

**Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee**

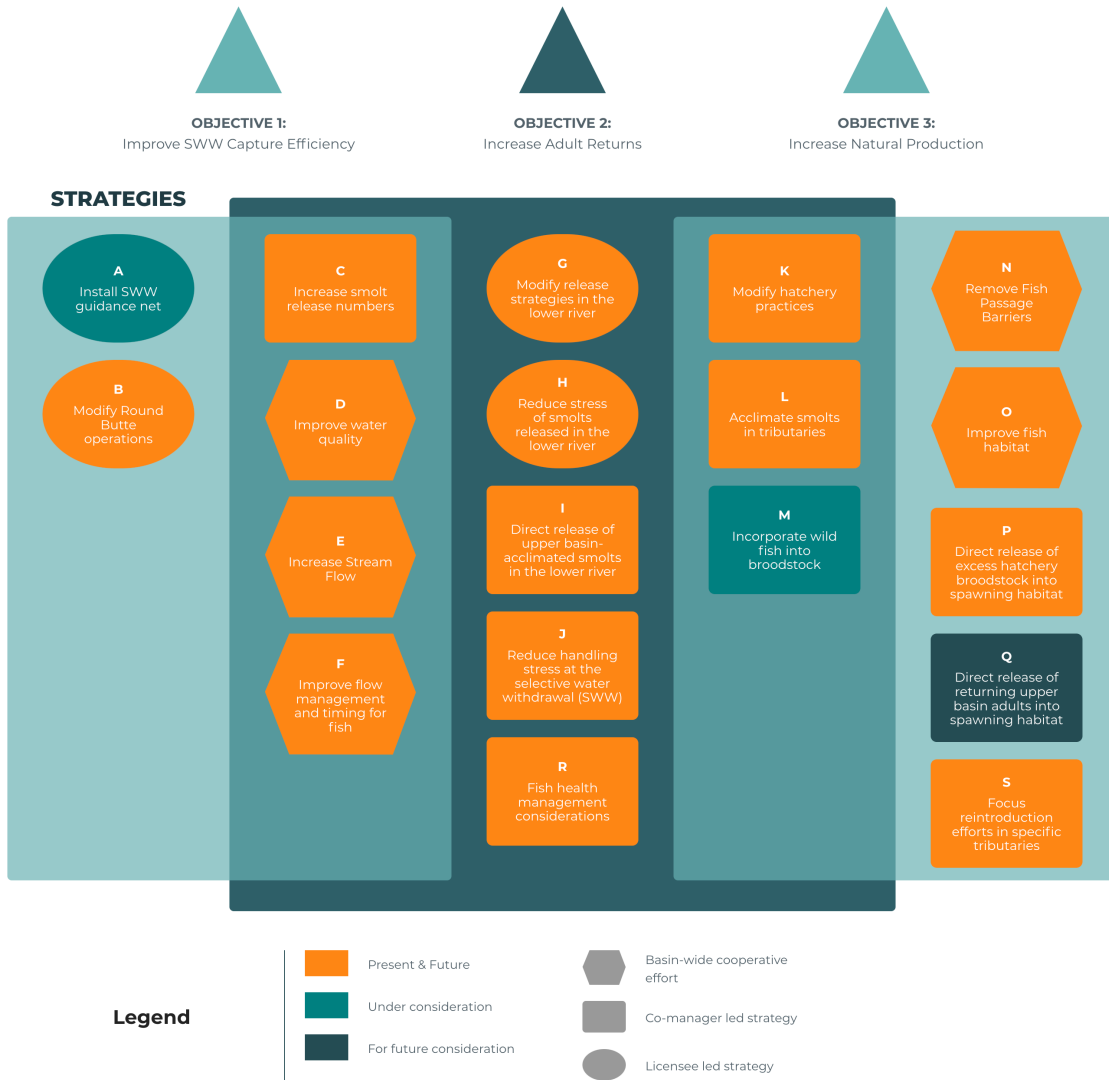
# **Reintroduction Road Map**

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

# O: Improve Fish Habitat

**Description:** The Deschutes Subbasin Plan (2004) and Crooked River Basin Plan (1996) state that riparian and floodplain degradation, as well as the loss of instream habitat complexity, are factors that have led to the decline of aquatic species. Degraded conditions, such as floodplain connectivity and function, channel structure, and instream large wood recruitment, have limited the viability of steelhead within the basin (Carmichael and Taylor 2009). Basin-wide fish habitat improvements aim to address many of the factors that limit the production of anadromous and resident fish species. For example, the 2015 Strategic Action Plan for the Deschutes Partnership (consisting of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Crooked River Watershed Council, Deschutes River Conservancy, and Deschutes Land Trust) stated that the partnership was initiated to create an all-inclusive restoration program focused on improving fish habitat conditions, with regards to the reintroduction of anadromous salmonids to the upper Deschutes Basin. Fish habitat improvement 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:** Fish habitat improvements may increase spawning and rearing habitat capacity for anadromous and resident species. Thus, fish production has the potential to increase.

**Evaluation Method:** Variable dependent upon the implementation organization. ODFW AQI habitat survey data may prove useful in documenting habitat quality changes.

**Timeline:** Present and Future -There have been extensive stream restoration projects throughout the reintroduction area. Below are some examples of ongoing or proposed projects that are pertinent to reintroduction efforts. The years listed represent the estimated completion year(s).

- ▶ Whychus Creek canyon floodplain restoration; additional phases – 2021-2023
- ▶ Whychus Creek floodplain restoration at Willow Springs – 2022-2024
- ▶ Crooked River and tributaries floodplain restoration at Ochoco Preserve – 2022-2025
- ▶ McKay Creek restoration at Wine Down Ranch – 2023

**Lead Organization/Agency:** Most stream restoration projects that pertain to the reintroduction of anadromous salmonids are implemented by the U.S. Forest Service, 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 stream restoration projects must comply with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of State Lands, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in-water work requirements.
- ▶ Regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Act conservation measures for bull trout must be incorporated into project design and implementation, where applicable.

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

**Related Studies/Actions/Decisions:**

**2020** – The Pelton Fund awards \$4.5 million to agencies and non-profits working on habitat improvement in the Deschutes Basin. Projects include fish passage barrier removal, instream work, riparian protection, land acquisition, etc.

**2015** – Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Crooked River Watershed Council, Deschutes River Conservancy, and Deschutes Land Trust. 2015. Fish Habitat Restoration in the Upper Deschutes Basin – Strategic Action Plan.

**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>.

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