



# UMPQUA BASIN HATCHERY INFRASTRUCTURE

Roseburg Town Hall

March 11, 2025



WILLAMETTE  
PARTNERSHIP



## KNOWNNS

- Subject to legislative budget outcomes, ODFW is proposing to maintain Rock Creek Hatchery (RCH) as part of an Umpqua complex to rear existing programs
- Since the 2020 wildfires, ODFW has maintained Umpqua Basin production by raising hatchery fish at both Cole Rivers and Elk River hatcheries and returning them to the Umpqua Basin for acclimation before release.
- ODFW is trying to figure out how to maintain production sustainably and cost effectively with current and predicted environmental challenges.



## MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Briefly share information about the hatchery resilience review process.
- Share feedback to date.
  - Specifically share the Department's decision-making framework (factors) and how they led to the rebuild concept.
- Collect feedback from participants about the decision-making framework (factors), rebuild concept, and any new ideas that emerge.

# HATCHERY ASSESSMENT PROCESS & REPORTING



# Independent Review of Hatchery System



## Economics

Financial sustainability, costs and benefits, funding models



## Climate Vulnerability

Assessing the impact of climate change on hatchery infrastructure and programs, the need for these programs, and how can impacts be mitigated



## Current State

Document the deferred maintenance needs at all facilities

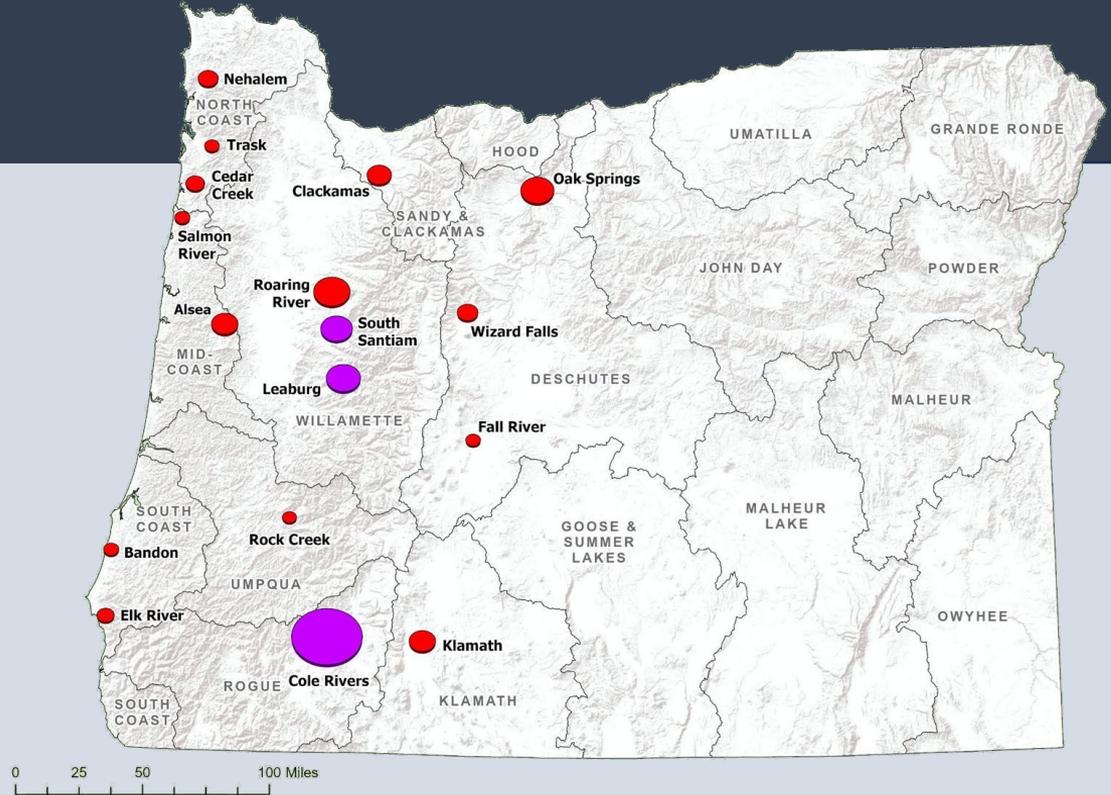


# HATCHERIES

Under review

Focus on 17 facilities

- 14 state-owned
- 3 federally-owned



# Hatchery Assessment

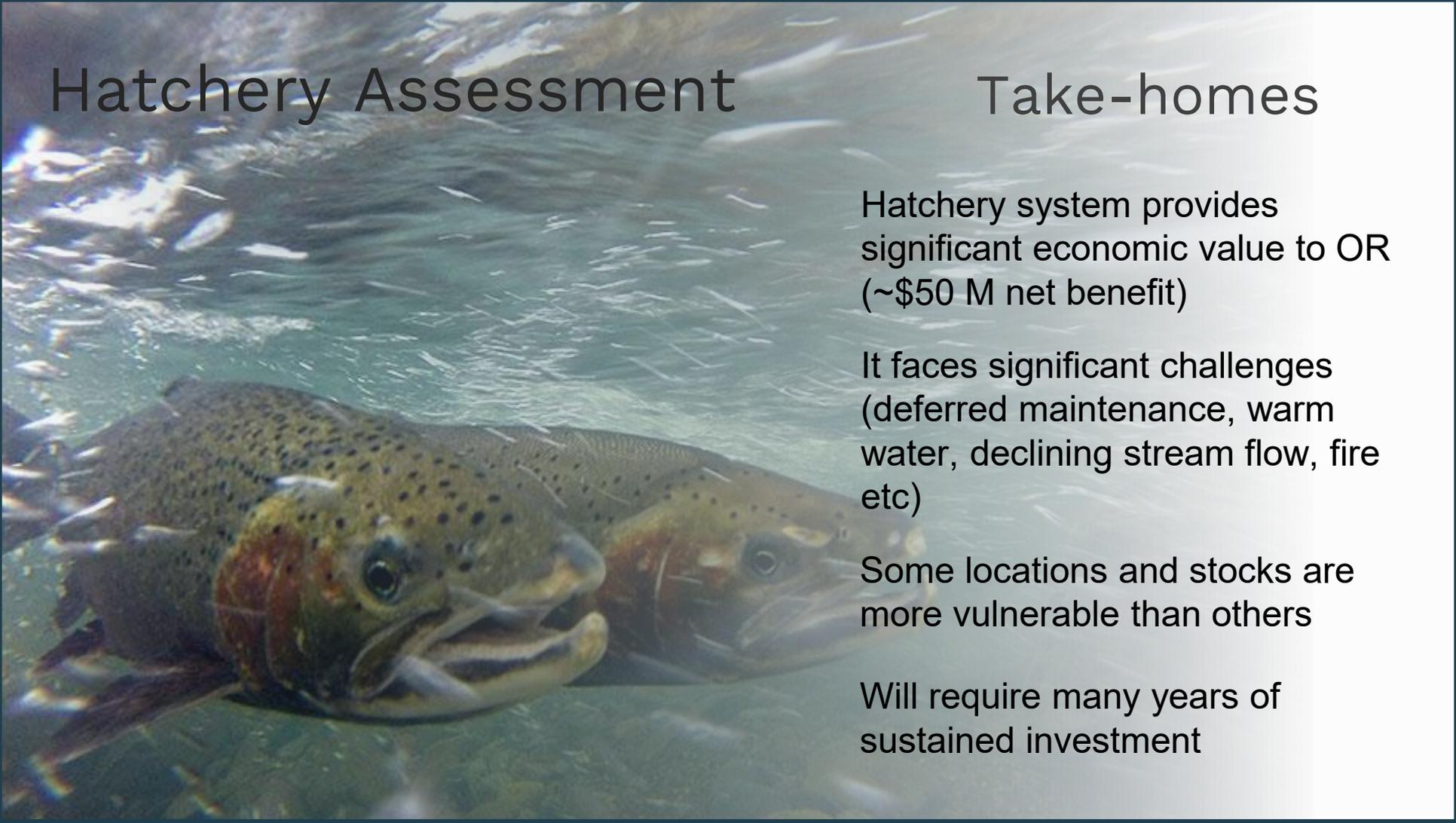
## Take-homes

Hatchery system provides significant economic value to OR (~\$50 M net benefit)

It faces significant challenges (deferred maintenance, warm water, declining stream flow, fire etc)

Some locations and stocks are more vulnerable than others

Will require many years of sustained investment

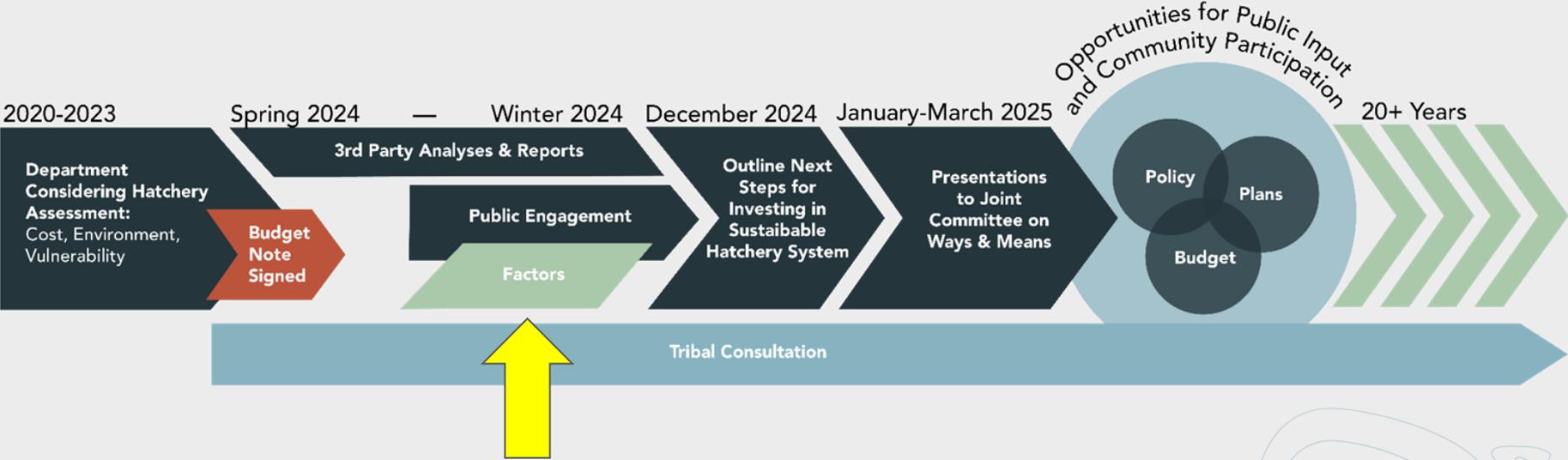


# HOW WILL THIS INFORMATION BE USED?

- No single decision or decision maker
  - Department (budget, repairs, construction)
  - Commission (budget, hatchery programs)
  - Legislature (budget and bonding)
- Limited certainty of future conditions (available funding, environmental changes, hatchery fish performance, wild fish health)
- Will apply information to decisions at the time.
  - In conjunction with stakeholder led factors



# SMALL GROUP: FACTORS





## FACTORS

- Environmental conditions
- Wild fish
- Hatchery performance
- Local community value and economics
- Hatchery cost



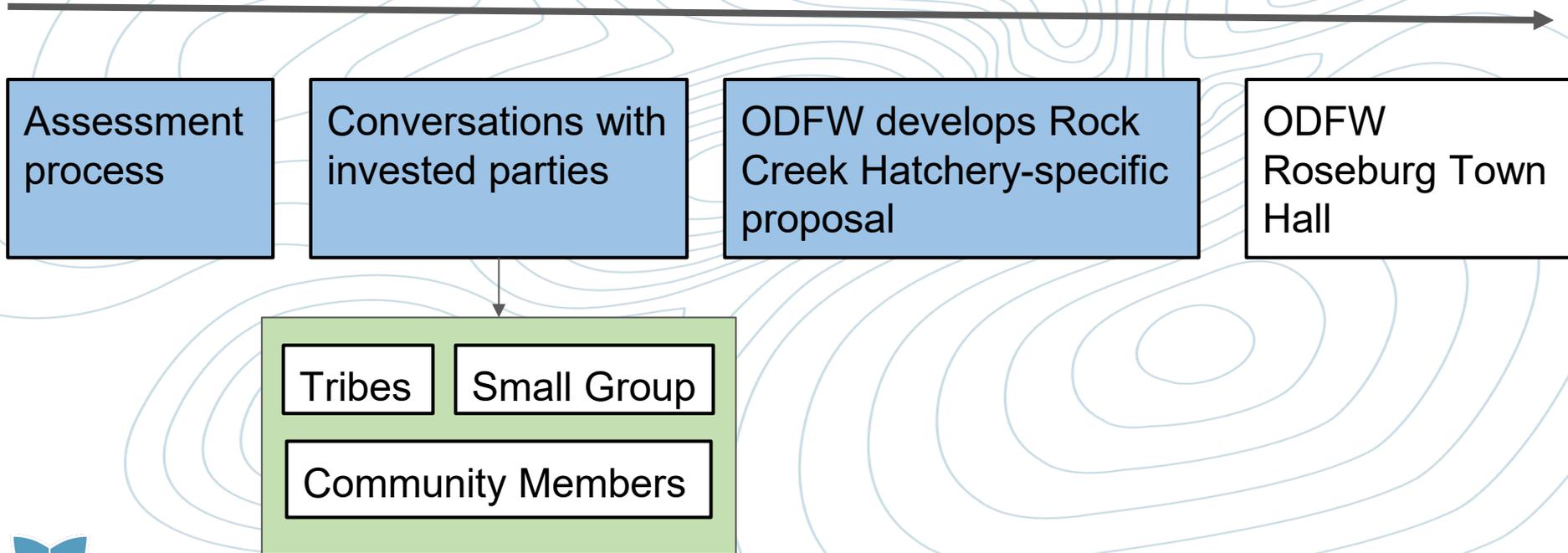
Uncertainties in funding, challenges in hatchery production due to environmental factors, and high operational costs at Rock Creek led to consideration of new alternatives like acclimation sites, moving production, as well as ancillary benefits like an interpretative center, alongside rebuilding.

Studies are needed to assess the impacts of different strategies.

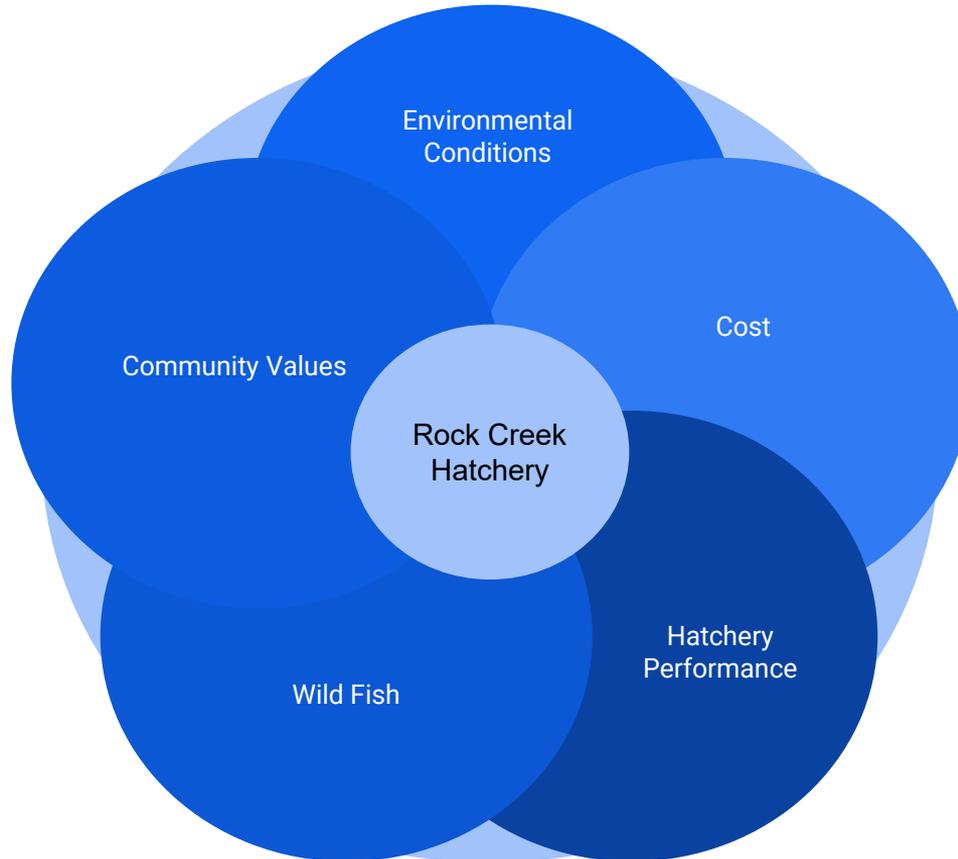
## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION - SOUTHWEST

- The North Umpqua fishery has a high value for both wild and hatchery spring Chinook. There were concerns about hatchery fish straying. Also challenges related to broodstock collection and acclimation, particularly without Rock Creek.
- The local economy is recovering from fire impacts, increasing the importance of economic contributions from the spring Chinook fishery. There is a need for clear community engagement, partnerships, and communication about funding and alternatives.
- Like any investment decision, higher investment at Rock Creek limits investment elsewhere in the SW system.

# PROCESS CHECK IN



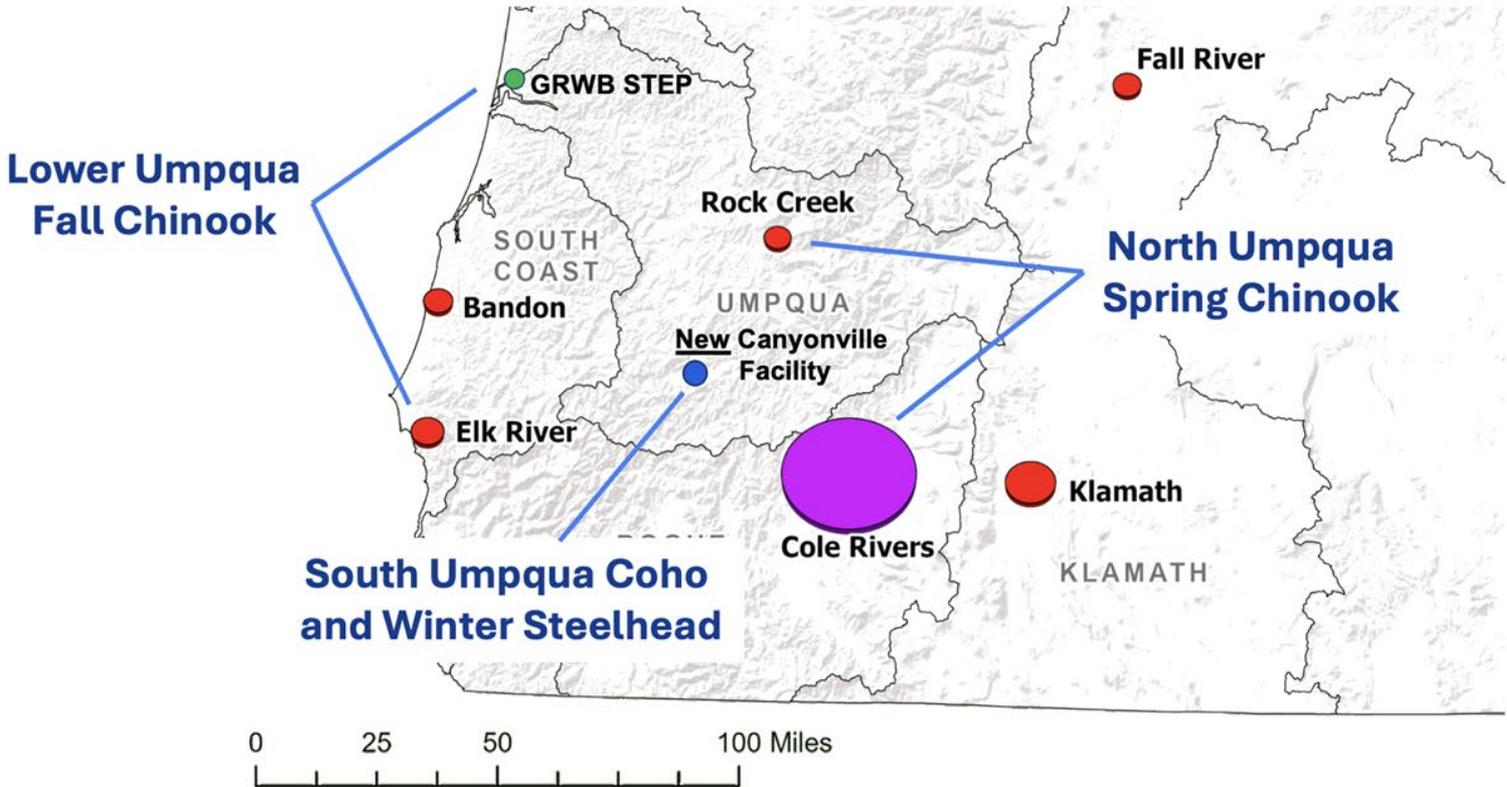
# CONSIDERED FOR ROCK CREEK HATCHERY



# Umpqua Basin Hatchery Programs

Program	Current Production	Proposed Production
North Umpqua <b>Spring Chinook</b>	<b>342,000 smolts</b> Reared at Cole Rivers Hatchery & acclimated at Rock Creek Hatchery	<b>342,000 smolts</b> 1/2 reared at Rock Creek Hatchery 1/2 reared at Cole Rivers Hatchery & acclimated at Rock Creek Hatchery
South Umpqua <b>Winter Steelhead</b>	<b>150,000 smolts</b> Reared at Cole Rivers Hatchery & acclimated at Canyonville facilities	<b>150,000 smolts</b> Reared & released at new Canyonville facility in partnership with CCBUTI & ongoing STEP involvement
South Umpqua <b>Coho Salmon</b>	<b>60,000 smolts</b> Reared at Cole Rivers Hatchery & released below Galesville Dam	<b>60,000 smolts</b> Reared at new Canyonville facility in partnership with CCBUTI & ongoing STEP involvement & released below Galesville Dam
Lower Umpqua <b>Fall Chinook</b>	<b>170,000 pre-smolts/smolts</b> Reared at GRWB STEP facility & Elk River Hatchery	<b>170,000 pre-smolts/smolts</b> Reared at GRWB STEP facility & Elk River Hatchery

# Proposed



# Factors



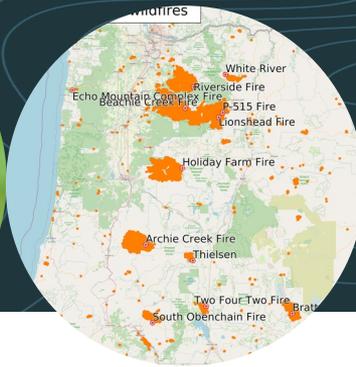
## Community Values

- Addresses desire for:
- Onsite rearing at Rock Creek Hatchery
  - Education & interpretation opportunities at Rock Creek site
  - Community site



## Cost

- State-Tribal partnership allows for additional resources & expertise and reduces costs to the State
- Does not fully address funding challenges



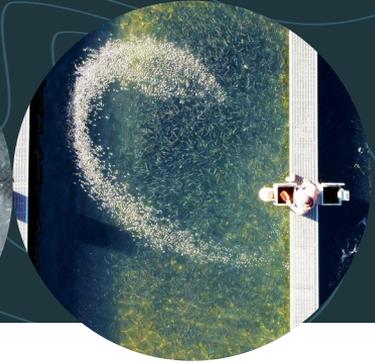
## Environmental Conditions

- Spreads risk but does not fully address environmental challenges:
- Water is still warm and warming
  - Fire risk



## Wild Fish

- Research and monitoring to improve homing
- In basin rearing



## Hatchery Performance

- Maintains all production #s
- Spreads risk
- Reduces density of Spring Chinook at RCH
- Invests in chilling and recirculation to improve water quality at Canyonville facility

# Uncertainties & Unknowns



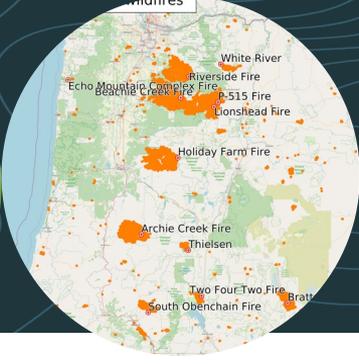
## Community Values

- Future hatchery program needs and preferences
- Funding for education and outreach



## Cost

- Federal funding for infrastructure
- Funding for operations
- Rising costs of construction
- Maintenance and replacement of recirculation and chilling systems



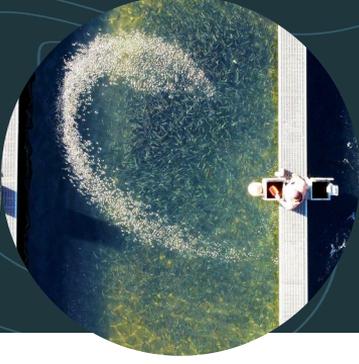
## Environmental Conditions

- Reliability of recirculation and chilling systems
- Fire



## Wild Fish

- Uncertain we can improve homing
- Will require research and monitoring



## Hatchery Performance

- Reliability of recirculation and chilling systems
- Future marine survival trends
- Predation by bass



# QUESTION & ANSWER

## FACTORS

- Community Value
- Wild Fish
- Cost
- Environmental Conditions
- Hatchery Performance



## NEXT STEPS

- Bridge funding
- Continuing conversations

**THANK YOU**

