

**Treasurer:** My name is Peter Johnson and I'm a PhD student at UC Davis interested in applying genetic techniques to wildlife conservation. My work pertains to the white sturgeon population the upper Columbia River, which has exhibited recruitment failure for the past several decades.



A conservation program collects eggs and larvae from natural spawning events, rears them in captivity, and repatriates them as juveniles when survival is improved, restoring age class structure and preventing extirpation. To preserve the population's pool of heritable diversity, beyond what can be detected with current genetic resources, it is imperative that repatriation year classes represent high numbers of wild adults. To quantify this representation through time, I am estimating the number of spawners that produced recent year classes by delineating sibling groups

within them, using SNP genotype data and the program Colony. As each sibling group represents two unique spawners, this method enables robust spawner count estimates.