

Surplus Fish, What Do You Do?

Imnaha Satellite Facility – A Case Study

By: Diane Deal, Supervisor

Lookingglass Hatchery

Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

USFWS - Lower Snake River Compensation Plan



Lookingglass Hatchery

Is part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) and is located 19 miles north of the town of Elgin on Lookingglass Creek in the Blue Mountains of NE Oregon.

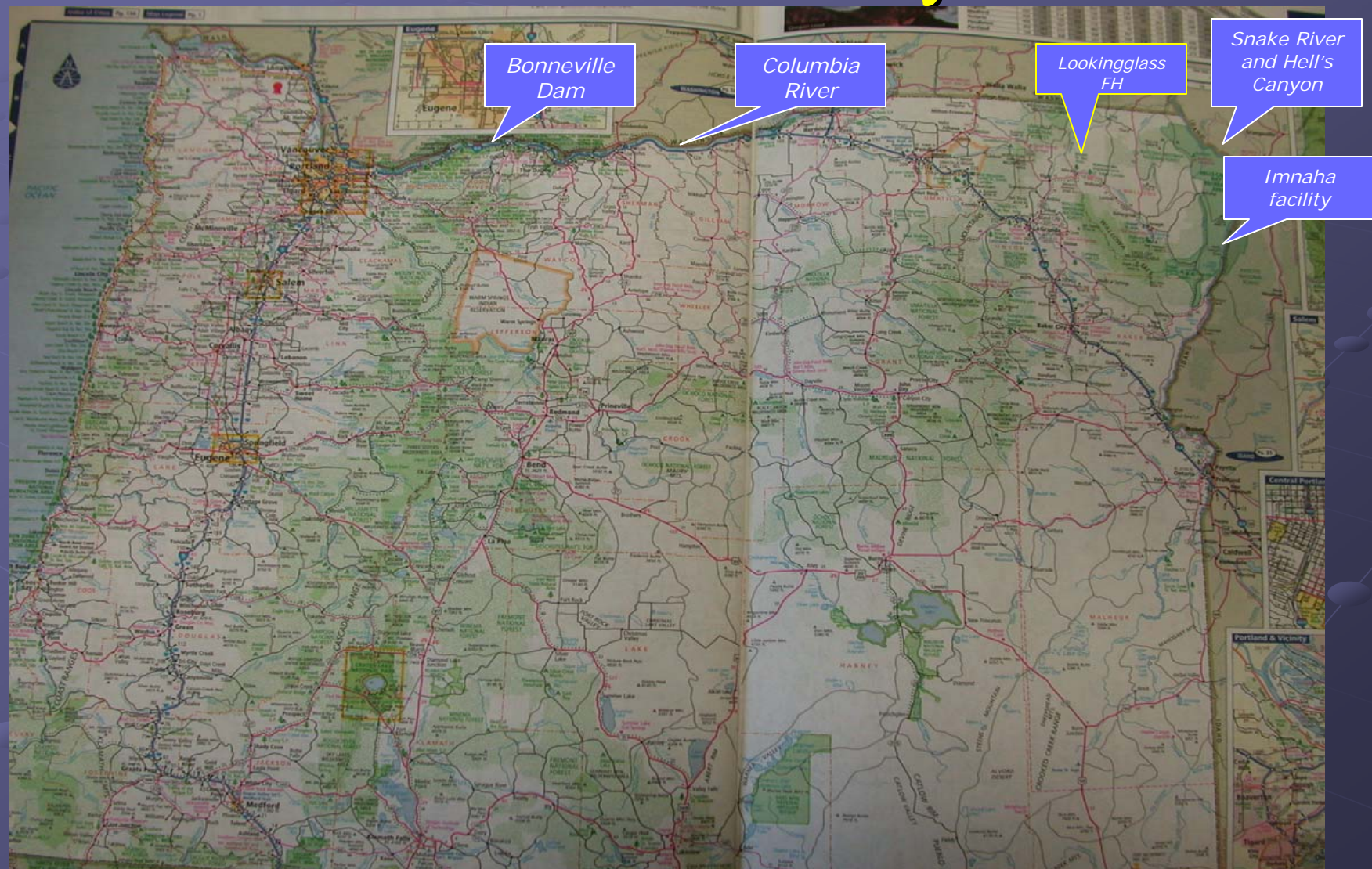


Innaha Acclimation and Adult Trap

Lookingglass Hatchery operates a satellite facility located on the Innaha River, 29 miles south of Innaha, Oregon near Hell's Canyon.



Where is Lookingglass Hatchery and the Imnaha Facility located?



Spring Chinook Salmon (*O. tshawytscha*)

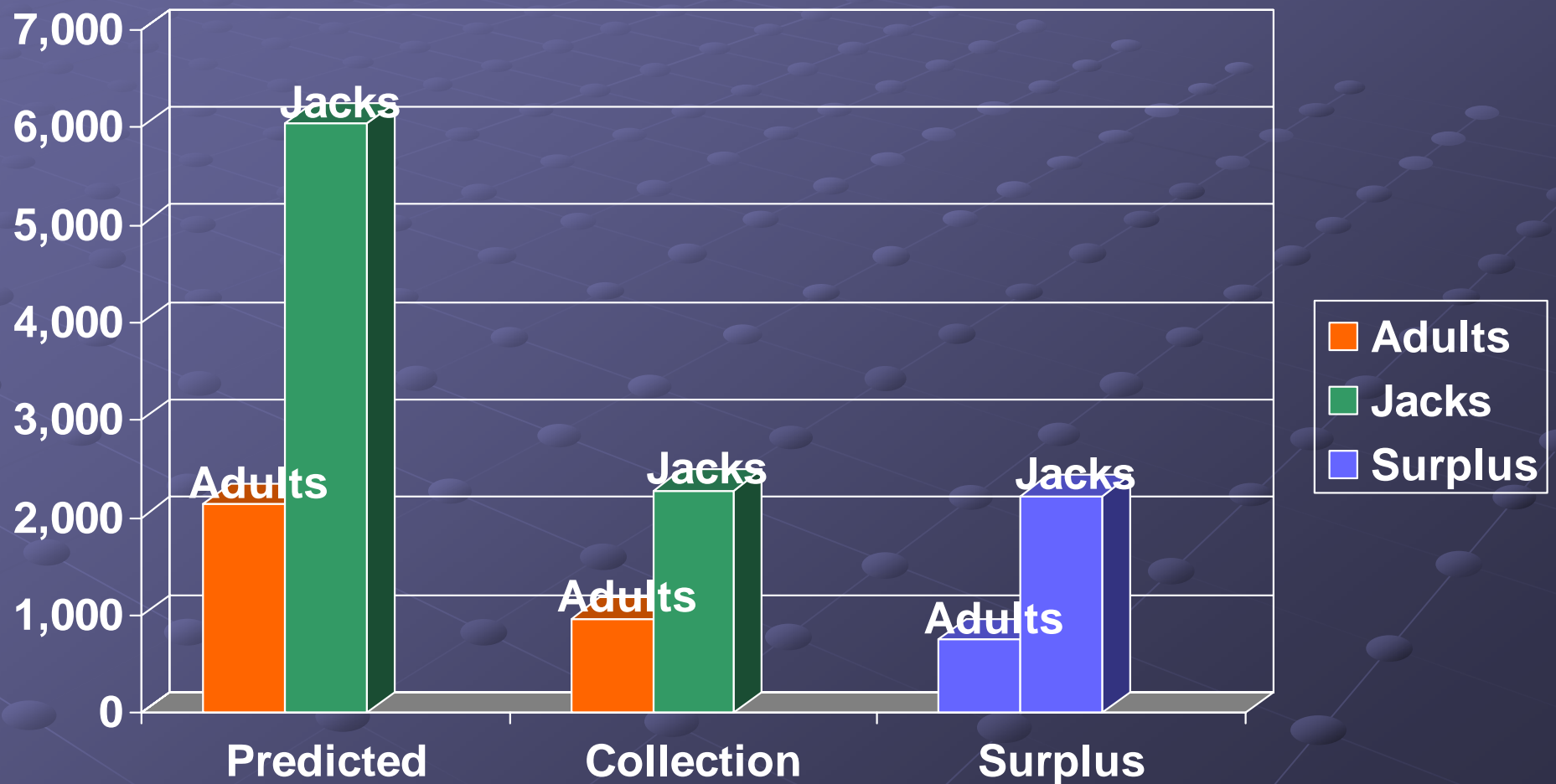
- Lookingglass Hatchery is a conservation hatchery and rears ESA listed stocks of Spring Chinook Salmon. Lookingglass Hatchery is cooperatively managed by the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, the Nez Perce Tribe, (NPT) and the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
- Annually, management guidelines are established through the Lower Snake River Fish & Wildlife Compensation Plan Grande Ronde and Imnaha Basins Annual

What are the early indicators that advise fish managers to expect a large return of fish?

1. Ocean conditions which provide excellent productivity for returning adults
2. For Oregon, Washington, and Idaho hatcheries on the Snake River System, returning adults with PIT tags detected at Bonneville dam, provide valuable information on how many fish are expected to return
3. Fisheries biologists use computer models to project returns for each year



Chinook salmon returns to the Imnaha River for 2009



Where were surplus fish distributed?

The Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Hatchery Management Policy provides an order of preference for allocation of surplus fish. In addition to meeting program and natural spawning objectives, this year, distribution from Lookingglass Hatchery included:

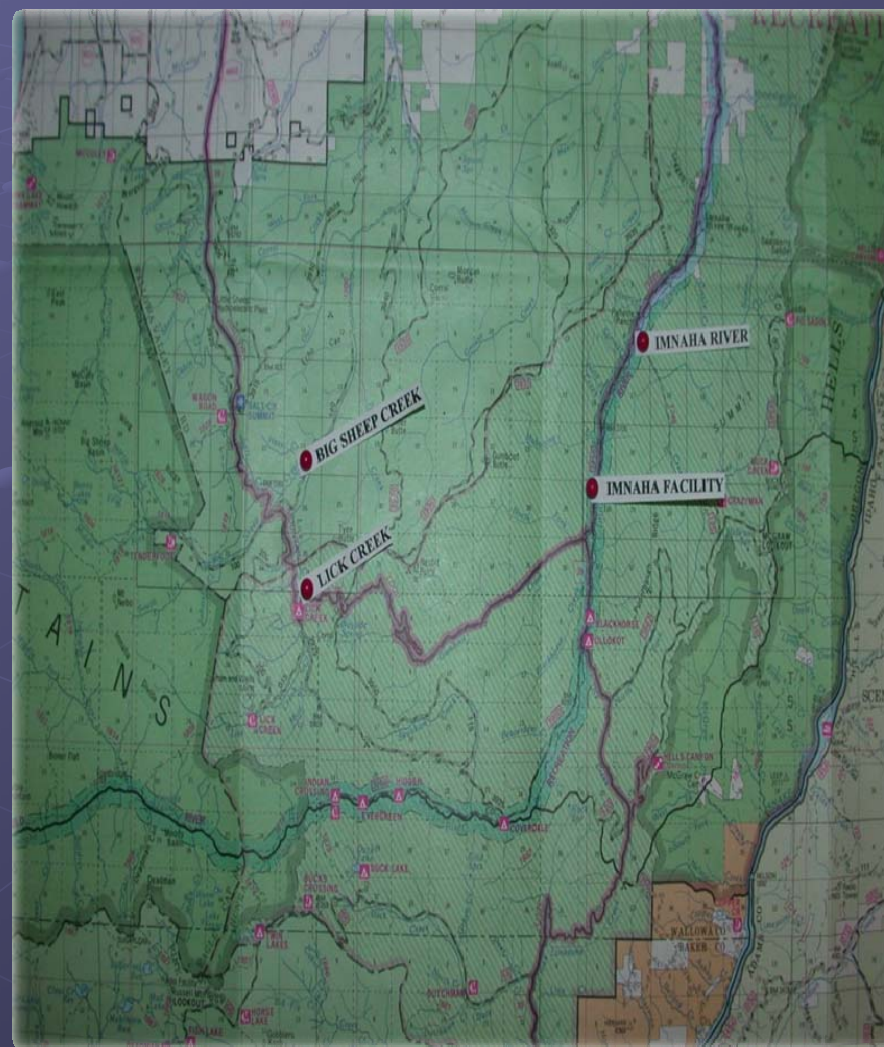
- **Fish for Tribal Ceremonial and Subsistence Use**
- **Fishing opportunities consistent with management guidelines.**
- **Provided fish to charitable food share programs benefiting needy Oregonians.**
- **Provided for scientific use; taking representative samples from coded wire tagged fish returning to the Imnaha River.**
- **Out-planting adults and jacks into tributaries to the Imnaha River**

AOP plans were to release fish above the
weir at a ratio of 2 hatchery to
3 unmarked fish.



Out-planting Effort

- Adults were out planted into Lick Creek and Big Sheep Creek, tributaries to the Imnaha River. Historically, Chinook salmon spawn in Lick and Big Sheep creeks.
- AOP guidelines allowed up to 500 adults to be out-planted this year. Total adults out-planted were 302.
- After completion of natural spawning, 546 hatchery jacks were



Surplus Fish Distribution

- Distribution and allocation of the fish occurred on a weekly basis.
- Fish distribution to the Food Banks stopped when the condition of the fish was deemed unfit for consumption.



There are additional management options available outlined by the Fish Hatchery Management Policy

- Allow hatchery produced fish to spawn naturally at locations and in numbers identified in existing fish management plans or conservation plans developed through the process outlined in the Native Fish Conservation Policy (OAR 635-007-0505)
- Place carcasses in natural spawning and rearing areas to enhance nutrient recycling consistent with DEQ requirements, management plans, and pathology constraints identified in OAR 635-007-0549
- Sell eggs and carcasses from selected facilities to provide revenues to support hatchery programs and facilities
- Provide fish for animal feed to animal rehabilitation shelters, zoos or other such operations
- Dispose of fish in landfill or at a rendering plant

In Conclusion:

- Lookingglass Hatchery's Imnaha River brood stock collection guidelines are: to collect 216 adults, 86 unmarked and 130 hatchery for hatchery production needs. Adults are collected throughout the run for genetic diversity.
- Due to surplus to the program, Lookingglass Hatchery provides fish for Tribal fisheries, sports fishery, natural spawning, out-planting, recycling into the fisheries, and local food banks.



Thank You To:

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

Nez Perce Fisheries

Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation

