



LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



MATT HOW GRAPHIC - USFWS



END OF THE SWIM, JOHNSON CREEK, IDAHO

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LSRCP

OCT/NOV 2023

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

We had a busy Fall here at LSRCP. Greg Burak (greg_burak@fws.gov) started as the new Permit Coordinator for the Compensation Plan to replace Mark Robertson. Greg's hit the ground running already and we expect he'll be a great asset to both ongoing RDC maintenance projects and coordination on fish permits.

I got out to see some of you this Fall, but wished I could have done more. Seems like the weeks fly by in the Coordinator role. We had visits to the Grande Ronde river to see habitat projects in-person, planted eggs with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and walked the Clearwater pipeline. Lot's going out there as always.

I hit delete on Mike Key's email address today and found myself at a complete loss of both words and emotions. Mike's funeral was standing room only and an incredible tribute to a fellow fish head, outdoorsman, and grandfather. Dave Johnson, Nez Perce Tribe, gave a perspective of Mike's career spanning Fall Chinook returns of 800 adults in the 1990's to highs of almost 80,000 in recent times. What an incredible story and a he'll be missed by all. "Later's", Mike.

The family and I had some great adventures this Fall. We tagged along with Tony Folsom on his trapline in central Idaho, unsuccessfully threw some steelhead lines, chased elk in the Pahsimeroi Valley, and went back to the old Wisconsin stomping grounds for the Thanksgiving deer season.

Happy Holidays and Thanks for being Fish for the Future!

-Nate

.....
A Holiday is an opportunity to journey within....
.....



HARLEY WIESE, 13 WITH A WISCONSIN WHITETAIL

AGE-0 YANKEE FORK CHINOOK

YANKEE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER

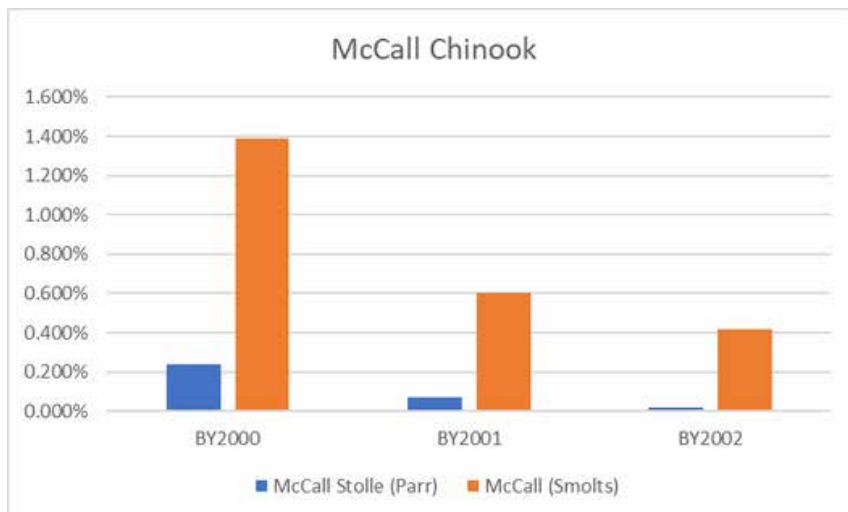
Age-0 Smolts for the Yankee Fork

Sawtooth staff transferred 221,616 eyed eggs to Irrigon Fish hatchery on October 25, 2023. These eggs are part of a trial to compare egg boxes, Age-0 smolts (50 fpp) and Age-1 smolts (18 fpp) in the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River. Acclimation of the Age-0 smolts will occur in May of 2024.

The goal of this trial is to examine if Spring Chinook reared in a Fall Chinook life history strategy - i.e. spring outmigration as Age-0 smolts will produce measurable adult returns. Similar work has been tried off and on over the past four decades with mixed results.

Specific challenges for this group include water hardness differences of 79 ppm CaCO₃ in the Yankee Fork and 240 ppm at Irrigon. Umatilla hatchery has released spring Chinook in the Grande Ronde river with some success at a similar water hardness (69 ppm).

If this pilot is successful at migrating smolts at a similar rate to Sawtooth reared Age-1 smolts, additional work or releases may be considered.



GRANDE RONDE



BEAVER DAM ON THE GRANDE RONDE

Follow-up on Grande Ronde Habitat Projects

LSRCP, NOAA, ODFW, CTUIR, and USFS staff met at the Grande Ronde river to look at ongoing habitat work and beaver re-colonization. These projects have done a great job at reconnecting the flood plain and encouraging beaver activity in the area. The long-term benefits aren't yet entirely clear, but the short-term side effects do appear to be lower availability of spring Chinook spawning habitat in areas that historically had 40% or more of the surveyed redds. Discussions amongst the parties are still working on formulating shared objectives.

Additional work is slated for the summer of 2024 that will put additional channel spawning structures and log woody debris in the area just below the LSRCP acclimation ponds. Much of this work is completed with heavy equipment and helicopters to place the large woody debris. The next phase will occur primarily on private land where redd survey work has not been allowed. Hence, immediate effects of the projects may be difficult to assess.



HABITAT WORK IN UPPER GRANDE RONDE



CLEARWATER PIPELINE

DWORSHAK DAM VIEW

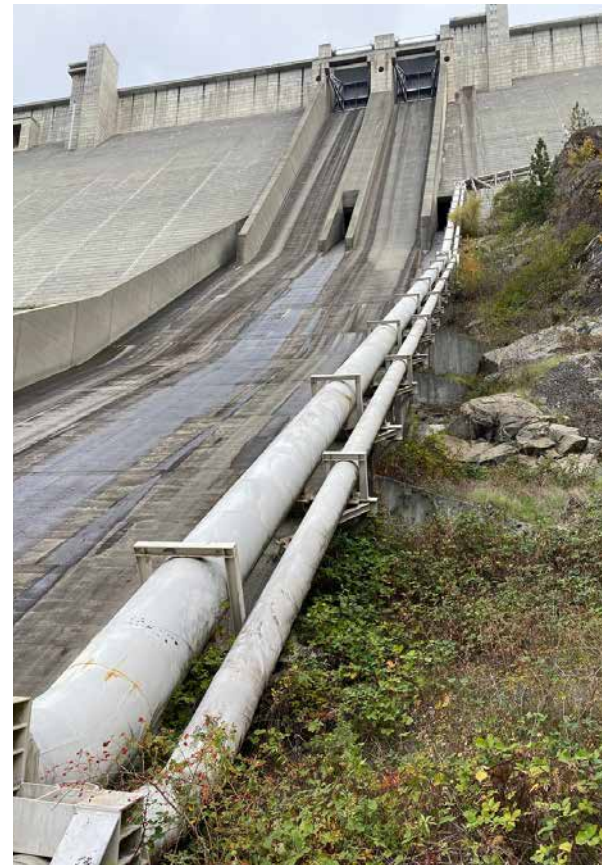
Clearwater Pipeline Assessment

Engineer work started this Fall to assess the Clearwater pipeline and how it can be permanently repaired. Overall, the initial assessment showed the pipeline to be in good shape. Exposed sections of the pipe do need a new coat of paint and the majority of the manual air relief valves are packed with dirt, etc.

A final engineer assessment and plans for repair will be complete by December 2023 for the May 2024 work-window.



ENGINEER INSPECTING THE EXPANSION COUPLERS



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PIPELINES

SBT TOURS

SHOSHONE BANNOCK TRIBE BUSINESS COUNCIL WITH SBT FISH AND WILDLIFE STAFF



Fort Hall Business Council Tours

The Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe did a week-long tour of fishery sites with SBT Fish and Wildlife Staff in October. The council includes Lee Juan Tyler, Chairman, Donna Thompson, Claudia Washakie, Ladd Edmo, Gaylen Edmo, Nancy Eschief Murillo, and former Fishery Staff member, Sammy Matsaw, Jr.

The Council is keenly interested in salmon restoration in Idaho and hopes to be a continual advocate for recovery efforts. Site visits included LSRCP facilities on the South Fork, Sawtooth Fish Hatchery, Panther Creek, and the East Fork Salmon River.



Fort Hall Business Council.

 Lee Juan Tyler, Chairman	 Donna Thompson, Vice Chairman	 Claudia Washakie, Secretary	 Ladd Edmo, Treasurer
 Gaylen Edmo, Sgt-at- Arms	 Nancy Eschief Murillo, Council Member	 Sammy Matsaw Jr., Council Member	

EGG BOXES IN CABIN CREEK - SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER

TRUCK WRAPS



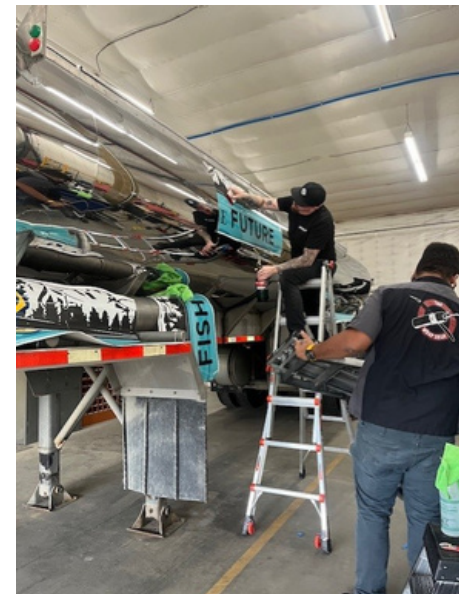
THE WRAP SHOP STAFF CLEANING THE SURFACE

Truck Wraps

John McKernan, IDFG Truck shop, vision got implemented this Fall on the first of nine 5,000 gallon tankers in need of a face-lift. The operation went really smoothly thanks to a local Boise vendor, The Wrap Shop, and space inside John's shop.

IDFG's graphic design team helped with the final design and includes logos of IDFG and USFWS. The general design can be used by any Agency by swapping to the appropriate logo.

LSRCP is sponsoring a Kid's Artwork contest to help design the next wraps. Submissions are open to kids K-12 grades and are due March 1st to Tanya Wiley at the LSRCP office.



INSTALLATION OF THE WRAP SHOP STICKERS



NEW TRUCK WRAP, JOHN MCKERNAN, IDFG

JENNA FORTIER WDFW



JENNA WITH A WHOPPER CHINOOK

Jenna Fortier, Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Biologist, WDFW

Jenna has worked in the Snake River and Clearwater basins for 14 years between WDFW, PSMFC, and IDFG. She has worked for WDFW since 2019 and was recently appointed to the M&E Biologist position.

Jenna is a true-at-heart, born and raised Idahoan. She lives in Lewiston, Idaho and commutes to Dayton, Washington to work in a pretty awesome office. Jenna grew up in Coeur d'Alene and Boise and completed her Fisheries B.S. at University of Idaho.

In March 2023, Jenna completed her Graduate Certificate in Fisheries Management through OSU. While she is very proud of that, her biggest accomplishment is completing her degree while being mom of 2 little boys (1.5 and 4 yo) and working full time.

Jenna's favorite part about Fish for the Future is how it brings a group of passionate individuals into a collaborative effort for future generations to enjoy the resource.

Jenna finds all fish beautiful, down to the smallest sculpin. She loves the way they look and various behaviors. Jenna's family integrates fish in their life, between work, fishing with the kids, and incorporating into her art.....they are a very fishy family!

-Jenna

Just because it has been done a certain way, doesn't mean it has to continue that way.



MOM TO THE BOYS



THATS NOT A SALMON!

GREG BURAK LSRCP



BIKING WITH THE KIDS

Greg Burak, LSRCP Permit Coordinator

I joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service in November 2009 as a fish and wildlife biologist working with the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office on various sections of the Endangered Species Act to carry out listed species conservation in Idaho. This work has included classification, recovery, consultations, and candidate conservation, along with being IFWO lead for multiple partners for fish and wildlife projects. One of my primary tasks over the last several years was coordinating the competitive IFWO recovery and candidate funding program where we provided over \$2.5 million in financial assistance to our partners to carry out priority conservation work for listed and at-risk species.

Prior to the USFWS, I worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from 2001 through 2009 ranging from a wildlife technician to a regional wildlife biologist. In addition, I worked several field seasons for the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research station where I monitored and mapped threatened Chinook salmon spawning habitat in the Middle Fork Salmon River drainage of central Idaho and carried out research investigating the efficiency of various methods for monitoring bull trout.

Originally from northeastern Pennsylvania, I graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. After moving to Idaho in the late 1990's, I obtained a Master of Science degree from Boise State University in 2006. Off the job I enjoy spending time with my wonderful wife and 2 daughters (12 and 16 years old) and visiting Idaho's abundant public lands through avenues such as fly fishing, upland bird hunting, hiking, backpacking, camping, and mountain biking.

-Greg



FLY FISHING



SNAIL SURVEYS



MIKE KEY NPT

In Memory of Mike Key, Nez Perce Tribe, FCAP

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/KoshWOL3>

Michael Shane Key (Keystone) walked his last trail, hunted his last elk, sang his last song, and set his last trap November 2, 2023. Micheal was born April 25, 1968 in Grangeville, Idaho to Michael & Linda (Ross) Key. He was the oldest of three children: Sharon & Jason. He attended Sts. Peter & Paul School and graduated from Grangeville High School in 1986. He continued his education in Twin Falls at The College of Southern Idaho and graduated from the University of Idaho in 1994 with his bachelor's degree.

He married the love of his life, Darlene Keeler on March 14, 1992. They had three children, Courtney, Chantel, and Garrett.

His love of the outdoors had him helping his brother and Dad with his logging business. He also worked for the Rapid River Fish Hatchery, Slate Creek Ranger Station, and the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries for the last 30 years. He took so much pride in his work and acquired his fisheries family and friends far and wide.

His hobbies included rafting, fishing, singing and playing guitar; but his passion was hunting and trapping with his son Garrett. Mike was a mountain man who was adamant about caring for the forest and the animals within it. His favorite and most cherished place was the family cabin, however, his man cave was a close second and always occupied by friends and family who came to enjoy the laughter, music, stories and a few drinks.

His greatest accomplishments were his three children, his three grandchildren and was looking forward to the new one on the way in December. Mike had touched many lives and will be greatly missed by many! Darlene's quote that she lived by being married to this great man and best friend, "we interrupt this marriage to bring you hunting season". In the words of Mike: "Right's Right and Wrong's Wrong". Mike's last words were always: LATEERS!!

