

Okanogan Basin Spring Chinook Reintroduction – Experimental Population Designation and ESA Section 10(j) Update

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We did it!!!



50 C.F.R § 223.301(c)

10(a)(1)(A) Permit



Proposal: reintroduce UCR spring Chinook into the Okanogan River using ESA section 10(j)

- In November 2010 we submitted a request to NOAA Fisheries to designate an experimental, non-essential population of UCR spring Chinook in the Okanogan River sub-basin under section 10(j)
- Under ESA section 10(j) the Secretary can designate as “experimental” reintroduced populations established outside the species’ current range, but within their historic range
- Reintroductions under section 10(j) are intended to aid in the recovery of listed species while allowing for more flexible management of the reintroduced population



Key Objectives:



- Increase the spatial structure and abundance of the UCR spring Chinook ESU by re-establishing a fourth population in the Okanogan River
- Reduce the proportion of hatchery-origin UCR spring Chinook in the Methow Basin
- Do so in a way that meets USFWS’ legal production obligations and reduces/eliminates the regulatory risk for landowners and river users in the Okanogan

10(j) and ESA Risk: Location, location, location...

- Allows for the development of take prohibition specific to the experimental population
- The experimental population receives a different level of protection when the population is geographically isolated from the rest of the species



§10(j) Process and Timeline



- November 2010 – CCT submits 10(j) request to NMFS
- July 2011 – NMFS publishes advance notice of proposed rulemaking in Federal Register (FR)
- December 2011 – NMFS/CCT meet with Okanogan County Commissioners (OCC) and public
- December 2012 – CCT submits 10(j) program HGMP to NMFS
- October 2013 – NMFS publishes proposed rule in FR
- November 2013 – NMFS and CCT meet again with OCC and public
- July 2014 – NMFS publishes final rule and availability of EA in FR
- October 2014 – NMFS issues 10(a)(1)(A) permit to CCT
- November 2014 – CCT transfers ~200K Met-Comp parr from WNFH to Riverside Acclimation Pond and BY 2014 eyed eggs to CJH

Brood Year 2013:

- Transferred to Riverside Acclimation Pond November 2014
- 100 percent ad-clipped and CWT
- 5000 PIT tagged
- Will be released into the Okanogan River on/around April 15, 2015



Chow time



Brood Year 2014:



- Transferred to CJH November 2014 as eyed eggs
- Will be 100 percent ad-present and CWT
- 5000 will be PIT tagged
- Poned/out of incubation on March 5, 2015 and currently on feed
- Will be transferred to Tonasket OTID Pond (if agreements and water rights permit are in place) or Riverside in the fall of 2015 for release as yearlings in 2016

Special thanks to:



Questions?



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