



Are Hatcheries Appropriate Mitigation for Hydro Impacts

Brett Swift
American Rivers

Historic Use of Hatcheries

- Licensee required to provide funding to the relevant state agency
- Funding tied to specific amount/weight of juvenile production
- No monitoring or evaluation of program to determine effectiveness
- Often replaced an initial fish passage requirement
- In many cases, they have not contributed to healthy, harvestable populations of salmon and steelhead

Federal Power Act

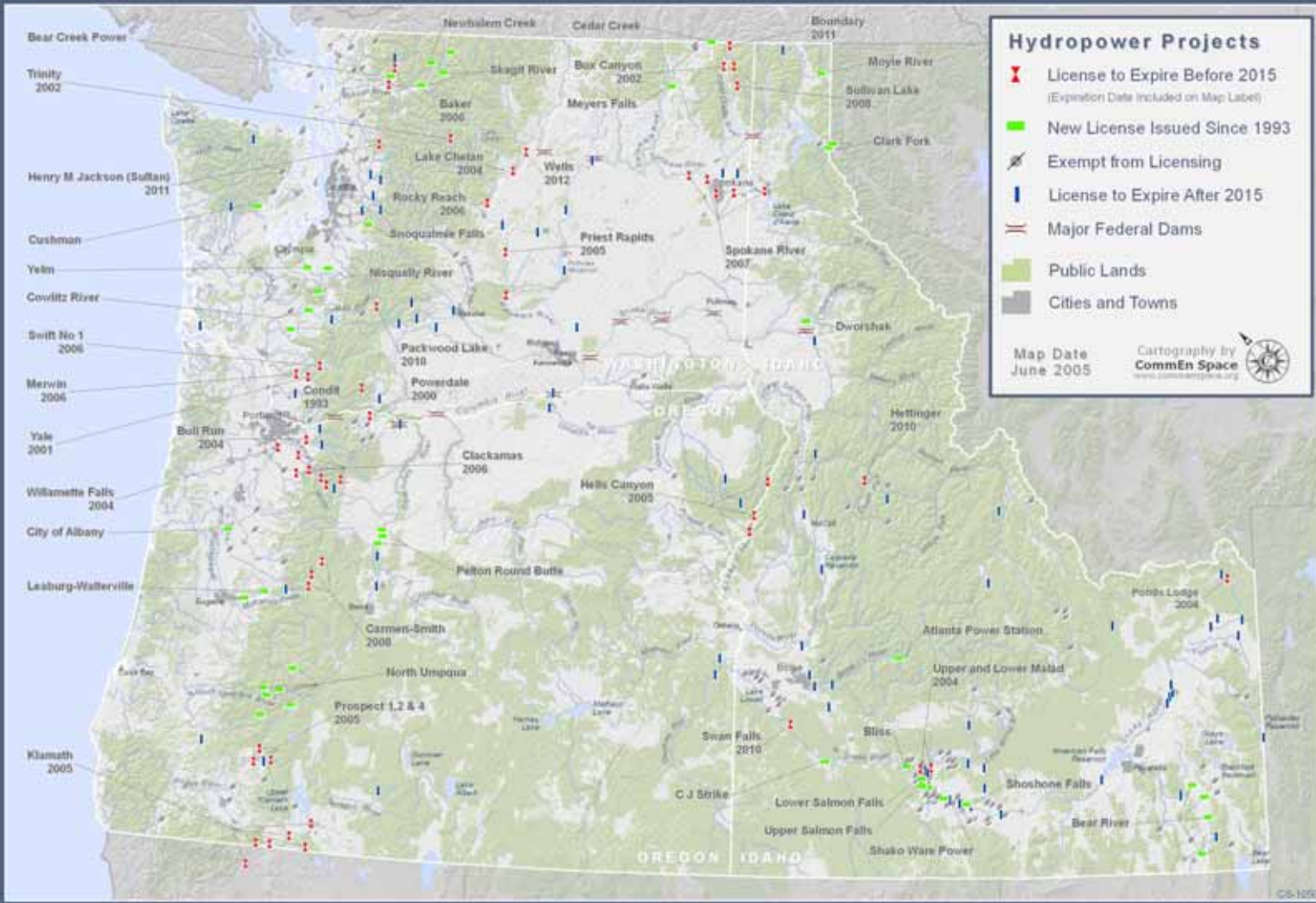
Hydropower Projects Licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

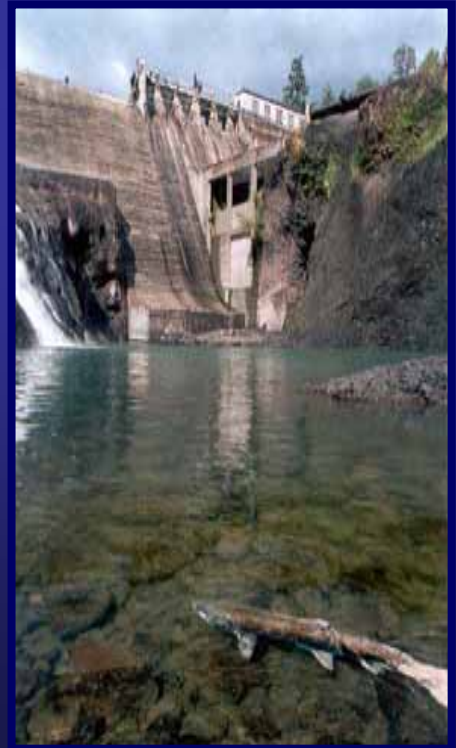
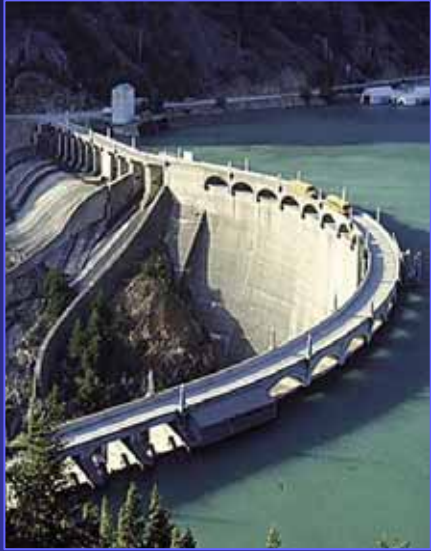
[i]n order to adequately and equitably protect, mitigate damages to, and enhance, fish and wildlife (including related spawning grounds and habitat) affected by the development, operation, and management of the project, each license issued under this Part shall include conditions for such protection, mitigation, and enhancement

16 U.S.C. § 803(j)

FERC HYDROPOWER PROJECTS

Washington, Oregon, & Idaho





FERC Relicensing

- Comprehensive analysis of the impacts of the project
 - This should include, but often doesn't, the impacts of any existing hatchery programs
- Priority – address direct impacts of the hydropower project
 - Fish passage, instream flows, gravel augmentation
- Ongoing impacts
 - Habitat Restoration



Hatchery Mitigation

Will a hatchery program contribute to the goal of establishing healthy, harvestable runs of salmon and steelhead or will it undermine efforts to restore wild stocks?

- Mitigation for the hatchery program itself
- Potential to negate the benefits of the required protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures

Other Considerations

- Licensee Obligation
 - Obligation to design and implement program
 - Not adequate to simply provide funds to relevant state agency
- Design and Implementation
 - Open to input from all parties
 - Informed by best available science
- Support from all parties
 - Marking
 - Improvements at hatchery facility
 - Required studies
- Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Program
- Regulatory approval

