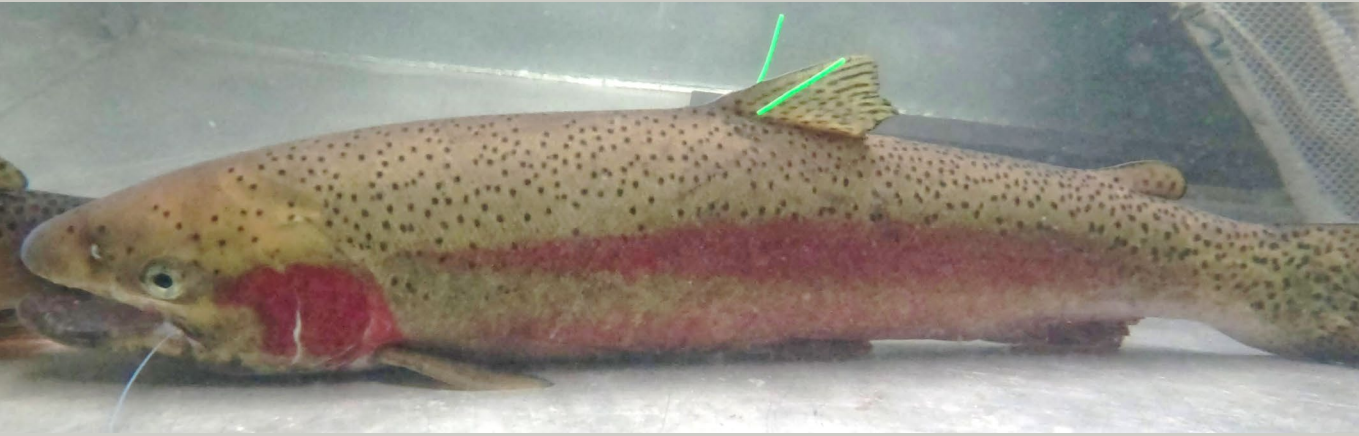


Runs, Routes and Redds: Adult Salmon above Pelton Round Butte

Gregg Garnett, Portland General Electric
2026 Fisheries Workshop





Outline

- Overview of the basin
- Steelhead 2024-2025
- Sockeye 2025
- Chinook 2025
- Preview of 2026 runs





reintroduction fish- this is a fish that was raised in the hatchery, uniquely marked and dedicated to the reintroduction. They were released as fry (2012-2019) or acclimated in the upper basin as smolts before release.

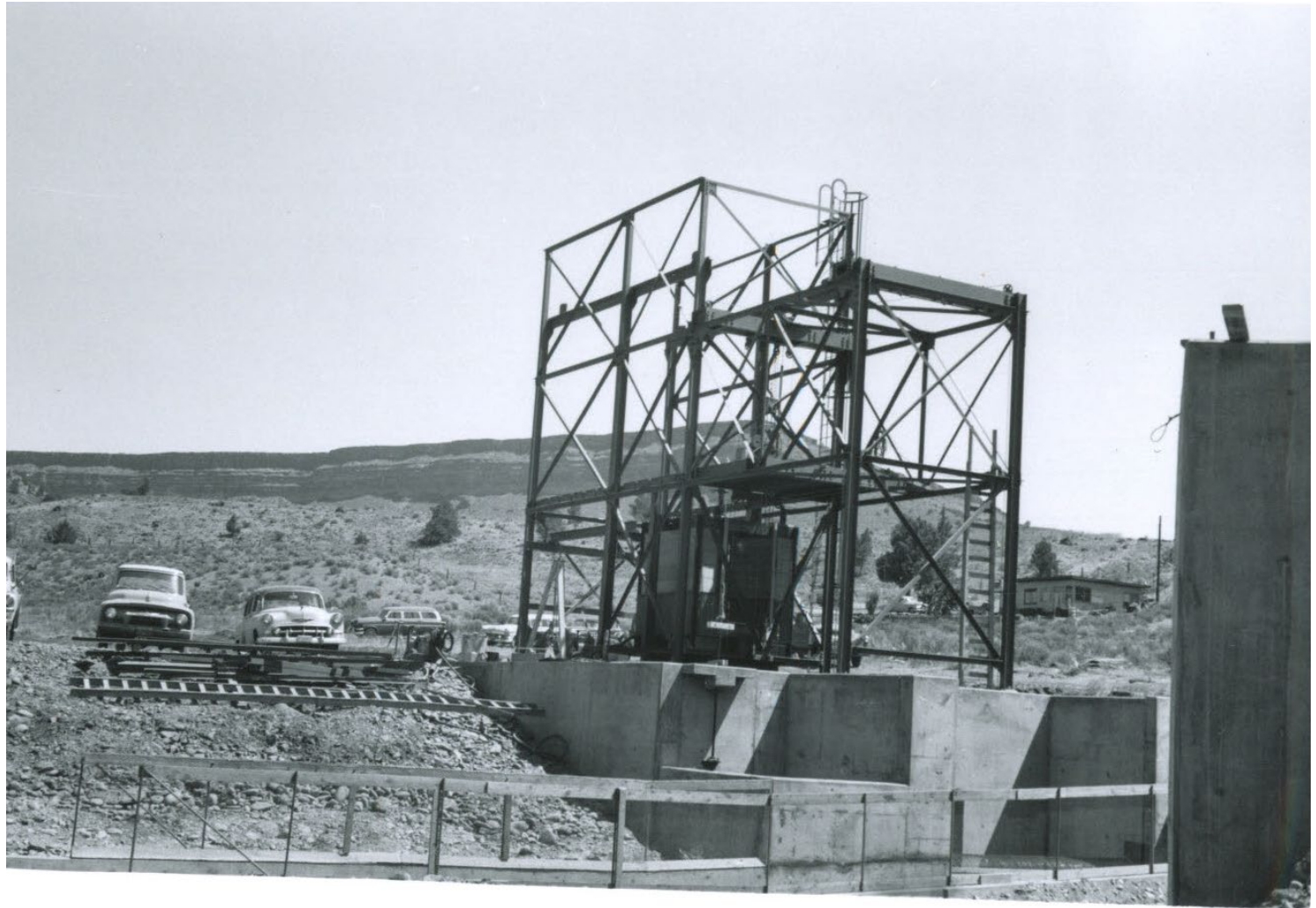
wild- these are fish originating from the upper basin with no marks. They are given a unique mark when they are collected at the SWW as smolts. This means that they are from natural production.

hatchery- these are RBH fish that are hatchery raised and produced for mitigation and broodstock purposes. When broodstock and tribal goals are met Chinook or steelhead may be passed above to bolster the reintroduction program. These fish are genetically identical to reintroduction fish.



Pelton Adult Fish Trap

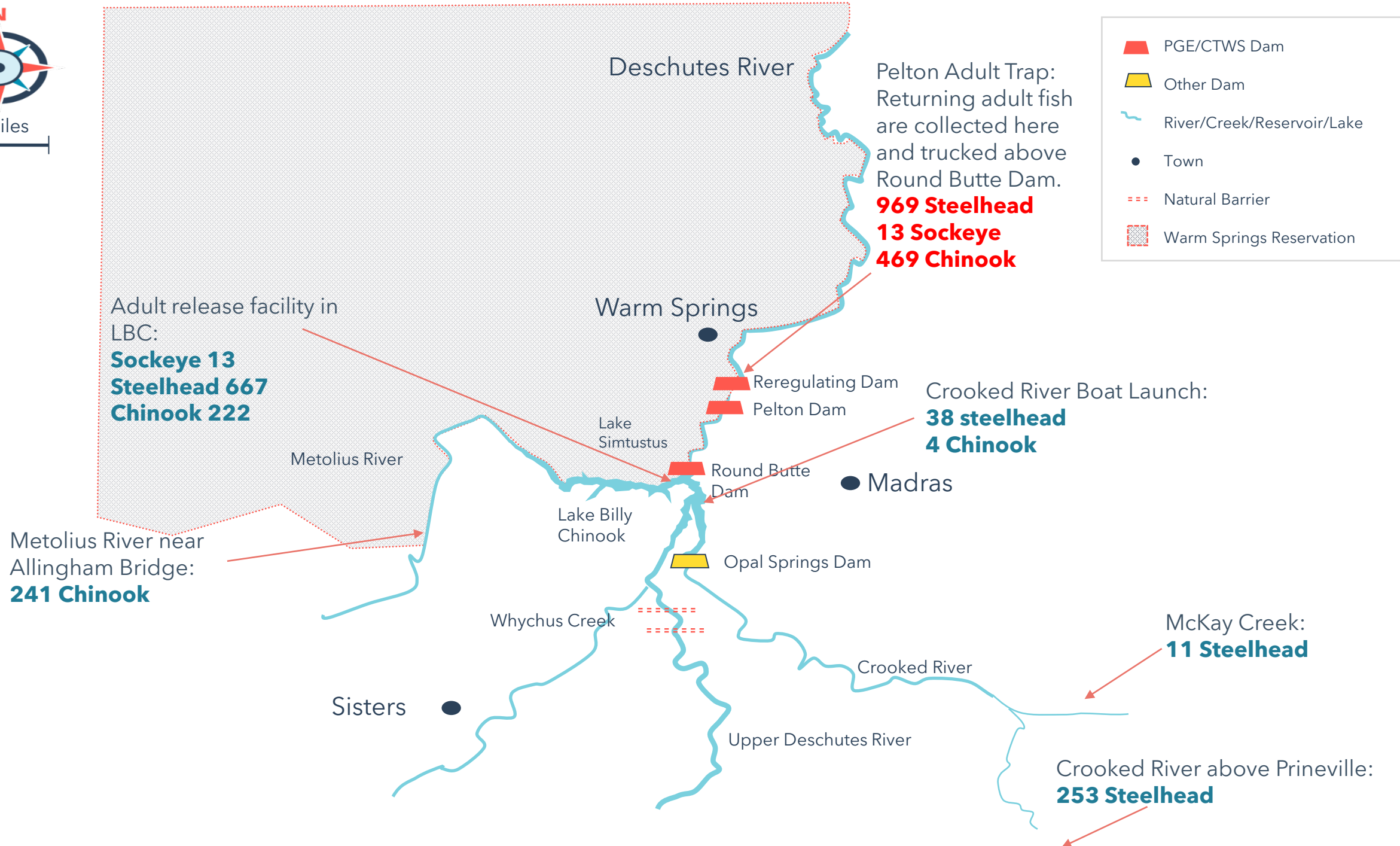
At the downstream end of the Pelton Round Butte complex of dams a Buckley style fish trap built in 1956, is used to collect adult salmon and steelhead.



AUG • 56







How do we know where the fish go?



Subset of fish collected are fitted with radio tags

Tracking of tagged fish is conducted on foot, by truck, by boat and by helicopter, as well as at stationary remote radio stations (fixed stations).

8 fixed stations operated in 2024-25 by PGE

- Locations of fixed stations are at strategic points in the Upper Basin for detecting fish movement
- Additional stations are operated by DVWD around the Opal Springs Project area.



Which fish get selected for radio tags?



- Healthy fish are selected by
 - size
 - sex
 - origin
 - release location
 - PIT tag
- 130 steelhead (13%)
- No Chinook were radio tagged in 2025
- No sockeye were radio tagged in 2025

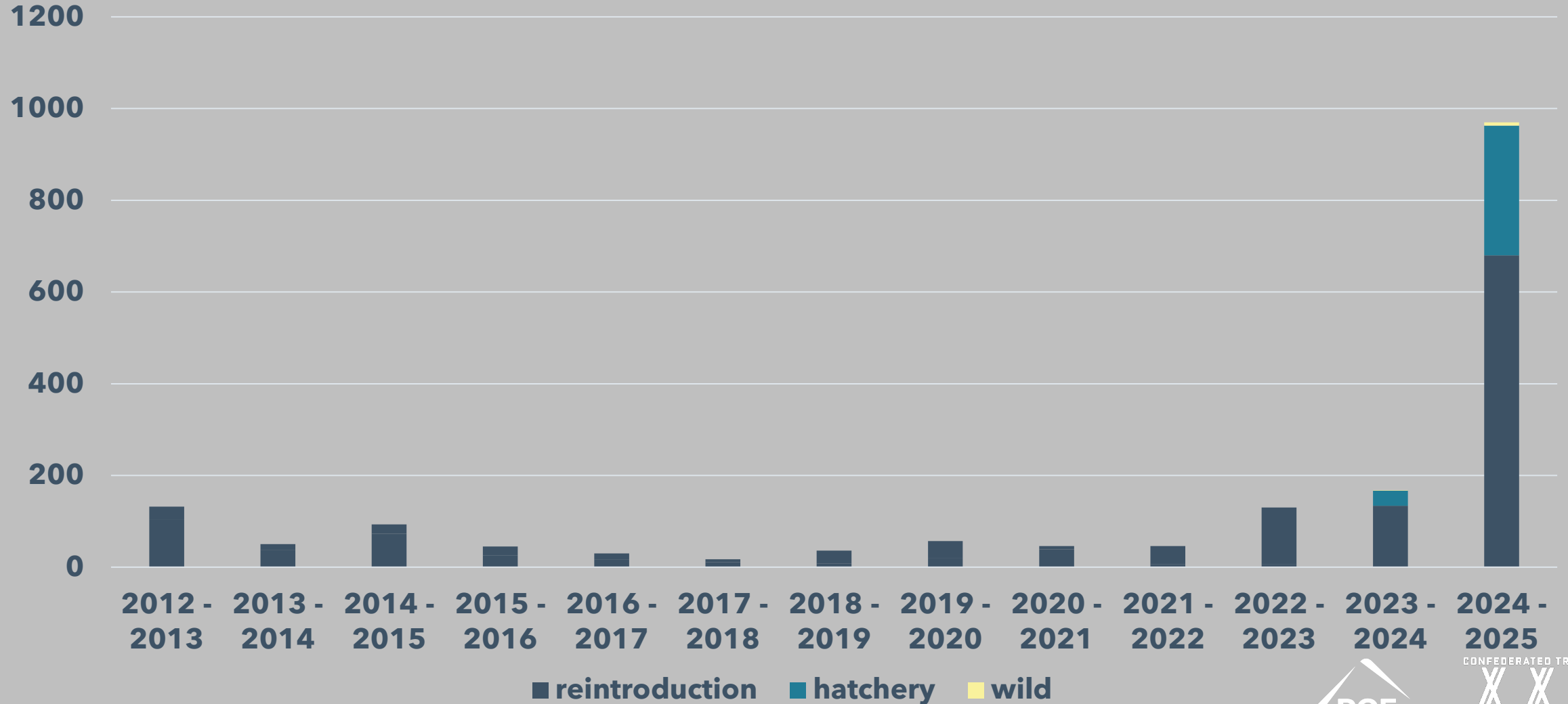


2024-2025 Steelhead Passage

- RECORD STEELHEAD RETURN!!
- 969 Steelhead into upper basin
 - 679 reintroduction
 - 7 wild
 - 283 hatchery

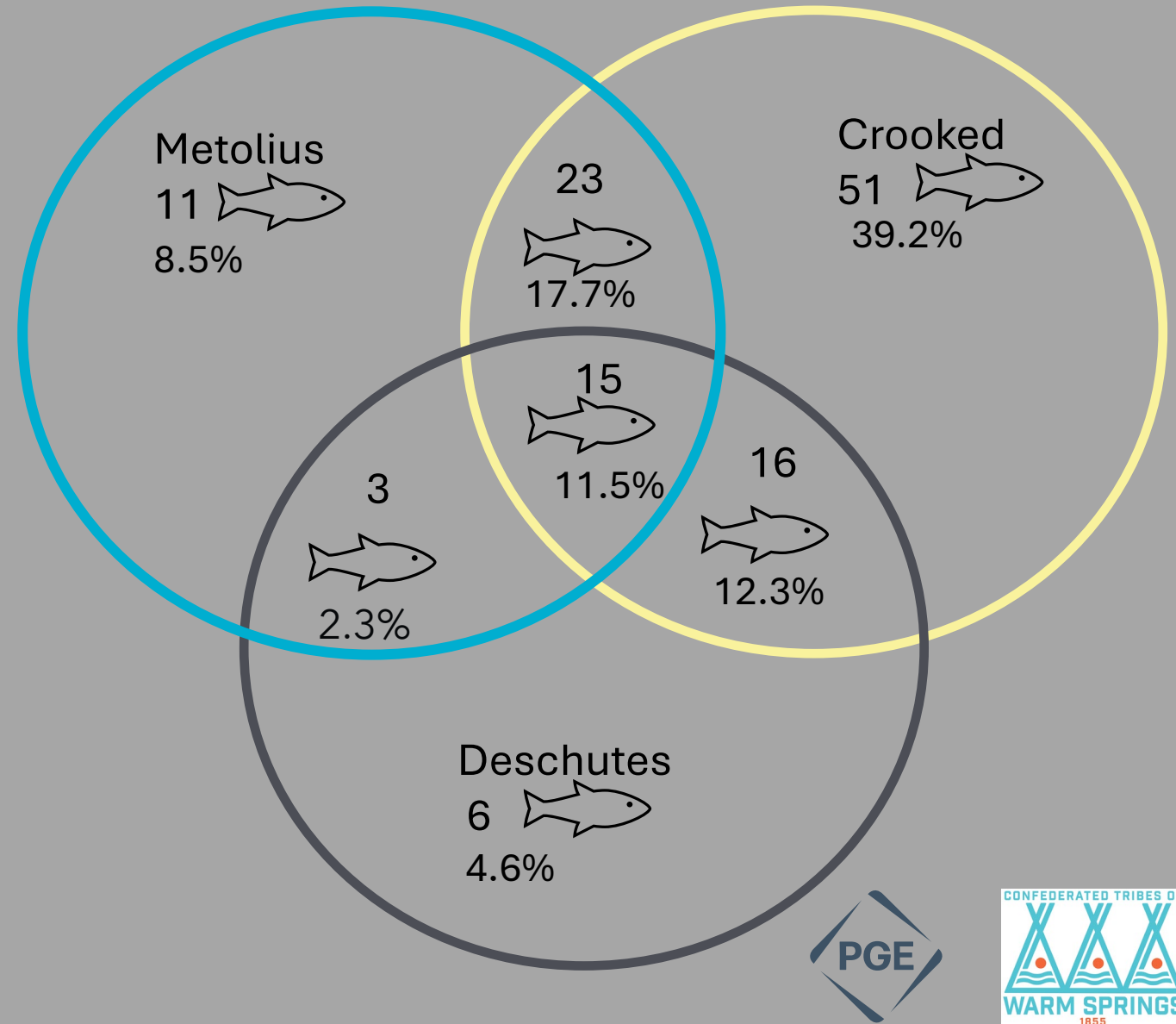


Steelhead Passage



Steelhead Migration

- 66 radio tagged fish were released directly into the Crooked River
- 64 radio tagged fish were released into Lake Billy Chinook
 - 5 fish movements could not be characterized based on the telemetry data



Steelhead spawning

Four Creeks Surveyed

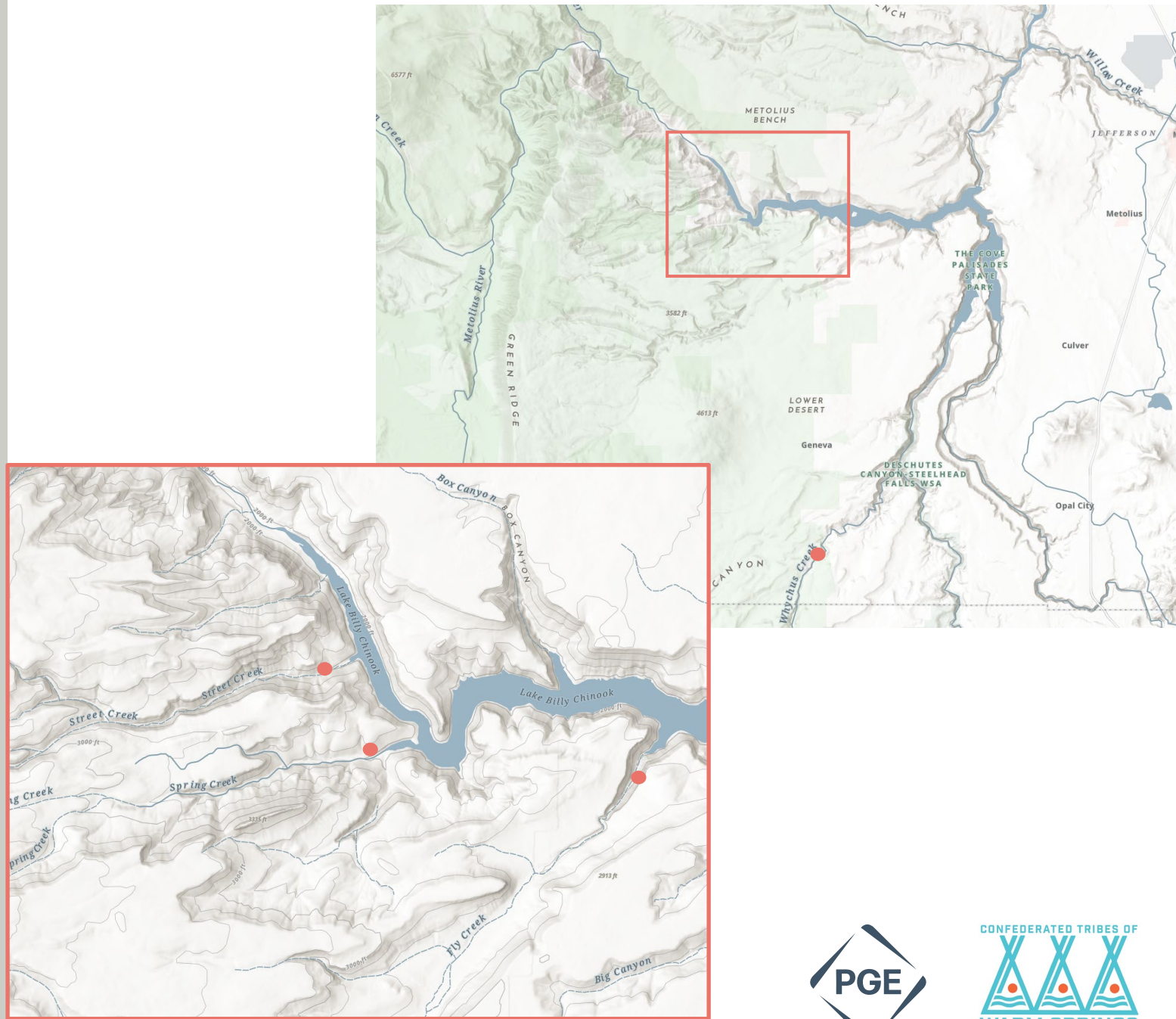
Three were tributaries to Metolius arm of Lake Billy Chinook:

- Spring Creek
- Street Creek
- Fly Creek

One tributary of the Deschutes:

- Whychus Creek

Conducted approximately every two weeks from February through May



Steelhead spawning



Spring Creek

- 10 radio tagged fish were detected
- 14 non radio tagged fish were detected (carcass or Floy tag recovery)
- 31 redds were counted
- Fish observed ~1.5 miles upstream



Steelhead spawning



- Street Creek
 - 9 redds were identified near the mouth
- Fly Creek was also surveyed, but no redds or fish were detected
- Whychus Creek
 - 5 redds at Rimrock Ranch
 - 1 at Camp Polk
 - 1 at Alder springs



Steelhead Kelts



- A kelt is a steelhead that has already spawned and will migrate back to the ocean, then return to freshwater the next year to spawn a second time.
- 39 steelhead kelts (4% kelt rate) were collected at the SWW in spring of 2025 and passed into the Lower Deschutes.
- 6 of these were later detected passing downstream at Bonneville Dam and 1 was detected at the mouth of the Columbia River.



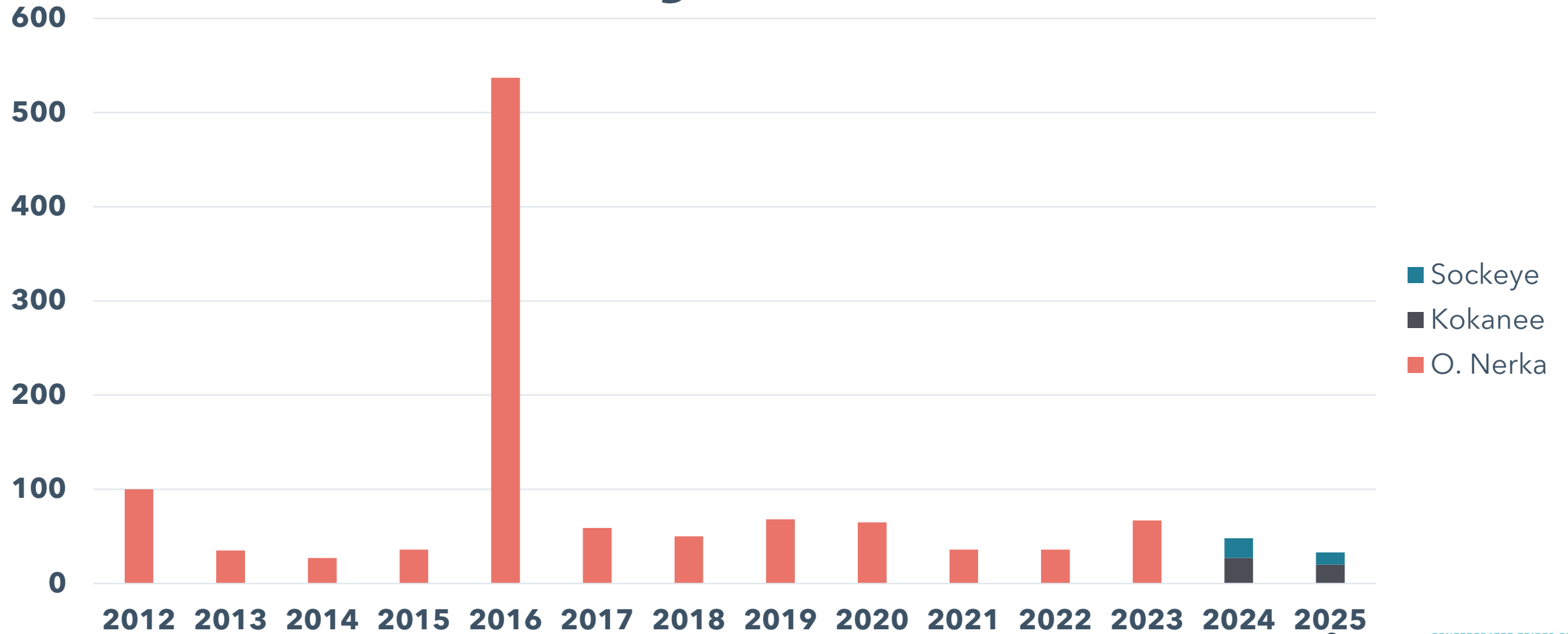
2025 Sockeye Returns

	Total
July	5
August	5
September	2
October	1
Total	13

- All Sockeye captured at the Pelton Trap were passed above Round Butte Dam.
- No sockeye were radio tagged in 2025.
- 8 Males, 5 Females.



Sockeye Returns

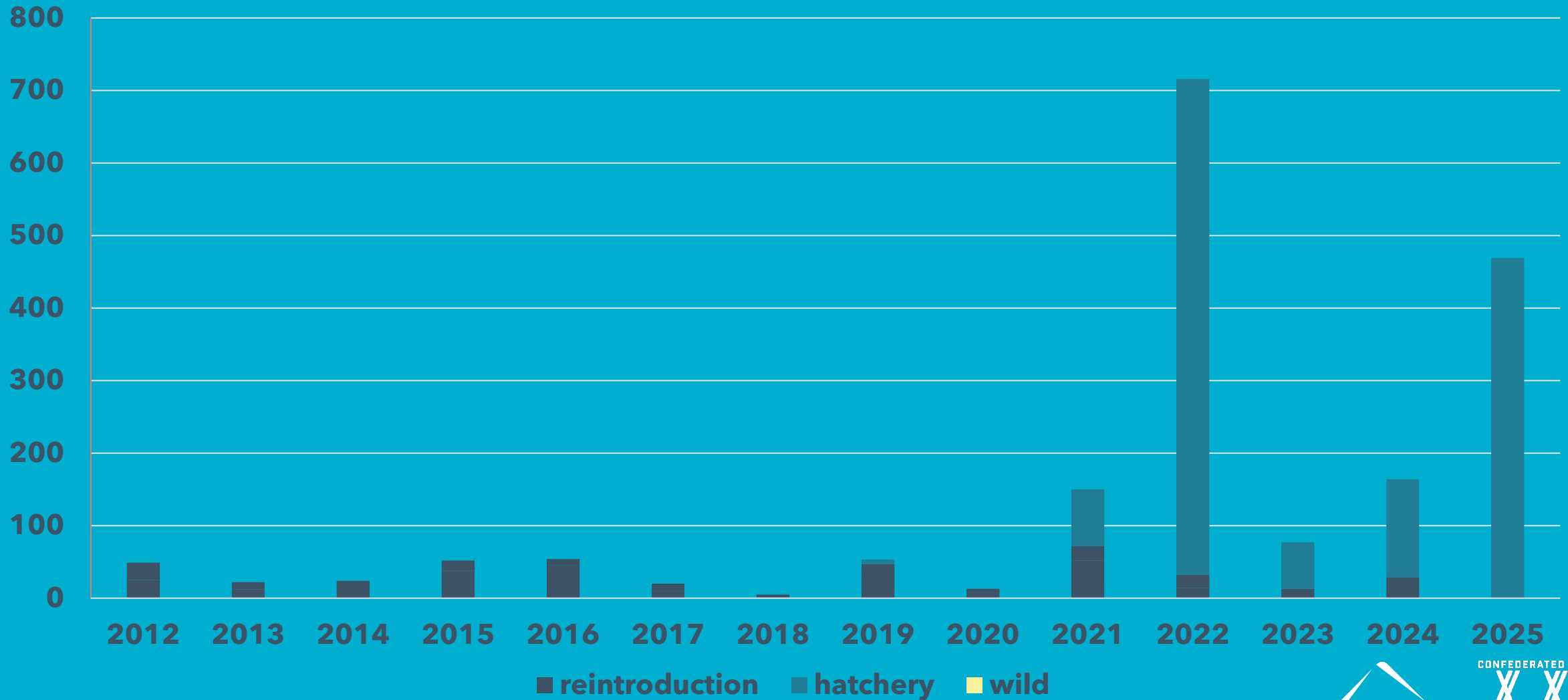


2025 Spring Chinook Passage

- 469 hatchery fish
- 0 reintroduction fish
- 190 Females, 279 Males



Spring Chinook Passage



Chinook spawning



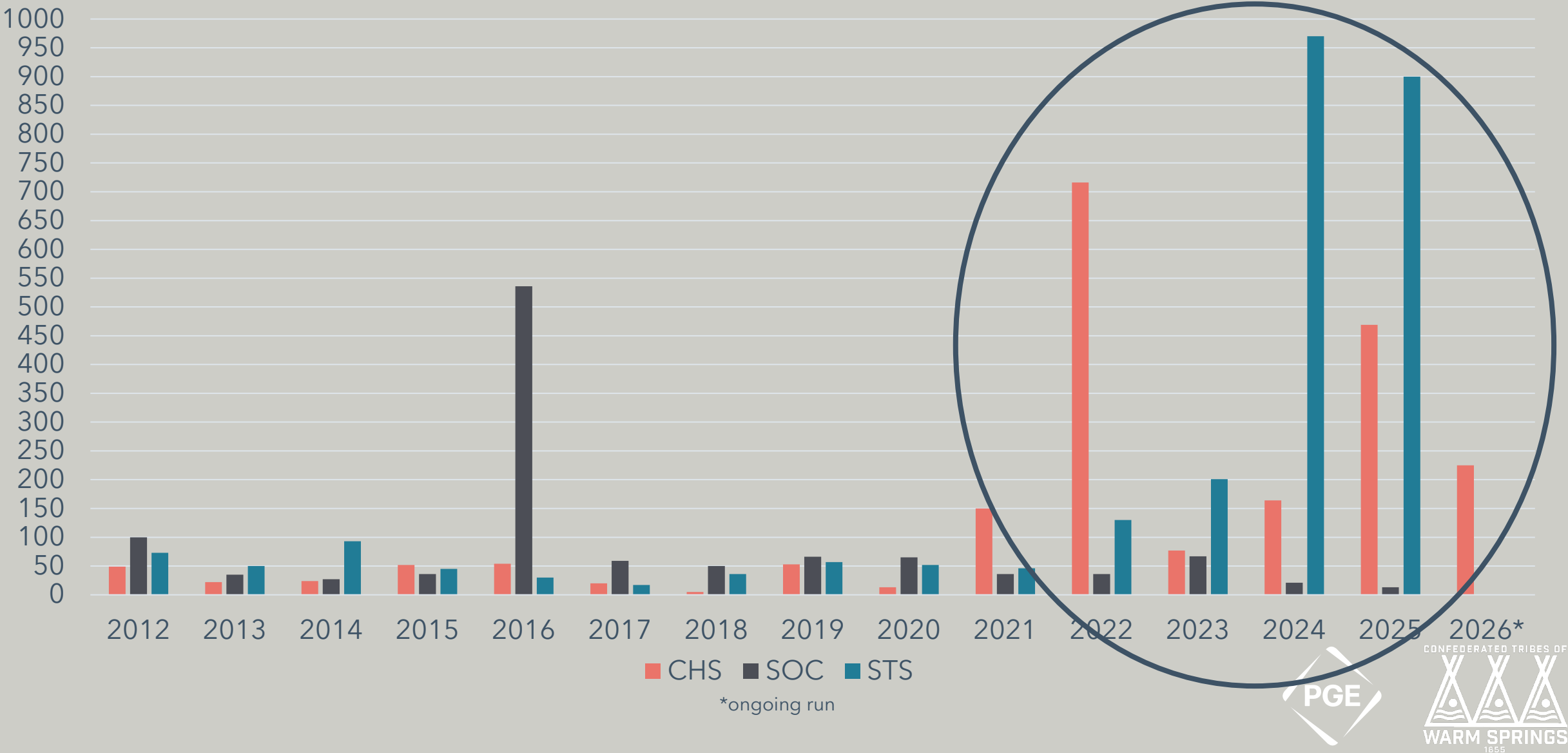
- We conducted spawning ground surveys in the upper Metolius River from late July-early September.
- 10 redds were identified to be Chinook



- This was the largest number of redds counted to date.
- Chinook spawning overlaps with Bull Trout and kokanee spawning in the Metolius River
 - Bull Trout and Chinook redds can be similar in size and make identification difficult.
 - 10 additional redds were identified as either Chinook or Bull Trout but could not be identified to species.



Upper basin passage since reintroduction began



2026 Chinook and Sockeye Preview

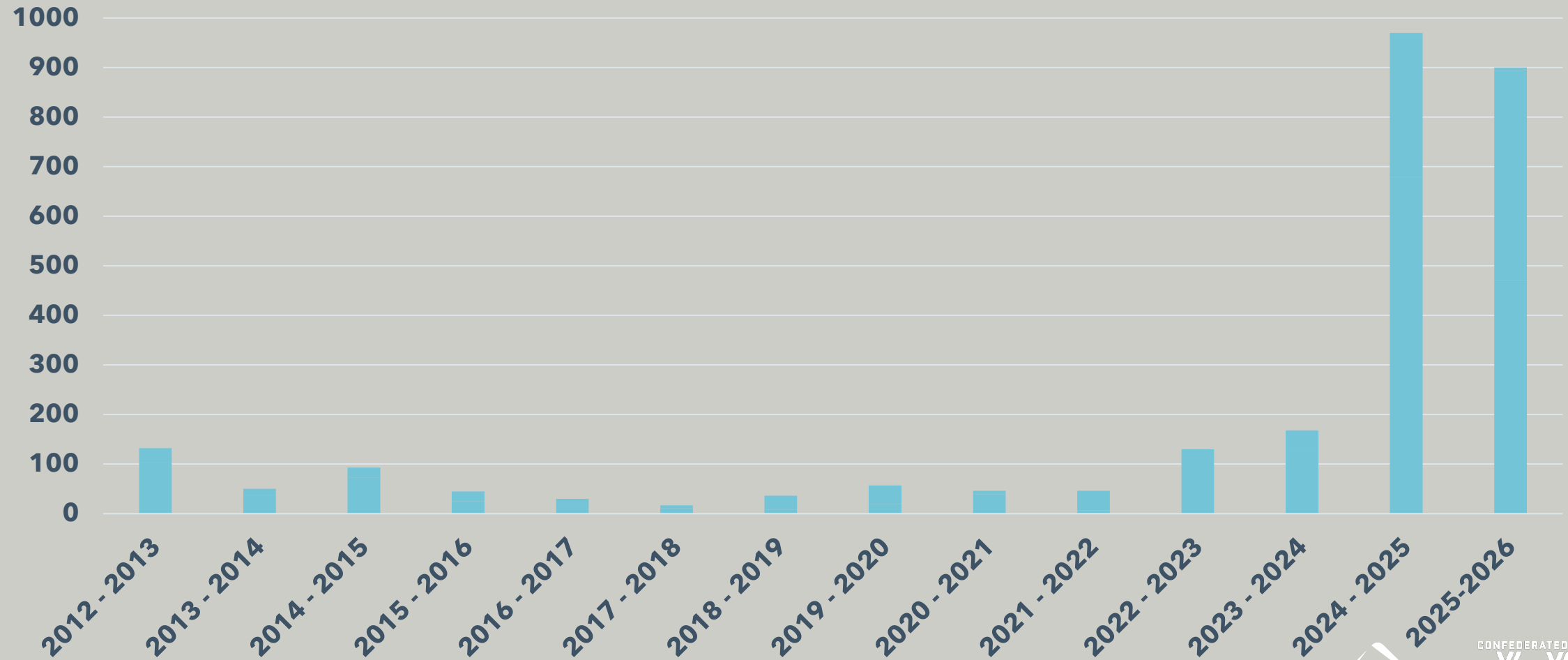
We are still collecting Chinook at the Pelton trap. The return has been good, allowing Round Butte Hatchery and tribal needs to be met, and allowing for some hatchery fish to be passed upstream.

286 Chinook have been passed upstream so far.

Still awaiting the first sockeye.



2025-2026 Steelhead Run Preview



Questions?

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