



NEZ PERCE TRIBE

Department of Fisheries Resources Management

Administration • Enforcement • Harvest • Production • Research • Resident Fish • Watershed



MCCALL FIELD OFFICE

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January 22, 2009

To: Mr. Scott Marshall, USFWS

Cc: D. Johnson, Joe Oatman, J. Hesse, E. Larson, B. Johnson, D. Statler, J. Vogel, J. Harbeck, B. Michaels, T. Froscher, M. Anderson (USFWS)

From: William Young, Nez Perce Tribe

Subject: Nez Perce Tribe LSRCP 1st Quarter Activity Report, October - December 2008

Project Administration

- All research staff attended a Department of Fisheries Resources Management Retreat December 16, 2008.
- Completed and received final signatures and approvals for LSRCP M&E, O&M, and Harvest Fiscal Year 2009 Contract.
- Project leader attended the LSRCP Hatchery Review Team (HRT) workshop in Boise on November 5, 2008.

Field Activities and Data Collections

Fall trapping on the Imnaha River began October 1, 2008 and ended on December 10, 2008. LSRCP and SMP personnel fished the trap for 1,672 hours. For the 70 days fished, we caught 2,758 (PIT-tagged 2,681) natural Chinook salmon and 154 natural steelhead (no steelhead were tagged). Table 1 has the daily catch and tagging of target species from October through December. Table 2 illustrates the sample size (n), average fork length, weight, and condition factor (K) with standard deviation for all the ESA listed species.

There were a total of 8 juvenile natural Chinook salmon mortalities, 7 trapping mortalities (of those 5 were from piscivorous predation in the live box), and 1 from handling. In addition, three juvenile bull trout handling mortalities occurred that were associated with screw trapping during the fall quarter.

The incidental catch during the fall quarter totaled 1,020 fish, comprising of six families: Salmonidae (87.3%), Castomidae (10.4 %), Centrarchidae (1.3 %), Cyprinidae (1.0 %), and Cottidae (0.1 %). The catch of Salmonidae was comprised of 462 rainbow trout, 231 mountain whitefish, 136 juvenile bull trout, 56 adult bull trout, 2 adult Fall Chinook salmon, 2 adult natural

jack Fall Chinook salmon, and 1 adult steelhead. The juvenile rainbow trout were resident fish biased on morphological characteristics and are not a subset of the natural steelhead catch. Juvenile bull trout were classified as fish less than a fork length of 300 mm and adult bull trout are more than 300 mm. Other non-target species included 97 unidentified sucker species and 9 bridge lip sucker (Castomidae), six northern pike minnow and 4 redbreasted sunfish (Cyprinidae), thirteen juvenile small mouth bass (Centrarchidae), and one unidentified Sculpin (Cottidae).

Table 1. Fall quarter summary of target catch at the Imnaha River rkm 7 smolt trap (October 1 through December 10, 2008).

End Date	Hours Fished	Fish Caught		Fish Tagged
		Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead	Natural Chinook
10/2/2008	16.5	1	1	1
10/3/2008	23	0	0	0
10/4/2008	25.5	1	2	1
10/5/2008	24	10	2	10
10/6/2008	24	22	4	21
10/7/2008	24	8	2	6
10/8/2008	23	0	1	0
10/9/2008	26	0	0	0
10/10/2008	24.5	0	5	0
10/11/2008	23	1	8	1
10/12/2008	24.5	0	21	0
10/13/2008	22.5	0	6	0
10/14/2008	25	0	4	0
10/15/2008	24	5	4	5
10/16/2008	24	0	0	0
10/17/2008	24	8	0	8
10/18/2008	24	2	8	2
10/19/2008	24	2	0	2
10/20/2008	24	2	0	1
10/21/2008	24	16	0	16
10/22/2008	23.5	37	0	37
10/23/2008	24	4	9	4
10/24/2008	24	2	11	1
10/25/2008	24	2	2	2
10/26/2008	24	6	0	6
10/27/2008	24	4	4	4
10/28/2008	23.5	0	1	0
10/29/2008	24	0	2	0
10/30/2008	25	0	0	0
10/31/2008	24	5	0	5
11/1/2008	24	15	0	15
11/2/2008	24	0	0	0
11/3/2008	25.5	182	0	180
11/4/2008	25.5	530	0	528

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End Date	Hours Fished	Fish Caught		Fish Tagged
		Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead	Natural Chinook
11/5/2008	20.5	6	0	6
11/6/2008	22.5	4	6	4
11/7/2008	24	8	11	8
11/8/2008	25	102	3	41
11/9/2008	24	5	3	5
11/10/2008	24	1	1	1
11/11/2008	23.5	1	0	1
11/12/2008	24.5	1	0	1
11/13/2008	25	0	0	0
11/14/2008	26	236	0	234
11/15/2008	24	290	3	290
11/16/2008	23.5	239	3	239
11/17/2008	23.25	146	7	145
11/18/2008	25	232	4	230
11/19/2008	21.5	40	6	40
11/20/2008	24	83	2	83
11/21/2008	23.5	142	2	141
11/22/2008	24	0	3	0
11/23/2008	24	35	2	35
11/24/2008	24	50	1	50
11/25/2008	24	34	0	34
11/26/2008	24.25	7	0	7
11/27/2008	25	54	0	53
11/28/2008	24	3	0	3
11/29/2008	24	8	0	8
11/30/2008	23.5	31	0	31
12/1/2008	24	38	0	38
12/2/2008	24	22	0	22
12/3/2008	24	1	0	1
12/4/2008	23.5	7	0	7
12/5/2008	25	17	0	17
12/6/2008	23	18	0	18
12/7/2008	24	19	0	19
12/8/2008	24	8	0	8
12/9/2008	23.5	5	0	5
12/10/2008	24	0	0	0
Totals	1,672.0	2758	154	2681

Table 2. Biological characteristics, including fork length, weight and condition factor (K), of target fish captured in the Imnaha rotary screw trap during October 1 through December 10, 2008 trapping period.

Data	Natural Chinook	Natural Steelhead	Adult Bull Trout	Juvenile Bull Trout
Fork Length (n)	2689	152	54	125
Avg Fork Length (mm)	84.6	191.7	384	255
Max Fork Length (mm)	123	250	567	298
Min Fork Length (mm)	50	120	300	157
StdDev Fork Length	9.8	20.3	77.1	27.9
Weight (n)	2688	152	52	121
Avg Weight (g)	7.2	76.3	563.7	161.6
Max Weight (g)	20.1	175	1404.9	265.2
Min Weight (g)	1.7	24.7	238.3	40.3
StdDev Weight	2.4	24.7	346.3	50.7
K (n)	2687	152	52	121
Avg K	1.15	1.05	0.93	0.95
Max K	1.78	1.49	1.12	1.45
Min K	0.75	0.77	0.71	0.80
StdDev K	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.08

Progress and Future Activities

Reports

- Currently drafting a Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Hatchery Evaluation Studies Annual Project Report 1996-2008. This report will include adult activities in Upper Big Creek and in South Fork Salmon River (Authors: William Young, Jason Vogel, Paul Kucera, Mike Blenden, and Jay Hesse).
- Currently drafting a Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Imnaha River Tributary Adult Steelhead Escapement Report 2001-2007.
- Completing an annual report on the SFSR PIT tag array detections for 2008.

Planned Activities

- Coordination Meeting with LSRCP and SMP scheduled for late January or early February, 2009.

- The LSRCP staff will present a poster at the Oregon Chapter AFS meeting February 24 – 26, 2008.
- Staff will attend the LSRCP meeting March 2 - 3, 2009 in Boise, Idaho.
- The LSRCP staff will do two oral presentations at the Idaho Chapter AFS meeting March 4 - 6, 2008.
- The Enterprise and SMP crews will begin adult steelhead trapping and marking program on Horse Creek (tributary of Imnaha River) in late February 2009.
- The resistivity weir will be installed in Camp Creek in late February 2009.
- The Enterprise LSRCP and SMP crews will begin Imnaha River spring smolt trapping in early March, 2009.
- Continue with data summary and analysis of LSRCP data for inclusion in annual reports.
- LSRCP staff will continue to participate in the NPT Juvenile, Adult, and Genetics Technical Teams.
- NPT Operations & Maintenance will transport excess adults from Little Sheep Trap for outplanting into Big Sheep Creek.