

Wanacut Creek

Although sufficient flows existed to allow water to reach the Okanogan River, no adult steelhead or redds were observed in Wanacut Creek in 2011. No steelhead were detected on the seasonal PIT tag array, which was located just upstream of the confluence with the Okanogan. A seasonal PIT tag array will again be installed in 2012 to help further examine the potential benefits of stream restoration activities on returning adult steelhead in Wanacut Creek.

Tunk Creek

On April 13, one redd was identified immediately upstream of the Tunk Creek confluence with the Okanogan River. One additional redd was documented on April 27 and 30 identified on May 5 (Figure 23). Using a value of 1.8 FPR derived from the Omak Creek weir trap, provided an estimate of 56 steelhead that spawned in Tunk Creek. On May 5, 11 steelhead were observed on redds in Tunk Creek, with two of these being ad-present and nine being marked hatchery fish. Extrapolating this percent wild-rate (18%) to the total of 56 steelhead, represented 10 wild spawners. Tunk Creek was only surveyed completely up to the barrier in the two years prior to 2011; escapement estimates were 10 steelhead in 2009 and 109 in 2010.

A seasonal PIT tag array was installed near the mouth of Tunk Creek in the spring of 2011. One wild and 4 hatchery steelhead were detected at this location. Based on the Priest Rapids release group, the calculated spawning escapement was 12 wild and 48 hatchery fish. Both methods used appeared to validate one another (the redd survey expansion estimated 56 total, 10 wild steelhead and the PIT tag detection estimated 60 total, 12 wild steelhead).

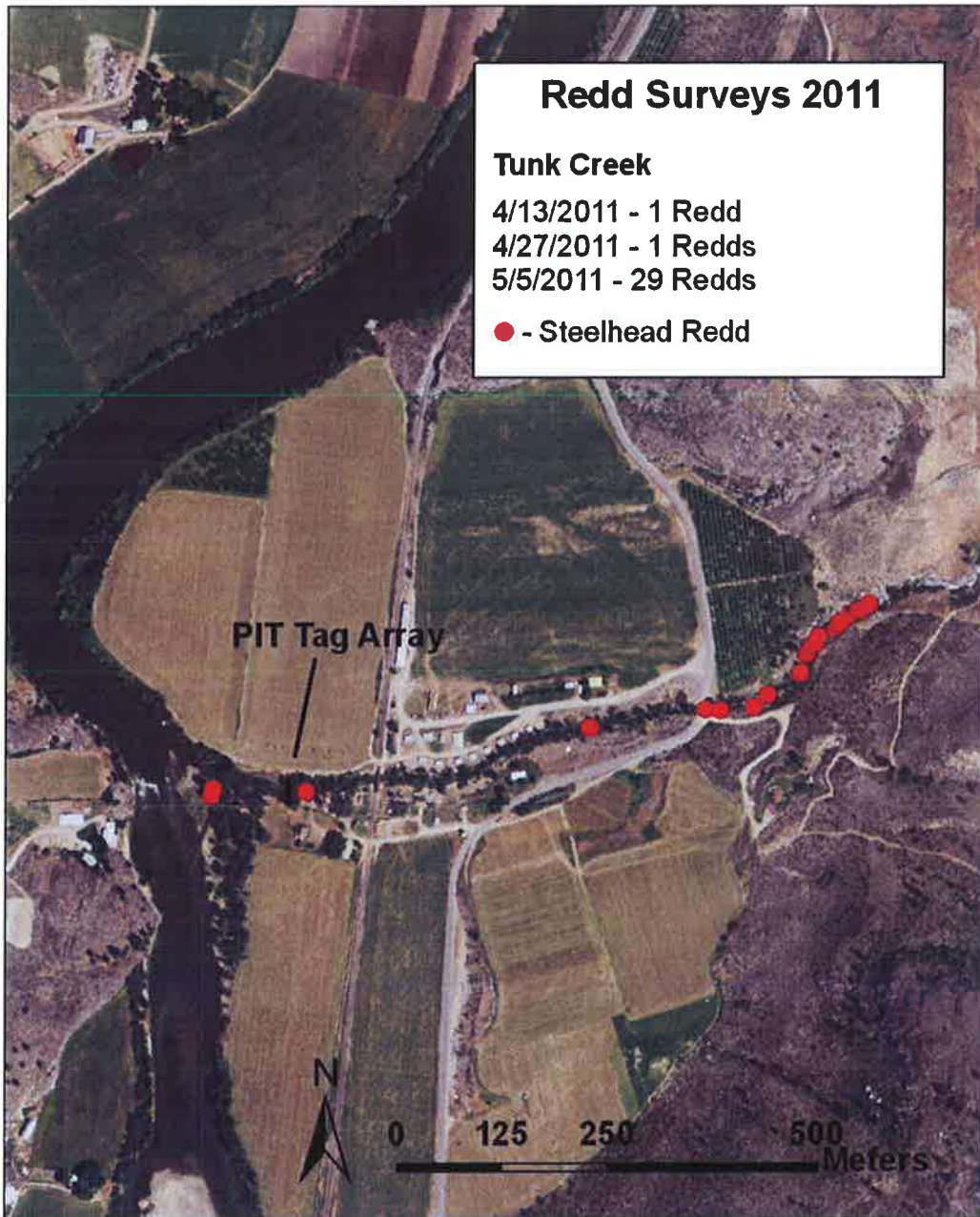


Figure 23. The distribution of redds observed in Tunk Creek during 2011, from the confluence with the Okanogan River upstream to Tunk Falls (anadromous barrier).