Salmon River Spring Chinook — a Community Recovery Effort

Karuna Greenberg
Salmon River Restoration Council
Salmon River – Important factors

- 2nd largest contributor of cold water to the Klamath
- Unregulated hydrograph
- No significant diversions nor barriers
- >98% federally owned and managed
- Host all runs of anadromous fish of the Klamath
- Largest and most viable run of wild spring Chinook in the Klamath
- Main impacts are in past
- On path to recovery
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- Salmon River spring Chinook decline
- 1980’s, early 90’s numbers dipped below 200
- Widespread poaching
- It was a way of life
Salmon River spring Chinook
Salmon River Restoration Council
Integrally connected

- Late 1980’s, early 90’s declining runs
- Growing Concern from some in the community
- Klamath River Task Force Support
- Salmon Education
- SRRC born out of this effort
Multi-Faceted Education

- Series of workshops, education events, theatre & art

Poach eggs not fish campaign

Sarah Hugdahl
Salmon Education

Salmon Ed: Guides and Anglers
Poach eggs not fish campaign
Monitoring

Cooperative Spring Chinook / Summer Steelhead Dives

SRRC/Community Involvement in early ‘90’s
Strong consistent effort

Photo: Peter Bohler
Monitoring

Spring Chinook Spawning and Redd Surveys
Salmon River
Spring Run
Chinook Census
Average ~710
High of ~1600
Low of 90
Salmon River Spring Run Chinook Census

Average ~710
High of ~1600
Low of 90

179 187 1593
Salmon River
Spring Run
Chinook
Census

Low lows
Capped highs
Limiting factors
Klamath River water quality
Winter rearing habitat
Functional floodplains
High summer water temps
Lack of protection
Funding and interest
Suitable spawning gravel?
Limiting factors

Functional floodplains – Legacy mining impacts
Limiting factors

Temperature
Salmon River Juvenile Outmigration Trap

Very few “stream type” juveniles
Where do we go from here? How do we Protect Restore these fish?

What SRRC and partners are working on:

• Refugia enhancement and barrier removal
• Watershed wide floodplain and Mine-tailing Assessment
• Off channel and side channel enhancement
• Large wood loading
• Floodplain restoration at the reach and landscape scale
• Restoration of fire process
• Push for sensible management and protection

Photo: Janjaap Dekker
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