

SCIENCE FOR PLANNING SALMONID RE-INTRODUCTION IN THE WHITE SALMON RIVER.

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ABSTRACT:

In preparation for the restoration of fish passage to the historically anadromous portion of the White Salmon River via removal of Condit Dam (river kilometer 5.0), the Condit Workgroup was formed to create a fish salvage and anadromous salmonid re-introduction plan. Members of this group, which first met on 13 February 2007, included: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Yakama Nation (YN), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and PacifiCorp. The new re-introduction plan was intended as an update of the previous re-introduction plan titled: "Joint Agency/Tribal plan for ecosystem restoration of the White Salmon River", which was prepared on 1 August 1995 by the Joint Fishery Party Interveners in FERC #2342 (consisting of the YN, WDFW, USFWS, NOAA, American Rivers, and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission). The fish populations considered for the ongoing fish salvage and re-introduction planning were: spring and fall Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, summer and winter steelhead *O. mykiss*, coho salmon *O. kisutch*, chum salmon *O. keta*, bull trout *Salvelinus confluentus*, and pacific lamprey *Lampetra tridentata*. The results of recent collaborative research projects in the White Salmon River were used to help guide the re-introduction and management plans to meet restoration goals of the various species. These projects include fish assessments in Rattlesnake Creek, a resident trout movement study in the White Salmon River above Condit Dam, juvenile fish population and genetic assessments below Condit Dam, Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment modeling, and past genetic assessments of salmonid populations from nearby watersheds. Management options for each species include: natural colonization, introductions of neighboring stocks, and the use of hatchery production. Recommended options for salmonid reintroductions from the Condit Workgroup are being incorporated into NOAA's Endangered Species Act recovery plans for the White Salmon River populations of Middle Columbia River steelhead and Lower Columbia River Chinook, coho, and chum salmon.