

**Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee**

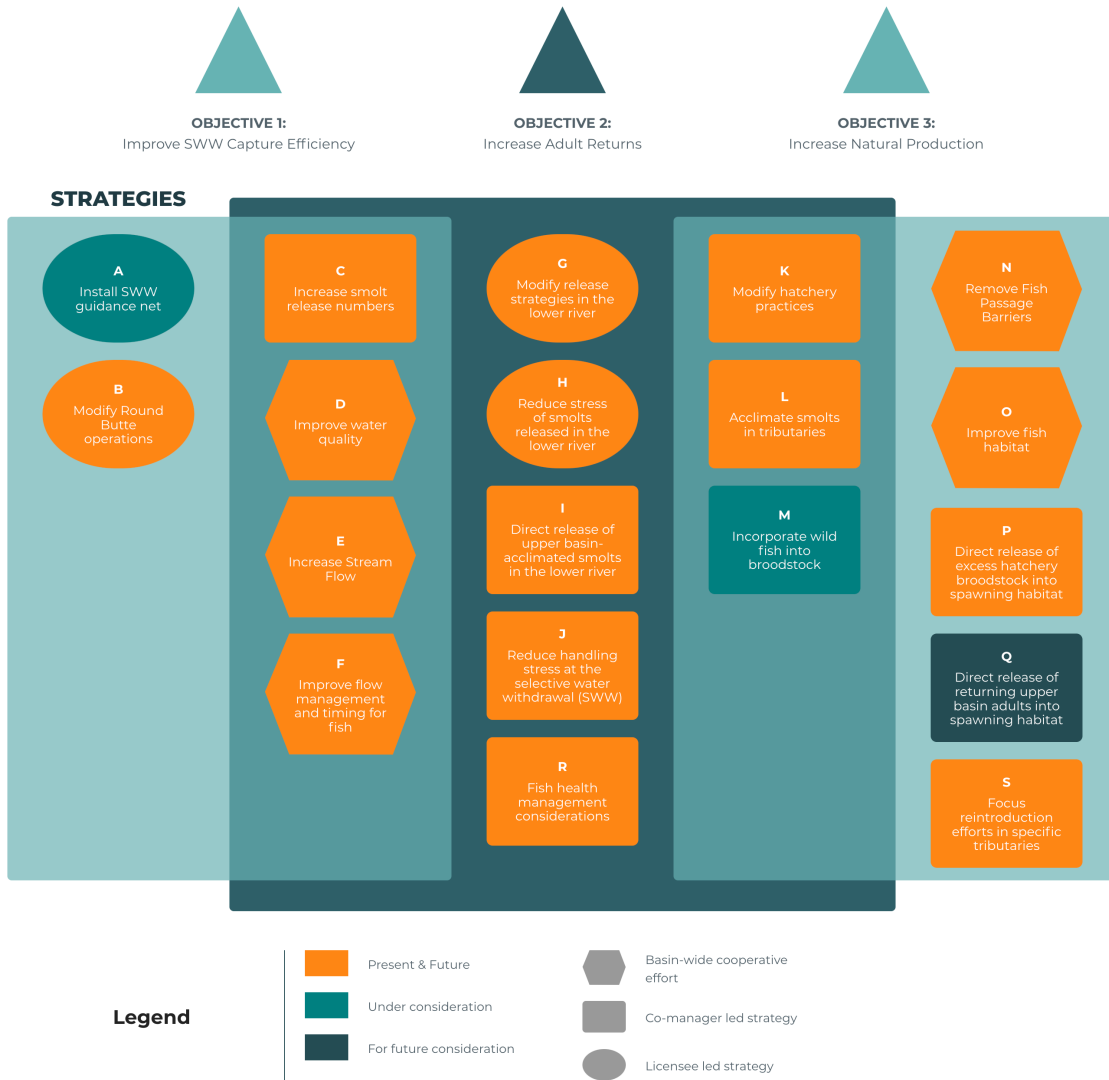
# **Reintroduction Road Map**

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.



I  
Direct Release of  
Upper Basin-  
Acclimated Smolts  
in the Lower River

## STRATEGY

# I: Direct Release of Upper Basin-Acclimated Smolts in the Lower River

**Description:** Currently, smolts are released into the tributaries upstream of Lake Billy Chinook (LBC). To reach the lower Deschutes River, smolts have to swim through the reservoir and enter the Selective Water Withdrawal fish collection facilities (SWW) at Round Butte Dam, where they are loaded onto trucks and transported to the lower Deschutes river.

Recent studies to-date have shown that reservoir passage efficiencies are low (approximately 20% for summer steelhead and 50% for spring Chinook). To increase the number of adults returning, the number of smolts reaching the lower river needs to increase. One interim solution to boost numbers is to directly release smolts into the lower Deschutes River, bypassing the SWW and reservoir (additional methods to do this are described in Strategies M, N, O, P, and Q). Specifically, a percentage of the total smolts released in the basin will be acclimated in the upper basin and then transported, via truck, around Round Butte Dam and directly released into the lower Deschutes River below the Re-Regulation Dam.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Increase smolt survival to the ocean by bypassing the reservoir, thereby increasing adult upper basin returns.

**Evaluation Method:** Comparing adult return rates before and after this strategy is implemented, relative to the number of smolts released, should allow managers to determine if this is a viable technique for increasing upper basin adult returns.

**Timeline:** Present and Future –This is an interim strategy designed to increase the number of adults produced from acclimated smolts in the near term. As natural production increases and smolt capture at the

SWW reaches sufficient numbers, the direct release of acclimated smolts into the lower river will be reduced and eventually terminated. ODFW will decide annually if, where, and how many of the acclimated smolts will be released into the lower river.

**Lead Organization/Agency:** 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.

**Related Studies/Actions/Decisions:**

**2017 – present** – ODFW annually releases varying numbers of spring Chinook and summer steelhead smolts that were acclimated at the Opal Springs hydropower facility below the Re-Regulation Dam. Releases were not differentially marked.

**2018** – ODFW released 5,000 non-coded wire-tagged summer steelhead smolts that were acclimated at the Opal Springs hydropower facility below the Re-Regulation Dam.

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