

Appendix L

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Strategic Options For Okanogan Fall Chinook

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Colville Confederated Tribe Strategic Options For Okanogan Summer/Fall Chinook

The Okanogan Summer/Fall Chinook Hatchery & Genetic Management Plan would be developed from *one or more* of the following strategic options. The preferred action at this time is options II and III.

Disperse Existing Summer Chinook Production (Integrated Recovery)

Expand Okanogan Acclimation Sites

The goals of this program would be to 1) make greater and more efficient use of potential spawning and rearing habitat in the Okanogan River, 2) develop a locally adapted brood stock for the Okanogan basin, and 3) provide added tribal and sport fishing opportunity. Additional acclimation facilities would be developed downstream from the confluence of the Similkameen River. Existing mitigation production currently being released at main stem locations (e.g. Turtle Rock) would be moved up into the Okanogan River consistent with the BAMP. Current smolt releases in the Similkameen River would be dispersed to minimize redd superimposition. Tribal and sport harvest would be expanded when appropriate and target ad-clipped, hatchery-origin Chinook. Brood stock would be trapped in the Similkameen and/or Okanogan rivers to develop a summer/fall Chinook population adapted to environmental conditions unique to the Okanogan basin.

Whitestone Creek Acclimation: Identified in BAMP as possible site. Provide supplementation for the upper Okanogan spawning reaches in river miles 57-77.

Riverside Acclimation: Provide supplementation to the spawning habitat in river miles 41-57

Omak/Okanogan: Provide supplementation to spawning grounds in the area river miles 26-31.

Expand Summer Chinook Production

Expand Okanogan Acclimation Sites And Production (Integrated Harvest)

The goals of this program would be the same as I.A. above, but with the addition of more summer Chinook production to allow greater selective fishing opportunities. Additional acclimation facilities would be developed downstream from the confluence of the Similkameen River. Existing mitigation production currently being released at main stem locations would be moved up into the Okanogan River consistent with the BAMP. Additional production would be acclimated and released in the Okanogan River. Current smolt releases in the Similkameen River would be dispersed to minimize redd superimposition. Tribal and sport harvest would be expanded to target ad-clipped, hatchery-origin Chinook. Brood stock would be trapped in the Similkameen and/or Okanogan rivers to develop a summer/fall Chinook population adapted to environmental conditions unique to the Okanogan basin. Some of this production should be released as

sub-yearlings to mimic the natural template of the summer/fall Chinook and make use of the rearing capacity of the Columbia River reservoirs.

Whitestone Creek Acclimation: Identified in BAMP as possible site. Provide supplementation for the upper Okanogan spawning reaches in river miles 57-77.

Riverside Acclimation: Provide supplementation to the spawning habitat in river miles 41-57

Omak/Okanogan: Provide supplementation to spawning grounds in the area river miles 26-31.

Increase Main Stem Releases Associated With Chief Joseph Dam (Isolated Harvest)

The goal of this program would be to 1) increase tribal and sport fishing in the Columbia River between the confluence of the Okanogan River and Chief Joseph Dam and 2) increase production for possible later smolt releases above Chief Joseph Dam.

Propagation facilities would be constructed at a new or existing hatchery site. Ad-clipped, hatchery-origin summer Chinook would be acclimated and released below Chief Joseph Dam for subsequent harvest by tribal members and sport fishers. Tribal fishers could utilize new, selective net traps in addition to the current hook & line methods employed at the dam.

Colville Trout Hatchery: Expand well field and increase raceway/pond capacity.

Cassimer Bar Hatchery: ?suitability if sockeye program moved?

Chief Joe Wastewater: Develop new rearing facility using the approximate 20 cfs of dam seepage water.

Integrate Fall Chinook Production (Integrated Recovery)

The goals of this program would be to 1) propagate the late arriving summer/fall Chinook for acclimation and release into the lower Okanogan River and Columbia River, and 2) increase tribal and sport fishing opportunity. Current summer/fall Chinook propagation programs use only the earlier arriving, or summer-type Chinook. Brood stock collection at Wells Dam is suspended on August 28th. Under this program, later arriving, fall-type Chinook would be propagated, acclimated, and released to supplement spawning in the lower Okanogan River and the Columbia River from Brewster to Washburn Island. This program would ensure the entire life history template of the summer/fall Chinook is maintained in the upper Columbia region. Juveniles should be released as both yearlings and sub-yearlings. Brood stock would be collected initially at Wells Dam. This brood stock would also be available for potential use above Chief Joseph Dam. Harvest would be selective, targeting ad-clipped, hatchery-origin Chinook.

Okanogan Acclimation: One or two sites should be located in the lower 25 miles of the river to acclimate these fall-type Chinook.

Columbia Acclimation: Rear and release Chinook from the existing Colville Trout and Cassimer hatchery sites, and/or from a new facility below Chief Joseph Dam.