



Hells Canyon Relicensing and Section 401 Certification

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Hells Canyon Complex



Brownlee - 1958

585 MW

58 Mile Reservoir – 1.4MAF



Hells Canyon – 1967

391 MW

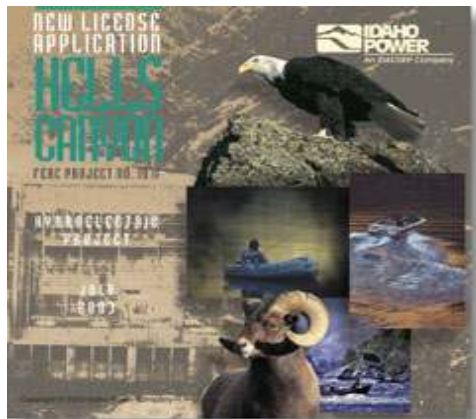


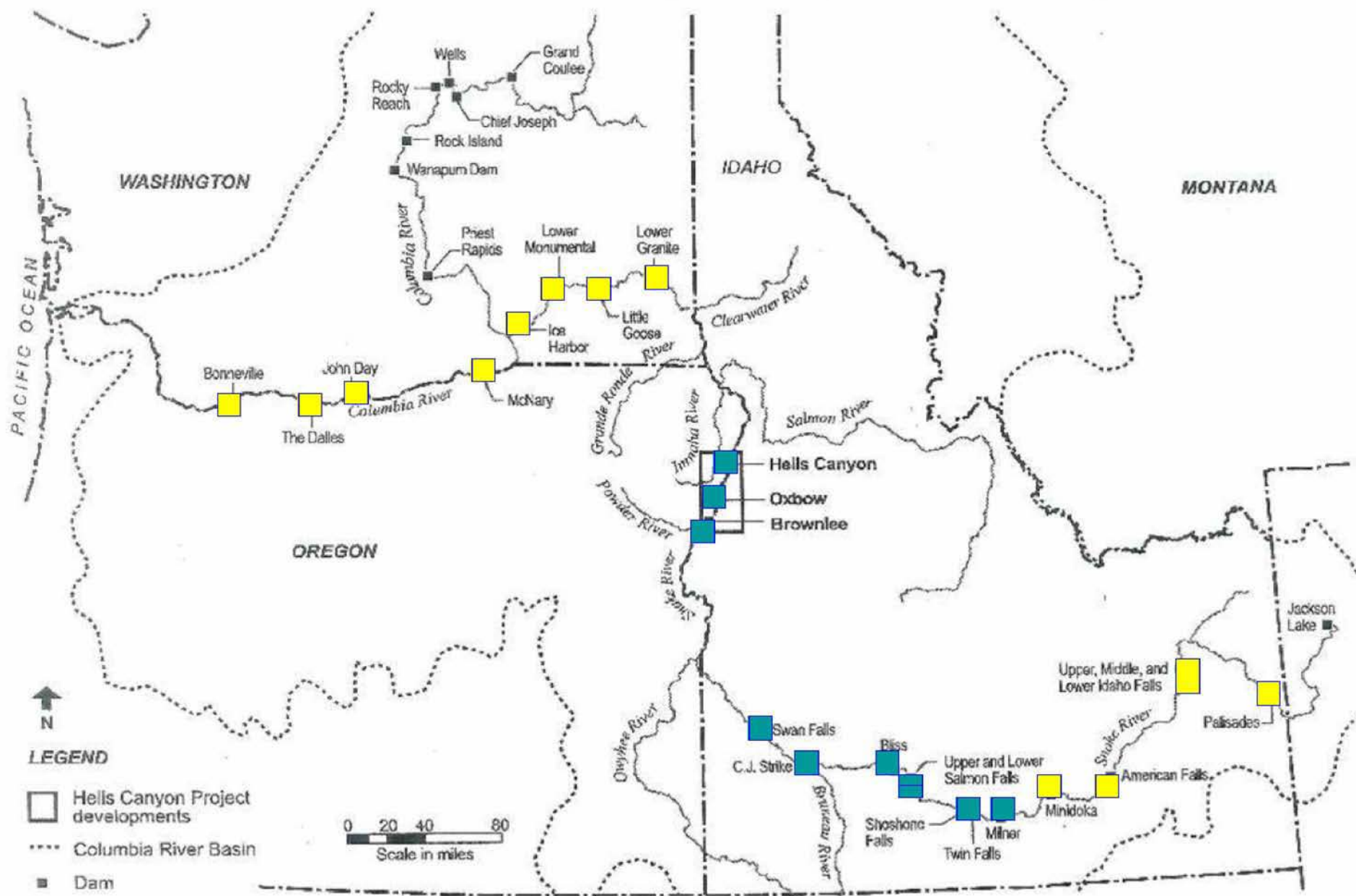
Oxbow – 1961

190 MW

The HCC provides 60+% of IPC's hydro generation; 40% of total generation.

- **August 1955 – HCC license issued for 50-year term.**
- **July 2003 – IPC files a 36,000 page Application for New License with FERC and Applications for Section 401 Clean Water Act Certification with Idaho and Oregon.**
- **July 2005 – Current license expired - operating on annual licenses until new license is issued.**

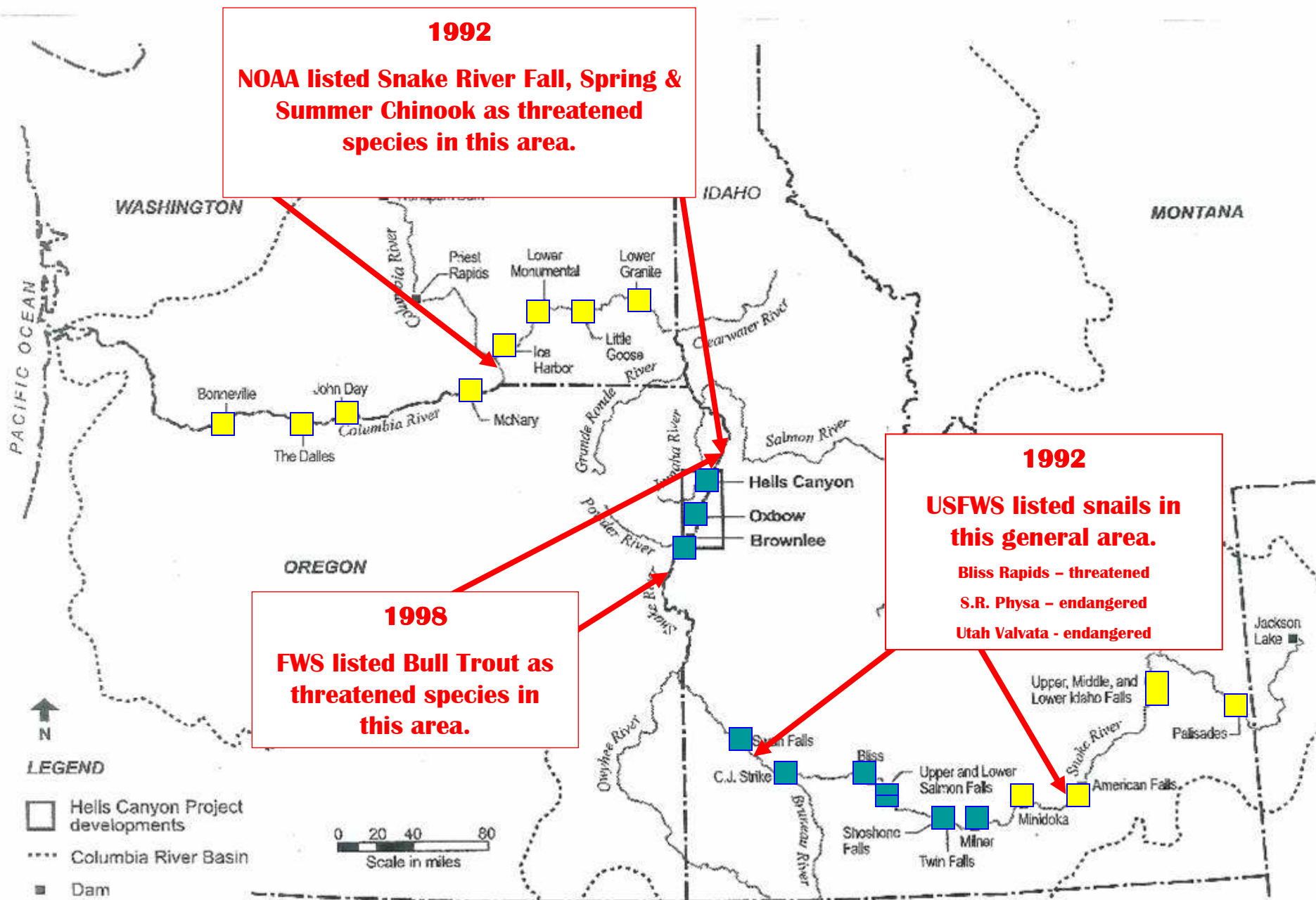




ESA Listings that Affect HCC

- **1991 - NOAA - Snake River Sockeye - endangered**
- **1992 - NOAA – S.R. Fall, Spring & Summer Chinook - threatened**
- **1997 - NOAA - Snake River Steelhead - threatened**
- **1998 - USFWS - Bull Trout - threatened**
- **1992 – USFWS – Snails**
 - **Bliss Rapids – threatened**
 - **S.R. Physa – endangered**
 - **Utah Valvata - endangered**





1992
NOAA listed Snake River Fall, Spring & Summer Chinook as threatened species in this area.

1992
USFWS listed snails in this general area.
 Bliss Rapids - threatened
 S.R. Physa - endangered
 Utah Valvata - endangered

1998
FWS listed Bull Trout as threatened species in this area.

LEGEND

- Hells Canyon Project developments
- Columbia River Basin
- Dam



Section 401 Water Quality Certification

- **Before FERC can issue license for a hydro project, States must certify that all discharges from the project comply with state water quality standards.**
- **FERC must include the 401 certification as a condition of the new license without modification.**
- **State DEQs 401 certification process is largely driven by the Snake River – HC TMDL**

What is a TMDL?

- **CWA requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.**
- **Section 303(d) of the CWA establishes requirements for states and tribes to identify and prioritize water bodies that are water quality limited (i.e., do not meet water quality standards).**
- **For waters identified, water quality improvement plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) must be developed that establish allowable pollutant loads to achieve WQ standards.**
- **Stated simply – it's a “pollutant budget.”**

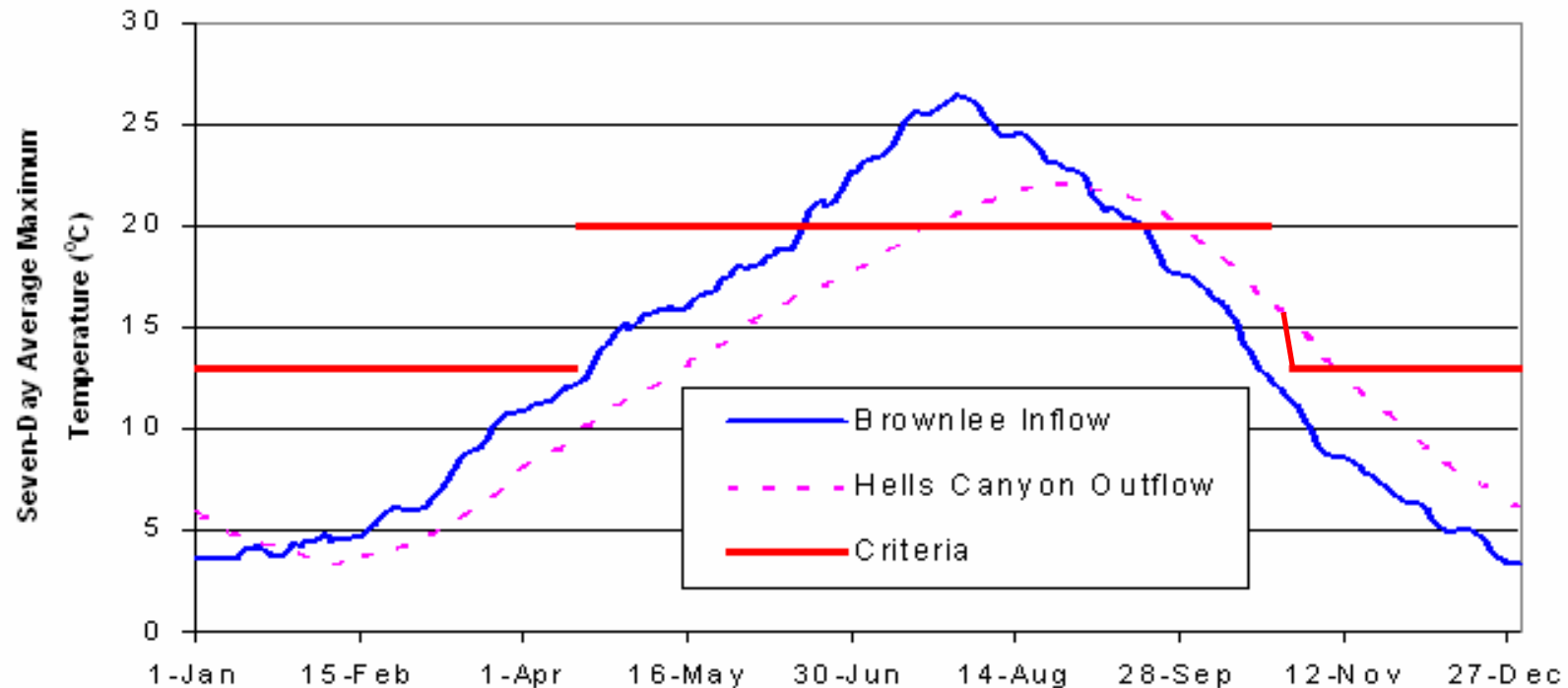


Snake River – HC TMDL

- **Scope – RM 409 (Adrian, OR & Homedale, ID) to just upstream of Salmon River (RM 188).**
- **Stakeholders received load allocations (L/A) for phosphorus and sediment.**
- **HCC also received L/A for D/O, TDG, and Temperature (IPC was the only stakeholder assigned a specific temperature L/A).**
- **Implementation of TMDL by some estimates will take 70 years.**
- **IPC filed 401 Application with DEQs with proposed measures for DO, TDG and Temperature.**



HCC Temperature Load Allocation



April 15 to October 22nd - Aquatic Life and Salmonid Rearing
- 7-day average maximum of 20°C

October 23rd to April 15th - Salmonid Spawning
- 7-day average maximum of 13°C.

Options for Addressing Temperature Allocation

- Watershed measures.**
 - **Address source of problem.**
 - **Provide other benefits to resource**
 - **Water quality**
 - **Habitat**

- Temperature Control Structures.**
 - **Address symptom, rather than source.**
 - **Risk to downstream & in-reservoir aquatic community.**

IPC's 2/1/08 Proposal to DEQ's

- **Temperature Enhancement Management Program**
 - **Modeled after EPA watershed process**
 - **Focuses on system-wide solutions**
 - **Includes WIF and WAF**
 - **\$1,000,000/year for habitat improvements**
 - **Riparian restoration**
 - **\$2,000,000/year for flow improvements**
 - **Water acquisition or leasing**
 - **Cloud seeding**
 - **\$120,000,000 for 40 year license**