

Washington Programs - Lyons Ferry Update on Botulism and Tucannon Spring Chinook upcoming plans.

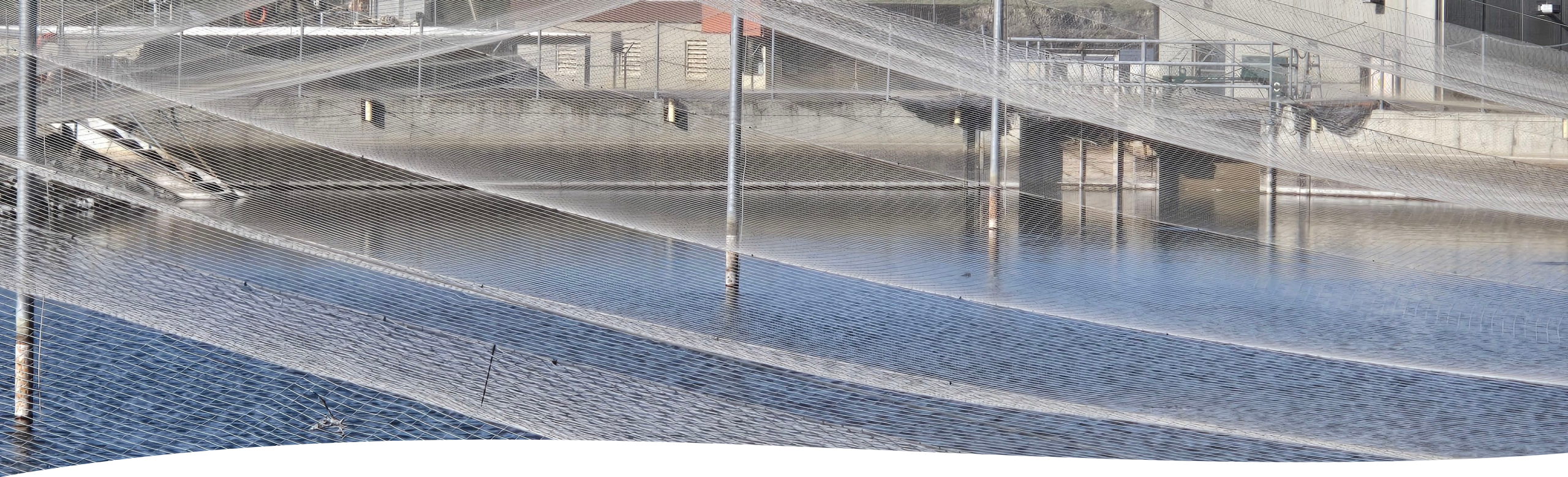
Ace Trump, Michael Herr
LSRCP annual meeting, Boise ID
April 21-23 2026



Botulism 2025 Update

- Saw increased mortality in Lake 3 on Dec 29, 2025
- Put in pontoon boat and picked ~100 fish, then used jon boat
- Picked 3x per week for the next three weeks
- Picked <1,000 fish over the three-week period
- Drew Lake down to haul to Cottonwood Accl Facility





What we did

- Increased flow from 6,000 to 7,000gpm
- Removed boards to drop water level by ~ 2ft
- Decreased rearing capacity from ~950k cuft to ~650k cuft
- Turnover rate went from ~20hrs to ~11hrs.

Tucannon Spring Chinook Update

Challenges:

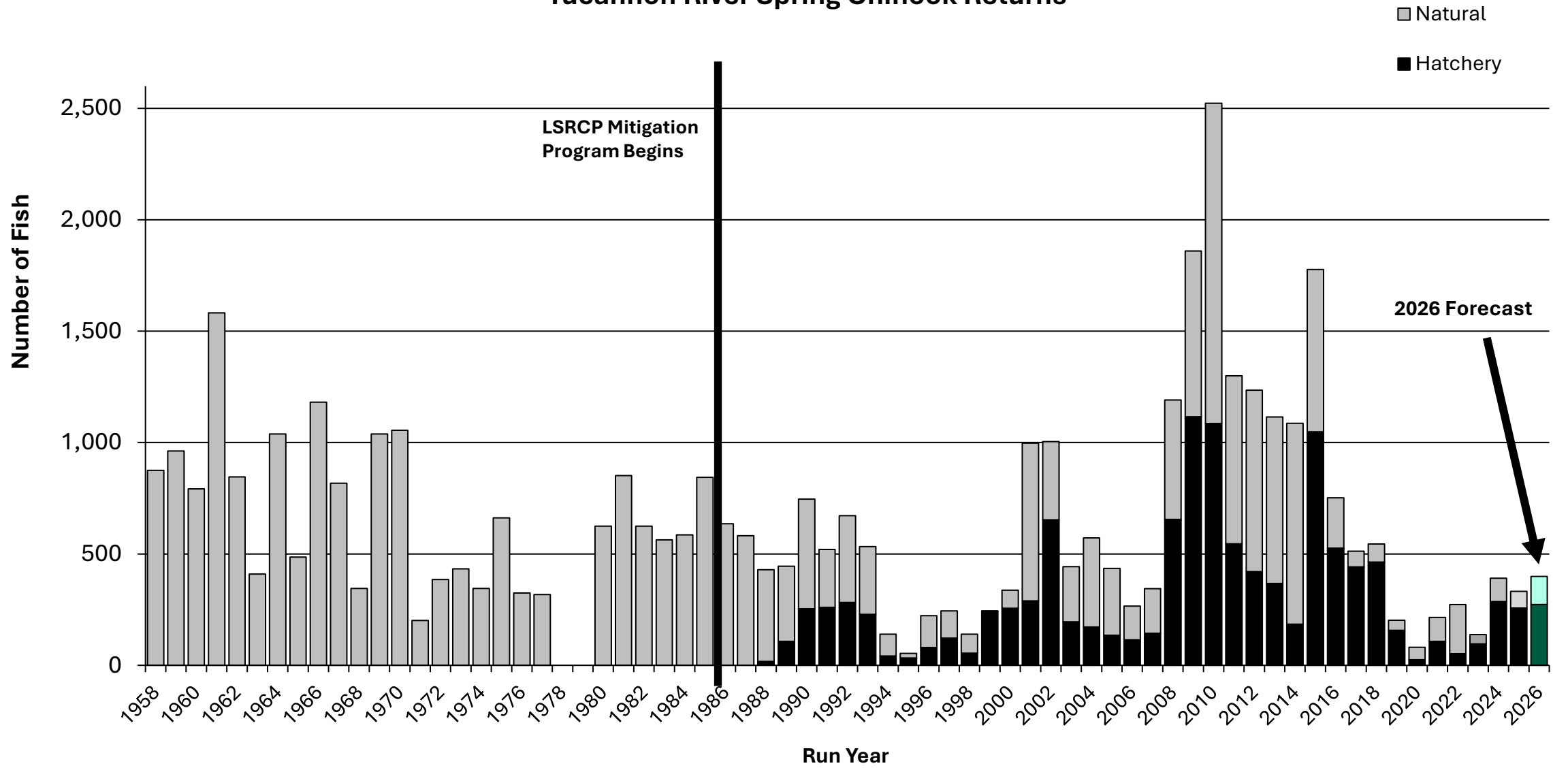
- Low adult escapement
- Juvenile Survival (TUC)
- Poor SAS
- Adult Conversion



Attempts:

- Variable Release Location Study
- Kalama Falls translocation
- Changes to rearing strategies?

Tucannon River Spring Chinook Returns



Tucannon River – SGS

- **Spawning Ground Surveys**
- **50* redds – 2025**
- 53 redds – 2024
- 13 redds - 2023
- 42 redds - 2022
- 35 redds - 2021
- 14 redds - 2020
- 11 redds – 2019

*provisional number





TFH RELEASE (CONTROL)

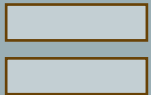
Mouth Release

Barge Release

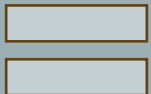
Juvenile Survival



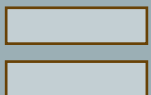
Adult Returns (SAS)



Project area (SAR)



Overshoot

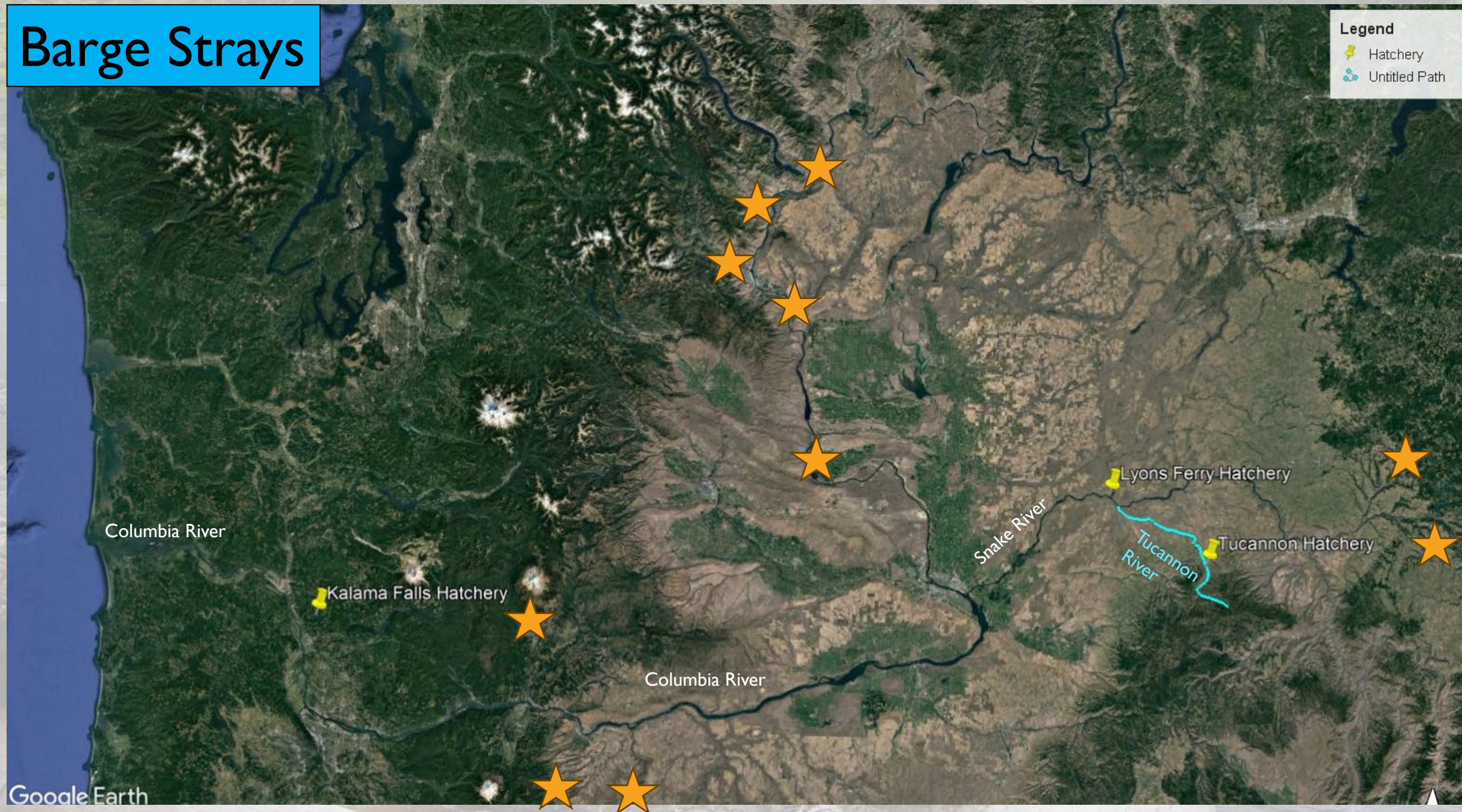


Conversion to TFH



Barge
release
group ended
after initial
adult returns

Barge Strays



Thinking outside the trap box?

WANTED!



Do you trap spring Chinook in the Columbia River Basin?
Please be on the lookout for Tucannon River spring Chinook!

- Experimental barge release groups in MY23 and MY24 have impacted homing abilities for these releases.
- Initial jack returns in RY 2024 showed PIT tag returns (n=63) above Bonneville Dam, but only 3 of these PIT tags converted to the Tucannon River.
- Adult returns in the Tucannon River are at critically low levels, any adults over Bonneville Dam are valuable, project staff are willing to travel to return these fish to Lyons Ferry Hatchery.

Is it a Tucannon River spring Chinook?

- 100% Adipose Intact and CWT present
- PIT tagged
- Ptagis Query will show release location: Tucannon River, Tucannon Fish Hatchery, or Lyons Ferry Hatchery, and are the only releases of the

Project contacts:

- Michael Herr
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(509)
- Ace T
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(509)

- Requested basin wide help

- SbyCode at LGR

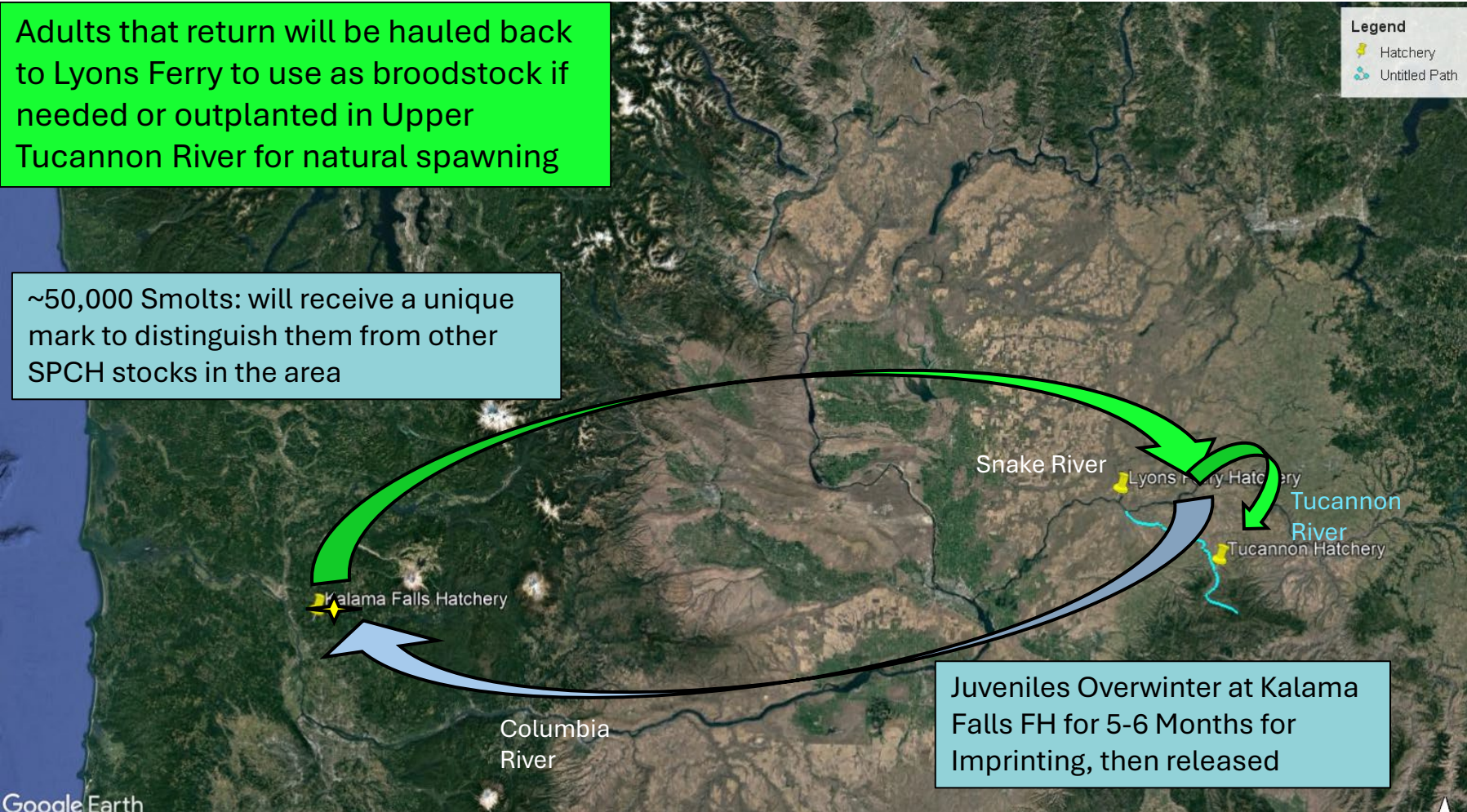
- On-station trap at LFH

Location	n
TFH	51
LFH	28
LGR	8
RBH	7*
Total Trapped	94
Tucannon R.	102
Snake R.	47
Total At Large	149

- 42 females spawned ~132, 415 eggs
- 21 females LFH/21 females at IFH (chilled)
- Egg loss events
- ~34k left from BY25



Kalama River Releases



- ~49k smolts released in March 2025 and 2026.
- Initial survival promising with mini-jack recoveries
- BY23 jacks returning to Kalama Fall Fish Hatchery
- Use jack returns to test feasibility of transport
- Jack homing and trap conversion will influence BY25 release strategy

BY2024 RY2026

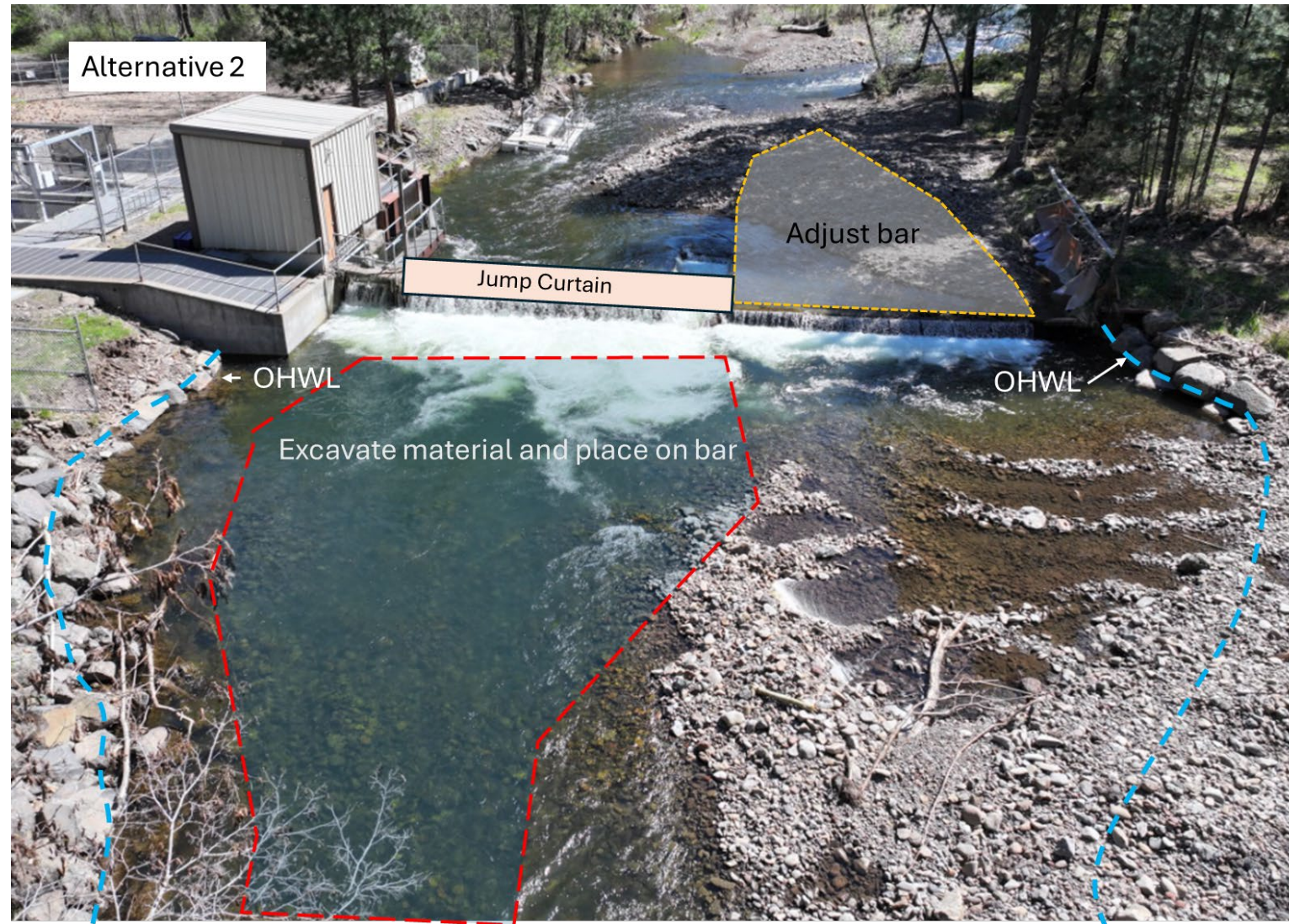
- ~49k released from KFFH in March
- ~18.5k released from LFH on-station 4/20
- On-station trapping, jv survival

BY2025 RY2027

- ~34k total
- Release location TBD

BY2026 RY2028

- Adult trapping success???
- A-pond second trap in outflow
- Does everybody chill?
- Discuss release strategies at AOP





Questions?

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