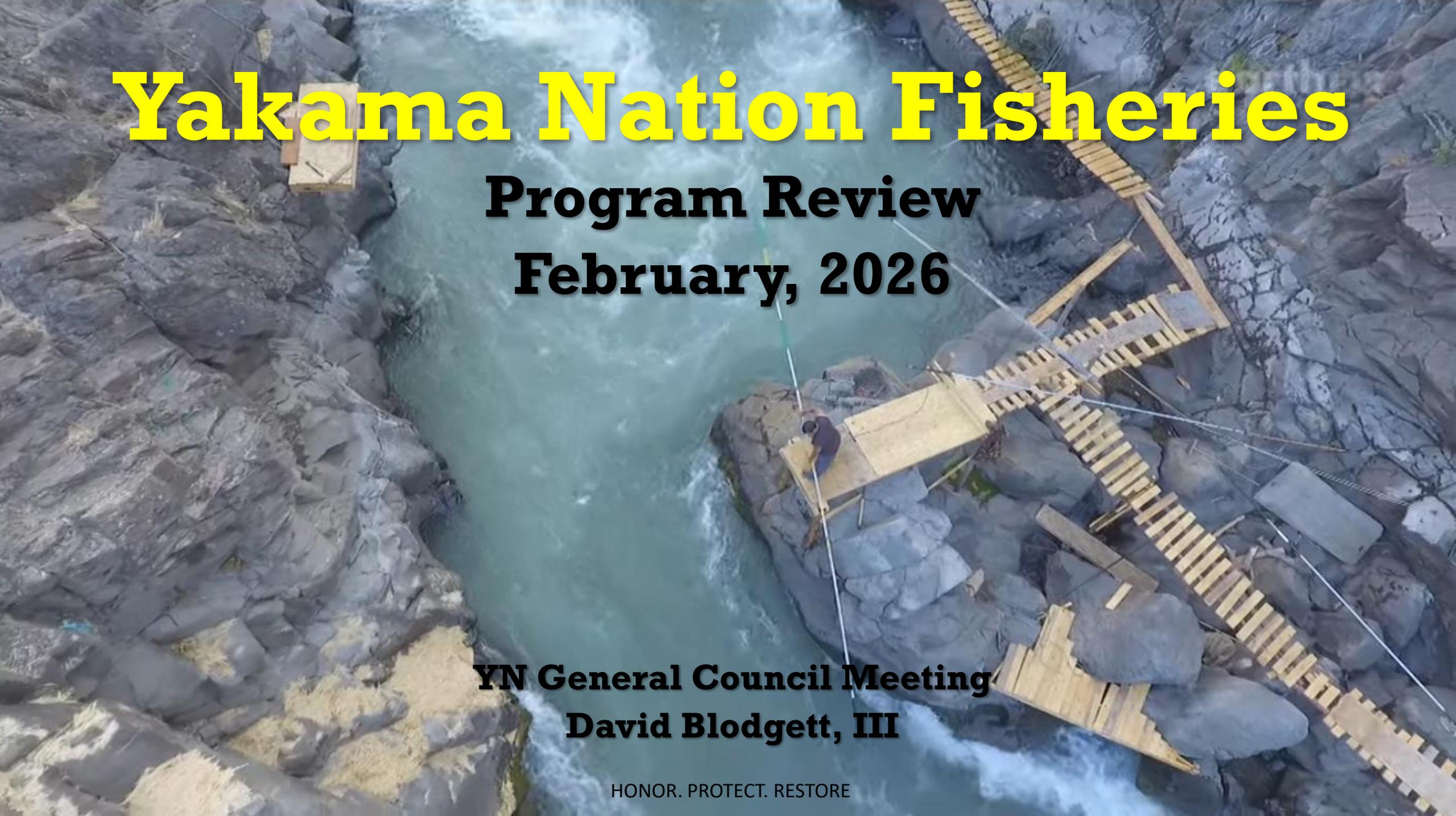


Yakama Nation Fisheries

An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a rocky landscape. A wooden bridge made of planks spans across the river. A person is standing on a wooden platform or structure in the middle of the river, near the bridge. The water is a light blue-green color, and the surrounding rocks are dark grey and jagged.

Program Review
February, 2026

YN General Council Meeting
David Blodgett, III

HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE



OUR MISSION

To **Honor**, **Protect**, and **Restore** culturally important fish populations and the ecosystems that produce them throughout the Treaty Territories of the Yakama Nation, and to protect the rights of Yakama Nation members to use these resources as reserved in the Treaty of 1855.*



HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE

* Yakama Nation Treaty of 1855 (12 stat. 951) with the United States of America



YAKAMA NATION FISHERIES BY THE NUMBERS

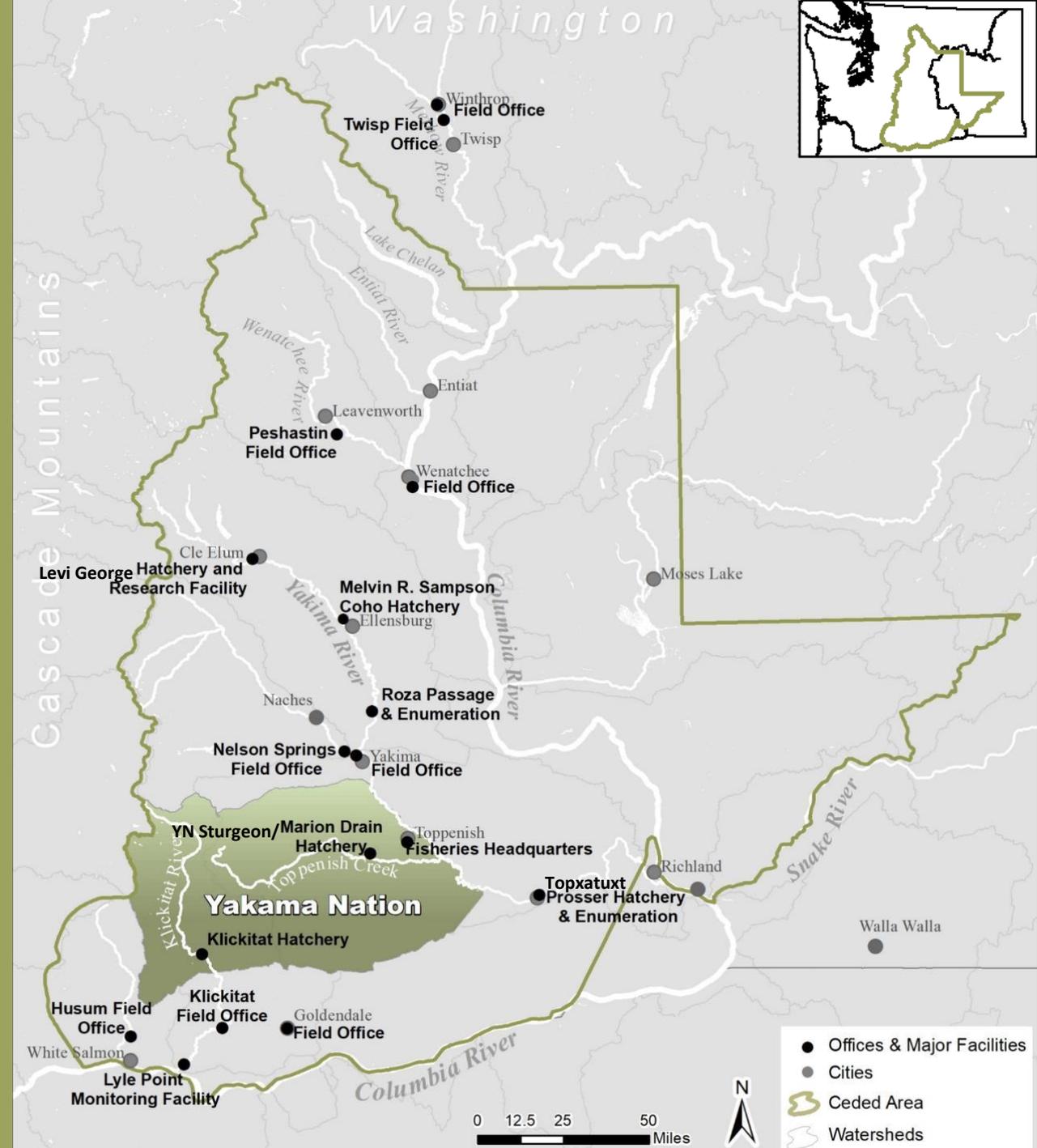
280 Employees **13** Offices **14** Subbasins

5 YN Production Facilities

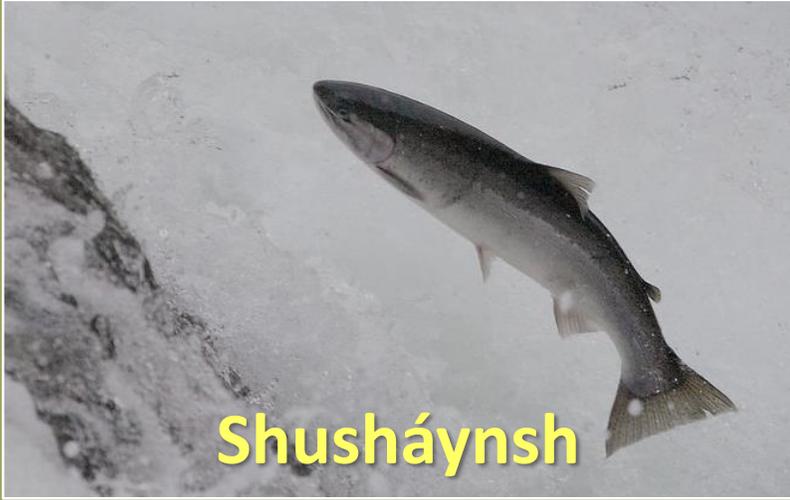
4 YN Enumeration Facilities

4 Shared Production Spaces

HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE



SPECIES BEING RESTORED





YN Habitat Restoration 2008-2025

1,323

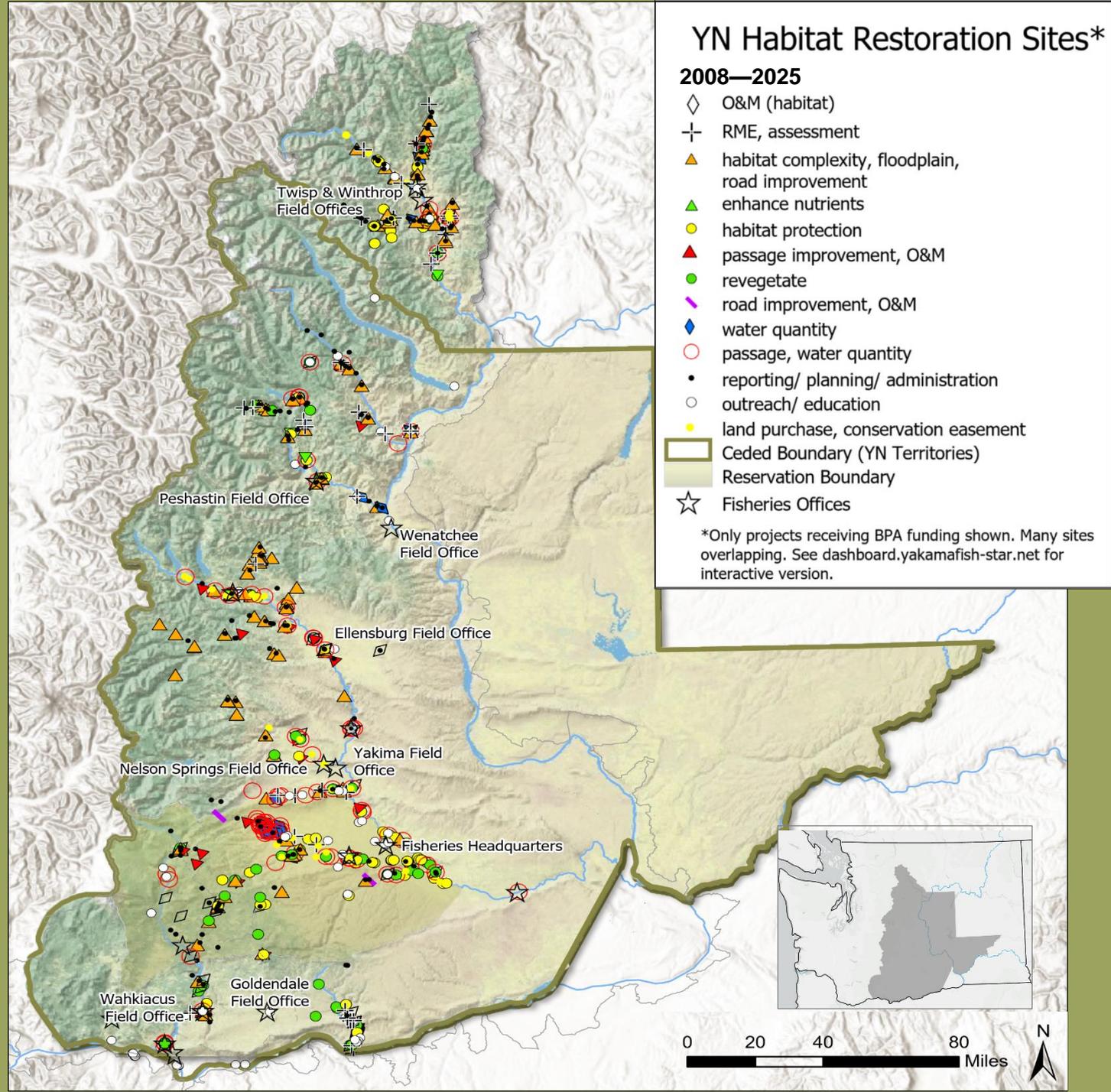
Worksites *(Including RM&E)*

Project Types:

- Riparian revegetation
 - Fish passage
 - In-stream habitat
 - Off-channel habitat
- Floodplain reconnection
- Watershed/ groundwater restoration

“Make it the way it was”

HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE





Production & Species Restoration

2008-2025

618

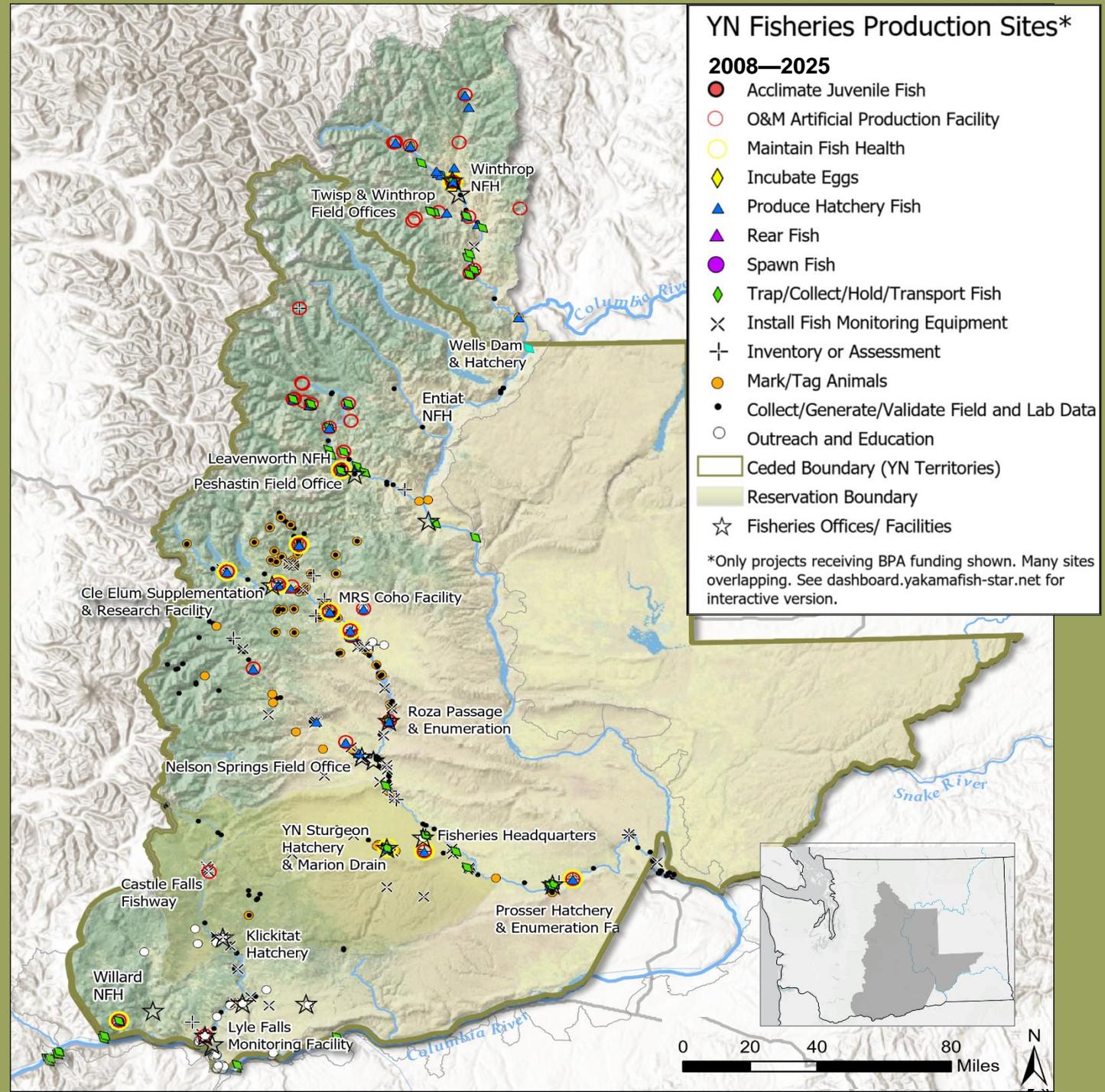
Worksites *(Including RM&E)*

Project Types:

- Species reintroduction
- Supplementation
- Mitigation fishery
- Fisheries management
- Research, Monitoring & Evaluation

“Gravel to Gravel Management”

HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE



Yakama Nation Fisheries Restoration Accomplishments

2008-2025*

METRICS HIGHLIGHTS



**25,600
Acre-feet/year**

Water secured or returned
through conservation in-stream



22,300

Habitat Features

Unanchored logs, boulders &
rootwads installed instream for
habitat complexity



30,600 Pounds

Trash removed



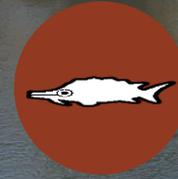
2,500 Miles

Stream & riparian habitat
improved, treated, or protected



560 Miles

Stream habitats made accessible
to fish by passage structure
installation or breach



6 Fish Species

Being restored
(8 populations/runs)



20,200 Acres

Wetland habitats
Improved, treated or
protected



4,450

Habitat Structures

Structured large woody material &
pools created instream



1,192,000 People

Educated and informed

The Four “H”s

That Impact the Natural Resources of the Yakama Nation



Hydro



Hatchery



Harvest



Habitat

Highlights from the past year include:



- Bateman Island Causeway Removal



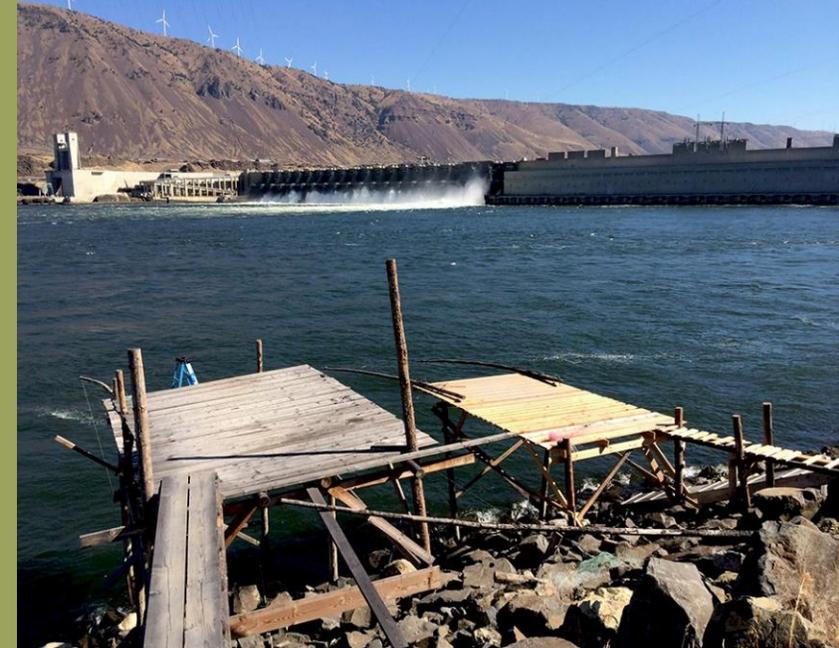
- Improvements at Prosser “Topxatuxt” Hatchery



- Klickitat Hatchery Major Upgrades and Ownership



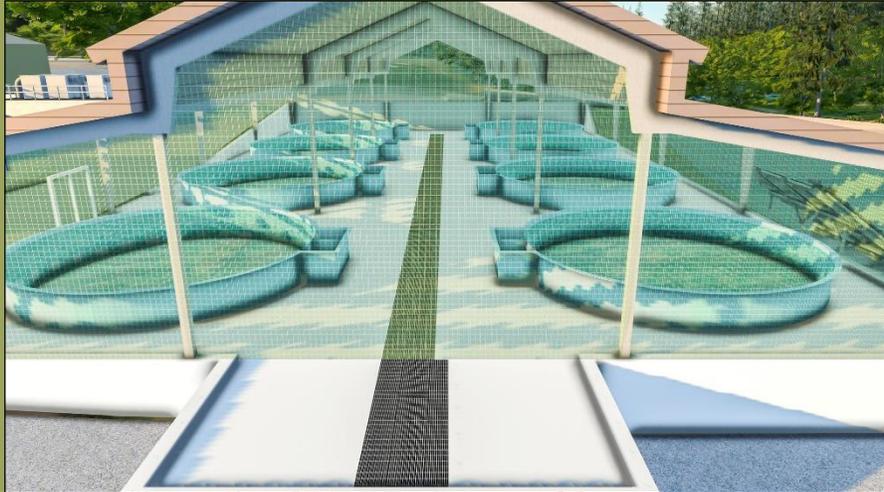
- Cle Elum Adult Collector
- Springwood Ranch Acquisition and Management
- 3-Way Levee Removal



Above: Fishing scaffolds below John Day Dam (CRITFC)

Strengthening Yakama Sovereignty Through Fisheries Management

YN Klickitat Hatchery Ownership and Modernization



Left: Rendering of Klickitat hatchery upgraded circular tanks.

Springwood Ranch Acquisition First Tribal-State Land Partnership in Washington



Above: Yakima Riverfront along Springwood Ranch



Above: YN takes over Klickitat Hatchery ownership and operation. Representatives from the YN, BPA, NOAA, BIA, Washington State and Klickitat County gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony Friday, Oct. 11 2024



Above: DNR Director Phil Rigdon speaking at Springwood Ranch Land Celebration, May 2, 2025.





Spotlight: Springwood Ranch Acquisition First Tribal-State Land Partnership in Washington

- Located near Thorp, WA along the Yakima River, the Springwood Ranch area has long served as a traditional gathering location for the Yakama people
- With 6.5 miles of riverfront and spanning 3,600 acres, it was identified in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan as high value for water conservation and storage, and fish habitats
- Benefits extend to Tribal and non-tribal fishers, as well as farms, forests and communities for generations to come



Above: Taneum Creek flows through the property (YN)



- The acquisition represents a historic cooperation between the Yakama Nation and regional stakeholders, and will be cooperatively owned and managed by the Yakama Nation, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kittitas County, and the Kittitas Reclamation District

Left: Dignitaries attended a Springwood Land Commemoration on May 2, 2025, including YN Tribal Chairman Gerald Lewis and WDFW Director Kelly Susewind, among others. Senator Patty Murray toured the site on May 28, 2025.



Spotlight: YN Klickitat Hatchery Ownership and Modernization



- Klickitat Hatchery was built in 1946. The Yakama Nation led and maintained it since 2006, sometimes with 75 year-old equipment.
- **In late 2024, ownership of Klickitat Hatchery was transferred from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to YN**
- *The 2008 Fish Accords (and extensions) with BPA support this work, to mitigate the effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries.*

\$35 Million in overdue upgrades are underway, including:

- Improved piping, pumps and effluent abatement, circular rearing tanks, spawning and holding infrastructure and an updated fish ladder
- Increased release of spring Chinook annually (from 600,000 to 800,000 fish)
- Ability to incorporate more **natural origin fish**, with the goal of improving health, fitness and survival
- Fall Chinook and late-run coho are also reared at the site, for a projected new total goal of 6.8 million fish released annually
- **Modernization work is expected to take 2.5 years, with the first yearlings projected to be released in 2027**



Above: Engineering rendering of planned upgrades (YN)



Spotlight: Major Upgrades at Prosser Hatchery

“Topxtuxt”

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 3, 2025, for major expansions to the Prosser Hatchery. The area has been used by Tribal fishers since time immemorial. The hatchery is renamed “Topxtuxt”. Located 46 miles from the mouth of the Yakima River, the name is a reference to Prosser Falls.

Chinook, steelhead, coho and Pacific lamprey runs that were once abundant at the site have been devastated there due to development, in addition to other factors.



Above: Yakima River scaffold, Jeremy Fivecrows, CRITFC



Above: Groundbreaking with YN TC and GC Chairs Gerald Lewis and Warren Clund, BOR acting director Ronald Springer, CRITFC Director Aja DeCoteau. October 3, 2025

Highlights:

- Upgrades/ Expansion are a joint venture of YN and Bureau of Reclamation, and other contributors
- The focus of the improvements are for fall Chinook production (which have been sustained by Prosser hatchery)
- **Upgrades include:** replacing 4 rearing raceways with 12x20ft circular tanks, and an improved more natural release raceway, improved efficiency including 70% water reuse
- Funding provided by BPA, YN, and CRITFC

Spotlight: Adult Collection Facility at Cle Elum Dam

Issue:

- Cle Elum Dam was built in the 1930s, primarily for irrigation, with no upstream or downstream fish passage through or over the 100 foot spillway drop, and water fluctuations of over 100 feet annually
- The unique “Helix” downstream passage structure is expected to be fully operational in 2026, but an upstream passage solution is needed
- Currently, if sockeye, Chinook salmon and steelhead want to migrate back to Lake Cle Elum, they have to be collected at Roza Dam and trucked 57 miles upstream

Solution:

- An “Adult Collector” is currently being built below Cle Elum Dam so that returning spawners can return right up to the dam before needing to be transported over it
- The Cle Elum Dam fish passage restoration is the largest capital project of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan to date.



Above: Adult collector under construction below Cle Elum Dam



Spotlight: Bateman Island Causeway Removal

“Restoring Chamna”

- Bateman Island causeway was illegally built 86 years ago
- It diverted the direct flow of the Yakima River into the Columbia River
- It contributed to high salmon mortality by creating adverse conditions such as slowed migration, high temperatures, the proliferation of weeds and warm water predators
- Reopening natural flow through the Yakima Delta restores critical passage for salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey
- The Yakama Nation has worked very hard on behalf of the Yakima River and restoring its waters, and we are also thankful to partners in accomplishing this effort



Above: Breaching the causeway, January 2026. Work is expected to be complete within the next few months.

Spotlight: Bateman Island Causeway Removal Video Online

(yakamafish-nsn.gov/bateman_causeway)





Spotlight: 3-Way Levee Removal Toppenish Creek

Issue:

- Constructed in the mid-1970s, the levee above the old 3-Way Diversion on Toppenish Creek and channel straightening/clearing resulted in very poor spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, lamprey, and resident fish species
- The levee did not help with its original purpose: alleviating flooding, and the channel was in danger of moving on its own

Restoration:

- Remove the levee, improve and increase spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and other species, restore hydrologic function

Project Metrics:

- 0.4 Miles of Levee Removal
- 89 Engineered Large Wood Structures Installed
- 5,000 linear feet of Floodplain Roughness Features
- Established Inset Floodplain
- 3 New Constructed Side Channels and Alcoves
- Revegetation on 18 acres of Riparian and Upland

Timeline:

- Began 2021, Completed October 2025



Above: 3-way levee removal project phase II before and after construction.

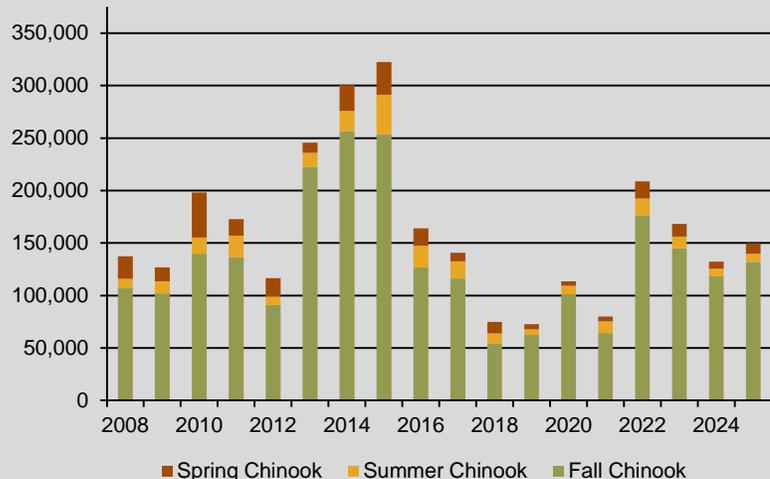
Spotlight: 3-Way Levee Removal (4:08) Available here: vimeo.com/1167249049



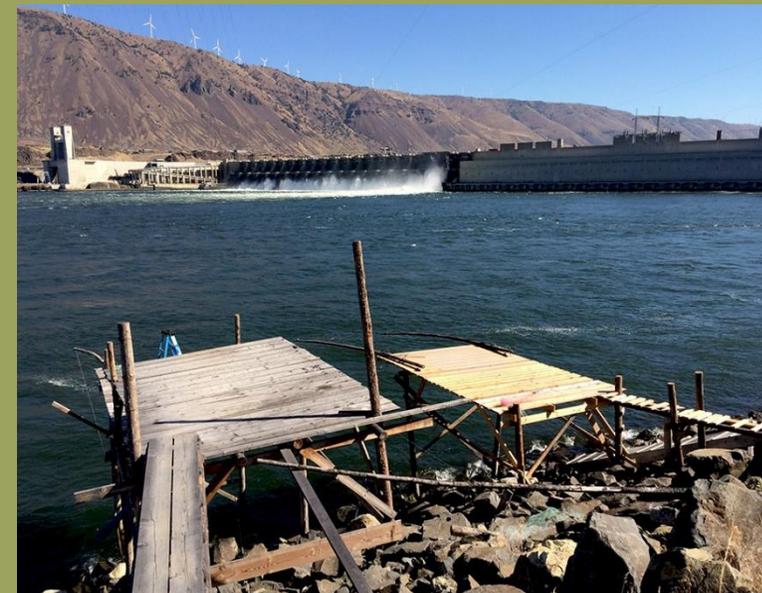
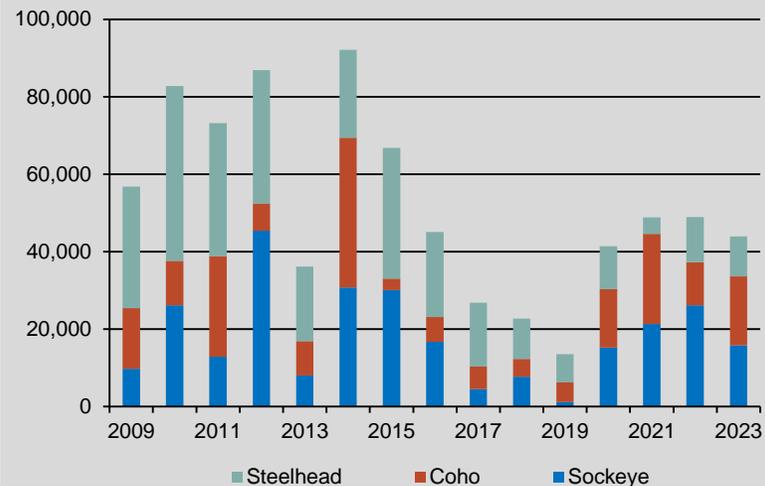


COLUMBIA RIVER ZONE 6 HARVEST

**Zone 6 Total Treaty Harvest:
Commercial, Sustenance, Gillnet, Platform H&L**



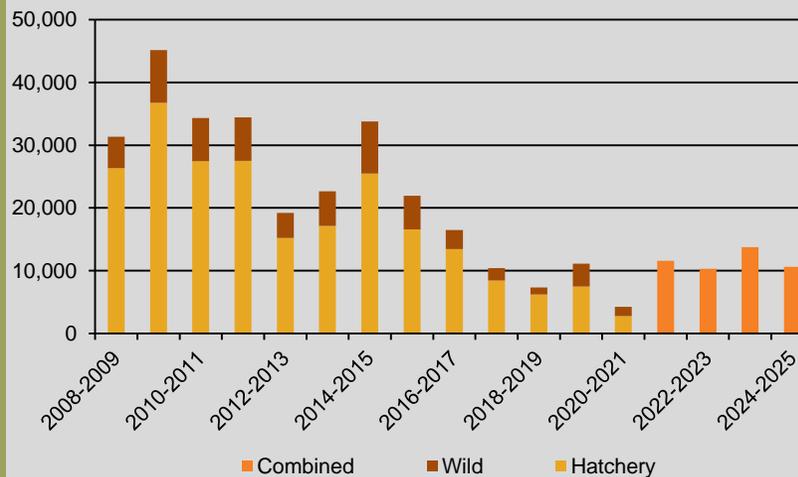
**Zone 6 Total Treaty Harvest:
Commercial, Sustenance, Gillnet, Platform H&L**



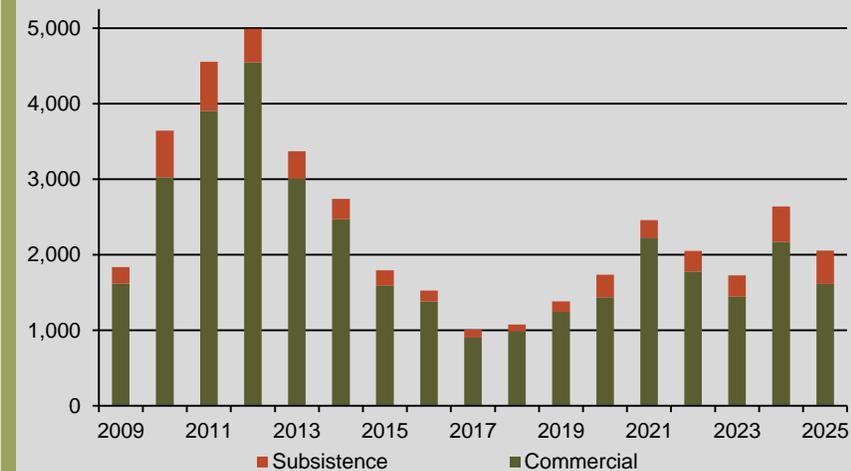
Above: Fishing scaffolds below John Day Dam (CRITFC)



**Zone 6 Total Treaty Steelhead Harvest
Commercial, Platform H&L**



Zone 6 Total Treaty Sturgeon Harvest



Challenges We Face

Climate impacts (heat, drought)

Litigation threats

Funding instability

Habitat loss

Predation

Water withdrawals

Hydropower barriers

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Photo: Fish Ladder John Day Dam

Future Opportunities

- Major capital projects planned for the next 5 years
 - Habitat restoration priorities
 - Species recovery goals
 - Harvest goals
 - Policy and sovereignty priorities



Yakama Nation Klickitat Hatchery staff handling spring Chinook eggs at the Klickitat Hatchery. (Photo: YN)



A member of the Yakama Nation plucks a Pacific lamprey off the rocks at Willamette Falls, Oregon. (High Country News)



Family fishing day, Toppenish (YN)



Rendering of the planned upgrades to the Klickitat Hatchery, made by Schnabel Engineering. Above: hatchery intake (YN)



Following Slides: Overview of Production Projects by Region



Fisheries staff carefully prepare fish to be stored in the deep-freezer for distribution. (Photo: YN).



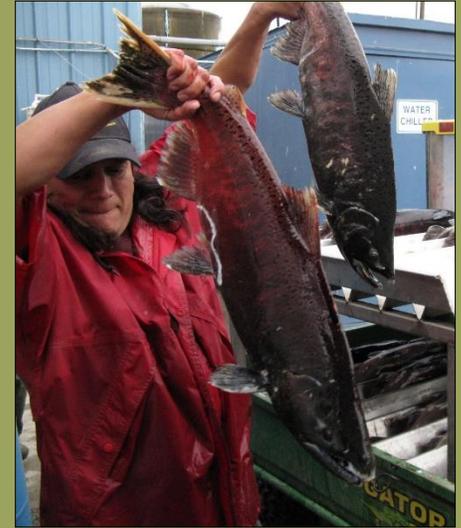
Production: Yakima Subbasin

Prosser Hatchery "Topxtuxt": Fall Chinook

Loss of natural production due to habitat losses from inundation of spawning habitat

YN supplemented from 1983, to offset lost productivity

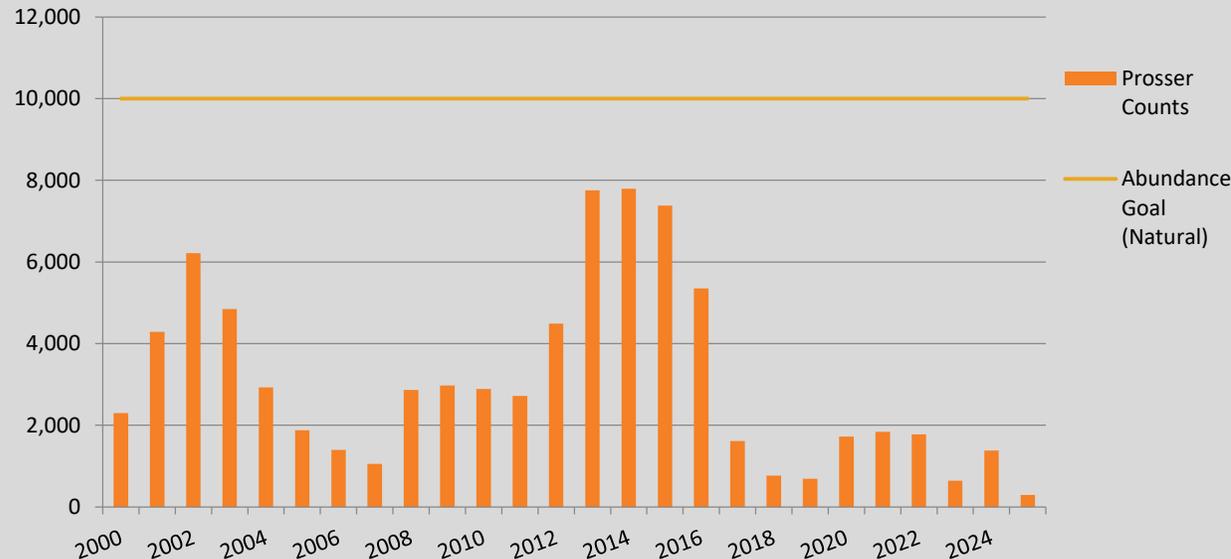
- **Goals:** increase harvest levels, natural spawning abundance, distribution.
- **Contributing to Treaty fishery.**
- **10-year average escapement of 4,140 fish.**
- ***Major Upgrade Underway (see "spotlight")!**



Summer Chinook

- **Extirpated by early 1900s**
- **YN reintroduced in 2009**
 - **Goals: Locally adapted, natural-origin broodstock, harvestable population**
 - **Temporal and spatial distribution**
- **Recent 5-yr average returns: 1,181 fish.**

Adult Fall Chinook Returns to Prosser Dam



Left: First Summer Chinook return at Prosser Facility, 2013



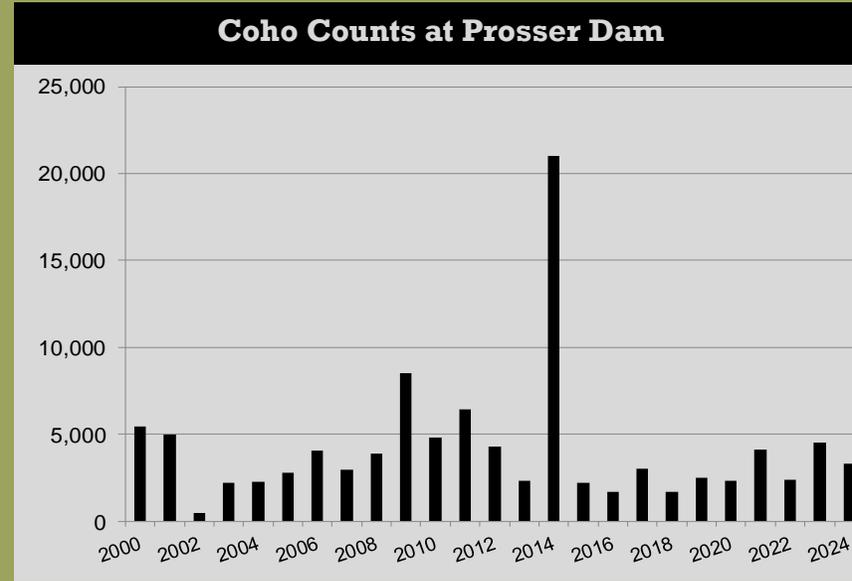
Production: Yakima Subbasin

Melvin R. Sampson Coho Facility

- New, highly-efficient hatchery in Ellensburg, WA.
- Expanding reintroduction of extirpated coho (started in 1985).

Long Term Goals:

- Produce 700,000 smolts/parr per year.
- Returns of 20,000 locally adapted adults/year.
- Re-establish naturally spawning population with sustainable harvest.



Prosser Hatchery “Topxtuxt”: Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning

- Kelt reconditioning (improving fitness of kelts to enable a second spawn) to increase lifetime natural reproductive success.
- Project began in 2001. CRITFC is a project partner.
- Average 200 reconditioned kelts released each year.

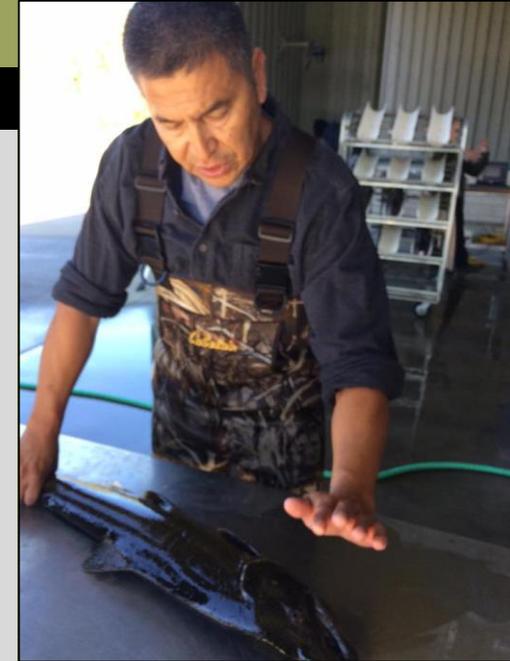
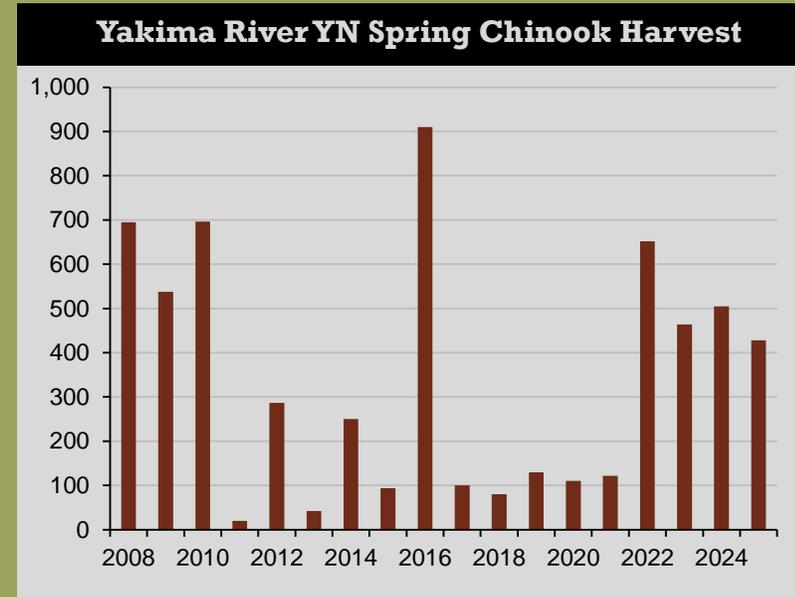




Levi George Supplementation and Research Facility at Cle Elum

Spring Chinook

- Habitat loss, minimal subsistence harvest by 1990s.
- Hatchery opened in 1997
- Purpose:
 - Enhance spring Chinook runs and provide fishing opportunities.
 - Research hatchery production best management practices.



Hatchery manager Charles Strom

Upper Yakima Sockeye Reintroduction

- Extirpated by early 1900s, due to irrigation-project passage blockage.
- YN reintroduced to Lake Cle Elum in 2009.
- First adults returned in 2013.
- Cooperative efforts to restore passage (YBIP, USBR).
- Plan to reintroduce to other Upper Yakima lakes in future.
- Recent returns impacted by drought, heat.
- Downstream passage and upstream collector being constructed



Brood-year 2009 outmigrant (2011)



Production: Yakima Subbasin

Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery

Problem:

- Low juvenile survival in the mid-upper Columbia River
- Passage issues, loss of spawning/rearing habitat
- Altered seasonal flows

Project Goal:

- Live spawn/ rear/ release up to 20,000 fish annually
- Enhanced natural spawning and harvest
- Healthy self-sustaining population



Bull Trout Restoration:

Problem:

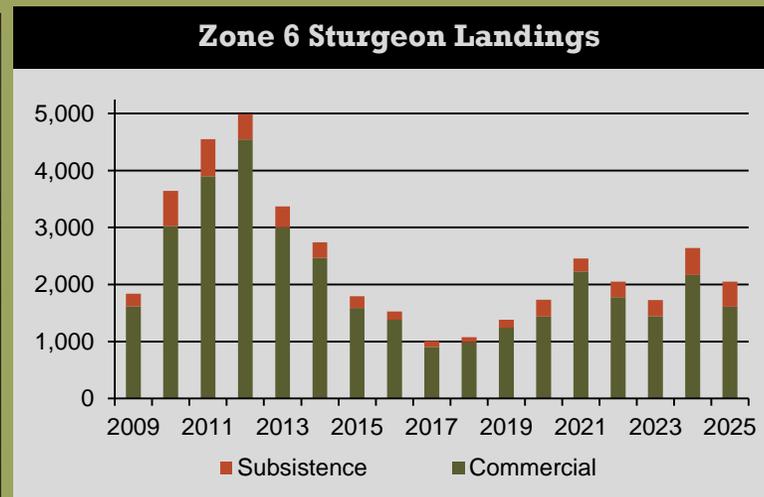
- Stranded by seasonal dewatering

Other Threats:

- Invasive species, passage barriers, warming temperatures, degraded habitat

Restoration Project:

- Rescue stranded bull trout
- Rehabilitate
- Reintroduce to quality habitats
- Goal up to 1,200 rescued fish annually





Production: Southern Territories

Facilities: YN Ownership and Major Upgrade Underway!

- Klickitat Hatchery (Spring Chinook, Fall Chinook, and coho production)
- Wahkiacus & Goldendale Field Offices
- Lyle Enumeration Facility & Castile Falls Fishway
- Lyle Point Harvest Monitoring Field Office

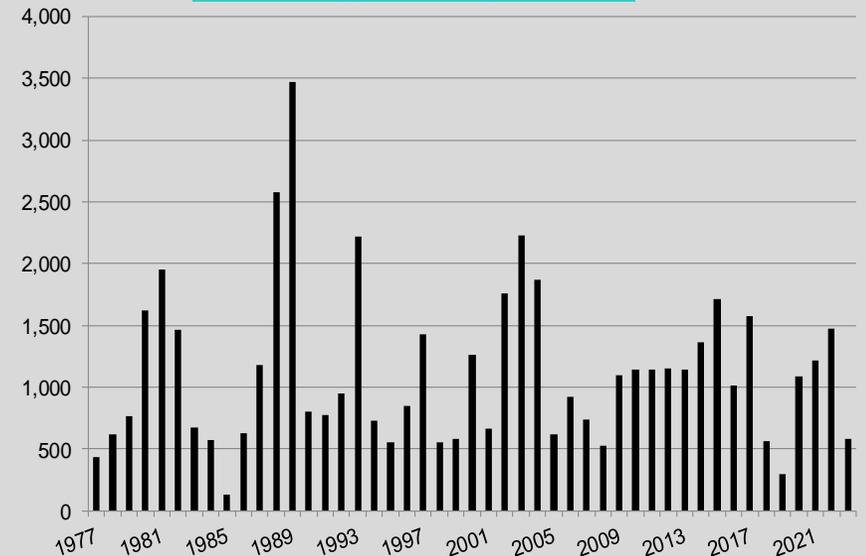
Restoration Activities:

- Spring Chinook (→Integrated)
- Klickitat Steelhead (WDFW)
- Rock Creek Steelhead



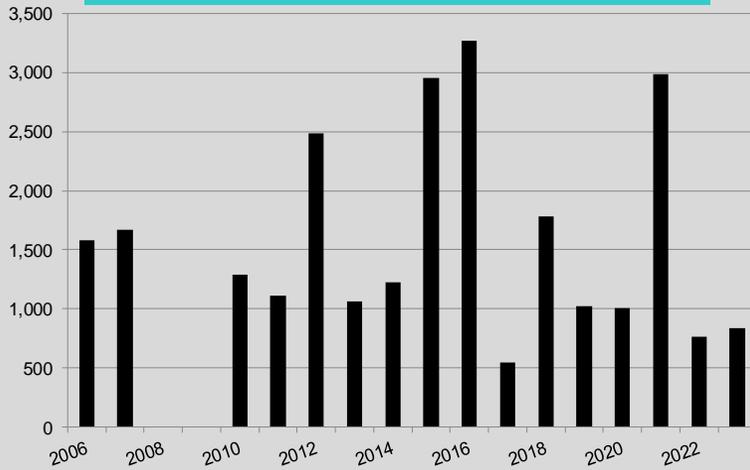
Klickitat Spring Chinook

ESCAPEMENT

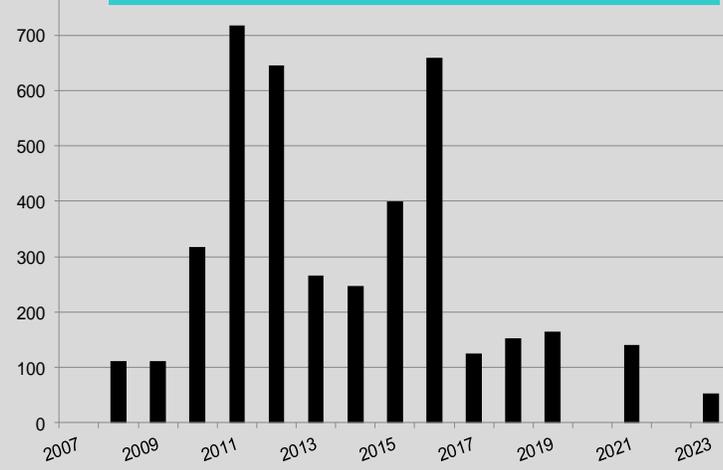


Summer and Winter Steelhead

KLICKITAT POPULATION ESTIMATE



ABUNDANCE ESTIMATE—ROCK CREEK

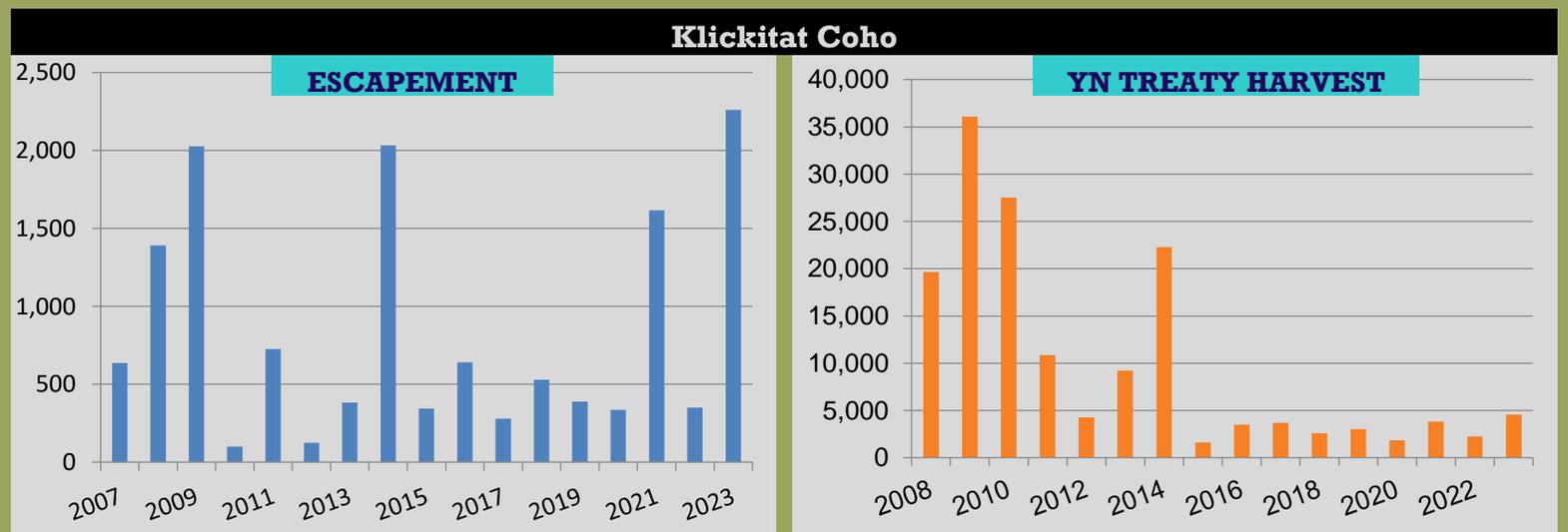
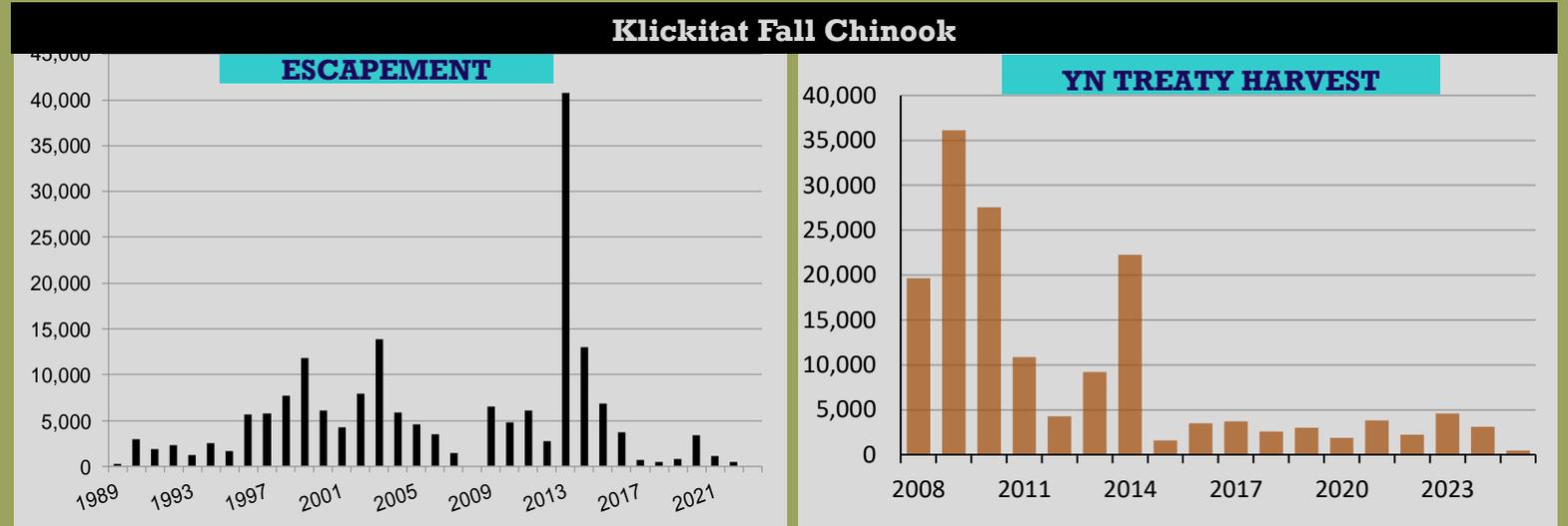




Production: Southern Territories

Segregated (Mitchell Act) harvest programs.

- Klickitat Fall Chinook Fishery • Klickitat Coho Fishery





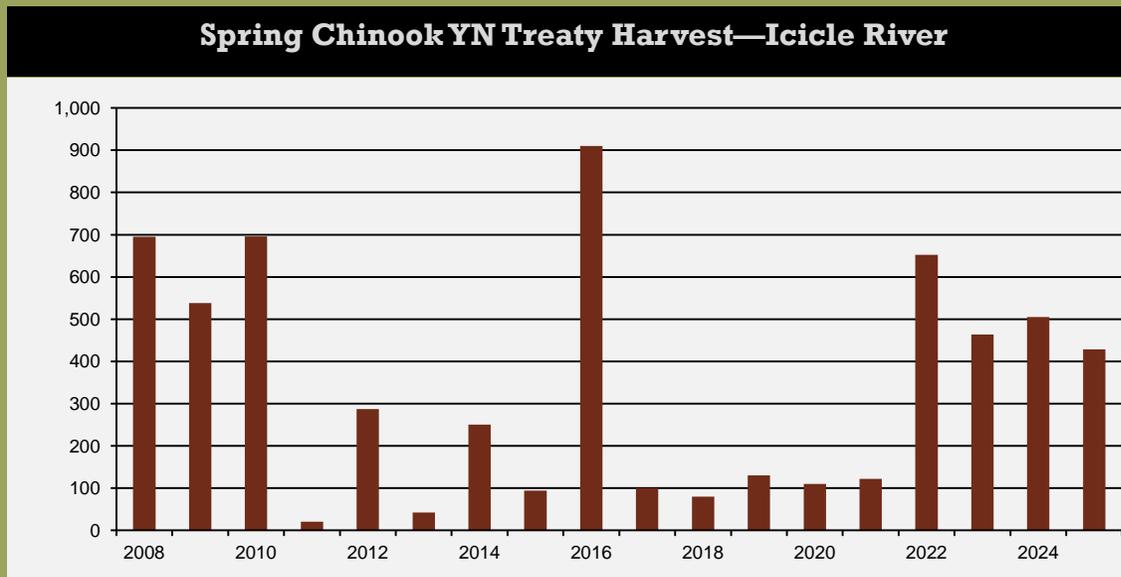
Spring Chinook & Summer Steelhead Multi-Species Acclimation Mid-Upper Columbia Basin

Since 2009, YN is re-establishing sustainable natural spawning populations with:

- Upstream acclimation sites
- Access to good quality habitats in historic range
- Reproductive success equal to natural origin-spawners
- Hatchery releases are a CCPUD/DCPUD/USFWS mitigation and supplementation effort.



Natural acclimation site (Goat Wall, Upper Methow)



Juvenile Chinook

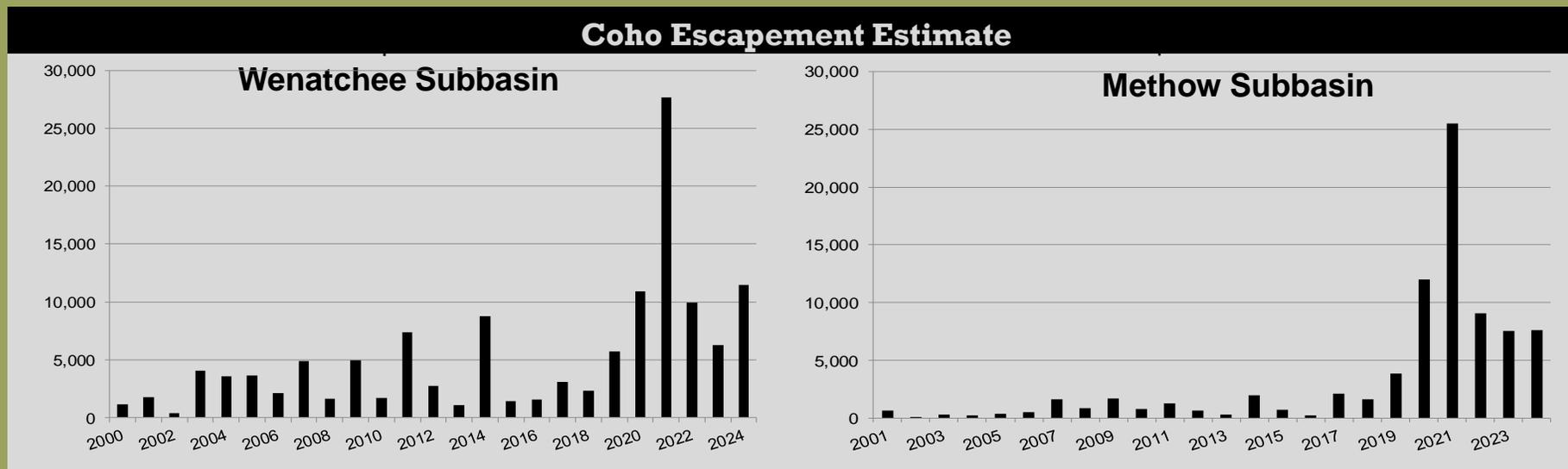


Coho Reintroduction

Mid-Upper Columbia Basin

Extirpated by late 20th century, re-establishing naturally spawning populations by:

- Reintroductions since 2000 (with USFWS)
- Transitioning to local broodstock
- Reintroduction to key upstream habitats
- Increasing range
- Eventually reducing releases
- Goal: natural production supporting harvest





Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning

Mid-Upper Columbia Basin & Yakima Subbasin

- Multiple successive spawning events

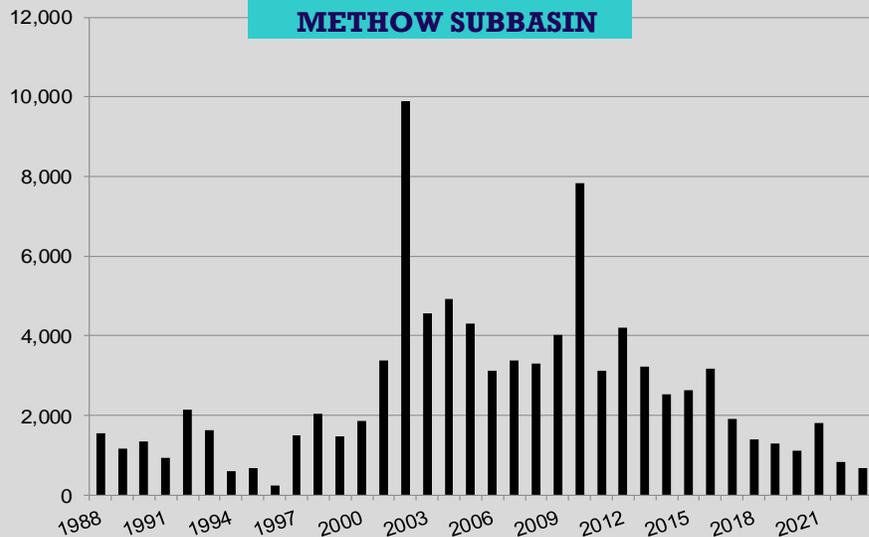
Improving lifetime reproductive success since 2011 through:

- Improved survivorship

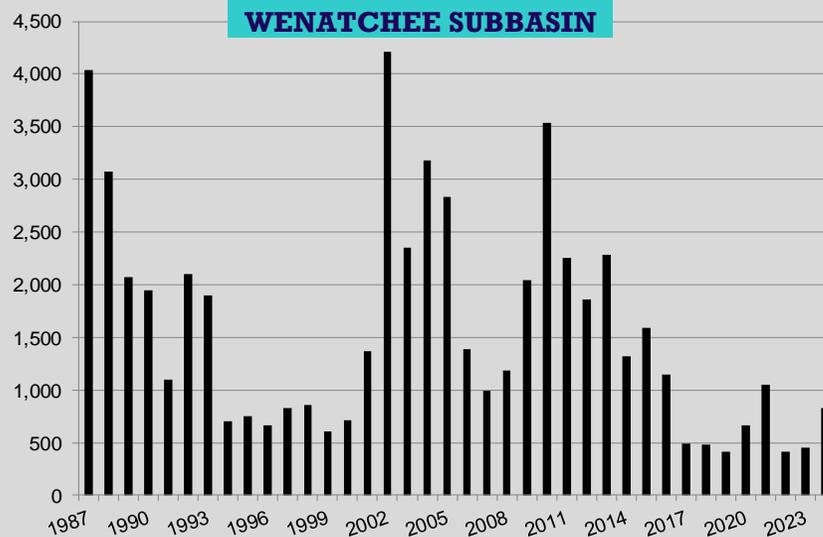


Steelhead Escapement Estimates—Natural and Hatchery

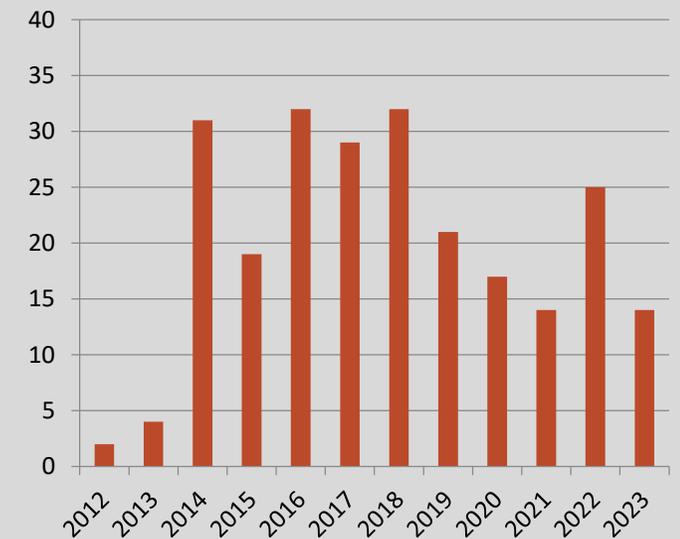
METHOW SUBBASIN



WENATCHEE SUBBASIN



Reconditioned Steelhead Kelts Released





Pacific Lamprey Restoration Project

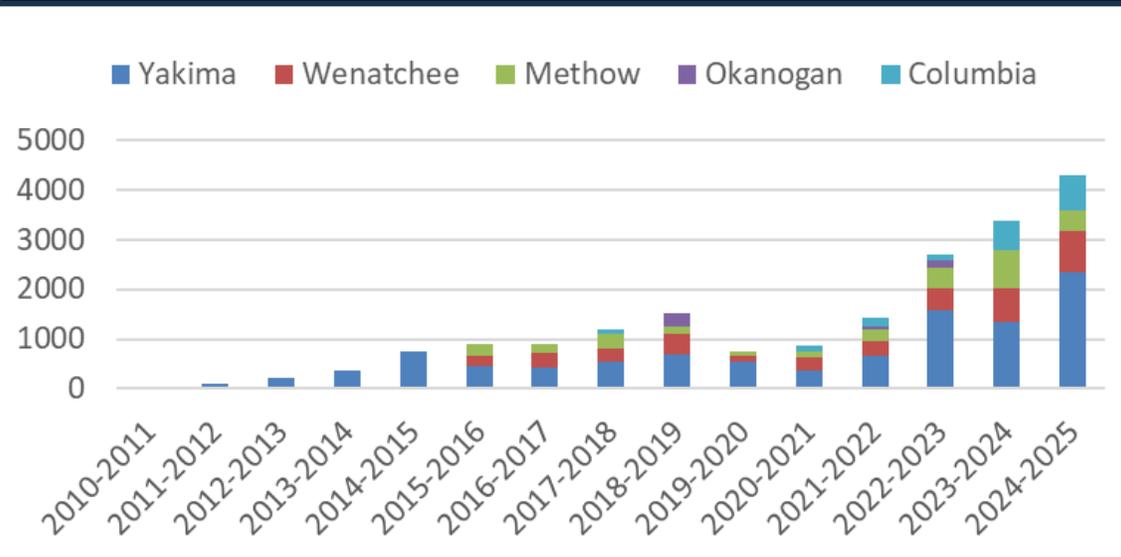
Production: Region-Wide

Restoring Pacific lamprey populations by:

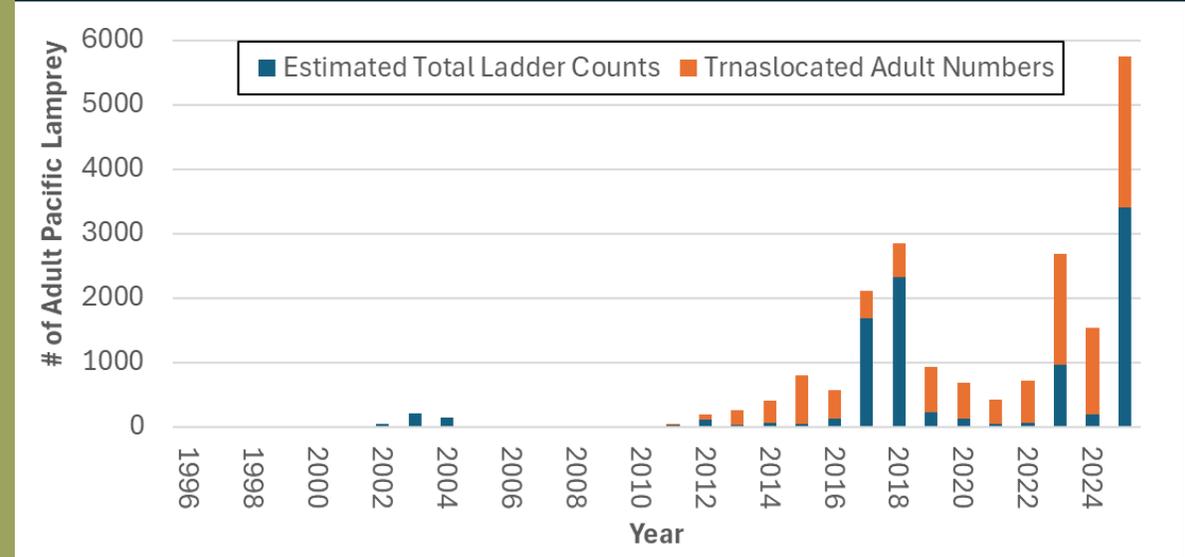
- Translocation to historic habitats
- Developing juvenile culture (at Prosser)
- Addressing passage issues
- Rescuing from dewatering, stranding
- Natural production initiated by translocations



Adult Pacific Lamprey Translocation in Upper Columbia (All Subbasins)



Prosser Dam Estimated Total Pacific Lamprey Ladder Counts & Yakima Basin Translocated Adult Numbers



*Note: Starting in 2018, return estimates are based on PIT tag studies rather than window counts.

**For more information visit:
yakamafish-nsn.gov**



HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE



Status and Trends Report

Areas covered in more detail:

**Yakima Subbasin, Southern Ceded Territories,
Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow Subbasins**

Topics:

- ***Habitat Restoration***
- ***Production/ Species Restoration***
- ***Species Status and Trends***
- ***Harvest***
- ***Hydro Improvements***

yakamafish-nsn.gov/restore/projects/star



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

STATUS AND TRENDS REPORTING PROJECT



Summary of 2024 project implementation, status ad trends. Released May 2025.

Honor. Protect. Restore.



HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE

Honoring Our Ancestors.

Protecting Our Rights.

Restoring Our Future.

Questions?

