Life History Comparison of Selected Natural and Hatchery Populations of Snake River Steelhead

Tim Copeland and Katie McBaine, Idaho Department of Fish & Game

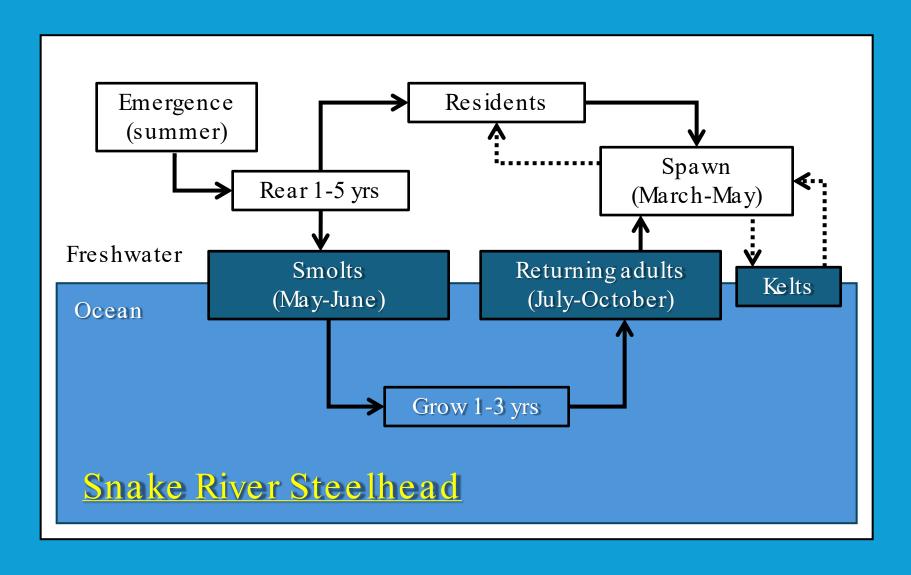


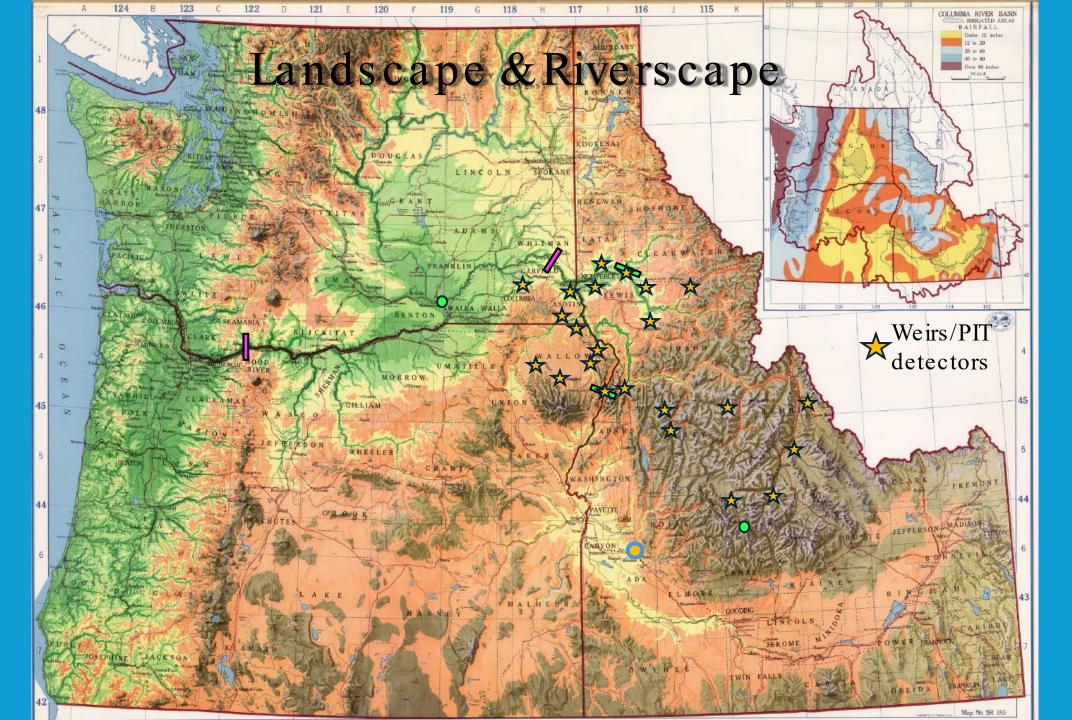
Today's Menu

- Review basic life history characteristics
- Quick landscape and management history summary
- Snapshot comparisons of selected populations
 - Build from "Life History Diversity of Snake River Steelhead Trout Populations between and within Management Categories"
 - For hatchery data not at hand, we relied on LSRCP reports (last 4-5 yrs)
- A word about natural steelhead in the upper Salmon River

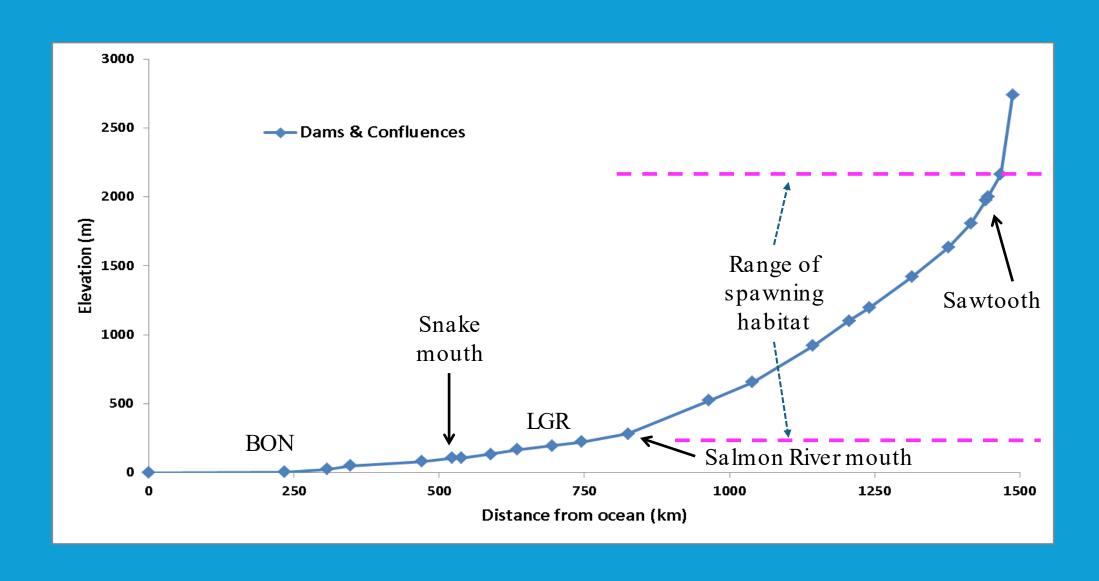


Basic Life History Template

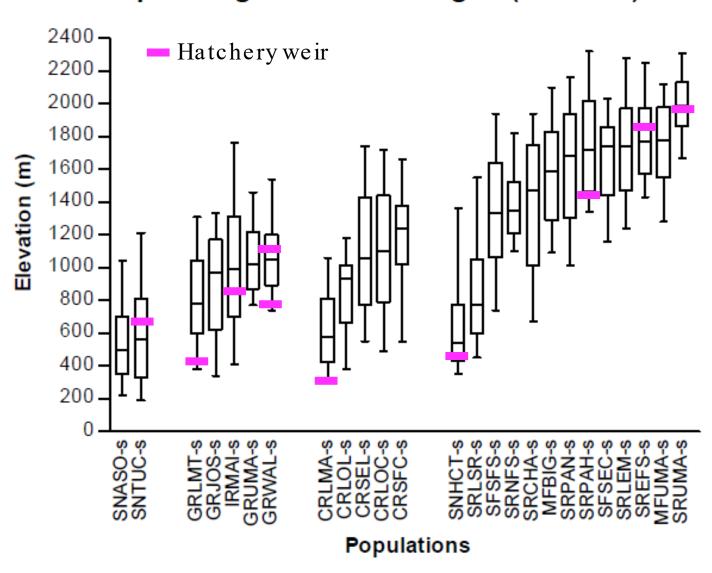




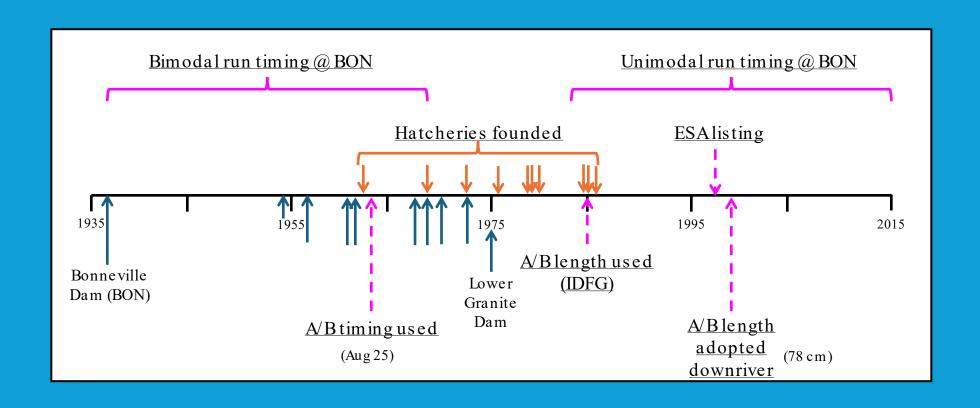
The Long and Winding Road



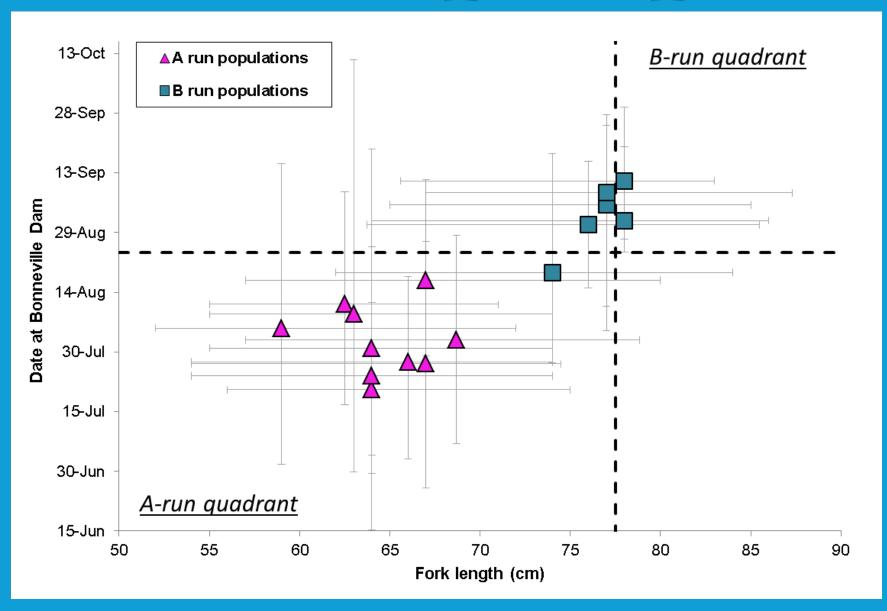
Snake River Steelhead ESU Spawning Elevation Ranges (Intrinsic)



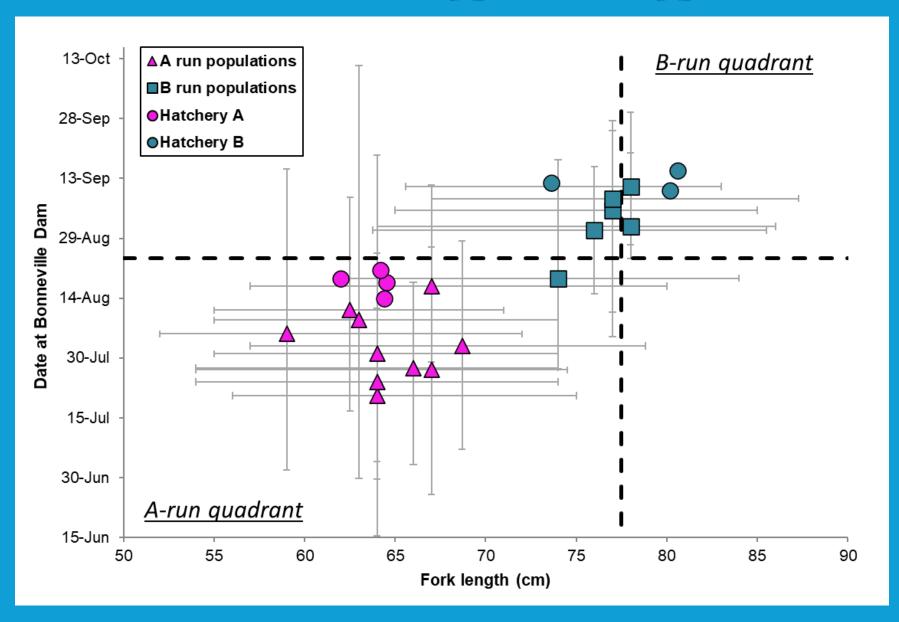
Steelhead Management Chronology in the Snake & Columbia Rivers



Gradient between A-type & B-type Steelhead



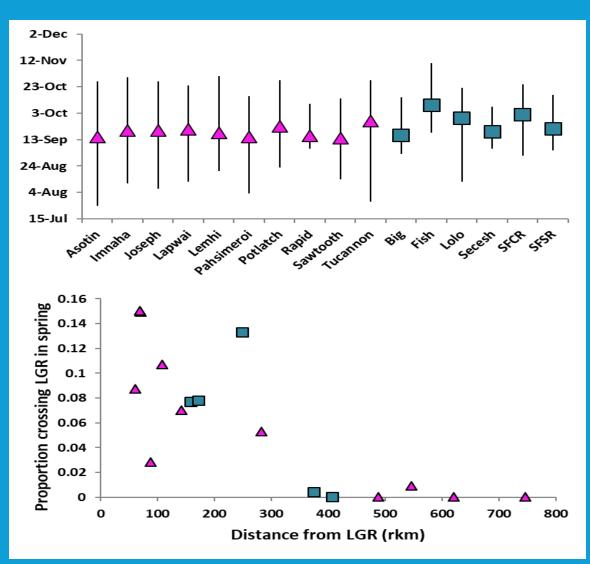
Gradient between A-type & B-type Steelhead



Migrant Timing at Lower Granite Dam

Median Timing

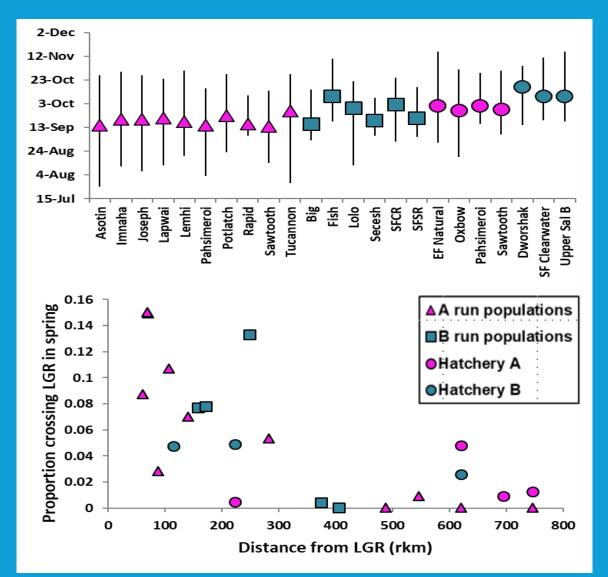
Proportion of spring migrants



Migrant Timing at Lower Granite Dam

Median Timing

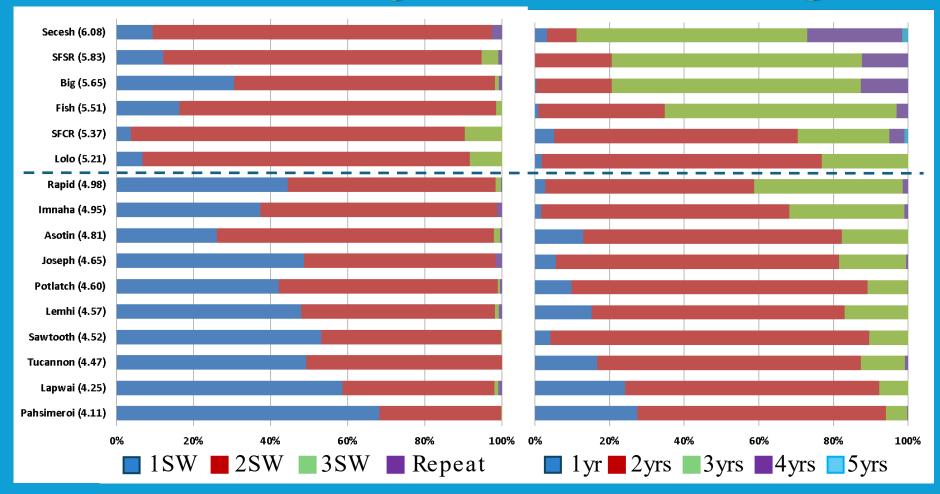
Proportion of spring migrants



Natural Adult Age Composition



Freshwater Age



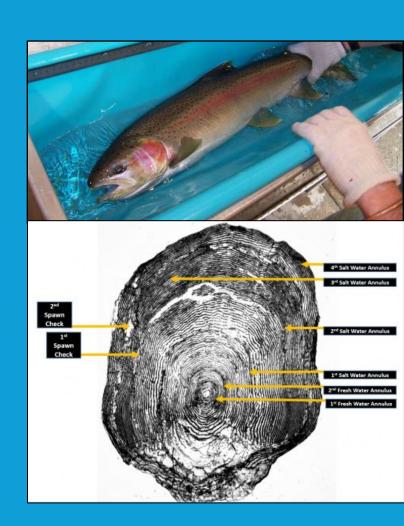
B

A

Repeat Spawner Characteristics 2010-2021

- Small percentage of run
 - average 1.3%, range 0.5%-3.1%
- 89% female
- 56% first spawned after 1 yr in ocean
- 56% skipped a year between spawns
 - One skipped 2 years
- A few on third migration

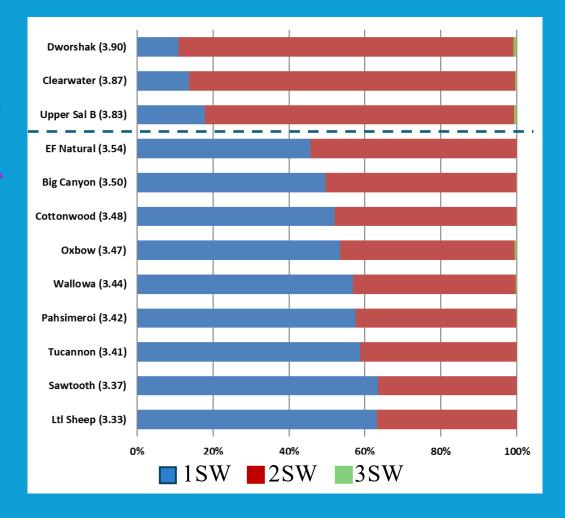
https://idfg.idaho.gov/blog/2020/10/scale-tale



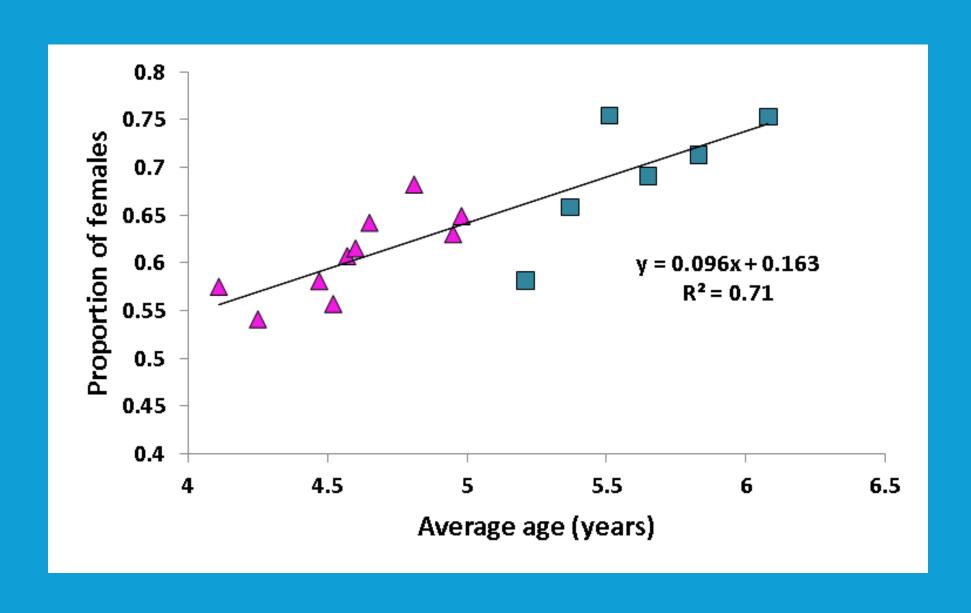
Hatchery Adult Age Composition



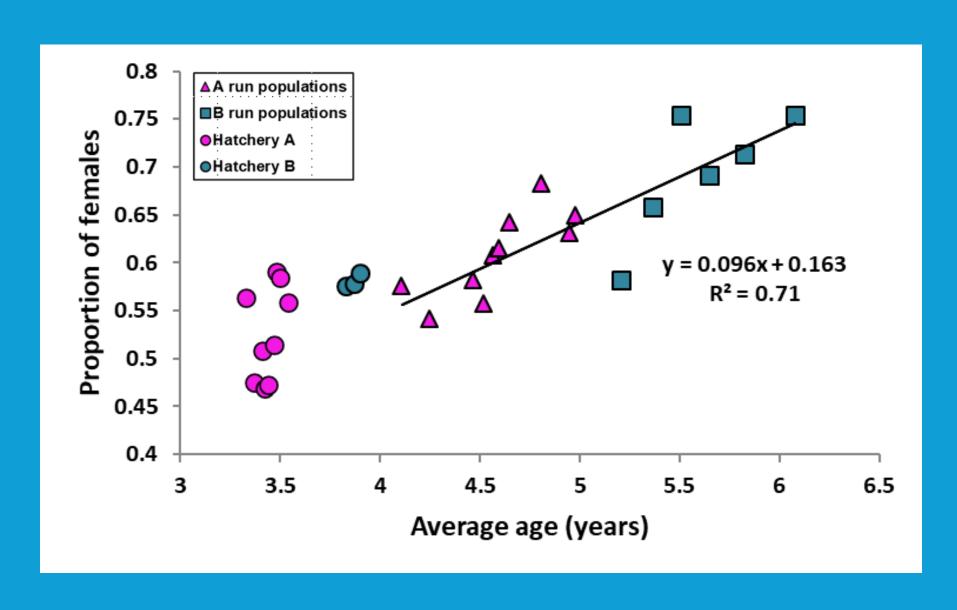




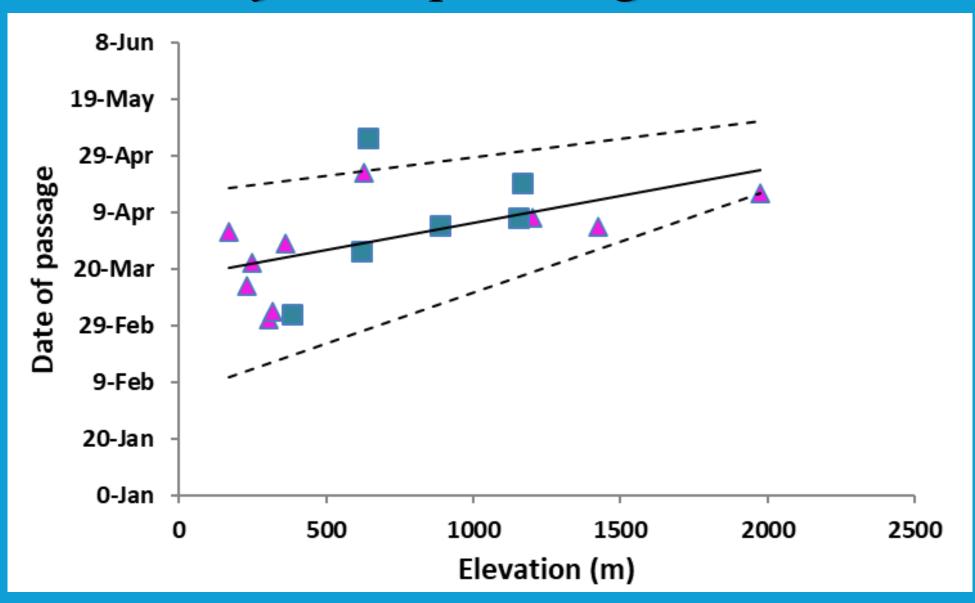
Age & Sex Composition



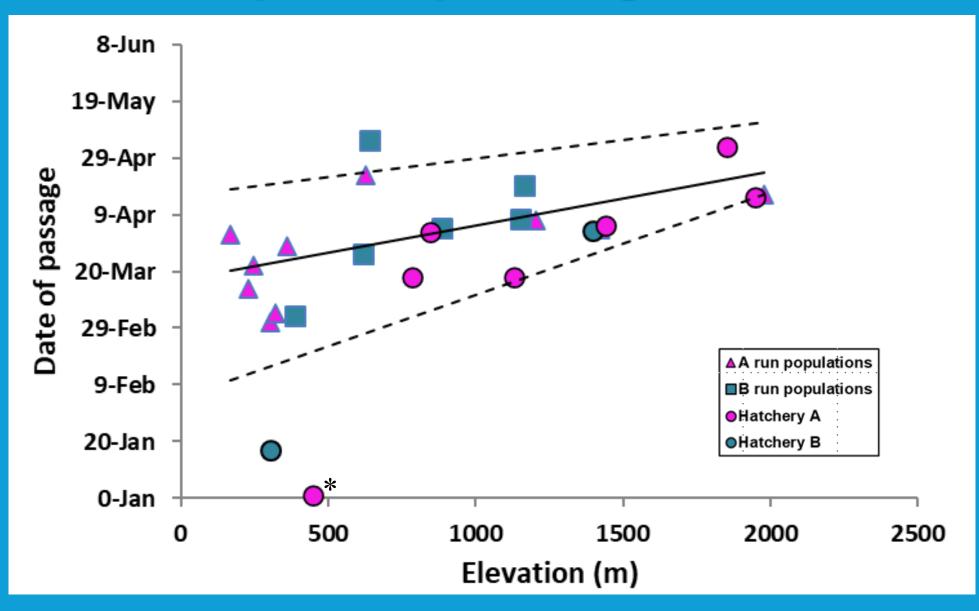
Age & Sex Composition



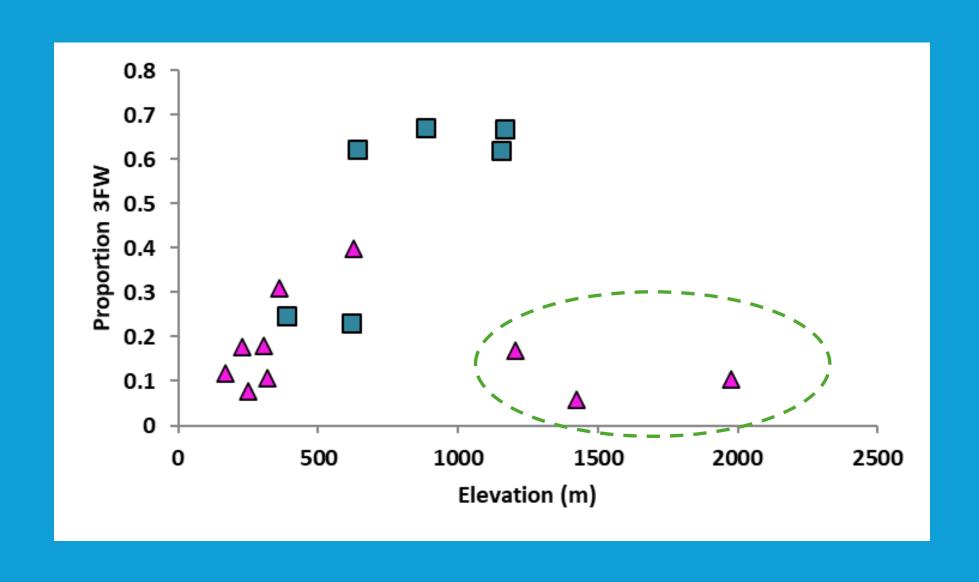
Entry into Spawning Habitat



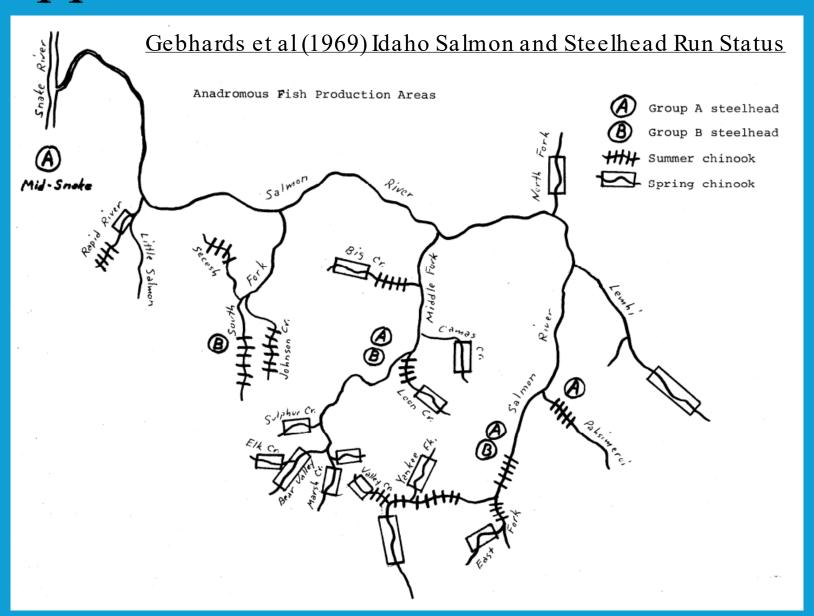
Entry into Spawning Habitat



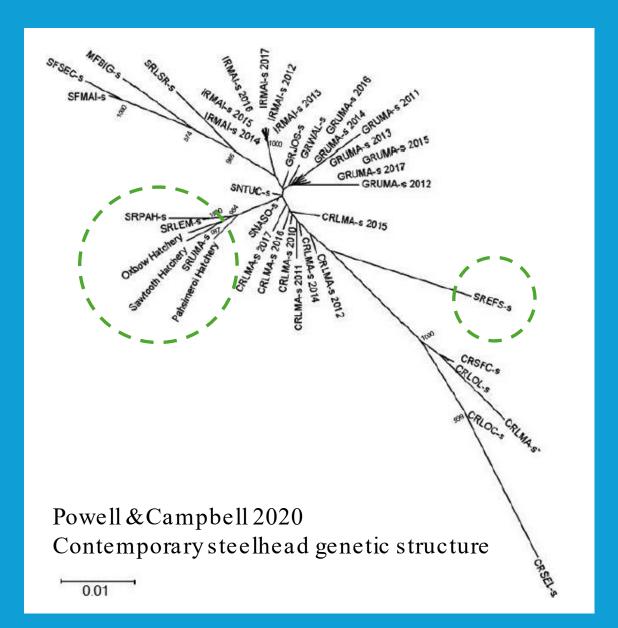
Upper Salmon Natural Steelhead



Upper Salmon Natural Steelhead



Upper Salmon Natural Steelhead



Snake River Steelhead Conclusions

- Great diversity in many life history characteristics
 - Few spawners survive to repeat
 - Hatchery populations fit within natural populations
- Hatcheries simplified freshwater phase
- Upper Salmon populations have legacy effects of introductions



