

**Pelton Round Butte Fish Committee**

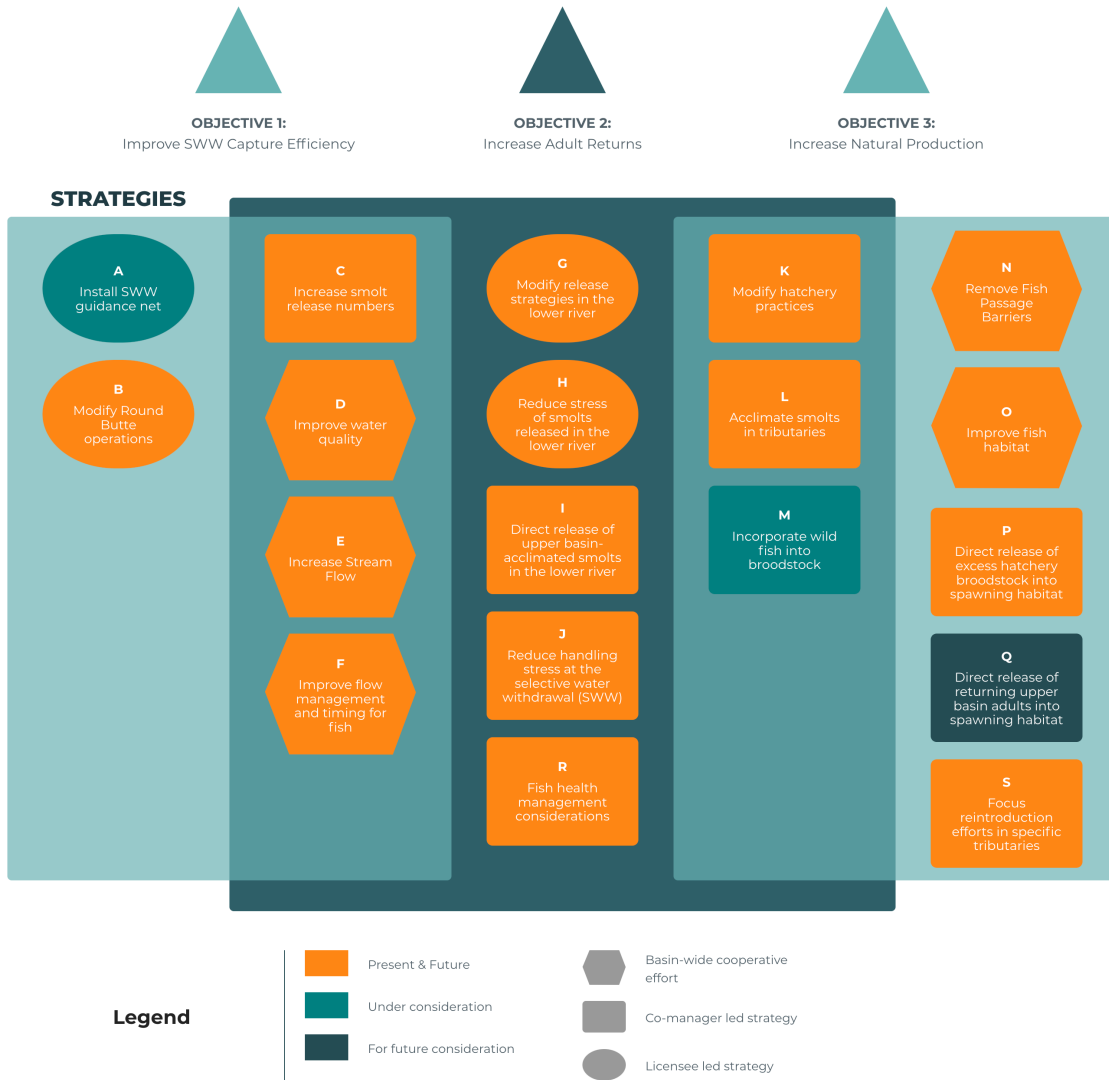
# **Reintroduction Road Map**

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.





Direct Release  
Returning Upper  
Basin Adults into  
Holding or Spawning  
Habitat

## STRATEGY

# Q: Direct Release Returning Upper Basin Adults into Holding or Spawning Habitat

**Description:** This strategy is currently only proposed for future consideration. The long-term goal of the reintroduction process is that, assuming there are robust numbers of returning adults, these adults would have volitional passage through the reservoir into natal streams; direct release into the tributaries does not support this goal. To date, because we are in the initial stages of the reintroduction and adult returns are low, we have only documented isolated and sporadic spawning in returning upper basin adults that have been passed above the hydropower project into Lake Billy Chinook. Radio tracking studies demonstrate that a portion of upper basin adult fish migrate up one tributary, only to outmigrate back into the reservoir and into a different tributary. This behavior could be a result of fish searching for a mate and/or trying to use olfactory cues to home back to the tributary in which they were released. By directly releasing adults near suitable holding or spawning habitat, fish may have a better probability of successfully spawning, due to the proximity of a mate and suitable spawning habitat. This strategy could require differential marking of smolts from tributary releases to ensure adults were released into the correct natal stream. Releasing adults into the tributary from which they did not originate could exacerbate straying, but this could still be considered if that risk could be balanced by the increased probability of successful spawning. However, alternative adaptive management measures should be thoroughly evaluated by the fish managers and Fish Committee prior to implementation of this strategy.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Directly releasing adult fish near suitable spawning habitat may increase the probability that potential mates would find each other and successfully spawn. However, transported adults could be disoriented and migrate out of the system rather than spawn.

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

**Goal:** Increase successful spawning and natural production in tributaries.

**Timeline:** For Future Consideration – Possible Future Adaptive Management Action.

**Lead Organization/Agency:** The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon are the authorities for fish management decisions in the basin. With regards to reintroduction, the role of 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:**

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