



A collaborative effort to restore salmon and steelhead migration

A program to restore runs of steelhead, spring Chinook and sockeye salmon above Pelton Round Butte Dam is in full swing with the new fish facilities in operation at the project. Reintroducing these fish to the Metolius, Upper Deschutes and Crooked Rivers in conjunction with the new facilities allows them to complete their natural migration life cycle.

Active participants supporting this program effort by Portland General Electric and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife along with numerous other state, local and federal agencies and nongovernment organizations.

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Restoring fish runs to the upper Deschutes basin



Salmon and steelhead reintroduction program

A collaborative public/private effort to restore steelhead, spring Chinook and sockeye salmon migration in the Deschutes River Basin upstream of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project.



Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon



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Completing the journey

Native runs of migratory fish in the upper Deschutes River basin could no longer complete their round-trip journey to the Pacific Ocean after construction of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project blocked their passage in the 1950s and 1960s. But that changed in 2009 when PGE and the Tribes installed state-of-the-art fish passage facilities at the project.

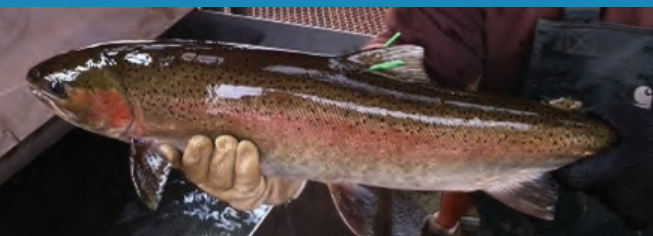
Spring Chinook



Sockeye



Steelhead



Photos provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

As part of the reintroduction program, numerous partner organizations helped by hundreds of volunteers worked to release tiny fry in key locations in the Metolius, Upper Deschutes, Crooked Rivers and their tributaries, where the fish grew into juvenile smolts and began migrating to the Pacific Ocean as early as 2009, returning as mature adults beginning in 2012.

These fish are being passed upstream into Lake Billy Chinook where they will complete their migration and life cycle by returning to spawn naturally in the streams where they were reared.

The goal of the reintroduction program is to achieve native runs of adult salmon and steelhead with sustainable and harvestable populations upstream of Lake Billy Chinook. This is a monumental effort and will take time as the current reintroduction efforts are evaluated and if necessary, improved with experience. The natural spawning of these mature returning adults is critical to this reintroduction effort.



A spawning sockeye passed upstream to the Metolius Basin.
Photo: Mike Gauvin, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



How you can help — spread the word

If you catch a mature fish that contains the green anchor tags and/or a radio tag as shown in the photos, please keep the fish in the water and release it unharmed so it can continue its migration and spawn naturally to produce the next generation. Natural spawning and rearing is required so these fish can adapt to present habitat conditions, including Lake Billy Chinook and passage around the dams below. Current angling regulations require the immediate release of these fish.

By increasing survival and natural spawning, you are helping to make the salmon and steelhead reintroduction program a future success in the Deschutes River Basin.

Identifying these fish

Mature adult salmonids that are a part of this reintroduction program can be identified by looking just below each side of the dorsal fin. Up to 2 green anchor tags are attached to the fish just below their dorsal fin (see photos above).

Many of these mature fish have been implanted with a radio tag that allows biologists to track and monitor the migration, health, and successful spawning of mature fish in the waters they grew up in.

Learn more about the fish passage facility and supporting habitat projects at:
PortlandGeneral.com/Fish