



LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN



FISH FOR THE FUTURE

MATT HOW GRAPHIC - USFWS



JERRY CHAPMAN, CLEARWATER RIVER

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LSRCP

OCTOBER 2021

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I'm starting to realize Halloween is one of my favorites. This year, we convinced our daughters to don KISS costumes and set out into the Boise suburbs to plunder as much candy as possible.

Halloween also marks Fall, and I was fortunate to host my old high school buddy and his son on antelope tags they drew for southern Idaho. They drove 23 hours to set camp and planned to hunt for 14 days if needed. With such a long timeframe, I left them for week one and planned to join on week two. I was surprised when they called only one day in. However, it wasn't with news of antelope, but of the spectacular rainbow trout fishing at camp. They'd driven back into cell service for more bait and extensions on their 3-day fishing licenses.

I'm guilty of forgetting the opportunities that exist on your doorstep. My high school buddy and his son both harvested great antelope, but talked almost more about the Idaho fishing. That experience and the cover shot of Jerry Chapman (previous Niagara Springs manager) were great reminders of how impactful the work we do is. I showed Jerry's steelhead picture to the 13-year old antelope/trout fisherman and his eyes were as wide as saucers. "I'm going to catch one of those someday!"

You know what, Tyler, you are. And we've got a whole team working to make sure those steelhead are going to be there the next time you drive 23 hours to antelope hunt.

-Nate



.....
Never
stop
dreaming
.....



TYLER NELSON, WISCONSIN, WITH A SOUTHERN IDAHO SPEED GOAT



BASIN NEWS

NIAGARA SPRINGS FISH HATCHERY WHITE STURGEON

LSRCP, Dworshak, and IDFG staff visited Niagara Springs Hatchery this month to look at the raceway shade structure design ideas. The tour concluded at the brand new sturgeon building and this year's cohort of white sturgeon. They sure are a neat fish and the circular tanks were self-cleaning as expected. Hats off to the Niagara staff - those tanks were spotless! Couldn't help but share a picture of the sturgeon, and here's some other items this month worth sharing:

Time Article

If you didn't get a chance to see the Time's article, take some "time" to check it out. As you'd expect for Time, the story and images are top notch and you'll see several familiar faces. Good to keep our eyes open on popular press and I'm glad we've got the public engaged in salmon and steelhead - that is a good thing!

<https://time.com/6105484/pacific-salmon-endangered-washington/>

Elwha Dam Video

Trout Unlimited put together a nice video on the Elwha Dam project. It's a good reminder on the resilience and repopulation potential of salmon and steelhead:

<https://www.outsideonline.com/2413366/steelhead-fish-return-elwha-river-washington-dam-removal>

Pacific Region Fish Health

The Pacific Region Fish Health website has a great list of archived Newsletter articles. These are worth a read for practical fish health concepts. Check them out at:

<https://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/fishhealth/FishHealthProgramMain.cfm>



KEVIN KINCAID, NIAGARA SPRINGS FH



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT UPDATE

For the past year, the LSRCP staff has been working with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to develop a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The previous MOA was developed in 2000 to direct fund the LSRCP program from BPA rather than through the US Fish and Wildlife Service budget process. Direct funding stabilized both the timing of funding and levels from the Federal budgeting process. After 20 years and three extensions, the MOA was due for an overhaul. Highlights of the new MOA:

1. Overall document length reduced by over 30% from almost 28 pages to 18 pages
2. Outdated Performance Indicator Program was removed
3. Authorized Program Representatives (LSRCP Coordinator and BPA F&W Administrator) control MOA changes and budgets
4. Agreement duration from FY22 to FY28 - can be renewed for up to 6 years at expiration
5. Mechanisms were built to address less than 100% budget execution
6. Timelines were defined to discuss LSRCP needs well ahead of the Integrated Program Review timelines
7. Capital expenditures were defined

We expect to ink the final signatures onto the MOA in November. It should be a good outline towards hatcheries, harvest, habitat and hydropower and with any luck, provide the overarching guidance for the next 20 years!

**MEMORANDUM
OF AGREEMENT**
between the
Department of the Energy
acting by and through the
Bonneville Power Administration
and the
Department of the Interior
acting by and through the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
for
Direct Funding of
Operations and Maintenance Costs
Of the
Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Program



CHINOOK PROGRAM REVIEW

Spring/Summer Chinook Program Review - November 15-17, 2022

In 2010, the LSRCP program completed a spring/summer Chinook Program Review with the Independent Science Review Panel. The review highlighted strengths of LSRCP including: strong interagency coordination, further defined hatchery program performance metrics, and highlighted a robust monitoring and evaluation program. Weaknesses of the program were failure to meet the adult mitigation and harvest goals and integration of LSRCP into assessment of ESA impacts and ongoing recovery efforts. In the decade since the review, we still have many of the same challenges, but are now exacerbated by declining budgets, aging infrastructure, uncertainty in the strength of adult returns for management objectives, and climate change impacts. Reviewing the individual programs within our portfolio will help identify the most appropriate paths forward, and along with ongoing AOP discussions and LSRCP annual meetings, will result in a forward-looking strategy that balances the need to attain LSRCP mitigation goals, address treaty and non-treaty harvest desires, and ensure our legal (ESA and US-v-OR) obligations are met.

Please tentatively mark your calendars for November 15-17th, 2022 for this review and we'll be starting to contact some of you to coordinate the collective approach for the review and along these specific areas:

- On-station and juvenile release performance and survival
 - Size at release and age structure of returning adults
 - Integrated program performance and population monitoring
 - Performance toward LSRCP in-place/in-kind project area goals, harvest and brood stock management objectives
 - Prophylactic and therapeutic disease treatments
 - Infrastructure: maintenance, utilization, and shortcomings.
 - Concepts and potential program changes to address the LSRCP project area goal
 - Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments
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ALEX LECHIMINANT, IDFG STEELHEAD BIOLOGIST

ALEX LECHIMINANT IDFG

Alex LeChiminant

IDFG Hatchery Steelhead M&E Biologist

Alex LeChiminant is someone we've been seeing around LSRCP a lot and reporting weekly on steelhead returns over the projects.

Originally from Connecticut, Alex made his way out west in 2013 to work a variety of fisheries technician positions, and eventually earn his master's degree from the University of Wyoming. He joined the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in July, 2020 as the hatchery steelhead M&E biologist. Alex particularly enjoys the excitement of working with in-season data to help inform management decisions and facilitate steelhead fisheries. He finds it incredibly rewarding to work as part of the LSRCP team, and is often amazed at the wealth of knowledge and experience each and every team member brings to the table to ensure fish for the future. Alex likes hunting and fishing in his off time, and has especially enjoyed learning the ropes of salmon and steelhead angling in Idaho over the past year.



ALEX WITH A GREAT BUCK

Welcome to the LSRCP Team, Alex!



ALEX WITH THE HAGERMAN NFH STAFF
SETTING PRAS TANK VELOCITIES