

Title: Summary of Steelhead Kelt Movements, Yakima River, 2002-04

Authors: Cathy Karp, Bureau of Reclamation, Mark Johnston, Yakama Nation, Travis Dick, University of Washington, and Walt Larrick, Bureau of Reclamation

Middle Columbia River steelhead, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, including Yakima River populations, was listed as threatened on March 25, 1999 (Federal Register 64:14517-14528). The Bureau of Reclamation is consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service to determine type and level of impacts from Reclamation operations on the upper Yakima Basin population of steelhead. As part of this process, we began to study movements and habitat use of adult steelhead in the upper Yakima River basin in fall 2002. Yakima River steelhead enter the Columbia River in spring/summer and move into the Yakima River in the fall. Fish ascend Roza Dam on the left side of the river and move into a fish trap that is run by the Yakama Nation. All steelhead are measured and a subset implanted with a 6-month gastric radiotransmitter. We tracked 85 of 130 adult steelhead in winter 2002-03. Of these, most moved upstream after release: 32% moved into the Teanaway basin (N=24), 12% into Swauk drainage (N=9). A few fish moved into Taneum Creek, the Cle Elum River, Umtanum Creek, and the lower Naches River. The most upstream fish was near the confluence of the Cle Elum River. Two pairs of steelhead were observed spawning. Most steelhead were females and 2 were repeat spawners. This project was continued in winter 2003-04 with smaller transmitters. We tracked only half the run, 115 of over 200 fish) and although preliminary, again fish targeted the tributaries (Teanaway, Swauk, Taneum, Cle Elum, Wenas).