For more than 40 years, the dams significantly altered the natural ecosystem, cutting off the native salmon and steelhead populations in the Upper Deschutes and changing temperatures in the Lower Deschutes.

In the 1990s, we began the process of relicensing the project with the intention of correcting some of these historic problems in the basin.

To determine the best direction, we worked with local, state and federal agencies as well as non-profit conservation groups. The relicensing process was guided by numerous scientific studies and close collaboration amongst these organizations.

Thanks to the changes implemented after the relicensing process, the first salmon in more than 40 years returned to the Upper Deschutes basin.