October 2019

Pelton Round Butte Fish and Wildlife Newsletter





Our biggest excitement of September came in the form of a heavy-duty helicopter, placing river rocks, logs and even large boulders into the Lower Deschutes. Thanks to the hard work of staff from PGE, CTWS, and our contractors at Columbia Helicopters, Chinook, steelhead and redband trout will now have more places to spawn and rear. Dams block these materials from moving downstream naturally, so this type of augmentation is necessary for creating habitat.

In addition to this remarkable process, our biologists are busy with the usual fall fieldwork, including kokanee mark-resight studies, bull trout redd surveys, electrofishing and more.

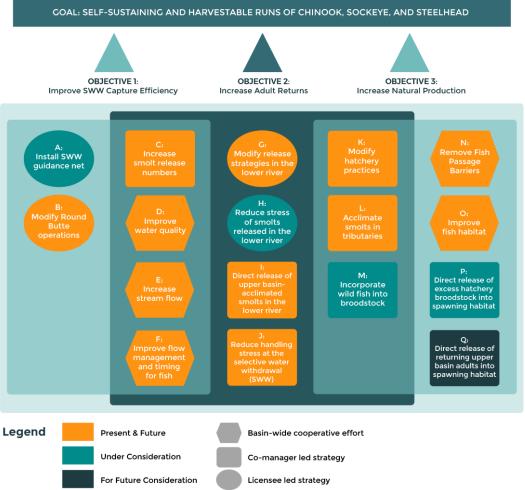
Mapping a Path to Reintroduction

The reintroduction of salmon and steelhead above Round Butte Dam is a complex project, involvingdozensoforganizations and agencies, ongoing research and adaptive strategies. For the last few months, the Fish Committee has been grappling with a tricky question: how do you illustrate or communicate project like this? After а extensive brainstorming and discussion, the Fish Committee came up with a solution: the Reintroduction Road Map.

How do I read the Road Map?

The road map diagram identifies the goal of the reintroduction effort, the three objectives that need to be met to accomplish the goal, and key strategies to achieve those objectives. Each strategy is symbolized with a color and shape. The color indicates the time-frame of the activity and shapes are used to show the lead organization behind each strategy.

Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee Reintroduction Road Map



Visit www.prbfishcommittee.com and click on any strategy to display more information.

Who created the Road Map?

The road map was developed collaboratively over a year-long process by a subgroup of the Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee. This group includes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Native Fish Society, Trout Unlimited, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Portland General Electric and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Branch of Natural Resources.

How is the Road Map used by the Fish Committee?

This road map is an essential adaptive management tool for planning and integrating basin-wide efforts into annual work plans that the Fish Committee oversees. The road map acts as a guide that allows the Fish Committee to focus on strategies within

Juvenile & Adult Fish Passage Updates

Juvenile Species	July 2019	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Yearly Total (through Sep.2019)
Chinook	1,191	57	7	36,888
Steelhead	8	0	1	11,135
Sockeye	1	0	0	92,099

Adult Species	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Yearly Total (through Sep. 2019)
Steelhead	2	20	20 (Sep. 2019 - May 2020)
Spring Chinook	29	1	481 (Jan. 2019 - Sep. 2019)
Sockeye	46	14	68 (Jan. 2019 - Sep. 2019)

Most adult sockeye arrived in August, with a few stragglers trickling in this September. The spring Chinook run also finished up in August. Upper basin fish were released above the dams and should be spawning.

their control that may impact the reintroduction effort while also taking into consideration the data, decisions and plans taking place throughout the watershed. It serves as a living document, with the expectation that we'll do an in-depth review for updates and improvements every three to five years.

The complete, clickable road map can be found on the Fish Committee Website.



The SWW is closed for annual maintenance until October 31.

Check out daily juvenile and adult fish counts on <u>our website</u>.

- A few summer steelhead have arrived early at the Pelton trap, three of which had a right maxillary clip. These fish were radio-tagged and released into the upper basin.
- This year's Columbia Basin summer steelhead run is predicted to be lower than the 2018 run. Currently 70,000 steelhead have passed Bonneville. (In 2018, the total was 109,920).
- The Columbia Basin fall Chinook run, with 242,000 fish past Bonneville, has surpassed the 2018 total (220,067).
- The new Opal Springs fish ladder should soon be completed. It will greatly assist fish heading up the Crooked River. 2

Meet Chandra Ferrari Senior Policy Advisor and Staff Attorney for Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited (TU), one of the collaborating organizations on the Reintroduction Road Map subcommittee, also works on habitat, fish passage and environmental education projects in the greater Deschutes Basin. TU was a signatory to the 2005 Settlement Agreement and has remained an active participant in the reintroduction effort ever since. Prior to shifting her attention to fisheries and water issues in the Pacific Northwest, Chandra Ferrari managed TU's Central Valley Program in California. This role involved engagement in hydropower relicensing processes. Chandra also worked as an attorney for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Today, Chandra advises TU on issues affecting salmon, steelhead and other cold-water fish populations in Oregon and Washington. She is impressed by the high level of engagement from diverse stakeholders in the Deschutes Basin. "It's rewarding to be part of constructive dialogue that aims to identify and implement solutions to complex challenges," she says. "Deschutes stakeholders do their homework and that raises the bar for all of us."



Several PGE employees volunteered this fall with Kokanee Karnival, an organization that teaches Central Oregon kids all about conservation and the spectacular species that call this region home. Between the handson learning, beautiful fall weather, and smiling faces, we couldn't have asked for a better time.

Announcements & News

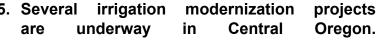
- 1. PGE and the Confederated Tribes of Warm 5. Several Springs (CTWS) responded to a recent opinion auest in the Source Weekly. how Read about we're moving forward collaboratively, using an adaptive management process to reintroduce fish to the Upper Deschutes.
 - → Find the op-ed in the Source Weekly.
- 2. PGE and CTWS used a heavy-duty helicopter to place gravel, logs and boulders in the Lower Deschutes, enhancing habitat for salmon and trout. Coverage in:
 - → <u>Central Oregon</u> **Daily News**
 - → Bend Bulletin
 - ➔ Madras Pioneer
 - Photos and videos on Facebook
- 3. Jana Hemphill at the Deschutes Land Trust ⁸. joined PGE biologists for a day, tracking radiotagged Chinook in Whychus Canyon Preserve.
 - ➔ Read her <u>blog post</u>.

Other recent blog posts from DLT:

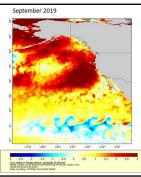
- → Update on salmon and steelhead returns.
- → A beaver was spotted at Camp Polk Meadow.
- 4. Plans by the City of Prineville, CrookCounty and Ochoco Irrigation District to build a new hydropower project at Bowman Dam are on hold until the project team can procure a fish passage waiver.

Read more in the

Central Oregonian



- North Unit Irrigation District is hosting a public meeting on Oct. 21 on their canal piping project. Information on KTVZ.
- → Ochoco Irrigation District is seeking funding. Details in the Central Oregonian.
- 6. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the Deschutes, designed to aid a number of species listed under the Endangered Species Act. More information in:
 - ➔ Columbia Basin Bulletin
 - → OPB
- 7. "The Blob," a dangerous warm patch in the Pacific ocean, could be back.



- Learn about its potential impact on **OPB**.
- Fish stranded by reduced flows from Wickiup **Reservoir in the Upper Deschutes were rescued** by collaborating nonprofits and volunteers.
 - Story on KTVZ
- 9. Central Oregon recreation tips and news:
 - → The American Canoe Association, Oregon State Marine Board, and U.S. Coast Guard released educational videos to help prevent boater accidents. The videos were filmed primarily at Lake Billy Chinook. Watch on KTVZ
 - → A new tourist lodge has been proposed on the rim of Lake Billy Chinook, causing concern for some. Details in the Bend Bulletin.
 - → Lake Billy Chinook has it all: camping, fishing, swimming and more. Find your activity in the Statesman Journal.
 - The Metolius Recreation Area is a perfect spot for RV camping. Check it out on rvtravel.com.

Thank you for reading our October newsletter!

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