

Steelhead Streamside Incubation Program



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LSRCP Hatchery Production Meeting

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Program Overview

- Vision, Goals, and Objectives
- Transition to B stock
- Accomplishments
- Future Work



Vision

- *“The Tribes will pursue, promote, and where necessary, initiate efforts to restore the Snake River systems and affected unoccupied lands to a natural condition. This includes the restoration of component resources to conditions which most closely represents the ecological features associated with a natural riverine ecosystem. In addition, the Tribes will work to ensure the protection, preservation, and where appropriate-the enhancement of Rights reserved by the Tribes under the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 and any inherent aboriginal rights.”*



Goals

- Increase harvest opportunities for Tribal members
- Provide connection with and protection of cultural and social values and rights
- Develop an experimental project for assessing the potential for using artificial production to increase early life survival of steelhead and salmon populations



Management Objectives

- Harvest objectives
 - increase from baseline conditions
 - preserve traditional fishing techniques
- Production objectives
 - increase egg to fry survival
 - test streamside incubation technology
 - determine optimum egg loading density and configurations
 - incubate 1,000,000 eyed eggs annually
 - Yankee Fork – 500,000
 - Panther Creek – 400,000
 - Indian Creek – 100,000
- Additional objectives
 - minimize cost, process, and fish handling
 - increase community education, involvement, and participation
 - fulfill the requirements of *US vs. Oregon*



Program Features

- remote incubation site set-up
- acquisition of eyed-egg from local hatcheries
- transportation of eyed-eggs to remote incubators
- daily incubator operations and maintenance
- dead egg count and volitionally fry release
- remote incubation site disassemble



Program Accomplishments

- Successfully hatching eggs each year (74 % in 99' to over 95%)
- Involved the community
 - Private Landowners
- Secured funding to fully implement the program and conduct M&E
- Integrating tribal staff into the scientific aspect of this tool



Monitoring, Research, & Evaluation

- PIT tag array, rotary screw trap, and electrofishing
 - Consistency in what and when we monitor
 - Fully trained staff with a knowledge of the importance of consistency
 - Prepared to accommodate any of a variety of scenarios during the acquisition of eggs
 - The Yankee Fork wier in 2015



Future Work

- Continue processing genetics and scales through IDF&G and ISU
- Establish lead technicians that can stand alone on this project
- Implement a study design that takes full advantage of the amazing research opportunity the new weir will provide



Questions

