

Monitoring and Evaluation of Northern Pike Minnow on Juvenile Salmonids on the Yakima River, Washington

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During smolt migration timing on the Yakima River, juvenile salmonids are consumed in large numbers by the Northern Pike Minnow. The objectives of YKFP's continuing Northern Pike Minnow predation study are to estimate the abundance of the Northern Pike Minnow and their consumption of juvenile salmonids. Timing of the study is during primary smolt migration, in spring and early summer. The study area on the Yakima River consists of 39 river miles, stretching from the confluence of the Naches River to the town of Granger. In order to determine abundance of this species, and get a measure of juvenile salmonid consumption, Northern Pike Minnow are captured via electro-shocking. Capture allows for a mark, count, and collection of stomach contents. A population size is determined by the mark/recapture effort. Juvenile salmonid consumption estimates are determined by analyzing stomach contents by bone diagnostics and factoring in a consumption rate.