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November 5, 2019

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Mark Fritsch

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Walla Walla Spring Chinook Hatchery, Project #2000-038-00, *Walla Walla Hatchery Final Design/Construction*

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Gene Shippentower and Craig Contor of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and Mary Todd Haight of Bonneville Power Administration.

**Summary:** Gene, Craig and Mary Todd will provide an overview of the expansion of the existing South Fork Walla Walla Adult Holding and Spawning Facility (Project #2000-038-00, *Walla Walla Hatchery Final Design/Construction*) to reestablish a self-sustaining naturally spawning population of spring Chinook. In addition, they will describe how they addressed ISRP qualifications as per the previous Council recommendation.

**Relevance:** The CTUIR are in the process of adding incubation, early rearing, and final rearing facilities to the existing South Fork Walla Walla Adult Holding and Spawning Facility (i.e., Umatilla Hatchery satellite facility under the Program that began operation in 1997) to produce 500,000 yearling spring Chinook smolts annually into the Walla Walla Basin - 400,000 in the South Fork Walla Walla River and 100,000 into the Touchet River.

The long-term goal for the CTUIR in the Walla Walla Basin is to reestablish a self-sustaining naturally spawning population of spring Chinook through an all-H approach that requires both habitat and passage

improvements to provide in-basin harvest for treaty and non-treaty fisheries. The presence of naturally spawning salmon in the river in the places where and at times when they spawned historically is of cultural significance to the CTUIR. The CTUIR will implement the program in three phases, shifting from one phase to another based on pre-defined, observable criteria (“triggers”). The phases reflect different states of natural and hatchery survival conditions and therefore differ in purpose and in the disposition priority for the returning adults.

Background: On June 17, 2013, the CTUIR submitted a Step 1 ([Master Plan](#)) documents to the Council for the Walla Walla Spring Chinook Hatchery Master Plan, a component of Project #2000-038-00, *Walla Walla Hatchery Final Design/Construction*. On July 31, 2013 the ISRP requested additional information and data on the production levels and productivity for each phase, details on the expectations the duration of phase 1 and 2, and clarification on the decision rules and guidelines used to transition from one phase to the next ([ISRP document 2013-10](#)). On August 18, 2013 the Council received from the CTUIR a response intended to address the information needs of the ISRP and on September 16, 2013 the Council received the ISRP’s review ([ISRP document 2013-12](#)). The ISRP found that the Walla Walla Spring Chinook Hatchery Master Plan meets scientific review criteria and stated that they appreciated the clarity and additional perspective provided during the ISRP’s review process of the master plan. Though the ISRP did not qualify their review recommendation they requested that the CTUIR continue to refine and clarify analysis and provide additional information for the questions raised in the ISRP’s review (ISRP document 2013-12). These comments are outlined to the response loop topics as outlined in the response from CTUIR on August 18, 2013.

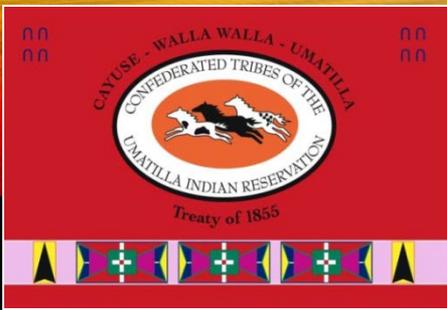
On October 8, 2013, based on the ISRP review, the [Council approved](#) the Master Plan (Step 1) for the Walla Walla Spring Chinook Hatchery. This recommendation conditioned on the CTUIR fully address the comments raised by the ISRP (ISRP document 2013-12) as part of the Step 2 submittal.

On June 1, 2015, the Council received a submittal from BPA and CTUIR intended to address the condition (i.e., M&E Plan) as part of the Council’s October 8, 2013 recommendation. On August 11, 2015 the ISRP provided their review ([ISRP document 2015-7](#)) and requested a response.

On August 17, 2018 the response was received from CTUIR and submitted to the ISRP, and on October 29, 2018 the ISRP provided their review ([ISRP document 2018-9](#)). The ISRP found that *the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* for the Walla Walla Hatchery “Meets Scientific Review Criteria (Qualified)”. As stated by the ISRP, the eight qualifications CTUIR should address as the project moves forward are intended to

strengthen the M&E plan with additional details and considerations about hatchery operations and the current hatchery program.

On November 16, 2018 based on the Council recommendation in 2013, the efforts made by the CTUIR in 2015 and 2018, the CTUIR presentation in August 2018, and the ISRP review, the Council determined that the CTUIR had met the condition placed on this project. The Council conditioned that recommendation stating that the CTUIR will present to the Council, in mid-late 2019, final details regarding the hatchery and how the CTUIR intends to address the ISRP qualifications.



# WALLA WALLA SPRING CHINOOK HATCHERY



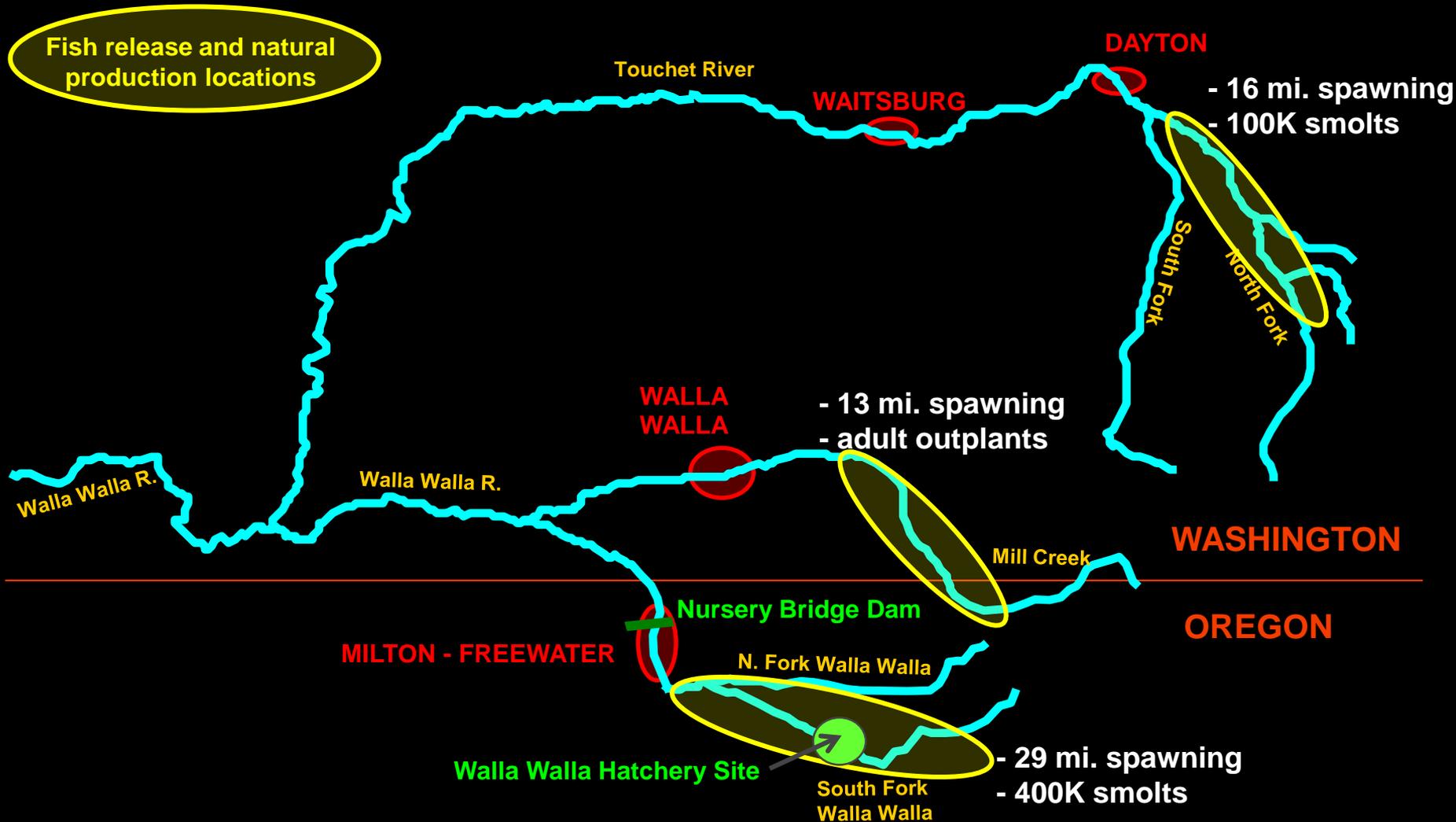
Presentation to NPCC  
November 12, 2019



# Presentation Topics

- - **WW Hatchery Project Summary**
    - NPPC Step 1-3 Products
    - Construction and Operations Schedule
    - Cost Estimates
  - **M&E Plans**
    - Background and Overview
    - Approach to Address 8 ISRP Qualifications

# Hatchery and Fish Release/Natural Production Locations in WW Basin



# WW SPRING CHINOOK HATCHERY PROJECT HISTORY

## Step 1

- Conceptual design May 2010 – June 2011
- Co-manager MOA signed Oct 2012
- Final HGMP to NOAA Dec 2012
- Council approved Master Plan Oct 2013



## Step 2 and 3

- Preliminary designs & NEPA/EIS 2015 - 2016
- Final designs & NEPA/EIS 2017 – 2018
- M&E draft plan 2015; M&E final plan 2018
- ISRP approval with 8 qualifications 2018



# WW Hatchery Program Current vs. WW Hatchery

	<b>Current Program</b>	<b>With WW Hatchery</b>
<b>Facility</b>	Adult holding/spawning	Add incubation/rearing
<b>Releases</b>	250K in-river	500K acclimated
<b>Production</b>	Off-site (Carson NFH)	Localized
<b>Hatchery Returns</b>	400 (15% of H goal)	2,750 (100% of H goal)

# WALLA WALLA SPRING CHINOOK HATCHERY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS SCHEDULE

- - Notice to proceed to contractor Oct 2019
  - Anticipate NPDES discharge permit Dec 2019
  - Groundbreaking event Dec 2019 or Jan 2020
  - Hatchery construction Jan 2020 - Spring 2021
  - First adults to be spawned 2021
  - First smolt release 2023
  - Adult returns 2025+

# Walla Walla Hatchery Facility Costs

- **\$3.0M existing adult facility (completed 1996)**
- **\$1.2M existing broodstock collection incorporated into Nursery Bridge ladder (completed 2001)**
- **\$21.1M design/construction estimate (includes contingencies); funding included in BPA-CTUIR Accord Agreement**

