

Title:

Steelhead habitat use in the upper Yakima River Basin

Author:

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Summary of Presentation:

Yakima River steelhead were recently listed as threatened under the middle Columbia ESU. These fish enter the river in the spring/early summer and spawn in winter/early spring in the Yakima River. Largest spawning runs are in Satus and Toppenish Creeks although spawning also has been noted in the Naches and upper Yakima River. Roza Dam was completed in the late 1930's/early 40's but fish passage only occurred when the pool was full. The Roza Power Plant was added in 1958 and fish passage then became possible all year. It is believed that steelhead use above Roza Dam was impacted the 17 years prior to 1958. We are using radiotelemetry to evaluate habitat use and spawning above Roza Dam by tracking fish that are intercepted at the Roza fish trap. Remote telemetry stations are in place at Roza Dam, Town Ditch, Taneum Creek, Teanaway River, Cle Elum Hatchery, and Easton Dam due to the cooperation of University of Idaho, United States Geological Survey, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Bureau of Reclamation. To date, 30 adult wild steelhead have been gastrically implanted with a 6-month radiotransmitter and released into the Roza pool. These fish are tracked every few days and the remote stations downloaded weekly.