



# **Unknown Rogue River Spring Chinook Tragedy**

**January 23, 2019**

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# The Environmental Impact of Lost Creek Dam

- Quoting 1972 EIS and the 1962 Project Authorization Document
  - “*Any flood control plan detrimental to the fishery resource would be unacceptable, both locally and to the Federal and State fishery agencies”*
- This statement came from a public meeting in 1956 and has followed all documentation forward...

# The Effects of Adverse Management on Rogue Spring Salmon Populations

- 1972 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Lost Creek Project

*“The project will effectively isolate the upstream drainage area from use by anadromous fish. Maintenance of anadromous and resident fish populations will be dependent upon the fish hatchery (Cole Rivers) for artificial spawning and rearing”*

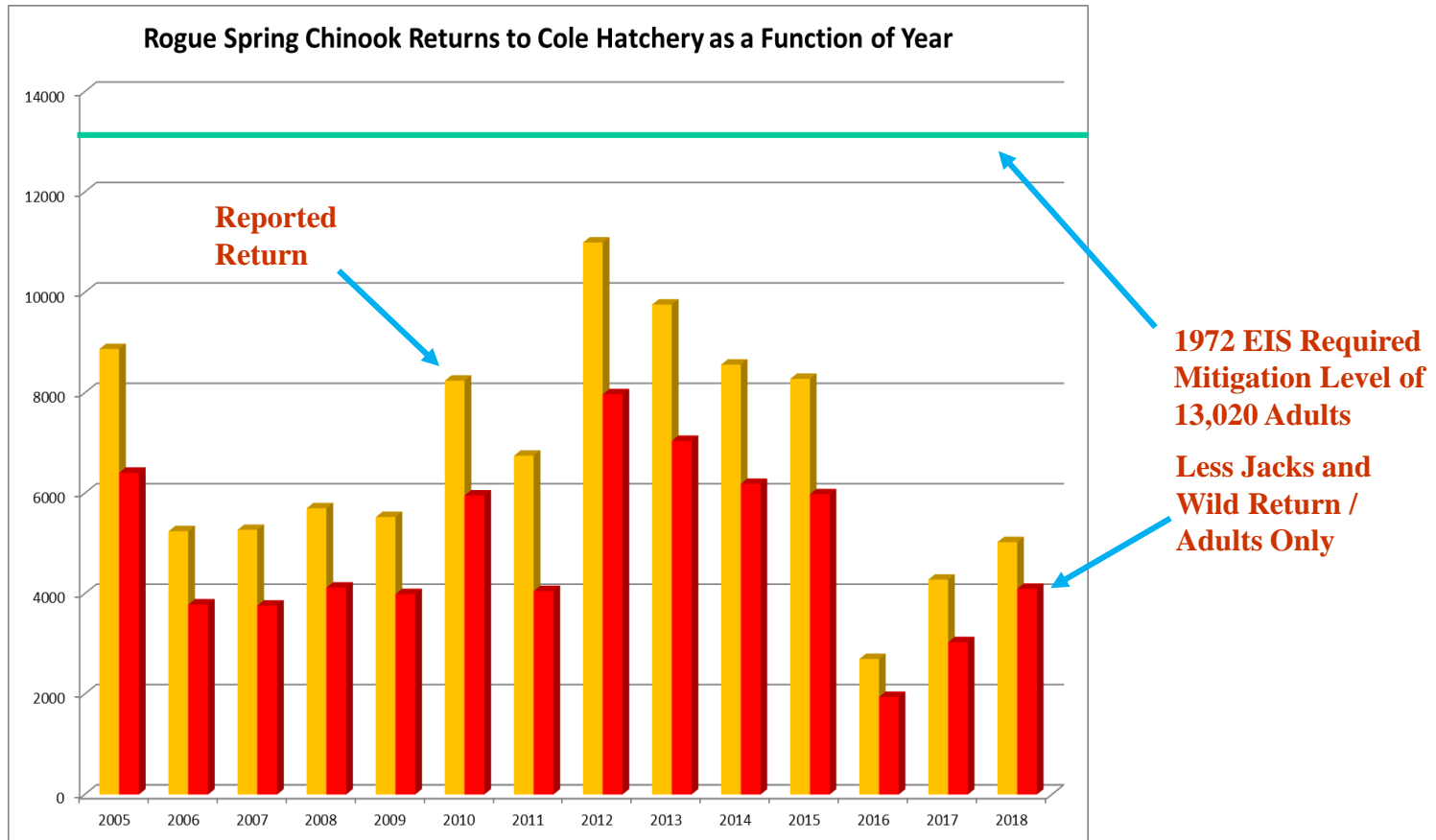
- 33% of the Rogue Spring Chinook Spawning Habitat is lost due to the Lost Creek Project. The specified contribution of Cole Rivers fish hatchery is 13020 adults.

- ODFW and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have failed to adhere to the (EIS) of 1972. For the past 14 years Cole Rivers Hatchery has not met the agreed to quota.

- Violation of the EIS and Dam Authorization has damaged the Rogue basin economy. These violations extend to the contract with local governments and the public.

- Faulty, well challenged, assumptions by USACE concerning gravel migration have severely harmed Natural Spawning.

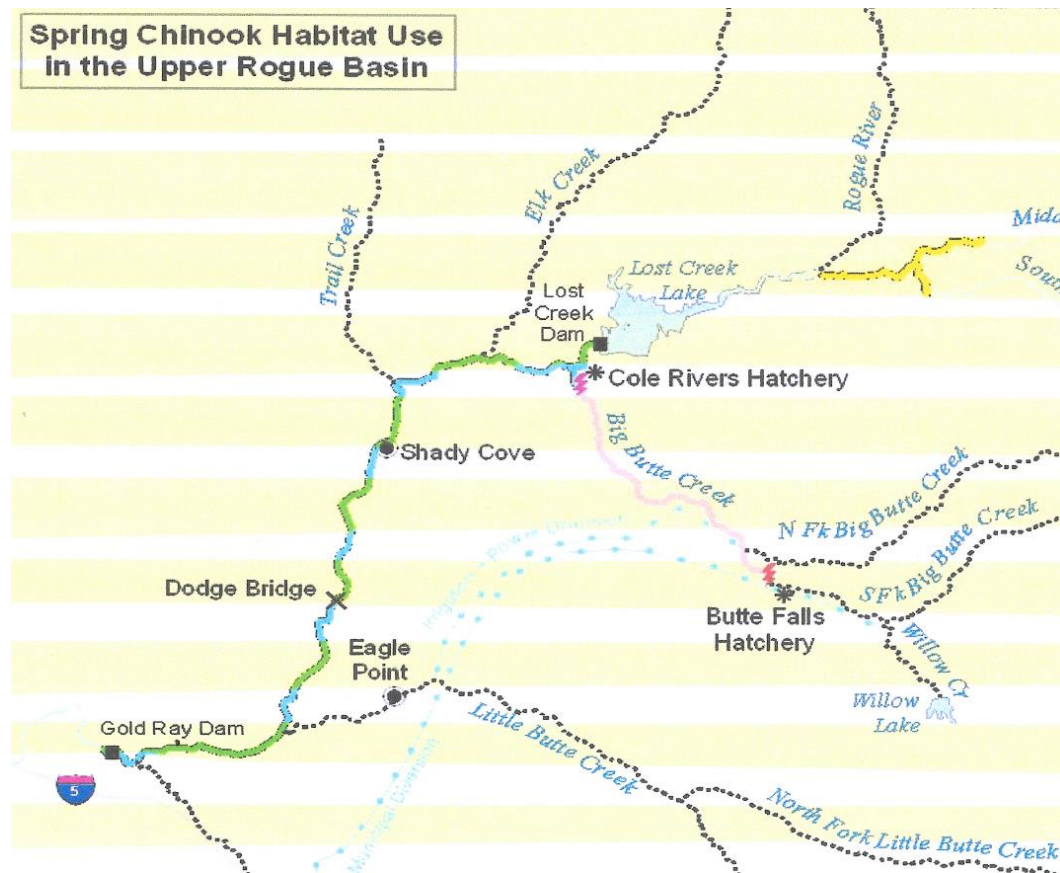
**Cole Rivers Hatchery mitigation requirement per EIS:  
Produce 13,020 returning Adult Spring Chinook “to the hatchery”**



# Violation of the Environmental Impact Statement of 1972 and Dam Authorization Have Damaged the Local Economy.

- Hatchery Spring Chinook runs are down 63% over the last 14 years.
  - Only 0.38% of Spring Chinook releases are returning to hatchery. Hatchery Steelhead from same hatchery avg. 3% return (8 times higher).
  - The recent 4,881 adult average return over 14 yrs. results in a **\$4.7M** loss annually.
- Natural spawning Spring Chinook are down 60% from the expected levels
  - 8,630 is the average return annually vs a historical return of 26,040 over last 20 yrs.
  - The economic value of a Rogue River salmon is \$576.00
  - The shortfall in returns (-17,410) translates to a **\$10M economic loss**
  - Wild Spring Chinook harvest has virtually stopped resulting in huge economic impacts.
- Wild / Natural Spring Chinook populations are shattered by two predictable, but manageable, habitat issues.
  - Dam water release temperature during egg incubation is too warm – not controllable
  - Lack of spawning habitat – there are many options for both issues.

# Spring Salmon Spawning Habitat in the Upper Rogue Basin



## Summary of Cole Rivers Hatchery Returns for the last 38 years

10 Year Block	Average Return	Less Jacks	Hatchery Adults	Percentage Difference from 13,020
1981 - 1990	34,062	14,419 43% Jacks	19,643*	151% 2.6%*
1991 - 2000	28,589	4,071 14% Jacks	24,518*	189% 1.9%*
2001 - 2010	9,602	1,704 Est. 18% Jacks	7,898	- 40% 0.54%*
2011 - 2018	6,419*	1,247 Est. 18% Jacks	5,172	- 62% 0.38%*
	8 years*		*Includes NP/ Wild Fish	* Smolt Released % of return

# Summary and Conclusions

- The Final Environmental Impact Statement of 1972 was the official directive for the Lost Creek Dam Project.
- We must recognize that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, together with the Army Corps of Engineers, were entrusted to follow the guidelines outlined in the EIS. The objective was to ensure a viable, healthy Rogue River Spring Chinook Salmon population.....It appears this has been forgotten.
- When combining the Economic Value of the Lost Production of both NP/Wild and Hatchery Spring Chinook there is price tag of ~ **\$289M loss over last 20 years.**
- The failure to adhere to the steps outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement is both a violation of the EIS and the Dam Authorization.
- The failure to uphold the contract (EIS) with local governments and the public who supported the project cannot be ignored. Without action the decline outlined in this discussion will continue with even greater economic harm.