



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

Date: January 29, 2025

Agenda Item No. 15

Agenda Item: MF Salmon River Chinook redd survey methodology

Bureau Chief Approval: LH

Prepared by: John Cassinelli

Position/Title: Anadromous Fisheries Manager

Background: This agenda item is a non-action item providing an overview of methodology for how the Department estimates Chinook Salmon redd abundance in the MF Salmon River drainage. Historically, aerial helicopter surveys were used to directly count redds. While effective, this process was expensive and increased employee safety risk. Recently we have transitioned to modeling abundance using wild Chinook Salmon genetics data from fish sampled at Lower Granite Dam and on-the-ground surveys to accurately estimate redd abundance by population.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues: N/A

Public Involvement Process: Informational only

Justification: This change in methodology uses the latest technology and science while decreasing cost and increasing safety to continue long-term status monitoring for Idaho's wild chinook salmon populations.

Staff Recommendation: Informational only

Suggested Motion: Informational only