Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

April 30, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Council Members**

FROM: **Todd Ungerecht, Policy Analyst, Idaho Office**

SUBJECT: **Remarks by Director Ed Schriever, Idaho Department of Fish & Game**

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Ed Schriever, Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Summary: Ed Schriever became Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) on January 13, 2019. Mr. Schriever obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries from Oregon State University, and began his professional career as a fish culturist with IDFG. With more than 35 years' experience at IDFG, he has held several important management and research positions within the agency, including fish biologist and hatchery manager, Clearwater Regional Fisheries Manager, Fisheries Bureau Chief, and Deputy Director. The Director implements fisheries and wildlife management policies set by the commission, runs the agency's day-to-day operations, and oversees about 565 full-time positions and an annual budget of $114 million for fiscal year 2019. Director Schriever will brief the Council on IDFG's Columbia River Fish Accord portfolio, which constitutes approximately $11 million for fiscal year 2019. He will provide an overview of the agency's mission and highlight recent outcomes for several BPA-funded fish and wildlife programs, including on-the-ground actions and monitoring and evaluation.

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Idaho Fish and Game's Update to the NPCC

Ed Schriever
Director, Idaho Fish and Game

Our Mission
(Idaho Code Section 36-103)

"All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed."

Agency Objectives

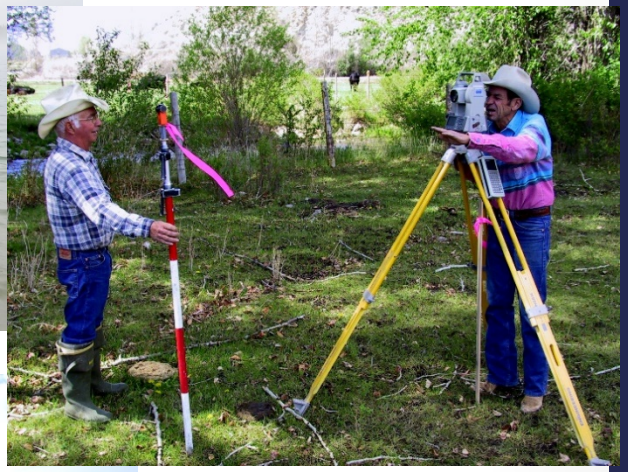
Sustain Idaho's fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend

Meet the demand for hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife recreation

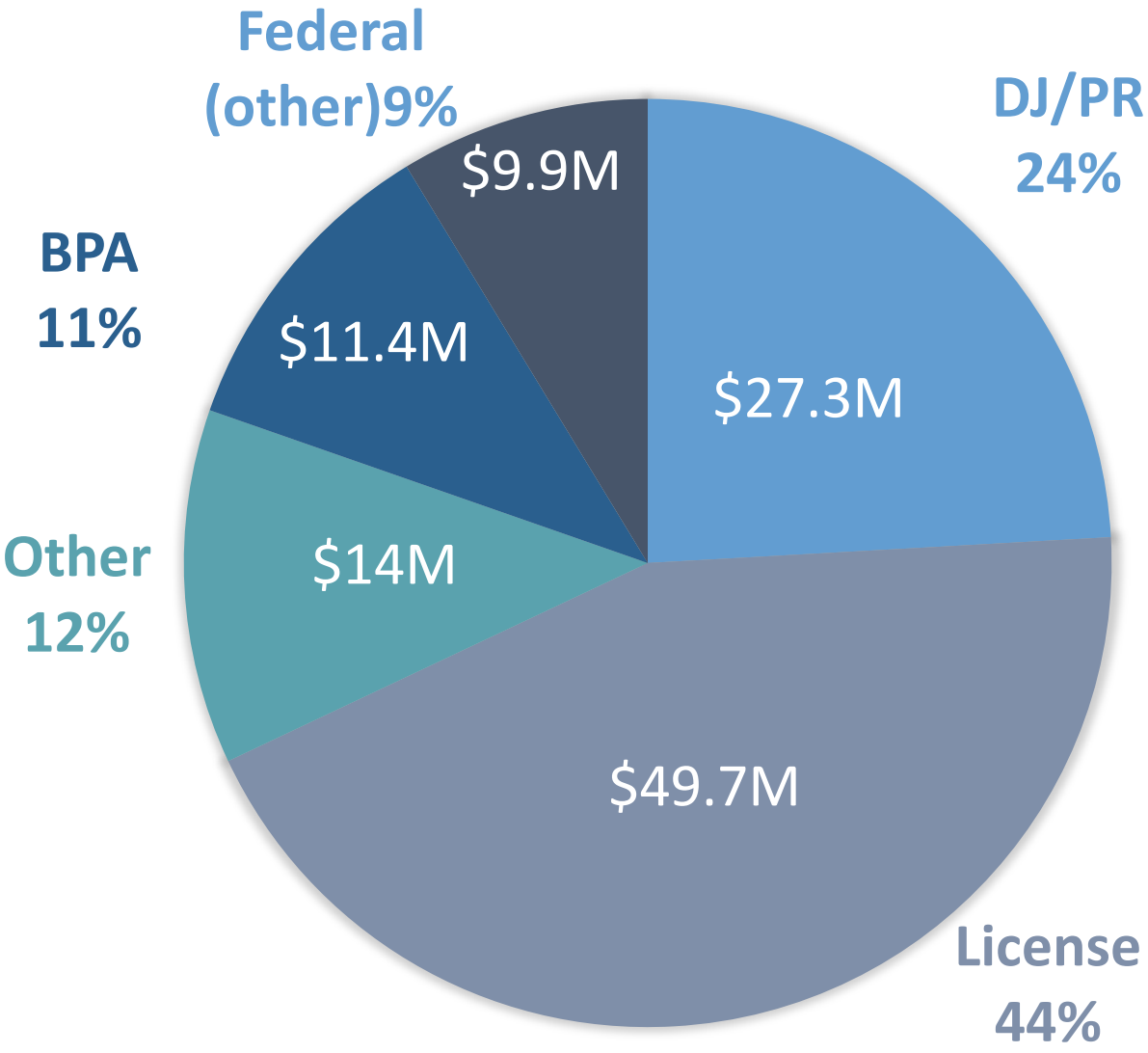
Improve public understanding and involvement in fish and wildlife management

Enhance the capability of the Department to manage fish and wildlife and serve the public

Partnership & collaboration are essential to success of the mission



Sources of IDFG funding*



*Does not include wildlife mitigation

Idaho's Accord Portfolio

FY 19 budget ~ 11.4M:

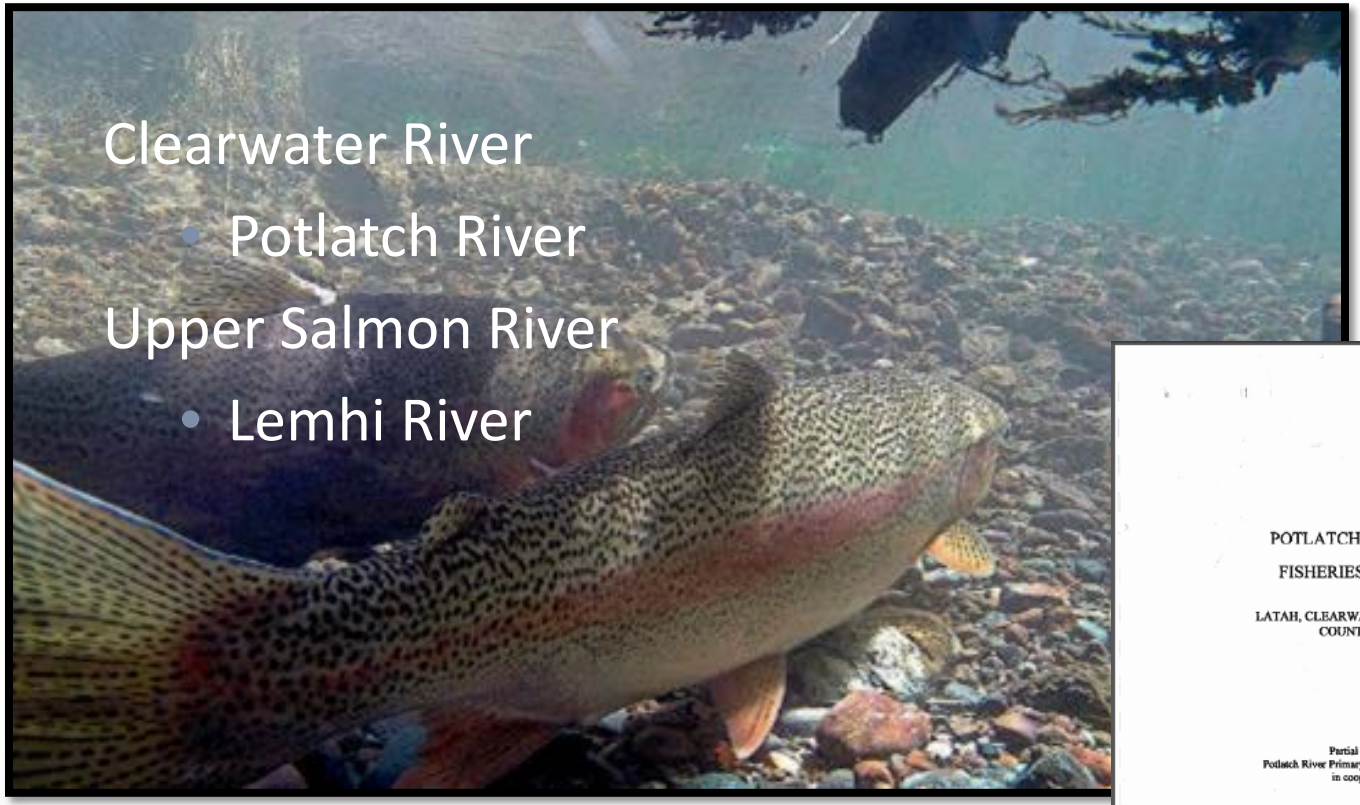
- Steelhead and Salmon monitoring
- Burbot and White Sturgeon supplementation, monitoring, and recovery
- Fish Screens
- Parentage Based Tagging / GSI
- Dworshak Dam/LPO Mitigation
- SFSR YCT Recruitment and Survival Improvement
- SR Sockeye Program
- Wildlife Mitigation*

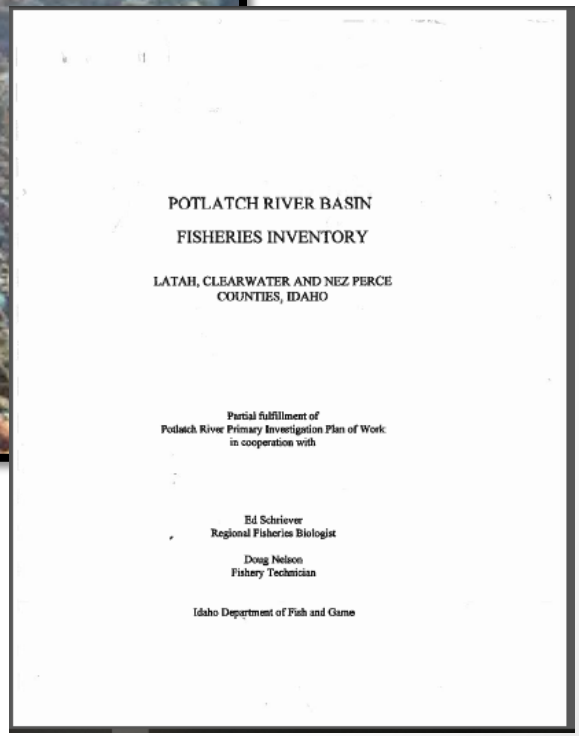
OSC FY19 budget ~ 4.5M

- Habitat Restoration Programs

Habitat Restoration

Intensively Monitored Watersheds:





POTLATCH RIVER BASIN

FISHERIES INVENTORY

LATAH, CLEARWATER AND NEZ PERCE COUNTIES, IDAHO

Partial fulfillment of
Potlatch River Primary Investigation Plan of Work
in cooperation with

Ed Schriever
Regional Fisheries Biologist

Doug Nelson
Fishery Technician

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Potlatch River Restoration

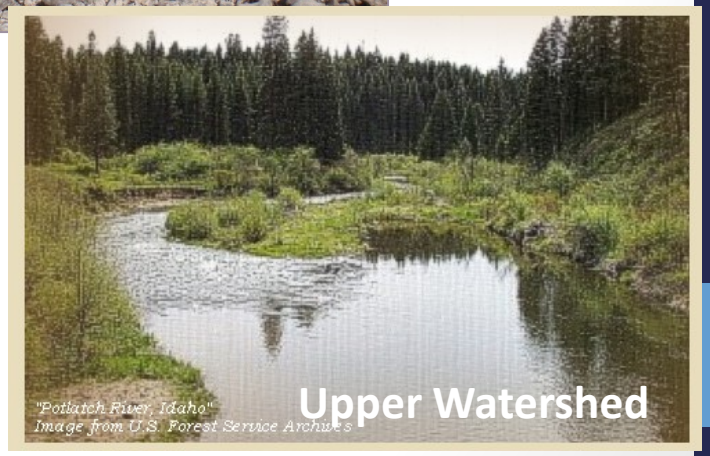
- Objective: Increase Sthd rearing habitat/connectivity

Lower Watershed

- Agriculture
- Small parcel private lands
- Canyon stream types
- Big Bear Drainage

Upper Watershed

- Timberland
- Large public and private holdings
- Forestland stream types
- East Fork Potlatch River



Multi-agency approach (NOAA IMW, PCSRF, BPA, LCSWCD)

EF Potlatch River Restoration

- Lack of in-stream habitat complexity
  - Lack of pools and instream cover (over-winter rearing habitat)

- LWD/Riparian treatments are primary restoration techniques

EF Potlatch River Restoration

Treatment of 9 miles of rearing habitat with large woody debris/riparian treatments

Modeled Smolt Response:

39% increase in smolt production
27,000 smolts

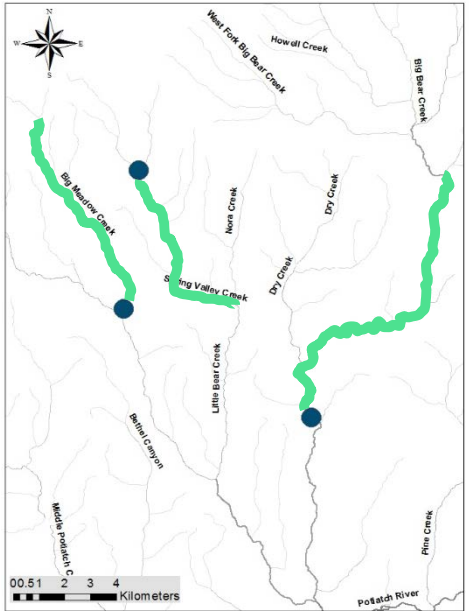
Current Density- 6.5 fish/100m^2

Target Density- 20 fish/100m^2

Potlatch River Restoration

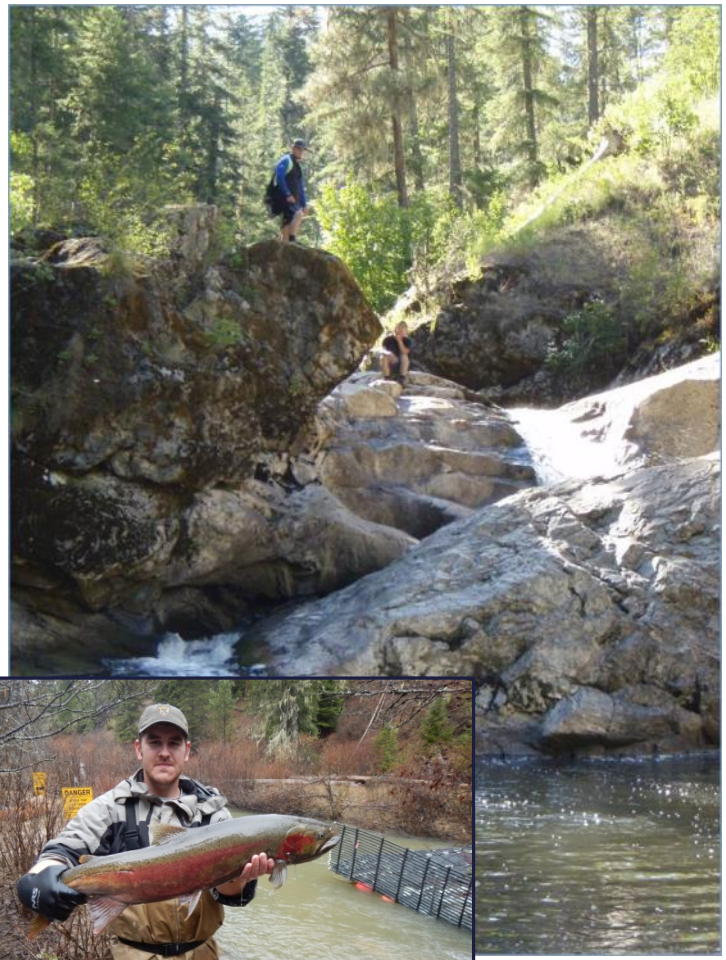
Big Meadow Creek Culverts:

- Passage issue for both adults and juveniles
- ~ 6 miles of good steelhead habitat upstream
- Modified /Replaced in 2018



Big Bear Falls Passage

Objective: Modify natural barrier



- 50-350 steelhead return to Big Bear watershed annually
- Passage limited to optimal rearing habitat above the falls
- Opens minimum 15 miles of high-quality habitat
- 2019: Design
- 2020: NEPA, Construction

Spring Valley Reservoir

Objective: Proposing a low volume release to supplement habitat for downstream rearing steelhead

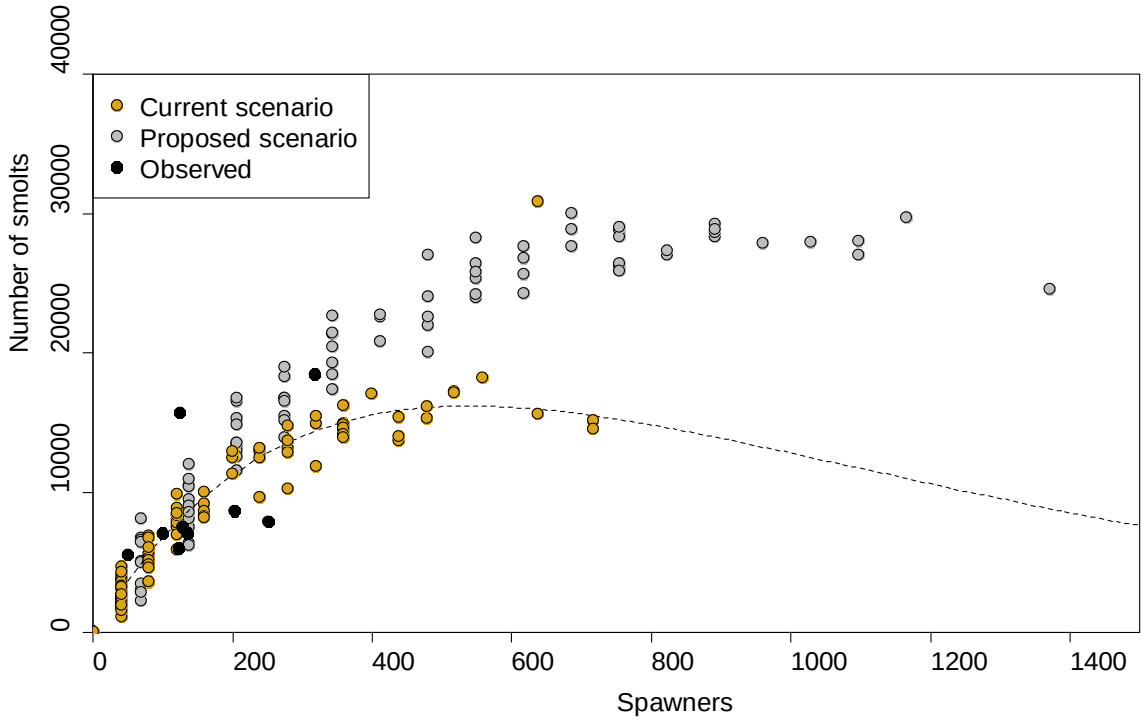
- Hydrograph alterations have changed downstream flows to a seasonal stream
- Opportunity to increase 5 miles of wetted habitat -double available habitat
- Lower average costs/mile

compared to habitat restoration

- Need to identify funding

Potlatch River Restoration

What is the potential increase in juvenile production (i.e. # of smolts) following implementation of these 3 projects?



Modeled Production- 19,075 Smolts (85% increase)

Upper Salmon River (Lemhi River)

Objective: Eagle Valley Ranch - Restore floodplain connectivity, create juvenile rearing habitat and reduce velocities

4 sub reaches

Habitat Restoration Projects

Clearwater River (Potlatch):

- Will open >20 miles, restored 21 miles of habitat, 14 barriers removed, 212K trees/shrubs planted, 10 miles of fencing

Upper Salmon River (Lemhi):

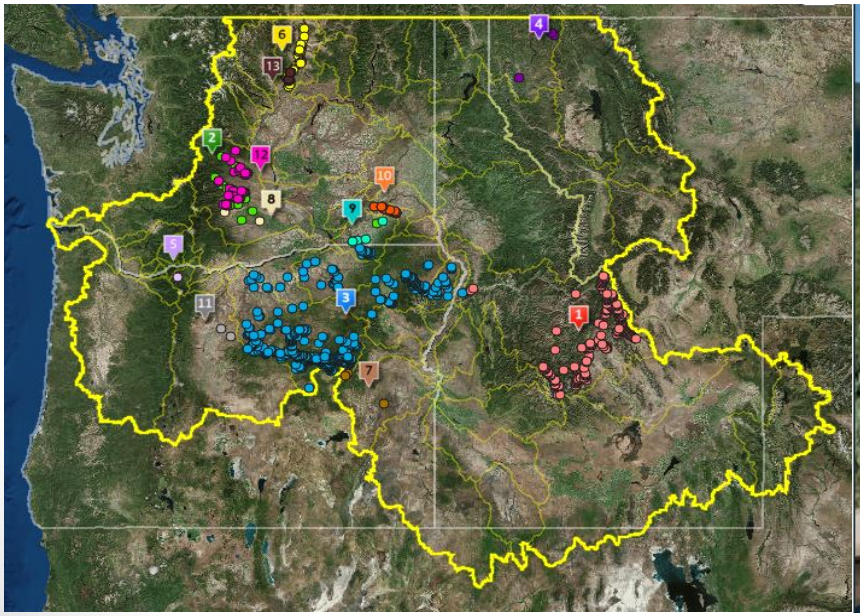
- Over 544 restoration projects
  - Opened 75 miles of habitat, restored 352 miles of habitat, 158 miles of fencing, added 61 Cubic feet per second

Fish Screen Program

Objective: Protects ESA-listed salmon, steelhead, and bull trout from entrainment

Upper Salmon River Basin

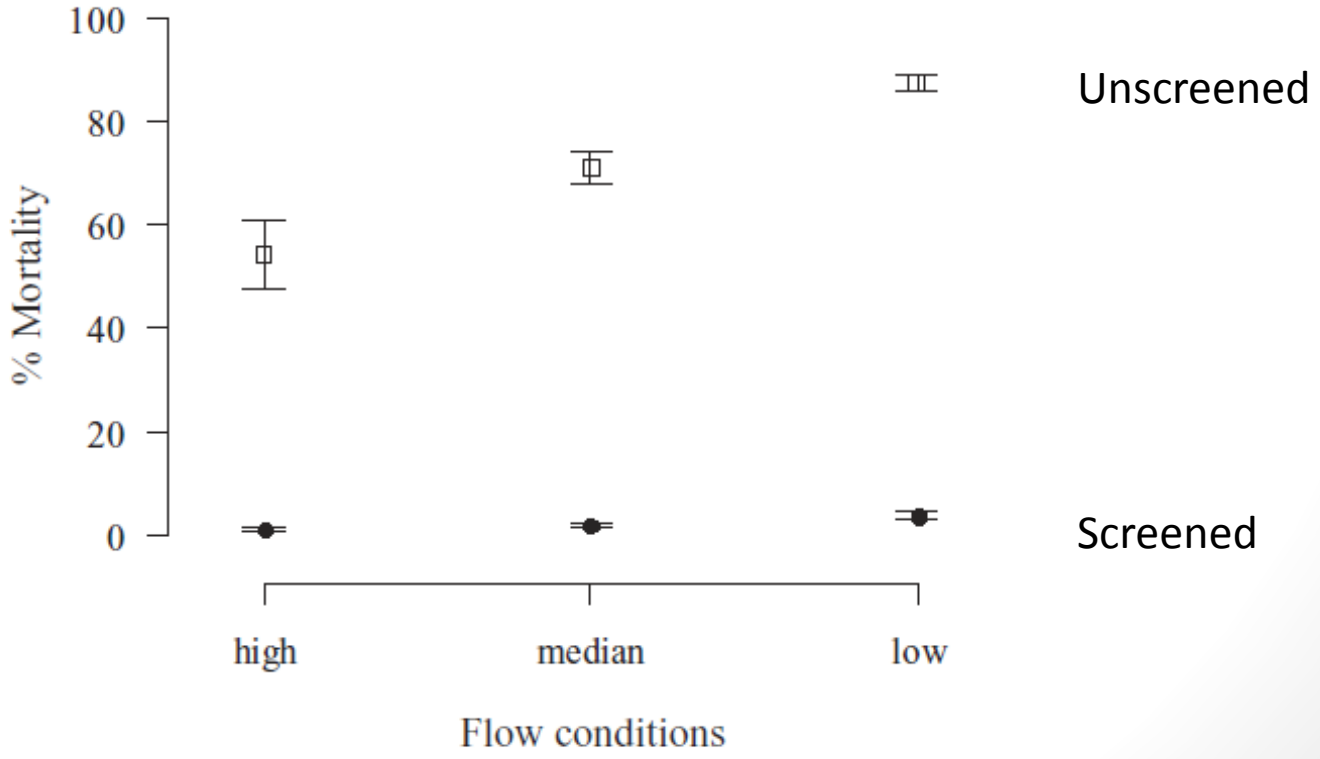
~4 million acres; 270 screens



A foundation built on relationships

Fish Screen Program

- Lemhi River: 250 gravity-fed irrigation diversions
- Used PIT tag data to model entrainment rate of Chinook as proportion of water diverted (Walters et al. 2012)



Dedicated Maintenance

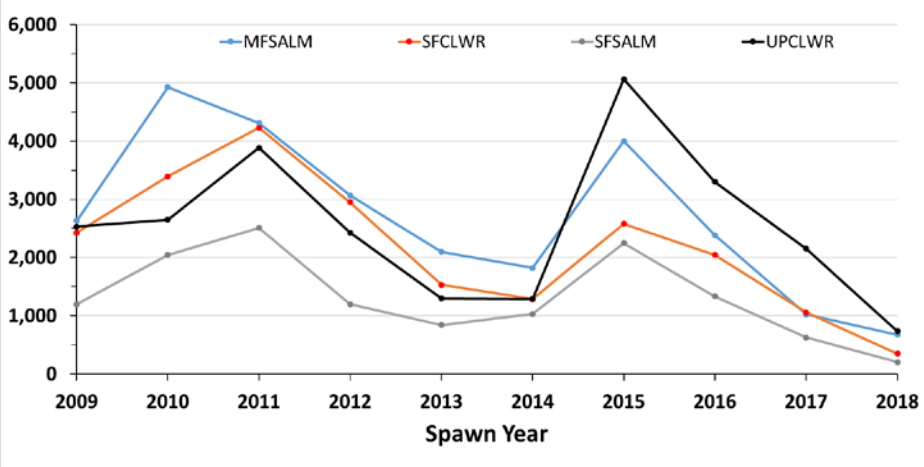
Natural Salmon & Steelhead Production Monitoring

Objective: Inform status assessments for Salmon and Steelhead and management, Fish In-Fish Out

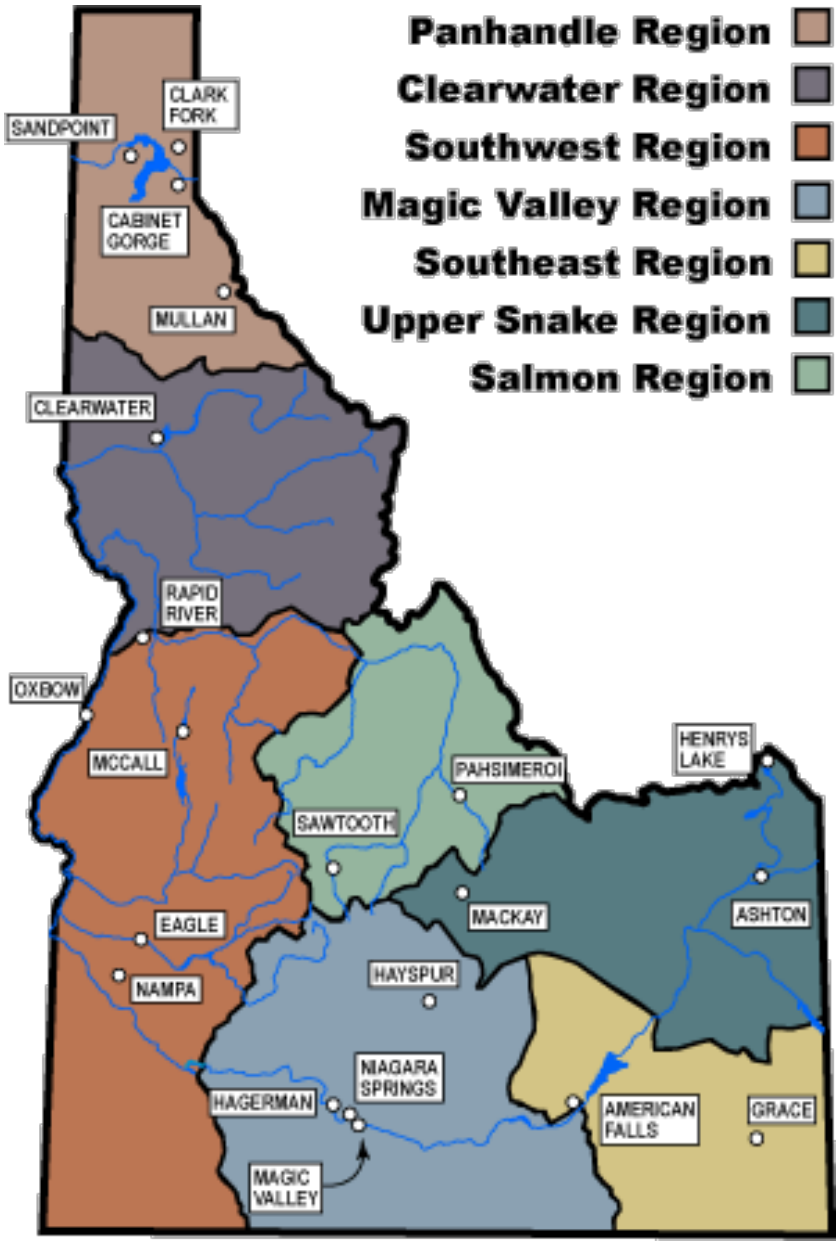
Example: Spawning Escapement for steelhead – impossible prior to 2009

- Sampling at LGR
- Genetic Assessments
- Pit tag Arrays

B-Run Steelhead at LGR



Idaho Hatcheries



Anadromous Hatchery Programs

Objective: Mitigation, harvest, supplementation and conservation of salmon and steelhead

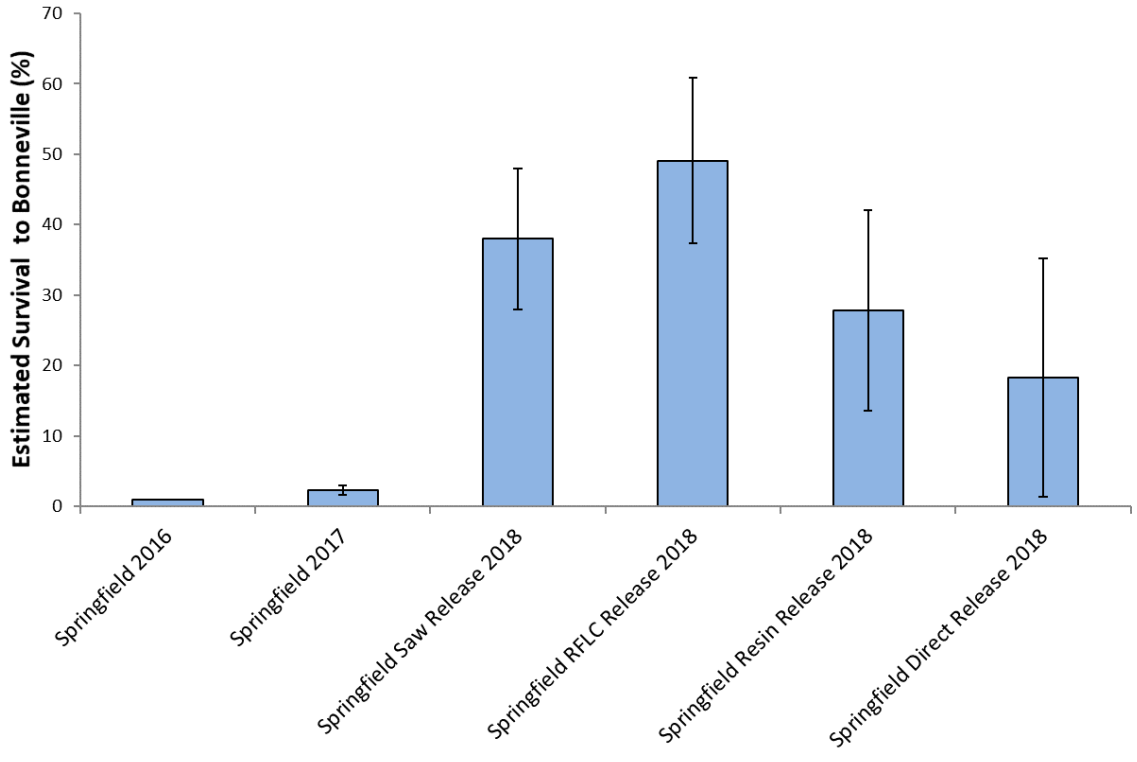
- Production for IDFG hatchery anadromous releases:
  - 10.75M Sp/Summer Chinook
  - ~1 M Sockeye
  - 5.75M Steelhead
  - All are PBT Tagged

- Received Signed BioPs for all hatchery programs in Idaho

Springfield Hatchery

Objective: Rear up to 1M Sockeye Smolts to recover Sockeye Salmon and restore natural spawning

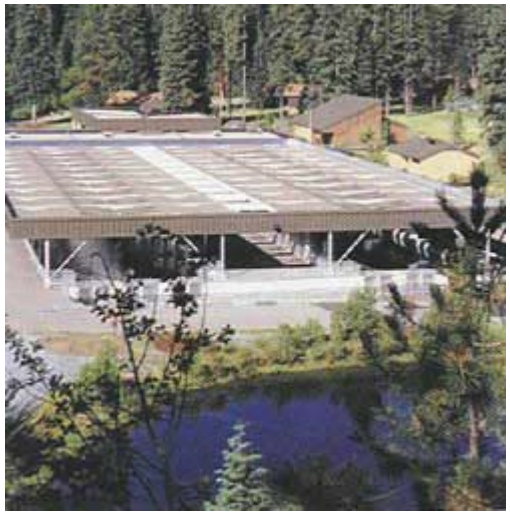
- Acclimation in 2018 Successful; 2019 Release Today



Fish Production

- Retain current levels of production

- Identify funding for deferred maintenance needs
  - Two Sockeye Salmon hatcheries – direct BPA funding
  - Salmon and Steelhead - LSRCP (5) and IPC (4)



Resident Programs


Dworshak


Burbot

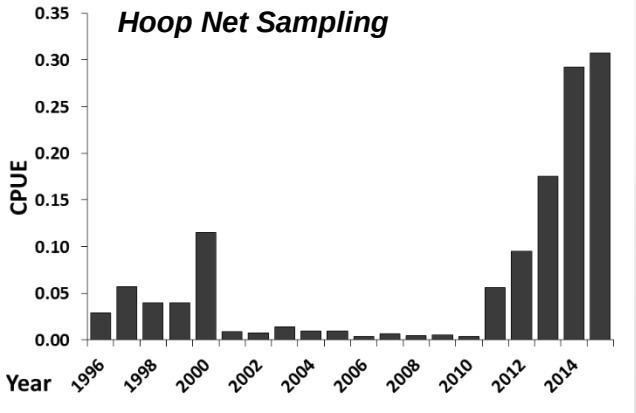

SF Snake


LPO

Kootenai River Burbot

Objective – restore self-sustaining population and provide harvest fishery

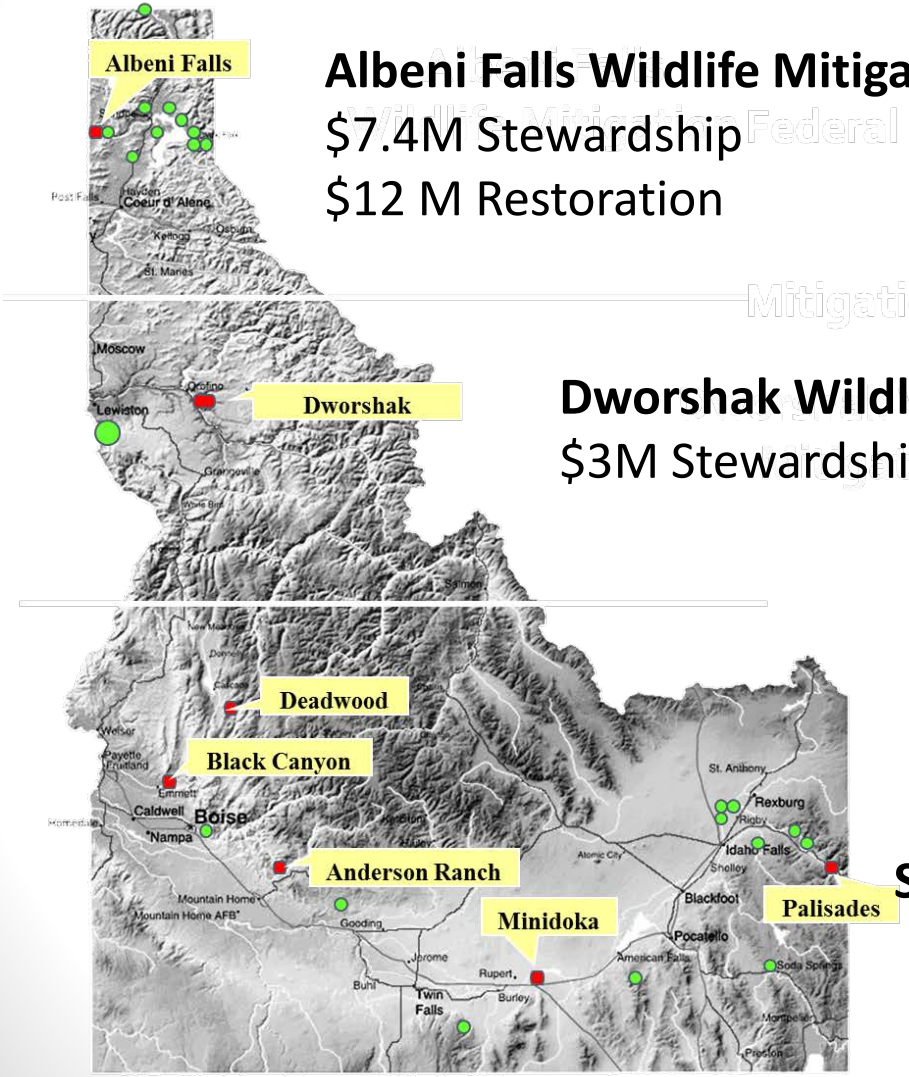
- Over-harvest and construction of Libby Dam caused declines 1960s
- Fishery closed in 1992
- Population near extirpation in 2006
- U of I, KTOI hatchery supplementation



Burbot Fishery

- 2018 – Recovery Targets Met (Population > 40,000)
- Fishery opened Jan 1, 2019 after 27 year closure
- Well received by community and anglers
- Wild recruitment evaluation continues

Wildlife Mitigation Programs



Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation
$7.4M Stewardship
$12 M Restoration

Dworshak Wildlife Mitigation
$3M Stewardship

Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation
$14M Stewardship, $22M Capital

Federal Dams

Mitigation Projects

Wildlife Mitigation Programs

Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation

Objective: Operate and maintain mitigation sites and restore delta habitat

10 year implementation (2018 – 2027)

- Settled in 2016
- $7.4M Stewardship
- Ecosytem-based restoration (1,378 acres, $12M)
- Erosion management

Summary

- Long-standing collaborative projects (BPA, NPCC, many others)
- Accords provide certainty and funding commitments over longer timeframes to allow for planning, project implementation, and monitoring
- Each program is critical for IDFG to achieve its mission

Questions?