

Title: 2002 – 2004 Reconditioned Kelt Radio Tracking

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During the 2002-2003 winter and spring, a total of 32 radio tagged kelts were released in Mabton (RM 58). Toppenish Creek had the most detections with 9 fish detected. Seven kelts were detected in Satus Creek. A total of 6 kelts were detected never leaving the mouth of Sulfur Drain. After the spawning had been completed, 6 kelts were recaptured at the Chandler juvenile trap and were reconditioned for a second time. Approximately, 29 kelts were radio tagged at released at Wallula Gap (Columbia River), 4 of these fish were detected at the mouth of the Yakima River.

The 2003-2004 radio tracking was completed in early May. Two groups of kelts were released again this year. One group of radio tagged kelts was released in Wallula Gap again and the second group was released at Mabton (RM 58). Of the kelts released at Wallula Gap, 12 were detected entering the Yakima River, including one that was tracked 17 miles into Satus Creek. A total of 19 kelts were released at Mabton and 9 of the 19 were detected re-entering tributaries, including 6 into Satus Creek. The 2003 – 2004 releases were marked with extremely healthy fish including a 17 pound female that was last detected in Cowiche Creek.