

2014-2015 Progress Report for  
Nez Perce Tribe Operations & Maintenance Activities

OBJECTIVE 1. Coordinate and plan BY14 and BY15 production program for Imnaha and Lostine spring Chinook salmon with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Task 1.1 Coordinate and develop plan with Lookingglass Hatchery manager and staff regarding BY14 marking, rearing, ponding, transfer, acclimation and release of Lostine and Imnaha spring Chinook juveniles.

During FY15, Nez Perce (NPT) staff participated in Lookingglass Hatchery program specific pre-AOP meetings with ODFW staff at the hatchery, annual co-manager pre-AOP meeting, and AOP meeting. In addition, staff were involved in several within year coordination meetings and activities regarding planning and implementation of the Lostine and Imnaha spring Chinook programs.

Task 1.2 Coordinate and develop plan with Lookingglass Hatchery manager and staff regarding BY14 adult collection, transportation, holding, sorting, spawning, incubation, egg care and ponding Lostine and Imnaha spring Chinook juveniles.

From one to three NPT employees were involved at over 24 different events. NPT also provided additional assistance and review of plans to upgrade Imnaha fish handling equipment and for replacement of the Imnaha River weir.

OBJECTIVE 2. Provide assistance with Imnaha spring Chinook broodstock collection, recycling, outplanting, and facility maintenance at Imnaha satellite facility, in cooperation with ODFW.

Task 2.1 Assist ODFW with installation of Imnaha satellite weir.

ODFW requested assistance with weir installation this year and NPT provided 1 employee during summer 2015. ODFW also requested assistance in removal of the weir during September 2015 and for observation during construction on the new bridge weir September – November. NPT provided 1 employee to cover these tasks.

Task 2.2 Provide one technician to work with ODFW staff at Imnaha satellite facility 5 days/week during adult trapping season – mid-June through September (Refer to NEO 2014 AOP – Section XII.D – Imnaha spring Chinook Trap Operations). Duties will include assisting with daily emptying of trap, working fish, recycling

hatchery fish downstream for release into fishery, and transport of broodstock to Lookingglass Hatchery as requested. Late in the season also transport and assist in outplanting adults into Big Sheep Creek and spawning ground surveys. Also assist with maintenance work at the Imnaha satellite facility as identified by ODFW staff.

NPT provided one employee consistently to support the increased schedule to work fish from the trap five days per week. This schedule was agreed to between ODFW and NPT staff and is outlined in the 2015 NEO AOP document. Duties included fish handling, sorting, and data collection of adults. In addition, employees also provided transport units to transport chinook adults back to the fishery in the Imnaha River (284), collected brood to Lookingglass Hatchery (254), out-planted fish for natural spawning in Big Sheep Ck/Lick Ck. (170), and for human consumption (77) for a total of 785 fish transported or moved of the 1,734 unique adult chinook trapped at the facility in 2015. NPT staff also helped maintain the Imnaha weir facility during June, July, August and September. NPT staff assisted ODFW in fulfilling the requirements of this task at Lookingglass Hatchery. In addition, NPT staff assisted in the handling and passing back into the Imnaha River of 590 adult chinook and over 200 bull trout.

Task 2.3 Provide transportation truck and tank for recycling Imnaha spring Chinook, surplus to broodstock and number passed above the weir, downstream for sport and tribal fishery. Fish will be released back into the Imnaha River at locations accessible by fish outplant truck and in consultation with NPT and ODFW harvest managers.

NPT provided one employee and one truck with fish tank to consistently transport surplus Imnaha adult spring chinook downstream (284) into the Imnaha River for sport and tribal fisheries. On several occasions two trucks and employees were provided.

**OBJECTIVE 3.** Assist ODFW with fish culture of spring Chinook salmon stocks reared at Lookingglass Hatchery.

Task 3.1 Provide staff to assist with handling, sorting, data collection, spawning of Imnaha and Lostine adult Chinook salmon at Lookingglass Hatchery.

These efforts resulted in the successful collection of 615,672 Imnaha program eggs and 318,550 Lostine program eggs (BY 2015). These egg takes were more than sufficient to achieve both Imnaha and Lostine program goals for smolt releases.

Task 3.2 Provide staff for fish culture activities (primarily egg picking) at Lookingglass Hatchery for the Imnaha, Lostine, Lookingglass, Catherine Creek and Upper Grande Ronde River spring Chinook.

NPT provided 2 staff to assist in fish culture activities including egg care for all stocks of chinook housed at Lookingglass Hatchery for BY 2015.

OBJECTIVE 4. Provide transport and outplant of Little Sheep Creek adult steelhead (excess to program requirements) into Big Sheep Creek once a week, or more as need is determined.

Nez Perce staff provided transport of adult Steelhead to Big Sheep from Little Sheep facility. The period covered March through April for (1) driver and (1) transport truck. A total of 309 (BY 2015) first time trapped adults were transported.

OBJECTIVE 5. Utilize Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery (NPTH) staff and tank trucks to transport and direct release 400,000 spring Chinook smolts from IDFG Clearwater Hatchery to Selway River.

A total of 382,164 spring Chinook smolts at 15 fpp from IDFG Clearwater Hatchery were outplanted into the Selway River on March 9 & 10, 2015. Of those, NPTH drivers (2) and trucks (2) transported and released approximately 220,000 fish, or 11,224 pounds.

OBJECTIVE 6. Utilize Fall Chinook Acclimation Project (FCAP) staff and tank trucks to transport and direct release 300,000 spring Chinook parr from Dworshak Fish Hatchery to upper Selway River.

Nez Perce staff transported 350,198 spring Chinook parr @ 118fpp from Dworshak Hatchery to the upper Selway River (Magruder Ranger Station) on September 8 & 10, 2015.