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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tracy Hauser, BPA

FROM: Michele DeHart

DATE: October 1, 2014

RE: Changes to CSS PIT-Tagging for Migration Year 2015

The CSS Oversight Committee, in conjunction with the state, federal and tribal fishery managers, has made several changes to the PIT-tagging plan for Snake River wild spring/summer Chinook and wild steelhead for the 2015 out-migration. The agreed upon modifications to the CSS marking program for 2015 will meet the following objectives:

- 1) Reduce marking and handling when possible.
- 2) Improve the marking coverage of wild populations of spring/summer Chinook and steelhead, toward the objective of collecting and analyzing passage and survival metrics data at the Major Population Group (MPG) level.
- 3) Accomplish close coordination and collaboration with other marking programs of other researchers and fishery managers. The CSS objective is to collaborate and coordinate with other monitoring programs as they evolve and change in order to maximize efficiency and application of monitoring efforts that generate data that can be used in the CSS analyses.

These program modifications were developed through extensive discussions in the CSS Oversight Committee and discussions with the tribal, state, and federal fishery management agencies. The following discussion summarizes the modifications that will be implemented for the 2015 out-migration. The need for future modifications of CSS marking will be based upon analyses of the success of the 2015 marking program in meeting the CSS study goals, in particular the application of CSS analyses at the MPG level.

Grande Ronde River Basin wild spring/summer Chinook and steelhead (CSS: 1996-020-00-06, SMP: 1987-127-00-04)

In 2015, the CSS (1996-020-00-06) and SMP (1987-127-00-04) have modified their tagging plans in the Grande Ronde River Basin for the 2015 out-migration in an effort to reduce handling of listed hatchery spring Chinook at the Lower Grande Ronde River Trap (GRNTRP) and to ensure that the GRNTRP is able to tag wild spring Chinook and steelhead over a longer period of the run. The CSS will begin pre-assigning PIT-tagged wild spring Chinook and steelhead smolts that are marked at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) traps in the Upper Grande Ronde River and the Grande Ronde River Trap near Elgin, Oregon. According to ODFW staff, the CSS estimates that the Upper Grande Ronde Trap will contribute ~600–800 additional fish of each species and the trap near Elgin, Oregon, will contribute ~500-1,000 additional fish of each species. The CSS will continue to pre-assign wild spring Chinook and steelhead from the Catherine Creek, Lostine, and Minam traps operated by ODFW and Lookingglass Creek Trap operated by the Umatilla Tribe in 2015. Finally, the CSS will continue to pre-assign wild Chinook and steelhead from the SMP trap in the Lower Grande Ronde River (GRNTRP). However, trapping at this trap will be modified in 2015 in an attempt to reduce handling of listed hatchery Chinook.

Clearwater and Salmon River wild spring/summer Chinook and steelhead (CSS: 1996-020-00-03, SMP: 1987-127-00-03)

In past years the mainstem Clearwater River Trap was operated to mark wild steelhead and chinook for the CSS. The trap has not been successful in capturing and marking fish in adequate numbers in recent years due to river conditions. After reviewing past efforts and numbers of marks generated from this trap, the CSS Oversight Committee decided to eliminate the operation of the mainstem Clearwater Trap and to pursue alternative marking locations. In addition, the CSS has coordinated with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to incorporate tags from the Clearwater and Salmon River basins from the ISS Program into the CSS study design and analyses. However, many of the tributary traps that were operated under the ISS Program are being eliminated and/or moved for the 2015 out-migration. Given the changes to the ISS Program and the elimination of the mainstem Clearwater Trap, the CSS Oversight Committee and IDFG had several discussions of potential alternatives to generate mark groups for wild populations at the MPG resolution. In addition, the CSS and SMP are considering ways to reduce handling of listed hatchery Chinook at the Salmon River Trap (SALTRP) while still maintaining CSS PIT-tag targets for wild Chinook and steelhead. Below is a summary of the changes that were adopted for the 2015 out-migration, by basin. In addition, more detailed tagging plans are provided (Tables 1 and 2).

Clearwater River

The Clearwater Mainstem Trap (CLWTRP) will be discontinued in 2015. Program costs and tags (5,200 total) were redistributed to four new, smaller tributary traps in the Clearwater Basin for marking of wild steelhead and spring/summer Chinook. These new traps include Lolo Creek (NPT), Newsome Creek (NPT), South Fork Clearwater Mainstem (NPT), and Lochsa Mainstem. IDFG and the Nez Perce Tribe have agreed to allow the CSS to pre-

assign tags from these new traps for CSS analyses, using CSS methodologies. In addition, the CSS Oversight Committee has reduced the tagging of spring Chinook at Dworshak NFH from 52,000 to 42,000. Approximately 3,500 of the 10,000 tags from Dworshak NFH will be used at these four new traps for wild steelhead (3,200) and wild spring Chinook (300) marking. See Table 1 for a summary of the 2015 tagging plan for the Clearwater River Basin traps.

Table 1. Comparative Survival Study 2014 PIT-tag distribution and proposed 2015 distribution for the Clearwater River. Asterisks indicates new tagging locations using tags allocated from the Clearwater Mainstem Trap and Dworshak NFH. Traps operated by Nez Perce Tribe are indicated by (NPT).

Trap Location	Trap(s)	2014 CSS	2015 CSS Proposed
Clearwater Mainstem	CLWTRP	5,200	0
Potlatch River	BIGBEC, POTREF	6,000 ST	6,000 ST
Crooked Fork Creek & Colt Killed Creek	CFCTRP, COLTKC	2,000 CH/ST	2,000 CH/ST
Crooked River	AMERR, REDTRP, CROTRP, FISTRP	2,000 CH/ST	2,000 CH/ST
Lolo Creek (NPT)*	LOLOC		500 ST; 500 CH
Newsome (NPT)*	NEWSOC		500 ST; 500 CH
South Fork Clearwater Mainstem (NPT)*	New Code TBD		2,500 ST; 1,500 CH
Lochsa Mainstem*	New Code TBD		1,700 ST; 1,000 CH
Total		15,200	18,700

Salmon River

To pursue the objective of reducing handling of listed hatchery Chinook at the mainstem Salmon River Trap at Whitebird (SALTRP), the CSS and SMP are modifying the trapping and tagging protocol at this site. This modified protocol should allow for an extension of the trapping season, which will increase representativeness of wild marking and increase marking of wild steelhead. To accommodate for a possible reduction in marking of wild Chinook at SALTRP, the CSS Oversight committee will transfer 1,500 tags from SALTRP to other tributary traps in the Salmon River Basin, including three new traps (Valley Creek, East Fork Salmon, and North Fork Salmon). In addition, 6,500 of the 10,000 tags from Dworshak NFH will be transferred to various traps in the Salmon River Basin for marking of wild spring/summer Chinook (750) and steelhead (5,750). IDFG and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe have agreed to allow the CSS to pre-assign tags from these new traps for CSS analyses, using CSS methodologies. See Table 2 for a summary of the 2015 tagging plan for the Salmon River Basin traps. After marking is completed in 2015, the CSS will assess marks and survivals to LGR to determine if the PIT-tag target from SALTRP can be reduced further and, hence, reduce handling numbers in future permit applications.

Table 2. Comparative Survival Studies 2014 PIT-tag distribution and proposed 2015 distribution. Asterisks indicates new tagging locations using tags allocated from the mainstem Salmon River Trap at Whitebird (SALTRP) and Dworshak NFH. Traps operated by Shoshone-Bannock Tribe indicated by (SBT).

Trap Location	Trap(s)	2014 CSS	2015 CSS Proposed
Mainstem Salmon River Trap	SALTRP	5,000	3,500 CH; 750 ST
Hayden Creek	HAYDNC	2,000	2,000 CH; 500 ST
Bear Valley	BEARVC	2,000	2,000 CH; 500 ST
South Fork (Knox Bridge)	KNOXB	3,000	3,000 CH; 500 ST
Upper Salmon River	SAWTRP	3,000	3,000 CH; 500 ST
Marsh Creek (upper)	MARTRP	3,000	3,000 CH; 250 ST
Marsh Creek (lower)	MARTR2	3,000	3,000 CH; 250 ST
Lemhi	LEMHIW	2,000	2,000 CH; 500 ST
Pahsimeroi	PAHTRP	2,000	2,000 CH; 500 ST
Valley Creek (SBT)*	New Code TBD		750 CH; 500 ST
East Fork Salmon*	New Code TBD		750 CH; 500 ST
North Fork Salmon*	New Code TBD		750 CH; 500 ST
Total		25,000	31,500