

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

FY 2000-2005

**Nez Perce Tribe
Clearwater River Coho Salmon
Production Project III**

Project Name: Nez Perce Tribe Clearwater River Coho Salmon Production Project III

PCSRF Project Number: Contract Number: T05-11, P.O. Number: 0501110

Project Status: Ongoing

PCSRF Fiscal Year: 2005

PCSRF Budget Update: The following budget (Table 1) covers expenditures for Coho Salmon Production Project III for the period of October 1, 2005 to Dec 31, 2007.

Table 1. Itemized budget for 2005 to 2007 for the Coho Salmon Reintroduction Project.

Budget Line Item	Requested/Appropriated	Expended (April 30, 2006)	Remaining
Salary & Fringe	\$ 166,282.00	\$ 78,556.75	\$ 87,725.25
Travel	\$ 4,920.00	\$ 1,428.50	\$ 3,491.50
Supplies	\$ 54,768.00	\$ 38,112.74	\$ 16,655.26
Indirect	\$ 57,789.00	\$ 19,689.00	\$ 38,100.00
Total	\$ 283,759.00	\$ 137,786.99	\$145,972.01

Date: October 1, 2005

Project Proposed End Date: December 31, 2007

Geographic Area Name/Watershed: Clearwater River Watershed

Geospatial reference/Location/GPS Point: 46N25'39", 117W25'44"

Project Manager:

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PCSRF Objective: C. Salmon Enhancement Project

Project Description:

The goal of the project is to restore coho salmon in the Clearwater River. Restoration of coho stocks upriver of Bonneville Dam has been a priority for the four Columbia River Tribes. The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) initiated coho salmon restoration in 1995 by releasing 630,000 coho salmon parr in five streams. These were the first coho salmon released in the Snake River Basin in 30 years. Coho were extirpated in the Snake River Basin until 1997 when 92 adults from the Nez Perce Tribe's program were recognized at Lower Granite Dam.

Broodstock from Lower Columbia River hatcheries and returning Clearwater River broodstock, have been used to stock eyed eggs, fry, parr, and smolts into tributaries of the lower main stem Clearwater, Middle Fork Clearwater and South Fork Clearwater Rivers. Primary reintroduction efforts have been focused in Lapwai Creek, Potlatch River, Clear Creek, Eldorado/Lolo Creek, Meadow Creek (SF Clearwater River) and Meadow Creek (Selway River).

Target Salmon Species Affected/Benefits to Salmon:

The intended benefit of the program is that coho salmon will be restored to sufficient numbers in the Clearwater River subbasin to support natural production, and tribal and non-tribal harvest. Initially, we estimate the population needs to be at least 2,358 adults for both hatchery and natural spawning and additional adults to provide meaningful harvest. This level of production would provide for a Clearwater broodstock to be self-sustaining and provide all the eggs for both the in-basin and the out-of-basin production. Our long-term adult return goal for the Clearwater River is 14,000 coho salmon, as identified in Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi-Wa-Kish-Wit (CRITFC 1996).

Project Objectives:

The goal of the Nez Perce Tribe Clearwater River Coho Salmon Reintroduction Project is to reintroduce and restore coho salmon to levels of abundance and productivity sufficient to support sustainable runs and annual tribal and non-tribal harvest.

Objective1. Produce coho salmon for releases in the Clearwater River subbasin.

Table 2. Proposed coho salmon production, mark and tag totals for 2006.

Location	Stage	# Release	PIT	CWT	Adult Collect	Screw Trap
Lolo Creek	Pre-smolt	270,000	3,000	120,000	Yes	Yes
Lapwai Creek	Smolt	275,000	1,500	100,000	Yes	No
Potlatch River	Smolt	275,000	1,500	100,000	Yes	No
Clear Creek	Smolt	280,500	1,000	120,000	Yes	No
Dworshak	-	-	-	-	Yes	-

Task 1.1. Rear coho salmon from broodyear 2004.

Activity 1.1.1. Provide personnel and materials to rear 280,000 coho salmon at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery. Transport the fish to Kooskia National Fish Hatchery for a four to six week acclimation period during the spring of 2006 and release the coho as smolts into Clear Creek.

Activity 1.1.2. Transport approximately 550,000 coho smolts from Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery for release into Lapwai Creek and Potlatch Creek in spring of 2006.

Task 1.2. Trap and rear coho salmon from broodyear 2005.

Activity 1.2.1. Assist in trapping and transporting returning adult coho salmon from weirs and trap sites to Dworshak National Fish Hatchery in fall 2005.

Activity 1.2.2. Provide personnel and materials to spawn adult coho salmon at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery in fall 2005. The first 308,000 eggs collected will be incubated at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery for Clear Creek smolt releases. The next 330,000 eggs will be incubated at Clearwater Anadromous Fish Hatchery for the presmolts releases. Any eggs above these 638,000, may be shipped to Eagle Creek National Hatchery for the Lapwai Creek and Potlatch River smolt releases.

Activity 1.2.3. Provide personnel and materials to rear 270,000 coho salmon at Clearwater Fish Hatchery. Release the coho as pre-smolts during the fall of 2006 into Lolo Creek

Activity 1.2.4. Provide personnel and materials to rear 280,000 coho salmon smolts at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery. Transport the fish to Kooskia National Fish Hatchery for a four to six week acclimation period during the spring of 2007 and release the coho smolts into Clear Creek.

Objective 2. Effectively communicate program approach and findings to resource managers.

This activity is divided into three specific areas involving: interagency coordination with on-going production issues, coordination with regards to Endangered Species Act issues, and coordination with regards to funding processes.

Task 2.1. Coordinate supplementation planning.

Activity 2.1.1. Coordinate with the following agencies: Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), IDFG, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), and private entities, through one or more of the following forums: technical work groups, hatchery production management meetings, the NPPC hatchery review committees, intergovernmental agreements (NPT/IDFG, 1992 Memorandum of Agreement), US v Oregon PAC or Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), other technical and policy meetings, and progress reports.

Task 2.2. Participate in consultation with NMFS to address Section 7 terms and conditions for the coho program.

Activity 2.2.1. Participate on production coordination, committees required by NMFS to meet the Recovery Plan for salmon and address ESA the listing of Snake River steelhead. Due to concerns of listed steelhead and how they interact with coho salmon, we will pursue agency coordination to reduce negative impacts of coho salmon releases.

Task 2.3. Communication of results.

Activity 2.3.1. Develop summary reports.

Activity 2.3.2. Develop semi-annual and annual reports.

Project Summary:

WY-KAN-USH-MI WA-KISH-WIT: THE COLUMBIA RIVER ANADROMOUS FISH RESTORATION PLAN OF THE NEZ PERCE TRIBE, UMATILLA, WARM SPRINGS AND YAKAMA TRIBES

This Tribal Restoration Plan (CRITFC 1995) focuses on restoring salmon runs to the rivers and streams of the Columbia River system and embodies the tribal management philosophy of gravel-to-gravel management. This approach differs from many of the existing state and federal plans that are focused more on providing fish for sport and commercial harvest and returning fish to concrete hatcheries. The plan recognizes the need to ensure that salmon throughout the life cycle from the freshwater to the ocean are protected, managed or restored.

A key element in the restoration is the use of hatchery technology to supplement the natural runs rather than supplant the natural runs as with state and federal hatchery programs. Supplementation as defined in the Tribal Restoration Plan is the act of releasing young, artificially propagated fish into natural spawning and rearing habitat. As adults, these fish will return to spawn naturally in the stream where they were released rather than returning to the propagation facility. Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kush-Wit: Volume I: 5B-14-22; Volume II: 2-118-127. "Implement supplementation projects that have met the screening criteria of RASP (1992) and Cuenco et al. (1993), establish additional programs for each of the subbasin tributary systems to monitor adult escapement and resulting smolt production, and to evaluate (by measuring the number of adults returning) the ability of managers to meet goals set by the Columbia River Management Plan." The Nez Perce Tribe Coho Salmon Reintroduction Project as described in the Nez Perce Tribe coho salmon management plan for the Clearwater River is consistent with basin-wide Columbia River restoration plans found in WY-KAN-USH-MI WA-KISH-WIT, The Spirit of the Salmon (CRITFC 1995).

NEZ PERCE TRIBE COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CLEARWATER RIVER SUBBASIN

The Nez Perce Tribe has a vision of restoring all fish species native to the Nez Perce ICC Treaty. To that end, the Nez Perce Tribe has initiated a comprehensive management plan for all fish species- both resident and anadromous- for all streams, lakes and watersheds within their management authority. The Nez Perce Tribe began coho salmon restoration in 1995 and has developed a long-term coho salmon management plan for the Clearwater River Subbasin (NPT 2004). Coho salmon production in the Clearwater River Subbasin will be authorized under the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery program, the Mitchell Act and U.S. vs. Oregon proceedings. Pursuant to this vision, the research data collection and analysis for the project intends to: 1) provide science-based recommendations for management and policy consideration, 2) demonstrate when the reintroduction program meets its recovery, restoration and mitigation goals and 3) assist in the re-establishment of tribal and recreational fisheries.

Project Progress Summary:

Objective1. Produce coho salmon for releases in the Clearwater River subbasin.

Task 1.1. Rear coho salmon from broodyear 2004.

Adult traps/weirs were installed at trapping in late September 2004. Trapping began at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery (DNFH). Trapped and transferred fish yielded approximately 639,922 eyed eggs (Clearwater River stock). The release goal was 280,000 smolts in the spring of 2006 from Kooskia Hatchery following a 4-6 week acclimation period. In the spring of 2005, we experienced a high level of early-rearing mortality at DNFH. We will not meet our production goal of 280,000 smolts. As of April 30, 2006 we have 192,522 coho smolts on station at Kooskia NFH. Scheduled release date is May 1, 2006. Fish will have received nearly four weeks of on site acclimation.

Coho salmon smolts were transported by from Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery (ECNFH) on March 7-9, 2005. Neil Ring was contracted to transport these fish. A pre-liberation health screening was conducted, and transport permits were issued by USFWS fish pathology personnel. A total 238,912 coho smolts were hauled and directly released into the Potlatch River on March 7, 2005 and 267,088 into Lapwai Creek on March 9, 2005.

Task 1.2. Trap and rear coho salmon from broodyear 2005.

Staff at Eagle Creek NFH have trapped and spawned and are currently rearing enough Brood Year 2005 coho salmon to meet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's rearing obligation of 570,000 smolts. These fish will be reared at Eagle Creek NFH to the smolt stage, hauled to Idaho, and directly released into several sites on Lapwai Creek and Potlatch River in March of 2007.

Nez Perce Tribal staff has trapped and spawned brood year 2005 coho salmon to contribute approximately 175,000 smolts to the DNFH/KNFH release. Approximately 140,000 ECNFH stock eggs were transported to DNFH on December 1, 2005. The release goal is 280,000 smolts in the spring of 2007 from Kooskia Hatchery following a 4-6 week acclimation period. As of April 30, 2006 there are approximately 295,000 BY 2005 coho salmon fry on station at DNFH.

Approximately 350,000 ECNFH stock eggs were transported to Clearwater Fish Hatchery on December 1, 2005. The release goal is 270,000 pre-smolts in the early fall of 2006 into the Lolo Creek drain. As of April 30, 2006 there are approximately 330,000 BY 2005 coho salmon fry on station at CFH.

Objective 2. Effectively communicate program approach and findings to resource managers.

Task 2.1. Coordinate supplementation planning.

We have completed intergovernmental MOU's for fish production services and fish health screening. We have participated in several AOP meetings at Clearwater, Snake and Columbia River Fish hatcheries.

Task 2.2. Participate in consultation with NMFS to address Section 7 terms and conditions for the coho program.

We are operating under a 1998 formal consultation with NMFS. We annually update NFMS with our proposed operations, and are currently in the process of updating our coho salmon HGMP.

Task 2.3. Communication of results.

We develop summary semi-annual and annual progress reports. We participate and assist with developing AOP's with cooperating hatcheries. We update CWT and PIT tag databases. Trap and release end-of-season summary reports and monthly production reports are produced and distributed.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:

The objectives and tasks for the monitoring and evaluation plan are specifically addressed in the Clearwater River Coho Salmon Monitoring and Evaluation Project proposal. Briefly those objectives are:

Objective 1. Determine If Program Targets for Contribution Rate of Hatchery Fish Are Being Achieved and Can Be Improved.

Objective 2. Determine the Increases in Natural Production That Results from Supplementation of Coho Salmon in the Clearwater River Subbasin, and Relate Them to Limiting Factors.

Objective 3. Monitor genetic profile of introduced coho salmon stock, broodstock developed from adult hatchery returns and naturally returning coho salmon adults.

Objective 4. Monitor the ecological interactions.

Objective 5. Effectively communicate monitoring and evaluation program approach and findings to resource managers.

ESA, NEPA and other Regulatory Compliance Plan if appropriate:

Activities under the NPT Clearwater River Subbasin coho salmon reintroduction program have been reviewed for Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance. In 1995 and 1998 the Nez Perce Tribe requested consultation from the NMFS on the coho salmon release strategies. In 1995 the NMFS determined that the proposed actions would have no more than a negligible effect on listed salmon (Stelle 1995). In 1998, the NMFS determined that coho salmon releases did not jeopardize the continued existence of Snake and Columbia River salmon (NMFS 1999). The NPT is currently updating their HGMP for coho salmon production.

Partners and Cost Share:

Memorandums of Agreement are established with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) for coho salmon production at fish hatchery facilities. The Nez Perce Tribe is allotted specific incubation, early rearing, and final rearing space at Dworshak and Kooskia NFH and Clearwater Fish Hatchery for coho salmon production. The USFWS provides fish health monitoring for the program. Activities

associated with rearing fish at Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery are covered by Mitchell Act funding.

The USFWS operates a fish ladder on the North Fork of the Clearwater River at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery and an adult weir and ladder at Kooskia National Fish Hatchery to trap adult coho salmon. In addition, the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Project operates the juvenile fish.

Project Products:

We will develop summary semi-annual and annual progress reports. We will participate and assist with developing AOP's with cooperating hatcheries. We will update CWT and PIT tag databases. Trap and release end-of-season summary reports and monthly production reports will be produced and distributed.

C. Salmon Enhancement Projects:

Projects that will enhance depressed stocks of naturally spawning anadromous salmonids through salmonid supplementation, reduction in fishing effort on depressed wild stocks; or enhancement of Pacific salmon fisheries on healthy stocks.

Type of Enhancement:

Rebuilding weak stocks or sustaining/enhancing salmon populations

Rebuilding weak stocks or sustaining/enhancing salmon populations

Enhancement projects that rebuild weak stocks or sustain/enhance naturally spawning salmon populations.

Compensate for reductions in harvest levels set to meet Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations:

N/A

Compensate for weak or depressed stocks:

N/A

Marked as result of marking enhancement:

We proposed to mark a total of 440,000 juveniles with coded wire tagged (CWT), 8,000 with passive integrate transponder (PIT) tags, and 50,000 with adipose fin clips (see Table 2 above).

Released for the purpose of natural spawning

Coho salmon. 280,000 presmolts to be released into the Lolo Creek drainage.

Redirecting fishing effort:

N/A

Releases compensate harvest reductions:

N/A

Supplementing weak/depressed salmon stocks:

Coho salmon, annual supplementation of 1,100,000 juvenile to be released into the Clearwater River Subbasin.

Fish Marking or production enhancements

Enhancement projects that invest in fish marking, hatchery modifications, or production improvements.

Does the project evaluate potential sites or strategies for Pacific salmon enhancement to promote fisheries that do not impact depressed stocks?

No

Enhancement projects that reduce effort on depressed stocks. Report whether or not the project implements management measures designed to reduce fishing effort on depressed stocks.

No

Type of fish marking or production enhancement:

We will use CWT, PIT and adipose fin clipping, as well as final rearing acclimation.

Fish Marking Details

Fry/smolts produced through production technology improvements:

We propose to acclimate 280,000 coho salmon smolts.

Number of fish marked:

We propose to mark 440,000 juveniles with CWT's, 8,000 with PIT tags and adipose fin clipped 50,000 (see Table 2 above).

Production technology improvements:

We propose to acclimate 280,000 coho salmon smolts.