Columbia Basin Fish Recovery

SALMON RECOVERY.GOV

Location
Pelton Round Butte Dam Complex, Oregon

Biological Objective
Remove passage barriers to increase spawning and rearing habitat

ESA Listed Species
- Spring Chinook Salmon
- Middle Columbia River Steelhead
- Sockeye Salmon

Partners
- PGE
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- Crooked River Watershed Council
- Deschutes Basin Land Trust
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

References
Middle Columbia River Recovery Plan

Unique partnership will restore fish passage on the Deschutes River

Through a unique partnership, PGE and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are restoring fish passage on the Deschutes River. For the first time in 40 years, salmon and steelhead will migrate to the Metolius, Crooked and Upper Deschutes rivers.

The Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment ESA Recovery Plan identified the lack of passage over the Pelton-Round Butte Complex as a primary limiting factor for the Deschutes River Westside Population of ESA-listed steelhead. Recovery strategies for habitat and hydropower specifically reference the need to restore passage and connectivity to habitats blocked or impaired by artificial barriers and maintain properly functioning passage and connectivity.

This will be accomplished through the construction of a 273-foot underwater tower and fish collection facility that

- restores passage and access to habitat for salmon and steelhead
- improves recreation opportunities that support the local economy
- assures fish harvest for the Tribes
- improves water quality
- is a source of green-certified electricity.

For information about Salmon Recovery
http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/ESA-Recovery-Plans/Draft-Plans.cfm

For information about the Pelton Round Butte Dam complex
http://www.deschutespassage.com/

For information about the OWEB Deschutes Special Investment Partnership
http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/SIP_Deschutes.shtml

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The project provides safe passage for juvenile fish on their way to the Pacific Ocean and returning adults. Details of this effort include:

- Construction of a 273-foot tall Selective Water Withdrawal tower to be completed in 2009 and operational for fish collection in the 2009-2010 timeframe. The tower and related facilities should cost about $100 million.
- An attached tower to the present deep intake that rises out of the lake bed about 700 feet upstream of Round Butte Dam. At the top, a surface water intake module prevents downstream-migrating salmon and steelhead smolts from entering turbines at the base of the dam.
- A system for transporting these collected fish safely downstream. Long term, biologists predict that at least 96 percent of the juvenile fish at the water withdrawal tower will survive the passage past three different dams in the project.
- Adult fish will be trucked past the three dams. By 2011, the first adult salmon and steelhead are expected to return. On their way upstream, they'll be captured at the reregulating dam and trucked upstream past the dams to complete their life cycles.

On the heels of this fish passage effort at the three dams, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has committed an ongoing investment to improve fish habitat upstream. These projects include improving fish access and enhancing fish habitat conditions through land and water conservation with the Upper Deschutes Watershed council, the Crooked River Watershed council, The Deschutes Land Trust and The Deschutes River Conservancy. OWEB has expended $4 million in cooperative projects in Whychus Creek, Lake Creek and Crooked River to achieve the goals of improved access and habitat. The OWEB Board committed an additional $4 million for projects to be implemented over the next two years and will continue the investment until the vision of clear access to restored habitat is achieved.

In addition, numerous partners are working together to find a solution for implementing fish passage at Opal Springs. These partners include: the owners of the Opal Springs Dam; Deschutes Valley Water District, several federal agencies, state agencies including ODFW, as well as NGO groups. The goal of these discussions is to potentially reopen 226 stream miles to salmon and steelhead migration with the installation of a fish ladder at the Opal Springs Dam on the Crooked River. OWEB has included this project in the list of projects applicable for funding under their partnership program.

Ultimately, the result of these collective efforts will support efforts of sustainable populations of spring Chinook and sockeye salmon to the Metolius River, spring Chinook and steelhead to Whychus Creek, and steelhead to the Crooked River (to Bowman Dam) and the Deschutes River (to Big Falls near Redmond).