



LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN



MATT HOW GRAPHIC - USFWS

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



SALMON FRY, RYAN HAGERTY, USFWS

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LSRCP

FEB 2022

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



COORDINATOR'S CORNER



The Wiese family lost their beloved black lab, Jetta at the end of February. It's been a tough start to Spring, but we're cherishing the 16 1/2 years of memories we made along the journey.

It was a long look back for me as well. We got Jetta when I was a biologist at Hagerman National Fish Hatchery. A lot of things have changed since then, and yet, a lot of things haven't. The mission of LSRCP remains the same - provide *Fish for the Future* to fulfill the promise we made to ourselves when the hydrosystem was built. It certainly isn't easy, but nothing worthwhile ever is.

As we lived Jetta's final days, I thought back about her journey. She'd been a bird dog through age 15. She spanned vet trips to sew up lacerations and rebuild a back knee; been released from about a dozen foothold traps (all my own sets); jumped from two moving truck beds to the pavement and run-over by 3 duck boats. We used to joke she had at least 13 lives.

Despite the ravages of time becoming real pain, Jetta never wavered in her devotion to our family or excitement to dig birds out of cover. I feel the same.

I've got plenty of experiences that went well and as many that I'd turn differently if the hands of time could rewind. However, I'm 120% devoted to all of you and our mission. I'm not sure I'll make 115 human years, but I'm striving for Jetta's unrelenting drive and passion for the rest of my journey.

Cheers to old dogs and *Fish for the Future!* - Nate

.....
That it will never come again is what makes life so precious.

-Emily Dickinson
.....



FALL CHINOOK SUB-YEARLINGS

SNAKE RIVER AT LYONS FERRY FISH HATCHERY

Yearling to Sub-Yearling Fall Chinook Conversions

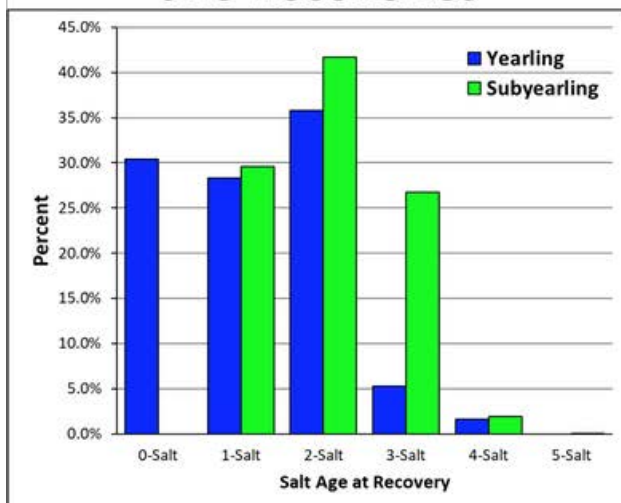
Joe Bumgarner, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been leading efforts to review performance metrics related to converting yearling to sub-yearling Fall Chinook releases. In Brood Year 2018, the Fall Chinook Acclimation Program (FCAP) converted yearling to sub-yearling Fall Chinook releases. In general, this shifts the overall Age-0 (mini-jack/jill) returns towards 3-ocean adults.

Overall return rates are lower (2:1), but can be offset by increased numbers sub-yearlings because biomass and time on-station are significantly lower.

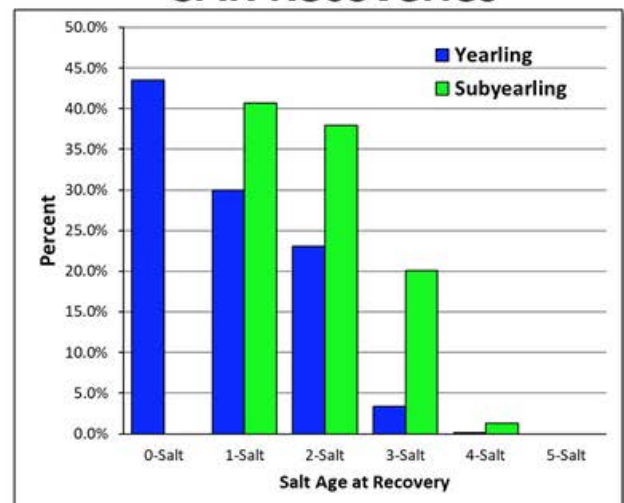
The current proposal examines the potential of replacing the last remaining 450,000 yearling Fall Chinook that are released at Lyons Ferry hatchery to sub-yearlings at multiple locations. This effort involves rearing assistance from Irrigon Hatchery and management considerations from all of the LSRCP cooperators.

Thanks Joe for leading this effort and all of the LSRCP cooperators for examining a project that could significantly increase efficiency and opportunity for the program. There is a still plenty of work and decisions to be made before on the ground change happens, but we sure appreciate the willingness to explore the "art of the possible".

Returning Age Composition by Salt Age – 2000 to 2020 Run Years



60% MiniJacks/Jacks from Yearling Releases, ~30% Jacks from SubYearling



70% MiniJacks/Jacks from Yearling Releases, ~40% Jacks from SubYearling



NEW LSRCP WEBSITE

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Office






New LSRCP Website

<https://fws.gov/office/lower-snake-river-compensation-plan>

The LSRCP website officially migrated to the new US Fish and Wildlife platform in February. You'll need to bookmark this page for now as Google is still catching up on the site map.

We are still in the process of checking, renaming, and uploading the existing 1200 reports. All of the AOP and BiOp documents are up so far. Remaining documents will be uploaded in early March. Unfortunately, most of your old links to the LSRCP website are likely broken and will require updating. We apologize upfront for that. Since it was a USFWS-wide website effort, we didn't have much control over the preservation of specific links - including the home page!

Key Contacts

-  **Nathan Wiese**
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-  **Mark Robertson**
ESA/Permitting Coordinator
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-  **Rod Engle**
Science Coordinator
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-  **Chris Starr**
Operations and Maintenance
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-  **Brian Devlin**
Budget Analyst
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Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Office

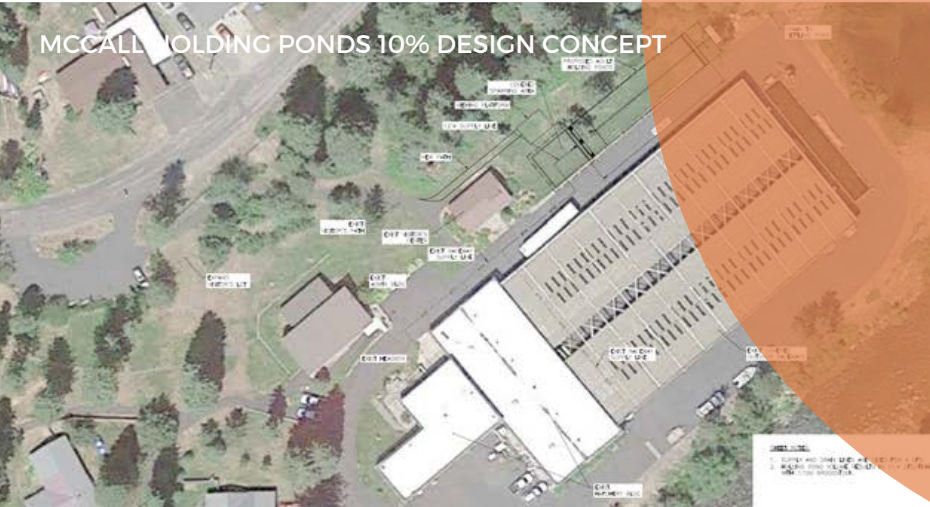
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Library

Publications and reports are produced by personnel and cooperators of the Lower Snake River Compensations. Copies of reports are available upon request. Please contact brian_devlin@fws.gov

Featured

-  **Annual Operations Plan - Clearwater**
Current and historical Annual Operations Plans and Standard Operating Plan Basin.
[PDF](#)
-  **Annual Operations Plan - Grande Ronde**
Current and historical Annual Operations Plan reports for the Grande Ronde:
[PDF](#)



MCCALL HOLDING POND

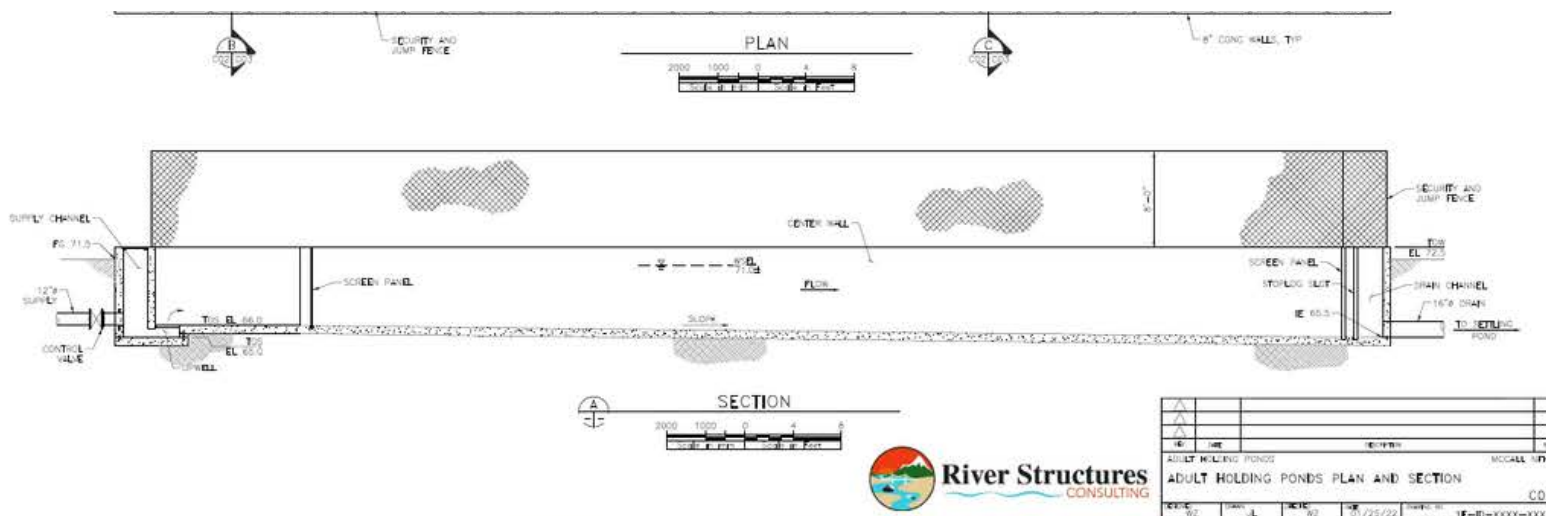
McCall Adult Holding Ponds

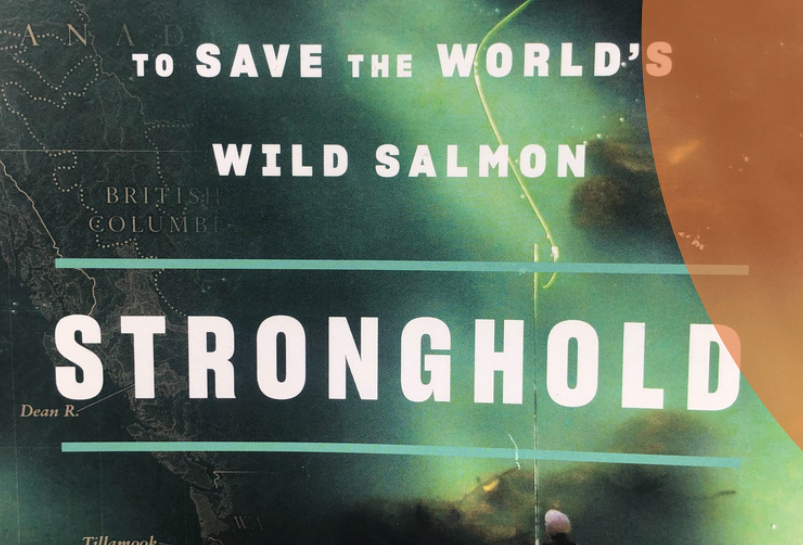
In June 2021, the water temps at the South Fork Salmon river trap were quickly on track to surpass 70 F. Thanks to the staff of McCall, NPT, and Rapid River, the Annual Operating Plan contingency plans were put into motion and adult Chinook were transferred to Rapid River Hatchery holding facilities.

The South Fork Salmon river has been on LSRCP's radar since the catastrophic 2007 wildfires in the region. LSRCP has built additional holding pond space, rented back-up recirculating pumps annually, and completed a well-water assessment of the site. However, none of those efforts have been completely successful to mitigate the conditions that are becoming increasingly normal.

January Snotel snow conditions looked promising for the Payette basin, but an exceptionally dry February took snow-pack from over 100% to the low 80 percentile by the end of the month.

LSRCP has re-programmed \$800,000 in FY2022 from the Dworshak Shade Structure replacement to move ahead with design-build plans to construct holding ponds at McCall. Unfortunately, the most opportune work-window appears to be during the month of September. So, we have our fingers crossed that water conditions in the South Fork Salmon hold this summer and by 2023 we'll be holding adults at McCall with the cold Payette Lake water supply rather than the South Fork Salmon.





SPRING READING LIST

Fish Books

There's no shortage of books on Pacific Salmon out there, but I got through a few this month that are worth reading or re-reading for that matter. Since I've spent a lot of my career around hatchery programs as a tool in fishery management, I like reading other perspectives even though I don't always agree with it. I'm also always looking for new material - suggestions are welcome!

Stronghold, Tucker Malarkey - \$4 Used

- Well written piece about one conservationist's journey to preserve the last "Stronghold" of Pacific salmon runs in the Russian Far East.

An Entirely Synthetic Fish - Anderson Halverson - \$12 Used

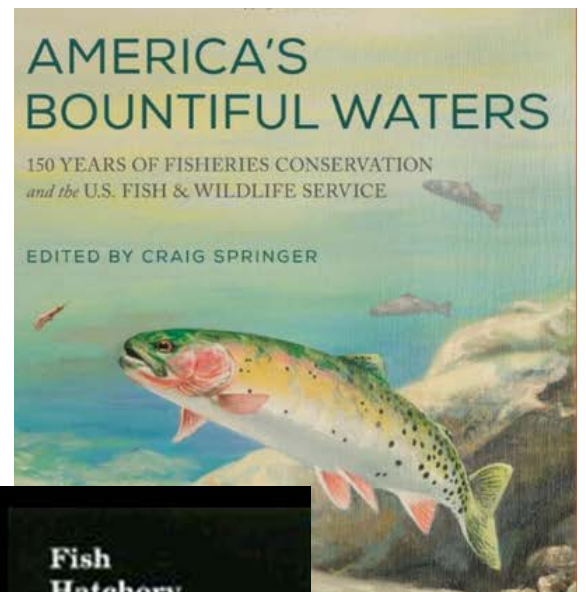
- Conservation hatcheries from the beginning to today.

America's Bountiful Waters - Craig Springer - \$30 new

- History of the fishery program in the USFWS.

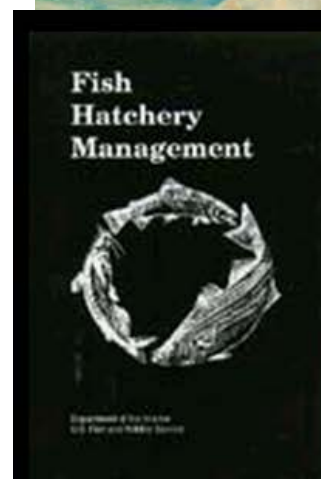
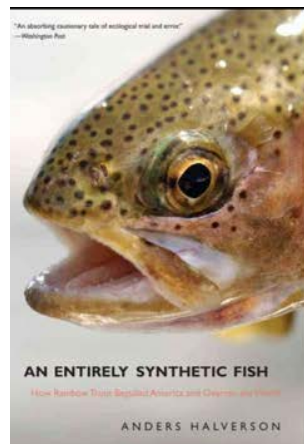
Fish Hatchery Management - Piper, 1981 - \$25 used

- Yep, finally read this one cover to cover again.



**A WRITER ONLY
BEGINS A BOOK.
A READER
FINISHES IT.**

-SAMUEL JOHNSON



SYLVIA HAMILTON IDFG

SYLVIA HAMILTON, SAWTOOTH FISH HATCHERY

Sylvia Hamilton, Assistant Manager Hagerman National Fish Hatchery

Sylvia was born and raised in Emmett, Idaho. In 1993, after her sophomore year of college at the University of Idaho, Sylvia got her first job with Idaho Fish & Game as a tour guide at the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery, and worked several summers there. She graduated from U of I in 1995 with a B.S. in Zoology. In addition to working seasonally at Sawtooth, Sylvia also worked at the Eagle Fish Hatchery in the early days of the Snake River Sockeye recovery program. In 2000, Sylvia took some time off from the department to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in sculpture and ceramics from Boise State University. Missing the cold winters and her friends in Stanley, Sylvia returned to Sawtooth Fish Hatchery as a Biological Aide in 2009, and was hired permanently as a Fish Culturist at Sawtooth in 2012. She promoted to Assistant Manager in 2018 (she got the call for the promotion offer during her wedding rehearsal). Sylvia's favorite part of the Fish for the Future mission is getting young people excited about salmon and their recovery, and educating the public about what we do. She still enjoys giving public tours, has been a Trout in the Classroom educator for the Stanley School, and participated in Salmon and Steelhead Days at IDFG Headquarters.

**WHEN ONE TUGS AT A
SINGLE THING IN NATURE,
HE FINDS IT ATTACHED TO
REST OF THE WORLD
- JOHN MUIR**



SYLVIA IN A SAWTOOTH WINTER

GEORGE NANDOR PSMFC



George Nandor, PSMFC

George Nandor retired at the end of 2021 from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission after 15 years of service. Previous to working for the Commission, George worked 31 years for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He truly enjoyed his 46 years of working in the field of fisheries.

George was born in Heidelberg, Germany because his father was stationed there in the US Army at the time. As an Army Brat he traveled around the world with his parents, living in Virginia, California, Maryland, Germany, Japan, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Washington and finally settled in Oregon, living there for the past 47 years. He graduated from the Frankfurt American High School in Germany, go Eagles! Went to college at the University of Pittsburgh and graduated from the University of Washington, B.S. Fisheries.

In 1975 he started his career as a Hatcheryman 1 (yes, the times and job titles have changed), working at the Cole M. Rivers fish hatchery on the upper Rogue River near Trail, Oregon. He completed his career at ODFW leading the Fish Propagation Section in the Headquarters offices in Portland and then Salem.

According to George - His work at ODFW and PSMFC over the years has been interesting, challenging and fun. The technology and knowledge advances over time have been amazing. Noting the implementation of many important advances in managing natural resources and fish hatcheries in the region. His interest in hatchery programs and operations continues and he has visited over 160 fish hatcheries in the US, Canada, Japan, Germany, England and Ireland. I enjoy fly fishing for wild trout and have caught wild trout in Germany, Kashmir, India and numerous states in the US. He still enjoys visiting fish hatcheries during his personal travels.

Many people don't know that George owns a 2004 Corvette and belongs to the Mt. Hood Corvettes club. In retirement he plans to spend more time with family, friends and his grandchildren. He also plans to travel around the West in his camp trailer, travel overseas and do a lot more fly fishing for wild trout! - Tara Garrison

