



This February, we enjoyed several opportunities to connect with many of you — our community of environmental stakeholders throughout the state. At the Pacific Northwest and Central Oregon Sportsmen’s Shows, we provided information about our parks, fish passage improvements and ongoing studies, while learning more about what matters most to you. We loved celebrating the raptors of the region alongside families at Eagle Watch, and we’re already looking forward to next year’s festivities, which will be the 25th annual event!

We’re also happy about last week’s heavy snowfall, which will hopefully lead to higher flows and lower summer temperatures, both of which are good for fish. Meanwhile, the migration of juvenile fish, especially Chinook and sockeye, is well underway at the Selective Water Withdrawal, and adult summer steelhead continue to arrive at the Pelton Trap.

This newsletter and past issues can be found at [PortlandGeneral.com/DeschutesUpdates](http://PortlandGeneral.com/DeschutesUpdates).

### Featured Studies: Nighttime Generation

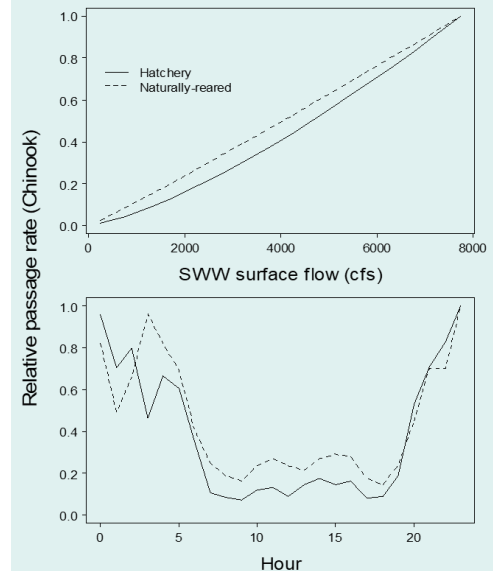
For the last few years, we have been generating power at night from March 15 to June 15 — a period that spans 90% of the migration season for all anadromous Deschutes species. This decision came after a successful month-long experimental pilot during the Chinook migration in 2016. Years of previous research suggested that juvenile fish move primarily from dusk to dawn when flows are high.

#### What is nighttime generation?

Typically, hydropower facilities generate more electricity when the demand is high — when people are awake, at work, and returning home in the evening. At Pelton Round Butte, we also now prioritize power generation at night during peak fish migration to create a stronger attraction current in Lake Billy Chinook, thereby collecting more juvenile fish and enabling their migration downstream.

#### Has nighttime generation been successful?

Yes. Despite being a relatively poor flow year, 2018 resulted in our second highest collection efficiency yet — this means that a higher percentage of migrating juveniles were effectively collected and transported downstream. Our highest collection efficiency was in 2017— a year with both high flows and a full season of nighttime generation.



### Bull Trout Blowout Photo Competition

This spring, we’re celebrating one of our favorite native fish species: the majestic Bull Trout! Bull Trout are thriving in Lake Billy Chinook — one of the only places in the country where you can catch and keep this fantastic fish.

Catch a Bull Trout in Lake Billy Chinook during March or April and snap a photo for a chance to win our **BULL TROUT BLOWOUT** photo contest. **Here’s how to enter the competition:**



1. **Join us** on Facebook at: [facebook.com/groups/envirocommunityPGE](https://facebook.com/groups/envirocommunityPGE)
2. **Post your photo** to the Facebook group, using the hashtag **#myLBCcatch**
3. **Like and comment** on the other great photos you find.

Prizes include gift cards to Sportsman’s Warehouse, free camping at Pelton Park and PGE outdoor gear perfect for a day on the water. Learn more about the prizes and read the full contest rules at: [portlandgeneral.com/DeschutesUpdates](http://portlandgeneral.com/DeschutesUpdates).

**\*\*When taking your photo, please handle fish with care**, especially if practicing catch-and-release. Keep fish in the water, avoid poking the gills, and fully support the fish’s body weight by holding it horizontally.\*\*



**Thanks for Joining Us at Eagle Watch 2019**

Visit our [Facebook Group](https://facebook.com/groups/envirocommunityPGE) for more photos from the event.

## Juvenile Fish Update

Juvenile Species	Jan. 2019	Yearly Total (through Jan. 2019)
Chinook	586	586
Sockeye	203	203
Bull Trout	3	3
Steelhead	0	0

## Adult Fish Update

Adult Species	Feb. 2019	Yearly Total (hatchery, wild and upper basin)
Summer Steelhead	277	1,436 (Sep 2018 - May 2019)
Fall Chinook	4	4 (through Feb. 2019)

- In January 2019, 794 fish from four species of salmonids were processed at the Fish Transfer Facility at the Selective Water Withdrawal. 586 Chinook were marked, transported and released downstream into the Lower River.
- This year, we are no longer required to mark sockeye passing through our project. This change should reduce stress on fish and hopefully improve the run.
- The SWW was shut down for three days in February due to heavy snowfall, protecting both biologists and fish.
- Summer steelhead are continuing to arrive at the Pelton trap. In February, 277 steelhead were collected and two were released above Round Butte Dam.
- 31 steelhead have been released in total above Round Butte Dam this migration season. 30 of these were radio-tagged, and we are currently tracking their movements throughout the upper basin.
- Complete daily fish counts (including identifying tags and hatchery vs. wild origin) can be [found online](#).

## Announcements, News, and Events

- The Deschutes River Conservancy will receive funding from the Intel Corporation to protect water in the Middle Deschutes River. Learn more about the 10-year pledge-of-support on the [Deschutes River Conservancy blog](#).
- Record snowfall hit Central Oregon the last week of February, closing roads, schools and businesses, but hopefully improving conditions for fish and wildlife. Read more in the [Bend Bulletin](#) and [Statesman's Journal](#).
- A new study published in "Geophysical Research Letters" suggests that Oregon's snowpack has remained resilient in the face of climate change thanks to lucky weather. Read about the study in the [Bend Bulletin](#).
- PGE and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are still accepting applications for the 2020 Cycle of the Pelton Round Butte Fund, and **the fund's deadline has been extended from March 1 to April 1**. The Fund provides funding for watershed restoration projects that benefit salmon and steelhead in the Deschutes River Basin above and below the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project. The application materials and directions can be found on the [PGE website](#).

### Save the Date: Fisheries Workshop 2019

Portland General Electric and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the dates and location of the 2019 Pelton Round Butte Fisheries Workshop.

**When:** June 19-20

**Where:** The Riverhouse on the Deschutes  
3075 N Hwy 97  
Bend, OR 97703

**Reservations:** 541-639-3481 or 1-866-453-4480, [website](#)

- ◆ The Riverhouse is happy to take room reservations at this time through May 20th. Our event rate is \$179 and is for the night of June 19. Please mention that you are attending the PGE Fisheries Workshop when you contact the hotel.
- ◆ The Licensees will begin taking RSVPs starting in May 2019 and will send out an announcement when more details are available. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Thank you for stopping by our booth at the Pacific Northwest and Central Oregon Sportsmen's Shows!

We value the opportunity to meet you in person to discuss your questions and hear your concerns. Continue the conversation by joining us on [Facebook](#).



## Thank you for reading our March 2019 newsletter!

Visit our [website](#) to find more information about the Deschutes, including informative videos, fact sheets, and reports. News, updates and past issues of this newsletter can be found [here](#).

- ◇ Have suggestions for what you'd like to see in the next newsletter? Want to schedule a tour? Please contact us at [deschutes.passage@pgn.com](mailto:deschutes.passage@pgn.com).
- ◇ To unsubscribe, send an email to [deschutes.passage@pgn.com](mailto:deschutes.passage@pgn.com) with the subject line "unsubscribe."

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