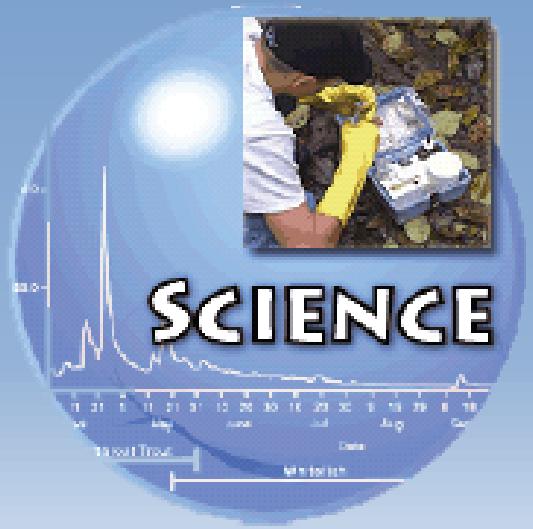
The Restoration of the River

What Happens After the Dams Are Out?



Natural Recolonization

- The fish above the dams should not have any problems returning to anadromy.

- These include;
- Sockeye of Lake Sutherland
- Coastal cutthroat trout
- Bull trout
- Dolly Varden

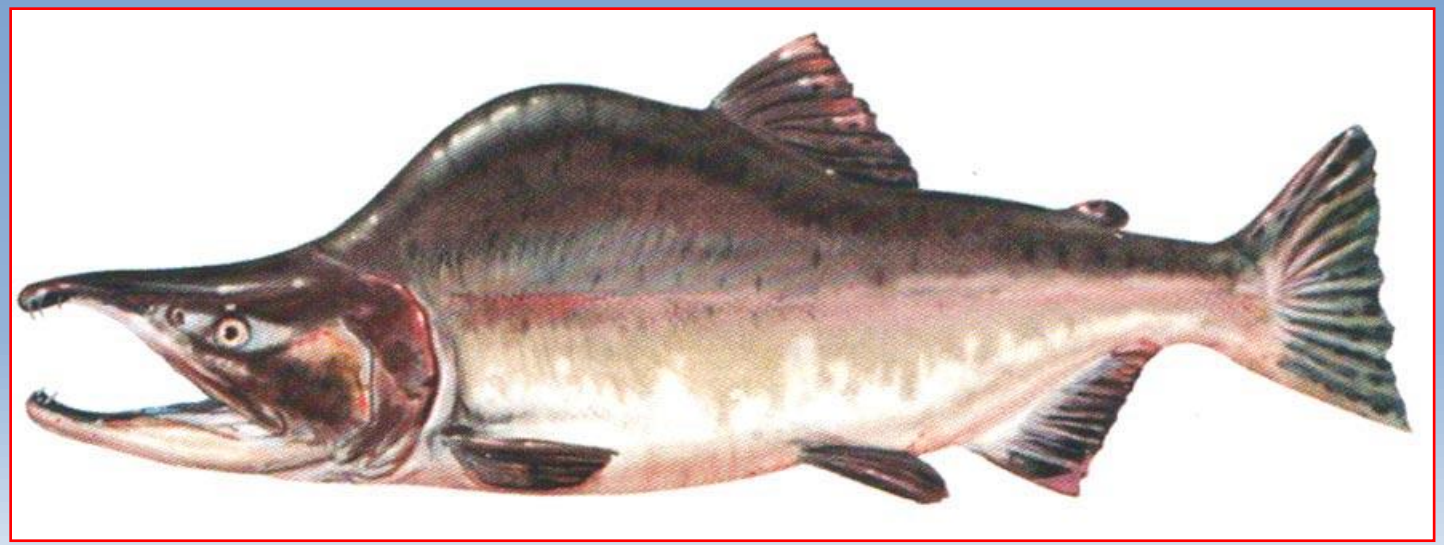
Hatchery Assisted Recovery

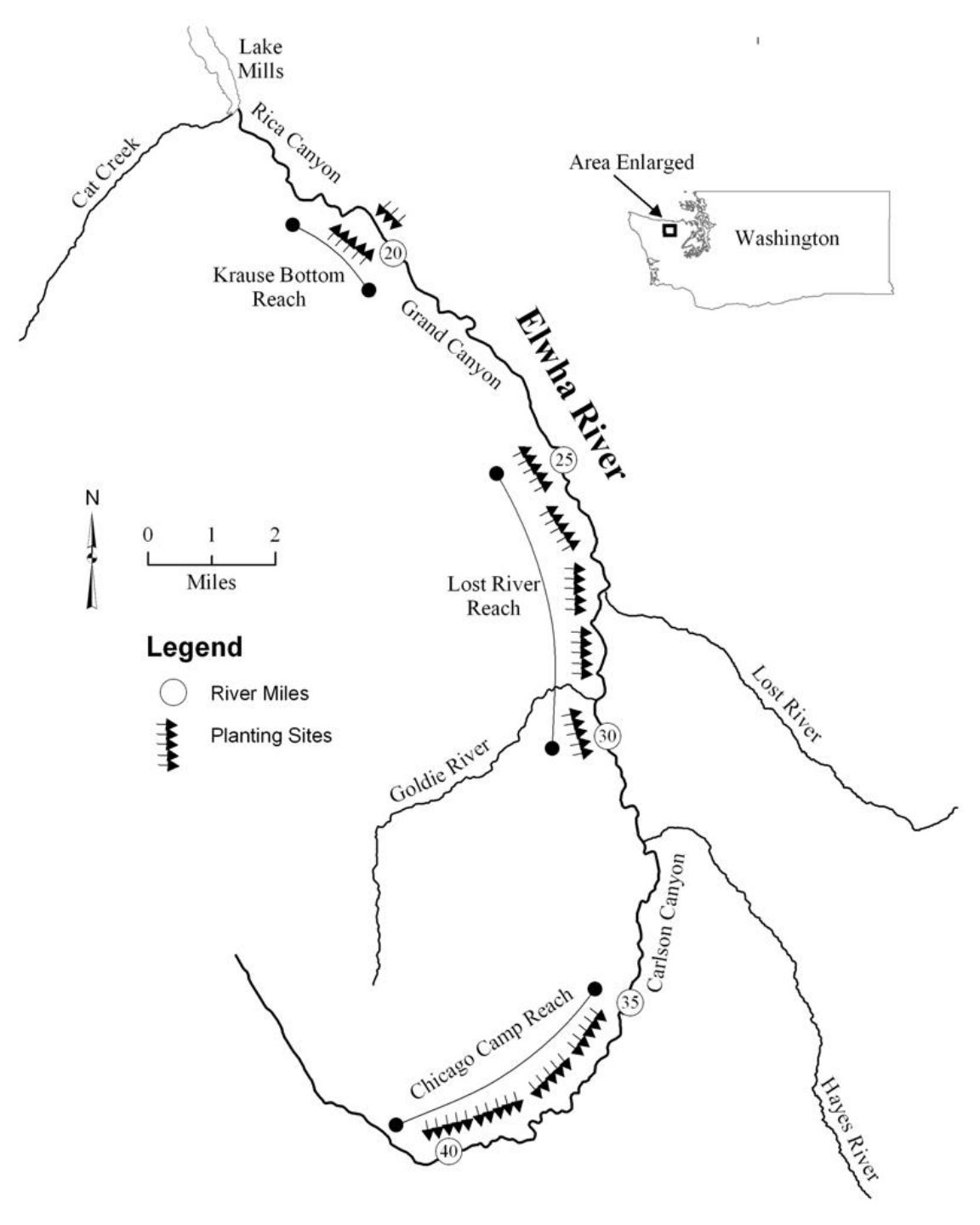
Coho, Chum, and Steelhead natural recolonization is assisted by hatcheries.

Pink Salmon Recovery

Pink salmon where historically the most numerous fish in the river at up to **200,000 returns** in odd-years.

In 2010, they were the **rarest** of the salmon at only 50-200 adult returns!




Lake Mills
Rica Canyon
Cat Creek
Area Enlarged
Washington
20
Krause Bottom Reach
Grand Canyon
Elwha River
25
N
0 1 2
Miles
Lost River Reach
Legend
River Miles
Planting Sites
Lost River
30
Goldie River
Carlson Canyon
Chicago Camp Reach
35
Hayes River
40

Species	Current Escapement of wild populations	Lower Escapement Estimate	Upper Escapement Estimate	Harvest Rate
Chinook [e]	~ 2,200	6,900	17,000	65%
Coho	~ 450 Supplemented with hatchery stock	12,100	34,500	65%
Chum	< 300	18,000	40,000	50%
Pink	< 200	96,000	250,000	65%
Sockeye	~ 0 But, population lives in Lake Sutherland	6,000	N/A	N/A
Steelhead [e]	~ 333 But, rainbow trout occur above the dams in significant numbers	5,750	10,100	43%
Total Returns	**~ 3,500** **wild anadromous returns**	**~ 144,750**	**~ 357,500**	

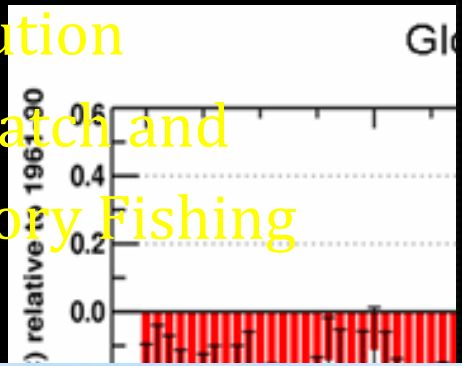
e = federally listed endangered species

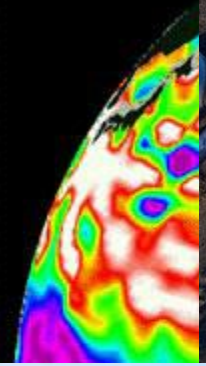
Escapement Rate and Harvests

- The biggest threat to recovery is open ocean harvest.
- Nearly 70% of salmon harvested are in Canadian waters.
- 10% are harvested in Alaskan waters, while only 8.5% are harvested commercially in Washington.

Other Threats in the Ocean

- Global Warming
- El Nino Events
- Pollution
- By-catch and
- Factory Fishing





Once the Lakes are Drained

Revegetation projects will begin after dam removal to stabilize the newly exposed slopes and prevent erosion.

Revegetating the Drained Reservoirs

The park collected seeds and cones and propagated them in the greenhouse for out-planting

Testing Seedlings in Lake Silt

Course Woody Debris

Revegetation crews will place logs and branches on the slopes to stabilize the banks.

Wood in the river will give salmon resting places in the strong currents.

Engineered Log Jams

The Future

Computer modeling of forest recovery after dam removal

This project was made possible in part by a grant from

Washington's National Park Fund.