

KLICKITAT SUBBASIN: PATHWAY TO HATCHERY REFORM

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ABSTRACT: The *Klickitat River Anadromous Fisheries Master Plan* (KMP) addresses proposed facilities, production protocols, monitoring and evaluation, and habitat improvements needed to manage all five anadromous species (spring and fall Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and winter and summer steelhead) found in the Klickitat Subbasin. The KMP incorporates goals and objectives of the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) while remaining consistent with negotiated agreements under *U.S. v. Oregon*, which is a major driving force behind decisions related to fisheries in the area. To date construction has begun on two key facilities to advance future hatchery reform efforts: the Lyle Falls Fishway/Adult Collection Facility and the Castile Falls Enumeration Facility.

The YKFP recognizes that past fisheries management theory and practices need to be changed to reflect new thinking regarding the effects hatchery fish may have on naturally spawning populations, including listed species. The following are key objectives of the KMP:

- Transition to an integrated hatchery program for steelhead and spring Chinook which meets specified performance objectives to assure that the natural environment drives the adaptation of the integrated population.
- Construction of the Wahkiacus Hatchery and Acclimation Facility (RM 17) in order to release hatchery coho and fall Chinook lower in the basin, thereby reducing impacts to native fish species and “freeing up” 26 miles of complex mainstem spawning and rearing habitat for wild spring Chinook and steelhead.
- Phasing out over time of out-of-basin transfers of hatchery coho and fall Chinook fish, with a goal of completing all culture phases in-basin.

A major goal of the KMP is to provide harvest to tribal members as required by treaty obligations and provide sport fishing opportunity while at the same time protecting naturally spawning populations and contributing to the recovery of ESA listed steelhead and bull trout populations. Because hatchery fish provide the overwhelming bulk of harvestable fish in the basin, the KMP is structured to balance potential hatchery impacts to listed species with the harvest benefits they provide.