

CRSSE Advisory Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2010-2014 Run Years to Snake River Steelhead and Fall Chinook Fisheries

Project Description: Steelhead and fall Chinook fisheries in the Snake River Basin are all conducted under Fishery Management and Enhancement Plans (FMEP) permits due to the presence of ESA listed species, and fishery creel surveys are required to monitor the impacts to listed species. Past monitoring of these fisheries has been funded exclusively through the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) program. Beginning in 2007, a loss in available LSRCP funds and increasing costs to monitor fisheries (transportation), resulted in elimination of certain sampling areas (e.g. Tucannon River). Without replacement funding, Snake River Basin fisheries would likely be curtailed or eliminated. Since then, funding was obtained from the CRSSE to continue the necessary monitoring of these fisheries.

Results to Date: Through combined LSRCP and CRSSE funding, steelhead and fall Chinook fisheries have remained open and were monitored throughout the mainstem Snake River, and creel surveys in the Tucannon River were re-established for monitoring the summer steelhead fishery.

Resource Management, Economic, Angling and Resource Benefit: The investment from the CRSSE program (plus LSRCP) allows steelhead and fall Chinook fisheries to remain open and allow adequate monitoring for recovery of coded-wire tags from hatchery fish (Table 1) in the Snake River and major tributaries in SE Washington, in addition to the collection of genetic samples for Parental Based Tagging analysis (IDFG), and to estimate ESA impacts to listed species by documenting the number of wild origin fish captured and released during these fisheries. ESA impacts are reported to NOAA Fisheries annually prior to the start of the next season.

Table 1. Number and percent of CWT recoveries by Agency origin, 2010-2014 Run Years.

River Section	WA	OR	ID	USFWS	Tribal
Mainstem Snake (Steelhead)	299	455	548	59	0
Mainstem Snake (Fall Chinook)	340	101	15	0	318
Grande Ronde (Steelhead)	198	119	0	0	0
Tucannon (Steelhead)	31	0	1	0	0

These fisheries generate considerable economic revenue to local businesses, state, county and city operations (Table 2). With the combined funding, all historic fishery areas have remained open. Angler days have dropped off in the last few years, but are reflective of lower steelhead returns to the basin (Figure 1). The additional CRSSE funding allows for proper monitoring of the fisheries and assists in the overall management of steelhead and fall Chinook to the Snake River, which in turn is critical to the determining success of meeting recovery goals of those populations.

Table 2. Economic Benefit Generated in SE Washington

Run Year	LSRCP Funds	CRSSE Funds	Est. Economic Value Based on \$58 / Angler Day
2010	~\$72,000	~\$16,000	\$5.8 million
2011	~\$65,000	~\$25,500	\$5.5 million
2012	~\$67,000	~\$27,000	\$5.1 million
2013	~\$68,000	~\$54,000	\$4.1 million
2014	~\$75,000	~\$79,000	\$3.8 million

