



# Lower Snake River Compensation Plan or LSRCP



Funding for the LSRCP comes from the Bonneville Power Administration.



The LSRCP program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cover photo Ryan Hagerty, USFWS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Lyons Ferry Fish Hatchery



- ★ LSRCP Fish Hatchery**  
The heart of the program is ten hatcheries: two national (Dworshak and Hagerman), two Washington, three Oregon, and three Idaho.
- + LSRCP Satellite Facility**  
14 satellite facilities are key places where adults are trapped and juvenile fish (smolts) are acclimated to their river of origin before release.
- 🔬 LSRCP Fish Health Lab**  
There are four fish health labs that work with the hatcheries to keep fish thriving. The goal is to release healthy fish into the wild rivers.
- 📡 LSRCP Monitoring & Evaluation Facility**  
Data gathering is the primary task of these seven facilities. Tagged fish (Coded Wire, PIT and genetic Parental Based Tags) are tracked from river to ocean and back.
- 🏠 LSRCP Administrative Office**  
All the parts above report to the LSRCP office in Boise where six full-time staff work.  
Web: <http://www.fws.gov/office/lower-snake-river-compensation-plan>

The Lower Snake River Compensation Plan was authorized by Congress in 1976 to mitigate for the adverse impact four lower Snake River dams had on commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries. Our hatcheries and evaluation programs are conducted under Cooperative Agreements with the States of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, the Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock and Confederated Umatilla Tribes, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and Service hatcheries and field stations.

LSRCP yearly adult PRODUCTION:

91,500	Fall Chinook
293,500	Summer/Spring Chinook
165,300	steelhead...

for harvest in the ocean and Columbia below McNary Dam and to escape Chinook and steelhead adults along the lower Snake River. Subtract return goal (below) for coast wide harvest.

LSRCP yearly adult RETURN GOALS:

18,300	Fall Chinook
58,700	Summer/Spring Chinook
55,100	steelhead...

returning above McNary Dam to the LSRCP project or above.

LSRCP facilities raise 86,000 pounds of rainbow trout for local recreational fishing in Washington and Idaho.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries lists Snake River Chinook and steelhead as threatened and sockeye as endangered. The LSRCP supports recovery of these endangered stocks through outplanting juvenile and adult fish.



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### Lyons Ferry Hatchery Complex LSRCP goals: 18,300 fall and 1,152 spring Chinook; 4,656 steelhead adults returning each year

- 1 Lyons Ferry** is the cornerstone for Snake River fall Chinook. The hatchery complex includes Tucannon Hatchery and Cottonwood, Dayton and Curt Lake acclimation facilities.
- 2 Lyons Ferry** supports the Nez Perce Tribe's Fall Chinook Acclimation Project with fish for Pittsburg Landing and Captain John on the Snake River, and Big Canyon on the Clearwater.
- 3 Lyons Ferry** supplies eyed-eggs to Irrigon Hatchery in Oregon. Together the two hatcheries release 4.25 million yearling and subyearling fall Chinook into the Lower Snake.
- 4 Lyons Ferry** checks fish health monthly. Inspections are performed on adults during spawning and on juveniles prior to release. Idaho Lab runs tissue and fluid diagnostics.
- 5 Lyons Ferry** is key to the recreational steelhead fishery in SE Washington, with minimal impacts to native populations. The goal is to protect natural steelhead in the Touchet, Tucannon Rivers and Asotin Creek.
- 6 Lyons Ferry's** efforts with regard to fall Chinook have been hailed as exemplary. So successful that in 2008 recreational and tribal fishing opened for the first time in 25 years.

Part of the ~  
LOWER SNAKE RIVER  
COMPENSATION PLAN







# Welcome to

## Lyons Ferry Hatchery

Open daily 8 to 4. Arrange for guided group tours by calling (509) 646-5434.



## THE HATCHERY GROUNDS



## The Problem with Dams

In 1925 a salmon summit held in Seattle's Olympic Hotel was the first regional stakeholders meeting of its kind. A major topic was dams. When John Cobb, Dean of the College of Fisheries at University of Washington queried thoughts on the proposed dam at Priest Rapids on the Columbia: "It simply means you are through with your salmon, that's all," was the response from Carl Shoemaker, Oregon's Fish Commissioner.

Early last century the long-term effects of dams were unknown. Some forecast Columbia salmon were "done for" after Bonneville Dam. Upstream of Grand Coulee and Hells Canyon this was true, because these dams completely block fish migration. However, most



*The Nez Perce Tribe are active partners in restoring fall Chinook to the Lower Snake.*

dams allow passage, (and this has improved—increasing spill when juveniles are migrating, for example). Still, by 1970 it was a scientific fact that dams reduce salmon populations. Lyons Ferry Hatchery is part of the plan to compensate for fish loss due to four Lower Snake River dams. The hatchery is situated smack in the middle of these with Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor downriver, and Little Goose and Lower Granite up. Here, we raise spring and fall Chinook, steelhead and rainbow trout to compensate for the loss of fish to commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries because of these dams.

The Snake and Columbia Rivers are ideal habitat for Chinook salmon. At the time of the signing of our Declaration of Independence in 1776 the yearly run of salmon was 16 million fish to the Basin. Likely 10 million or more of these were Chinook—spring, summer, and fall. (There was no winter run of Chinook here as in rivers further south like the Sacramento.)

Fall Chinook occupy the Snake River from its confluence with the Columbia to Hells Canyon Dam, plus the lower reaches of the Clearwater, Imnaha, Grande Ronde, Salmon and Tucannon Rivers. The majority spawn in roughly 100 miles of mainstem Snake between the head of Lower Granite Reservoir and Hells Canyon Dam. The remaining spawning occurs in the lower reaches of



*The hatchery releases both yearling and sub-yearling fall Chinook into the river.*

major tributaries. Only 15% of historic fall Chinook spawning habitat remains on the Snake River. Spawning on the middle snake is non-existent due to Hells Canyon Dam blocking access. Sad, because the most productive stretch of fall Chinook habitat was in the stretch of river fed by the famous Thousand Springs near Hagerman, Idaho.

While fall Chinook favor the deep spawning gravels of the mainstem Snake, spring Chinook tend to venture further up tributary streams to higher elevation. There is some overlap at the mouths of large tributaries. Spring Chinook migrate from March to May while fall Chinook travel inland from August through November.

## Rainbow Trout

Steelhead are simply ocean going rainbow trout. Both fish have the same scientific name: *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. Some steelhead stay in the ocean an extra year and return inland much larger. These are called B-run steelhead and they return in August/September. Lyons Ferry raises A-run summer steelhead, a variety that spends only one year in the ocean and return smaller and earlier (June to August). We raise a single variety of resident freshwater rainbow trout: the Spokane.



*The Columbia Basin favors Chinook; still, they are the least abundant salmon in North America.*



*Lyons Ferry Hatchery supports a vibrant steelhead recreational fishery.*

