

Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee Reintroduction Road Map

Executive Summary

The Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee (Fish Committee) Reintroduction Road Map (Road Map) is a high-level guide to past actions and future considerations that impact the goal of returning “self-sustaining and harvestable runs of spring Chinook, sockeye and summer steelhead” to the Deschutes basin upstream of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project (the Project), co-owned by Portland General Electric (PGE) and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO).

In the late 1990s, the owners initiated the process of relicensing the Project and conducted numerous studies regarding the potential to reconnect and restore the upper and lower Deschutes River ecosystems. Committing to reintroduction of salmon and steelhead upstream of the Project was the key achievement of the collaborative process of settlement and relicensing. Since receiving the new license in 2005, the Licensees (PGE and CTWSRO) have supported the reintroduction effort through a variety of means including design and installation of a Selective Water Withdrawal (SWW) tower, initiating upstream and downstream passage at the Project, funding restoration projects in both the upper and lower basin, and performing studies designed to answer questions associated with (or arising during) the reintroduction effort. All the Licensees’ fisheries actions are vetted through the Fish Committee.

Through on-going scientific studies and operation of fish passage facilities, significant information relevant to future management decisions has been gathered. To-date, however, these data were presented in narrowly focused reports; there was no comprehensive tool that showed interactions between major influential factors or captured the work being conducted by different organizations. This Road Map describes these actions in one document to better communicate a holistic understanding of the adaptive management actions guiding the reintroduction program to both stakeholders and the public.

The Road Map was developed over a year-long process by a subgroup of Fish Committee members, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Native Fish Society, Trout Unlimited, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), PGE, and CTWSRO Branch of Natural Resources. It includes a diagram that 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 timeframe of the activity: present and future, under consideration, or for future consideration. Shapes are used to show the lead organization for each strategy. The group developed high-level descriptions for each strategy that outline: the strategy’s importance, anticipated outcomes, evaluation methods, timeline, lead organization/agency, Fish Committee role, and related studies/actions/decisions. These summaries are meant to provide easily accessible/quick reference information and basin-wide context about the reintroduction effort for the Fish Committee and the public.

The Fish Committee sees this Road Map as an essential adaptive management tool for planning and integrating basin-wide efforts into annual work plans that the Fish Committee is responsible for overseeing. It serves as a living document that describes the evolving long-term management actions pertaining to the reintroduction of anadromous salmonids upstream of the Project. It is anticipated that substantial revisions to this Road Map will be made approximately every three to five years. The Road Map acts as a guide that allows the Fish Committee to focus on those strategies within their control that may impact reintroduction while taking into consideration the data, decisions, and plans taking place throughout the watershed.