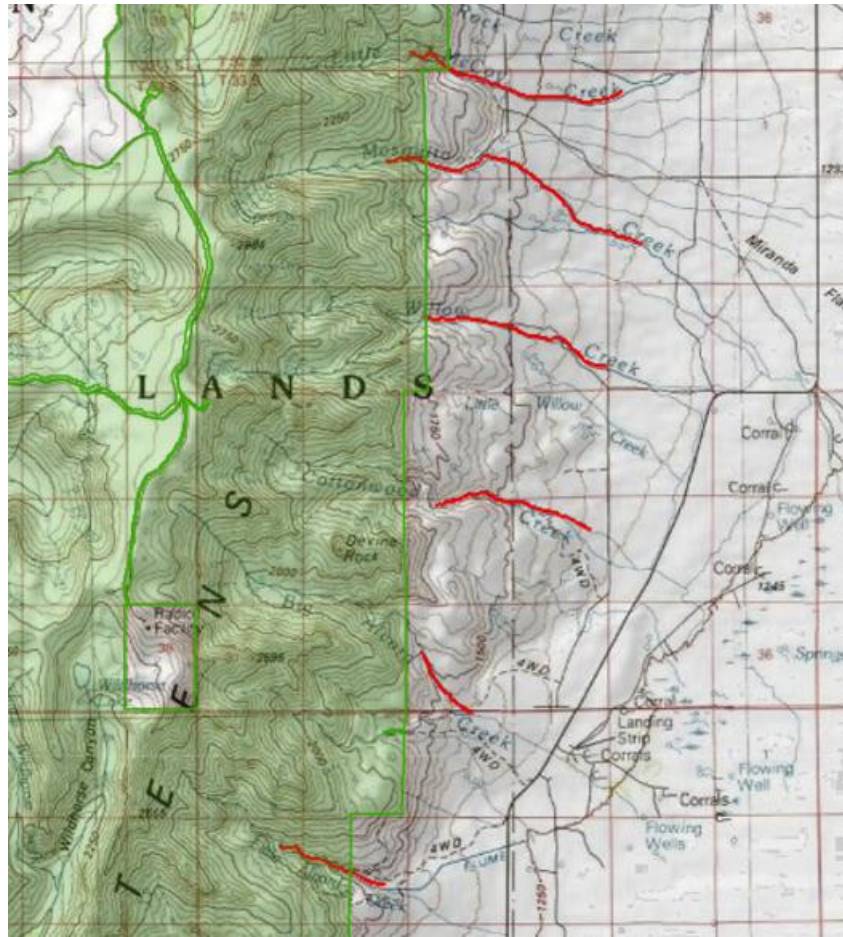
Cathie and I camped at South Steens Campground in July 2023. I hiked into Indian Creek and caught some really nice rainbows, up to 10 inches. That evening we both hiked to the Little Blitzen River, I didn't fish but it looked almost as good as Indian Creek did. (Number 65)



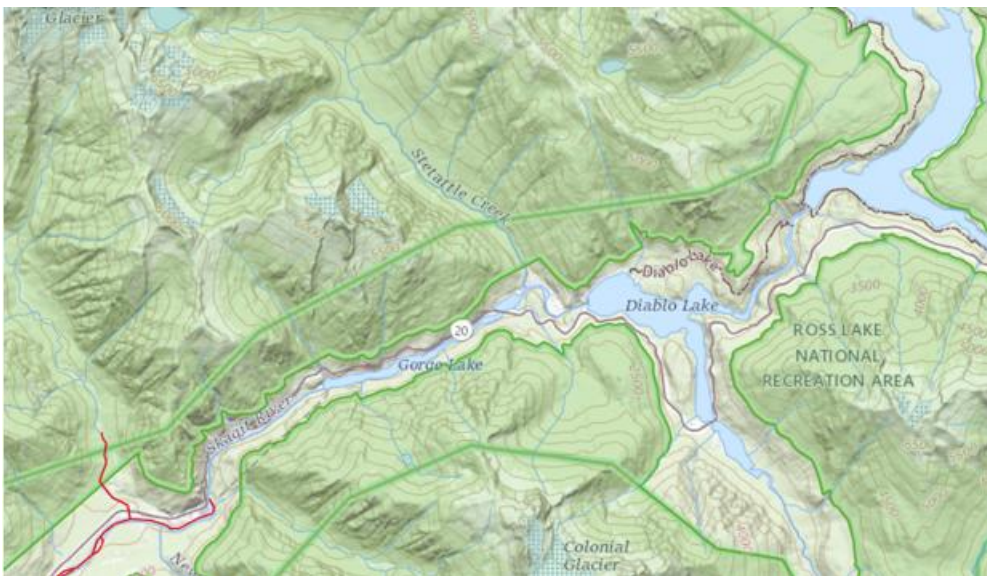
Steens Mountain Wilderness (OR)

Eastward flowing streams hold Lahontan cutthroat trout. Restored populations with densities of 50 to 150 fish per mile extend into the wilderness in Little McCoy Creek, Mosquito Creek, and Little Alvord Creek. (USF&WS and NV F&W 2009, p. 23; TU LCT 2020)

Wildhorse Lake at 8400 feet at the head of east-slope Wildhorse Creek holds Lahontan cutthroats. Accessed by a short but steep trail, trailhead is accessible by a cherry-stemmed road near the peak of Steens Mountain. (AFF Jul-Aug 2020, p. 51)

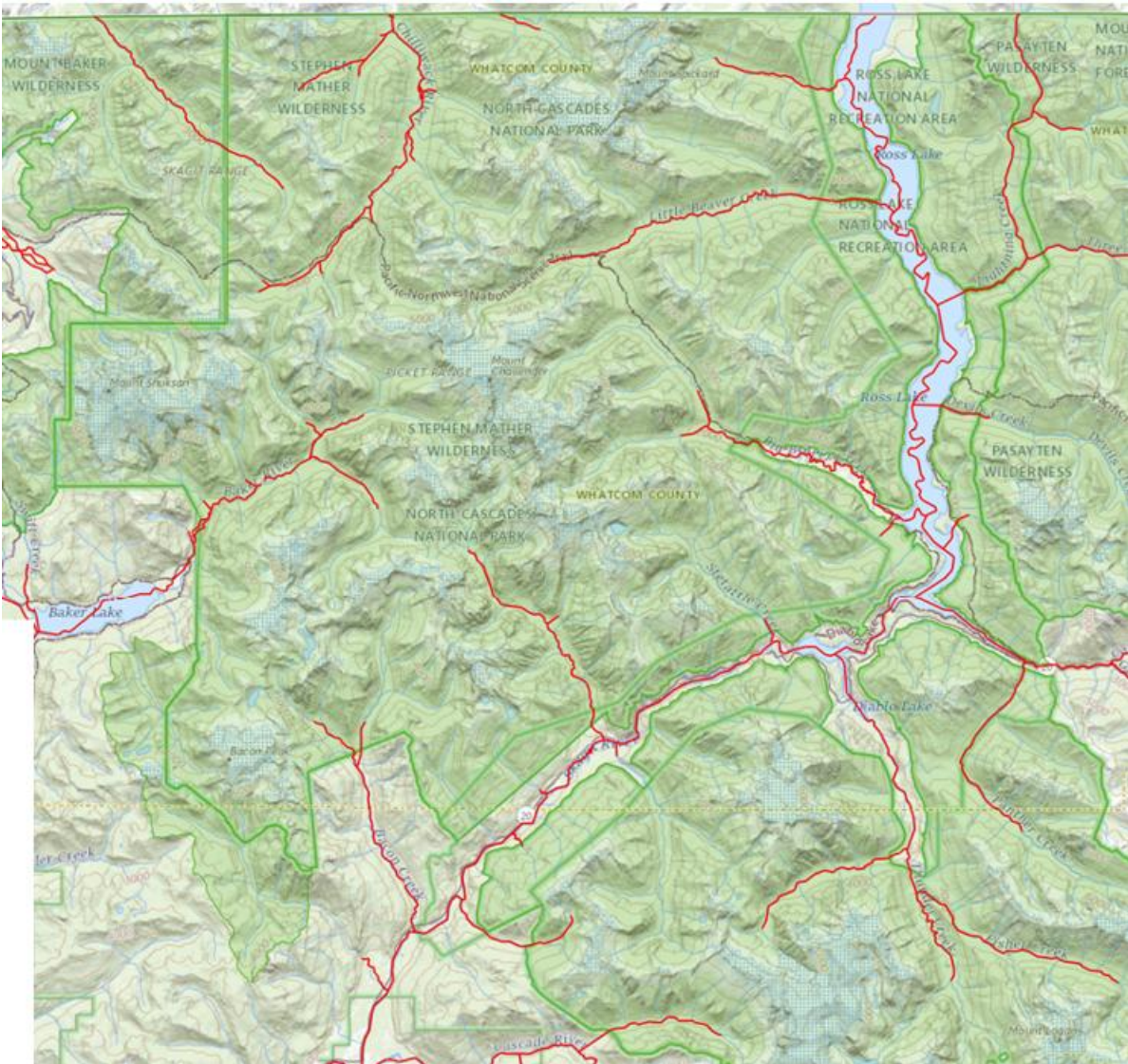


Steven Mather Wilderness (WA)



There is a small piece of critical habitat for chinook salmon in the lower portion of Goodell Creek, right bank tributary of Skagit River downstream from Ross Lake. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Steven Mather Wilderness (WA)

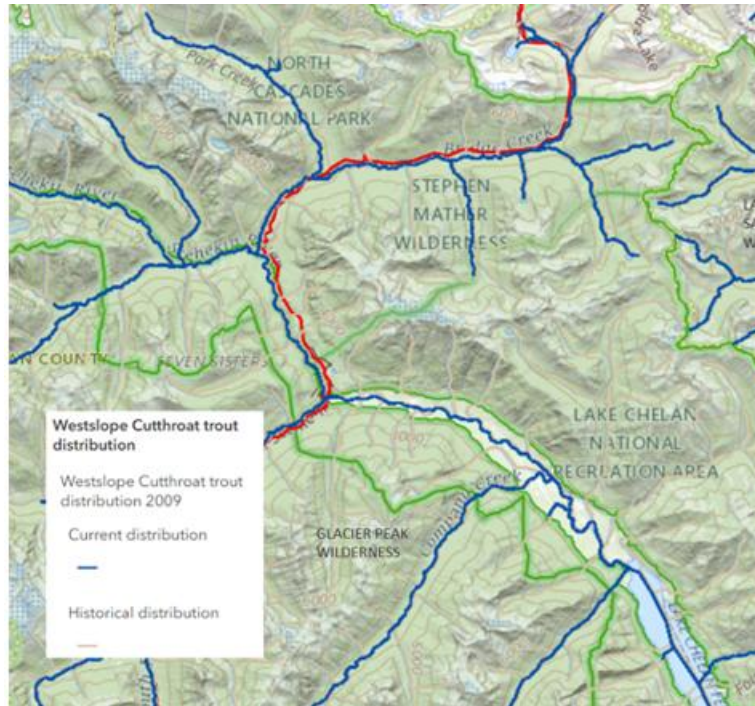
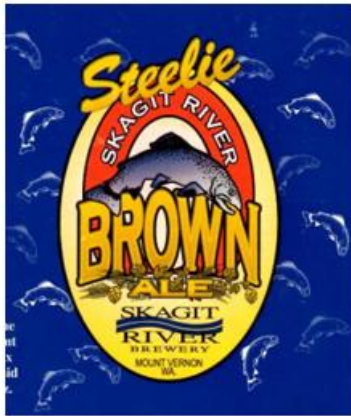


Bull trout occupy critical habitat in large portions of the Baker and Chilliwack Rivers, and many Skagit River tributaries including Thunder Creek, Fisher Creek, Panther Creek, Little and Big Beaver Creeks, Goodell Creek and Bacon Creek (ESRI, USF&WS 2016; StreamNet 2019, shown on map). Climate Shield predictive model shows high probability of bull trout in most of these streams. (USDA Climate Shield 2020)

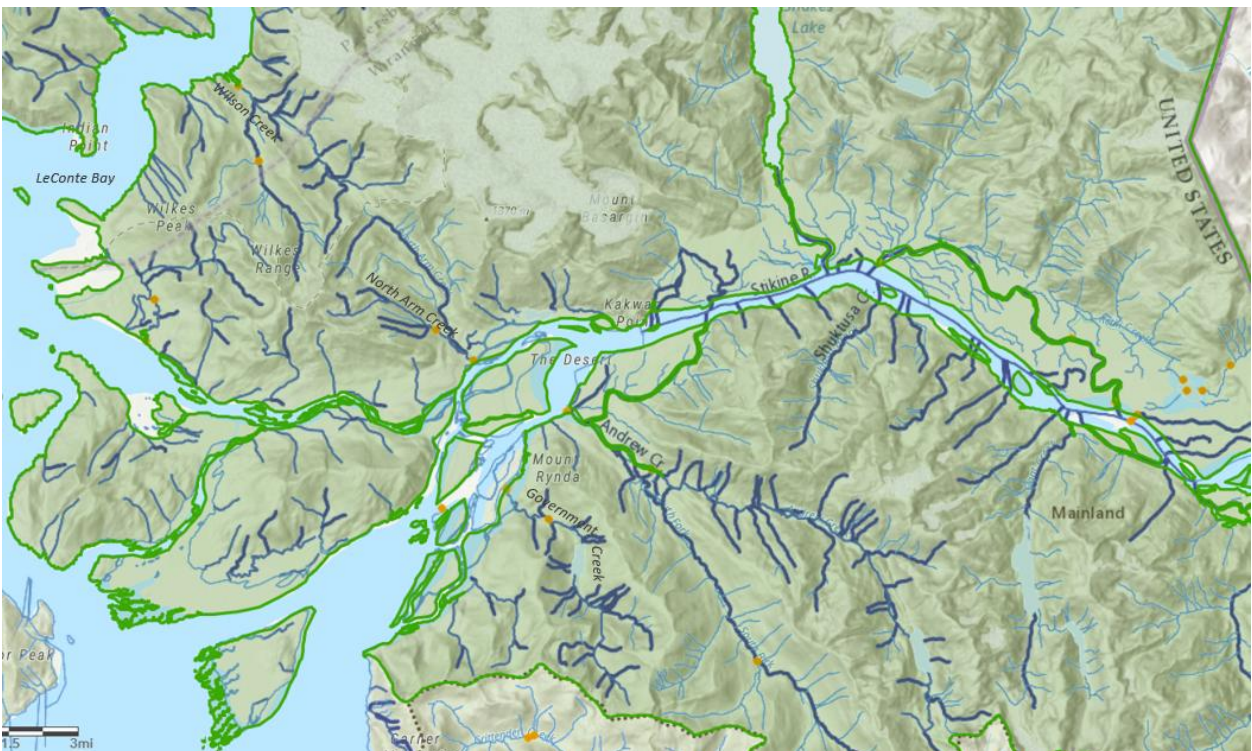
The population of bull trout in the Chilliwack River is a core population. (USF&WS Bull trout coterminous US 2015) The Chilliwack also holds coho and steelhead. Almost all of the streams holding bull trout also have coastal cutthroats. (StreamNet 2019)

Steven Mather Wilderness (WA)

Westslope cutthroats occupy the southern portion of the wilderness, near Lake Chelan, in Stehekin River tributaries Park Creek, Bridge Creek and Fourmile Creek. (Mayfield)



Stikine-LeConte Wilderness (AK)

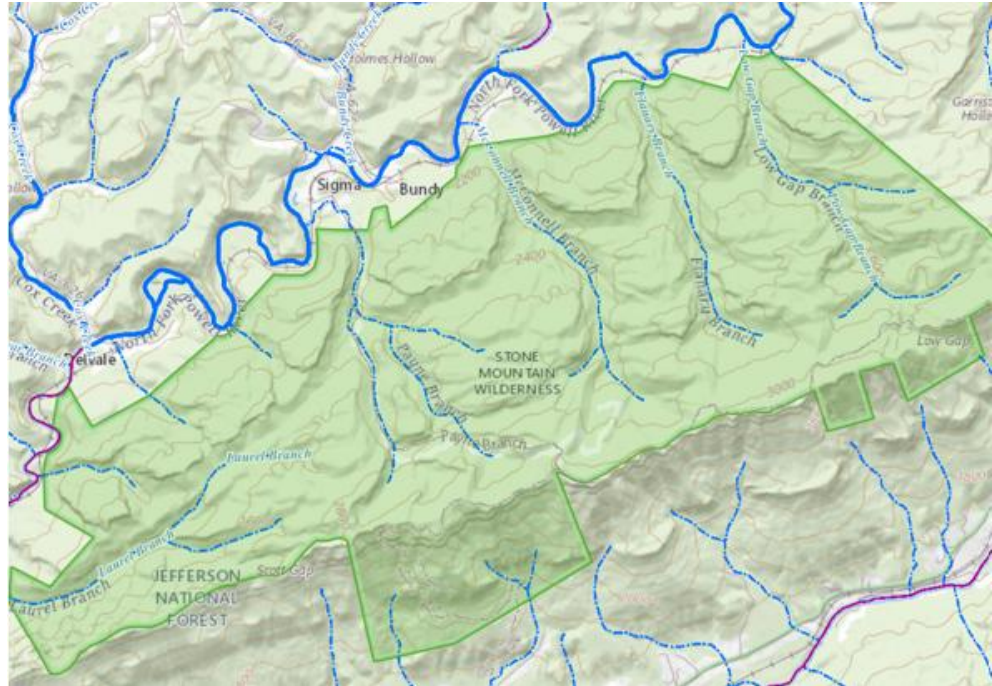


All five salmon plus cutthroats, steelhead and Dolly Varden swim in the Stikine River, as well as in South Fork Andrew Creek, North Arm Creek, and Government Creek. Wilson Creek, flowing north into Le Conte Bay, has coho, chum and pink salmon as well as cutthroats and Dolly Varden. (ADF&G CUTTHROAT 2016)

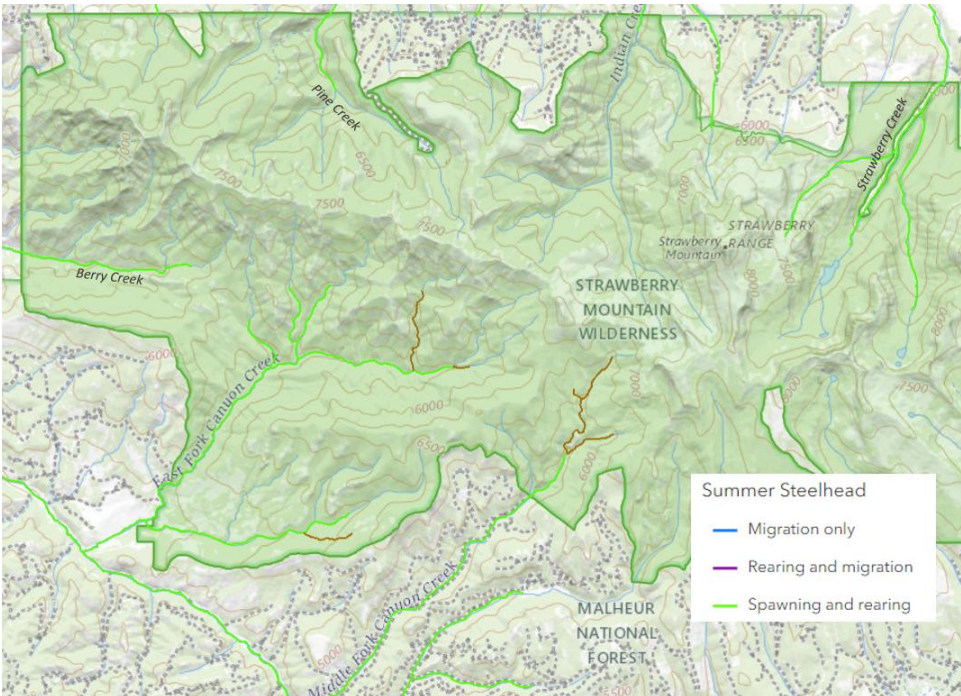
The Stikine River, "among the most productive salmon rivers in the state," is threatened by trans-national mining operations upstream in BC. (Trout Winter 2015, p. 50)

Stone Mountain Wilderness (VA)

The North Fork Powell River runs near the north edge of the wilderness and receives multiple stockings of trout each year, some tributaries coming off of the Stone Mountain ridge likely have trout from these stockings. (VA DWR, 2022)



Strawberry Mountain Wilderness (OR)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in tributaries of South Fork John Day River, including East and Middle Forks of Canyon Creek, Strawberry Creek, Berry Creek, Indian Creek and Pine Creek. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Strawberry Mountain Wilderness (OR)



There are low densities of redband trout in south-flowing Malheur tributaries Lake Creek, Big Creek and Meadow Fork Big Creek. Streams in the John Day system hold westslope cutts, including Canyon Creek and its Middle and East Forks, Berry Creek, Pine Creek, Indian Creek and Strawberry Creek. (Mayfield)

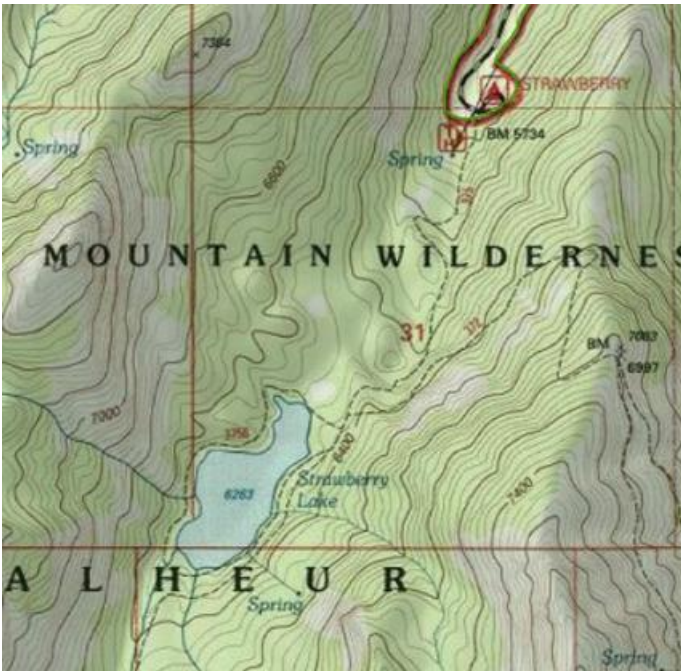
According to ODFW the headwater tribs of the Malheur hold fairly pure native redband trout, and densities are high. (NWFF May-Jun 2018, p. 39)

There is also critical habitat for bull trout in Indian Creek, Roberts Creek, Lake Creek and Big Creek. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) The state, however, classifies abundance here as low, and at critical risk. (NWFF May-Jun 2018, p. 39)

In July 2023 my spectacularly beautiful wife and I (and Phoebe) camped in the Slide Campground within the cherry-stem alongside Strawberry Creek, which flows along the wilderness boundary. I caught some pretty little westslope cutts from the Creek. (Number 64)



Strawberry Mountain Wilderness (OR)

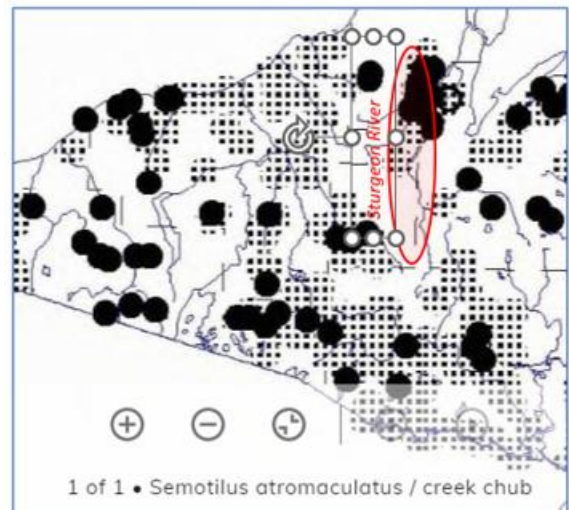


Strawberry Lake is located a mile by trail from the cherry-stemmed road in the middle of the wilderness, and holds brookies and non-native but reproducing rainbow trout. Apparently, it's possible to lug a float tube in. (NWFF Mar-Apr 2019)

Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness (MI)



The Sturgeon River has brook trout as well as bigmouth shiner, longnose dace, creek chub and others downstream from the wilderness; it's likely they exist upstream in the wilderness section as well. (Univ of Michigan, 2022)



Superstition Wilderness (AZ)



There is very little in the way of perennial surface water within the wilderness, although there is a tiny bit of Canyon Lake shoreline near the west end of the lake. Several streambeds and canyons flowing north toward Canyon have intermittent flows that appear to leave enough water in the streambeds to support fish. Reeves Creek, tributary to Pine Creek, supposedly has a perennial stretch, I observed a decent amount of water there during a couple of winter camping trips. (USGS 2021) There is Gila topminnow habitat in Boulder Canyon/LaBarge Canyon, Tortilla Creek, the Fish Creek system, and the Pine Creek/Reeves Creek system. A survey found over a thousand Gila topminnow in the Box portion of La Barge Canyon, adjacent to Battleship Mountain near Second Water Trail, in December 2020. (Shollenberger et al, 2021)

Of course, Gila topminnow are rare and endangered, but longfin dace also supposedly inhabit the same range. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022) Minckley seems to say there have been longfin dace recently in Pine Creek-Reeves Creek. (Minckley and Marsh 2009)



Superstition Wilderness (AZ)

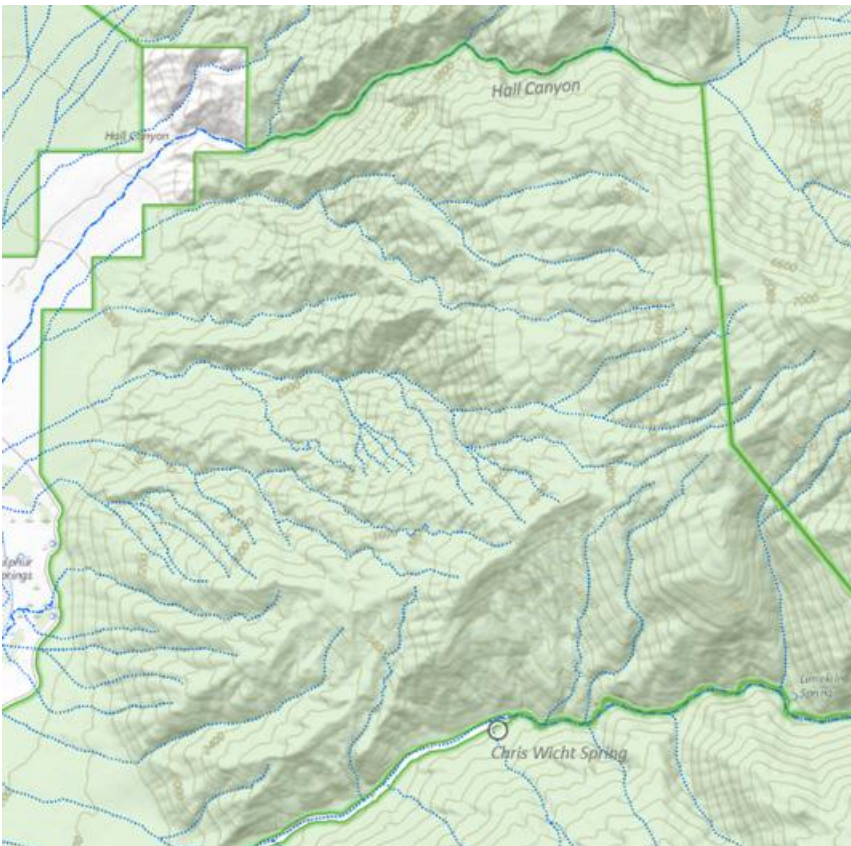
In December 2022 I finally found fish in the Superstitions. I decided to hike the First Water Creek downstream from the Hackberry Spring Trail to see if anything had made its way upstream a day after a good winter rain. I didn't have to go far though, after finding *Gambusia* in the spring itself. I guessed they were mosquitofish, but my iNaturalist friends all said they are endangered Gila topminnow. (Number 58)



Not much of a pool, but there's a bunch of fish in there!



Surprise Canyon Wilderness (CA)



Chris Wicht Camp Spring in Surprise Canyon (Zdon site 274) has a healthy flow of 200 gpm (0.5 cfs). There are also apparently some other springs feeding Surprise Canyon upstream from the end of the cherry-stem at Chris Wicht. USGS NWIS shows perennial flow in Surprise Canyon (at least in the small-scale dataset, although not in the large-scale dataset), although the entire canyon is cherry-stemmed out from the wilderness. Hall Canyon, on the other hand, shows as perennial in both datasets for about two miles along the border with the Death Valley Wilderness. (USGS 2021)

Swanquarter Wilderness (NC)



The wilderness portion of the National Wildlife Refuge is mostly brackish marsh. Resident species include gar, pickerel, white and yellow perch, a variety of sunfish, and catfish. Spotted sea trout and redfish are commonly found in the shallow open waters of Pamlico Sound. Migratory species use the refuge's estuaries as spawning grounds and its surrounding waters as a nursery area, these include Atlantic croaker, spot, Atlantic menhaden, and the southern and summer flounders. Anadromous species use Pamlico Sound and the refuge's drainage ditches heavily, they include striped bass, alewife, and blueback herring. (US Dept of Interior, F&WS, Swanquarter, 2008)

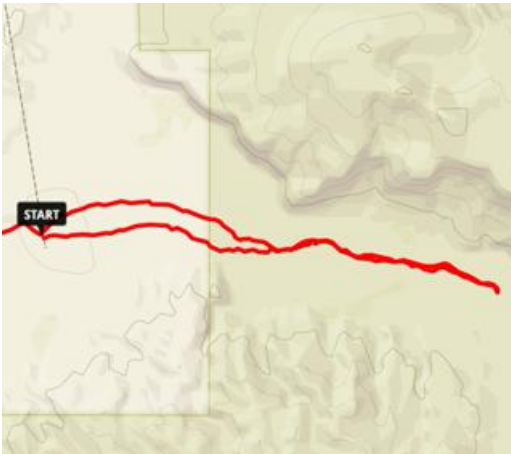
Swansea Wilderness (AZ)



On October 24, 2020 I hiked up into the Bill Williams River canyon from Planet Ranch. There was no surface flow through the wide, sandy river bottom in the Ranch area; I disagree with the USGS database that shows a long stretch of perennial water in the Bill Williams downstream from the wilderness.

Swansea Wilderness (AZ)

As I went further, though, there was good flow in the harder rock of the canyon. I got about a mile in, water was cool, clear and about 15 to 20 cfs. I found lots of Gambusia in the stream margins, but I didn't see much of anything else. Stream flow got stronger the further I went upstream, I bet there's catchable fish if you go up further. (Number 29)



Somehow every time I get out of the truck next to a completely dry river with no water in sight and start walking upstream with a fly rod and a landing net I think someone will see me and think that I am crazy. But somehow, there never seems to be anyone there to see me...



Sycamore Canyon Wilderness (AZ)



USGS NWIS shows perennial surface water in Sycamore Creek, it's certainly perennial below Parsons Spring. (USGS 2021) I didn't see any fish in the lower 2 miles of the creek in January 2022, but the sign at the trailhead seemed to think there were some chubs up there; Minckley (Minckley and Marsh 2009) says they are pretty much down in the mainstem Verde, outside the wilderness.

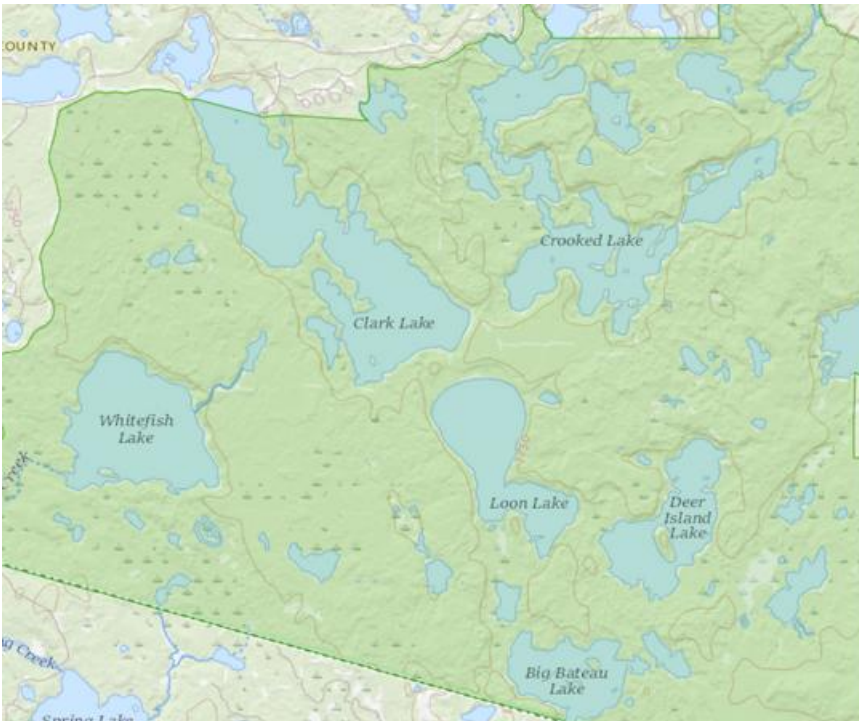


According to AZ F&G, the creek through the canyon holds desert sucker. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022)

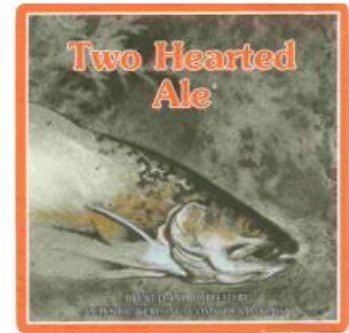


In June 2024 I hiked up the creek about half a mile. When I first stepped into the creek I startled a school of dace and watch them swim away from me. I thought, "Wow, this is going to be easy!" I spent the next three hours watching large numbers of dace taunt me, staying just out of range of the landing net. I saw some sunfish as well and tried the fly rod. Nothing! I eventually landed a crippled green sunfish with the net (Number 72). The next day I went to BassPro and bought my first cast net, which would have been the perfect tool here! It did come in handy very soon after, however (see Pusch Ridge) and it has now entered my official tool kit.

Sylvania Wilderness (MI)



Smallmouth bass predominantly, plus pike, musky and brook trout. Article mentions Crooked Lake and Loon Lake. (AA, May-Jun 2017, p 26)



Almost every water in the wilderness has fish (Friends of Sylvania 2022)

Table Mountain Wilderness (NV)

Barley Creek and Mosquito Creek have rainbow trout for most of their lengths in the wilderness. Cottonwood Creek and the east slope streams hold brook trout. (NDOW 2017) How can anyone not want to fish in a stream named Green Monster Creek?

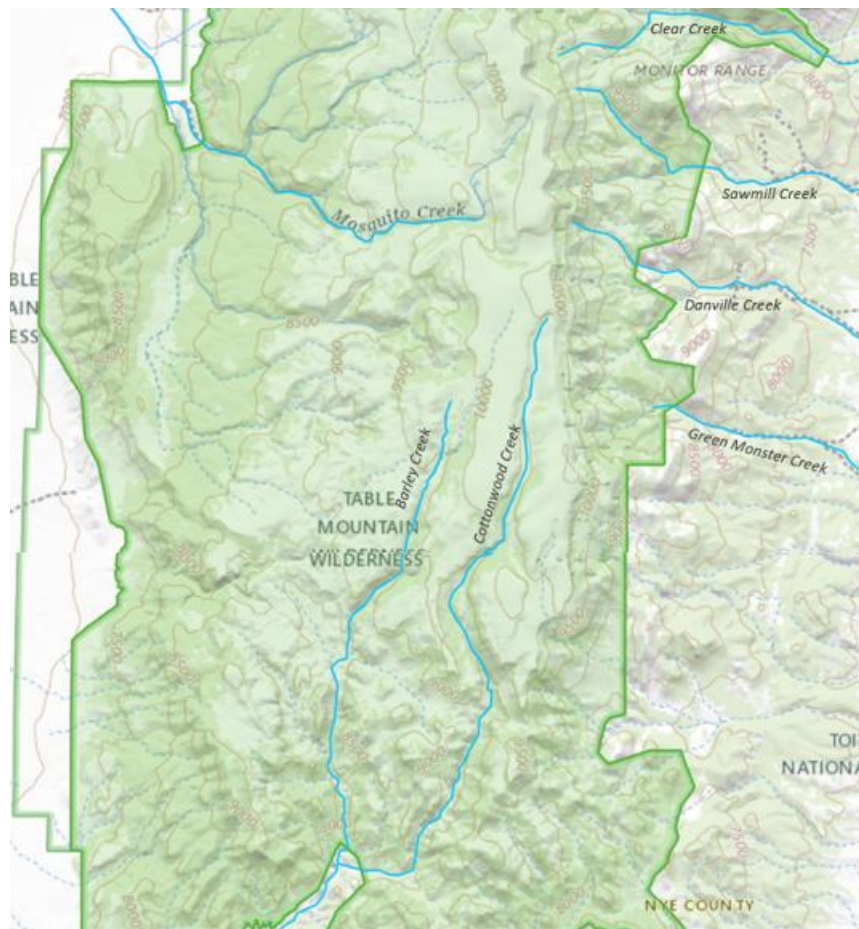
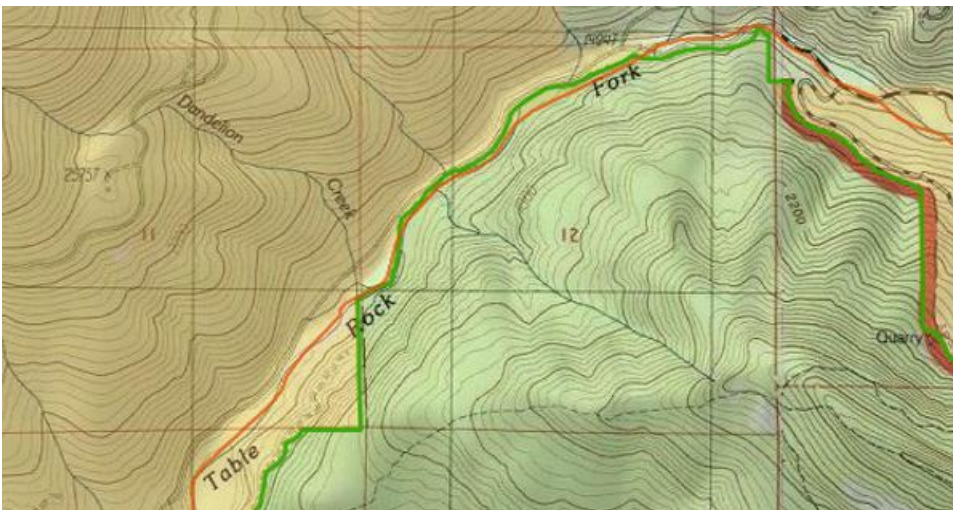


Table Mountain Wilderness (NV)



Mosquito Creek has a moderate density restored population of Lahontan cutthroats, with brookies browns and rainbows present as well. (USF&WS and NV F&W 2009, p. 23; TU LCT 2020)

Table Rock Wilderness (OR)



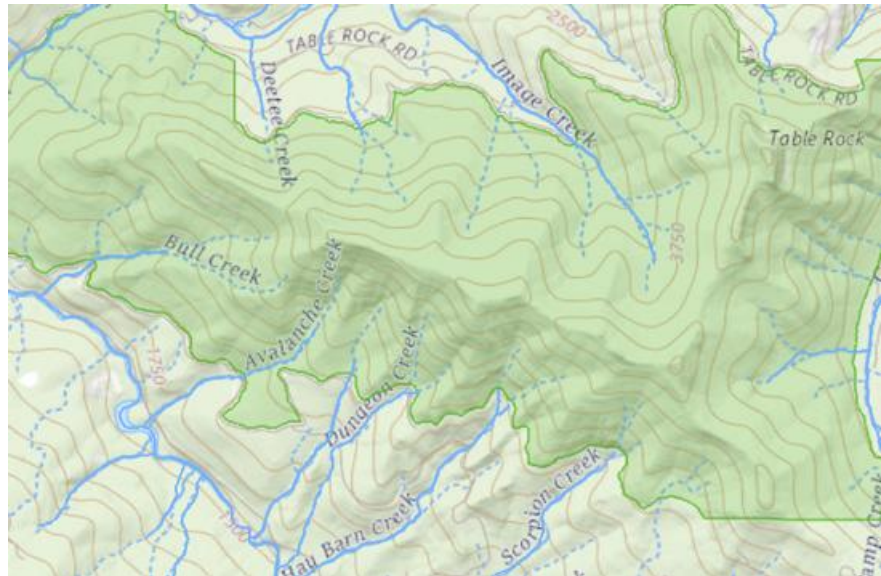
There is critical habitat for chinook salmon in Table Rock Fork of the Molalla River as it flows along the northwestern boundary of the wilderness. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Not exactly a chinook, but in late Jul 2025 I caught a few of these rainbows in the Table Rock Fork (Number 89)



Table Rock Wilderness (OR)

While there aren't really long streams within the wilderness, most of the short streams radiating away from the mountain host coastal cutthroats. (StreamNet 2019)

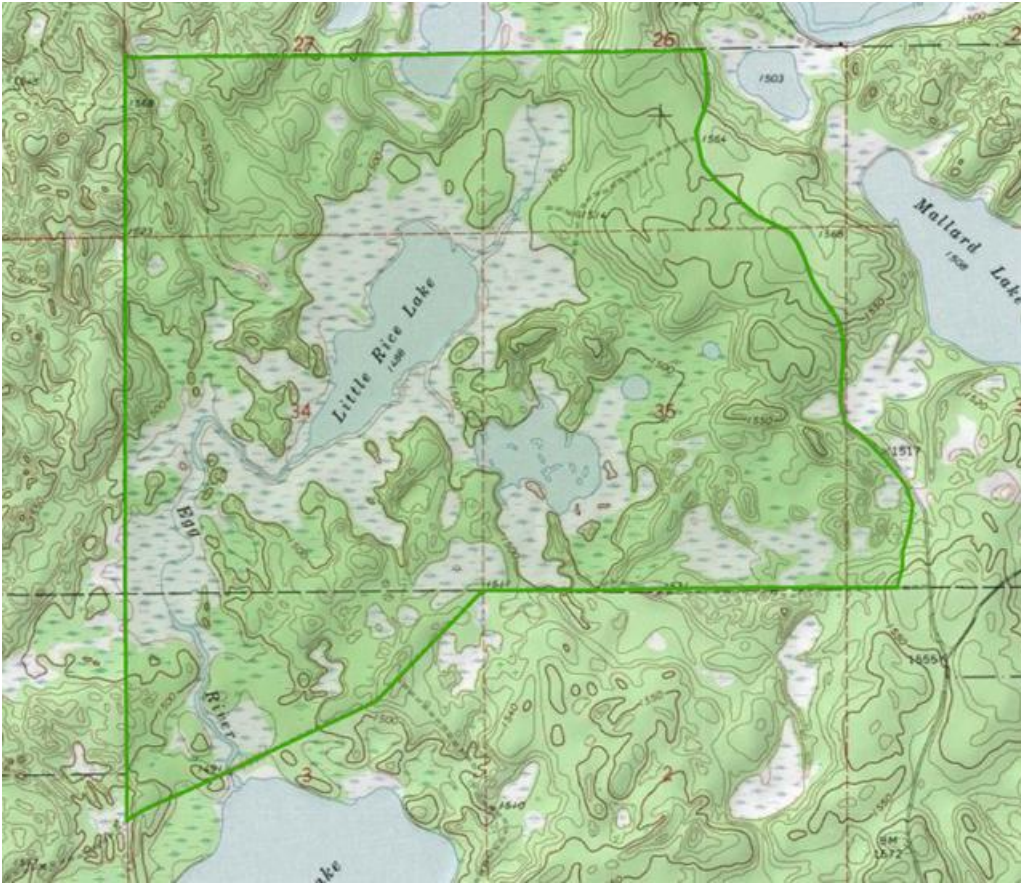


Tamarac Wilderness (MN)

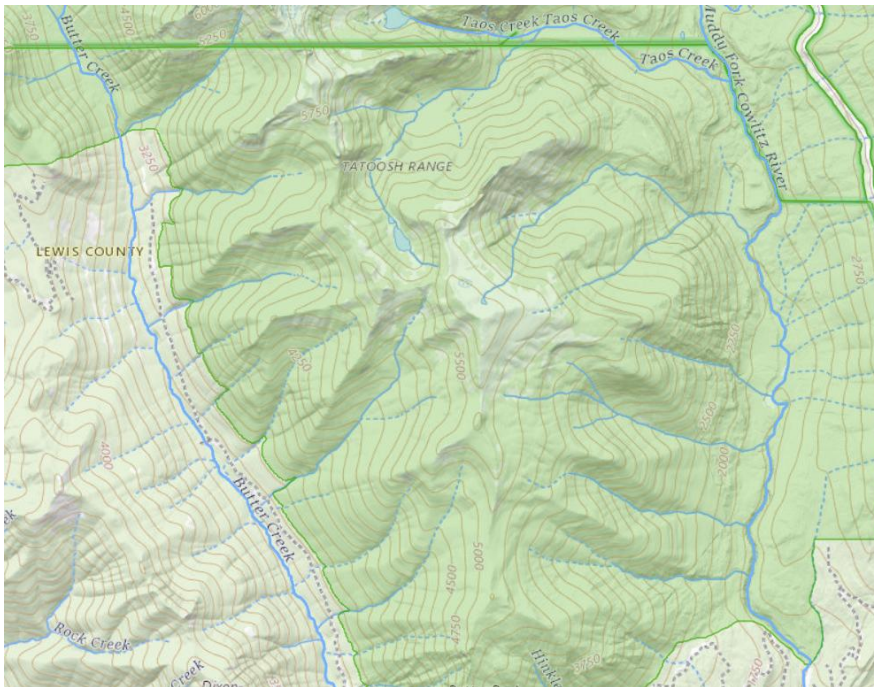


South unit of the wilderness (to the left) consists of islands in Tamarac Lake. Northern unit (below) consists of forested hills, lakes and marsh. Surface waters hold 37 different species of fish including walleye; yellow perch; black crappie; largemouth bass; bluegill; pumpkinseed; rock bass; yellow, black and brown bullhead; white sucker; northern pike; bowfin; and shiners, dace, chubs, darters and other minnow species. (USF&WS, 2010)

Tamarac Wilderness (MN)



Tatoosh Wilderness (WA)



There is critical habitat for steelhead, coho salmon and chinook salmon in Muddy Fork Cowlitz River. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Butter Creek in the western part of the wilderness holds rainbow trout. The entire length of Muddy Fork Cowlitz River within the wilderness holds rainbows as well as coast cutthroat and brook trout. (StreamNet 2019)

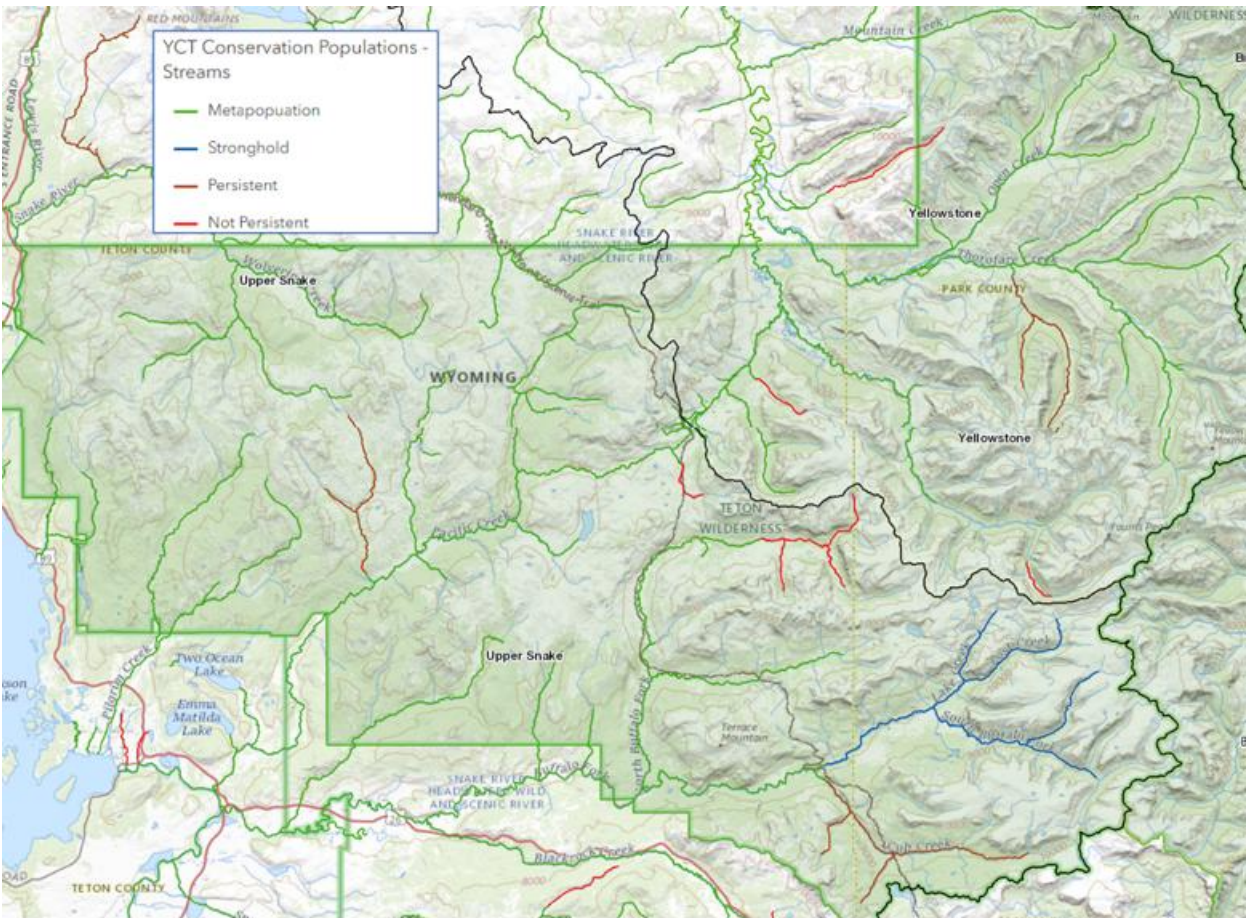
The Climate Shield predictive model shows high probability of bull trout in Muddy Fork Cowlitz River system in eastern part of wilderness. (USDA Climate Shield 2020)

Tebenkof Bay Wilderness (AK)

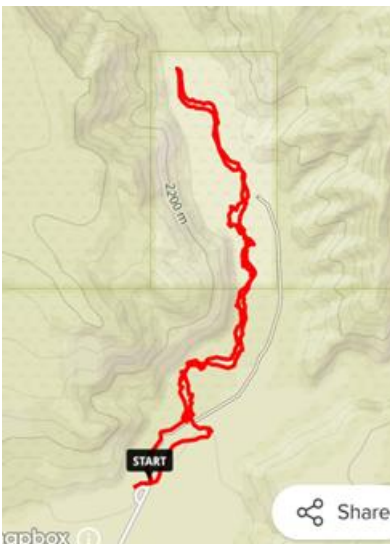


Coho and cutthroat occur in the streams feeding the north side of Tebenkof Bay and Elena Bay, including Happy Cove Creek. Alecks Creek has coho, cutthroat and Dolly Varden throughout, with chum, sockeye and steelhead further down in the system. Tributaries feeding the south arm of Elena Bay, including Sample Creek, hold coho, chum and pink salmon as well as cutthroats and Dolly Vardens. Goose Trap Creek and other tributaries feeding into Petrof Bay in the southern part of the wilderness hold the same species plus steelhead. (ADF&G CUTTHROAT 2016)

Teton Wilderness (WY)



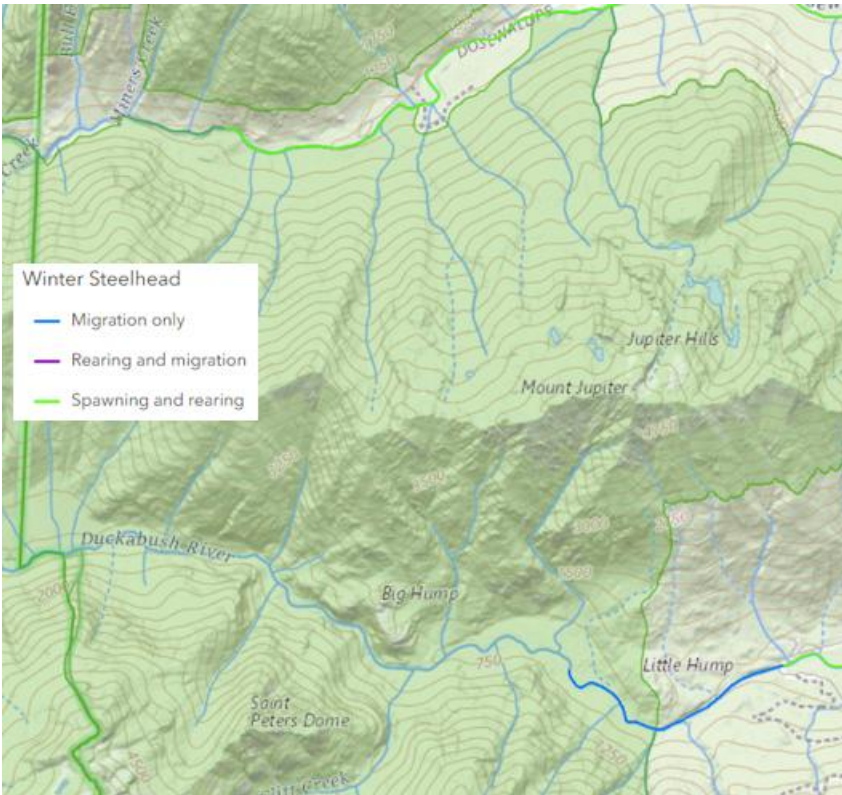
There are Yellowstone cutthroats in Pilgrim Creek, Pacific Creek and upper Snake River in the western part of the Wilderness. More populations occur throughout the eastern portion of the wilderness. Core conservation populations reside in all drainages, most are genetically pure. A bit of a mother lode. (Endicott, Nelson et al 2016; TU YCT 2019)



I had a slightly frustrating afternoon on July 31, 2020. The trailhead wasn't as close to the wilderness as the map showed; I hiked what I thought was far enough, right up the bed of Pilgrim Creek, but the Suunto told me after the fact that I ended up 200 yards shy of the Wilderness boundary. Still I caught a bunch of Yellowstone cutthroats, I know they are there.

Then as I hiked out, again down the stream bed as the sun was setting, I was greeted at the parking lot by two families with lawn chairs and coolers looking out over a fairly barren looking creek floodplain, staring right at me with binoculars. At first I thought they were gathered to see the world-class fly fisherman emerge after a hard afternoon of fighting trout. Soon, though, I came to realize that I was hiking back out at sunset right through the middle of a place that tourists go to every night to see the bears come out and feed. I still choose to believe the loud rustling I heard in the bushes next to me a quarter mile up the creek was a deer...

The Brothers Wilderness (WA)

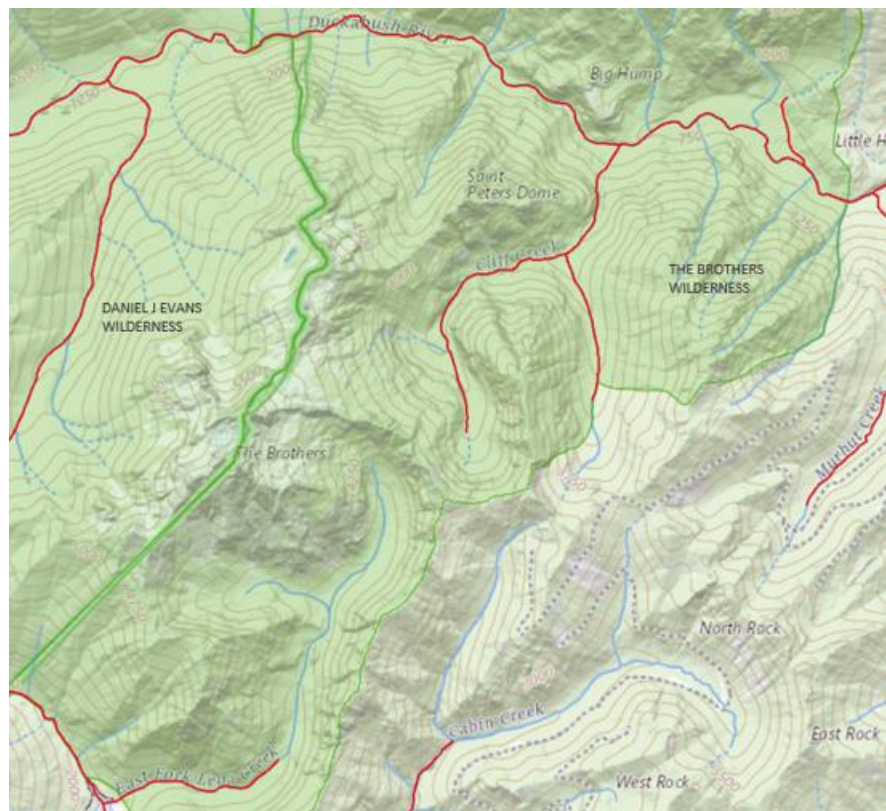


Spring chinook, coho salmon, and winter and summer steelhead make it into the lower wilderness reaches of the Duckabush River. (StreamNet 2019)



As one might expect, coastal cutthroats and rainbows are more widespread than the salmons, occupying the length of the Duckabush and its major tributaries, as well as the East Fork Lena Creek in the southern part of the wilderness. (StreamNet 2019)

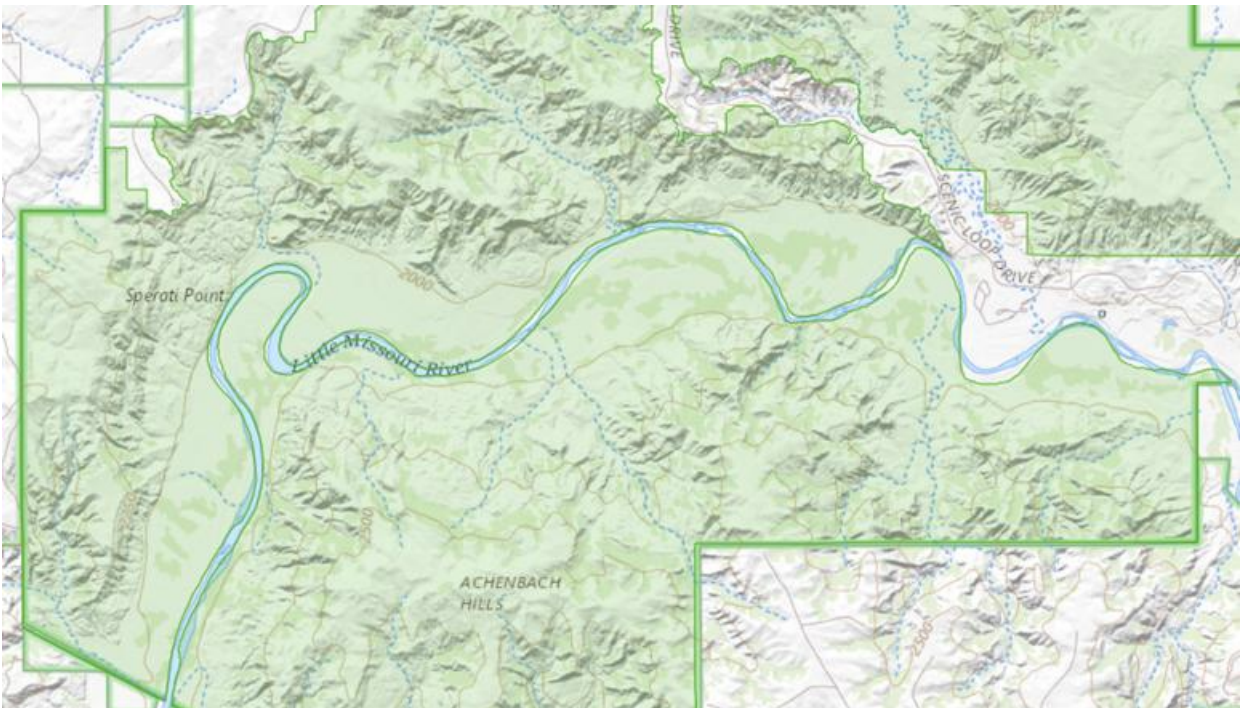
Climate Shield predictive model shows high probability of bull trout in the upper reaches of the Duckabush River. (USDA Climate Shield 2020)



Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness (ND)



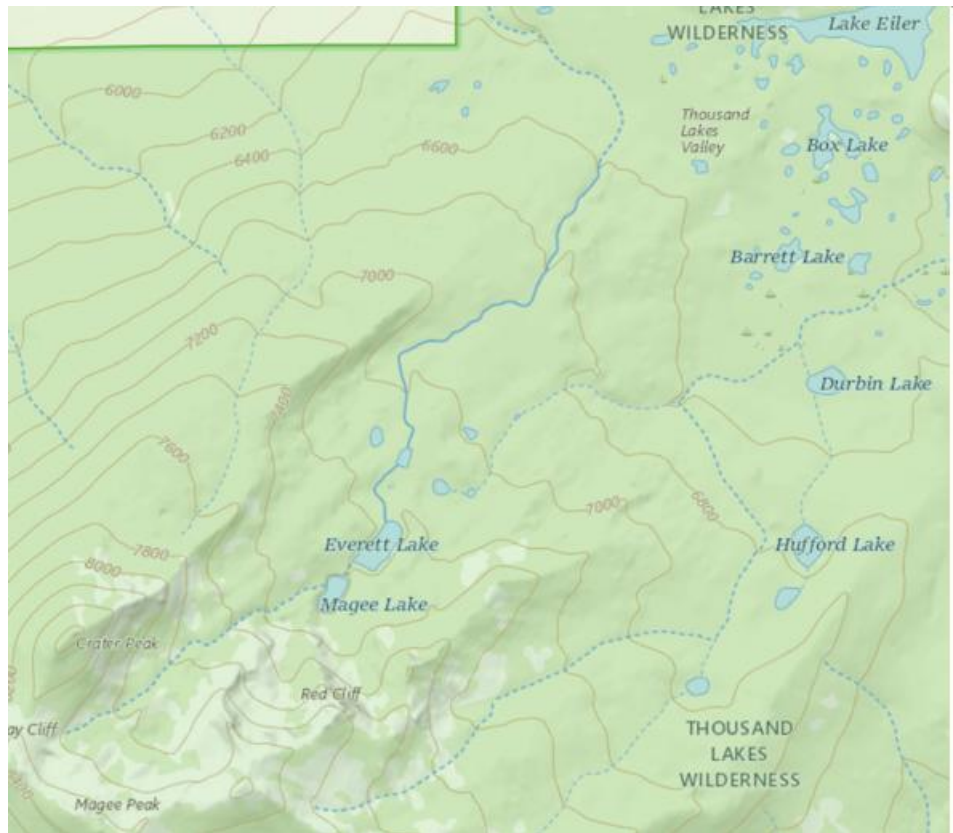
The Little Missouri River flows through a cherry-stem in the northern unit of the wilderness (below), and flows along the edge of the southern unit (left). There are tributaries in each of the units, although it appears most are intermittent at best. The Park Service says there are several fish occurring in the Park, many are likely in the Little Missouri and can at least be caught from the wilderness. Fish include white sucker, shorthead redhorse, several minnows and shiners, redbellied dace, longnose dace, bluegill, green sunfish, sauger and black bullhead. (NPS 2023 NPSpecies)



Thousand Lakes Wilderness (CA)

Everett Lake and Magee Lake are high up in elevation and tough to get to, but they have rainbow trout, as well as the Magee Lake outlet creek. The lower elevation creeks are easier to access and also have fish. (Norcalfishreport.com, 2022)

I made a long, steady uphill trudge to Lake Eiler in July 2026, but didn't catch anything. I think I'm going to make a longer trudge the next time to get to Everett and Magee.

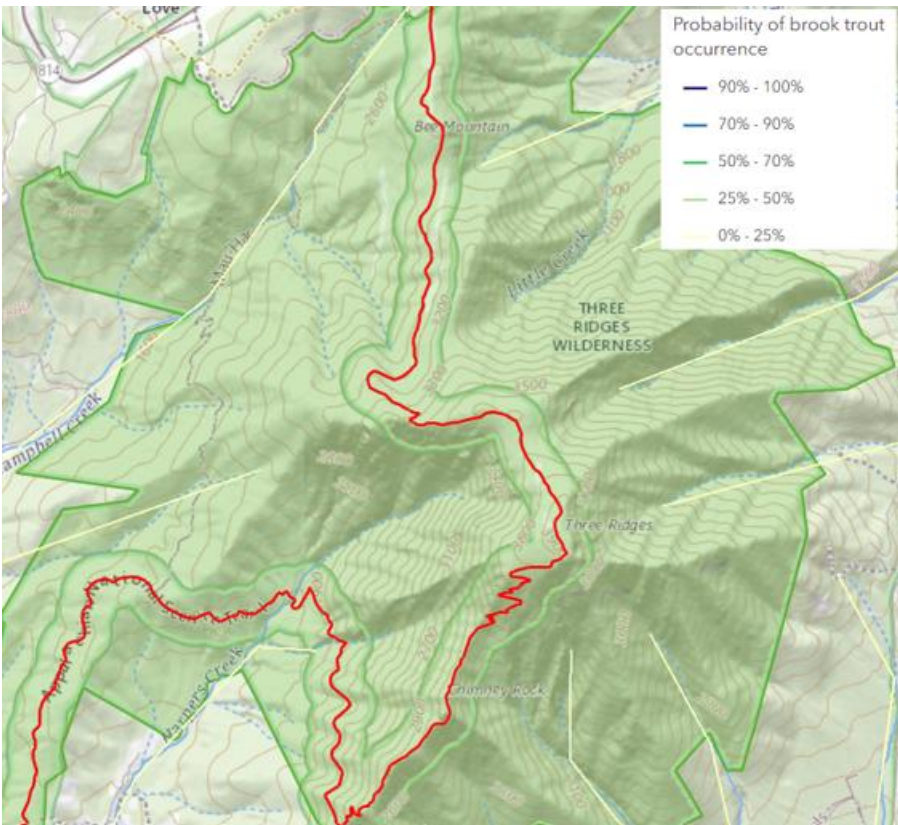


Three Arch Rocks Wilderness (OR)



The wilderness is a group of rocks with the surrounding water. Being on the rocks is unauthorized, but there's plenty of water. According to the charts, you can get into the wilderness on a negative low tide without getting your chest wet. The only record I've seen, though, is of China rockfish. (iNaturalist 2022)

Three Ridges Wilderness (VA)

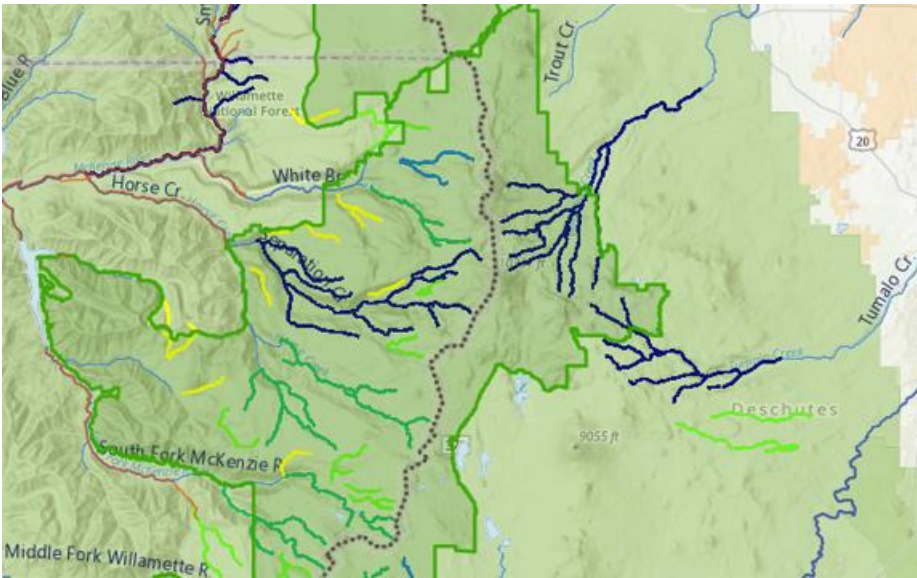


There is allegedly a stronghold population of brook trout in Campbell's Creek and Harper's Creek, south-flowing tributaries of the Tye River in the James River drainage. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range)

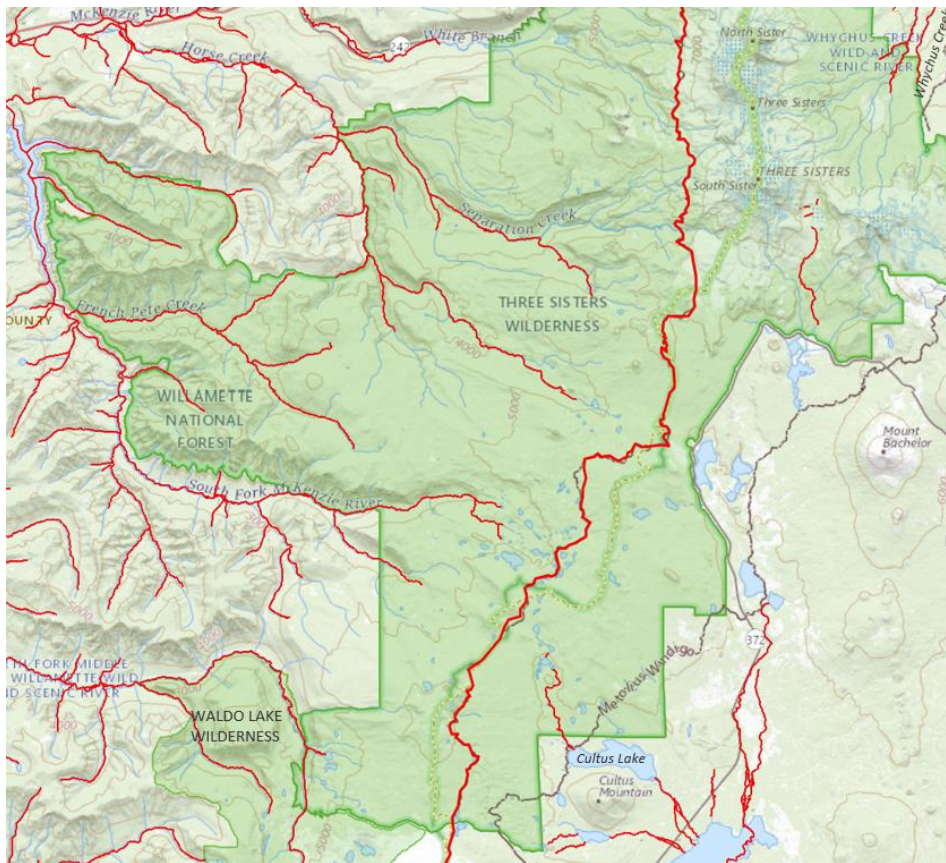
Cathie and I hiked from the Tye River to the Harper's Creek shelter on the Appalachian Trail in April, 2023. Flow was great, it looked very fishy, but I didn't find anything fishing Harper's Creek up and downstream of the trail crossing. I didn't know it at the time, but the brook trout probabilities are pretty low throughout the wilderness, and are apparently zero at the stretch of Harpers Creek, where it crosses the Appalachian Trail, that Cathie and I were at. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)



Three Sisters Wilderness (OR)



Climate Shield predictive model shows high probability of bull trout in Separation Creek system, tributary to Horse Creek which is tributary to Mackenzie River; and in Tumalo Creek and Squaw Creek systems, tributary to the Deschutes. (USDA Climate Shield 2020)

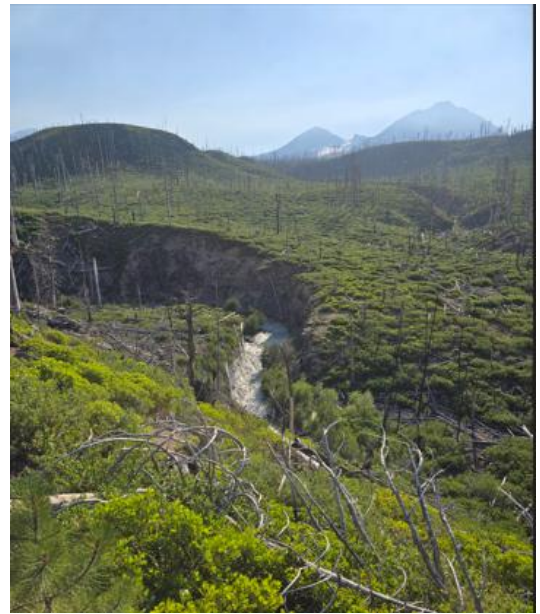


There are moderate populations of redband trout in Cultus Creek, flowing into Cultus Lake, in the southern part of wilderness; and in upper tributaries of Whychus Creek at the base of the Sisters. (Mayfield)

Most of the streams flowing west off of the divide hold coastal cutthroat trout. (StreamNet 2019)

Three Sisters Wilderness (OR)

In July 2026 I hiked up Whychus Creek and caught some of those redbands. (Number 114)

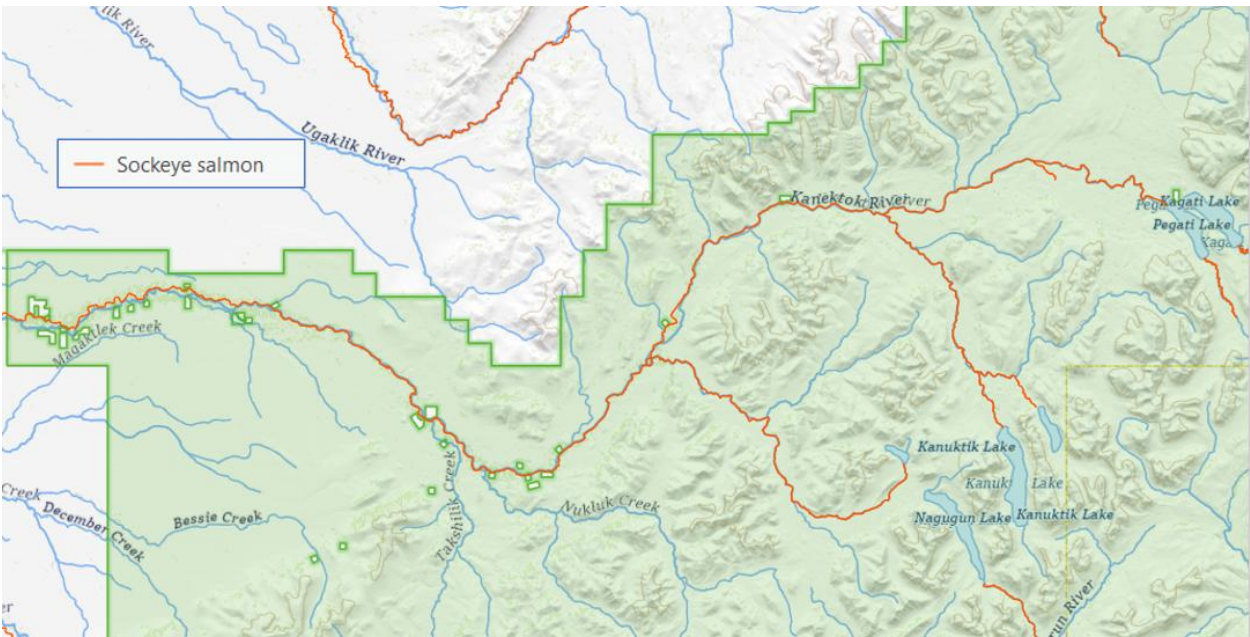


Thunder Ridge Wilderness (VA)



The good news: There is a persistent population of brook trout in East Fork Elk Creek, which flows north into the James River. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range) The bad news: Chances of finding any fish from this population are slim. Chances of finding brookies in all the other streams flowing north off of Thunder Ridge are pretty slim, too. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

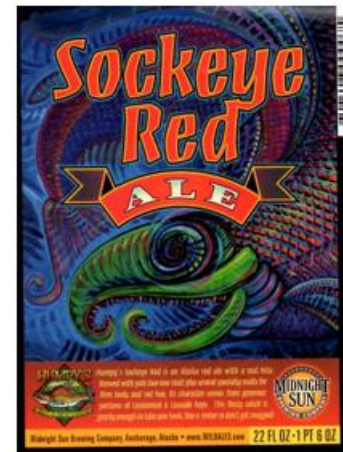
Togiak Wilderness (AK)



In the northern part of the wilderness, an 11-day float on the Kanektok River beginning at Pegati Lake targeted chinook salmon. (NWFF Jan-Feb 2015, p 64) Another seven-day float on the Kanektok in June starting from Kagati Lake targeted big rainbow trout together with Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, chum salmon, sockeye salmon and pink salmon. (NWFF May-Jun 2016, p. 48)

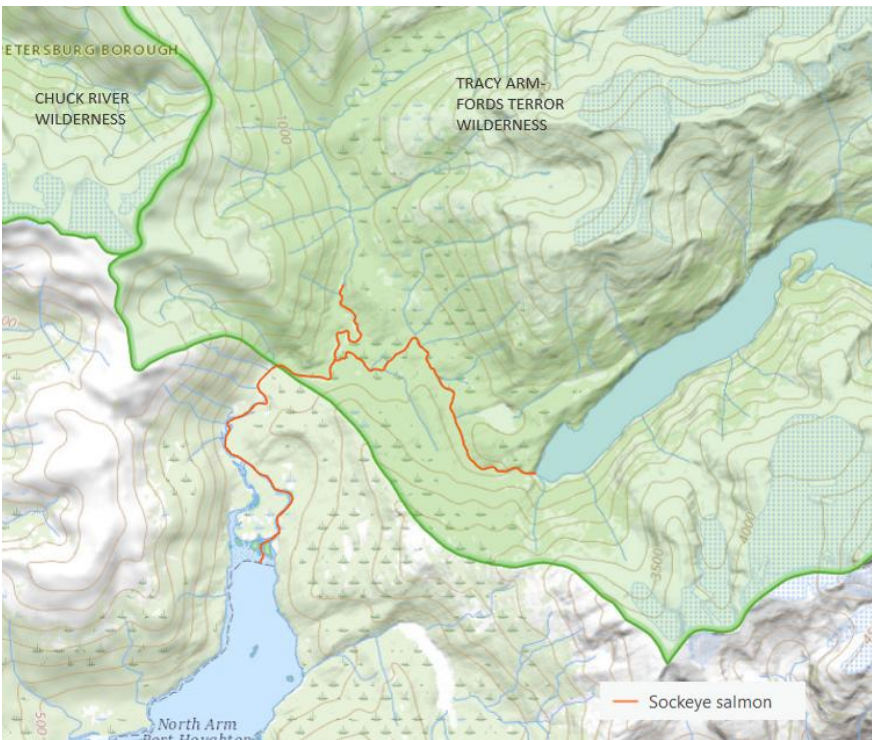


In the southeastern part of the wilderness the Togiak River descends 48 miles to the coast from Togiak Lake within the wilderness. All five species of Pacific salmon, arctic char, Dolly Varden and egg and flesh eating rainbows are all available. (NWFF Mar-Apr 2018, p. 22)



Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness (AK)

I've been all the way up to the end of Tracy Arm but didn't manage to get off the boat and step into the wilderness. Judging from the number of fish-eating birds and seals there must be lots of near-shore fish, likely including rockfish, lingcod and greenlings. Inside the arm there are records of ronquil and Pacific lump sucker (iNaturalist 2023). I'm sure some of these are accessible from the shoreline within the wilderness, or some may even make it up some of the short streams that drain into the fjord. There is also a run of pink salmon in a sizeable stream entering Tracy Arm on the north shore, although there doesn't seem to be much anything else in the area in the way of salmon. (ADFG 2023)



In the southwestern corner of the wilderness, well away from Tracy Arm, the North Branch Port Houghton has runs of pink, coho, chum and sockeye salmon and Dolly Varden char. (ADFG 2023)

Trapper Creek Wilderness (WA)

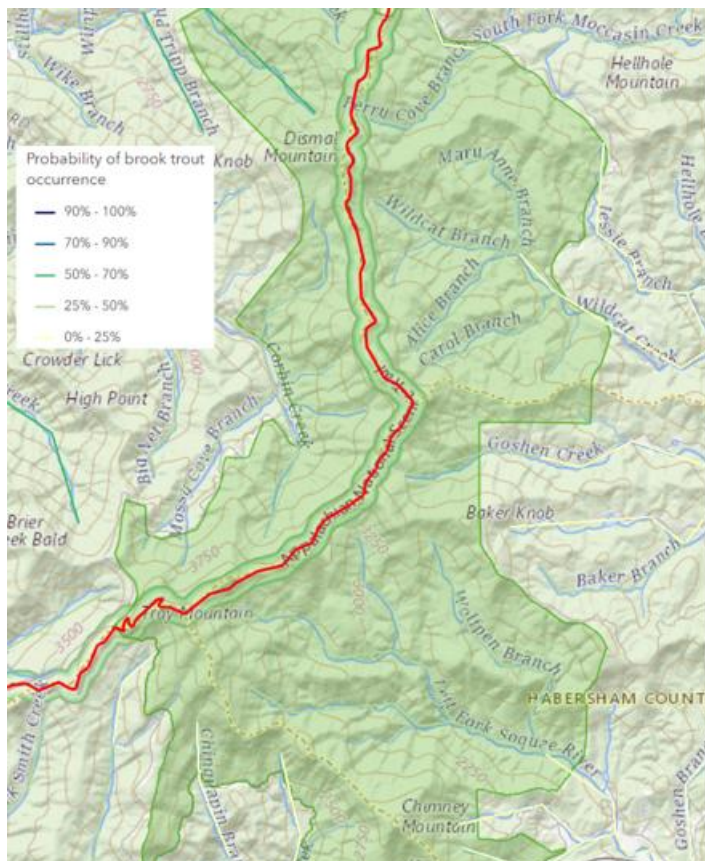


Part of the Wind River (WA) system, Trapper Creek and tributaries hold rainbows and winter and summer run steelhead. Coho salmon make it into the main creek. (StreamNet 2019)

There is critical habitat for steelhead in Trapper Creek. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

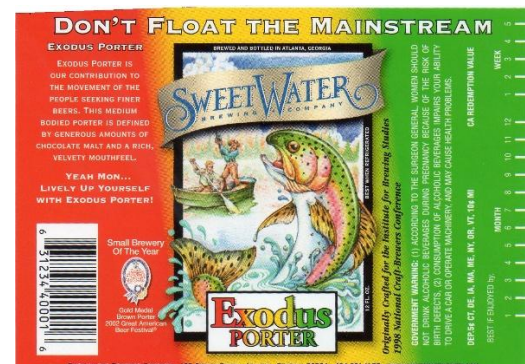


Tray Mountain Wilderness (GA)



There are supposedly populations of brook trout in South Fork Moccasin Creek and Mary Anne Branch Wildcat Creek, flowing to Tallulah River impoundment Lake Burton. Also in Left Fork Soquee River and Goshen Creek, tributary of Right Fork Soquee River; Soquee River flows into the Chattahoochee River. (TU 2019, Southern Appalachian brook trout)

The brook trout population model suggests low to moderate probabilities, it may be more likely to find rainbows here. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)



Trinity Alps Wilderness (CA)



Rainbow trout occur in Stuart Fork Trinity River, with a parallel trail for the whole length, and a 4500-foot climb to Emerald Lake; there are rainbows and brookies in Caribou Lake and Snowslide Lake; rainbows, brookies and browns in Canyon Creek and Canyon Creek Lakes. Brook trout occupy Grizzly Lake, with a 600-foot waterfalls at the lake outlet. (NWFF Sep-Oct 2017, p. 54)

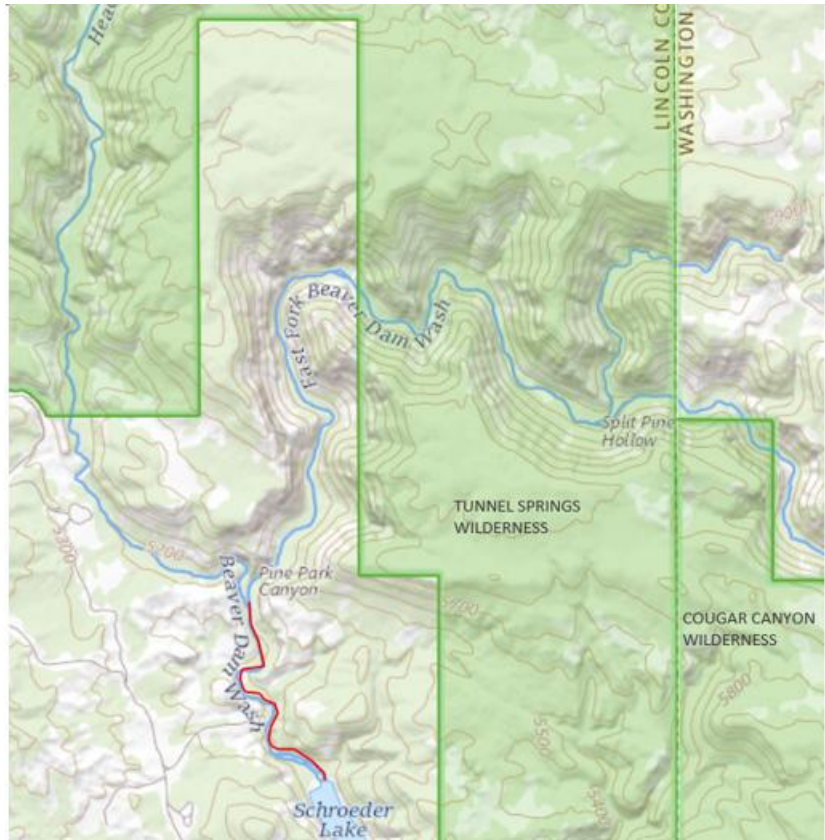
In July 2025 I checked out the Coffee Creek cherrystem, finding that it had been in the middle of the 183,000-acre Haypress-Summer Fire, the largest part of the River Complex Fire in 2021. I camped among the charred picnic tables in what used to be Goldfield Campground, then drove in the morning until I found green trees. That put me at North Fork Coffee Creek. The creek was beautiful but I found no fish. I did find two bears.



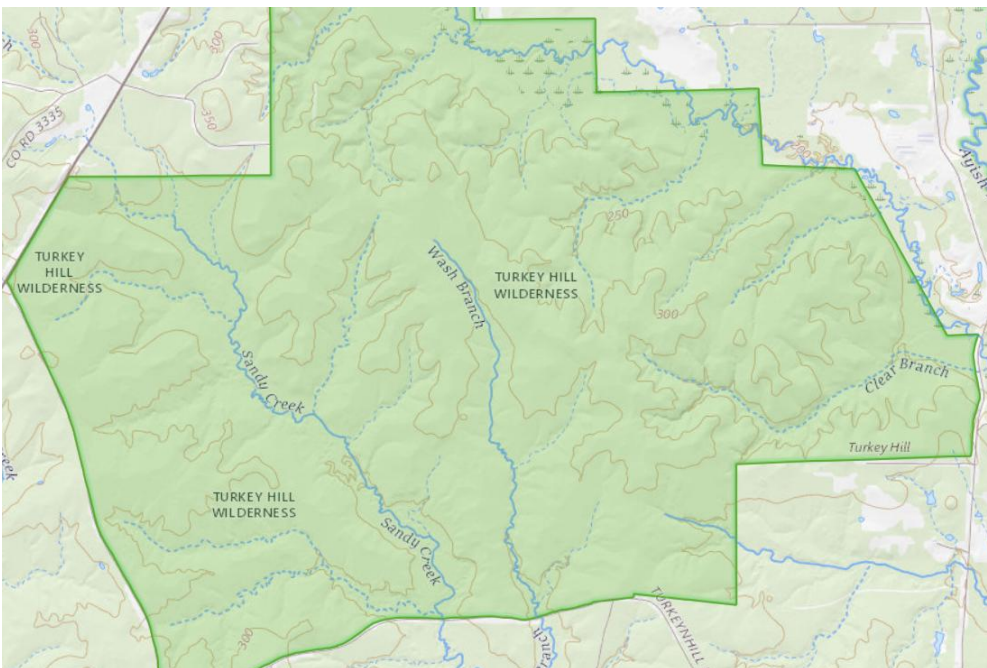
I'm actually a little amazed that I got pictures...

Tunnel Spring Wilderness (NV)

Fish, such as various minnows (Cyprinidae family), may be found in the perennial streams within wilderness. The Nevada Department of Wildlife stocks Beaver Dam Wash, which runs through Tunnel Spring Wilderness, with rainbow trout. (US Dept of Interior, BLM, Nevada 2010) As an optimist, I have to think some of those fish make it up to and through the perennial stretches of the wash, maybe even all the way to Cougar Canyon Wilderness. I'm going to have to bushwack 3.5 miles up the bottom of the canyon to find out. Sometimes it's hard work being an optimist...



Turkey Hill Wilderness (TX)



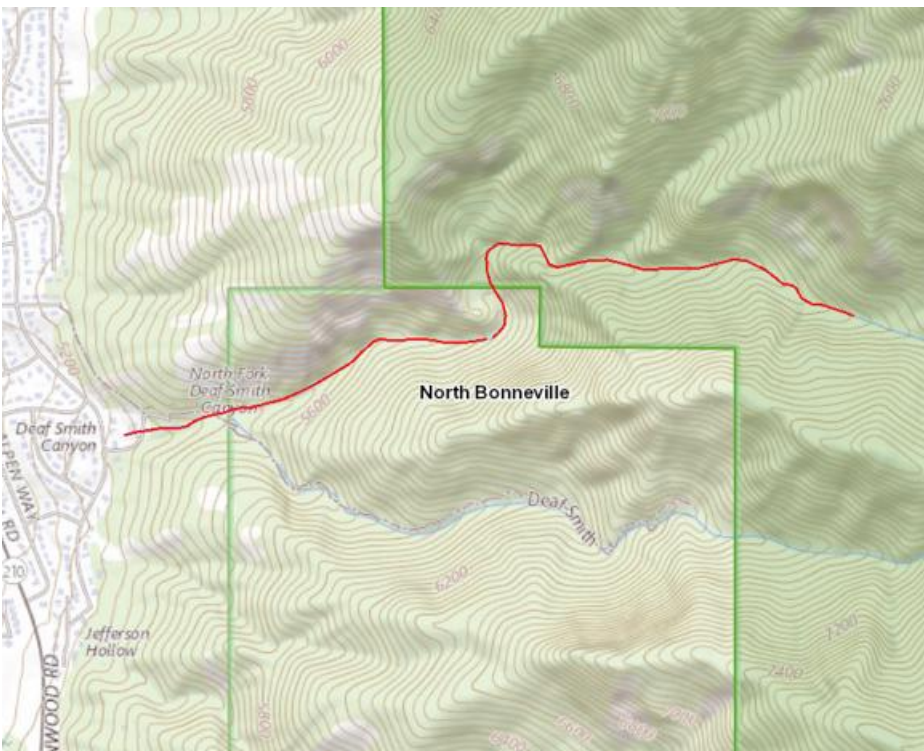
I haven't seen specific records of fish here yet, but there are perennial streams and nearby records of bluegill, western mosquitofish, warmouth and others. (iNaturalist 2023)

Tuxedni Wilderness (AK)



The wilderness consists primarily of Chisik Island, with the boundary at the waterline. (USF&WS 1988 Alaska Maritime NWR) Nearshore fishes like sand lance and capelin should be available from the island.

Twin Peaks Wilderness (UT)



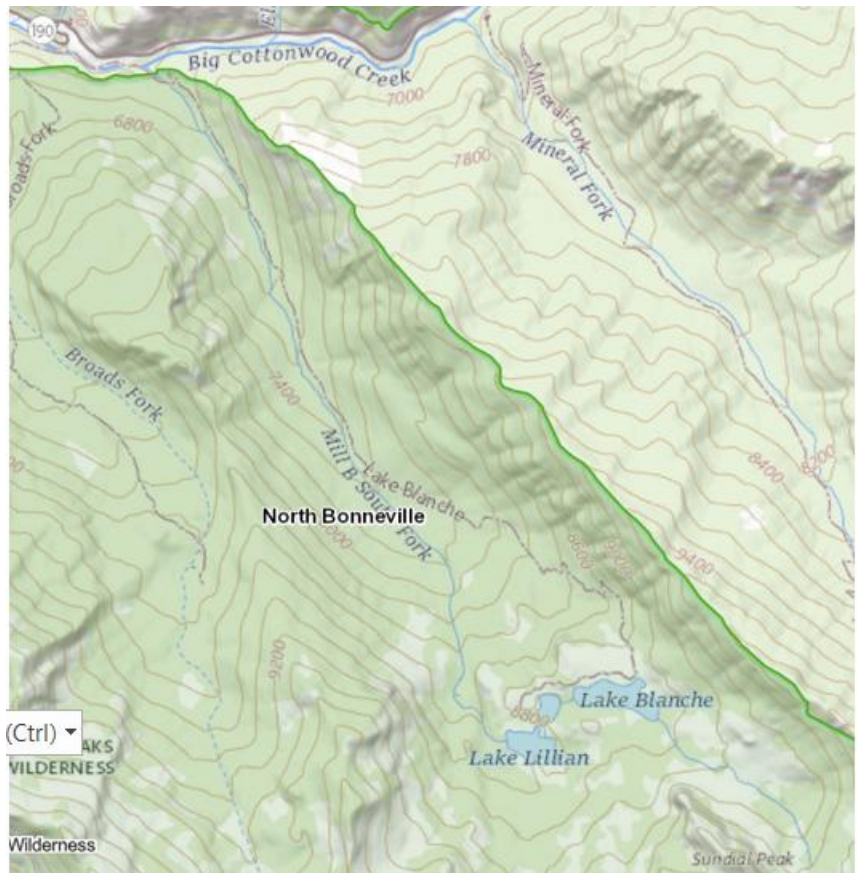
There is a genetically unaltered resident population of Bonneville cutthroats in North Fork Deaf Smith Canyon. (TU BCT, 2019) These trout can be accessed from a trail that starts in a subdivision in a Salt Lake City suburb.

Twin Peaks Wilderness (UT)

There are records of brook trout in Lake Blanche in the northeastern part of wilderness, (iNaturalist 2022) about a 3.5 mile hike from the highway at Big Cottonwood Creek. I'd be surprised if there weren't trout in Mill B Creek alongside the trail on the way in as well.



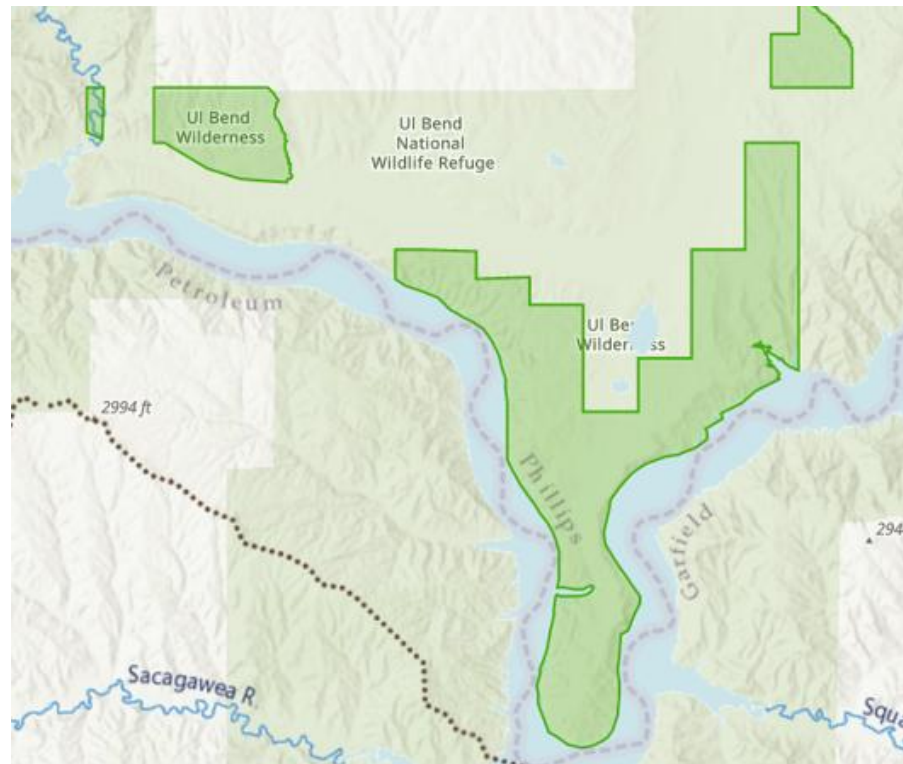
The brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



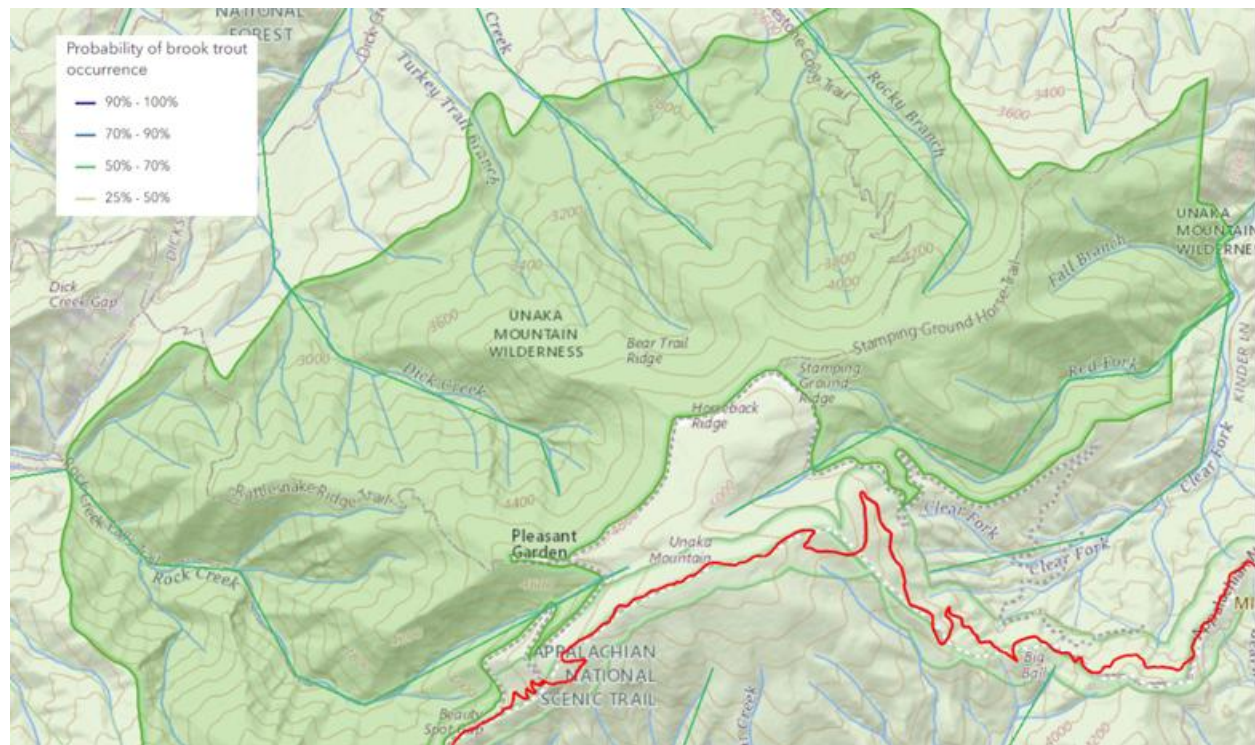
In June 2025 it sure looked like there should be fish in Mill B South Fork. I stopped at a great looking pool, pull the fly rod from the backpack, and... realized that the lanyard with the flies was back in the truck. A fitting end to a frustrating day of not quite getting it right in three different Utah wildernesses.

UL Bend Wilderness (MT)

The wilderness includes some inlets of the Missouri River, common species in this stretch of the river include sauger, goldeye, channel catfish, shorthead redhorse and longnose sucker. (USF&WS 2012 Charles M. Russell, p. 101)



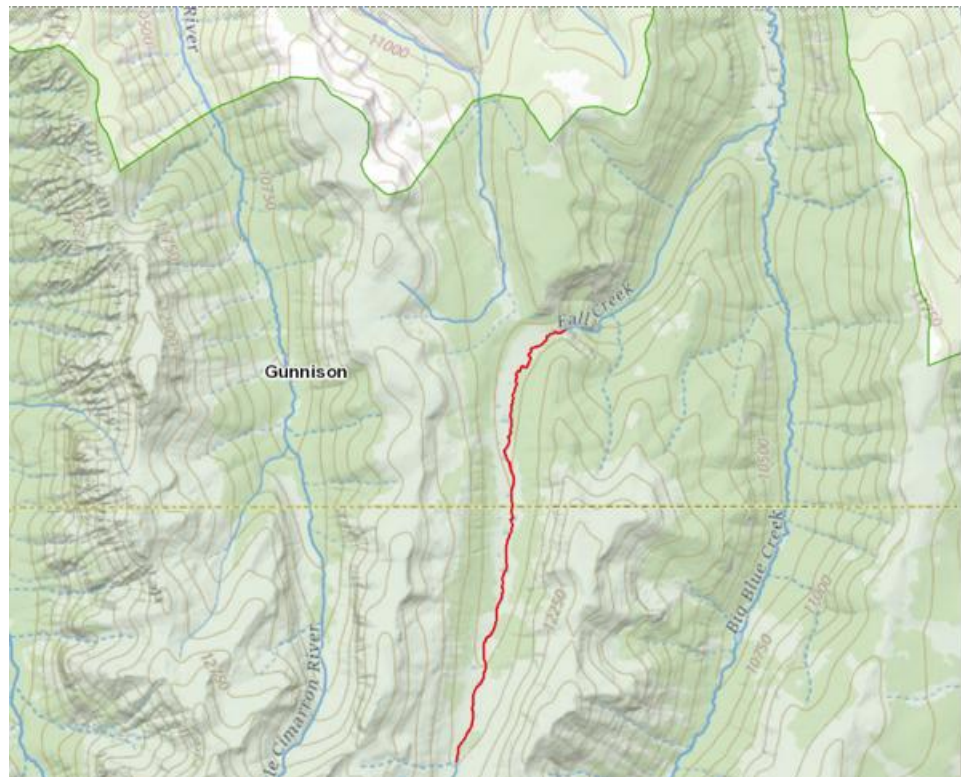
Unaka Mountain Wilderness (TN)



There are populations of brook trout and rainbow trout in Red Fork Indian Creek in the eastern part of wilderness, and in Rock Creek in the western part, both flowing to North Indian Creek and the Nolichucky River. (TU 2019, Southern Appalachian brook trout) Most streams have a moderate probability of containing brook trout. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

Uncomphagre Wilderness (CO)

A 90% pure population of Colorado cutthroats occupies Fall Creek, an upper tributary of Big Blue Creek, tributary of Gunnison River. (Hirsch et al 2013; TU CRCT 2019)



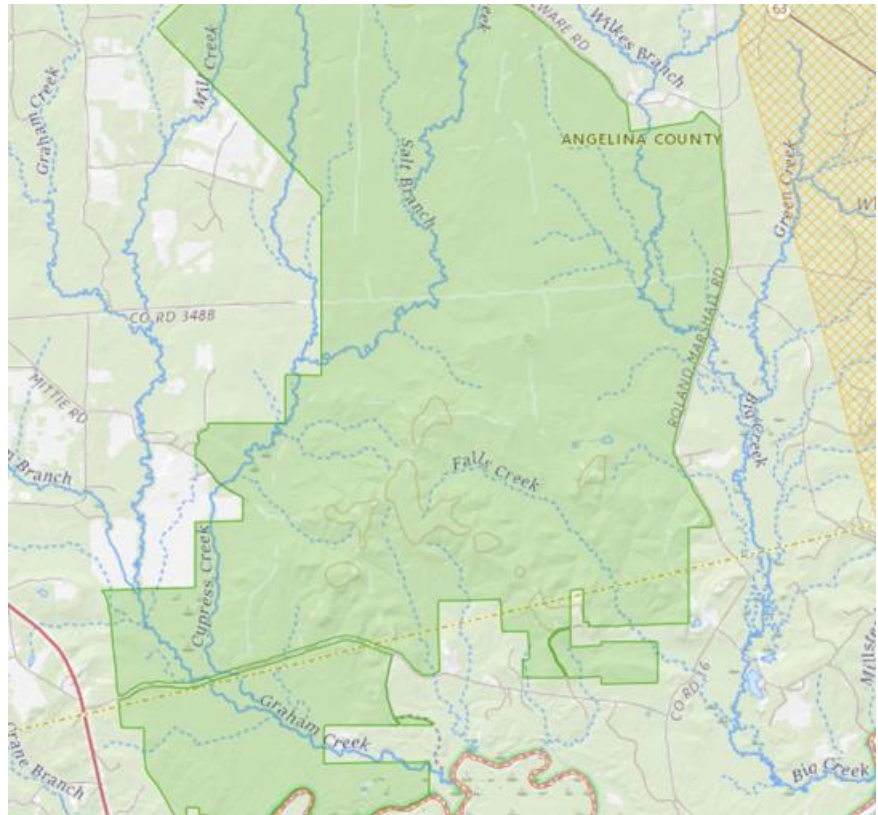
Unimak Wilderness (AK)



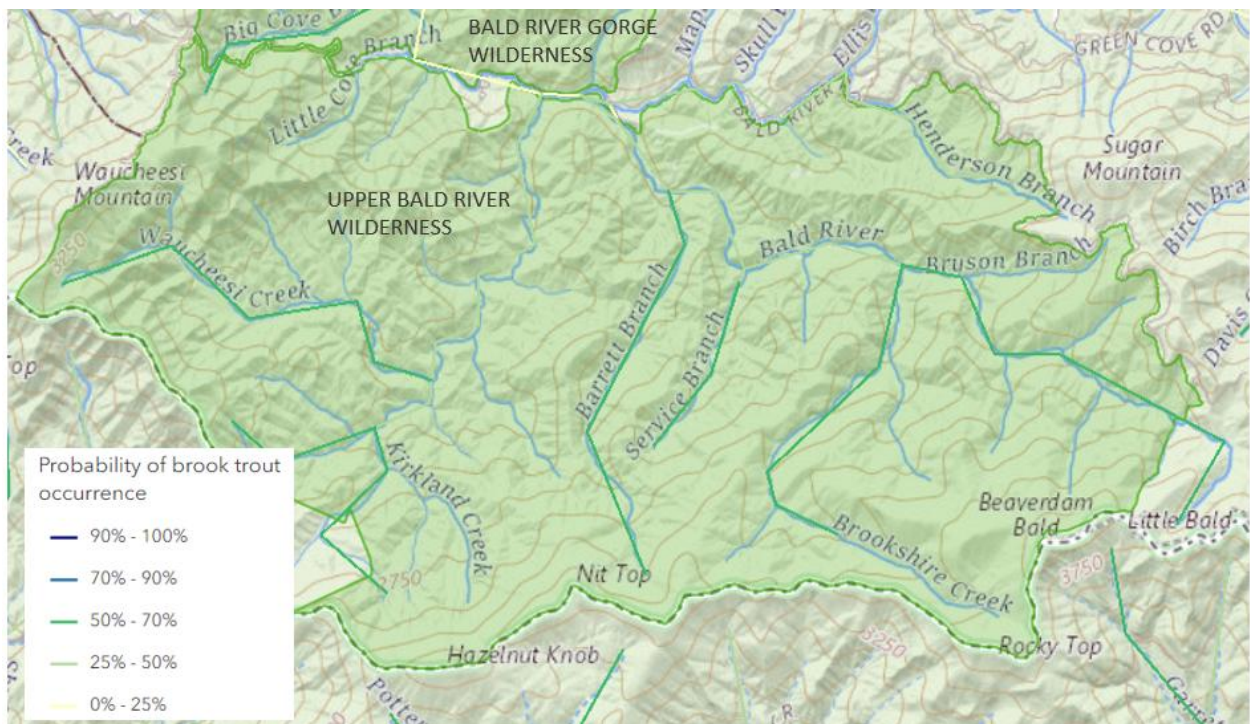
16 streams on the island host runs of pink, sockeye, coho and chum salmon. Urilia Bay on the north coast and Pogromni River flowing north off of the Pogromni Volcano at the western end of the island have good runs. (USF&WS 1988 Alaska Maritime NWR, p. II-160)

Upland Island Wilderness (TX)

I haven't seen any actual records of fish here, but there is plenty of water and nearby records include largemouth and spotted bass, long ear sunfish, madtoms and channel catfish. (iNaturalist 2023)



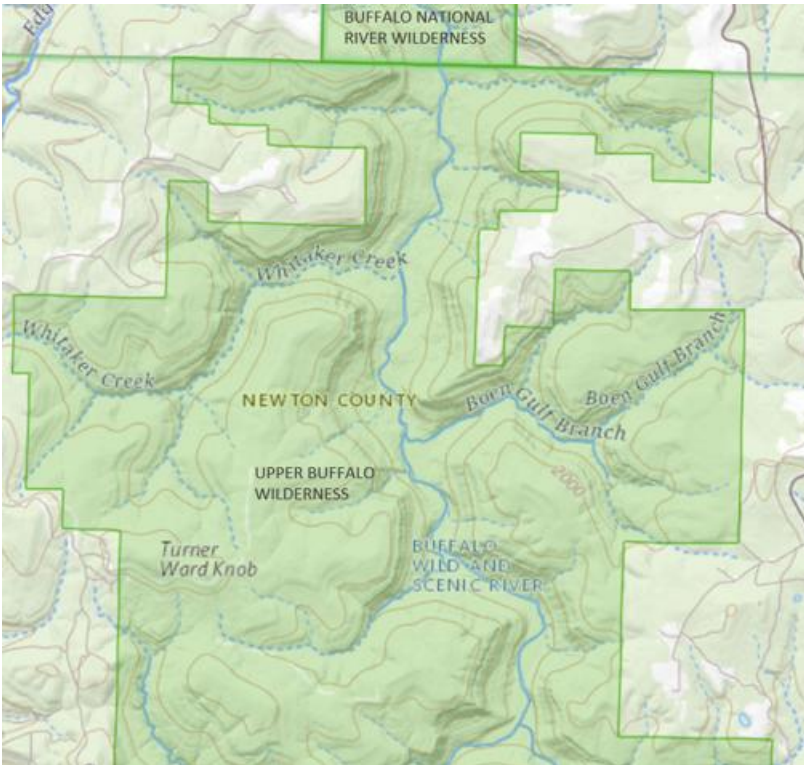
Upper Bald River Wilderness (TN)



There is a redundant population of brook trout, along with brown and rainbow trout in upper Bald River and left-bank tributaries. A population of brook trout also occurs in right bank tributary Henderson Branch in the far northeastern portion of the wilderness. (TU 2019, Southern Appalachian brook trout)

Probability of finding brook trout in most streams is moderate. (DeWeber and Wagner 2014)

Upper Buffalo Wilderness (AR)



The Buffalo River through the length of the wilderness is a designated wild and scenic river. Arkansas manages the stream as a blue-ribbon smallmouth bass fishery. Darters, minnows and sunfish are also abundant. (USDA Forest Service Ozark-St Francis NF, Buffalo 1996)

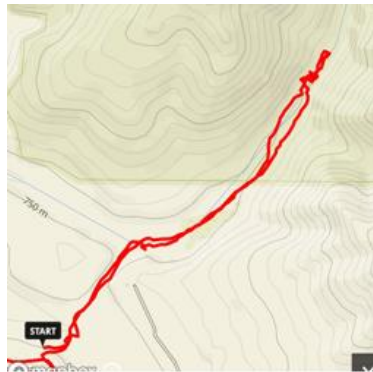
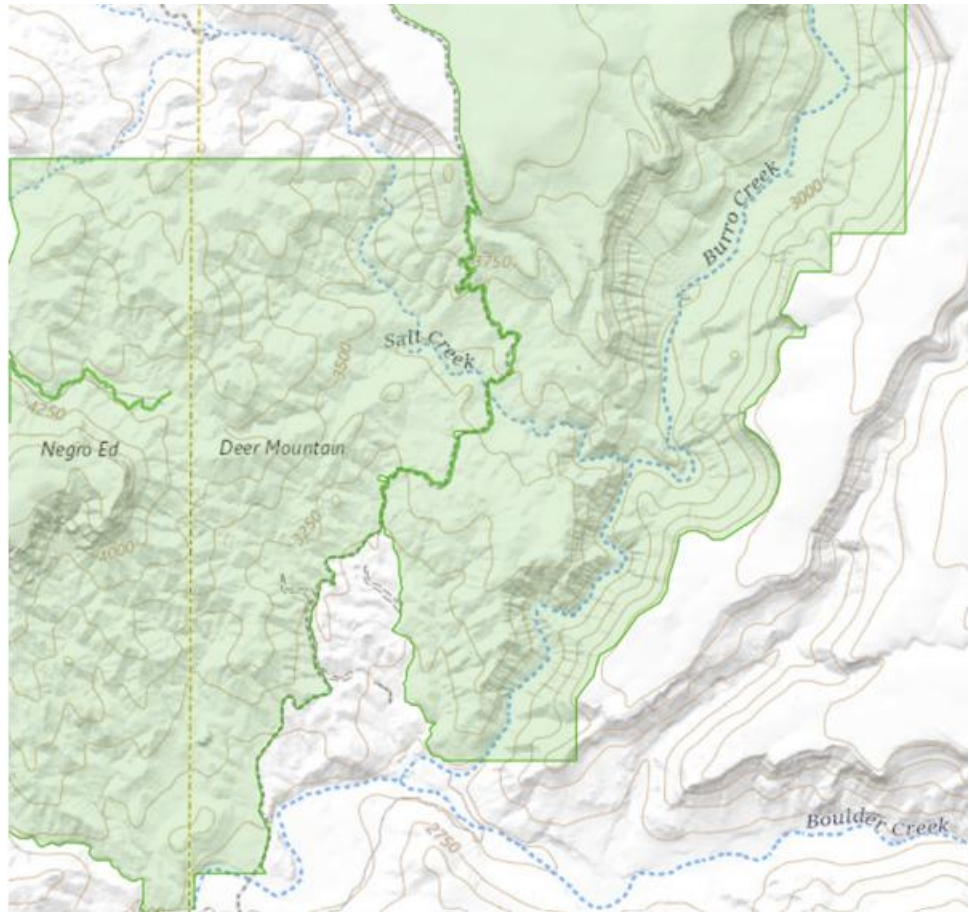
There is a record of slender madtom, a member of the Ictaluridae family, in Buffalo River in the northern portion of the wilderness. (iNaturalist 2022)



Noturus exilis, also called the slender madtom.

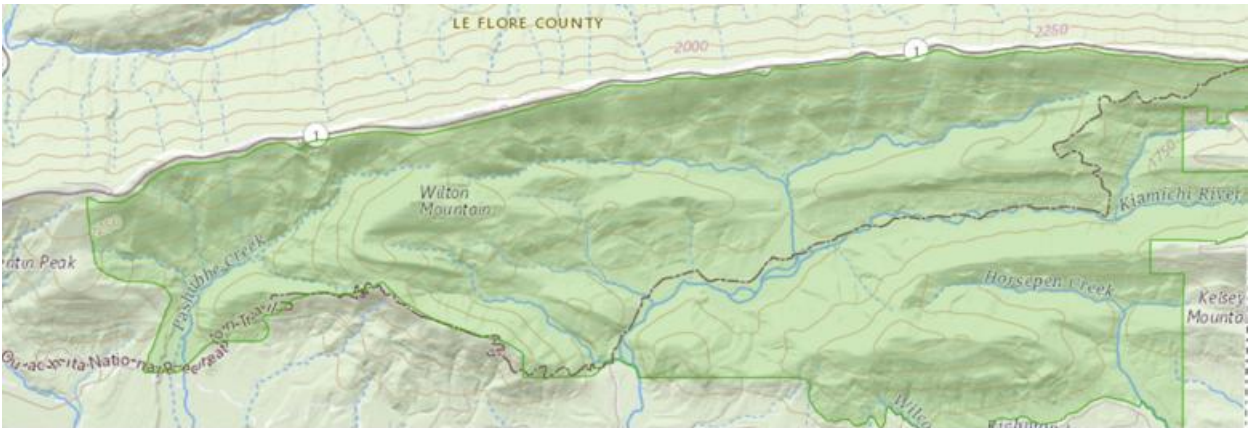
Upper Burro Creek Wilderness (AZ)

There are speckled dace in riffles in the upper reaches of the creek (above wilderness?). Longfin dace are predominant above the Boulder Creek confluence. There are red shiners as well, plus roundtail chub and Gila sucker. Green sunfish just begin to appear at lower end of wilderness. (Kepner 1979)



In October, 2020 I hiked up into the canyon from where the creek flows out of the wilderness. There wasn't any visible flow, it had been reduced to unconnected pools, although some were of pretty good size. Almost every pool had hungry green sunfish in it, a strike on almost every cast. I also caught one roundtail chub in the lowest and largest pool. (Number 30)

Upper Kiamichi Wilderness (OK)

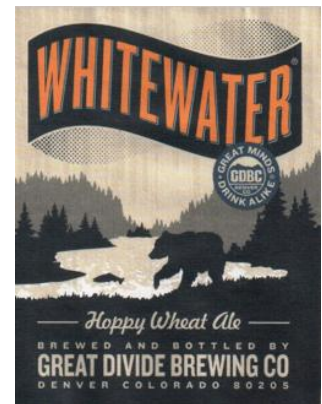


There is a record of spotted bass in the Kiamichi River four miles downstream from the wilderness, chances are good they make it up into the wilderness as well. (iNaturalist 2023)

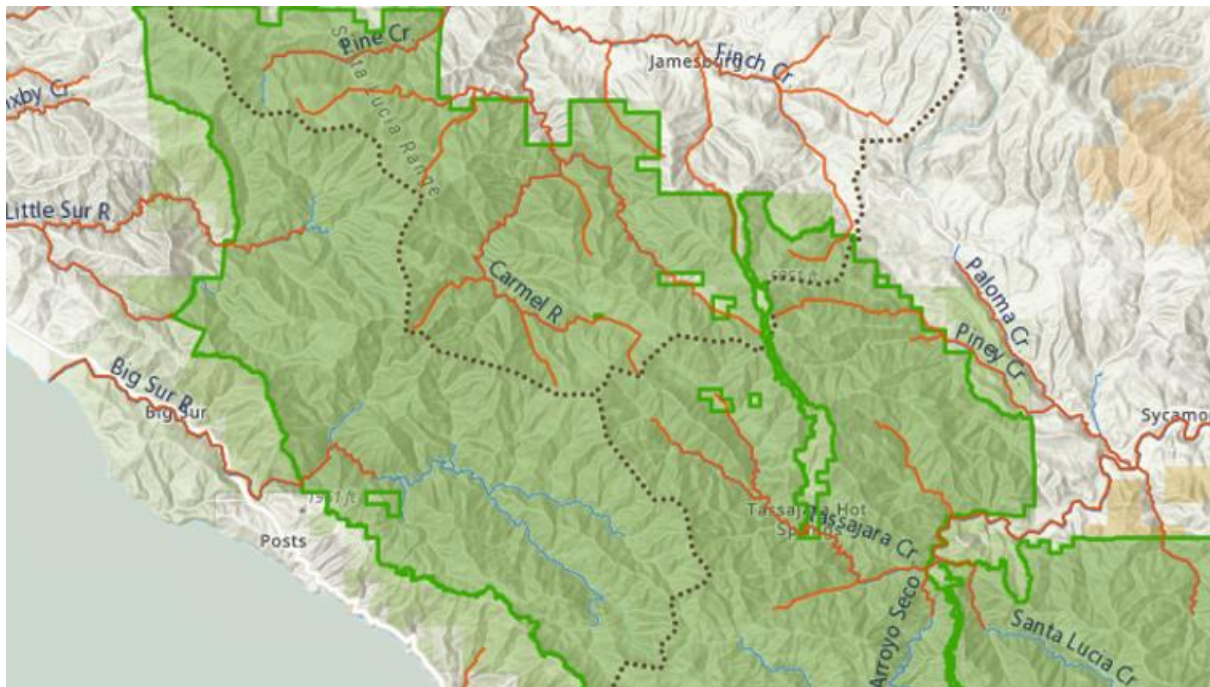
Vasquez Peak Wilderness (CO)



A hybridized population of Colorado cutthroats occurs through the length of Vasquez Creek, a north-flowing Fraser River tributary in the center of the wilderness; also in McQueary Creek, a west flowing Williams Fork tributary. (TU CRCT 2019)



Ventana Wilderness (CA)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in Big Sur River and Little Sur River coming in from the coast; in Carmel River and tributaries entering the wilderness from the northwest; and in the Arroyo Seco headwater system of the Salinas River coming into the wilderness from the northeast (ESRI, USF&WS 2016). There are records in Sacramento sucker and Sacramento pikeminnow in Arroyo Seco (iNaturalist 2024). As of 2024, fishing is allowed in Big Sur River and Arroyo Seco from Memorial Day to Sep 30; and in Little Sur from 4th Saturday of May to Oct 31. All other anadromous streams are closed.



Waldo Lake Wilderness (OR)



There is critical habitat for chinook salmon in North Fork Middle Fork Willamette River. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Waldo Lake Wilderness (OR)

The rest of the wilderness holds coastal cutthroat trout. (StreamNet 2019)

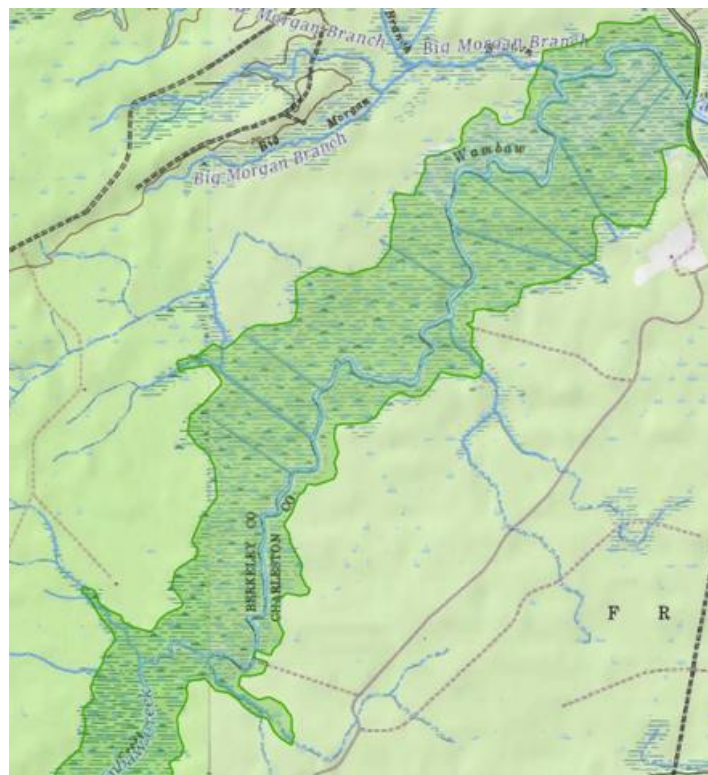


Wambaw Creek Wilderness (SC)

The namesake creek runs right down the middle of the wilderness. While there are no doubt many types of fish in this swampy environment, there are records of blue catfish and longnose gar. (iNaturalist 2023)

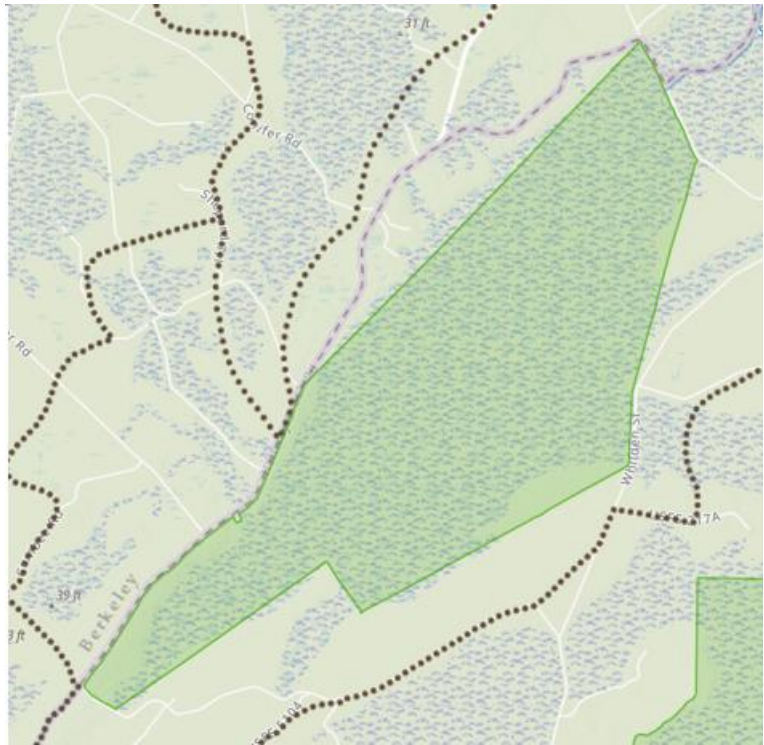
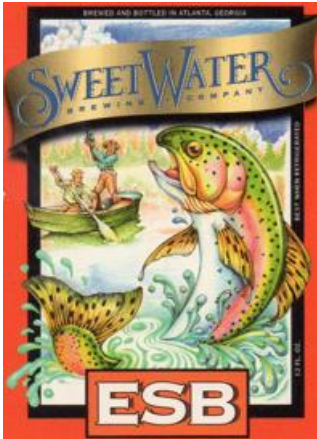


The longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*)



Wambaw Swamp Wilderness (SC)

Swampy and with no trails, wilderness.org says this “may be the least visited spot in South Carolina.” There is road access along the edges, but tough to get deep into the wilderness. Nearby records include bluegill, spotted and banded sunfish, and eastern mosquitofish. Your basic swamp fishes. (iNaturalist 2023)



Warren Island Wilderness (AK)

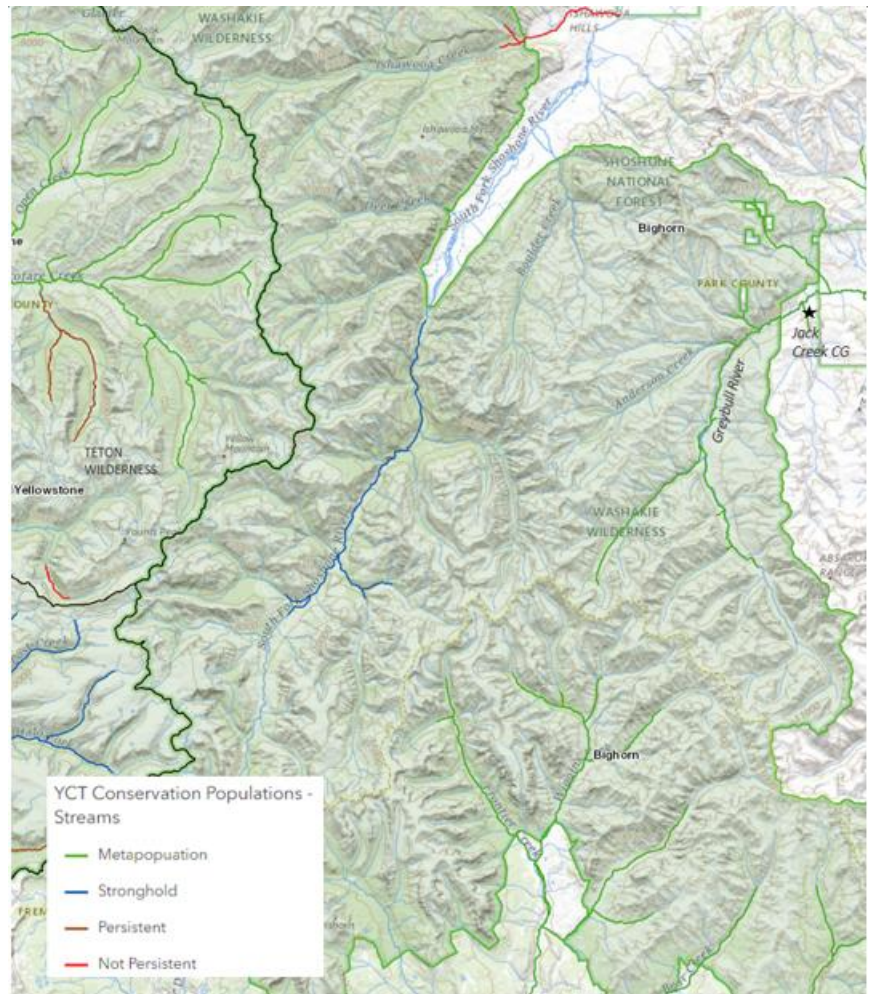


Warren Island is difficult to access with a steep, rocky shoreline all around. Expected species include all five eastern Pacific salmon, lingcod, Pacific cod, as well as inshore species including a variety of rockfish, sculpins, greenling, halibut, ratfish, and dog sharks. There is a run of coho salmon in a short stream on the east side of the island. (ADFG 2023)

Washakie Wilderness (WY)

There is a genetically pure stronghold population of Yellowstone cutthroats in South Fork Shoshone River. A pure population occurs in the Greybull system, with mixed metapopulations in Wiggins Fork and Bear Creek in East Fork Wind River system. (Endicott, Nelson et al 2016; TU YCT 2019)

There is hike in access to Greybull River in the wilderness from Jack Creek Campground, with a trail parallel to the river for a long stretch. (SWFF Nov-Dec 2011, p. 28; NWFF Nov-Dec 2019)



Washington Islands Wilderness (WA)

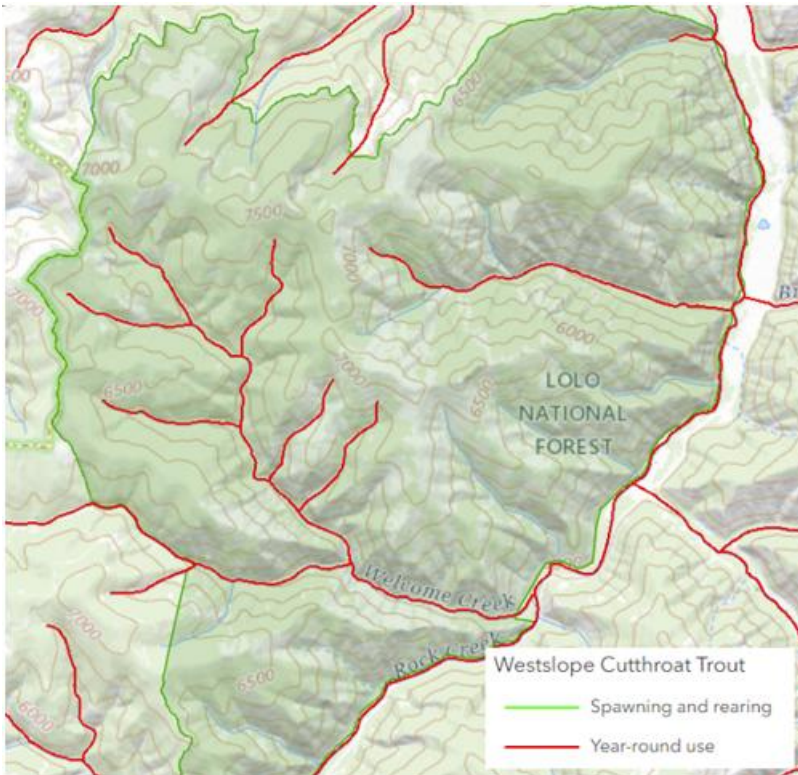
These offshore islands along the north Pacific coast of Washington are surrounded by ocean, so of course there are fish. There are records of both tidepool and sharpnose sculpin. (iNaturalist 2022)



The tidepool sculpin (*Oligocottus maculosus*)

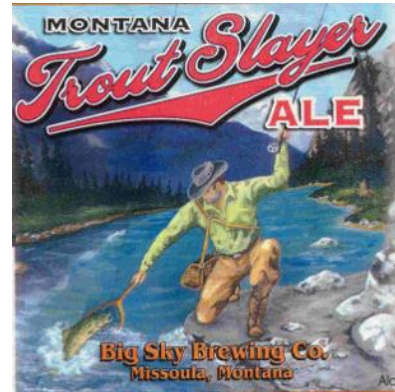


Welcome Creek Wilderness (MT)



Westslope cutthroats occupy Welcome Creek and tributaries, and Brewster Creek, all tributary to Rock Creek along eastern edge of wilderness. (Mayfield)

There is critical habitat for bull trout in much of Welcome Creek. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)



"Trout Slayer" is now the official fishing nickname of my grandson Logan.

On July 19, 2020 I hiked about 2.5 miles up the Welcome Creek trail. The trail was heavily overgrown, the stream was covered with brush and had difficult access for casting, but I managed to catch several Westslope cutthroats, some in 10-inch range, with an 11-incher in Rock Creek at the mouth of Welcome Creek. (Number 22)



Weminuche Wilderness (CO)

From west to east: In the northwestern portion of the wilderness Highland Mary Lakes, accessible by pack llama, hold brook trout and cutthroats. West Ute, Middle Ute and Ute Lakes are accessible from the Continental Divide Trail and hold trout. (SWFF Jul-Aug 2008, p. 36)



There are brookies, browns and rainbows in Vallecito Creek in the western part of the wilderness, with the possibility of Colorado cutthroats in upper headwaters. (SWFF Sep-Oct 2011, p. 6)



Cathie & I, along with Tim & 5-month pregnant Alyssa, backpacked Vallecito Creek trail for four days in August 2020. I caught bunches of rainbows and small brookies, including a couple of brookies in Johnson Creek, 11 miles up the trail. (Number 28)



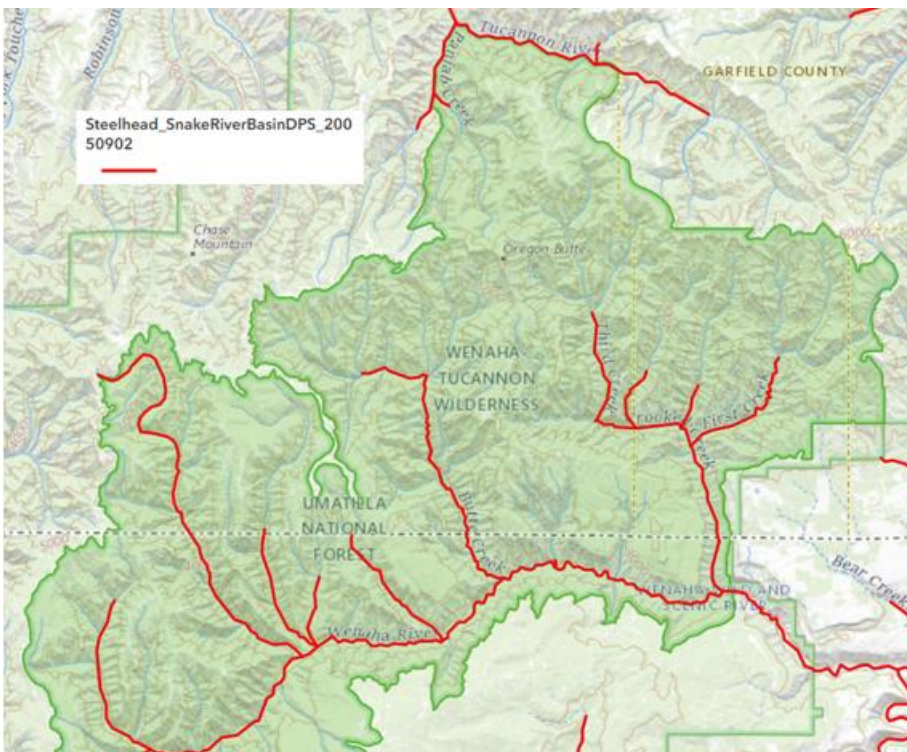
Weminuche Wilderness (CO)

Persistent core conservation populations of Colorado cutthroats occur in East Fork Piedra River and in Beaver Creek in the headwaters of West Fork San Juan River in the southeastern corner of wilderness. (Hirsch et al 2013; TU CRCT 2019)

East Fork Piedra River has brown trout below Piedra Falls, Colorado cutthroats above and below. A rough trail skirts the falls and leads to the upper river. (SWFF Jul-Aug 2018, p 36)



Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness (OR, WA)

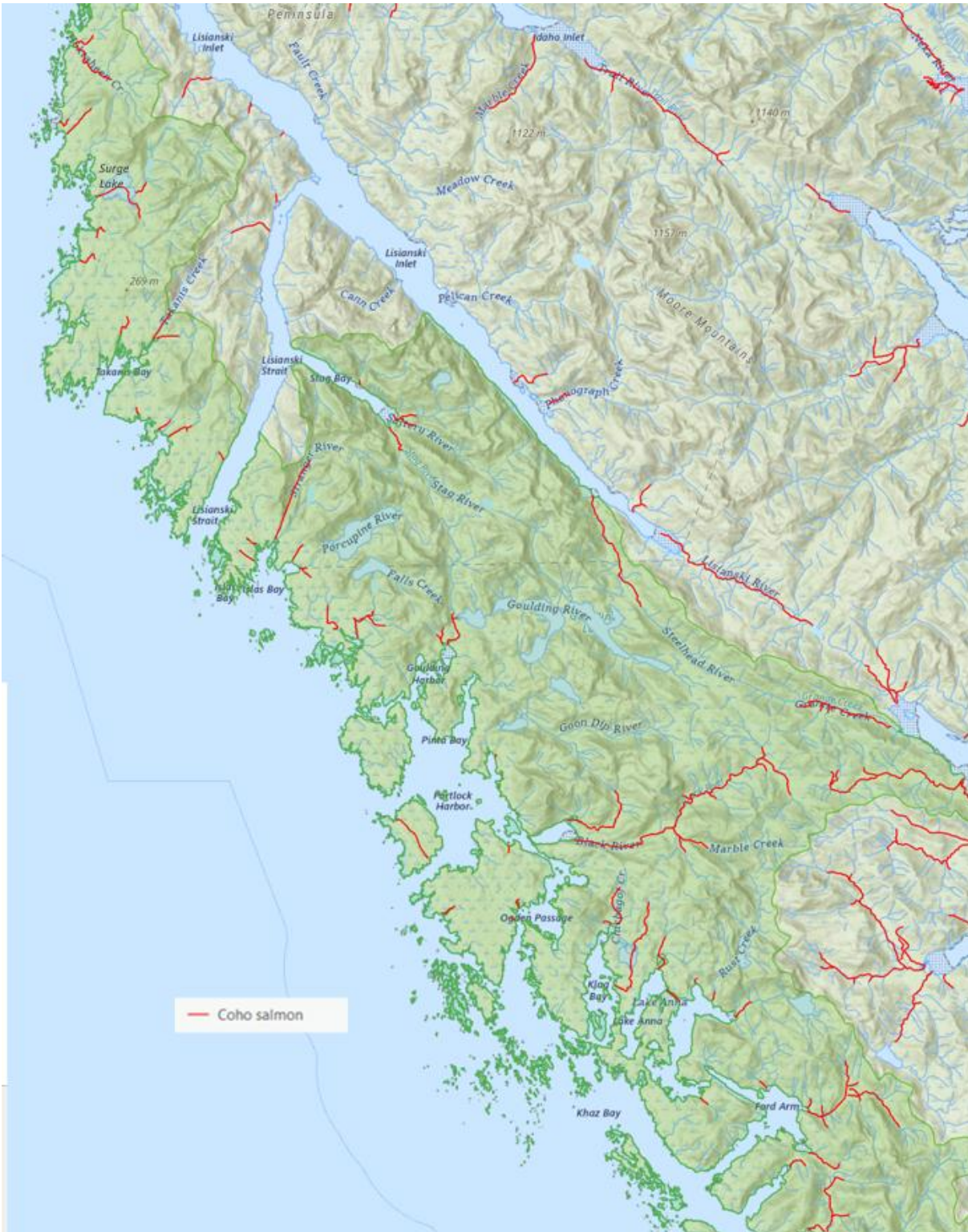


There is critical habitat for steelhead in all Wenaha River tributaries (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) with summer runs present. (StreamNet 2019)

Many of the same streams are also critical habitat for bull trout (ESRI, USF&WS 2016) with many streams in the western portion of the wilderness holding high probability of bull trout. (USDA Climate Shield 2020) Enough bull trout are in the Wenaha below the confluence of the North and South Forks to allow targeted fishing. (NWFF Sep-Oct 2018, p 44)

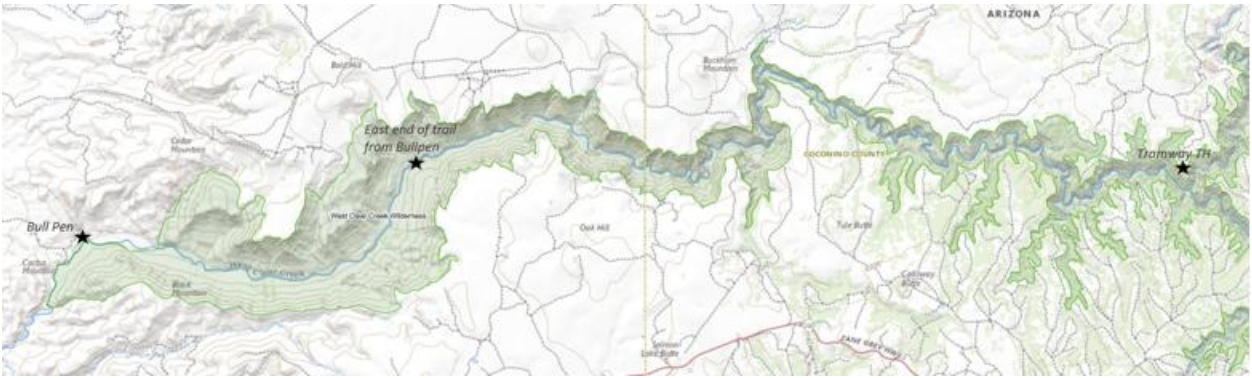
There are also rainbows throughout and redbands in most of the Wenaha River drainage. (StreamNet 2019)

West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness (AK)



Chum, coho, sockeye and pink salmon (no chinooks), plus cutthroat and steelhead are present in multiple west coast drainages including Surge Lake and tributaries and the Stranger River system in the north; and tributaries feeding Ford Arm as well as Lake Leo in the southern part of the wilderness. The cohos have the most widespread distribution of the salmon. (ADF&G CUTTHROAT 2016; ADFG 2023)

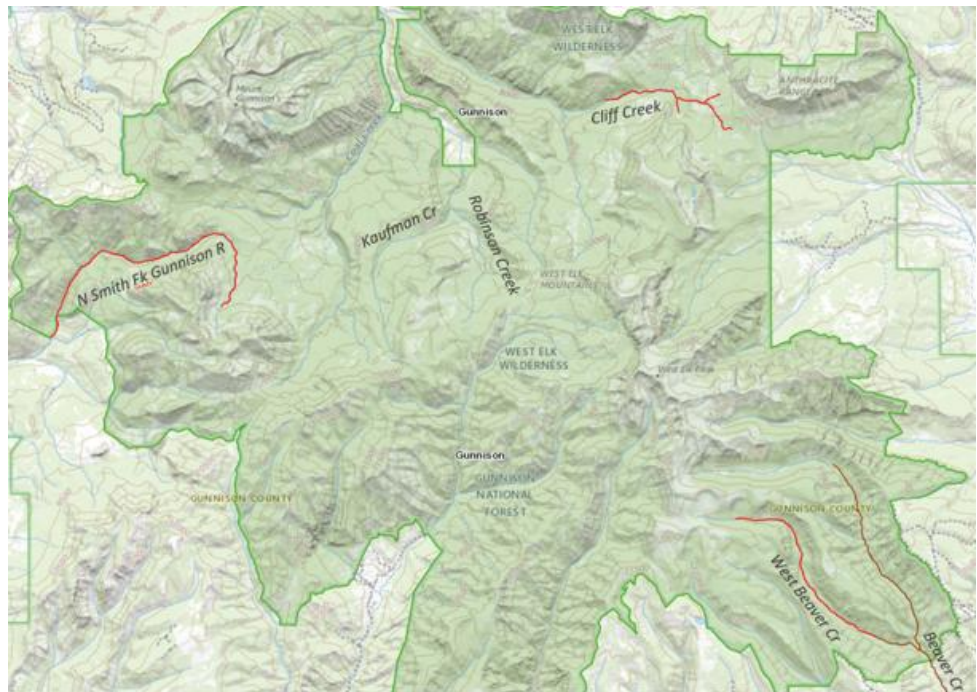
West Clear Creek Wilderness (AZ)



I fished the upper part of the Canyon several times around 2008 to 2010, hiking in at least twice down the Tramway Trail from the north rim, and once from a trail at the end of a very rough road on the south side. Usually good for some round tail chub, and I once caught more rainbow trout than chub. All wild fish, this stream segment hasn't been stocked in a long time. (Number 5) Supposedly there are some big browns in pools you have to swim to get to coming from the Bullpen into the wilderness. (SWFF Sep-Oct 2011, p. 12)

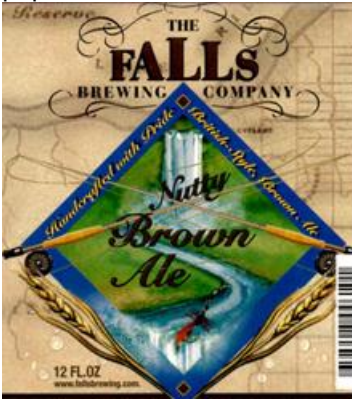
West Elk Wilderness (CO)

A core population of Colorado cutthroat resides in the Beaver Creek system in the eastern part of the wilderness; in North Smith Fork of the Gunnison River in the western part of the wilderness; and in Cliff Creek, Robinson Creek and Kaufman Creek in the northern part of wilderness. (Hirsch et al 2013; TU CRCT 2019)



West Sister Island Wilderness (OH)

An island in the western basin of Lake Erie, the normal array of Great Lakes near shore fish, including alewives, black bass and various sunfishes, should be catchable from the refuge. The only catch is that public access is not allowed, at least as of October 2022, to protect breeding bird populations on the island.



Wet Beaver Creek Wilderness (AZ)

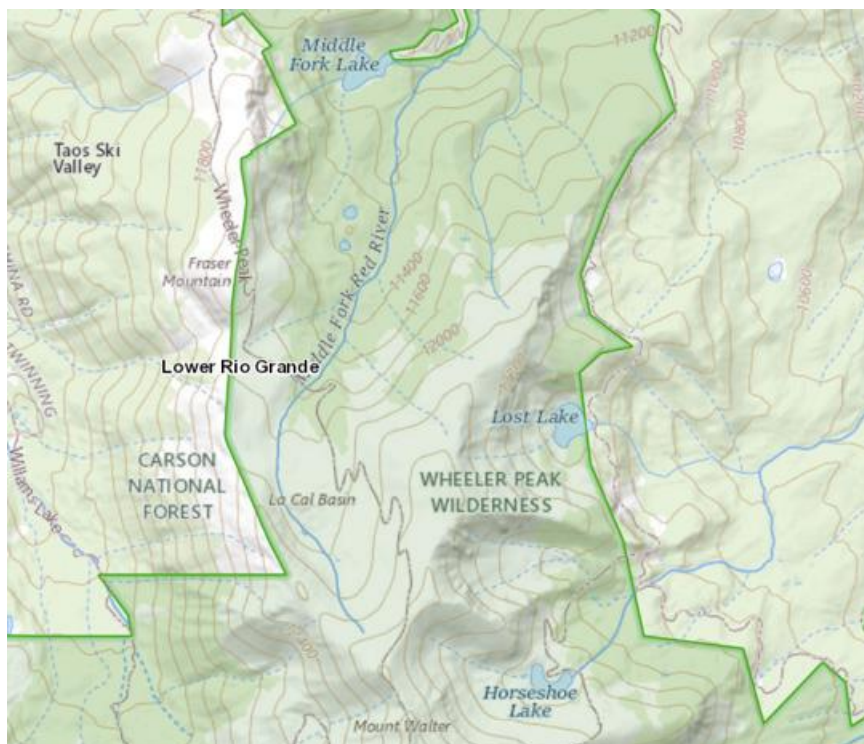
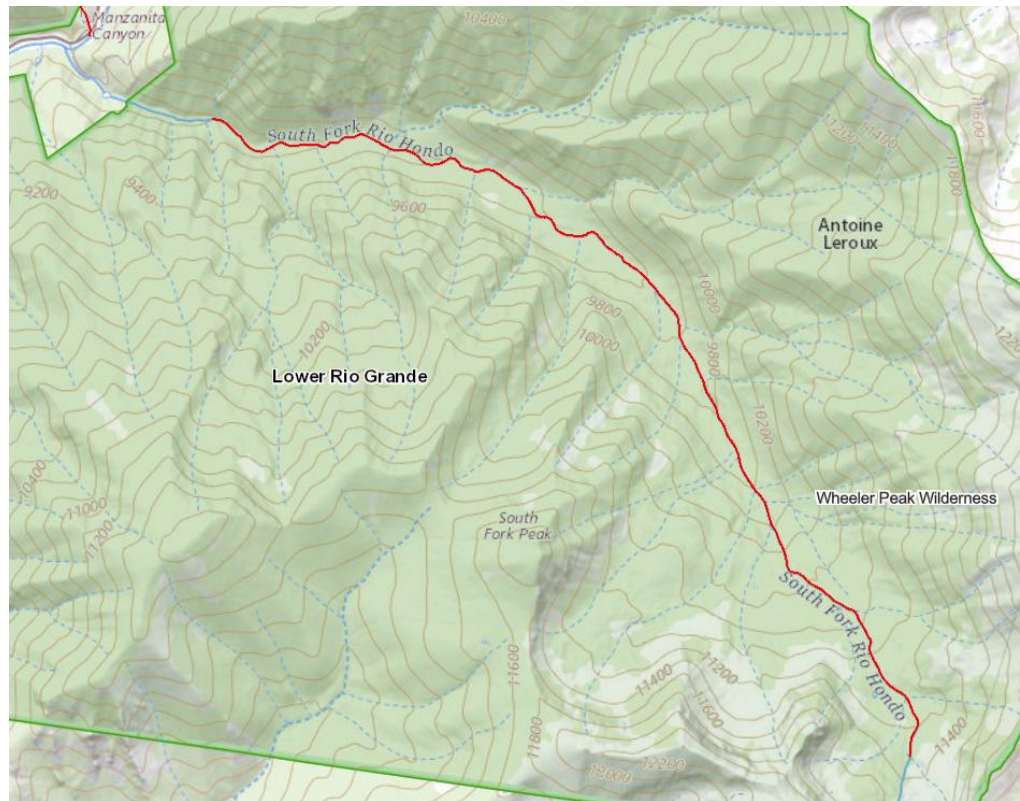


In November 2019 I caught largemouth bass in pools upstream from Bell Trail swimming holes, 4 miles from trailhead. (Number 19)

Upstream from where Bell Trail leaves the creek, there are allegedly self-sustaining rainbow trout for those willing to swim a bit to get there. (SWFF May-Jun 2010, p.8) I'm reasonably certain that it was on a camping trip in this area that Bubba first said "wouldn't it be cool to catch a fish in every wilderness?"

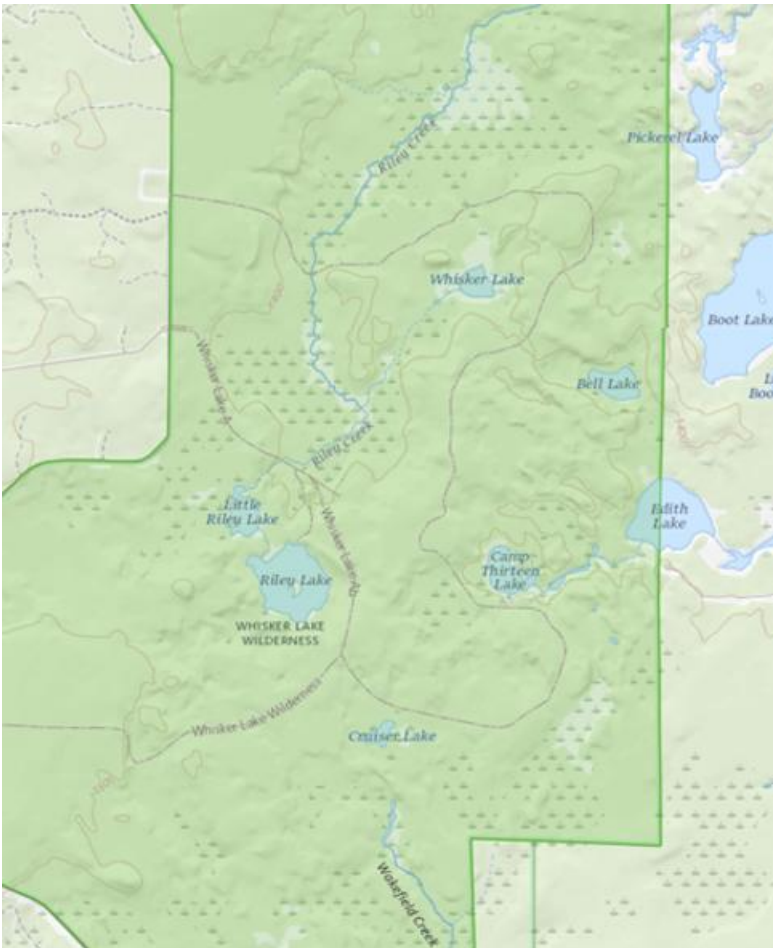
Wheeler Peak Wilderness (NM)

There are Rio Grande Cutthroats in South Fork Rio Hondo, accessible at the downstream end from the Taos Ski Valley road. (Bakevich et al 2019; TU RGCT 2019)

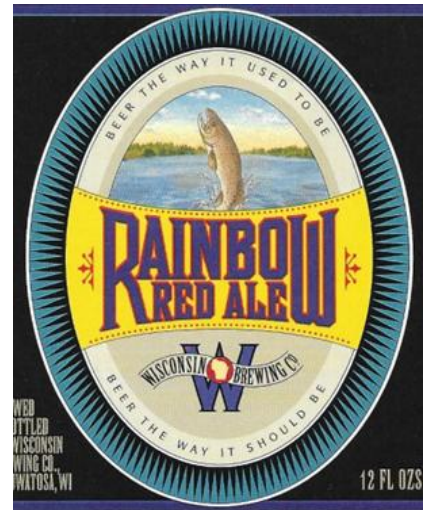


Supposedly there are also Rio Grande cutthroats in Middle Fork Lake, Lost Lake and Horseshoe Lake in the headwaters of the Red River, flowing north out of the eastern end of the wilderness. Going is tough, steep and not much in the way of trails along the river. (SWFF Jan-Feb 2010, p.12; SWFF Mar-Apr 2-18, p. 37)

Whisker Lake Wilderness (WI)

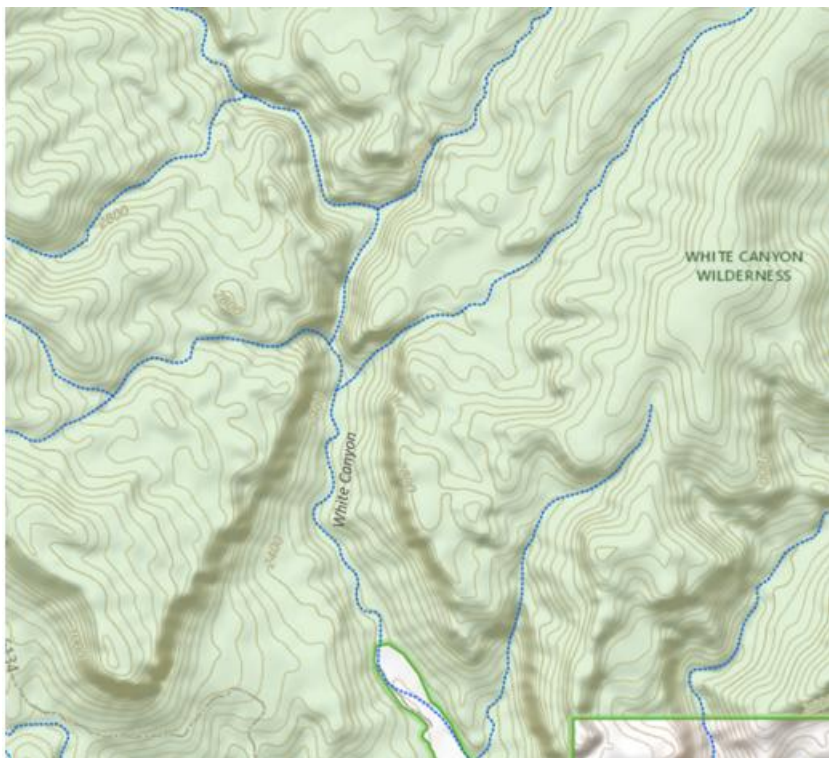


Riley Creek and Wakefield Creek are both classified as class 1 trout streams, with healthy, self-sustaining populations of trout. (Wisconsin DNR, 2023) There are likely trout, walleye and other fish in most of the lakes, and Brule River forming the northern boundary of the wilderness will also have trout.



White Canyon Wilderness (AZ)

USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water in the wilderness (USGS 2021) but there seems to be enough water in White Canyon to support desert sucker, Sonora sucker, spikedace and longfin dace. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022).



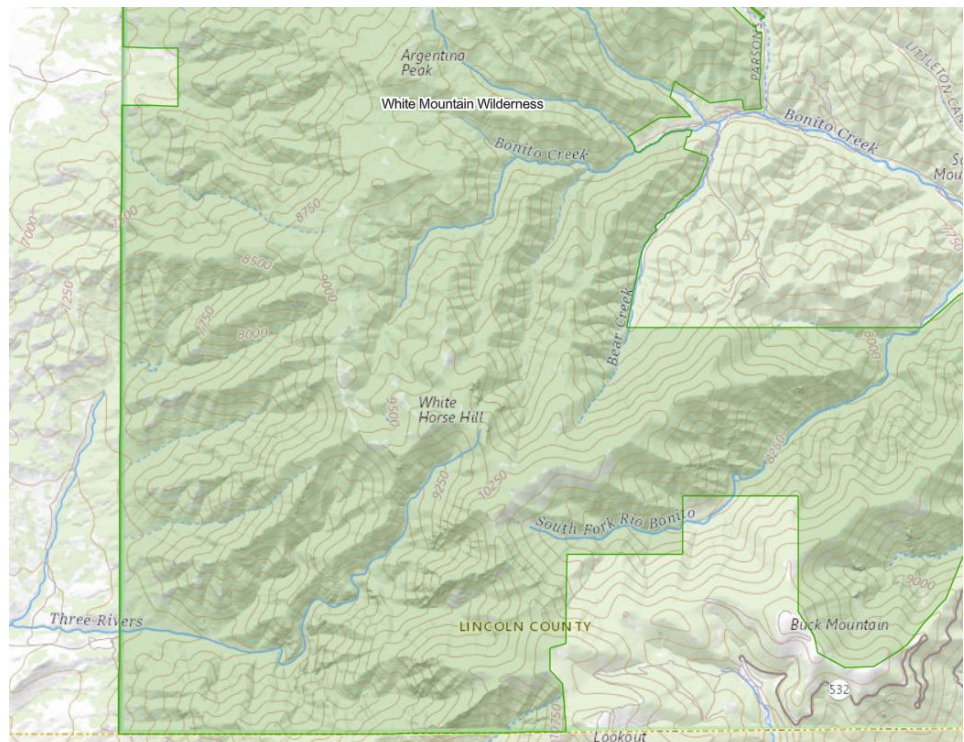
White Canyon Wilderness (AZ)



In June 2023 I hiked 1.7 miles up from where the creek flows out of the wilderness, as far as the AllTrails app showed the “trail” going. I found more water than I expected in June (still not much), but no fish. Lots of tadpoles and damselfly nymphs, standard desert stream stuff. Damselfly nymphs sure look like little minnows when they swim through the water...

White Mountain Wilderness (NM)

The wilderness is located in the Sacramento Mountains north of Alamogordo. Brook trout occur in Three Rivers Canyon coming off the west slope of Sierra Blanca. Brook trout and lots of hikers and splashers are found in Bonito Creek and South Fork Bonito Creek on northeast slope of the mountain. (SWFF Jan-Feb 2013, p. 23)



White Mountains Wilderness (CA)



A transplanted population of Paiute cutthroat trout has been in North Fork Cottonwood Creek since 1940's. Can't catch them, though, they are protected as a repopulation source for the native Silver King Creek location. Located from Granite Meadows to about 1 mile downstream at Tres Plumas fish barrier. (CA Dept of F&W, no date)

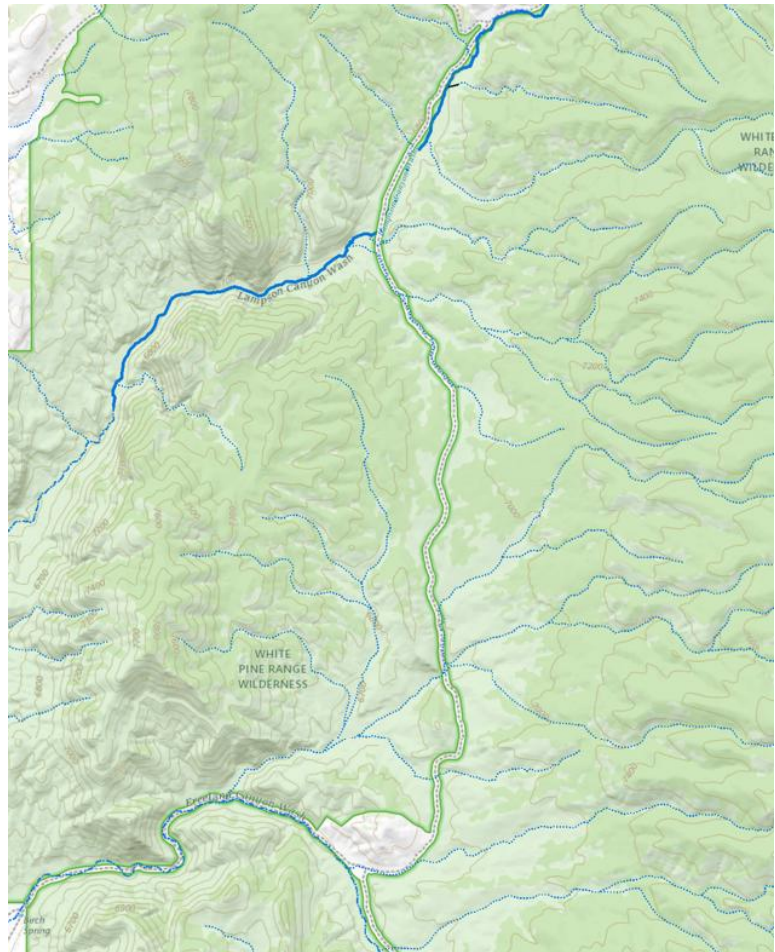
Graphic is from CDFW. If they had to put in a barrier, I have to think there are other fish downstream that someone might be able to actually catch.

I drove about a mile up the Leidy Creek cherry stem in July 2024. It looked really pretty, but I didn't find fish. Lots of cows, but no fish. I'm guessing if I had gotten farther upstream...



White Pine Range Wilderness (NV)

There are fairly long lengths of perennial stream in Lampson Canyon and Freeland Canyon flowing west off of the crest of the White Pine Range (USGS 2021) although the state does not show them as Containing trout. (NDOW 2017). I've got to think they might, though, as I know from firsthand experience that streams in the area at similar elevations, including very small ones, support trout populations (see Red Mountain and Currant Mountain Wildernesses)

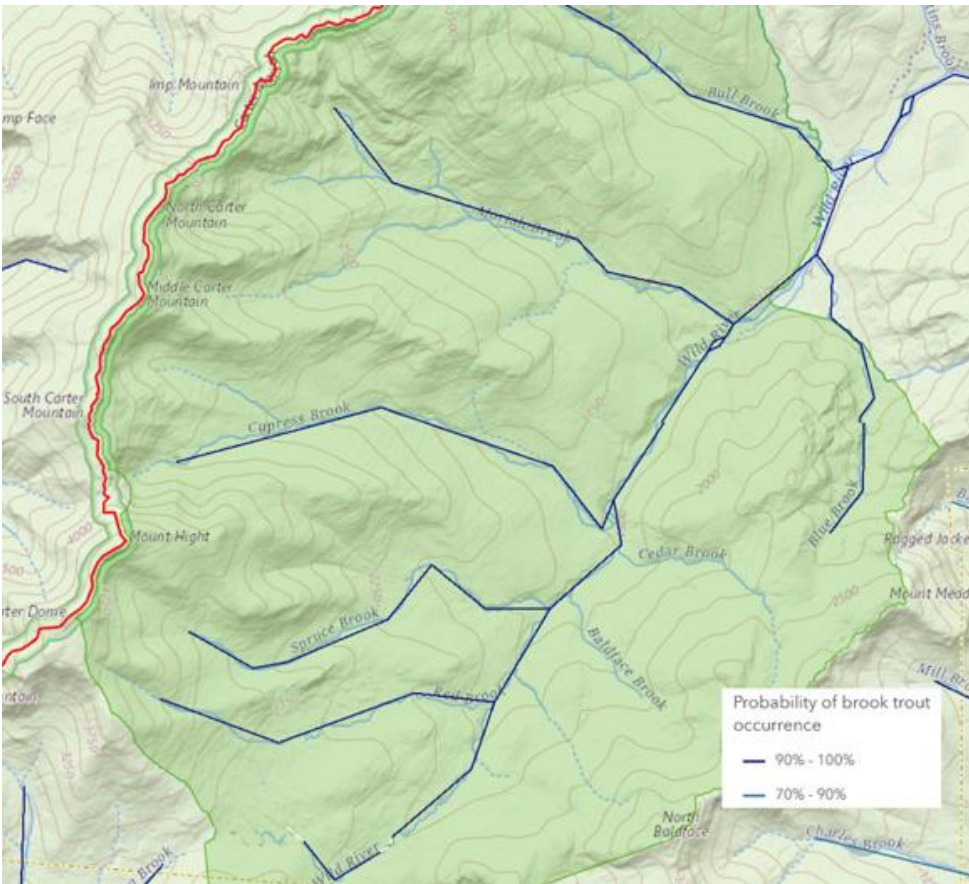


Wichita Mountains Wilderness (OK)

There is a record of a blue catfish from Cold Spring within the southwest corner of the wilderness. In the southern unit there are also multiple records of largemouth bass from Treasure Lake and Post Oak Lake, just outside the south boundary of the wilderness in the Post Oak Creek drainage; and from Sunset Pool in Headquarters Creek, just outside the north boundary. It's a good bet some of these fish make it the very short distance upstream into the wilderness. (Fishbrain 2022)

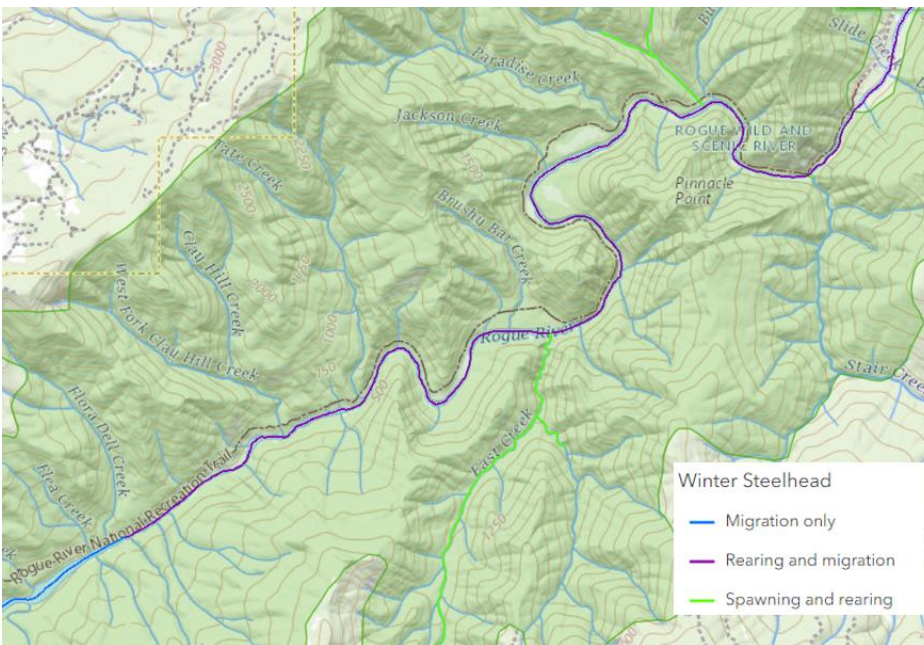


Wild River Wilderness (NH)



There is a stronghold population of brook trout throughout the Wild River system within the wilderness. Browns and rainbows are present as well. (TU 2019, Brook Trout eastern range) Probability of finding them is high pretty much everywhere, (DeWeber and Wagner 2014) and there is good streamside trail access throughout.

Wild Rogue Wilderness (OR)

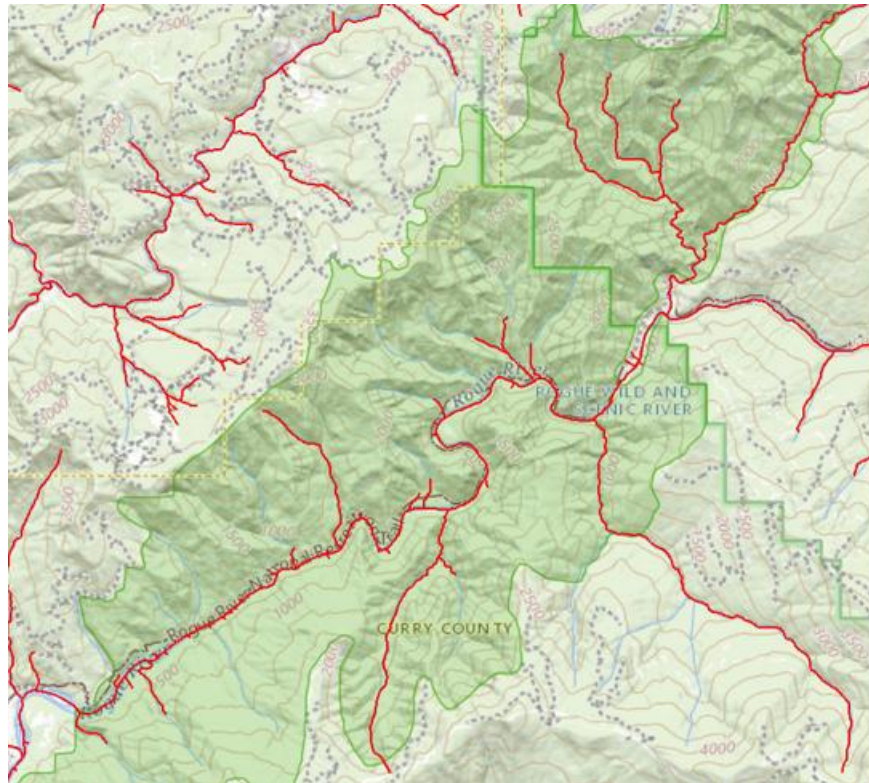


The Rogue River is a dream. World-renowned steelhead, plus spring and fall chinook and coho salmon. Summer and winter steelhead, the winter fish make it up some of the larger tributaries as well. (StreamNet 2019) Zane Grey fished here. A lot. And he thought he was pretty good at it. (Grey, 2001) Streamside trail access is good through the length of the Rogue within the wilderness, although the trails are often well above river level.

The Wild and Scenic section does include the entire wilderness stretch. Drift fish for steelhead and half-pounders. There are lodge options, on out-holdings *inside* the wilderness. (NWFF Jul-Aug 2019, p. 32)

Wild Rogue Wilderness (OR)

The river and all larger tributaries also hold plenty of coastal cutthroats, as one might expect. (StreamNet 2019)

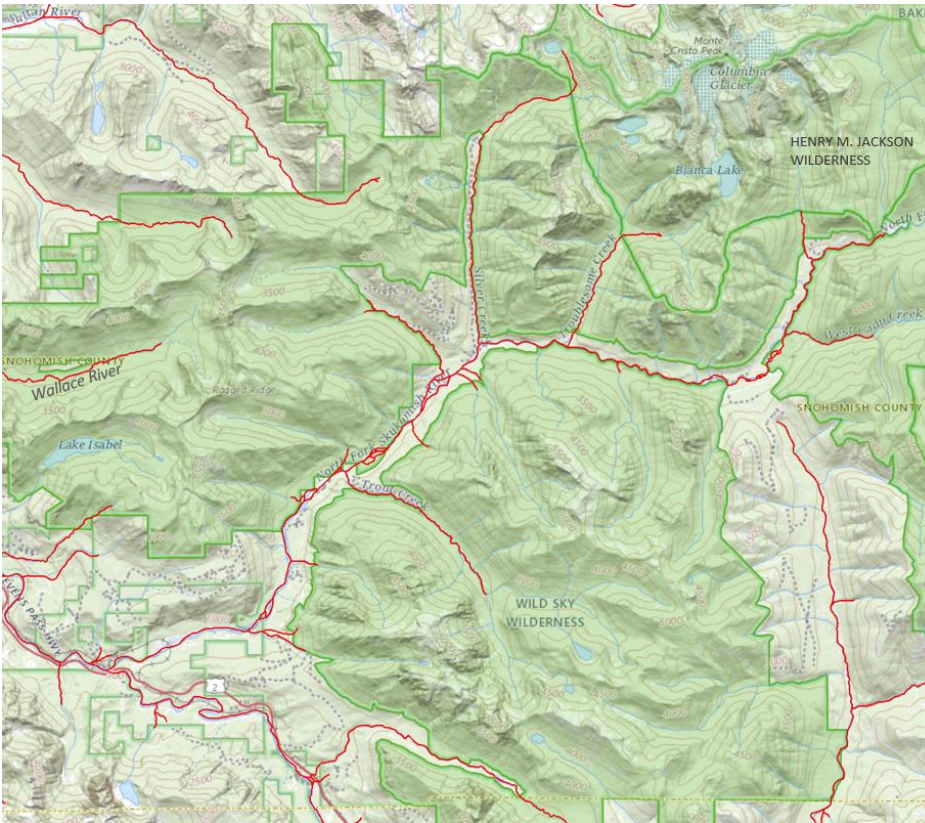


My first try in September 2025 at Blossom Bar didn't get me any steelhead. It did result in a few reddsided dace, and a nice (but invasive) Umpqua pikeminnow (96). It was good sized, and fought hard, and I was excited, but that only lasted 30 seconds and then it just rolled right in. Not a game fish, and one that most on the Rogue wish would go back to the Umpqua drainage.

Not steelhead (although I suppose they might be someday...), but I did catch some rainbows in Mule Creek in the BOR portion of the wilderness.

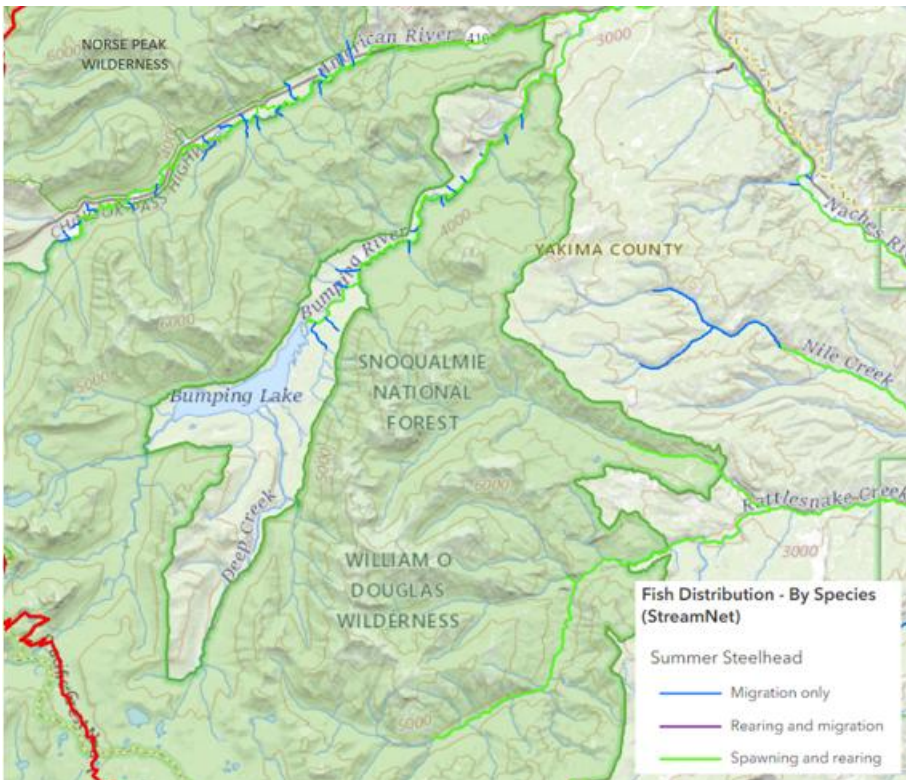


Wild Sky Wilderness (WA)



North Fork Skykomish River is cherry-stemmed through the middle of the wilderness. Tributaries Silver Creek and Trout Creek hold bull trout, rainbow trout, and winter and summer steelhead. Salmon Creek has all four plus coho salmon. Sultan and Wallace River tributaries on the north side of the wilderness have rainbows and coastal cutthroats. Coastal cuts and rainbows are shown on map. (StreamNet 2019)

William O. Douglas Wilderness (WA)

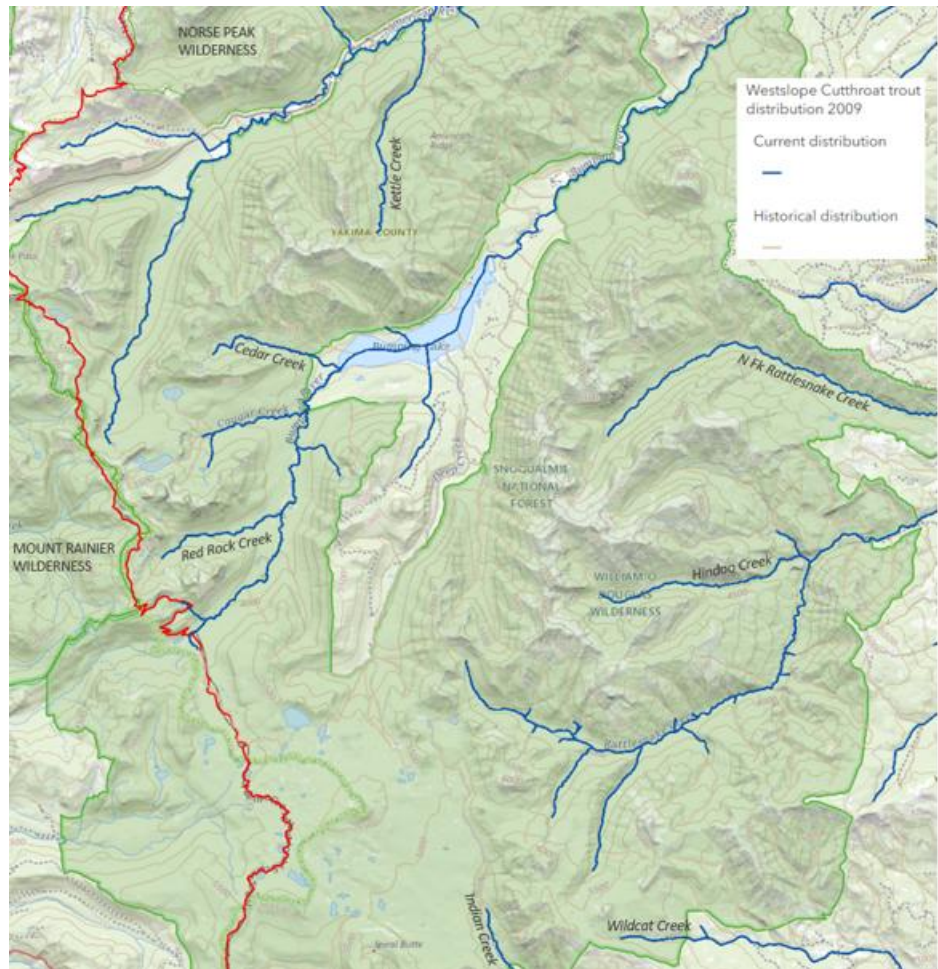


There is critical habitat for steelhead in Rattlesnake Creek, a Naches River-Yakima River tributary. American River and Bumping River form boundaries of the wilderness with short tributaries containing critical habitat extending into the wilderness. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

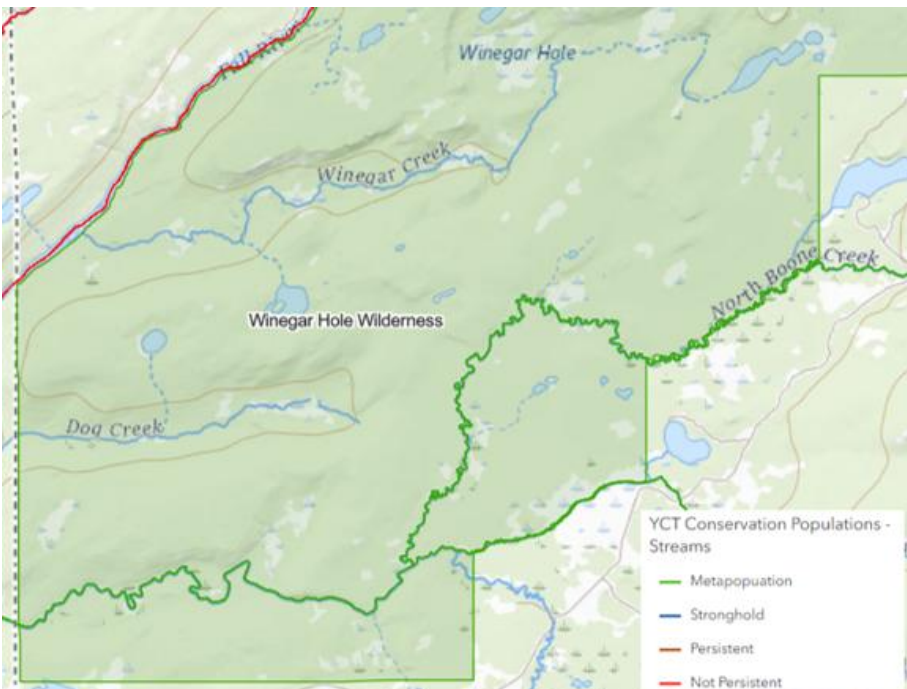
William O. Douglas Wilderness (WA)

Westslope cutthroats occupy much of the wilderness, including Rattlesnake Creek and tributaries Hindoo Creek and North Fork Rattlesnake Creek; upper Tieton River tributaries Indian Creek and Wildcat Creek; Bumping River and its tributaries Red Rock Creek, Cougar Creek and Cedar Creek; and upper American River and American River tributary Kettle Creek. (Mayfield)

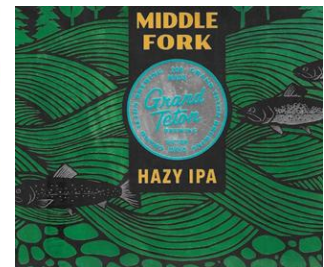
Mostly brook trout occupy the upper, wilderness stretch of American River. (NWFF May-Jun 2016, p.37)



Winegar Hole Wilderness (WY)



A Yellowstone cutthroat core conservation population occupies North Boone Creek. (Endicott, Nelson et al 2016; TU YCT 2019)

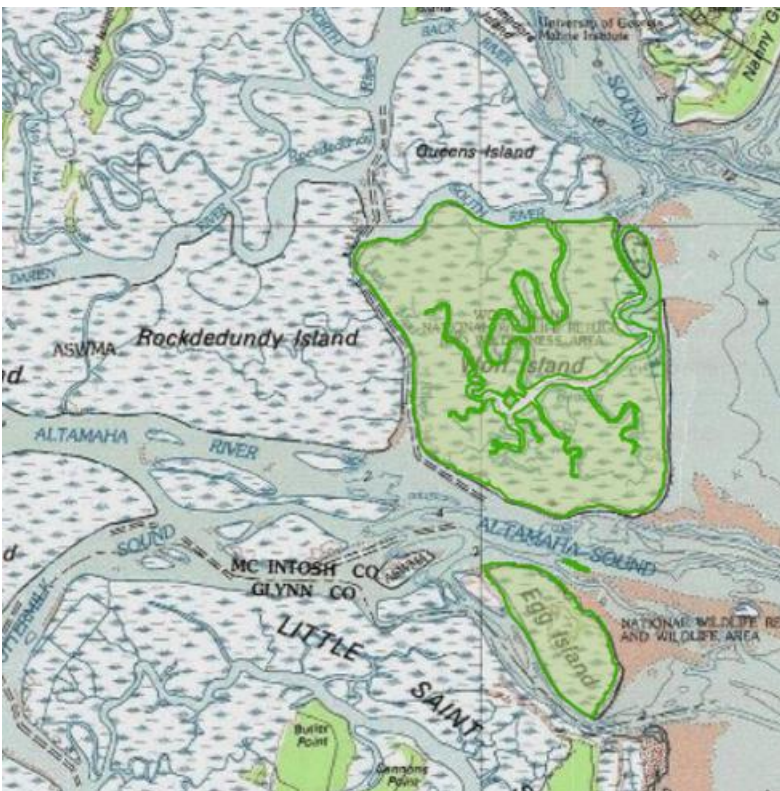


Wisconsin Islands Wilderness (WI)

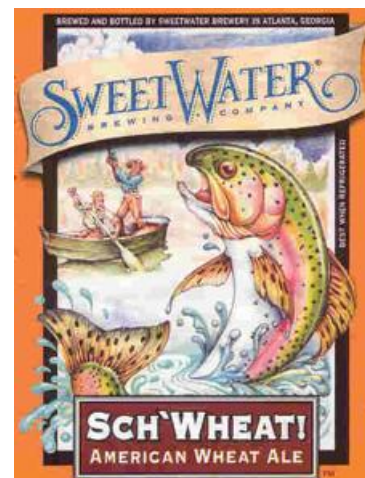
The wilderness consists of a couple of small, rocky islets less than a mile off the northern end of the Door Peninsula in Lake Michigan. The wilderness includes surrounding water so there will be the normal array of near-shore Great Lakes fishes.



Wolf Island Wilderness (GA)

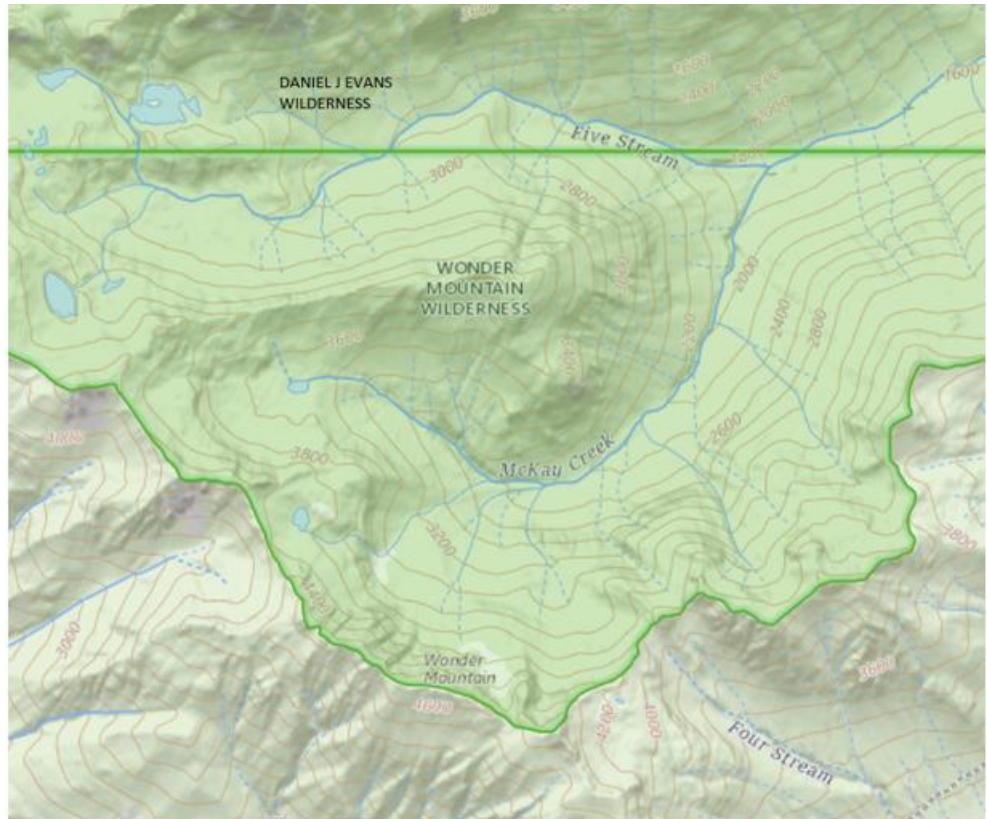


Land in the refuge is off limits to the public, fishing is available in the creeks. Striped bass and American shad are in the adjacent Altamaha River. (Dept of Interior, F&WS, Wolf Island, 2008)



Wonder Mountain Wilderness (WA)

I haven't seen confirmed reports of fish here, but McKay Creek and Five Stream are tributary to Six Stream, a tributary of North Fork Skokomish River that runs through the Daniel J Evans Wilderness to the north. Six Stream has coastal cutthroats, bull trout and rainbow trout (StreamNet 2019), so I would suspect at least some of these make it up into McKay Creek and Five Stream in Wonder Mountain Wilderness.



Woodchute Wilderness (AZ)

I promoted this from “no fish” based on a visit in August 2022. USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water (USGS 2021), but they appear to be wrong. I found plenty of water in Woodchute Tank, as well as in the stream feeding into it and the stream exiting it. The vegetation and aquatic wildlife, including plentiful freshwater snails and some sort of aquatic annelid about 30 mm long, made it look to me like it was perennial. Even more intriguing was a large unknown creature that appears to reside in the lake.



Woodchute Wilderness (AZ)



I saw enough to break out the fly rod, and as I was standing in the water at the edge of the tank casting a hopper, I saw the creature swim past me parallel to the shore. It did not break the surface, but did push a large and unmistakable bow wave in front of it as it swam slowly by. I thought it could only be one of three things: 1) the Woodchute sea monster; 2) an aquatic mammal, most likely beaver or muskrat; or 3) a large fish. I'm ruling out sea monsters because I had not yet started drinking that day. Muskrat is an intriguing possibility, but I saw no evidence anywhere around of muskrat (or beaver, for that matter) construction.

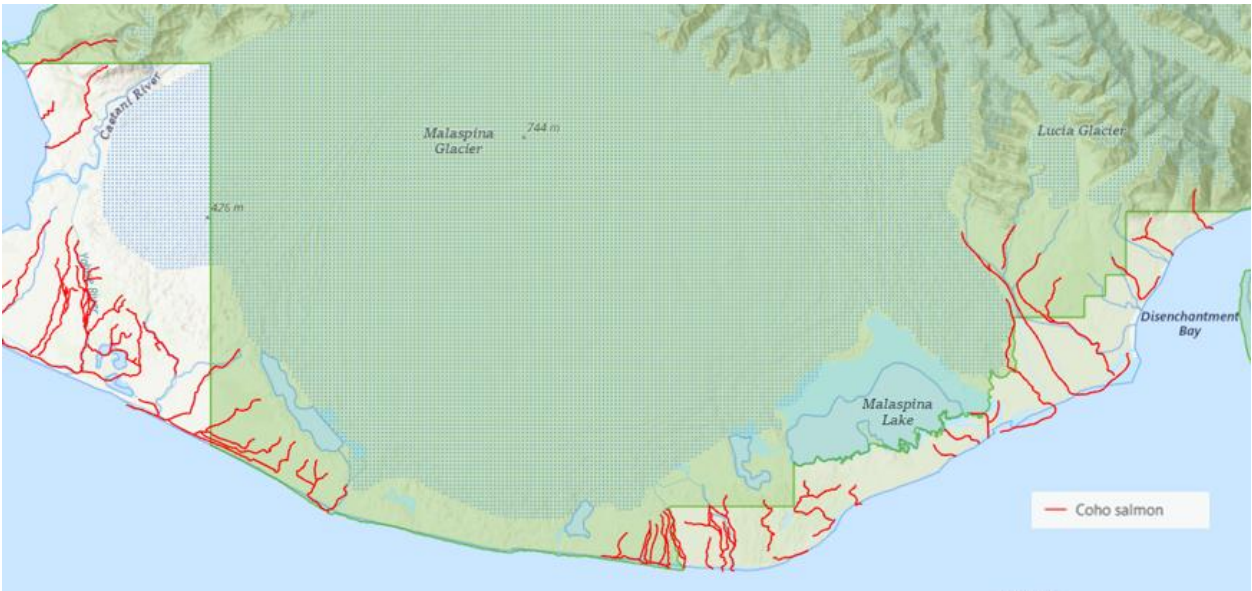
Further, my experience tells me these mammals usually move in the water in a straight line, and normally stick at least their noses above the surface; this creature was fully submerged and swimming in an undulating manner, like a fish. My current hypothesis is that whoever maintains the tank brought in some grass carp to help control excessive vegetation. That would be consistent with the fairly opaque water in the tank, as well as the creature's indifference to what I was casting. Next time I'm going to come equipped for carp so I can test that theory out.

Wrangell-St. Elias Wilderness (AK)



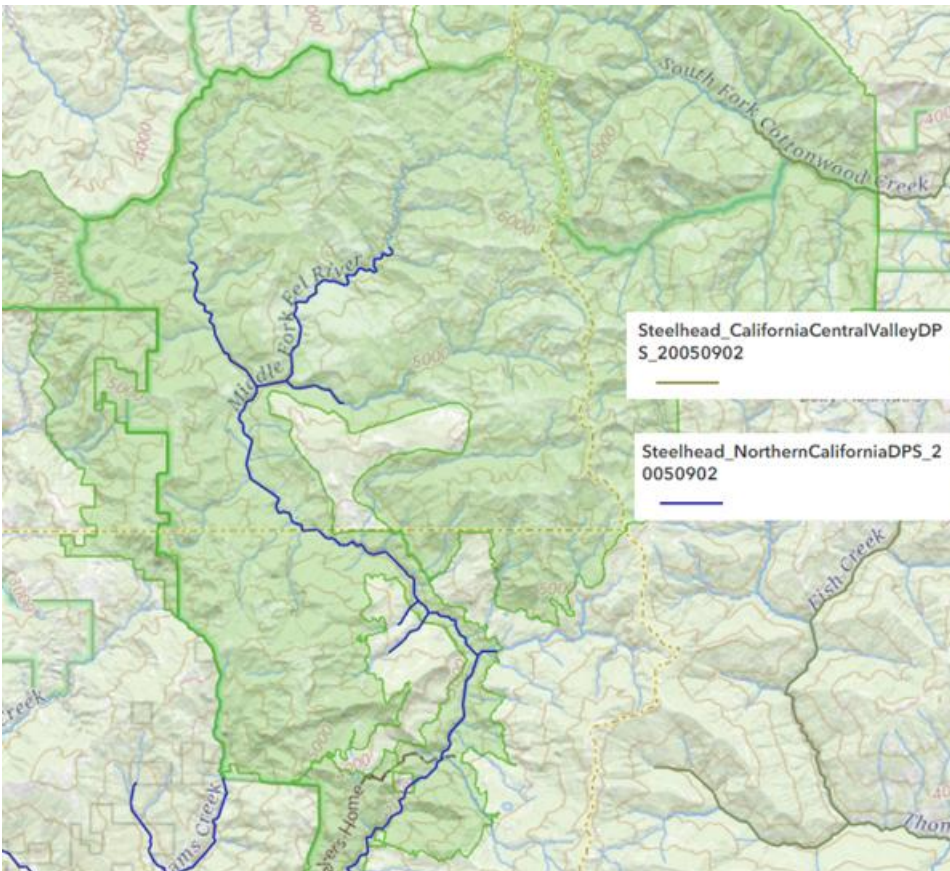
In the southwestern portion of the wilderness Copper River tributary Bremner River holds a run of sockeye salmon. The Chitina River, the major Copper river tributary that flows east to west, lies outside the wilderness but Chitina River tributaries Tana River, Chakina River, and Tebay River hold runs of chinook salmon and sockeye salmon. Steelhead run up the Tebay and Hanaguita Rivers as well. (ADF&G 2023)

Wrangell-St. Elias Wilderness (AK)



There are runs of coho salmon in several short, coastal streams in the southeastern part of the wilderness. (ADFG 2023)

Yolla-Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness (CA)

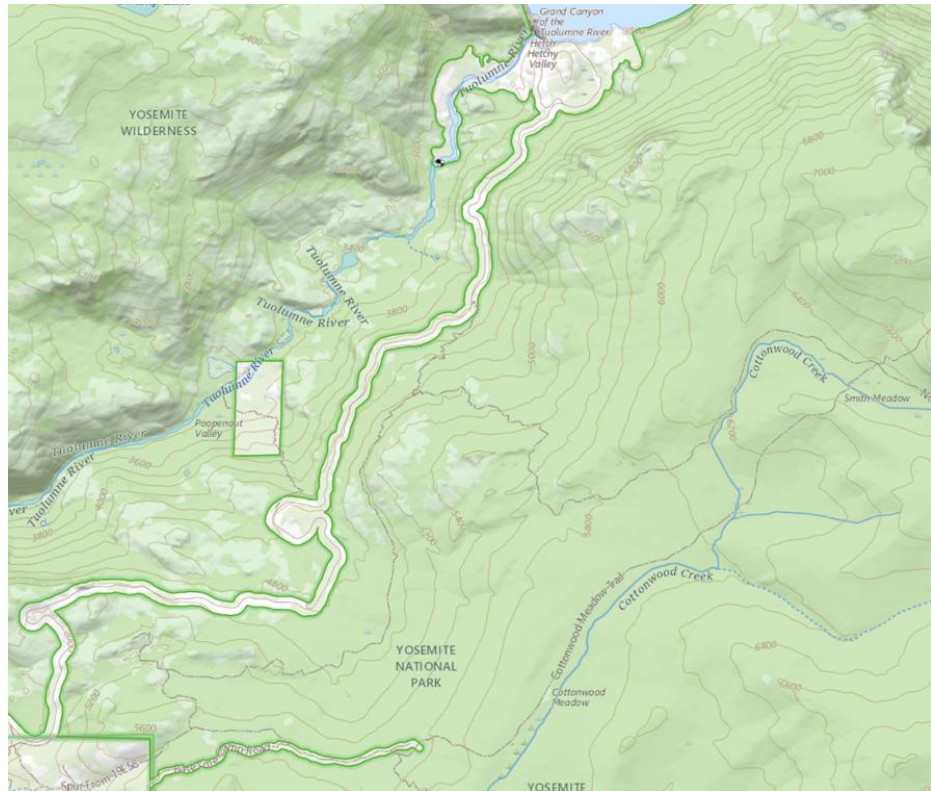


There is critical habitat for steelhead in Middle Fork Eel River, as well as South Fork Cottonwood Creek, tributary to the Sacramento River. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Yosemite Wilderness (CA)

Big brown trout are found in tough to access areas of the Tuolumne River downstream from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir; it's tailwaters, but still in the wilderness. (AA, May-Jun 2010, p 54)

There are "abundant brook trout, with rainbows and browns in lesser numbers" in Cottonwood Creek, south of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, tributary to Middle Fork Tuolumne River. (NWFF Nov-Dec 2016, p.29)

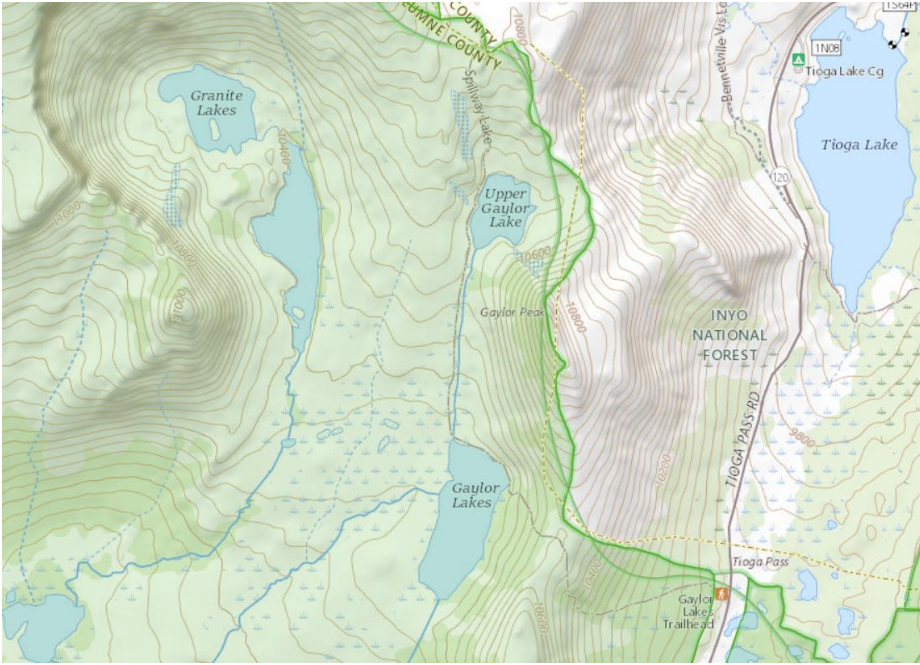


Brown trout and the occasional native rainbow trout reside in Tuolumne Meadows near the confluence of the Lyell and Dana Forks of the Tuolumne River. (FF Sep 2009, p. 30)

There are small browns, brookies and rainbows in Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River. Upper Lyell Fork has big browns. (SWFF Sep-Oct 2010, p.26; SWFF Mar-Apr 2018, p. 42) The Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne is great fishing; 9 miles of meadows, pools and breathtaking scenery with brown, brook and rainbow trout. The upper river gradually becomes all brookies. (Beck 2000)

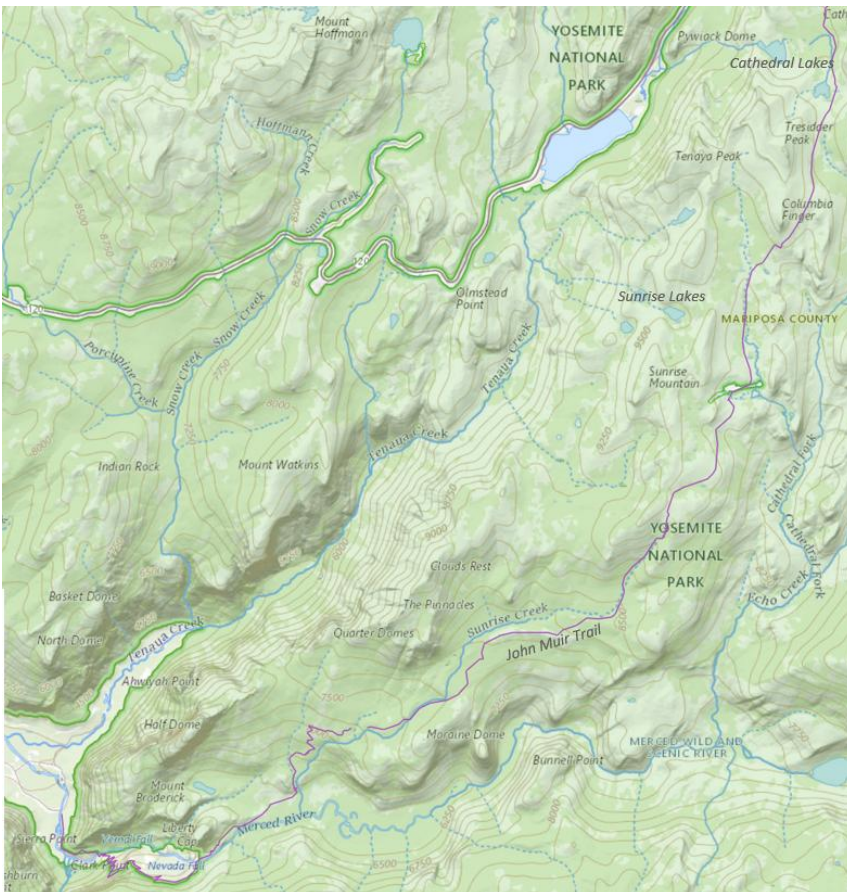


Yosemite Wilderness (CA)



In the upper Dana Fork drainage, there are brook trout in the Gaylor Lakes Basin, a short (but steep) hike from Tioga Pass and CA 120. (SWFF Sep-Oct 2010, p. 10)

Just beyond Gaylor Lakes to the west, Granite Lakes have a self-sustaining population of brookies. (SWFF May-Jun 2018, p. 22)



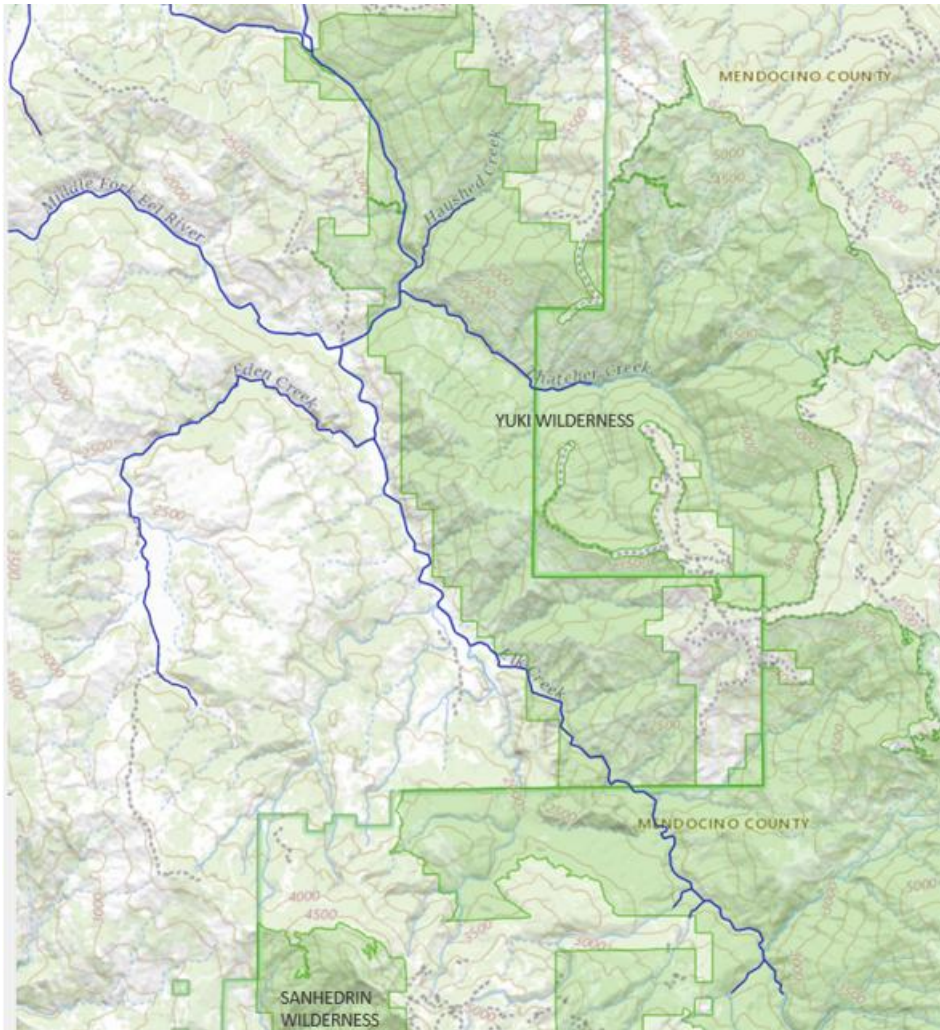
In the Merced River drainage, there are big browns and rainbows in the Merced River below Vernal and Nevada Falls along the John Muir Trail as it leaves the Valley. There are small rainbow trout in Sunrise Creek along much of the stretch that parallels the JMT, and about a mile off trail there are brookies in Sunrise Lakes. There are brook trout in Cathedral Lake about 3 miles west of Tuolumne Meadows.





I caught rainbow trout on South Fork Merced River, within a few steps of the Adventists' Camp Wawona, in October 2016. The segment upstream from here is detailed in an American Angler article. (May-Jun 2010, p. 54; number 12)

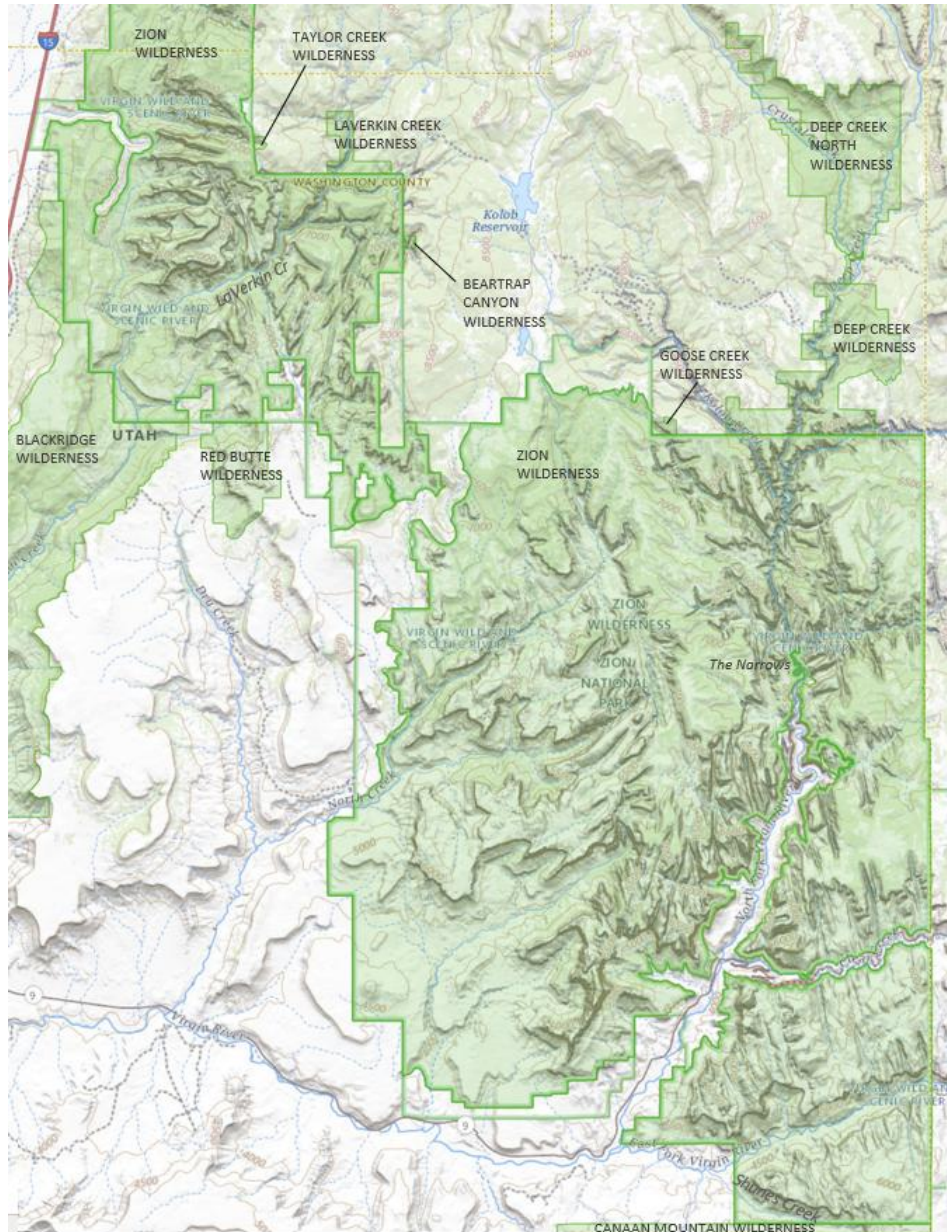
Yuki Wilderness (CA)



There is critical habitat for steelhead in Middle Fork Eel River and tributaries, including Elk Creek, Thatcher Creek and Hayshed Creek. The Middle Fork Eel is also critical habitat for chinook salmon. (ESRI, USF&WS 2016)

Zion Wilderness (UT)

Virgin spinedace is common in North Fork Virgin River in the Narrows. Above the narrows spinedace along with speckled dace and desert and flannelmouth suckers and occasional trout occur. Spring-fed North Fork tributaries in Zion Canyon generally hold native fishes. East Fork Virgin River has strong populations of all four native fishes. East Fork tributary Shunes Creek has small numbers of Virgin spinedace, speckled dace and desert suckers, although lower reaches dry up in summer. North Creek has desert suckers, speckled dace and rainbow trout throughout. The stretch of LaVerkin Creek within the wilderness apparently has no fish. (Sharrow, 2007)



I hiked into main stem North Creek from the Right Fork Trailhead on Kolob Canyon Road, July 1, 2021. Caught a bunch of native speckled dace in a very pretty desert stream (number 39).



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Appendix 1: The No Fish List

Aden Lava Flow Wilderness (NM): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. It shows no ephemeral water either. Nothing. (USGS 2021)

Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Apache Kid Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Argus Range Wilderness (CA): French Madam Spring (Zdon site 283) 0.5 gpm; Lower North Revenue Spring (Zdon site 311) 1 gpm and North Revenue Spring (Zdon site 326) <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Arrow Canyon Wilderness (NV): Arrow Canyon cuts across the northeastern edge of the wilderness; according to USGS NHD perennial does not start in this watercourse until about three miles further downstream from the wilderness. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Aubrey Peak Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Avawatz Mountains Wilderness (CA): Cottonwood Spring (Zdon site 24) <1 gpm; Sheep Creek Spring (Zdon site 45) cherry-stemmed, 10 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Baboquivari Peak Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Bald Mountain Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water although perennial Ellison Creek runs just outside the southern border of the wilderness, apparently on the wrong side of a road the whole length. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020) Ellison Creek holds rainbow trout. (NDOW 2019)

Beartrap Canyon Wilderness (UT): LaVerkin Creek is long and perennial but supposedly has no fish as it crosses Zion National Park, and none above a barrier 5 miles south of the park boundary. (Sharrow 2007) That seems to mean the LaVerkin tributary in Beartrap Canyon will also be fishless. The 30-foot Beartrap Canyon Waterfall a mile upstream from the junction with LaVerkin Creek also makes it less likely that fish have populated upstream. You supposedly can't make it upstream past the falls to follow the creek up into the wilderness, and the three sides of the wilderness that don't abut the National Park are all on private property, so this is going to be extremely tough to access. Beartrap Canyon does not contain fish. (US Dept of Interior, NPS, 2013 Virgin River, p. C48)

Beauty Mountain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Becky Peak Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Big Horn Mountains Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Big Maria Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Big Rocks Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Big Wild Horse Mesa Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Bighorn Mountain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows perennial flow in a long segment of Arrastre Creek in the western part of the wilderness (USGS 2021), although UCal Davis shows no fish native to that drainage. (UCal PISCES 2022)

Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Black Canyon Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. The eastern edge of the wilderness follows the shoreline on the Colorado River, but is generally 300 horizontal feet back from the river and well above it vertically. (USGS Nevada 2020)

Black Mountain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Bosque del Apache Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Bridge Canyon Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS Nevada 2020)

Bristlecone Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Bristol Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Broad Canyon Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Buzzards Peak Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Cabeza Prieta (AZ)- 2006 NWR CCP WSP and EIS p. 44 lists “developed waters” in tinajas and charcos, some with year-round water, with no mention of fish except at refuge HQ in Ajo, not in the wilderness. USGS NWIS shows perennial surface water in San Cristobal Wash but a close examination of aerials does not agree; no other perennial surface water visible. (USGS 2021)

Cadiz Dunes Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Cahuilla Mountain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Calico Mountains Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Cain Mountain Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows minimal perennial water, in Home Station Wash in the northern end of the wilderness, although I can’t find any documentation that says there is fish there. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Carrizo Gorge Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Cebolla Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Cedar Mountain Wilderness Area (UT): USGS NWIS shows short stretches of two unnamed (at least on the USGS 1:24k quads) streams with perennial surface water, but I can find no records of fish in these or any other streams in the wilderness. (USGS via California OES, 2019) Henry’s Spring on the east slope of the wilderness is another place that may or may not have water capable of supporting fish.

Cerro del Yuta Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Chase Lake (ND): https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Chase_Lake/wildlife_and_habitat/index.html retrieved Oct 3 2020: “Chase Lake is highly alkaline, has no outlet and supports no aquatic vertebrates.”

Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Chiricahua National Monument Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows Rhyolite Canyon in the wilderness as intermittent with no perennial flow (USGS 2021) and Arizona Game & Fish shows no native fish have ranges that include the wilderness. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022)

Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Chumash Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows a short segment of Apache Canyon leaving the west side of the wilderness as perennial (USGS 2021) but the aerial imagery shows lots of sand and gravel, no apparent water. Apache Canyon “flows” into the Cuyama River, which is also pretty light on water in this region. Nevertheless, the watershed is historically home to coastal rainbow trout (UCal PISCES 2022) but I don’t believe there is anything there now.

Cinder Cone Wilderness (NM): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Clipper Mountain Wilderness (CA): Hummingbird Spring (Zdon site 221) <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Cold Wash Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Coso Range Wilderness (CA): Upper Centennial Spring (Zdon sites 380 and 381) <1 gpm each
Lower Centennial Spring (Zdon site 310) <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Cottonwood Canyon Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020) Maybe it wasn't perennial, but I found water and it sure looked pretty when I hiked in on the Red Reef Trail on Labor Day weekend 2022. There were plenty of frogs, but I found no fish.



Cottonwood Forest Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Cottonwood Point Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Coyote Mountains Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021). In July 2024 I *found* surface water, a stock tank that is actually inside the wilderness boundary (most are not, some even have boundaries that go around stock tanks). I was excited, and got even more excited when I saw little things swimming freely in the pond. I'm not sure what they were, but it turns out they have little legs at the front end. My friends at iNaturalist say they are water scavenger beetle larvae (Hydrophilidae). When they are swimming they sure *look* like fishes though...



Coyote Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Craters of the Moon National Wilderness Area (ID): Natural Resource Assessment says there are no fish present. (NPS Craters of the Moon 2012, p. 25)

Dark Canyon Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Dead Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Delamar Mountains Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Devil's Canyon Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Dos Cabezas Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Eagle Canyon Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Eagletail Mountains Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

East Cactus Plain Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

East Potrillo Mountains Wilderness (NM): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

El Paso Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Eldorado Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows a 3-mile stretch of Lonesome Wash as perennial surface water but the aerals strongly suggest otherwise. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020) The eastern edge of the wilderness follows the shoreline on the Colorado River, but is generally 300 horizontal feet back from the river and well above it vertically.

Far South Egans Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Fish Creek Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Fortification Range Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Funeral Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Garcia Wilderness (CA): The upper reaches of the Salinas River run outside the north side of the wilderness but do not cross the border into the wilderness. Even though USGS NWIS says the Salinas is perennial in this area, the aerals don't support this conclusion. (USGS 2021) On the southern side of the wilderness Stony Creek, which eventually flows into the Cuyama River, shows as intermittent through the wilderness and also looks in imagery to be very dry. (USGS 2021) Coastal rainbow trout are native in each watershed, Sacramento pikeminnow are also native to the upper Salinas watershed, but it doesn't appear likely that any of these fish make it up this far.

Gibraltar Mountain Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Golden Valley Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Goose Creek Wilderness (UT): Goose Creek does not contain fish. (US Dept of Interior, NPS, 2013 Virgin River, p. C48) There does not appear to be any other perennial surface water.

Government Peak Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Grand Wash Cliffs Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Granite Mountain Wilderness (AZ): USGS With water...
says Mint Wash, which flows parallel to and
just outside of much of the eastern edge of
the wilderness and crosses into a small corner
of the wilderness, is perennial (USGS 2021).
AZ F&G says the Wash holds habitat for Gila
chub, speckled dace and longfin dace. (AZ
F&G Habimap 2022) It looked very promising,
with high flows, when I visited in March 2023.
I came back in July 2024 and it was bone dry.
I think for there to be fish it pretty much needs
to have water in it all the time.



Granite Mountain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Grass Valley Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Great Falls Basin Wilderness (CA): Christmas Spring (Zdon site 275) 2.5 gpm; Complex of five springs (Zdon sites 287, 288, 289, 290, 291) only site 287 has flow, <1 gpm; Twin Springs South (Zdon site 378) 1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Hain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Harcuvar Mountains Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Harquahala Mountains Wilderness (AZ): There are six mapped springs and allegedly “perennial surface water occurs in portions of Brown’s Canyon” on the eastern edge of the wilderness, but the report makes no mention of fish. (US Dept of Interior, BLM, Hassayampa 2015) USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Hells Canyon Wilderness (AZ, not ID/OR): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

High Rock Lake Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020) I drove up to the north “shore” in July 2024. Don’t tell anybody, but I drove out a little way onto the “lake.” I saw enough to convince myself that if there were any fish, they would look like this:



Hollow Hills Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Horse Valley Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows perennial surface water in a 0.8 mile stretch of a wash parallel to the cherry stem that separates Horse Valley Wilderness from Little Wild Horse Canyon Wilderness but I seriously doubt there’s enough water there for fish. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Hummingbird Springs Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Ibex Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Indian Pass Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Inyo Mountains Wilderness (CA): Badwater Springs (Zdon site 262) 4.5 gpm; unnamed spring near Mexican Spring (Zdon site 323) <1 gpm; Willow Creek Camp Spring (Zdon Site 387) 25 gpm. USGS NWIS shows a 1.5 mile stretch in Paiute Canyon as perennial flow. (USGS 2021)

Ireteba Peaks Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Jacumba Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Jimbilnan Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water, although the southern boundary of the wilderness follows the Lake Mead shoreline; I assume that recent lake levels leave the wilderness well above the lake level. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Joshua Tree Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Jumbo Springs Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Juniper Dunes Wilderness (WA): The Juniper Dunes Wilderness Management Plan (Dept of Interior, BLM, 1998) makes no mention of surface water.

Juniper Mesa Wilderness (AZ): According to USGS, Pine Creek through the wilderness is intermittent (USGS 2021). According to me walking the entire length of the creek in July, 2024, it is not. AZG&F seems to think there is habitat suitable for speckled dace in the creek (AZG&F Habimap 2022), I think the habitat would be more suitable if it had water in it.

The picture is the wettest part of Pine Creek...



Kachina Peaks Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021) I understand that the lack of flowing streams through this large, mountain wilderness of ponderosa pines with birch and aspen is attributable to the very porous volcanic soils.

Kelso Dunes Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Kendrick Mountain Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021) After having climbed to the fire lookout on top several times I have seen nothing to dispute that.

Kofa Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

La Madre Wilderness (NV): Environmental Assessment says springs but no fish. (USFS and Nevada Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources 1998) USGS shows perennial flow a short distance (0.4 to 0.6 miles) downstream from La Madre Spring and two other springs. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Lava Beds Wilderness (CA): While there are lakes, streams and lots of irrigation ditches very close by, the wilderness consists entirely of lava flows and is entirely without surface water. There are some small cave pools, but apparently these are very popular with bears, especially in winter. I will leave them alone. (USGS 2021)

LaVerkin Creek Wilderness (UT): LaVerkin Creek is long and perennial but supposedly has no fish as it crosses Zion National Park, and none above a barrier 5 miles south of the park boundary. (Sharrow 2007) That would mean no fish in LaVerkin Creek in the LaVerkin Creek Wilderness. Surrounded on three sides by private property, the only way to access this wilderness is going up LaVerkin Creek through the National Park. The LaVerkin Creek Trail supposedly ends at Bear Trap Canyon, although there is a faint trail as far as Willis Creek, 0.3 miles short of the LaVerkin Creek Wilderness. Another source says there are no fish in LaVerkin Creek. (US Dept of Interior, NPS, 2013 Virgin River, p. C48)

Lime Canyon Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Little Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Little Ocean Draw Wilderness (UT): USGS NWIS shows perennial flow in a 2.7-mile stretch of an unnamed canyon, a right-bank tributary of Little Ocean Draw “flowing” in Chute Canyon, across the central part of the wilderness. (USGS 2021) The satellite imagery makes it look very dry, and I haven’t found any records of fish there.

Little Picacho Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water, although portions of the northeastern part of the wilderness come dangerously close to the Colorado River. (USGS 2021)

Little Wild Horse Canyon Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Lostwood Wilderness (ND): At times covered with a great deal of water in the form of prairie potholes, attracting large numbers of water birds, yet the 1998 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the corresponding NWR makes no mention of fish, particularly in the wilderness area. A USGS publication (Mercury and methylmercury in water and bottom sediments of wetlands at Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, 2003-2004) shows all bodies of water in the refuge wilderness area are temporary or seasonal.

Lower Last Chance Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Machesna Mountain Wilderness (CA): The upper reaches of the Salinas River run outside the south side of the wilderness but do not cross the border into the wilderness. Even though USGS NWIS says the Salinas is perennial in this area, the aerials don’t support this conclusion. On the north side of the wilderness San Juan Creek, which eventually flows into the Salinas to the northwest, looks similarly dry in the vicinity of the wilderness (USGS 2021) Coastal rainbow trout and Sacramento pikeminnow are native in each watershed, but it doesn’t appear likely that any of these fish make it up this far.

Magic Mountain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021) The wilderness lies within the Santa Clara River watershed, the Santa Clara holds native coastal rainbow trout and three-spine stickleback, but it appears doubtful there is water to support them reaching the wilderness.

Malpais Mesa Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Manly Peak Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Manzano Mountain Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Meadow Valley Range Wilderness (NV): Meadow Valley Wash lies outside the wilderness in a cherry stem between Meadow Mountain Range Wilderness and Mormon Mountain Wilderness; a very small portion of the wash crosses into the wilderness from the cherry stem, but USGS NHD classifies this reach as intermittent, although aerials seem to show water. The perennial portion of the wash is upstream from Meadow Valley Range Wilderness. USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020) USGS says there are Virgin spinedace in Meadow Valley Wash “above the falls.” Buzzkill: designated critical habitat and recently verified presence of Virgin spinedace is in Condor Canyon, 60 miles upstream from here.

Mecca Hills Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Mesquite Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Miller Peak Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Milpitas Wash Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Mojave Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021) One of the last remaining populations of Mohave tui chub is isolated in Zzyzx Spring, in a carve-out on the western edge of the wilderness south of Baker. (USF&WS Ventura Office, 2009)

Mormon Mountain Wilderness (NV): A perennial reach of Meadow Valley Wash runs just outside the far northwestern wilderness boundary, but within the wilderness USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Mount Irish Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Mount Logan Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Mount Nutt Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Mount Riley Wilderness (NM): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Mount Tipton Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Mount Trumbull Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Mount Wilson Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Muddy Mountains Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Muggins Mountain Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Nellis Wash Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Nelson Mountain Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

New Water Mountains Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Newberry Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Nopah Range Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

North Algodones Dunes Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

North Maricopa Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

North McCullough Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS Nevada 2020)

North Mesquite Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Ojito Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Old Woman Mountains Wilderness (CA): Dripping Spring (Zdon site 212) <1 gpm; Honeymoon Wash Spring (Zdon site 220) <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Organ Mountains Wilderness (NM): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Orocopia Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Otay Mountain Wilderness (CA): The wilderness is within watersheds that have supported native populations of coastal rainbow trout (UCal PISCES 2022). However, USGS NWIS shows no perennial water. There are some tributaries coming off of the Tijuana River to the south (running under the border wall) or from the Otay River to the north that show as intermittent for a short length into the wilderness (USGS 2021), but I think it unlikely that they flow enough to support rainbow trout or to allow upstream movement of trout, even temporarily, into the wilderness.

Pahrump Valley Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Pahute Peak Wilderness (NV): There is a 2-mile stretch of allegedly perennial surface water downstream from a spring accessible from a cherry stem (USGS NHD Nevada 2020), but I have not seen any records of fish appearing here, or anywhere else in the wilderness.



Palen-McCoy Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Palo Verde Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Parsnip Peak Wilderness (NV): There are some unconnected stretches of perennial flow coming out of springs in the middle of the wilderness (USGS NHD Nevada 2020), but I've not found direct evidence of fish in these streams.



Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Petrified Forest Wilderness (AZ): AZ F&G Habimap shows no native fish anywhere in the wilderness. (AZ F&G Habimap)

Picacho Peak Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Pinto Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Pinto Valley Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water, although the southern boundary of the wilderness follows the Lake Mead shoreline; I assume that recent lake levels leave the wilderness well above the lake level. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020) I hiked into Cottonwood Spring in September 2022, there is not enough surface water to support fish. Actually, there is not enough surface water to get your feet wet. The picture is Cottonwood Spring... really...



Piper Mountain Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Piute Mountains Wilderness (CA): Barrel Spring (Zdon site 199) <1 gpm; Fenner Spring (Zdon site 216) <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)



Potrillo Mountains Wilderness (NM): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water, although there are several tanks, some of which appear to have water in the aerals. (USGS 2021)

Rainbow Mountain Wilderness (NV): Environmental Assessment says springs but no fish (USFS and Nevada Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources 1998)

Red's Canyon Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Red Butte Wilderness (UT): Part of the greater Zion ecosystem, Smith Creek crossing the extreme northwest corner of the wilderness is a tributary of LaVerkin Creek (see Blackridge Wilderness) and, together with LaVerkin Creek, is designated a wild and scenic river. Aerials make me think there might be perennial water there. Large segments of LaVerkin, particularly through Zion National Park, supposedly have no fish, although they have water. Smith Creek seems to come into LaVerkin Creek above the impassable structure that leaves LaVerkin fishless (Sharow 2007), so it is most likely without fish as well.

Red Mountain Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows a short stretch of perennial surface water in Sand Cove Wash, though the aerials make me doubt that. There does appear, however, to be a short stretch of a channelized outflow from the Sand Cove Reservoir that crosses into the wilderness for about 700 feet and seems to carry water. (Utah AGRC 2020) I checked this in July 2021, I'm not sure this is really in the wilderness, and I didn't find any fish.

Resting Spring Range Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021) I visited in late winter, March of 2023, and winter runoff had left water running in the Amargosa River where it runs in and out of the western wilderness boundary. I spent a lot of time walking up and down the riverbed looking for stray pupfish, but found nothing. I think the fish really need water *all year*.



Rice Valley Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

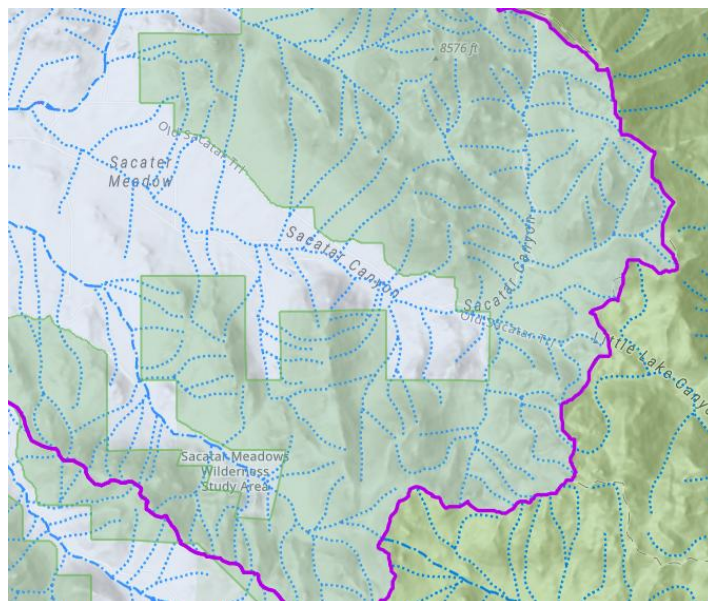
Riverside Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Robledo Mountains Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Rodman Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Sabinoso Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Sacatar Trail Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows a segment of the “stream” that flows through Scodie Meadows and connects with Chimney Creek to be perennial, but the aerials say something else. (USGS 2021) PISCES database does say that the Sacatar Canyon “watershed” holds golden trout so maybe I shouldn’t rule this out entirely, but I think they’ll need water...



Saddle Peak Hills Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Saguaro Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

San Rafael Reef Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Sandia Mountain Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Santa Rosa Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Sawtooth Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Sheephole Valley Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Sierra de las Uvas Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

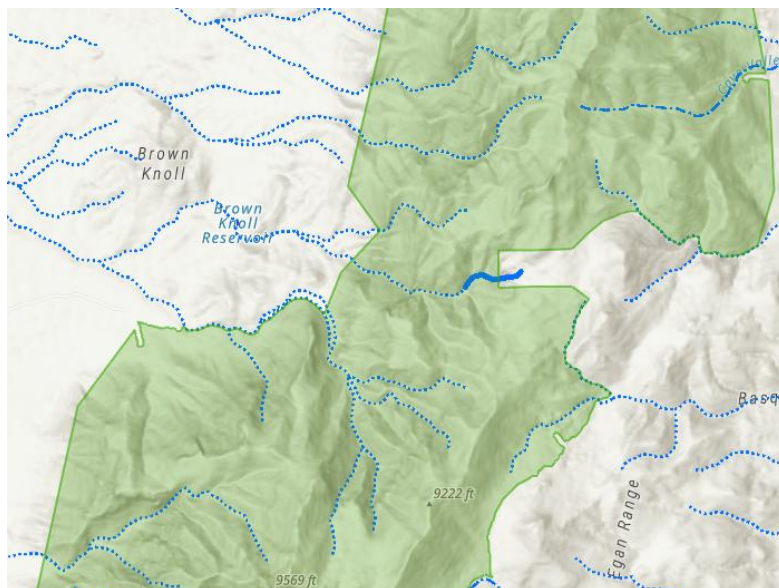
Sierra Estrella Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Signal Mountain Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Slaughter Creek Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water, even though the place is named after a “creek.” (Utah AGRC 2020)

Soda Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows a stretch of perennial surface water feeding a large fan on the west side of the wilderness but the aerials do not seem to support that determination. This wilderness also contains the “headwaters” of the Mohave River but that’s a very generous description. (USGS 2021)

South Egan Range Wilderness (NV): USGS NWIS shows a tiny stretch of disconnected perennial surface water in a canyon in the northern part of the wilderness (USGS 2021) so I suppose there is hope, but not much. NDOW says there is no fishable water here, although there certainly is in Mt. Grafton Wilderness just to the east and Red Mountain Wilderness to the west.



South Maricopa Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

South McCullough Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS Nevada 2020)

South Nopah Range Wilderness (CA): Tule Spring (Zdon site 53) on border of wilderness, <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

South Pahroc Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Spirit Mountain Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS Nevada 2020)

Spring Basin Wilderness (OR): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021). The John Day River is full of fish and tantalizingly close, but there is a road between the wilderness and the river. Maybe I can stand in the wilderness and cast across the road...



Stateline Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Stepladder Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Strawberry Crater Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Sylvania Mountains Wilderness (CA): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Table Top Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Taylor Creek Wilderness (UT): There are no fish in Taylor Creek. (US Dept of Interior, NPS, 2013 Virgin River, p. C48)

Tres Alamos Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Trigo Mountain Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Trilobite Wilderness (CA): (Zdon site 192) may be in wilderness area, <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Turtle Canyon Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

Turtle Mountains Wilderness (CA): Mopah Spring (Zdon site 153) <1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Wabayuma Peak Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Warm Springs Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water, but it shows Sacramento Wash within the eastern edge of the wilderness as intermittent and the aerials make it look like there might be some water there. (USGS 2021) AZ Fish & Game does not show any fish in the wash, or anywhere else. (AZ F&G Habimap 2022)

Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS Nevada 2020)

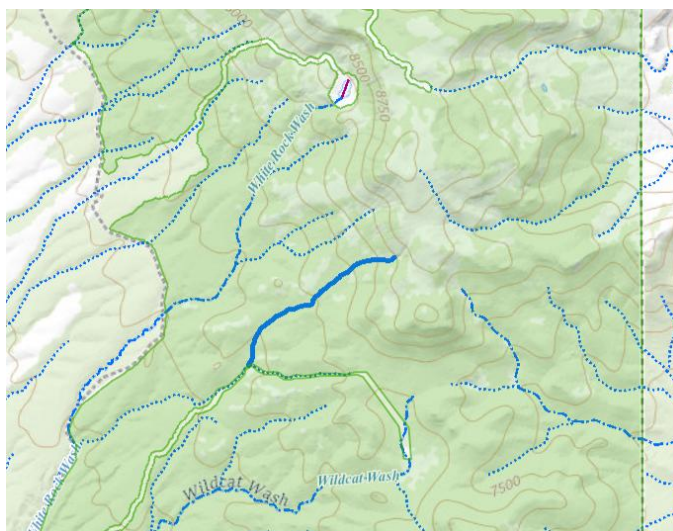
Weepah Spring Wilderness (NV): White River flows along eastern edge of wilderness and USGS NHD says it is perennial, but the aerial says it isn't and it may not cross into the wilderness anyway. (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Wellsville Mountain Wilderness (UT): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (Utah AGRC 2020)

West Malpais Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Whipple Mountains Wilderness (CA): Whipple Wash (Zdon site 156) <0.1 gpm; USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

White Rock Range Wilderness (NV):
There is one short stretch of perennial stream in the wilderness (USGS 2021)
but I can find no mention of fish here.



Whitethorn Wilderness (NM): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water. (USGS 2021)

Withington Wilderness (NM): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS via California OES, 2019)

Woolsey Peak Wilderness (AZ): USGS NWIS shows no perennial surface water, although it has Gila River shoreline if Painted Rock Reservoir ever fills, which happens rarely if ever. (USGS 2021)

Worthington Mountains Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water (USGS NHD Nevada 2020)

Wovoka Wilderness (NV): USGS NHD shows no perennial surface water. (USGS Nevada 2020)

Appendix 2: Index to the Beers



4 Noses Brewing Company, Broomfield, CO (Denver area); Perfect Drift German Style Pilsner; Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP Wilderness

Alaskan Brewery, Juneau, AK; Oatmeal Stout; Jay S. Hammond-Lake Clark Wilderness. Look very closely, there is someone flyfishing from the bank on the left side of the picture.

Anchorage Brewing Company, Anchorage, AK; Black Sour Ale; Andreafsky Wilderness. This is some great artwork, printed directly on the bottle, and very hard to come by. Beer was also excellent.

Bayern Brewing Company, Missoula, MT; Dancing Trout Beer; Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Of course, Missoula is the gateway to the Bitterroot Valley. Sadly, while they have a fine selection of breweries, the town and the valley are both becoming way too popular. The wilderness, however, which is accessible from the valley, has plenty of trout streams that no one goes to.

Bayern Brewing Company, Missoula, MT; Dancing Trout Ale; Rattlesnake Creek Wilderness

Bell's Brewing, Kalamazoo MI (aka Kalamazoo Brewing); Great Lakes Lager; Michigan Islands Wilderness. This wilderness rests in not just one, but two of the Great Lakes.

Bell's Brewing, Kalamazoo MI (aka Kalamazoo Brewing); Two-Hearted Ale; Sylvania Wilderness. The name of the beer is an obvious nod to the fictional Upper Peninsula river that Ernest Hemingway used as the backdrop for his story about a man coming back from the trauma of war to try to get his life grounded again. Hemingway never really wrote about fishing, but he somehow wrote stories that made fishing seem poetic as he wrote about far more important things using fishing as a vehicle. Most people who are minimally literate know about *The Old Man and the Sea*, but there are many more. Check out the passage in *The Sun Also Rises* about trout fishing on the Irati River in Spain if you want to experience some really powerful literature.

Bend Cider Co, Bend OR; Huckleberry-Ginger Hard Cider; Diamond Peak Wilderness

Big Rock Brewery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Royal Coachman Light Dry Ale; Salmo-Priest Wilderness

Big Sky Brewing Company, Missoula, MT; Montana Trout Slayer Ale; Welcome Creek Wilderness. My grandson Logan, when he was eight years old, became the first of my many grandchildren to catch a trout on a fly rod without any adult help whatsoever. He did this on Lightning Creek,

tributary of the Clark Fork River. The Clark Fork runs past Missoula, home of the Big Sky Brewing Company. Logan is now officially known as “The Trout Slayer.”

Black Mountain Brewing Company, Cave Creek, AZ; Greer Beer; Mount Baldy Wilderness. Greer is, of course, a small town located high up (high enough that there’s always water) on the Little Colorado River and is a good place to stay if you’re exploring the Mount Baldy Wilderness.

Boyne River Brewing Company, Boyne City, MI; Brown Ale; Seney Wilderness

Boyne River Brewing Company, Boyne City, MI; Lake Trout Stout; Bridger Wilderness. This is a Michigan beer paired with a Wyoming wilderness, not the best fit, but the lake trout is the common thread.

Bridger Brewing, Three Forks, MT; Lee Metcalf Wilderness Pale Ale; Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The label has no fish, fishing tackle or fishermen (or women), but it still belongs in this book, placed in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, for somewhat obvious reasons. I’m pretty sure it’s the only label that gets in with no fish, fishing tackle or fishermen (or women). Until, that is, I get to Sky Lakes in Oregon, or Eagle Cap. Oregon really seems to know about their wilderness areas.

Dark Horse Brewing Company, Marshall, MI; Thirsty Trout Stout; Arizona-New Mexico page of the graphical table of contents; I know the brewery is in Michigan, but look at the picture, this label clearly belongs in the desert southwest. It reminds me of the first fish I actually found (not caught, but picked up from the ground) in Death Valley.

Denali Brewing, Talkeetna, AK; Twister Creek IPA; Denali Wilderness

Deschutes Brewery, Bend OR; Deschutes Pacific Wonderland; Mount Hood Wilderness

Dry Fly Distilling Inc, Spokane WA; Huckleberry lemonade flavored vodka; Henry M. Jackson Wilderness

Elevation Beer Company, Poncha Springs, CO (South Arkansas River, near Salida); Byers Peak Wilderness

Evasion Brewing Company, McMinnville OR; Bright Blonde Ale; Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness

Fall River Brewing Company, Redding CA; Hex IPA; Lassen Volcanic Wilderness

Falls Brewing Company (Brewed for Falls Brewing Company by Miami Trail Brewing Co), Xenia OH; Nutty brown ale; West Sister Island Wilderness

Fish Brewing Company, Olympia, WA; Imperial Stout Reel Ale (see what they did with “reel”?); Daniel J. Evans Wilderness

Fish Brewing Company, Olympia, WA; Organic Amber Ale; Glacier Peak Wilderness

Fish Brewing Company, Olympia, WA; Organic Blonde Ale; Trapper Creek Wilderness

Fish Brewing Company, Olympia, WA; Organic Wild Salmon Pale Ale; Alpine Lakes Wilderness

Fish Brewing Company, Olympia, WA; Organic Winterfish Seasonal Ale; Buckhorn Wilderness

Fish Brewing Company, Olympia, WA; Red Ale (in a can); The Brothers Wilderness

Fish Brewing Company, Olympia, WA; Trout Stout Seasonal Ale; Indian Heaven Wilderness

Glen Kirk, Speyside, Scotland; Speyside Single Malt; Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness. It’s hard to see the fish, but it’s there in the foil toward the bottom of the label. I choose to believe the fish is an Atlantic Salmon because the scotch is from Scotland. There are no Atlantic Salmon in Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness, but there certainly are some in Maine.

Grand Teton Brewing Company, Victor, ID; Double ESB Ale, 20th Anniversary Cellar Reserve quart bottle; Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness

Grand Teton Brewing Company, Victor, ID; ESB Ale; Jedediah Smith Wilderness. Victor is *not* on Bitch Creek, which does flow out of the Jedediah Smith Wilderness; Victor is actually the last town I drove through on my way to Moose Creek, at the opposite end of the wilderness from Bitch Creek.

Grand Teton Brewing Company, Victor, ID; Middle Fork Hazy IPA; Winegar Hole Wilderness

Great Divide Brewing Company, Denver, CO; Whitewater Hoppy Wheat Ale; Vasquez Peak Wilderness

James Page Brewery, Minneapolis, MN; Burly Brown Brown Ale (yes, "brown brown"); Agassiz Wilderness. As far as I know, there are neither brown bears nor brown trout in this wilderness, and there may never have been, but it's a Minnesota beer, so here you go.

Kassik's Brewery, Kenai (or maybe Nikiski?), AK; Dolly Varden Nut Brown; Mollie Beatty Wilderness. Is that actually a fish? Or a mermaid? Or maybe a beermaid?

Kenai River Brewing Company, Soldotna, AK; Sunken Island IPA; Andreafsky Wilderness. I should have this with Kenai Wilderness, but I had formatting problems. Hard to see in this picture, but there are cartoonish-looking spawning-colored salmon swimming by in the picture.

Kettle House Brewing Company, Missoula, MT; Doublehaul IPA; Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness

Living Häus Beer Co, Portland, OR; Colin and Cassidy West Coast IPA's; Drift Creek Wilderness

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA (oddly enough on the Mad River); Steelhead Double India Pale Ale; South Fork Eel Wilderness. The Mad River drainage doesn't have any wildernesses, but there are several in neighboring drainages, particularly the Eel River system.

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA; Steelhead Extra Pale Ale, blue background, the words "extra pale ale" on a curved scroll; Desolation Wilderness

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA; Steelhead Extra Pale Ale, blue background, the words "extra pale ale" on a straight scroll; Mount Lassen Wilderness

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA; Steelhead Extra Pale Ale, cream-colored background; John Muir Wilderness

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA; Steelhead Extra Stout, black background; Bucks Lake Wilderness

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA; Steelhead Extra Stout, light blue background; Copper Salmon Wilderness

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA; Steelhead Scotch Porter, brown background and plaid scroll; Hells Canyon Wilderness, home of a steelhead population.

Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, CA; Steelhead Scotch Porter, yellow background; North Fork Wilderness

Madison River Brewing Company, Belgrade, MT; Copper John Scotch-style Ale; Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Madison River Brewing is notorious (among beer label collectors, at least) for labels on thin paper, attached with lots of glue, that don't want to leave the bottle; this picture is evidence of that particular trait.

Madison River Brewing Company, Belgrade, MT; Hopper Pale Ale; Gates of the Mountains Wilderness

Madison River Brewing Company, Belgrade, MT; Salmon Fly Honey Rye; Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness

Mammoth Brewing Company, Mammoth Lakes, CA; Golden Trout Pilsner; Golden Trout Wilderness. This one seemed like a natural fit. "Brewed at 8,000 feet."

Metolius Brewing Co, Portland OR (aka Portland Brewing Co, aka Pyramid McTarnahans Taproom); Metolius River Ales (produced under contract by World Brews, Rochester, NY) Rusty Spinner Amber Ale; Mount Washington Wilderness

Metolius Brewing Co, Portland OR (aka Portland Brewing Co, aka Pyramid McTarnahans Taproom); Metolius River Ales (produced under contract by World Brews, Rochester, NY) Yellow Sally Blonde Ale; Mount Jefferson Wilderness

Midnight Sun Brewing Company, Anchorage, AK; Cohoho seasonal imperial IPA; Chuck River Wilderness

Midnight Sun Brewing Company, Anchorage, AK; Kodiak Brown Ale; Katmai Wilderness

Midnight Sun Brewing Company, Anchorage, AK; Sockeye Red Ale; Togiak Wilderness

Midnight Sun Brewing Company, Anchorage, AK; Sockeye Red IPA; Koyukuk Wilderness

Missoula Brewing Company, Missoula MT (aka Highlander Beers); Highlander Mt Jumbo Northwest IPA; Mission Mountains Wilderness

Mogollon Brewing Company, Flagstaff AZ; Apache Trout Stout; Saddle Mountain Wilderness. This was a very good beer, with great artwork on the label, and it is one of the very few that paid homage to Arizona's very own endemic trout. North Canyon Creek in the Saddle Mountain Wilderness is an Apache Trout safe deposit box, holding a reserve population in case disaster strikes in the native range in the White Mountains. As for the brewery, when it folded a new entity, Historic Brewing Company, took over the facilities and carried on. They make a very good porter, ask for the Pie Hole Porter.

Napa Smith Brewery, Napa, CA; Cool Brew Hop Ale; Caribou Wilderness

New Belgium Brewing Company, Fort Collins CO; "Salmon Safe" Fresh Hop India Pale Ale; Comanche Peak Wilderness

New Belgium Brewing Company, Fort Collins CO; Red Hoptober Fall Seasonal Ale; Cache la Poudre Wilderness

Northwest Brewing Company, Pacific, WA; Chinook Copper Ale; Mount Skokomish Wilderness. Pacific was a few minutes from my apartment in Federal Way in the early '80's, I often drove through town on my way to hike and climb, but oddly enough rarely to fish, in the Mount Rainier Wilderness. Of course, that was about 25 years before Northwest Brewing Company existed...

O'Dell Brewing Company, Fort Collins, CO; Cutthroat Porter; Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness. Not Greenback Cutthroat Porter, or Alleged Greenback Cutthroat Porter, just Cutthroat Porter. The beer doesn't care about the genetics.

Payette Brewing Company, Boise ID; Fly Line Lager; Owyhee River Wilderness

Payette Brewing Company, Boise ID; North Fork Lager; Gospel Hump Wilderness

Quivira Vineyards, Healdsburg CA; Steelhead Sauvignon Blanc and Zinfandel; Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness

Radio Brewing Company, Kellogg ID; Idaho Sexy Huckleberry Wheat; Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness

Roadhouse Brewing Company, Jackson, WY; Trout Whistle Pale Ale; Encampment River Wilderness

Roscoe Beer Company, Roscoe, NY; American Amber Ale; Monomoy Wilderness. Catskill Mountains trout seem out of place for a coastal Massachusetts wilderness, but Massachusetts is next door to New York, and there just aren't that many wildernesses in New York.

Samuel Smith Old Brewery, Tadcaster, England; 2008-2009 Winter Welcome Ale; Great Gulf Wilderness. So the beer is from England, not New England, but does that really matter? I had to put this somewhere, it's one of the all-time great labels.

Sawtooth Winery, Nampa, ID; Sawtooth 2004 Syrah (the same picture is on multiple labels); Sawtooth Wilderness. I couldn't very well match this one with any other wilderness.

Sierra Nevada Brewing, Chico, CA; Pale ale, featuring Yosemite National Park; Yosemite Wilderness. This is part of the National Park Foundation series that Sierra Nevada ran in 2026 to honor, well, National Parks. No trout or salmon or fishermen on this label, but this series, which also features a couple of other parks that have wilderness areas with fish in them, is part of a growing trend of beers honoring wilderness areas that have fish. OK, this honors the whole park, but much of the park is, in fact, the Yosemite Wilderness.

Silver Falls Brewery, Silverton, OR; Fair Weather Friends West Coast IPA; Opal Creek Wilderness

Skagit River Brewery, Mt. Vernon, WA; Steelie Brown Ale; Steven Mather Wilderness

Smoking River Brewing Company, Meeker, CO (Meeker sits on, and largely owes its existence to, the White River); A variety of beers, when you buy cans at the brewery the variety is written by hand

in Sharpie on a blank space left for the purpose on the label; Flat Tops Wilderness. This is quite possibly my favorite. Meeker and the White River are joined at the hip, and the White River system is the dominant river system in the western two-thirds of the Flat Tops Wilderness. And not only does the label feature a nice black and white drawing of a leaping trout, but the background graphic is a topographic map of the watershed! And it gets even better- the only features actually labeled on the map are the rivers! It literally looks like someone used my GIS and left out all the extraneous features like towns and roads, just the rivers please!

Snake River Brewing Company, Jackson, WY; Zonker Stout, Gros Ventre Wilderness

Sockeye Brewing Company, Boise, ID; Dagger Falls IPA; Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Dagger Falls is not only within the Frank Church Wilderness, but is a destination for one of my next trips to Idaho.

Sockeye Brewing Company, Boise, ID; Galena Gold Ale; Bruneau-Jarbridge Wilderness. Galena is a very small town just outside of the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness, I might have to move this one.

Sockeye Brewing Company, Boise, ID; Hopnoxious Imperial IPA; Big Jacks Creek Wilderness

Sockeye Brewing Company, Boise, ID; Powerhouse Porter; Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. So why does the Frank Church Wilderness get *two different* beers? It's the only wilderness that does. Why? Both the Dagger Falls IPA and the Powerhouse Porter celebrate very specific places that are located *within* the wilderness. If you look closely you'll see that this one features a segment of a USGS 7.5 minute quad in the background. Specifically, it's mile 81 through mile 84 of the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Salmon River, deep within the Frank Church Wilderness. I had to include both beers! I had no choice!

Sockeye Wines, Seattle, WA; 2003 Columbia Valley Merlot; Daniel J. Evans Wilderness

Sonoran Brewing Company, Scottsdale, AZ; Summer Seasonal Chef Series "FFF" beer, with basil and grapefruit. Produced in partnership with celebrity chef Eddie Matney. Eddie's restaurant, "Eddie's House," was probably the only restaurant in Scottsdale (or likely within 100 miles of Scottsdale) decorated with a flyfishing theme, including pictures of Eddie participating in the Jackson Hole One-Fly on the walls of the men's room. I met Eddie at a Scottsdale promotional event in 2013, where of course we talked fishing. I told him about kayaking the Salt River near Granite Reef diversion dam and he seemed very interested. Several months later I read a news story about Eddie getting busted for marijuana possession (back when that was a thing) on his way back from fishing in the Salt River.

Spendrups Bryggeri AB, Stockholm, Sweden; Norrland's Guld Export; Allegheny Islands Wilderness. So why is this beer from Sweden associated with a wilderness in Pennsylvania? The beer is actually marketed in the US by Ikea. Guess which US state was the first one to have an Ikea store...

Speyburn Distillery, Rothes, Moray, Scotland; Bradan Orach Highland Single Malt Scotch; Moosehorn Wilderness (Baring Unit). My favorite scotch. Of course, Moosehorn Wilderness is the closest wilderness to Scotland.

Spotted Bear Distillery, Whitefish, MT; Spotted Bear agave tequila-ish liquor, distilled from blue agave; Bob Marshall Wilderness

Steel Creek Vineyards, Monterey, CA; 2007 Monterey County Pinot Noir; Ventana Wilderness

Steuben Brewing Company, Hammondsport, NY; Cold Brook Pilsner. Cold Brook and Keuka Lake have very little in common with Fire Island, but they do share the State of New York.

Sun Valley Brewing Company, Hailey, ID (Big Wood River, with tributaries that head in the Hemingway-Boulder Wilderness); White Cloud Ale; Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds Wilderness. This one likely uses water that flows from the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness, but the name of the beer is "White Cloud," so how could I put it anywhere else?

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; 420 Extra Pale Ale; Brasstown Wilderness

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; Blue Blueberry Ale; Cumberland Island Wilderness

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; ESB; Wambaw Swamp Wilderness

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; Exodus Porter, background in Bob Marley colors; Tray Mountain Wilderness. I first got this beer while in Atlanta interviewing for a job, where I met Laura Turner Seydel, a fascinating woman and a force in the environmental movement for a long time. Among (many) other things, she helped found Chattahoochee Riverkeepers and the whole Riverkeeper movement, accomplishments that have saved more fish than you can imagine.

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; Exodus Porter, background in purple; Dugger Mountain Wilderness

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; Hazy IPA; Okefenokee Wilderness

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; H.A.Z.Y. Double IPA; Cape Romain Wilderness

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; India Pale Ale; Cheaha Wilderness

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; Mosaic Single Hop Hazy IPA; Virginia-Carolinas-Georgia page of the graphical table of contents

Sweetwater Brewing Company, Atlanta, GA; Sch'Wheat! American Wheat Ale; Wolf Island Wilderness

Telluride Brewing Company, Telluride, CO; Fishwater Double IPA; Mount Sneffels Wilderness. It looks like you can actually look down on the brewery from some of the peaks in the wilderness.

Terminal Gravity Brewing, Enterprise, OR; Eagle Cap IPA; Eagle Cap Wilderness, for obvious reasons. Another in a very small but growing collection of labels that don't necessarily feature trout on them, but make it into the book because they show due respect to the wildernesses themselves.

The Traditional Company, Salem, OR; Wandering Aengus Dry Oaked Cider; Bull of the Woods Wilderness. This is one of my favorites, beautiful drawing, unique flavor. I've only seen this once, in a specialty beer store in Boise. The name is from a William Butler Yeats poem, which is actually (superficially) about fishing for trout.

Trout River Brewing Company, Lyndonville, VT; Chocolate Oatmeal Stout; Big Branch Wilderness

Trout River Brewing Company, Lyndonville, VT; Rainbow Red Ale; Lye Brook Wilderness

Trout River Brewing Company, Lyndonville, VT; Whitewater Ale; Bristol Cliffs Wilderness

Uinta Brewing Company, Salt Lake City, UT; Cutthroat Pale Ale (one of several variations, this one has realistic trout picture and "pale ale" in a banner); Box Death Hollow Wilderness

Uinta Brewing Company, Salt Lake City, UT; Cutthroat Pale Ale (one of several variations, this one has stylized trout picture); High Uintas Wilderness. Always a bonus when they name a wilderness area after the beer...

Wisconsin Brewing Company, Wauwatosa, WI; Rainbow Red Ale; Whisker Lake Wilderness

Wisconsin Dells Brewing Co, Lake Delton WI; Headwaters Wilderness, WI. The wilderness is 160 miles away from the brewery but is still the closest wilderness to the brewery.

Wren House Brewing Company, Phoenix, AZ; Black Caddis Porter; Mazatzal Wilderness. That's pronounced MAT-a-zahl for those who aren't from here. It looks like it should be pronounced differently, and it looks like an ancient Aztec word. Neither is true. Of course, neither has anything to do with the beer, either.