Steelhead Management in the Lower Snake River Basin and the Recent Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) Review Process

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Oral Presentation

The Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) is a federal mitigation program to address impacts on steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) from the construction and operation of the lower four federal Snake River dams. The program predominantly uses hatchery production and associated infrastructure, annual coordination, scientific evaluation and cooperative partnerships among State, Tribal, Federal and non-Federal partners to address specific in-place, in-kind adult steelhead and salmon return goals. Over time, the LSRCP has completed a number of both internal and external scientific and programmatic reviews with the most recent completed by the Bonneville Power Administration-funded Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) on the steelhead program. Through the ISRP review process, hatchery releases and specific steelhead programs were summarized through specific performance metrics and criteria toward the in-place, in-kind goals. The periodic review allowed for improved understanding of the program by all partners and provided valuable accountability and feedback for adaptive management by the LSRCP program. The recent ISRP review identified the factors that have limited recent achievement of program goals, the adaptability of the program to implement changes, and recommendations for the program to consider moving forward.