

Culture and Context; The Upper Columbia United Tribes Phase 1 Fish Passage Plan

2018 Lake Roosevelt Reservoir Forum, April 25

Held at Davenport Hotel, Spokane, WA

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Upper Columbia United Tribes

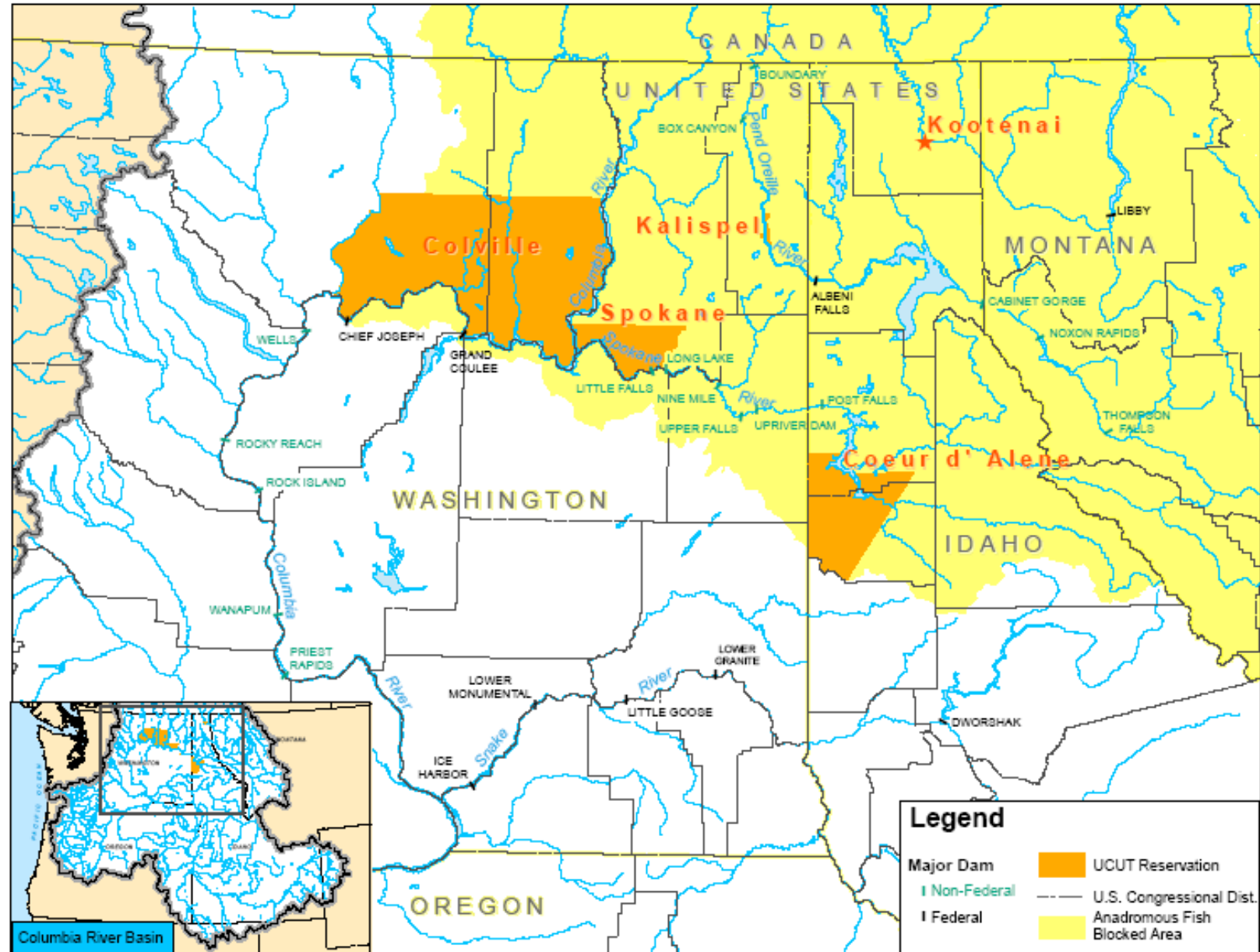
Coeur D'Alene Tribe of
Indians

Confederated Tribes of
the Colville Reservation

Kalispel Tribe of
Indians

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Spokane Tribe of
Indians



Mission Statement

To unite Upper Columbia River Tribes for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Treaty/Executive Order Rights, Sovereignty, Culture, Fish, Water, Wildlife, Habitat and other interests and issues of common concern in our respective territories through a structured process of cooperation and coordination for the **benefit of all people.**



N'PTA'KW' THE BIG RIVER,
COLUMBIA RIVER



Kettle Falls Fishermen

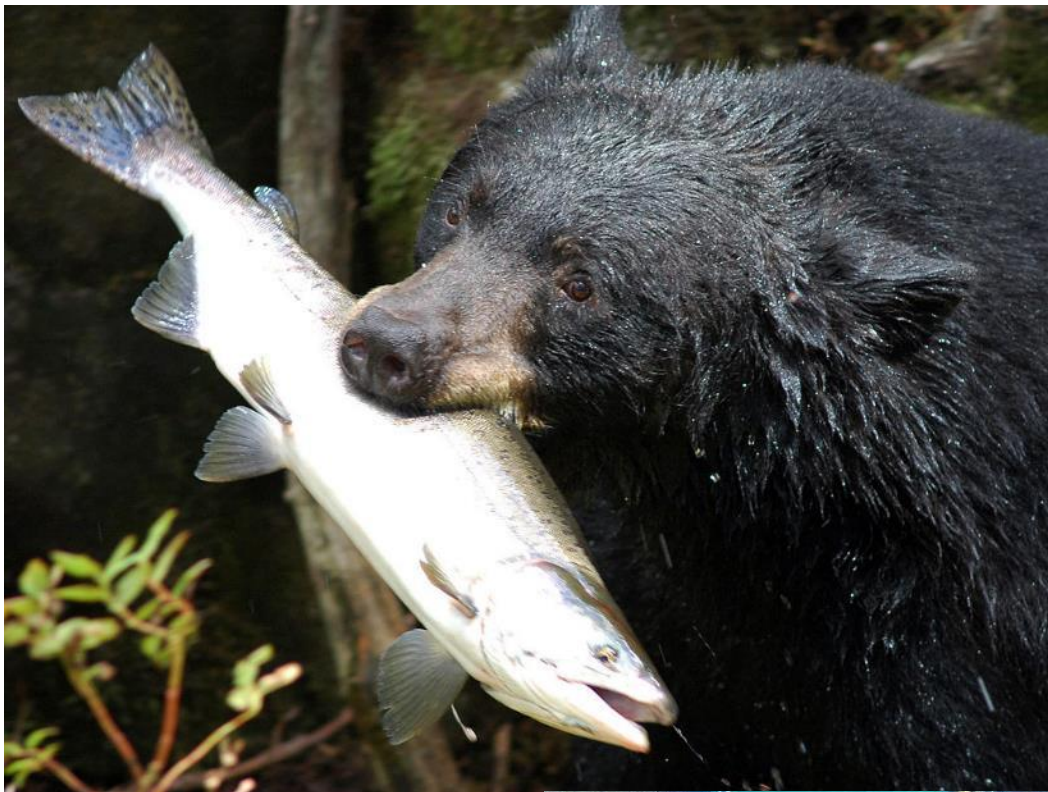


Photo by Philip Bouchard



Photo by Suzanne Long



Courtesy of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

mus il'mithm Four Chiefs

All begins with water

Water is Life

Four Chiefs;

salmon, bear, bitterroots,
service berry

Relied heavily on that source of
nourishment; physical/spiritual

First Scientists who knew the
seasons and harvested what the
land provided

“Everyone got an equal share so that the fish would not think humans were being stingy or selfish and so refuse to return. The fate and well being of the future depended on how people treated the fish.”

-- *Mourning Dove*

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'
CULTURAL TEACHINGS AND
FRAMEWORK





Salmon Ceremony

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CULTURAL TEACHINGS AND FRAMEWORK



Columbia River Basin

All eight of our anadromous species are either endangered or threatened. Their numbers have declined in the face of humankind's reckless development

Impact of Climate Change; warming water temperatures in the ocean and spawning grounds created massive die offs.

CHALLENGE: OUR SALMON AND ANADROMOUS SPECIES ARE IN DIRE STRAITS AND NEED ASSISTANCE

Salmon Survival Today

Salmon have been severely impacted by:

- Hydropower Dams
- Columbia River Operations – Treaty?
- Legacy and Current Pollution
- Cost and Legal Implications

Nearly 80 years without salmon is too long for Tribal People and the ecosystem

Columbia River Treaty Adopted 1964

Originally, the Treaty addressed very little;

1. Hydropower Production

Building, Operating

2. Assured Flood Storage by Canadian Dams

9 MAF Assured, One time payment of \$64M

***It did not consider ecosystem function nor the rights and interests of Tribal Nations**

Modernized Columbia River Treaty

Indigenous Voices Impacting the Process

- The First Nations and Tribal Governments voices in the US Regional Recommendation submitted in 2013.
<http://www.crt2014-2024review.gov/RegionalDraft.aspx>
- Now includes **Ecosystem Based Function (EbF) as 3rd leg** of treaty pillars of hydropower production and flood control
- Endorsed by 15 Tribes Coalition, US Entity, local governments, NPCC and countless others.
- Restoring historic fish habitat and runs; Tribes pushing hard!

Equity and Environmental Justice Issues

Observe the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Portland develops in flood plain at the detriment of Upper Columbia habitat

Lower River Benefits while Upriver Habitat and Survival Suffer

- Upriver **permanently** inundated for occasional flood control downriver
- 40% of salmon loss from above Grand Coulee
- Salmon produced inland, but harvest is at ocean and lower river
- 2013 BPA mitigation funding: **\$461 million**
- Policy: **70%** of BPA mitigation dollars for salmon goes to downriver projects
- BPA funding to areas above blockage: **16%**
- FERC requires passage at private dams

- Access to habitat and **cold refugia** in those Canadian waters, especially with effects of climate change!
- Historical mean runs of 2.6-3.7 million salmon
- Spring, summer, fall Chinook; Coho; Sockeye and Steelhead previously made it into Canada
- **Loss of tribal harvest** of 1.5-2.7 million salmon in the lower Columbia River; ~644,000 salmon in the upper Columbia region; and 125,000-746,000 salmon by Canadian First Nations.

Salmon Must Get Past the Dams

Fish Passage and Reintroduction

3 Pathways Exist to Address Fish Passage

1. Columbia River Treaty (a key part of Ecosystem Based Function)
2. NPCC F&W program (limited funding at BPA Discretion)
3. Tribal Initiatives (Funded most of Phase 1).
 - Habitat assessments – Donor Stock Assessment
 - Risk Assessment
 - Reintroduction Strategies
 - Life Cycle Modeling – Key Uncertainties
 - Cost and Financing Considerations
 - Recommendations

2004 - Intermountain Province Plan Spokane Sub basin Management Plan

Columbia River Basin Level Goal 2D:

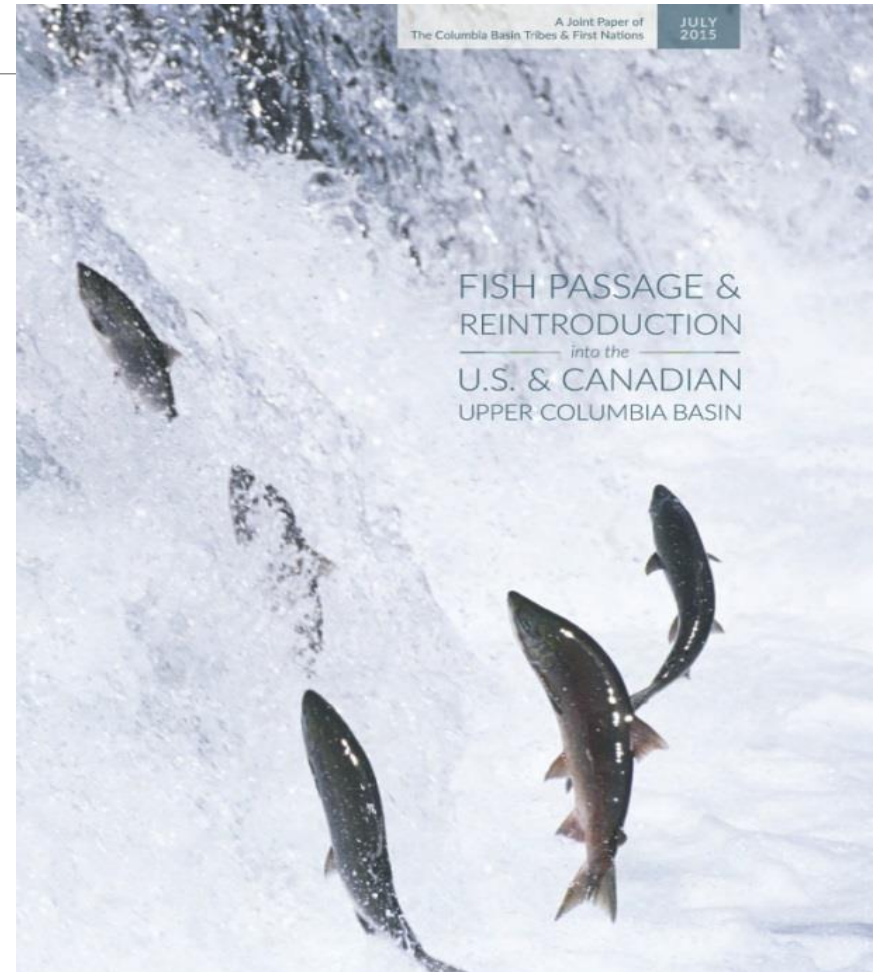
“Reintroduce anadromous fish into blocked areas where feasible.”

BC Province Level Objective 2D1:

“Develop an anadromous fish re-introduction feasibility analysis by 2006 for Chief Joseph and by 2015 for Grand Coulee.”

Reintroduction – Regional Effort

U.S. Entity Regional Recommendation for the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024



Fish Passage/Reintroduction – Realizing a Mission

Fish Reintroduction Work Plan at Two US Dams

- A precise response to the NPCC 2014 Program Amendments to restore salmon runs above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams.
- Diverse and inclusive collaboration to mitigate the effects of these dams to return salmon to historic habitats
- Multi-Phase investigation to properly study and includes all jurisdictions
- Supported by 15 Tribes Coalition, local governments, Northwest Power Conservation Council and many others.

Partners / Collaboration

The UCUT continue to collaborate with:

- Other Tribes (15 Columbia Basin Tribes);
- First Nations (Okanagan Nation Alliance, Canadian Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission);
- Federal agencies (BPA, USGS, BOR, BIA);
- State agencies (WDFW);

UCUT Tribes have commented on and appreciate the NPCC study of passage options at high-head dams.

Why Reintroduction Now?

Evolving Realities:

- ✓ Must balance industrial & ecological values (costs/benefits) of the river.
- ✓ Climate Change (access to cold water refuge)
- ✓ Address historical wrongs; Spokane, Colville Tribes, the Upper Columbia area and all Treaty and Executive Order Rights
- ✓ Regional Support: CRT Recommendation; NPCC F&W Program; City and County Resolutions

Fish Recovery and UCUT Passage Efforts

Chief Joseph Hatchery built and
operated by the Confederated Tribes
of the Colville Reservation



Photo courtesy of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Fish and Wildlife Department
<https://www.cct-fnw.com/salmon-hatchery>

Fish Passage and Reintroduction

**Methodical,
Experimental,
Expansive,
Long-term**

Phase I: Pre-assessment planning for reintroduction and fish passage.

Phase II: Experimental, pilot-scale salmon reintroductions and interim passage facilities.

Phase III: Construct permanent juvenile and adult passage facilities and supporting propagation facilities. Implement priority habitat improvements.

Phase IV: Monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management. Continue needed habitat improvements.

Parallel Path- with certain key pieces of information provided in Phase 1 the tribes are pursuing moving forward with 'cultural releases' during phase 1.

-The science completed to date provide the necessary information to begin cultural releases. (donor stock, risk and habitat assessments)

-Releases during Phase 1 are consistent with both the 15 tribes coalition document and the NPPC Fish and Wildlife Program 2014 amendment.

Elements of Phase 1

Focus:

- Use healthy stocks
- Best available science
- Collaborate
- Innovate

Habitat Assessment – Spokane Tribe is taking the lead, NPCC conducted a High Head Dam Passage Facilities Report, BPA also conducted a study in 2014

Donor Stock – Confederated Colville Tribes leads this report

Risk Assessment – Confederated Colville Tribes leads

Life Cycle Modeling – UCUT leads a group

Outreach – UCUT funded a plan

Review **Technologies to Passage** for adults and juvenile – All

Produce a **Phase 1 Report** with Recommendations

Beginning: The Legacy of Our Generation

“What will we have done to garner the admiration of our grandchildren?” –Chief Dan George

- We have the knowledge and ability to achieve fish passage for our future! **We have a plan using Best Available Science!**
- We can come together to address climate change impacts, use applied best available science, provide habitat for these species and for a better ecosystem
- The river and salmon species **deserve our informed action!**
- We must modernize the Columbia River Treaty to benefit all for all possible ecosystem and industrial needs; quality of life!