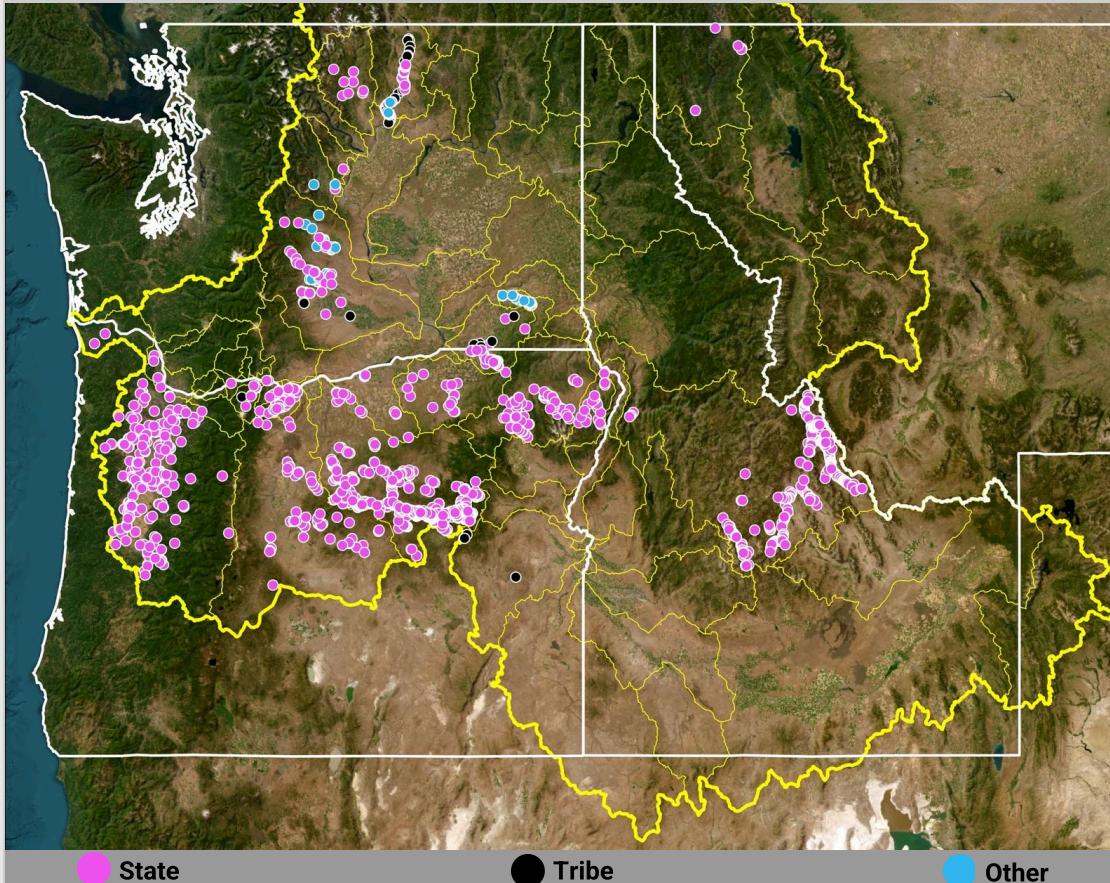


Columbia River Basin Fish Screen Programs



Diversions and Screening in the Columbia River Basin: The Early Days

The use of irrigation ditches in the Columbia River Basin dates back to the 1800s. By the early-1900s, the effects of these diversions were realized and laws were enacted requiring water diverters to screen their diversions.

By the early-1930s, state agencies were implementing fish screening programs and by the 1950s the programs were funded by the Mitchell Act. As Mitchell Act funding plateaued in the early-1990s, it became apparent this funding could not solely support the construction of new screen projects while supporting the operation and maintenance costs of existing screens.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program: Funding for Columbia River Basin Fish Screening Programs

In 1991, to support Mitchell Act-funded screen programs, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) directed the region's fish screen managers to coordinate the basin's programs. Subsequently, the managers established the Fish Screen Oversight Committee and the NPCC committed to fund fish screen and passage programs through its Fish and Wildlife Program.

Screens
1,821

Subbasins Screened
25

Species Protected
10

Sponsors
14

Landowner Cooperation: The Key to Success

Fish screening programs funded through the NPCC's Program assist with the recovery of ESA-listed fish, especially in areas where extensive irrigation exists. Since a significant amount of fish habitat is on private land, the success of these programs would not be possible without the support, cooperation, and commitment from landowners.