

# Salmon Population Monitoring



Salmon has been a major source of food and cultural significance to the people of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for centuries. As a fish that migrates between freshwater and the ocean, salmon represent the cycle of life and provide sustenance to many Native American cultures. Salmon is an important part of many cultural and spiritual ceremonies and is a keystone species for the environment, providing essential nutrients for plants, birds, and other animals. The Columbia River, which is the largest river in Oregon and the fourth largest in the United States, is home to the largest population of wild Chinook salmon in the world. Today, the

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde continue to honor the Salmon as a sacred species and work to protect the species and its habitats. They also strive to ensure the cultural and subsistence uses of the Salmon are preserved for future generations.

Working alongside the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Tribe monitors the population of salmon. This helps the ODFW and the Tribal Natural Resources Department understand how the salmon population is changing over time. Many methods are used to monitor the population, such as counting the number of salmon in rivers and streams, tracking the number of salmon that return to spawn each year, and collecting data on salmon habitats. By working together, the ODFW and other groups can ensure that the salmon population remains healthy and sustainable.

The Tribe also uses data to look at how different factors, such as water quality, temperature, and fishing pressure, may be affecting the salmon population. By understanding how these factors are impacting the salmon population, the Tribe can make decisions on how to best manage and protect the species.

