

Protecting an Endangered Resource



In March 1999, NOAA Fisheries determined that Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon were at risk of becoming extinct in the foreseeable future and listed them as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Act

The Endangered Species Act provides broad protection for species of fish, wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered in the United States. Provisions are made for listing species, developing recovery plans, and designating habitat critical for their survival.

As mandated by the ESA, NOAA Fisheries has worked with other federal agencies, local governments, landowners, state agencies, tribes, and public utility districts to address factors leading to the depletion of Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook, including habitat degradation, over-fishing, and dam operations. Working jointly, this group will employ methods and procedures to assist in bringing this species to the point at which the measures under the ESA are no longer necessary.

Follow the Science

When it comes to protection of salmon and other resources, NOAA Fisheries, Grant PUD, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, the Colville Confederated Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation follow the principle of adaptive management and ask one simple question: "Does it follow the science?" Working jointly, this group will continue to follow the science to protect these natural resources through improvements to hydroelectric dams, enhancement of habitat and tributaries, and development of appropriate hatchery projects.

Hatchery programs operate, in part, to ensure the survival of many fish populations while habitat is being restored. The integration of hatchery and habitat programs will aid in the recovery of the species.

What's Next?

NOAA Fisheries and Grant PUD have been methodically working on this issue since 1995. Continuation of these efforts will take place in phases as we identify sites to conduct the work, design potential facilities, obtain regulatory approvals, and commence with the appropriate protection measures for the area.

NOAA Fisheries and its partners want to hear from you. One of the most important aspects of salmon recovery and mitigation efforts is public involvement. We invite you to get involved.



How to Participate

Stay Informed. Visit our Web site for the latest information.

www.gcpud.org/stewardship.htm

Get Involved. Request a meeting by contacting:

Grant County
Public Utility District
PO Box 878
Ephrata, WA 98823

509-754-6633 or
1-800-422-3199, Ext. 2248

Plans and improvements are formulated to ensure that all stakeholders have a voice in developing the best strategy for the area.

Stay Informed.

Get Involved.

Salmon

Everyone has a part to play in the recovery of salmon in the Pacific Northwest. NOAA Fisheries and its partners are committed to being good stewards of our resources and fulfilling obligations to protect the endangered Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook.

Together, we are working toward the goal of enhancing and recovering naturally reproducing fish in the Upper Columbia Basin through:

- Habitat / Tributary Improvement
- Hatchery Improvement
- Hydroelectric Facility Improvement

By implementing habitat and hatchery improvements, we can potentially prevent the extinction and bolster spring-run Chinook numbers.



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
P. O. Box 878, Ephrata WA 98823
Phone (509) 754-0500
Fax (509) 754-5012

Listed Protected Restored

Salmon Restoration in the Upper Columbia Basin

NOAA Fisheries

Washington Department
of Fish & Wildlife

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Colville Confederated Tribes

Yakama Nation

Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation

