

Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee

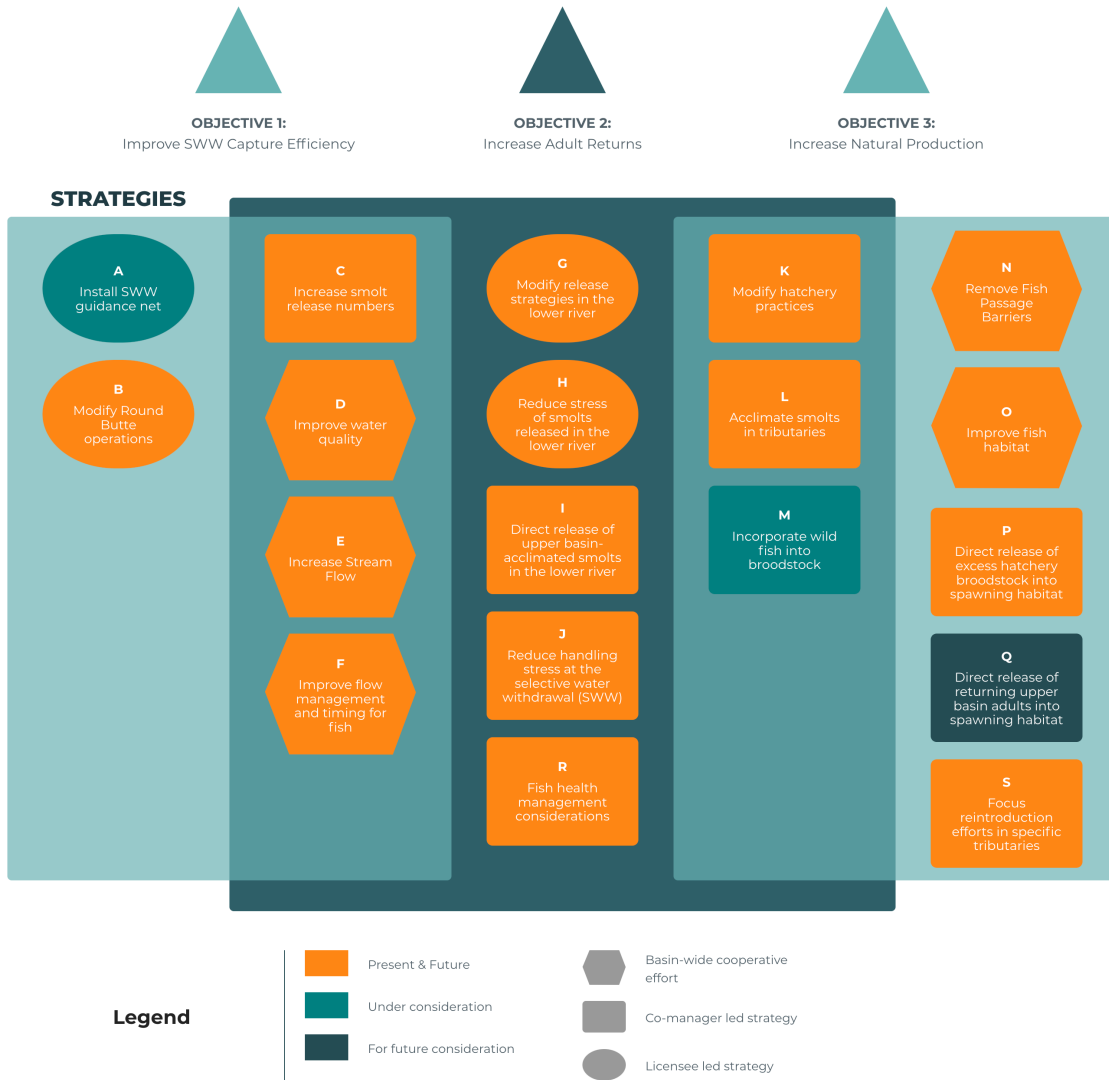
Reintroduction Road Map

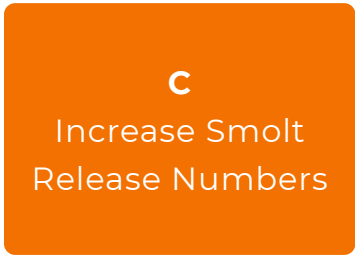
The reintroduction road map is a high level guide to strategies current and future, to impact the goal of returning self-sustaining and harvestable runs of spring Chinook, sockeye and summer steelhead to the Upper Deschutes Basin. Learn more about the history and purpose of our work in the [Executive Summary](#).

The road map is organized by objectives with each strategy represented by a shape that indicates who is responsible and a color to illustrate whether strategies are current or planned.

Overview of Reintroduction Road Map

Goal: self-sustaining and harvestable runs of Chinook, sockeye, and steelhead.





STRATEGY

C: Increase Smolt Release Numbers

Description: With the upper Deschutes Basin reintroduction program initially based off fry releases, the number of smolts initially released was comparatively low when compared to other reintroduction efforts. The fish managers – ODFW and CTWS – terminated the fry release program due to concerns about genetic effects on native populations and when it became apparent that fry survival was inadequate to attain reintroduction program goals. Presently, 100,000 of both summer steelhead and spring Chinook smolts are released annually as part of the reintroduction effort. Increasing the number of smolts released above the Project will boost the probability that more smolts of both species will out-migrate.

Anticipated Outcome: Increase the number of out-migrating Chinook and steelhead smolts captured at the SWW. Subsequently, elevated adult returns are anticipated.

Evaluation Method: This can be evaluated by comparing the total smolts captured at the SWW pre- and post-increased releases. In subsequent years, similar comparisons can be made when these upper basin adult fish return to the Pelton Fish Trap, where pre and post-evaluations are made.

Timeline: Present and Future - As of 2021, 100,000 smolts of each species are released annually as part of the reintroduction effort. Production increases beyond this are under consideration and are dependent upon available funding and/or infrastructural improvements. Currently, the hatchery infrastructure in the basin can only support modest increases in smolt production. As such, smolt production will be limited unless increased hatchery infrastructure capacity is achieved. NOTE: due to lack

of broodstock, no spring Chinook salmon smolts will be available for the reintroduction program in 2023.

Lead Organization/Agency: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO) are the authorities for fish management decisions in the basin. With regards to reintroduction, the role of the Licensees is to facilitate and, in some cases, administer the methods that result from fish management decisions.

Fish Committee Role: Information is brought to the Fish Committee for input.

Relevant Studies/Actions/Decisions:

2018 – ODFW and CTWSRO agree to increase reintroduction smolt releases for both summer steelhead and spring Chinook to a total 100,000 for each species. Steelhead smolt production will remain at Wizard Falls Hatchery while spring Chinook smolts will be reared at Fall River Hatchery.

2017 – Round Butte Spring Chinook Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan. Retrieved at <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/hgmp/final.asp>

2010 - present – Juvenile Migration Test and Verification Study Annual Reports. Retrieved at <https://www.portlandgeneral.com/deschutesstudies>
