Title:
Yakima Basin Steelhead Status Report

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Summary of Presentation:
Yakima Basin steelhead adult counts have been conducted at Prosser Dam beginning with the 1983-84 run, while counts at Roza Dam commenced with the 1991-92 run. This task is part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation program under the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP).

There are three primary projects related to steelhead currently being conducted in the Yakima Basin that are funded by BPA, but are not directly under the guise of the YKFP. The Yakima Watershed Restoration-Satus Creek (project #199603501) was initiated in 1996. The stated purpose of this project is to "improve fish habitat in the Satus Creek watershed (Yakama Indian Reservation) by ameliorating the major land-use impacts." Associated with the habitat restoration activities are two important steelhead monitoring tasks. These are operation of a smolt trap near the mouth of Satus Creek since 1997 and continued annual redd surveys, which date back to the early 1980's.

The second project is the Upper Toppenish Creek Watershed Analysis (project #199803300), which began in 1998. The objective of this project is to, "analyze the key hydrologic features of the upper Toppenish Creek watershed which have a spatially disproportionate influence on runoff processes. Determine those areas with high storage capacity and implement restoration plans." In addition to the hydrological information being gathered for this project, complete annual redd surveys of the entire Toppenish/Simcoe subbasins are conducted, as well as, the monitoring of steelhead parr and smolt outmigration since 2000.

The final project is the Ahtanum Creek Watershed Assessment (project 199901300) that was initiated in 1999. The stated purpose of the project is to, "map irrigated lands & water delivery stems, measure water discharge & temperature. Determine efficiency of irrigation water conveyance and use. Gather data on stream channel condition, riparian function and salmonid populations in the Ahtanum Creek watershed." Information is being collected on steelhead through project monitoring and evaluation activities, which consist of operating a rotary trap in lower Ahtanum Creek, as well as, conducting redd surveys in portions of the subbasin.