

Title: **Reintroduction of Fish Passage in the Deschutes River Basin**  
Presenter: Jens Lovtang  
Fisheries Management Supervisor  
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs  
P.O. Box C, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761  
email: [jlovtang@wstribes.org](mailto:jlovtang@wstribes.org) Phone: 541-553-2041 Cell: 541- 460-1728

Abstract:

The Pelton – Round Butte Hydroelectric Complex (Complex) consists of three hydroelectric dams and their resultant reservoirs (Lake Billy Chinook, Lake Simtustus, and a Regulation Reservoir) located between river miles 100 and 110 on the Deschutes River in North Central Oregon. The Complex was constructed between 1957 and 1964 near the junction of the Deschutes, Crooked, and Metolius River, and originally contained facilities for the downstream and upstream passage of anadromous fish. However, passage was ultimately unsuccessful, and a mitigation hatchery was constructed in 1974. In 1997, the process of FERC relicensing of the Complex began, which resulted in a settlement agreement in 2004 that required the licensees to screen 100% of powerhouse flows, meet water quality standards for the lower Deschutes River and the three Complex reservoirs, and provide safe downstream passage of migrating fish. In late 2009, construction was completed on a Selective Water Withdrawal (SWW) tower, which was built in place attached to the existing water outlet in the forebay of Lake Billy Chinook. Associated with the SWW is a Fish Transfer Facility (FTF) which screens all water coming into the powerhouse. Captured fish are either transported downstream or recycled back into the reservoir depending on size and species. Beginning in 2007, steelhead and spring Chinook salmon fry have been outplanted annually upstream of the Complex. A portion of those fish were transported downstream in 2010, and the first adult returns are expected in 2011 and 2012.