

# Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

An R-based Web Application to  
Search, Analyze and Display Water Quality Data  
in Oregon State, USA

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# Web Application Goals

Provide an interactive means for users to:

- Query data from multiple databases
- Evaluate status and trend at individual sampling stations
- Display the results

Non-R users are able to generate information on status and trends

# Water Quality Data Start Here...



# ...And Go Here

- DEQ databases – Current and legacy databases for grab and continuous data



- NWQMC Water Quality Portal for grab data



– EPA STORET



– USGS NWIS



- USGS National Water Information System for continuous data



# Then What?

Use the data to:

- Determine status of water quality
- Look for trends in water quality

# But How?

That's a lot of places to look and potentially a lot of data to analyze

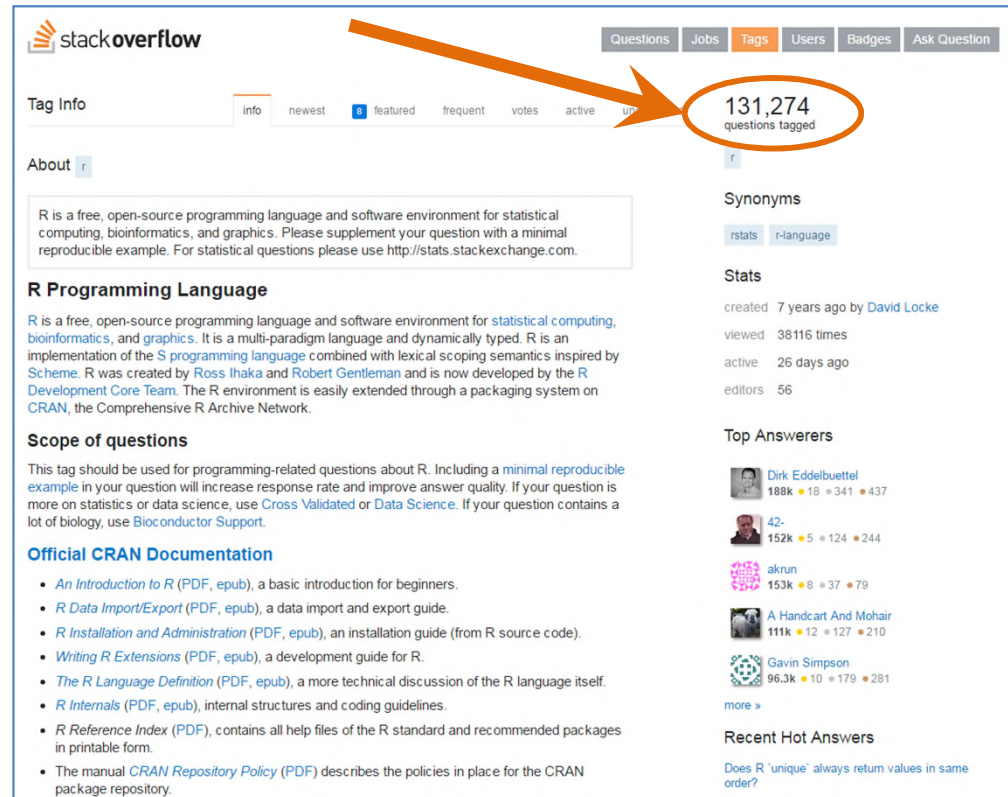
Luckily there's





# What is ?

- Open source statistical programming language
- It's free (r-project.org)
- Has a large user base
- Lots of documentation and learning resources



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About **r**

R is a free, open-source programming language and software environment for statistical computing, bioinformatics, and graphics. Please supplement your question with a minimal reproducible example. For statistical questions please use <http://stats.stackexchange.com>.

**R Programming Language**

R is a free, open-source programming language and software environment for [statistical computing](#), [bioinformatics](#), and [graphics](#). It is a multi-paradigm language and dynamically typed. R is an implementation of the [S programming language](#) combined with lexical scoping semantics inspired by [Scheme](#). R was created by [Ross Ihaka](#) and [Robert Gentleman](#) and is now developed by the [R Development Core Team](#). The R environment is easily extended through a packaging system on [CRAN](#), the Comprehensive R Archive Network.

**Scope of questions**

This tag should be used for programming-related questions about R. Including a [minimal reproducible example](#) in your question will increase response rate and improve answer quality. If your question is more on statistics or data science, use [Cross Validated](#) or [Data Science](#). If your question contains a lot of biology, use [Bioconductor Support](#).

**Official CRAN Documentation**

- [An Introduction to R](#) (PDF, epub), a basic introduction for beginners.
- [R Data Import/Export](#) (PDF, epub), a data import and export guide.
- [R Installation and Administration](#) (PDF, epub), an installation guide (from R source code).
- [Writing R Extensions](#) (PDF, epub), a development guide for R.
- [The R Language Definition](#) (PDF, epub), a more technical discussion of the R language itself.
- [R Internals](#) (PDF, epub), internal structures and coding guidelines.
- [R Reference Index](#) (PDF), contains all help files of the R standard and recommended packages in printable form.
- The manual [CRAN Repository Policy](#) (PDF) describes the policies in place for the CRAN package repository.

**131,274** questions tagged

**Synonyms**

[rstats](#) [r-language](#)

**Stats**

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**Top Answerers**

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[Does R 'unique' always return values in same order?](#)

# How Does Work?

- Use a text editor to write out the analysis
- Pass the analysis code to the R software to actually run the analysis
- R users have built packages to do many different types of analysis
- A package is a collection of functions to perform an analysis



# The Shiny Package

- The Shiny package is built by  RStudio
  - Provides R functions that translate R code to an interactive javascript web application
  - Builds a user interface to edit settings in the analysis
  - Puts all the code to run an analysis behind the user interface

# While I see this

```

96 if ('Water Quality Portal' %in% input$db) {
97   incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying the Water Quality Portal')
98   prog <- prog + 1/10
99   wqpData <- tryCatch(wqpQuery(planArea = input$select,
100                                HUCList = HUCList,
101                                inParms = input$parms,
102                                luParms = parms,
103                                startDate = input$dates[1],
104                                endDate = input$dates[2]),
105                       error = function(err) {err <- geterrmessage()})
106
107   if (any(c('Temperature', 'pH') %in% input$parms)) {
108     incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying NWIS continuous data')
109     prog <- prog + 1/10
110     nwisData <- tryCatch(nwisQuery(planArea = input$select,
111                                   HUCList = HUCList,
112                                   inParms = input$parms,
113                                   startDate = input$dates[1],
114                                   endDate = input$dates[2]),
115                          error = function(err) {err <- geterrmessage()})
116   }
117
118   if (is.null(wqpData) & is.null(nwisData)) {
119     wqp_message <- 'Your query returned no results from the Water Quality Portal.'
120   } else if (!is.data.frame(wqpData) & !is.null(wqpData)) {
121     if (grepl("307", wqpData)) {
122       wqp_message <- 'Water Quality Portal is busy. Please try again in a few minutes.'
123     }
124   }
125 }
126
127 if ('DEQ' %in% input$db) {
128   incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying the LASAR database')
129   prog <- prog + 1/10
130
131   lasarData <- lasarQuery(planArea = input$select,
132                           HUCList = HUCList,
133                           inParms = input$parms,
134                           startDate = input$dates[1],
135                           endDate = input$dates[2])
136
137   odbcCloseAll()
138   if (nrow(lasarData) == 0) lasarData <- NULL
139
140   incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying the Element database')
141   prog <- prog + 1/10
142
143   elmData <- elementQuery(planArea = input$select,
144                           HUCList = HUCList,
145                           inParms = input$parms,
146                           startDate = input$dates[1],
147                           endDate = input$dates[2])
148
149   odbcCloseAll()
150   if (nrow(elmData) == 0) elmData <- NULL
151 }
152

```

```

17 #We want to extract only those stations in the current AgwQMA so let's bring that lay
18 agwqma <- readOGR(dsn = './data/GIS', layer = 'ODA_AgwQMA', verbose = FALSE)
19
20 shinyUI(fluidPage(
21   titlePanel("Oregon Water Quality Status and Trend Beta Version 2.0"),
22   mainPanel(
23     HTML("<script> if (!window.chrome) { alert('For full functionality you will need
24     tabsetPanel(
25       tabPanel("Data Query", fluidRow(
26         column(3,
27           selectInput("select", label = h3("Select Plan Area"),
28                       #choices = list()
29                       choices = c("Choose one" = "", sort(agwqma$PlanName)))
30         ),
31         column(3,
32           checkboxGroupInput("parms", label = h3("Select Parameters to Query"),
33                              choices = c('Temperature', 'pH', 'Bacteria'),
34                              selected = 1)
35         ),
36         column(3,
37           dateRangeInput("dates", label = h3("Select the Start and End Dates")))
38       ),
39       fluidRow(
40         column(3,
41           checkboxGroupInput('db', 'Select Database(s) to Query:',
42                              c('Water Quality Portal', 'DEQ'),
43                              selected = 1)
44         ),
45         column(3,
46           h3("Run Query"),
47           actionButton(inputId = "action_button", label = 'Submit'))
48       ),
49       fluidRow(
50         column(3,
51           column(3,
52             h3(" "),
53             htmloutput("text1"),
54             h3(" "),
55             htmloutput("text2")
56           )
57         ),
58         fluidRow(
59           column(3,
60             tableOutput('all_totals'),
61             column(3,
62               conditionalPanel(condition = "output.text2 == ''",
63                               "Click here to download the data",
64                               downloadButton('downloadData', 'download')
65             )
66           )
67         )
68       )
69     )
70   )
71   # )
72 )

```

# You see this

## Oregon Water Quality Status and Trend Beta Version 2.0

[Data Query](#) [Review Data](#) [Plot Status and Trend](#)

### Select Plan Area

Burnt River ▼

### Select Paramters to Query

☒ Temperature  
☒ pH  
☒ Bacteria

### Select the Start and End Dates

2006-04-05 to 2016-04-05

### Select Database(s) to Query:

☒ Water Quality Portal  
☒ DEQ

### Run Query

Submit

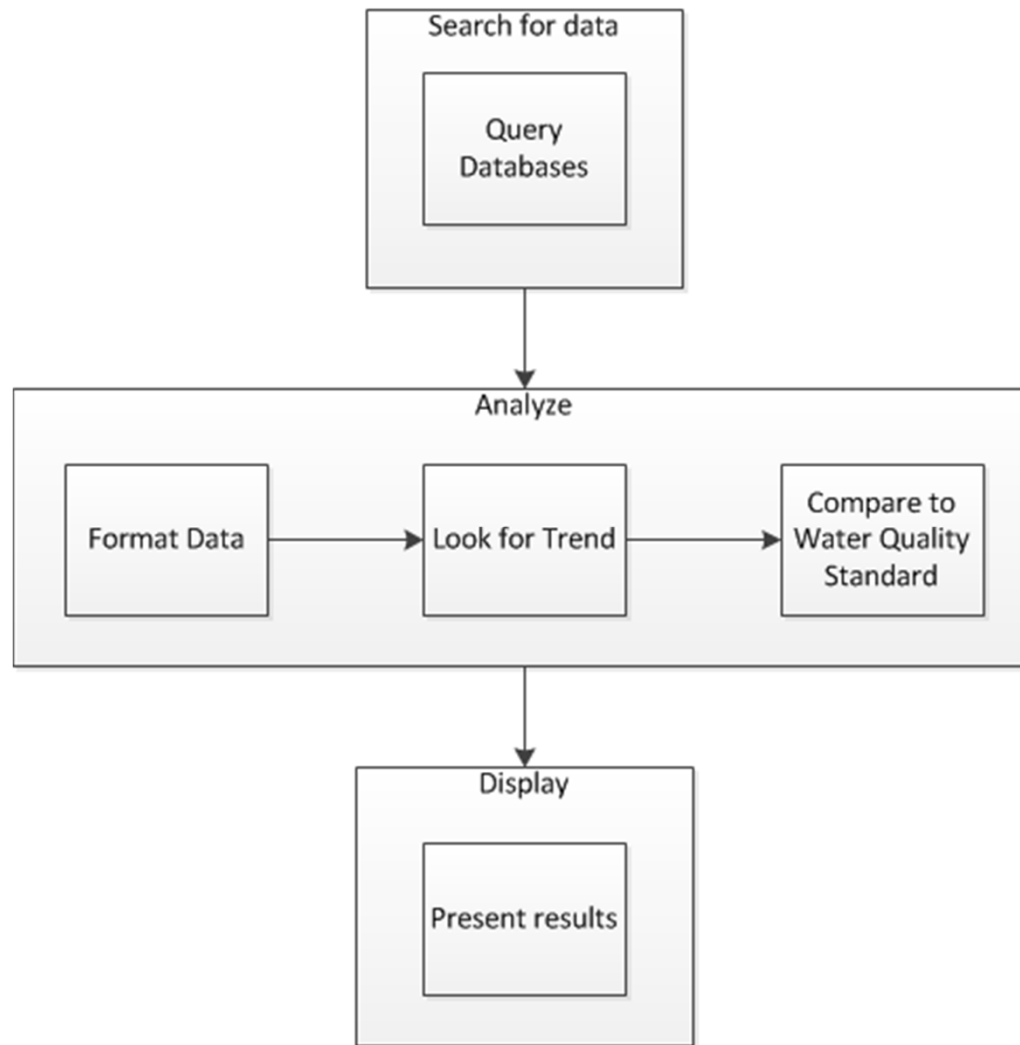
You just submitted Burnt River Plan Area Query for Temperature, pH, Bacteria from 2006-04-05 to 2016-04-05

Download the data

View map

	Analyte	Stations	Results
1	E. Coli	16	502
2	Fecal Coliform	4	12
3	pH	23	7376
4	Temperature	43	94621

# Application Structure



# Search For Data

## Query Databases

- RODBC package for DEQ data
  - Provides connection from R to SQL Server databases
- dataRetrieval package for Water Quality Portal data
  - A collection of functions to get data from USGS and EPA National Databases
  - Uses web services to communicate with the databases

# Search For Data

## Oregon Water Quality Status and Trend Beta Version 2.0

Data Query

[Review Data](#)

[Plot Status and Trend](#)

### Select Plan Area

Burnt River

### Select Parameters to Query

☒ Temperature

☒ pH

☒ Bacteria

### Select the Start and End Dates

2006-04-05

to

2016-04-05

### Select Database(s) to Query:

☒ Water Quality Portal


☒ DEQ

### Run Query

Submit

You just submitted Burnt River Plan Area  
Query for Temperature, pH, Bacteria from  
2006-04-05 to 2016-04-05

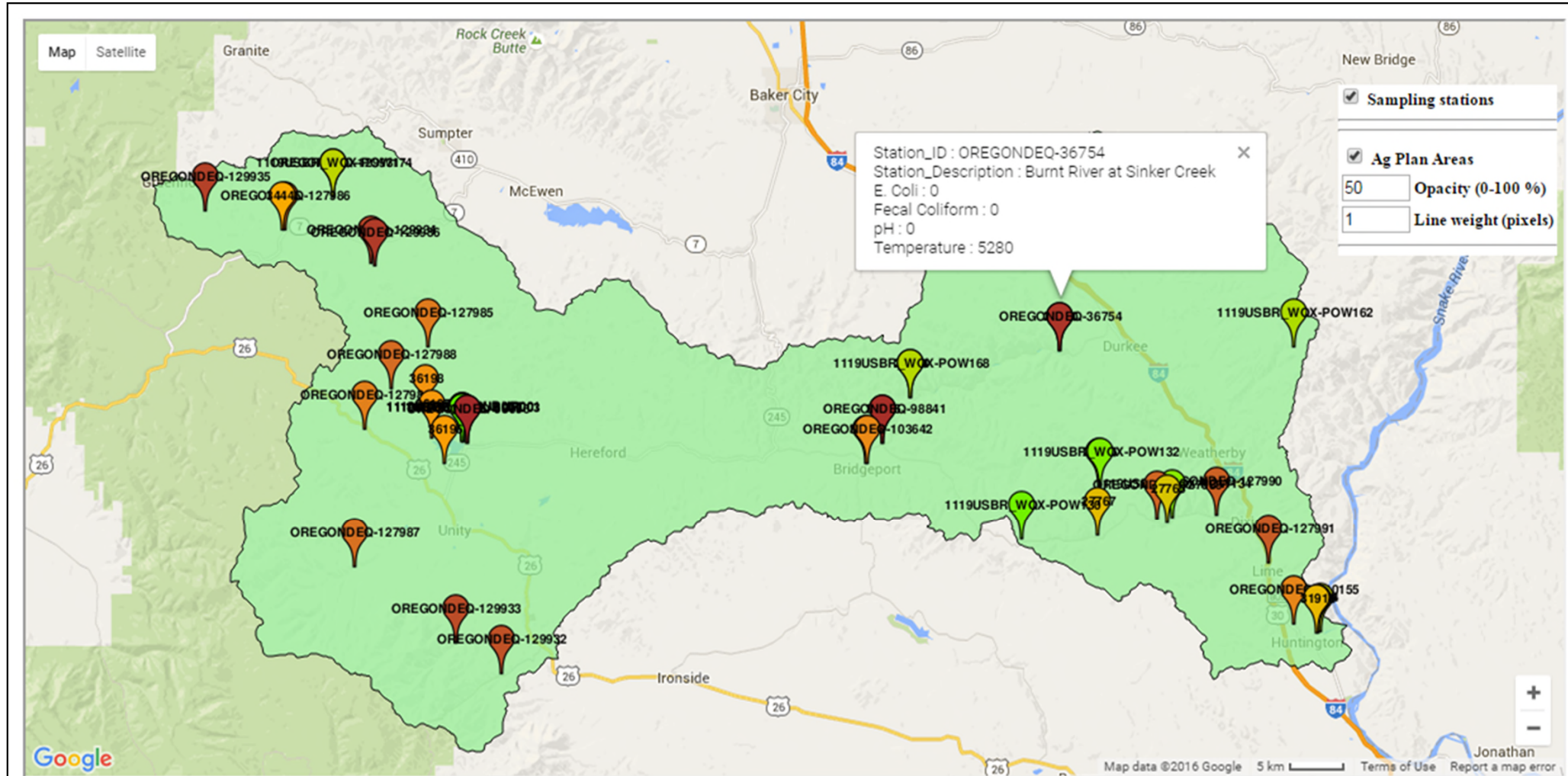
	Analyte	Stations	Results
1	E. Coli	16	502
2	Fecal Coliform	4	12
3	pH	23	7376
4	Temperature	43	94621

 Download the data

View map



# Search For Data



# Analyze

## Format

- Each database has different field names
- Built function to combine results from each database into a single table

# Analyze

## Look for trend

- Uses Seasonal Kendall trend analysis from wq package
- Apply to each station for each parameter

# Analyze

## Compare to Water Quality Standard

- Many of Oregon's standards are geo-specific (e.g. Temperature and pH)
- Data are gathered from many different sources
- Station location information may not be accurate
- User is able to specify geo-specific criteria to apply to the station for analysis



# Analyze

## Compare to Water Quality Standard

- Temperature standard is based on 7 Day Average Daily Maximum
- E. Coli and Enterococcus are based on 30-day Geometric Mean

# Display

- Provide tabular summaries of formatted data
- Create interactive charts using ggplot2 package
- Provide zooming to specific time periods in the charts
- Provide download of chart to insert into report
- Construct responsive table of exceedances based on changes to selected water quality standard



# Display

## Oregon Water Quality Status and Trend Beta Version 2.0

[Data Query](#)[Review Data](#)[Plot Status and Trend](#)

Select Review table to view:

Data in tabular format

Parameter results by station

Data in tabular format

WQ Limited Waters within Ag Area

QA - Summary by organization

QA - Result values modified

QA - Data removal information

QA - Unique comment values

Show 10 entries

Search:

	Client	Analyte	Station_ID	Station_Description	SampleType	Result	MRL	Unit
		A	AI	All	All			
1	Ambient Water Quality Monitoring - DEQ	E. Coli	11494	Burnt River at Snake River Road (Huntington)	Grab Sample::GS	22.0	1.0	MPN/100 mL
2	Ambient Water Quality Monitoring - DEQ	pH	11494	Burnt River at Snake River Road (Huntington)	Grab Sample::GS	8.5	0.1	pH Units
3	Ambient Water Quality Monitoring - DEQ	Temperature	11494	Burnt River at Snake River Road (Huntington)	Grab Sample::GS	8.3	0.0	°C

Select station to evaluate:

12187 - Youngs River at Youngs River  
Loop Road

Select parameter to evaluate:

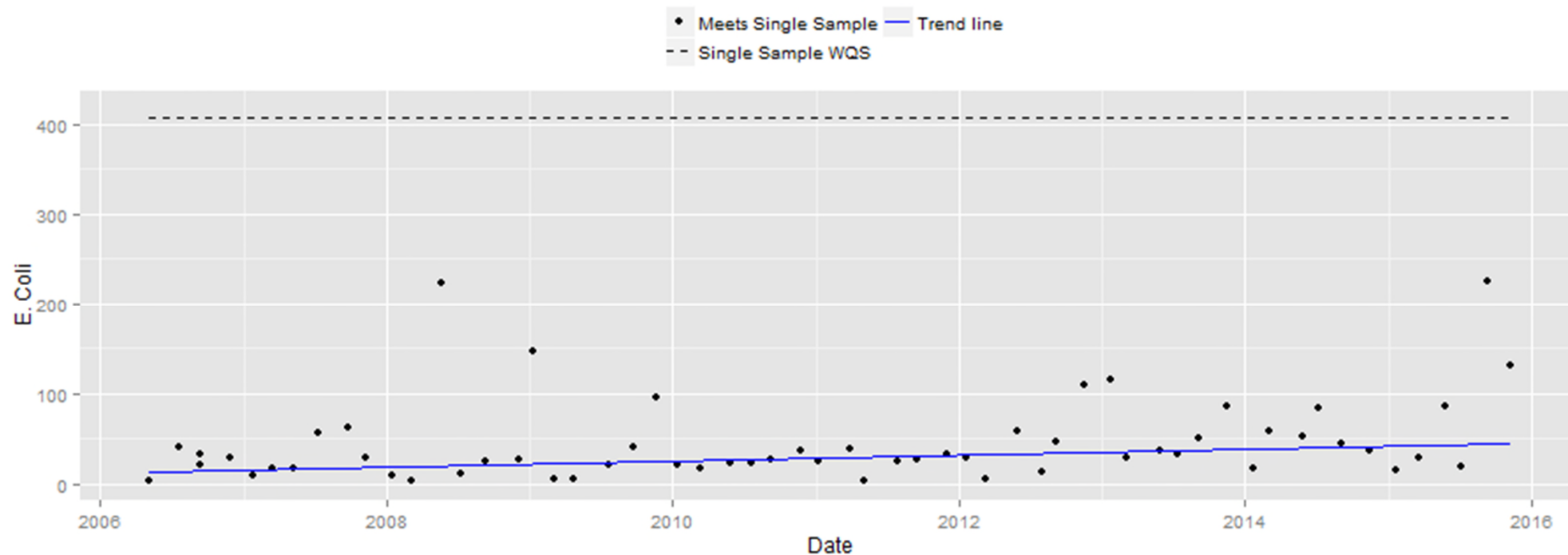
E. Coli

☐ Plot data with log scale☒ Plot Seasonal Kendall trend line (Note:  
May not be significant)

# Display

Youngs River at Youngs River Loop Road, ID = 12187

p value = 0.003, 99% Significance Level, slope = 3.36, n = 59



# Display

[Data Query](#)
[Review Data](#)
[Plot Status and Trend](#)

Select station to evaluate:

11434 - Clatskanie River at Hwy 30  
(Clatskanie)

Select parameter to evaluate:

E. Coli

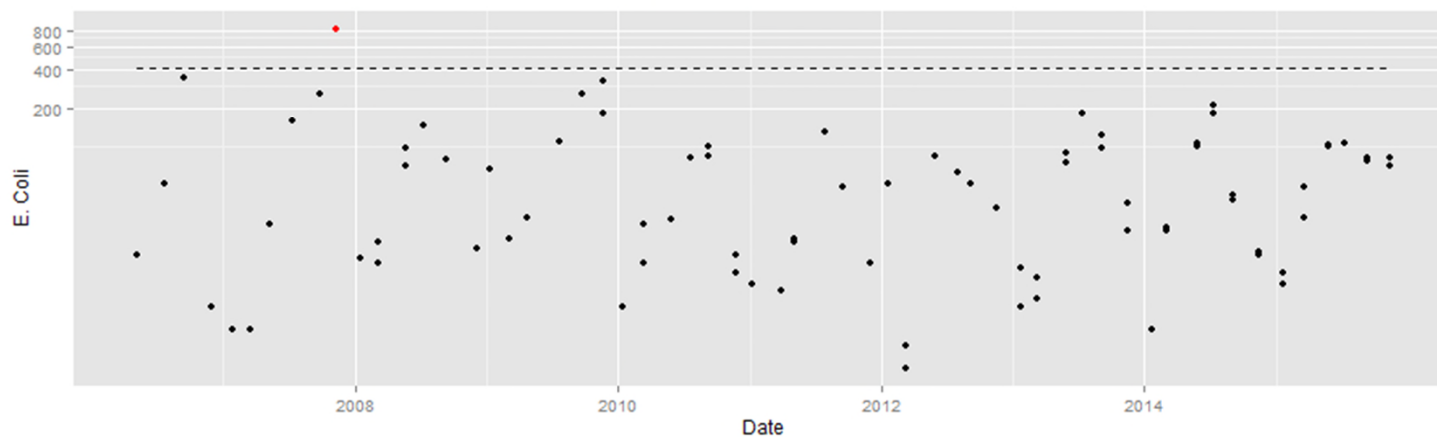
☒ Plot data with log scale

☐ Plot Seasonal Kendall trend line (Note:  
May not be significant)

Clatskanie River at Hwy 30 (Clatskanie), ID = 11434

p value = 0.384, Not Significant, slope = 0.75, n = 83

• Exceeds Single Sample - - Single Sample WQS  
• Meets Single Sample



Save plot

Show 10 entries

Search:

	Station_ID	Station_Description	Sample	Obs	Exceedances	Percent_Exceed
1	11434	Clatskanie River at Hwy 30 (Clatskanie)	Single sample	83	1	1.204819
2	11434	Clatskanie River at Hwy 30 (Clatskanie)	Geomean	0	0	

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Previous


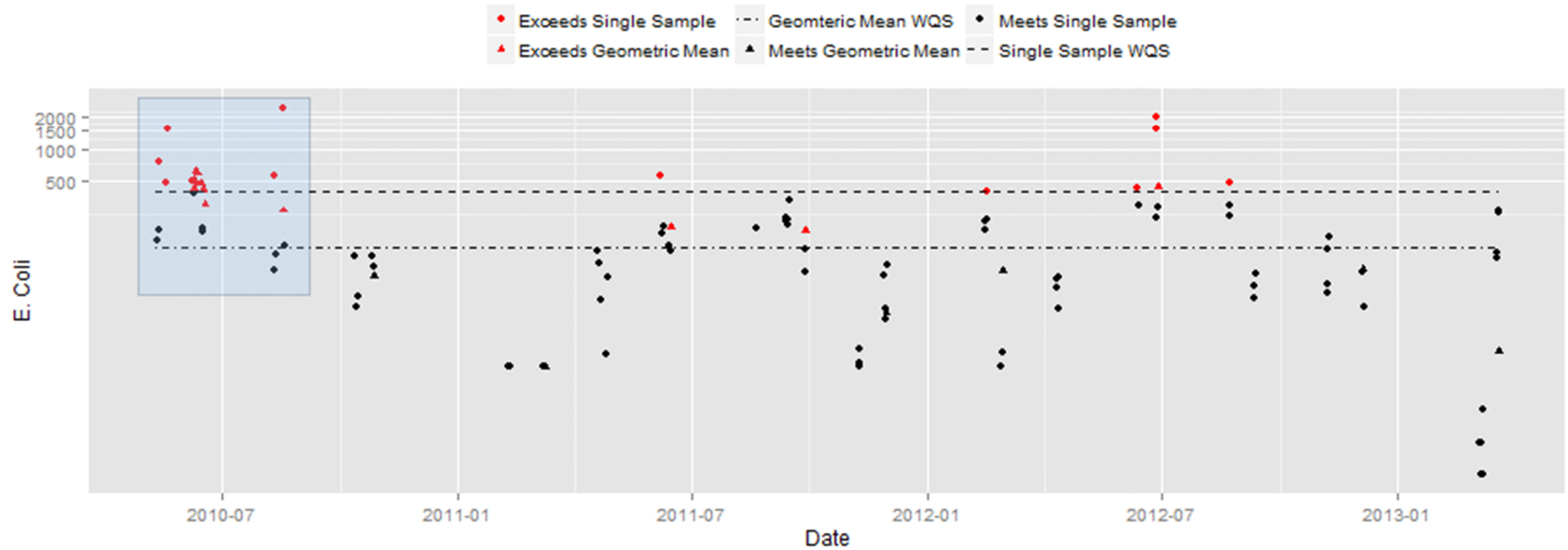
1

Next

# Display

Burnt River at Clarks Creek bridge, ID = 34256

p value = 1, Not Significant, slope = 37.17, n = 89

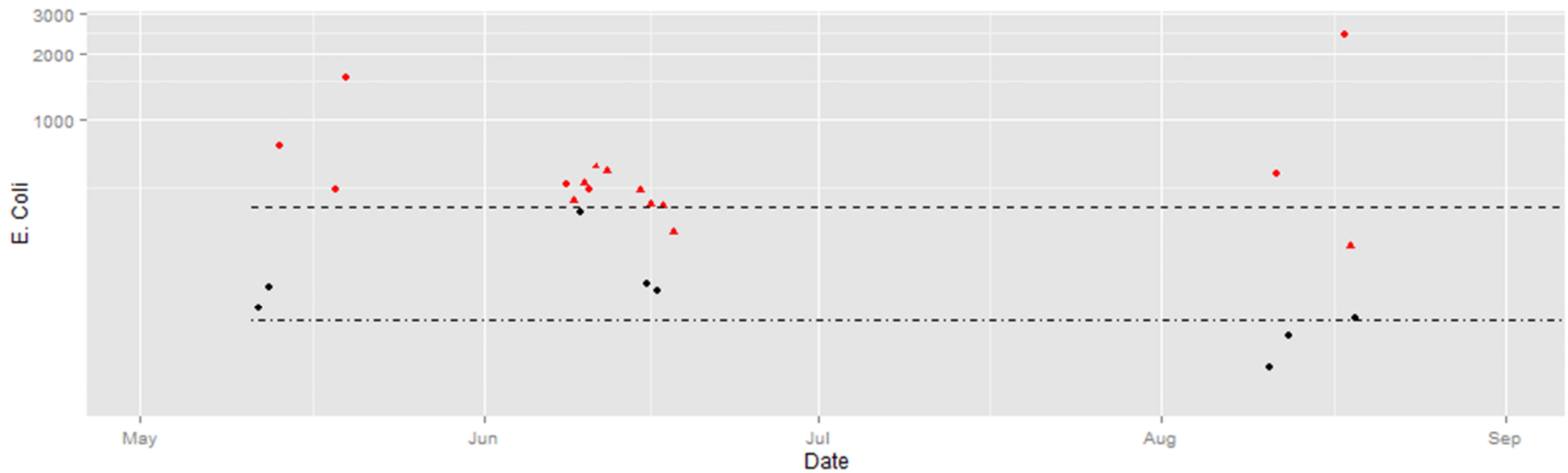
 Save plot

# Display

Burnt River at Clarks Creek bridge, ID = 34256

p value = 1, Not Significant, slope = 37.17, n = 89

• Exceeds Single Sample    - - - Geomteric Mean WQS    • Meets Single Sample  
▲ Exceeds Geometric Mean    ▲ Meets Geometric Mean    - - - Single Sample WQS



Save plot

# Display

Select applicable spawning time period:

September 1-June 15

Select applicable beneficial fish use:

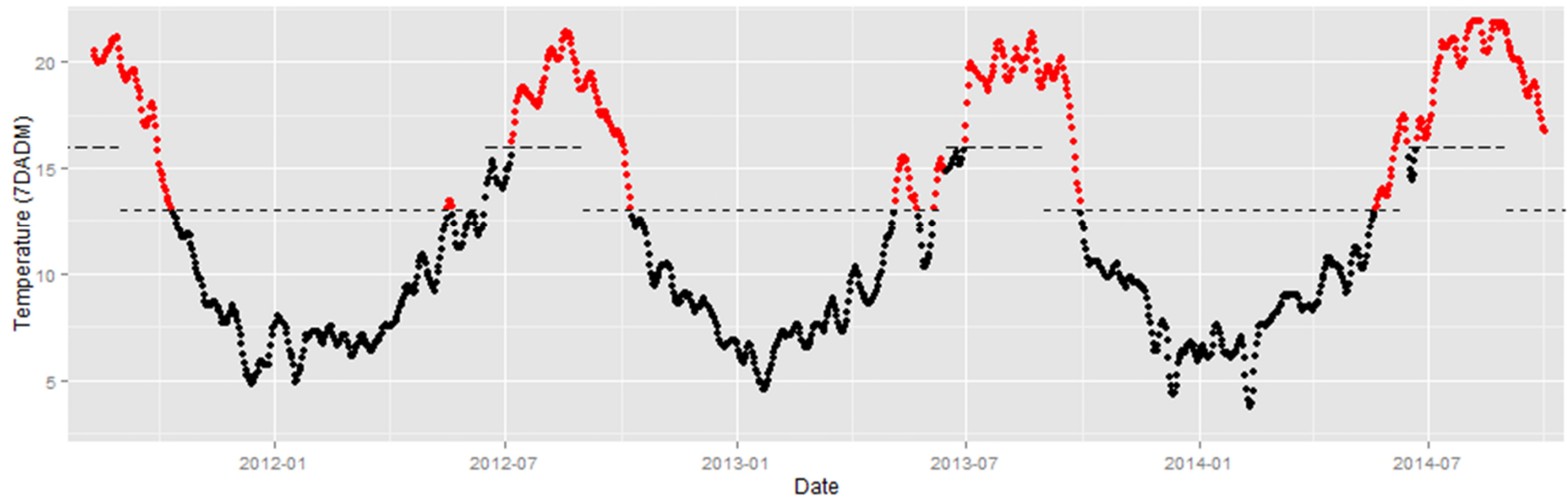
Core Cold Water Habitat

WILSON RIVER NEAR TILLAMOOK, OR, ID = USGS-14301500

Core Cold Water Habitat

Exceeds Meets

Non-spawning Spawning





# Display

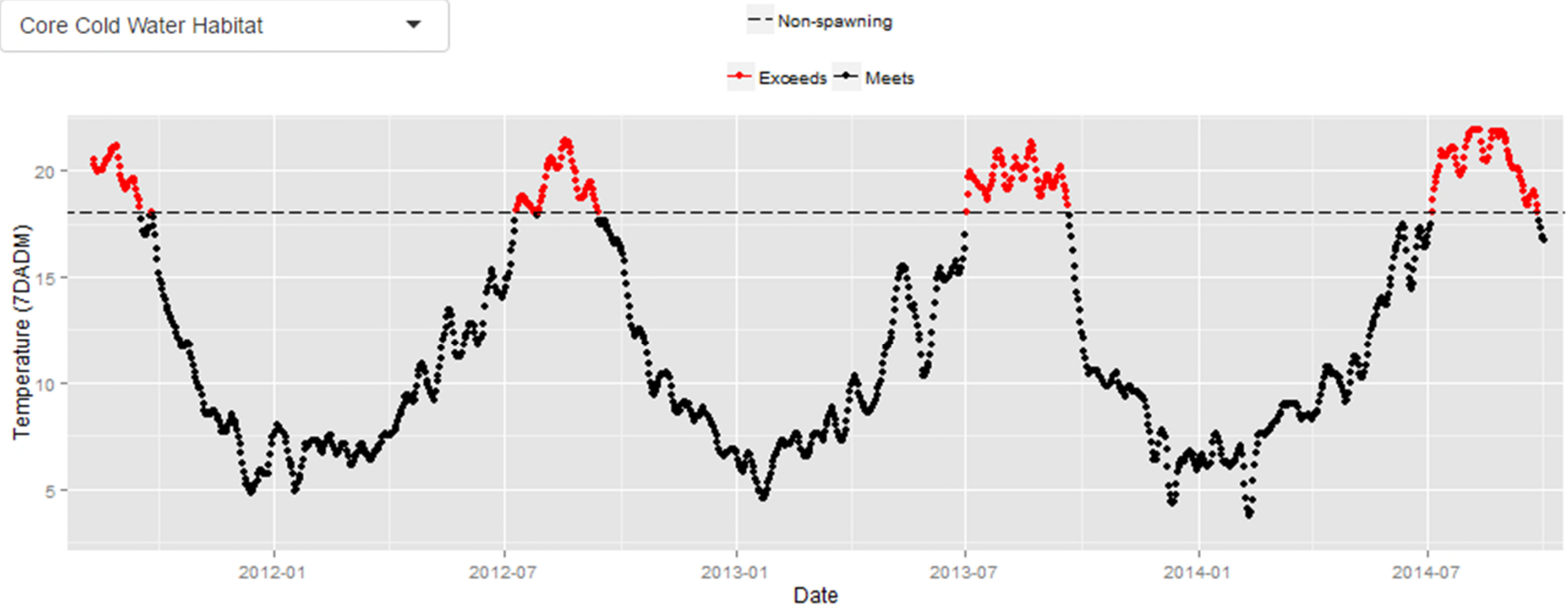
Select applicable spawning time period:

No spawning

Select applicable beneficial fish use:

Core Cold Water Habitat

WILSON RIVER NEAR TILLAMOOK, OR, ID = USGS-14301500



# Summary

This R based web application is built using the Shiny package in R Studio and:

- Uses database queries to search for data
- R code to facilitate streamlined analysis
- Includes interactive tables and charts

# If you *want* to see this

```

96  if ('Water Quality Portal' %in% input$db) {
97    incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying the Water Quality Portal')
98    prog <- prog + 1/10
99    wqpData <- tryCatch(wqpQuery(planArea = input$select,
100                               HUCList = HUCList,
101                               inParms = input$parms,
102                               luParms = parms,
103                               startDate = input$dates[1],
104                               endDate = input$dates[2]),
105                       error = function(err) {err <- geterrmessage()})
106
107
108  if (any(c('Temperature', 'pH') %in% input$parms)) {
109    incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying NWIS continuous data')
110    prog <- prog + 1/10
111    nwisData <- tryCatch(nwisQuery(planArea = input$select,
112                                  HUCList = HUCList,
113                                  inParms = input$parms,
114                                  startDate = input$dates[1],
115                                  endDate = input$dates[2]),
116                        error = function(err) {err <- geterrmessage()})
117  }
118
119  if (is.null(wqpData) & is.null(nwisData)) {
120    wqp_message <- 'Your query returned no results from the Water Quality Portal.'
121  } else if (!is.data.frame(wqpData) & !is.null(wqpData)) {
122    if (grepl("307", wqpData)) {
123      wqp_message <- 'Water Quality Portal is busy. Please try again in a few minutes.'
124    }
125  }
126
127
128  if ('DEQ' %in% input$db) {
129    incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying the LASAR database')
130    prog <- prog + 1/10
131
132    lasarData <- lasarQuery(planArea = input$select,
133                            HUCList = HUCList,
134                            inParms = input$parms,
135                            startDate = input$dates[1],
136                            endDate = input$dates[2])
137
138    odbcCloseAll()
139    if (nrow(lasarData) == 0) lasarData <- NULL
140
141
142    incProgress(1/10, detail = 'Querying the Element database')
143    prog <- prog + 1/10
144
145    elmData <- elementQuery(planArea = input$select,
146                             HUCList = HUCList,
147                             inParms = input$parms,
148                             startDate = input$dates[1],
149                             endDate = input$dates[2])
150
151    odbcCloseAll()
152    if (nrow(elmData) == 0) elmData <- NULL
153  }
154
155  #We want to extract only those stations in the current AgwQMA so let's bring that lay
156  agwqma <- readOGR(dsn = './data/GIS', layer = 'ODA_AgwQMA', verbose = FALSE)
157
158  shinyUI(fluidPage(
159    titlePanel("Oregon Water Quality Status and Trend Beta Version 2.0"),
160    mainPanel(
161      HTML("<script> if (!window.chrome) { alert('For full functionality you will need
162      tabsetPanel(
163        tabPanel("Data Query", fluidRow(
164          column(3,
165            selectInput("select",label = h3('Select Plan Area'),
166                        #choices = list()
167                        choices = c("Choose one" = "",sort(agwqma$PlanName)))
168          ),
169          column(3,
170            checkboxGroupInput("parms",label = h3("Select Paramters to Query"),
171                               choices = c('Temperature','pH','Bacteria'),
172                               selected = 1)
173          ),
174          column(3,
175            dateRangeInput("dates",label = h3("Select the Start and End Dates")))
176        ),
177        fluidRow(
178          column(3,
179            checkboxGroupInput('db','Select Database(s) to Query:',
180                               c('Water Quality Portal','DEQ'),
181                               selected = 1)
182          ),
183          column(3,
184            h3("Run Query"),
185            actionButton(inputId = "action_button",label = 'submit'))
186        ),
187        fluidRow(
188          column(3,
189            column(3,
190              h3(" "),
191              htmloutput("text1"),
192              h3(" "),
193              htmloutput("text2")
194            )
195          ),
196          fluidRow(
197            column(3,
198              tableoutput('all_totals')),
199            column(3,
200              conditionalPanel(condition = "output.text2 == ''",
201                               "Click here to download the data",
202                               downloadButton('downloadData','download')
203              ),
204              uioutput('downloadData')
205            )
206          )
207        )
208      )
209    )
210  )

```

# Go To This Project's Repository

<https://github.com/petertbryant/StatusAndTrends>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `petertbryant/StatusAndTrends`. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links for Pull requests, Issues, and Gist. Below this, the repository name is displayed with options to Unwatch, Star (0), and Fork (0). A tab bar shows 'Code' as the active tab, with links to Issues (0), Pull requests (0), Wiki, Pulse, Graphs, and Settings.

The main content area shows the repository description: "Code to compile, clean, format, associate to standard and evaluate for status and trends — Edit". Below this, statistics are shown: 55 commits, 2 branches, 0 releases, and 1 contributor.

A toolbar includes a branch selector (set to 'master'), a 'New pull request' button, and buttons for 'New file', 'Upload files', 'Find file', 'SSH', and 'Download ZIP'. A commit history table follows, listing recent changes by petertbryant.

Commit	Message	Time
6681e5a	Updated methods for generating exceedances df for temperature. correc...	4 days ago
	Building up plots in ggplot2 to make them work with brushing feature.	26 days ago
	Updated methods for generating exceedances df for temperature. correc...	4 days ago
	Let's start with WQP and LASAR queries. These queries are from the re...	a year ago
	Fixed temperature plotting to accomodate all possible combinations of...	4 days ago
	Initial commit	a year ago
	Let's start with WQP and LASAR queries. These queries are from the re...	a year ago
	Massive overhaul to update and simplify and make more reliable server...	26 days ago
	Added testing folder to build up additional functionality while prese...	7 months ago

Below the commit history is the 'README.md' section, which contains the title 'StatusAndTrends' and the same description as the repository header.

# Thanks to

- Oregon DEQ Laboratory Water Quality Monitoring Group and Steve Hanson, Wade Peerman, Michael Tichenor and Lori Pillsbury
- John Paul Schmit with the National Park Service whose Shiny app provided inspiration and whose Github repository helped get me started



# Questions?

Contact info:

[bryant.peter@deg.state.or.us](mailto:bryant.peter@deg.state.or.us)





- Github is a website where you share your R code with others online
- Github uses the version control software git
- Version control software keeps track of the changes you make to your code