



R & E Grant Application 11-13 Biennium

Project #:
11-159

2013 Northeast Oregon Spring Chinook Creel Surveys

Project Information

R&E Project Request: \$8,530.50
Match Funding: \$13,372.50
Total Project: \$21,903.00
Start Date: 5/15/2013
End Date: 6/30/2013
Project Email: timothy.d.bailey@state.or.us
Project Biennium: 11-13 Biennium
Organization: ODFW - Grande Ronde Watershed District Office

Applicant Information

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Past Recommended or Completed Projects

Number	Name	Status
17-001	Phillips Reservoir Tiger Muskie M & E - Part 2	Approved

Project Summary

This project is NOT part of ODFW's 25 Year Angling Plan.

Activity Type: Monitoring

Summary: This grant will fund monitoring of the anticipated 2013 Imnaha River and Lookingglass Creek spring Chinook sport fisheries. These fisheries have potential to impact ESA-listed spring Chinook, steelhead and bull trout populations. Creel data collected will allow estimation of catch and harvest of hatchery Chinook and incidental mortality of listed fish required under recently submitted Fishery Management and Evaluation Plans, and as a condition for fishery authorization by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Funding will provide personal services budget to hire three Experimental Biology Aides for the anticipated 1 to 2 month spring Chinook seasons. However, the season length for each fishery will be dependent on the actual return and catch rates. The fisheries will be kept open until the allowable wild impact or hatchery harvest is achieved.

Objectives:

1. Estimate angler effort, catch, and harvest during recreational spring Chinook fisheries on the Imnaha River and Lookingglass Creek targeting marked hatchery fish.
2. Estimate incidental catch and mortality of ESA listed non-target wild Chinook, wild steelhead and bull trout.

Fishery Benefits:

In 2012, Chinook fisheries in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha basins accounted for harvest of 691 adults and 41 jacks and catch and release of 174 natural adults with an associated 8,780 hours of angler effort. While specific harvest targets will not be developed until early 2013, a somewhat reduced level of harvest can be expected in 2013 as fisheries are only anticipated on the Imnaha River and Lookingglass Creek based on preliminary run projections.

Spring Chinook salmon fisheries in NE Oregon are very popular to local anglers, and provide revenue that is important to local communities. These benefits in turn lead to local appreciation for spring Chinook salmon runs in NE Oregon, and support for salmon restoration efforts.

Because spring/summer Chinook within the proposed fishery areas are listed under the federal ESA, fisheries cannot occur without on-the-ground monitoring to provide defensible estimates of angler effort, harvest and catch and release of naturally produced fish.

Watershed Benefits:

Data generated from these creel surveys will increase the quality of spring/summer Chinook escapement estimates to northeast Oregon streams, and future adaptive management of fisheries and propagation programs. Results will also be used to assure that these recreational fisheries are conducted in a manner that provides angler harvest opportunity this year and ensures potential for future sport fisheries by limiting impacts to ESA-listed, naturally produced fish, to acceptable levels outlined in FMEP's.

Current Situation:

On-going spring Chinook hatchery programs exist in target streams throughout northeast Oregon including; Imnaha River, Lostine River, Lookingglass Creek, upper Grande Ronde River, Catherine Creek and the Snake River. These programs are intended to provide fishery mitigation for the construction of hydroelectric dams on the Snake river and to restore wild populations of spring Chinook Salmon.

Because the spring/summer Chinook salmon populations in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha basins are listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, tight controls are placed on potential impacts to natural origin Chinook. Projected returns of Chinook to these basins are expected to be large enough to provide significant opportunity for the harvest of hatchery-origin Chinook in specific locations while meeting conservation requirements under ESA.

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reduced level of harvest can be expected in 2013 as fisheries are only expected on the Imnaha River and Lookingglass Creek based on preliminary run projections.

Alternatives:	Monitoring of fishery impacts on natural-origin fish is required for fisheries on ESA-listed species. The proposed creel survey design is a "standard" approach for monitoring fishery impacts. No alternatives to this design were considered. Failure to implement fisheries when opportunity exists would be inconsistent with ODFW's mission.
Designer:	Fish districts in collaboration with ODFW NE Oregon Fish Research and ODFW's Biometrician.
Methods:	A stratified random creel survey design combining periodic visual counts and angler interviews will be used. Creel survey employees will generally survey four days per week, two weekdays and two weekends/holidays. Sample days, starting times and locations will be selected randomly to the extent possible while staying within the bounds of employee scheduling limitations. Data from counts and interviews will be combined to estimate catch each week and for the season.
Inspector:	Fish Districts will supervise the creel survey personnel, and develop the catch and effort estimates.
Funding Elements:	<p>R & E funds will be used to hire three creel surveyors with associated travel costs and supplies. Specifically, R & E funds would be used for 50% of funds needed to implement the 2013 fishery monitoring including two creel surveyors on the Imnaha, and one on Lookingglass Creek. Two creel surveyors are needed on the Imnaha River because of the large and remote fishery area. Travel time from the lower to upper part of the fishery on the Imnaha is 1.5 to 2 hours.</p> <p>As the fisheries could be open after June 30th 2013, R & E funds will be used through June 30th and LSRCP funds will be used to fund the creel after June 30th.</p>
Partners:	<p>Yes</p> <p>National Marine fisheries Service: Approve harvest plan Nez Perce Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation: Collective agreement regarding harvest plans for sport and tribal fisheries and close communication during fisheries regarding harvest estimates to insure total (Sport and tribal) allowable natural-origin fishery impacts are not exceeded.</p>
Existing Plan:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Fishery Management and Evaluation Plans for the Grande Ronde and Imnaha basins. These plans establish impact levels on natural-origin Chinook, in order that fisheries can occur for hatchery-origin fish intended</p>

for fishery mitigation.

Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans. These plans establish hatchery production levels and hatchery practices to optimize attaining goals of fishery mitigation and recovery of listed Chinook populations.

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan. Establishes fishery mitigation requirements resulting from construction for the four federal dams on the lower Snake River.

U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement. Court ordered fishery management agreement for the Columbia River. Establishes hatchery production levels and shared sport and tribal harvest plans in the Columbia River and tributaries.

Affected Contacted: Yes

Affected Supportive: Yes

Affected Comments: Once developed, the fishery proposals will be reviewed by tribal fishery co-managers and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Project Schedule/Participants/Funding

Activity	Date	Participants
Development of Fishery Plans	1/31/2013	Fish Districts
Implement Fishery Temporary Rules	5/15/2013	Fish Dist./Fish Div.
Close Fisheries based on actual harvest and chinook returns (Est. date)	7/15/2013	Fish Dist./Fish Div.
Implement Fishery/Creel Survey	5/25/2013	Fish Districts

Affected Species:

Bull Trout
Chinook Salmon
Steelhead

Project Permits

This project has no permits.

Project Monitoring

This project has no monitoring.

Project Maintenance

This project has no maintenance plans.

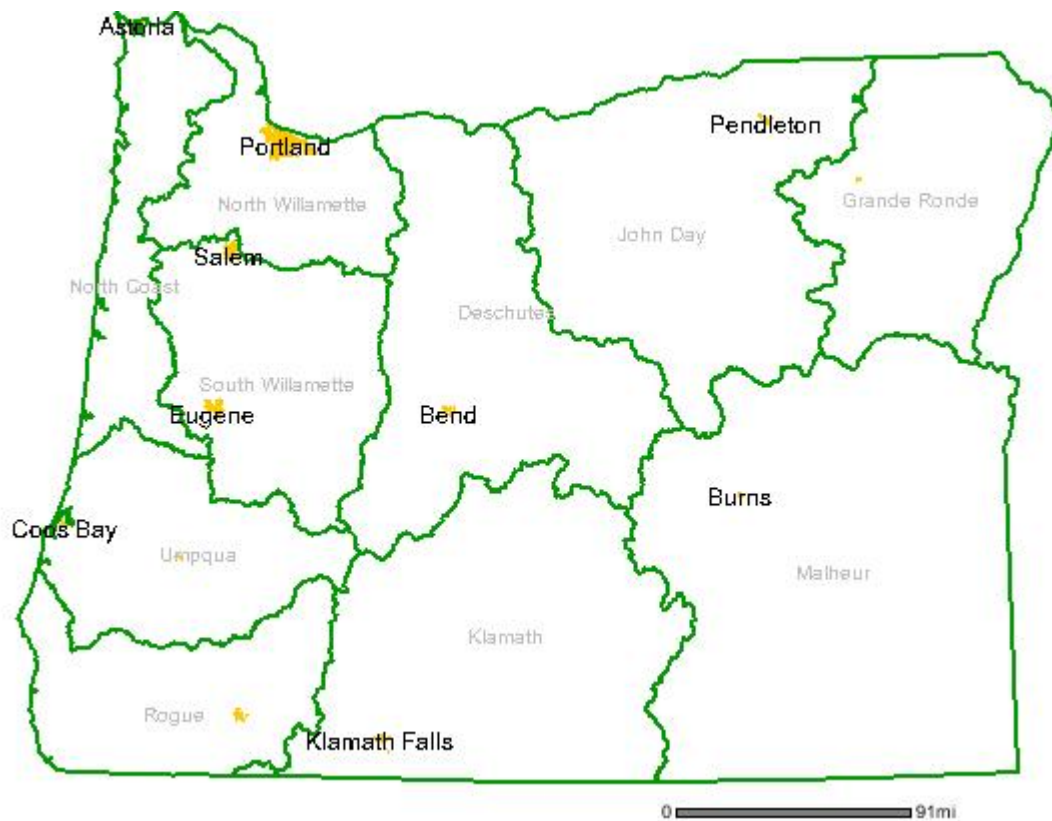
Project Match Funding

Funding Source	Cash	In-Kind	Other	Description	Total	Secured?	Conditions?	Comments
R&E Request	\$8,530.50	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$8,530.50	No	No	
Lower Snake River Compensation Plan	\$8,530.50	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$8,530.50	Yes	No	
ODFW - Grande Ronde Watershed	\$0.00	\$4,842.00	\$0.00		\$4,842.00	Yes	No	
				Total Match Funding:	\$21,903.00			

Project Budget

Item	Item Type	Units	Unit Cost	R&E Funds	Match Funds	Total
Assistant District Fish Biologist	Personnel	1	\$2,248.00	\$0.00	\$2,248.00	\$2,248.00
Creel Surveyors	Personnel	5	\$2,257.20	\$5,643.00	\$5,643.00	\$11,286.00
District Fish Biologist	Personnel	1	\$2,594.00	\$0.00	\$2,594.00	\$2,594.00
Perosnnel Uniforms	Production Costs	3	\$150.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$450.00
Write-in-rain paper	Production Costs	3	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$150.00
Vehicle Lease	Travel	5	\$165.00	\$412.50	\$412.50	\$825.00
Vehicle Mileage	Travel	14500	\$0.30	\$2,175.00	\$2,175.00	\$4,350.00
					Total Budget:	\$21,903.00

Project Map



Additional Files

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