

Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee

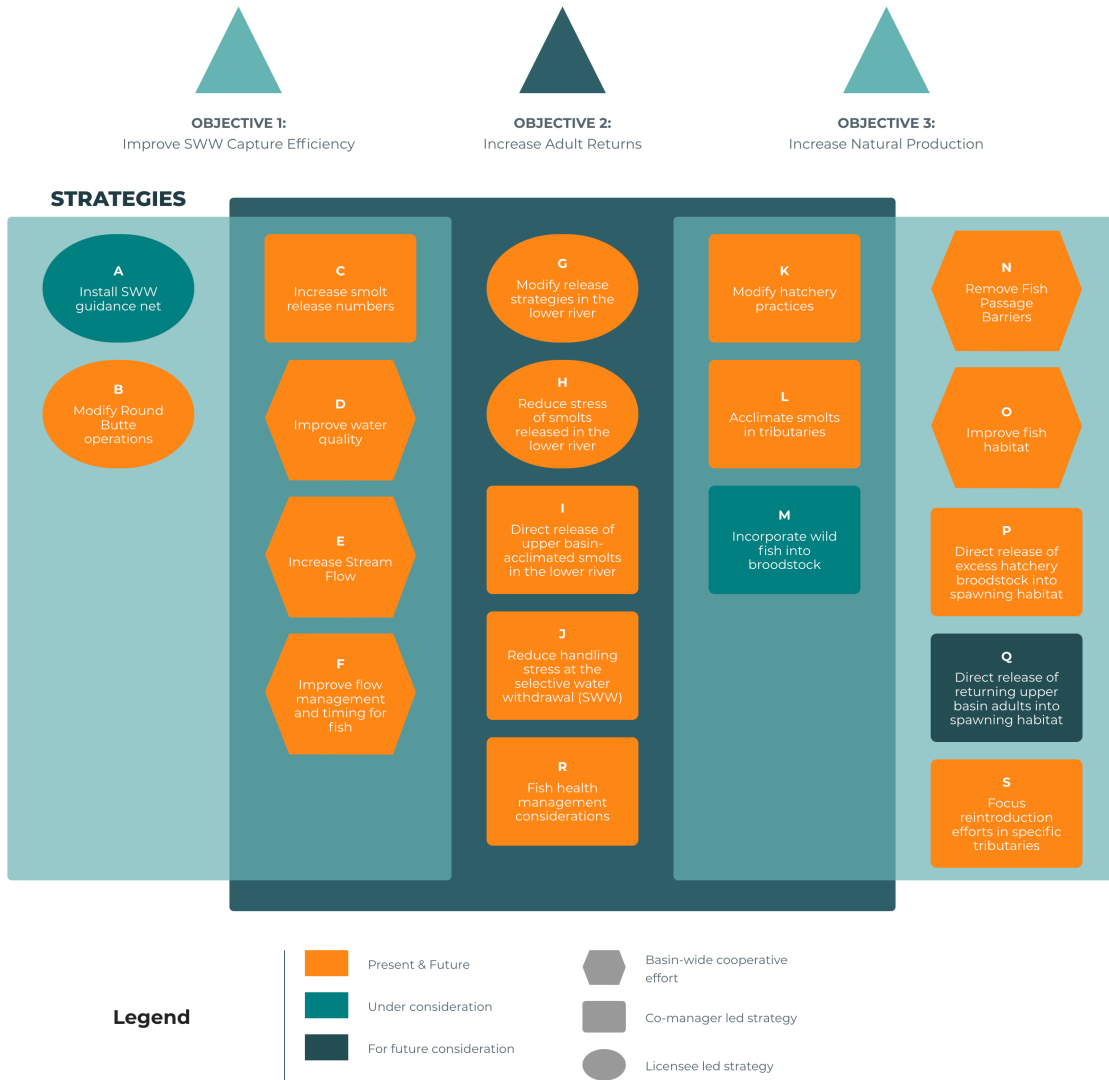
Reintroduction Road Map

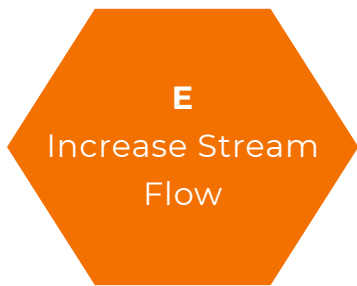
The reintroduction road map is a high level guide to strategies current and future, to impact the goal of returning self-sustaining and harvestable runs of spring Chinook, sockeye and summer steelhead to the Upper Deschutes Basin. Learn more about the history and purpose of our work in the [Executive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

E: Increase Stream Flow

Description: Instream flow quantity and timing is critical for major life stages and development of anadromous fish, in both the upper and lower Deschutes Basin. Basin studies indicate that an additional 130,000 acre-feet (AF) of instream flows in median water years will be needed to meet ODFW minimum streamflow targets and municipal water demands in the upper basin. Meeting broader ecological objectives will require the restoration of 200,000 AF to instream flows in median water years and 400,000 AF in dry water years. Through conservation efforts (including piping of irrigation networks) and market-based incentives, instream flows have increased in the past decade. However, a further combination of these methods and potential new storage opportunities are necessary to ameliorate projected shortages in the upper basin. Opportunities for increasing flows include:

- ▶ Conservation: Piping of irrigation canals and laterals; improvement of on-farm equipment and operations; restoring wetlands, increasing connectivity of aquatic habitats and improving stream complexity.
- ▶ Market-based incentives: Water leasing; voluntary duty reduction; permanent transfer.
- ▶ Storage: Potential new or expanded reservoir storage and locations.
- ▶ Other management options: Additional Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) Stations in the upper Crooked River basin; additional gauging of diversions; methods to improve hydraulic forecasting; groundwater-surface water exchanges to improve flows during dry years for Whychus Creek.

Anticipated Outcome: Changes in water allocation, storage, and mitigation that increase instream flows are expected to promote

anadromous lifecycle needs. Targets were established by the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and will be modified by future stakeholder agreements.

Evaluation Method: Assessment of annual instream flows by tributary and whether they meet, exceed, or fall short of targets.

Timeline: Present and Future – Final HCP completed in 2021 with implementation through 2050.

Lead Organization/Agency: Basin-wide cooperative effort.

Fish Committee Role: No decision-making role.

Related Studies/Actions/Decisions:

2021 – Completion of the [Deschutes River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\)](#), a collaborative strategy to share water resources in the Deschutes Basin through a variety of irrigation and related water management programs and projects, while enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. It's also recognized that additional work will be needed outside of the HCP process to meet stream flows necessary to promote anadromous life cycles, especially for Chinook, which were not a focal species of the final HCP.

2014 - 2019 – [Upper Deschutes River Basin Study](#) evaluates a number of opportunities, tools, and barriers to addressing water supply and informing water management in the basin.

2008 - 2019 – Development of Deschutes River Basin HCP, which will provide incidental take protections for the City of Prineville and members of the Deschutes Basin Board of Control.

1996 – Stuart, A.M., Thiesfeld, S.L., Nelson, T.K., & Shrader, T.M. 1996. Crooked River Basin Plan Ochoco Fish District. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon. Retrieved at <https://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/nrimp/information/docs/fishreports/Crooked%20River%20Basin%20Plan%201996%20Final.pdf>.

2014 – Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act. Amended the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and for other purposes. Retrieved at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/2640>.
