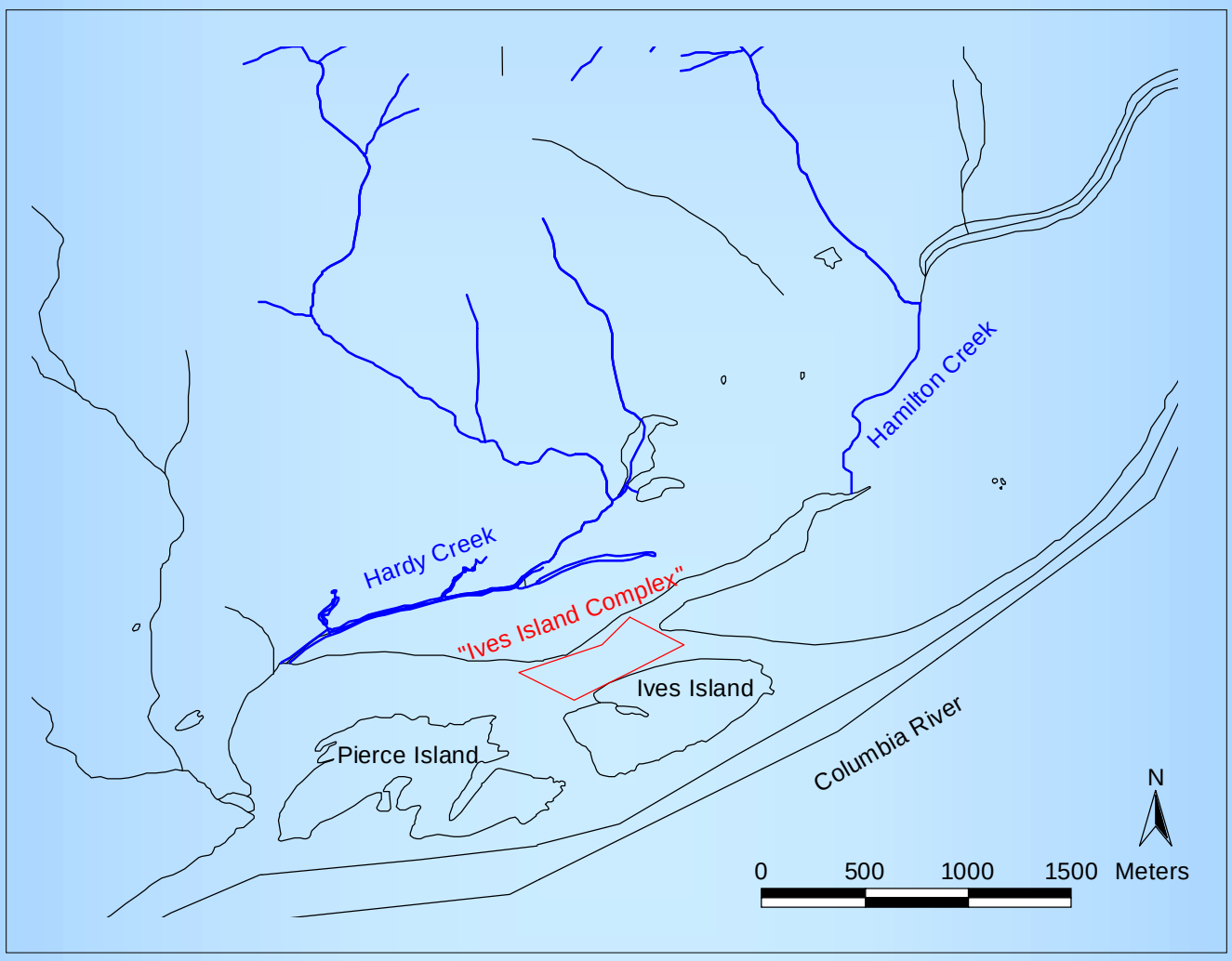
Factors Limiting Chum Salmon in the Columbia River Gorge

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Columbia River Fisheries Program Office

The annual historic Columbia River chum salmon run in the early 1900s was estimated to be 1,392,000. In 1951 the run size on the Washington side of the Columbia River was estimated at 25,000. Since 1959, the population has been relatively stable with the annual minimum run size ranging from 300 to 5,700. **On May 24, 1999 the National Marine Fisheries Service listed Columbia River chum salmon populations as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.**



This research examines the natural chum salmon production within Hamilton Creek, Hardy Creek, and a portion of the mainstem Columbia River referred to as the “Ives Island Complex”.

Objectives

- Evaluate the use of traditional and artificial spawning areas
- Evaluate the relationship between mainstem Columbia River and tributary spawning areas
- Examine smolt outmigration patterns