

Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee

Reintroduction

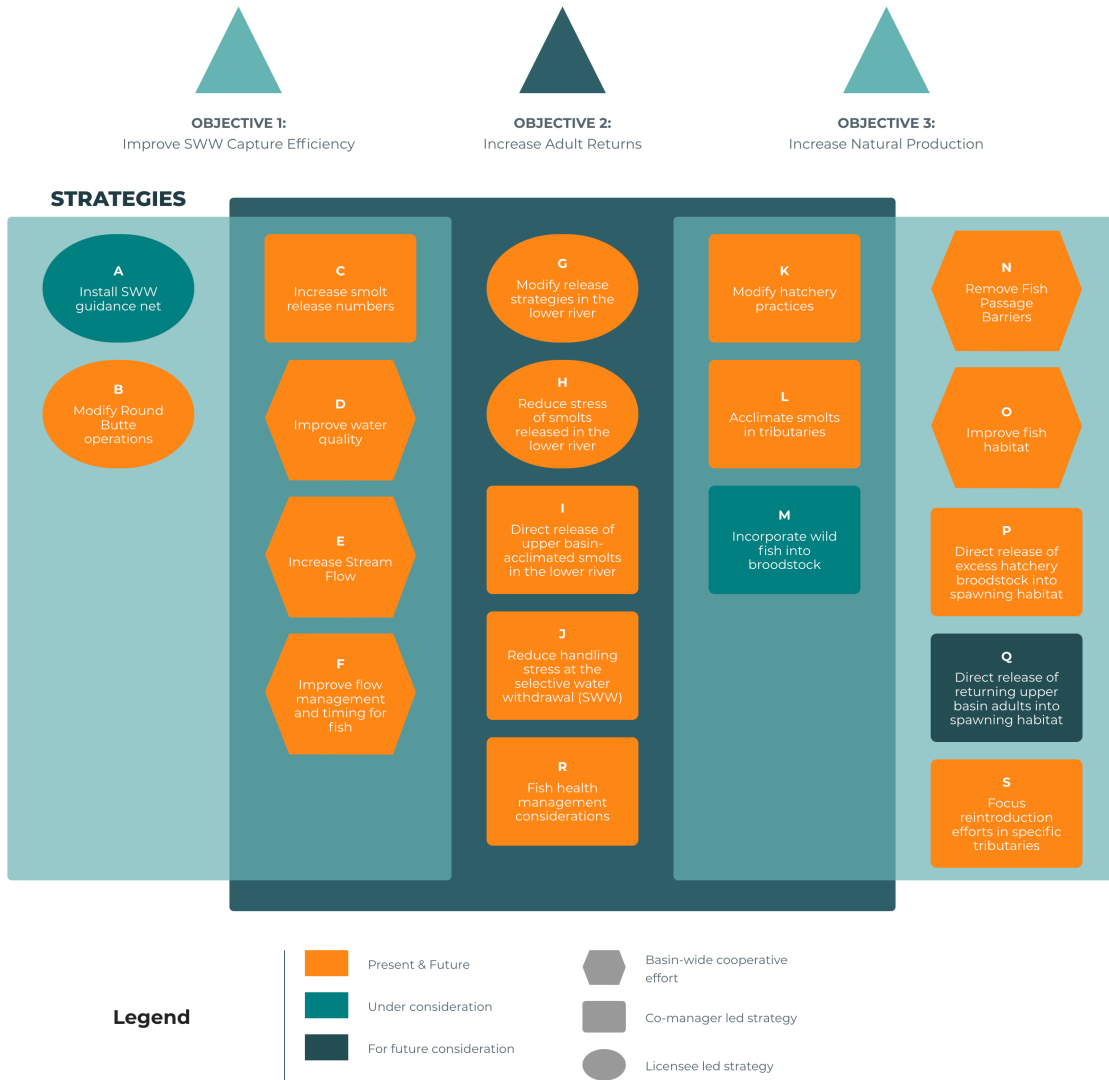
Road Map

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.



P

Direct Release of
Excess Hatchery
Broodstock into
Spawning Habitat

STRATEGY

P: Direct Release of Excess Hatchery Broodstock into Spawning Habitat

Description: The annual returns of adult known origin summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon have been limited. The passage of excess hatchery broodstock, combined with known origin passage, increases the likelihood of natural production above the Round Butte Dam. To date, only isolated, sporadic spawning has been documented from releases of known origin adult summer steelhead and spring Chinook into Lake Billy Chinook. Radio telemetry has shown that many of these fish migrate up one tributary, only to migrate back into the reservoir and into a different tributary. Directly releasing these fish near suitable spawning habitat, or in the proximity of holding adults, increases the probability of successful spawning. This strategy is currently being implemented for spring Chinook. Excess broodstock may not be available every year because the broodstock needs of Round Butte, Warm Springs National, and Parkdale fish hatcheries will be prioritized. At this time, there are no plans to release excess steelhead brood upstream of the Project, due to disease concerns and potential genetic impacts on native redband trout.

Anticipated Outcome: It is anticipated that natural production will increase by directly releasing adult excess hatchery broodstock and known origin adults near suitable spawning habitats. Furthermore, it is likely that increased natural production will lead to a greater abundance of outmigrants.

Evaluation Method: Redd surveys, radio telemetry, and tributary screw trap operations will inform evaluators on the efficacy of this action.

Timeline: Present and Future – Beginning in 2019, administer this strategy for spring Chinook; re-evaluate the efficacy of this strategy in

future years and discontinue it when Co-managers (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO)) agree that natural production has reached an acceptable level. Evaluate the need for direct releases of excess hatchery broodstock steelhead in future years.

Lead Organization/Agency: ODFW and 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:

2021 – ODFW and CTWSRO agree to pass excess Warm Springs Hatchery spring Chinook broodstock into the Metolius River for the duration of the 2021 run.

2018 – ODFW and CTWSRO agree to pass up to 200 excess Round Butte Hatchery broodstock spring Chinook into the Metolius River beginning in 2019.

2012 - present – Annual Adult Migration, Survival and Spawning Test and Verification Studies. Retrieved at <http://www.portlandgeneral.com/deschutesstudies>.
