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March 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: Update on Mid Columbia coho reintroduction effort.

The Yakama Nation (YN) has continued to make progress on development of a long term plan for the *Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project*, Project # 1996-040-00. As you may recall, the Council on March 9, 2010 approved the Step 1 review of the *Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project*, Project # 1996-040-00 and recommended that Bonneville and the Yakama Nation (YN) proceed with final design and a revised master plan addressing ISRP concerns for final ISRP review.

Currently, the YN is addressing the three issues raised by the ISRP (ISRP document 2009-6) in a revised master plan that includes responding to these issues and providing details related to a proposed central facility i.e. location/permitting/design. The final facility(s) design and revised master plan will be submitted in late 2012 after the NEPA Record of Decision is complete.

In preparation for the final submittal Tom Scribner, *Mid Columbia Policy Advisor, Yakama Nation Fisheries*, will present an update and status of the project. No action will be needed for this agenda item.



Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration 2012 Project Update

Tom Scribner
Mid-Columbia Policy Advisor
Yakama Nation Fisheries Resource Management

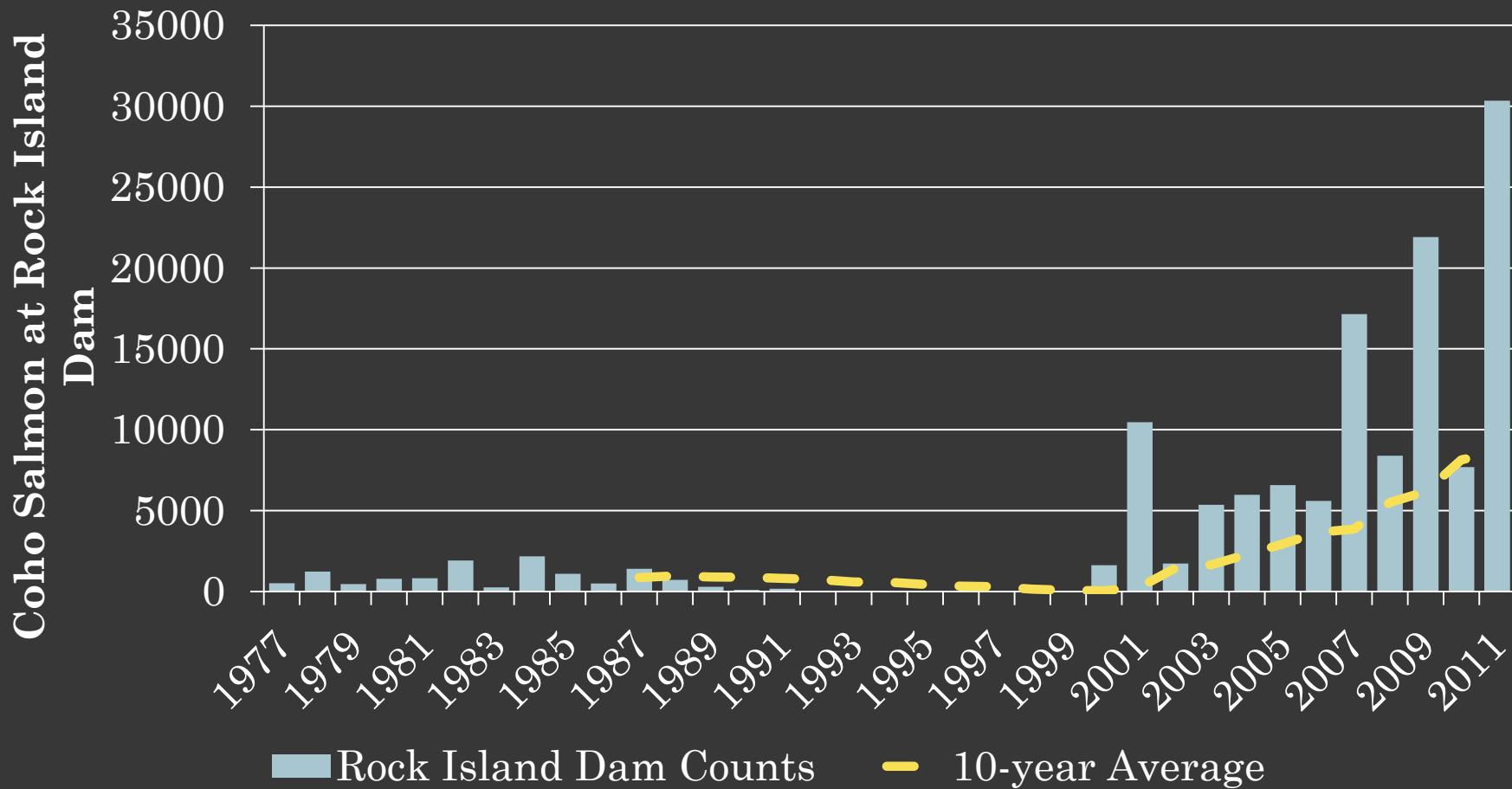
BACKGROUND

- Coho extirpation in early 1900's
- Historical Abundance (Mullan 1983)
 - Wenatchee: 6,000-7,000
 - Entiat: 9,000-13,000
 - Methow: 23,000-31,000
 - Spokane: 32,000-45,000

Craig and Suomela (1941)

“Historically, the Methow River primarily supported coho salmon, followed by steelhead and some Chinook.”



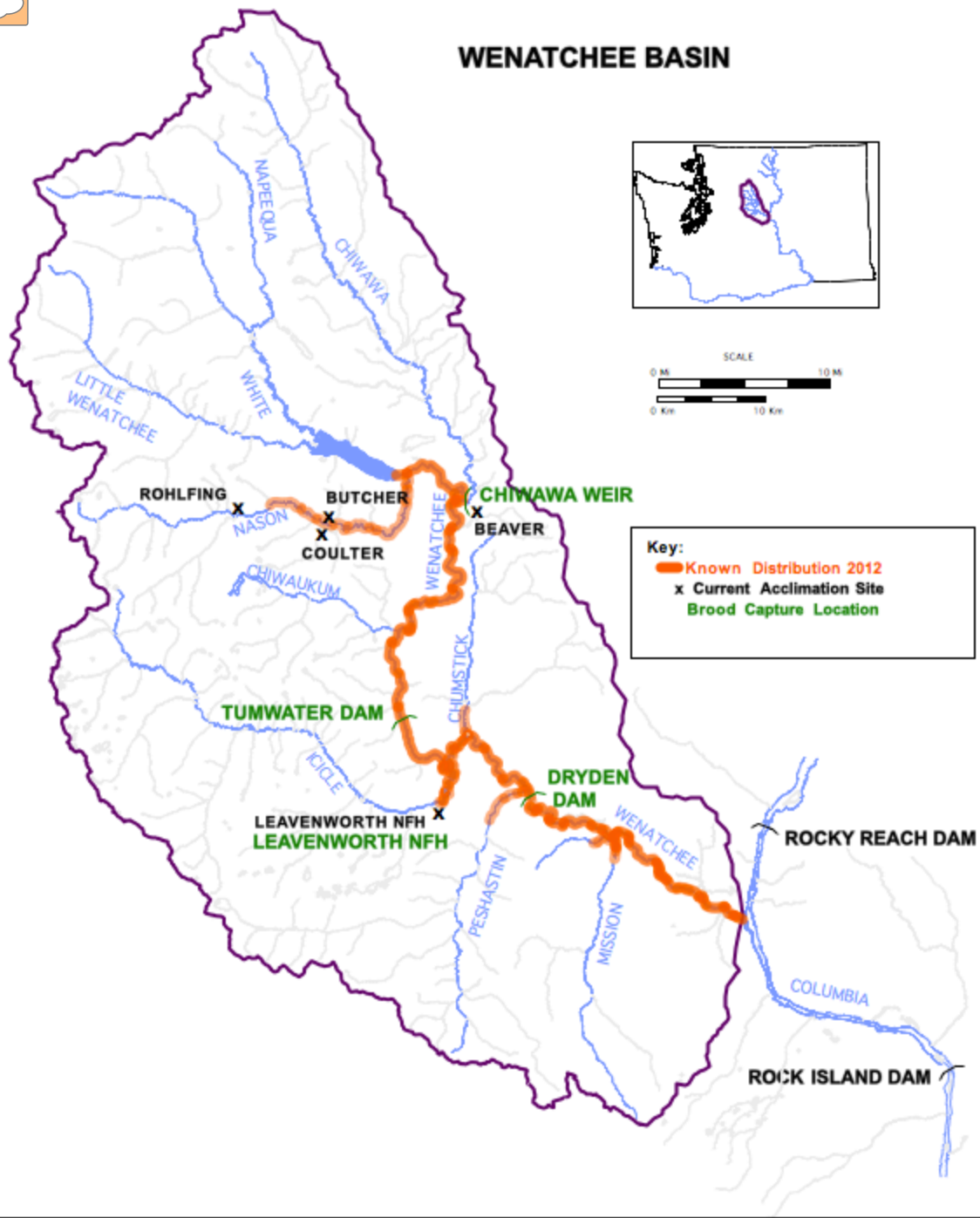


STATUS OF COHO SALMON IN THE UPPER COLUMBIA

WENATCHEE BASIN



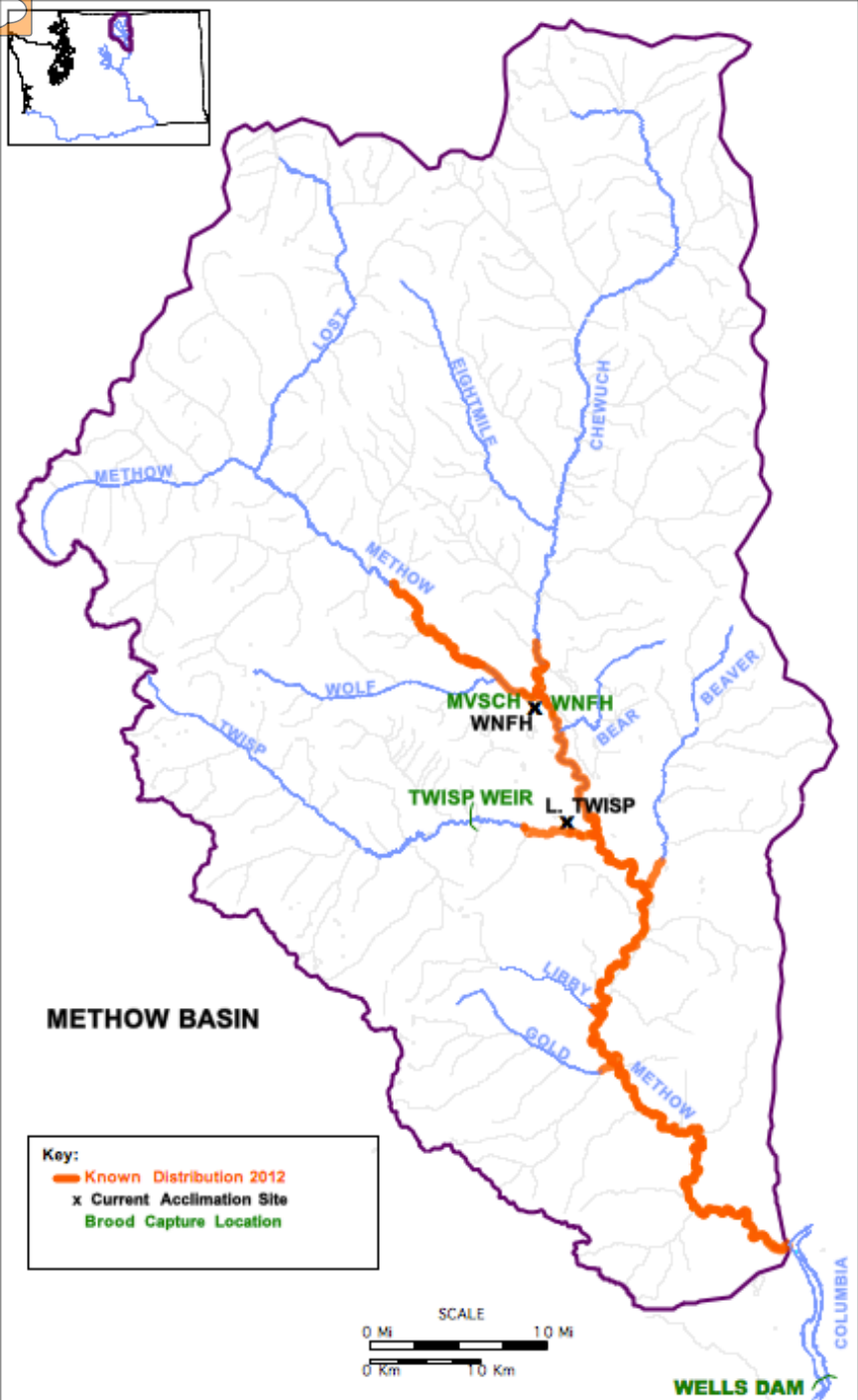
Key:
— Known Distribution 2012
x Current Acclimation Site
● Brood Capture Location



CURRENT SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION

Wenatchee Basin

CURRENT SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION



- Methow Basin

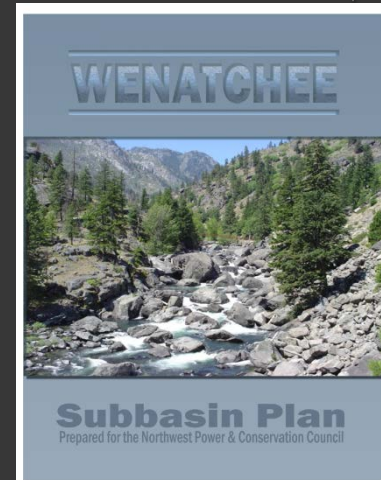
LONG TERM VISION FOR REINTRODUCTION



- To re-establish naturally spawning coho populations to biologically sustainable levels which provide harvest in most years

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REGIONAL PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, PLANS

- Treaty of 1855
- Columbia River Fish Management Plan (U.S. v. OR)
- Accords Agreement
- Mitchell Act
- Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit (TRP)
- Wenatchee and Methow Subbasin Plans
- Yakima River and Clearwater River Coho Restoration
- Mid-Columbia HCP Hatchery Compensation Plans
- GCPUD Settlement Agreement
- Grand Coulee Fish Maintenance Project (GCFMP)
- Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
- Yakama Nation Habitat Improvement Projects



PROJECT STATUS

- NPCC Staff Summary from YN 2010 Presentation

“The experimental nature of this project over the past 14 years does not conform to the norm for the development of an artificial production project. This project has evolved with the science, and in doing so, has used existing facilities and natural sites as was envisioned in 1996 when the feasibility studies were approved for implementation. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan guided the evaluation of the feasibility studies and the development of the current proposed approach. It will continue to do so in order to ensure that critical uncertainties are monitored and linked to contingency plans so that action can be taken in case goals for each phase are not met on the schedule predicted”

(Letter to Bill Maslen, BPA from
Tony Grover, March 10, 2010)



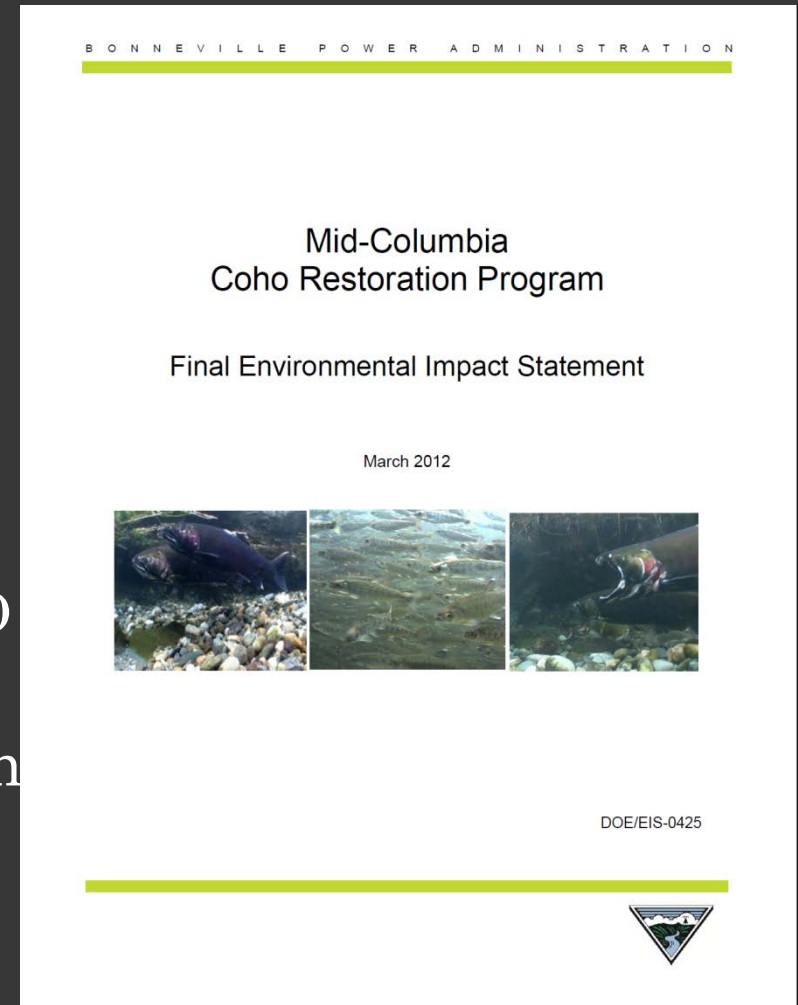
PROJECT STATUS

- Feasibility studies completed and reported
 - Last presentation to NPCC; March 2010



PROJECT STATUS

- NEPA
 - EIS completed and signed by Steve Wright Feb, 27 2010
 - Federal Register notice; March 9, 2012
 - ROD
 - Schedule dependant upon BO (USFWS & NMFS)
 - Confirmation of acclimation sites
 - Appropriate improvements

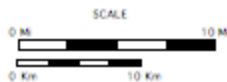
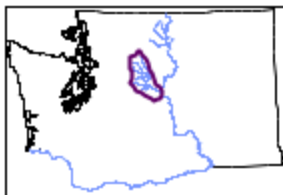


PROJECT STATUS

- Acclimation Expansion based on achieving phased goals
- Broodstock Development Phases
 - Eliminate transfers of lower Columbia Broodstock
 - Ensure that returning coho can reach key habitat areas
- Natural Production Phases
 - Increased geographic scope
 - Emphases local adaption to the natural environment (PNI goals)

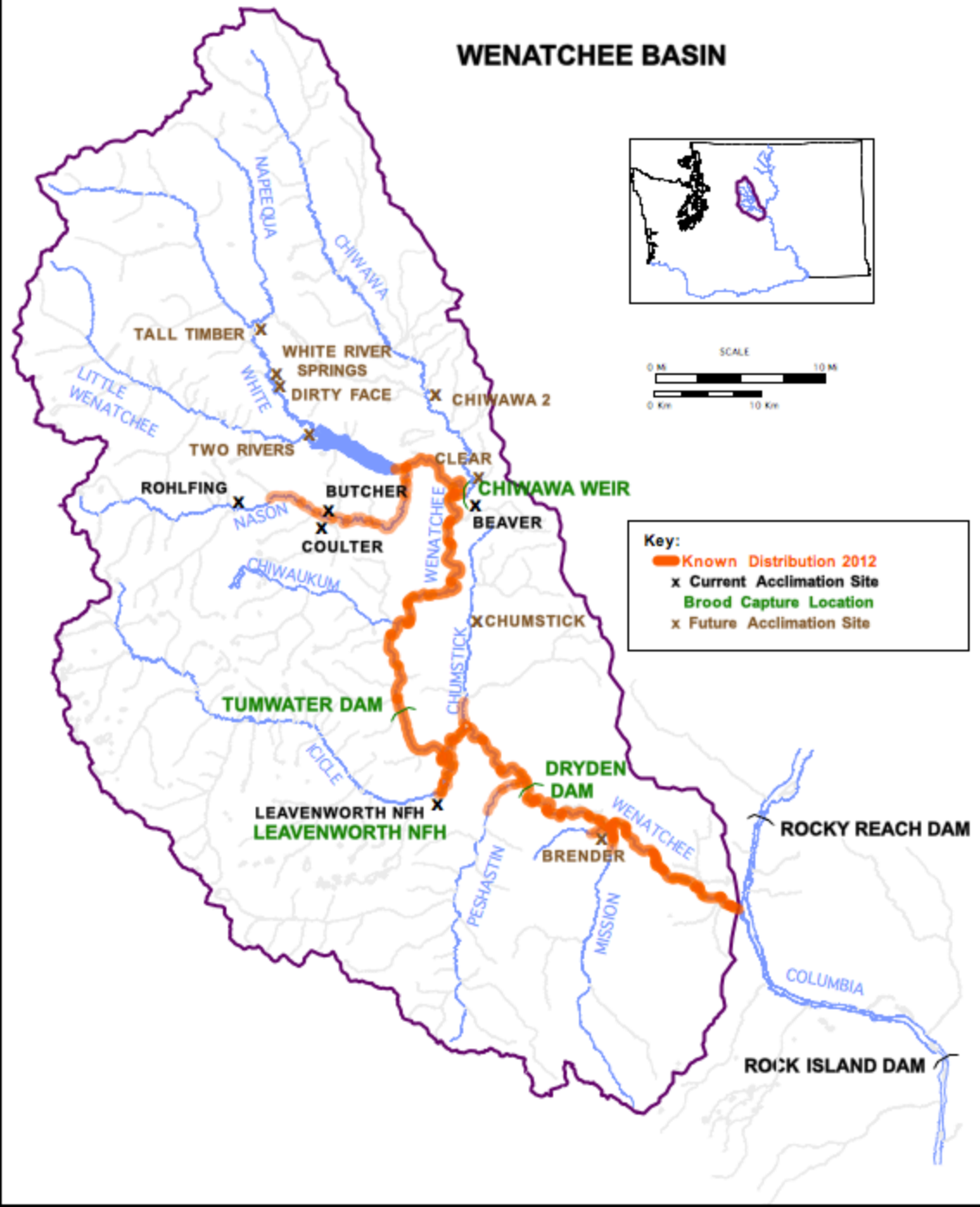


WENATCHEE BASIN



Key:

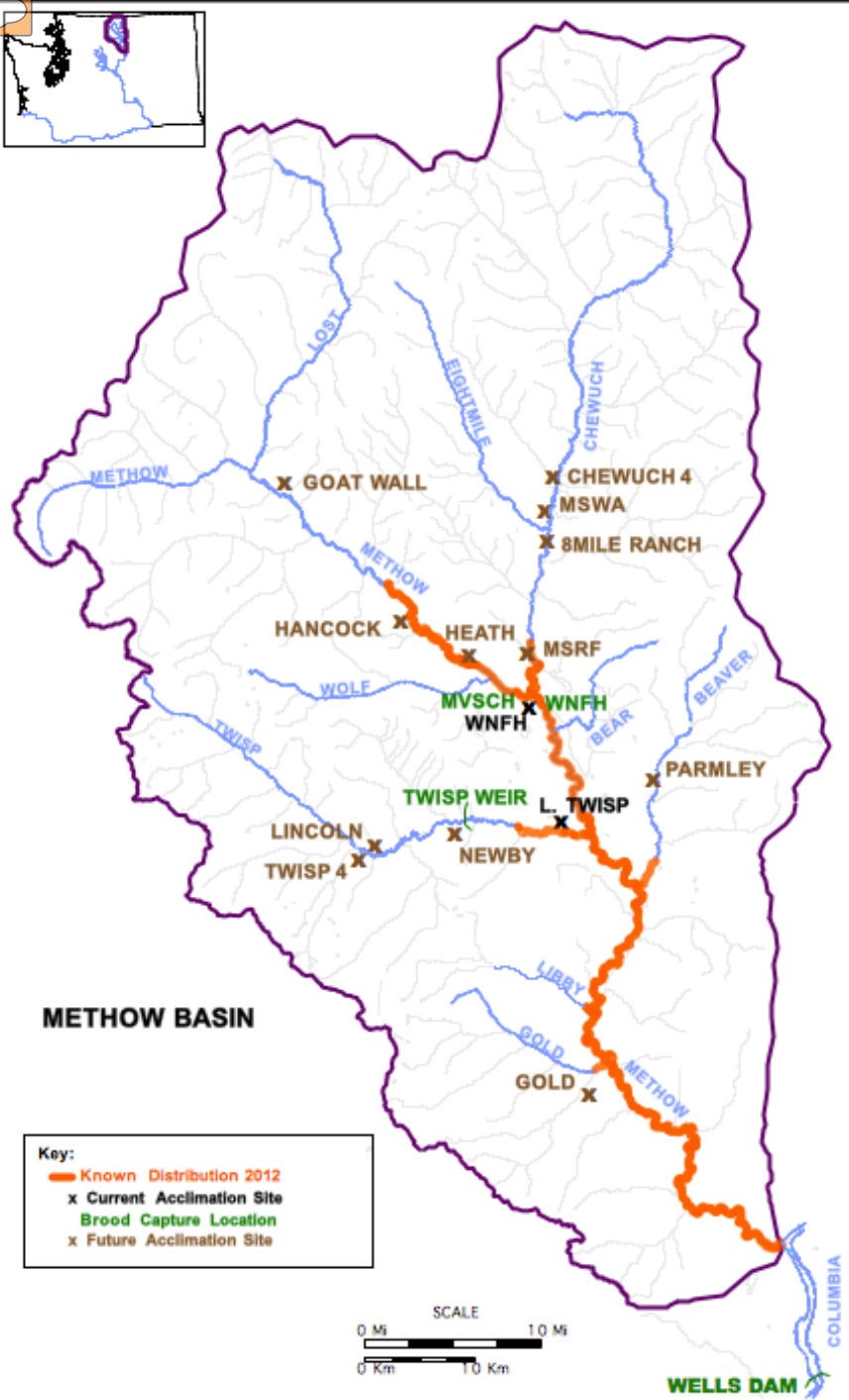
- Known Distribution 2012
- x Current Acclimation Site
- Brood Capture Location
- x Future Acclimation Site



CURRENT AND PROPOSED SITES

Wenatchee Basin

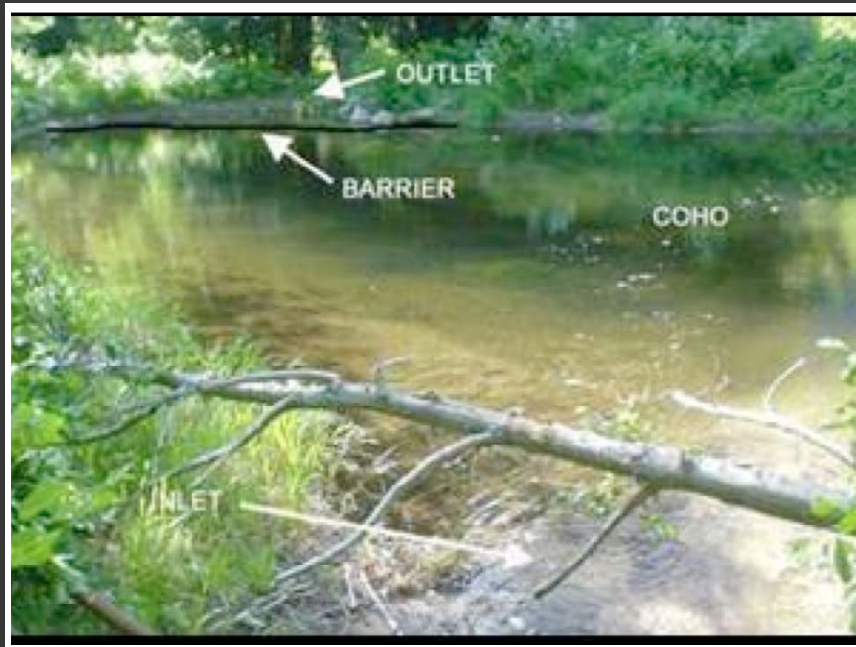
CURRENT AND PROPOSED SITES



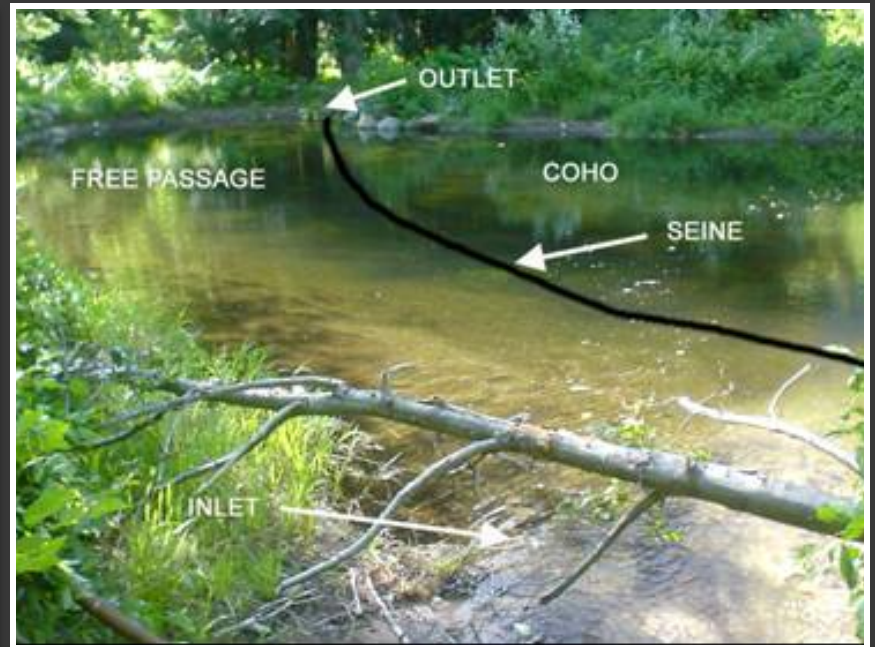
Methow Basin

ACCLIMATION SITE DESIGN

TEMPORARY NET SYSTEMS



Net fully blocks passage



Net allows for free passage



Butcher Creek Pond
coho acclimation site



Coulter Pond
coho acclimation site



Rohlfings Pond
coho and steelhead acclimation



Rohlfings Pond
outlets and PIT tag detection



Biddle Pond
chinook acclimation site



Lower Twisp Pond
coho acclimation site



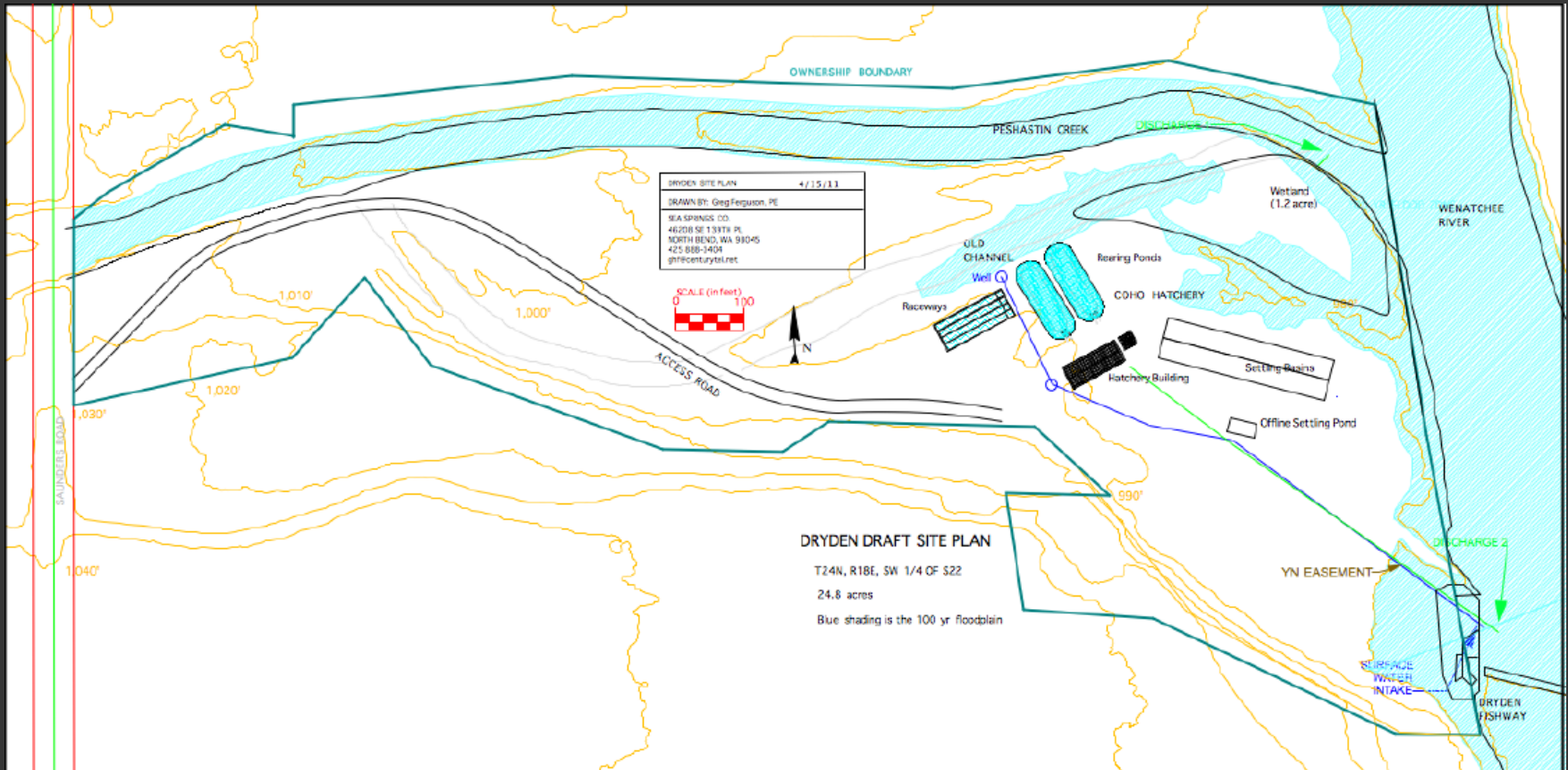
Heath Pond
chinook acclimation site

ISRP AND FINAL DESIGN ISSUES (ADDRESSED IN EIS AND REVISED MASTER PLAN)

- ISRP Concerns from last Master Plan Draft
 - *1. The performance metrics at each stage of the project are insufficient. An unambiguous course of action to be taken if performance goals are not met within a defined period of time.*
 - *2. The reporting of the feasibility studies does not provide explicit status of the appropriate metrics at this time.*
 - *3. The rationale for the design of Broodstock Development Phase 2, Natural Production Implementation Phase, and Natural Production Support Phases are not scientifically supported by the results from the feasibility studies or modeling.*

ISRP AND FINAL DESIGN ISSUES (ADDRESSED IN EIS AND REVISED MASTER PLAN)

- Central Facility Location/Design/Costs





Questions ?

