

**Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee**

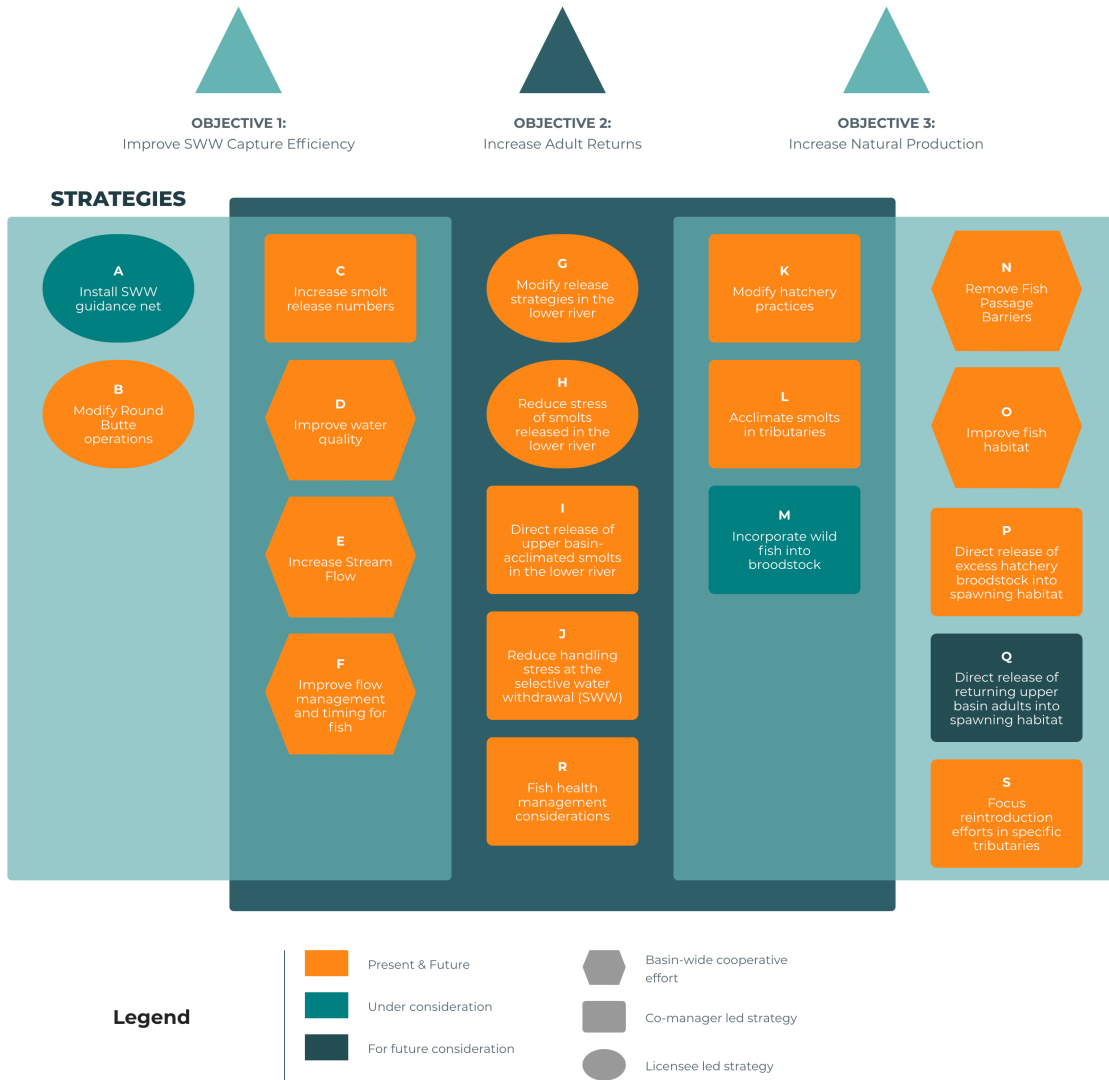
# **Reintroduction Road Map**

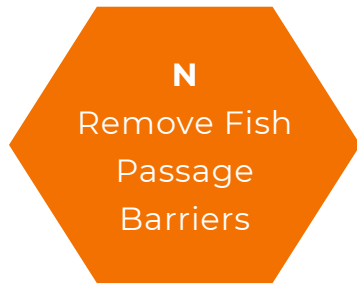
The reintroduction road map is a high level guide to strategies current and future, to impact the goal of returning self-sustaining and harvestable runs of spring Chinook, sockeye and summer steelhead to the Upper Deschutes Basin. Learn more about the history and purpose of our work in the [Executive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

# N: Remove Fish Passage Barriers

**Description:** Since the 1920s, habitats upstream of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project (Project) have been inaccessible to anadromous salmonids. As part of the Federal Energy Regulatory System (FERC) relicensing, fish passage at Round Butte Dam was restored on December 3, 2009 (notice of completion filed with FERC February 23, 2010). However, in some Deschutes River tributaries, fish passage remains impaired by structural barriers, such as dams, culverts, and irrigation diversions. A significant limiting factor for steelhead production above the Project is the partial upstream adult migration barrier at Opal Springs Dam on the Crooked River (Carmichael and Taylor 2009). Construction of new fish passage facilities was initiated in 2018 and is scheduled for completion in 2019. The Deschutes Subbasin Plan (2004) and Crooked River Basin Plan (1996) state that the restoration of fish passage would not only allow access to historical spawning and rearing habitats for anadromous fish, thereby increasing production, but would also help to reconnect fragmented resident fish populations. Other than at the Project, fish passage projects are conducted by authorities other than the Licensees. However, some members of the Fish Committee, who are on the Pelton Fund Technical Review Team, analyze funding applications for some of those projects, as numerous projects have been funded, in part, by the Pelton Fund.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Removal of barriers to fish migration will provide additional access to spawning and rearing habitats for anadromous and resident fish populations. Subsequently, basin-wide fish production has the potential to increase.

**Evaluation Method:** Variable dependent upon the implementation organization.

**Timeline:** Present and Future.

Including the Project, there has been extensive fish passage work conducted throughout the reintroduction area. Below are some examples of ongoing or proposed fish passage projects that are pertinent to reintroduction efforts. The years listed represent the estimated completion year(s).

- ▶ Whychus Creek Plainview Dam removal and fish screen installation – 2019/2020.
- ▶ Ochoco Creek Prineville Country Club irrigation diversion fish passage – 2020.

Lead Organization/Agency: Most fish passage projects that pertain to the reintroduction of anadromous salmonids are implemented by the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council or the Crooked River Watershed Council, in cooperation with private landowners. Generally, other Deschutes Basin project partners and stakeholders have the opportunity to provide input on project plans or designs as part of funding applications or coordination meetings. All fish passage projects must meet Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Fish Passage criteria.

**Fish Committee Role:** No decision-making role, excluding the Project.

**Related Studies/Actions Decisions:**

**2019** – Deschutes Valley Water District completes construction on a fish ladder at the Opal Springs Hydroelectric Project.

**2009** – Carmichael, R., and Taylor, B. 2009. Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon. Retrieved at [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/mid\\_columbia\\_river/Oregon\\_Mid-C\\_Recovery\\_Plan\\_Feb2010.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/mid_columbia_river/Oregon_Mid-C_Recovery_Plan_Feb2010.pdf).

**2004** – Deschutes Subbasin Plan. 2004. Retrieved from <https://www.nwcouncil.org/subbasin-plans/deschutes-subbasin-plan>.

**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>.

ODFW Fish Passage Inventories and Statewide Fish Passage Priority List. Retrieved from <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/passage/inventories.asp>.

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