



Columbia River Wild Steelhead Forecast for 2022

These steelhead are bound for the Klickitat, Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla, and other multiple rivers in the Upper Columbia and Snake Basin rivers such as the Grand Ronde, Clearwater, Salmon and Imnaha.

2021 Upriver Summer Steelhead Forecast was 49% of the current 10-Year Average (2011-2020) but was only 24% of the best 10-year average (2001-2010). This is only the A-run and B-run steelhead

2021 Forecast for Upriver A & B Summer Steelhead:	96,800 total A & B-run adults
Old 10-year Avg. for Upriver A & B-run summer steelhead:	197,741 total A & B-run fish
Best 10-year Avg. for Upriver A & B-run summer steelhead:	406,375 A & B-run steelhead

2022 Upriver Summer Steelhead Forecast: 59% of the current 10-Year Average (2012-2021) but only 24% of the best 10-year average (2001-2010) (Only A-run and B-run steelhead)

2022 Forecast for Upriver A & B Summer Steelhead:	96,600 total A & B-run adults
Current 10-year Avg. for Upriver A & B-run summer steelhead:	163,304 total A & B-run fish
Best 10-year Avg. for Upriver A & B-run summer steelhead:	406,375 A & B-run steelhead

The outlined and bold sections above point out a major problem in the use of the ten-year averages. With a single year shift in the “current ten-year average” ten-year period, shifting from the previous 10-year average (2011-2020) to the current 10-year average (2012-2021) the number of fish in that average decreased by 17% (over 34,000 steelhead). This is a classic case of the declining baseline syndrome.

Total Col. Riv. Steelhead to Bonneville:	2022 Forecast	2021 Forecast/Actual
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Total Summer Steelhead (Early-run, A-run and B-run)	99,700 (hatchery&wild)	101,400 / 69,669
Early-run Summer (April 1 to June 30)		
Total	3,100	4,600 / 1,917
Wild	1,600	2,100 / 1,119
Upriver Summer Steelhead		
A-run Total	81,000	89,200 / 56,256
A-run Wild	28,100	27,500 / 19,071
B-run Total	15,600	7,600 / 11,496
B-run Wild	1,900	1,000 / 1,690

Wild Cards:

1. Many hatchery steelhead are unmarked at release and unmarked hatchery-origin steelhead comprise significant components of both the A-run and B-run adult returns – meaning the wild or natural origin returns may be even worse than the raw dam counts indicate.
2. There is significant overlap within and among the CR summer steelhead components so the run-timing dates impose an arbitrary box around the tips and tails of steelhead genetic and life-history diversity.
3. There are few if any opportunities for repeat spawners to be successful in the CR. Tribal programs in the Yakima and Snake may provide some hope for the future.