

The Upper Columbia River and the FCRPS

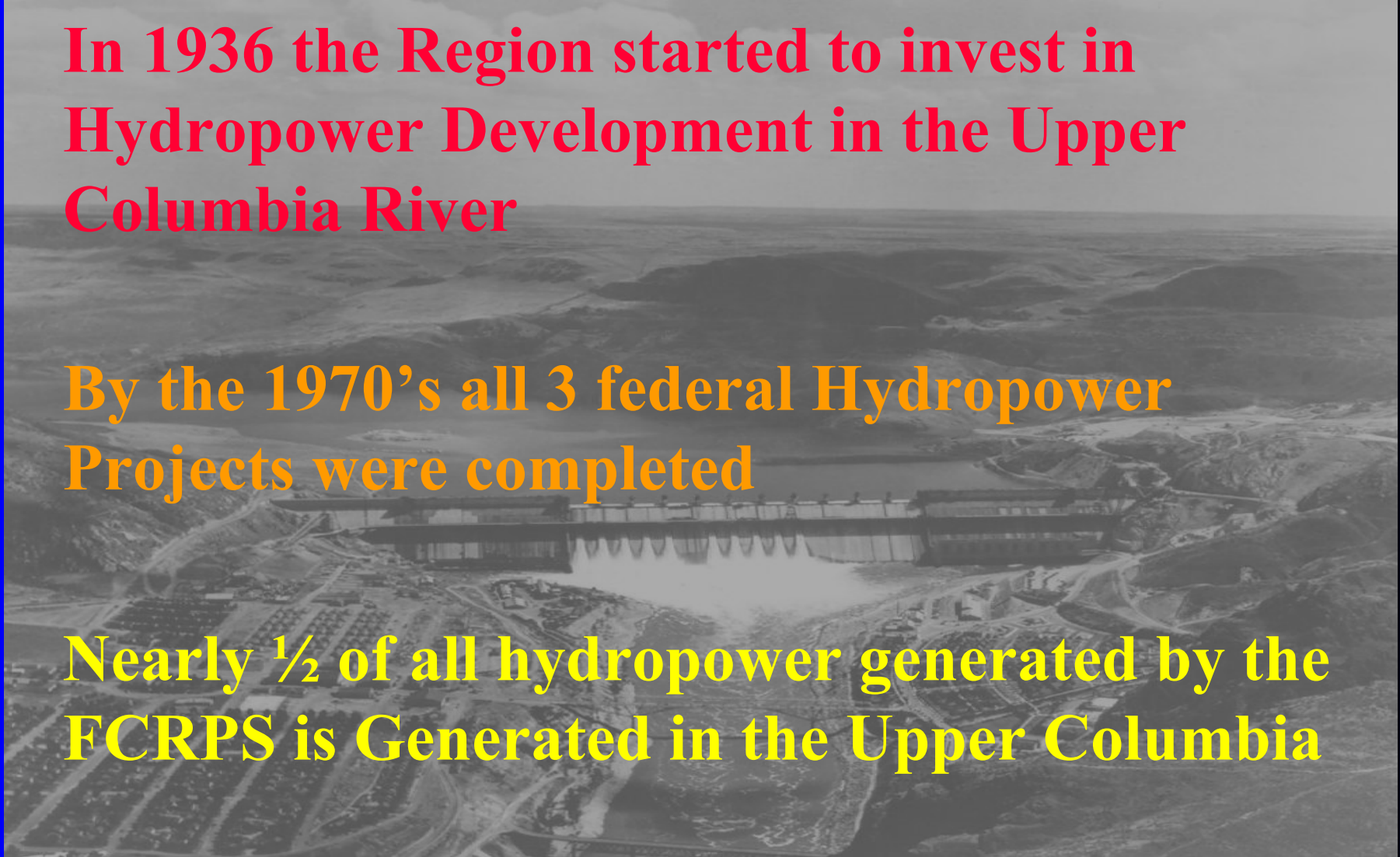
Fish and Wildlife vs. Power:
A Tale of the Upper Columbia River

Hydropower Development

In 1936 the Region started to invest in Hydropower Development in the Upper Columbia River

By the 1970's all 3 federal Hydropower Projects were completed

Nearly ½ of all hydropower generated by the FCRPS is Generated in the Upper Columbia



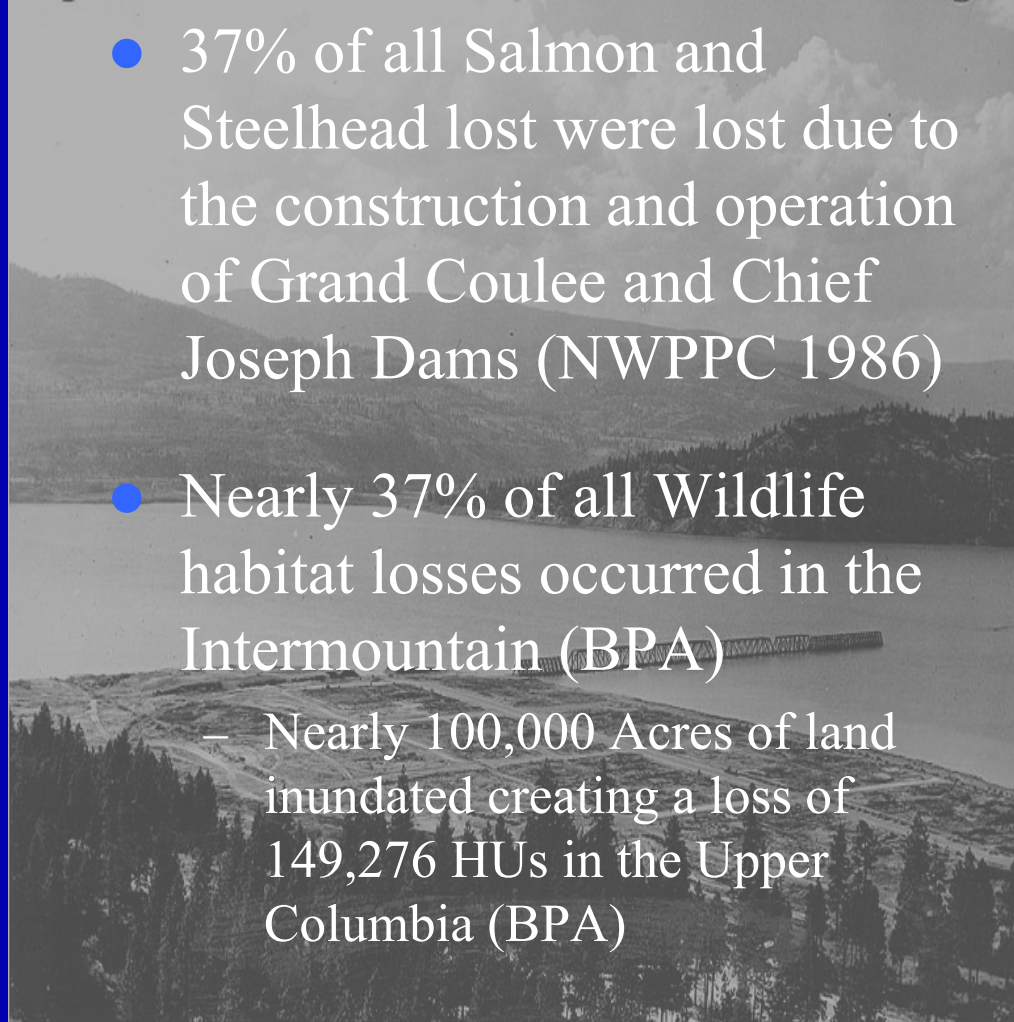
Hydropower Impacts to Fish and Wildlife



Hydropower Impacts to Fish and Wildlife



- 37% of all Salmon and Steelhead lost were lost due to the construction and operation of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams (NWPPC 1986)
- Nearly 37% of all Wildlife habitat losses occurred in the Intermountain (BPA)
 - Nearly 100,000 Acres of land inundated creating a loss of 149,276 HUs in the Upper Columbia (BPA)



Loss of Resources Means A Loss of Culture



Blockage by Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams meant that the Five UCUT members lost access to salmon resources and several other fisheries

Blockage and Inundation Mean Change

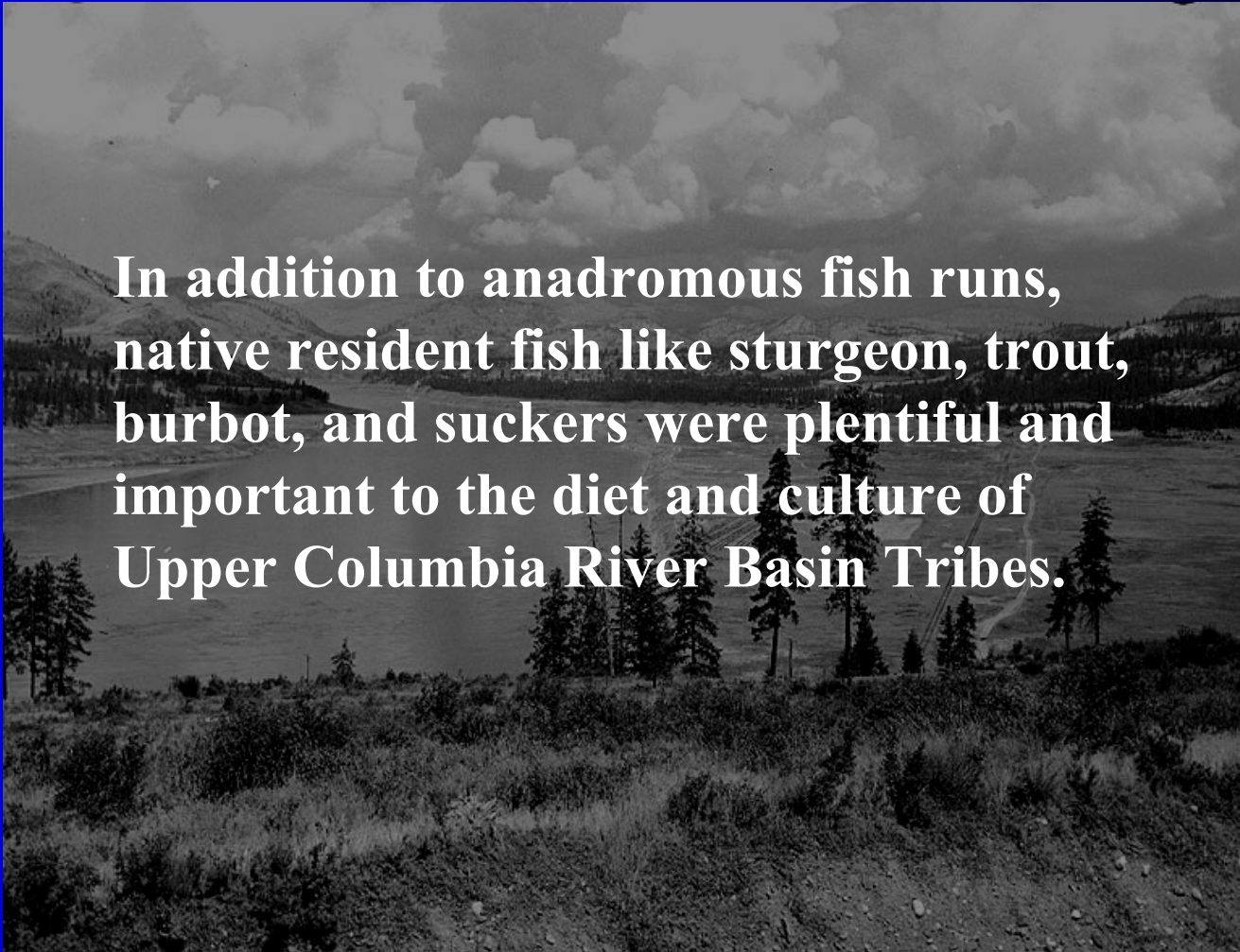


Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change

In addition to anadromous fish runs, native resident fish like sturgeon, trout, burbot, and suckers were plentiful and important to the diet and culture of Upper Columbia River Basin Tribes.



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change

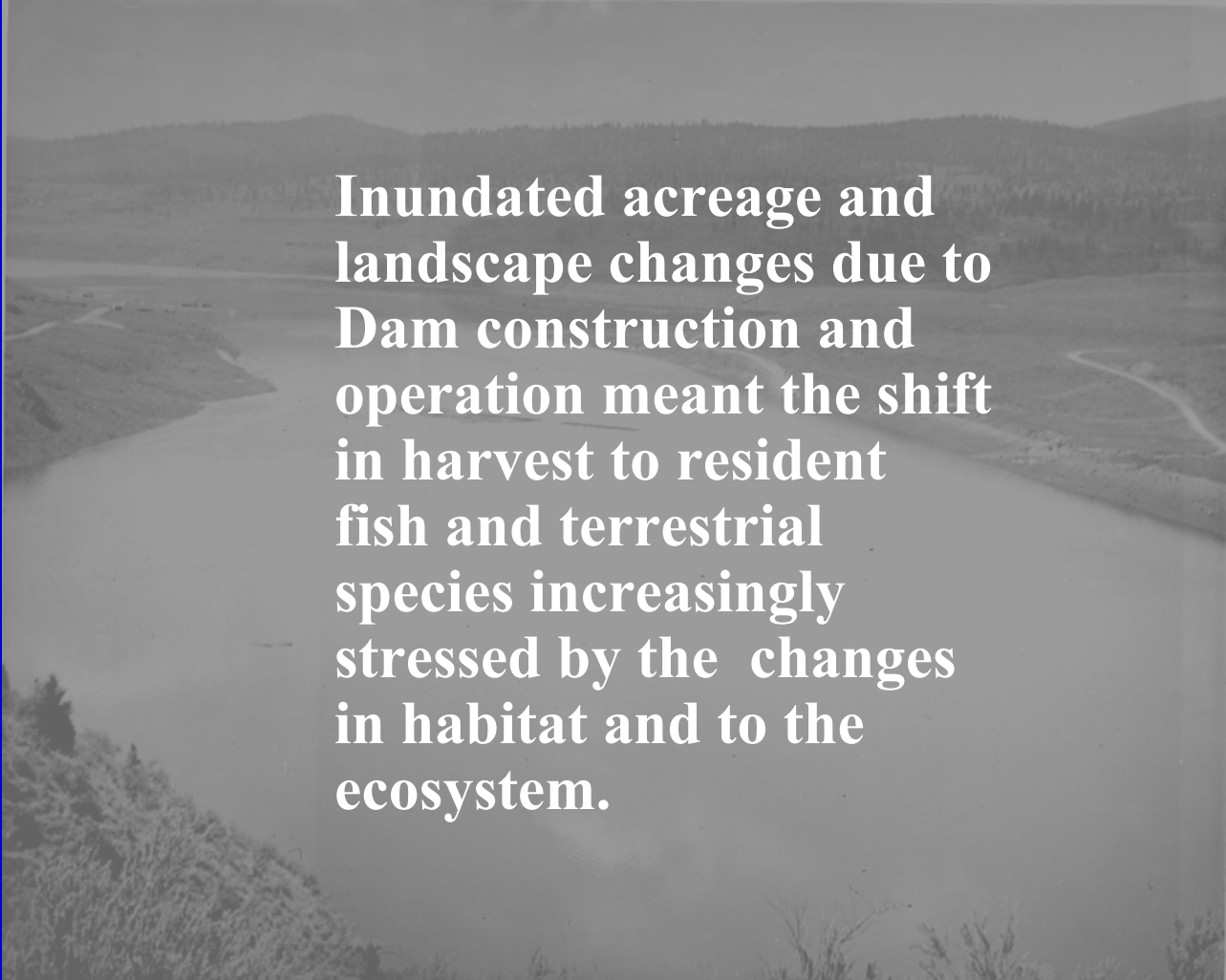


*Pictures of Nee bridge covered by
water. Mouth of Spokane R.*

Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



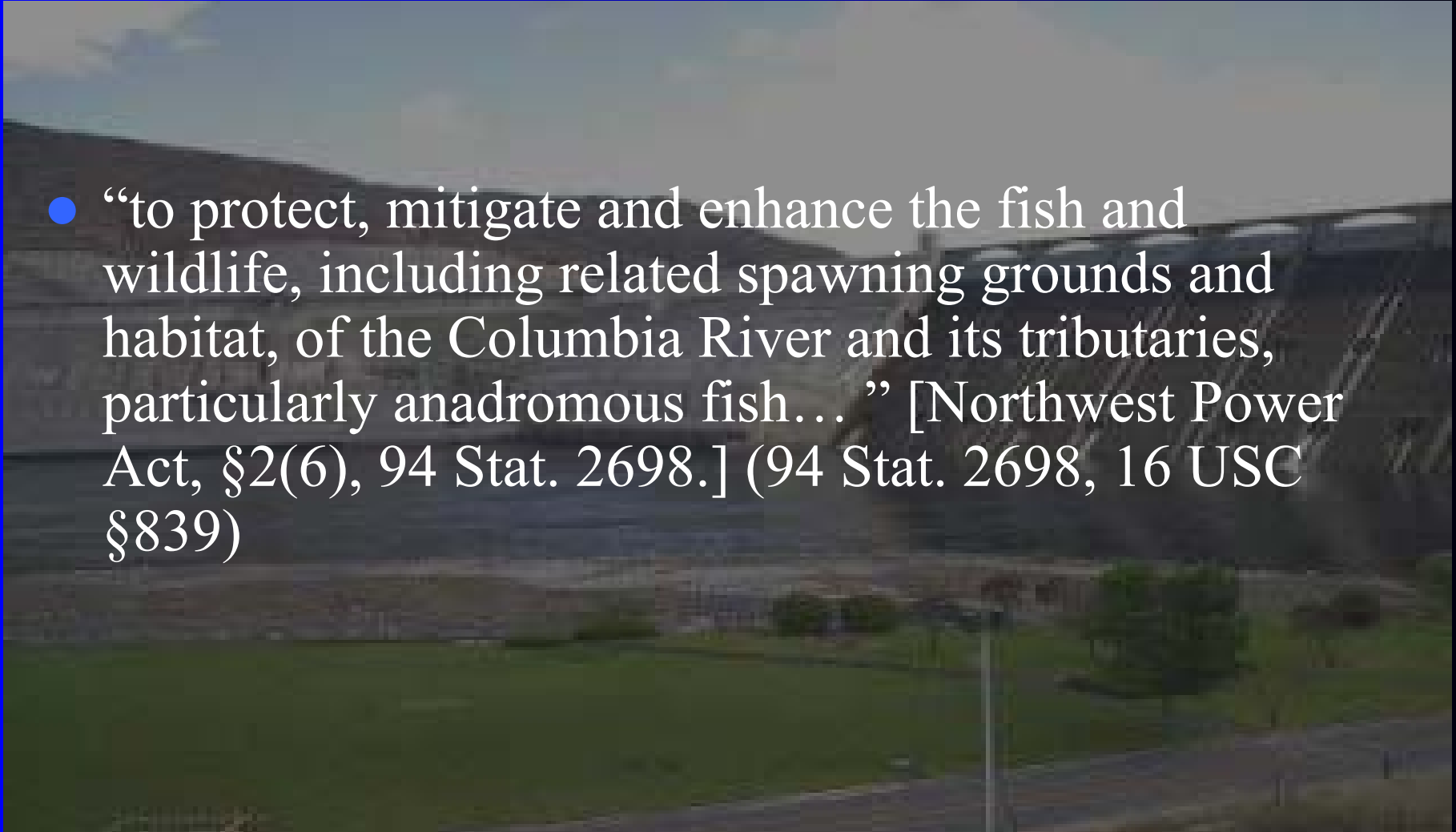
Inundated acreage and landscape changes due to Dam construction and operation meant the shift in harvest to resident fish and terrestrial species increasingly stressed by the changes in habitat and to the ecosystem.

Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act



Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “to protect, mitigate and enhance the fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat, of the Columbia River and its tributaries, particularly anadromous fish... ” [Northwest Power Act, §2(6), 94 Stat. 2698.] (94 Stat. 2698, 16 USC §839)



Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “Enhancement measures may be used, in appropriate circumstances, as a means of achieving offsite protection and mitigation with respect to compensation for losses arising from the development and operation of the hydroelectric facilities of the Columbia River and its tributaries as a system.”
[Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(8)(A), 94 Stat. 2709.]

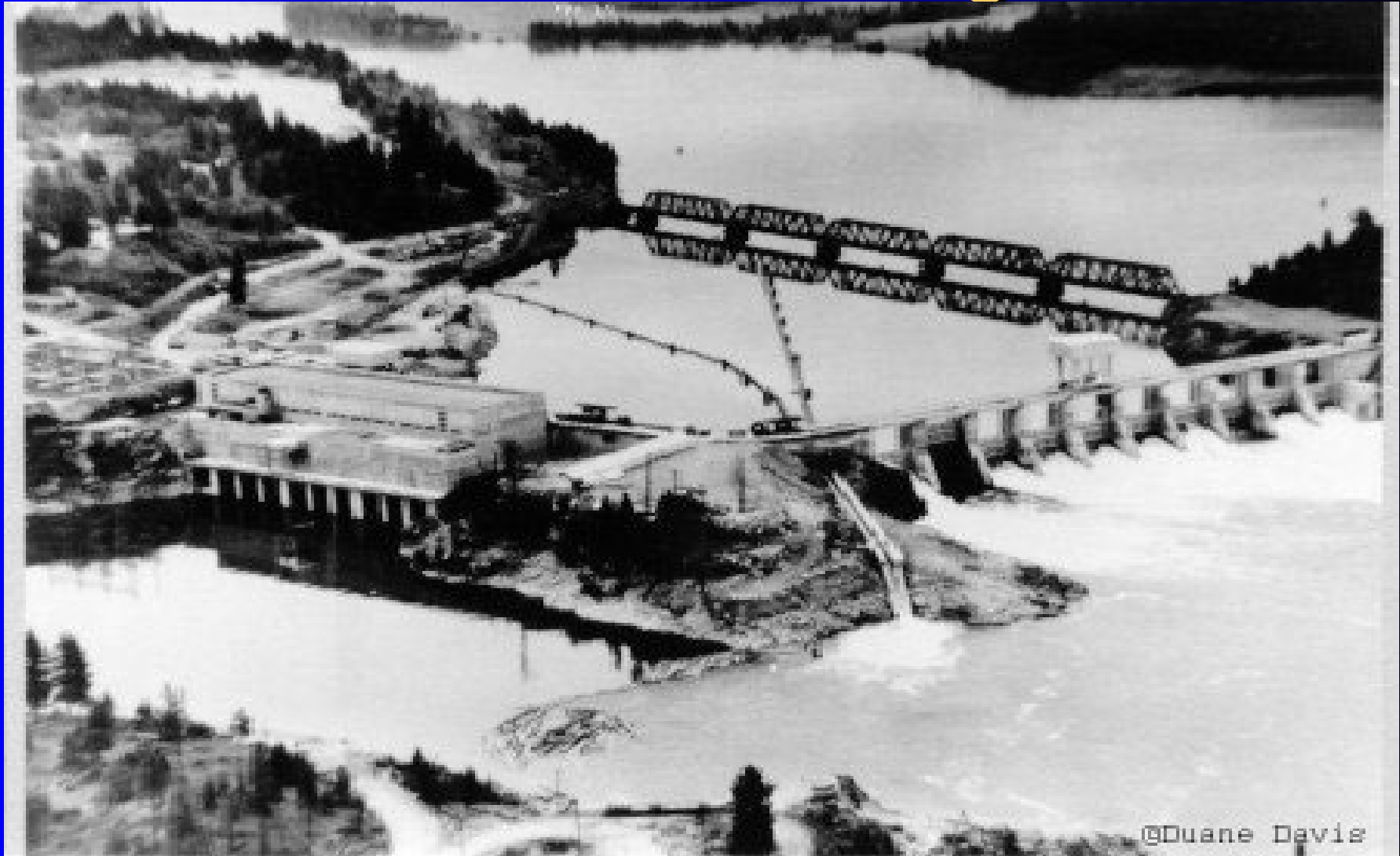
Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “To the extent the program provides for coordination of its measures with additional measures (including additional enhancement measures to deal with impacts caused by factors other than the development and operation of electric power facilities and programs), such additional measures are to be implemented in accordance with agreements among the appropriate parties providing for the administration and funding of such additional measures.” [Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(8)(C), 94 Stat. 2710.]

Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “The Administrator shall use the Bonneville Power Administration fund and the authorities available to the Administrator under this chapter and other laws administered by the Administrator to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife to the extent affected by the development and operation of any hydroelectric project of the Columbia River...”
[Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(10)(A), 94 Stat. 2710.]

Upper Columbia River and the NWPPC F&W Program



Upper Columbia River and the NWPPC F&W Program

- **Resident Fish Substitution Policy – 1987**
 - Allowed for UCUT to substitute Salmon losses with Resident Fish communities
- **Reaffirmed and prioritized in the 1994/95 and 2000 programs**
 - "Because these losses have endured mostly unmitigated for more than 50 Years [as of 1994 Program], and because in-kind mitigation cannot occur, the Council intends that in any project ranking and selection process, projects satisfying these priorities be clearly distinguished from other projects."
 - Identifies other mitigation needs exist beyond Resident Fish

Upper Columbia River and the NWPPC F&W Program

- Wildlife Plan adopted in the 1987 Program
 - Identified habitat losses by Hydroelectric Project
 - All Mitigation in the Intermountain is less than 50% completed
 - Two of the Dams are mitigated at less than 17%
 - 2000 Program Policy requires a shift in focus and priorities to areas under mitigated



Funding History Example

- NPPC FY 02 Approved Start of Year Budget
 - **\$25,400,000**
- Total FY 02 Budgeted (BPA)
 - **\$19,300,000**
- Actual FY 02 Authorized through BPA Contracts
 - **\$7,500,000**
- BPA has funded less than 29% of NPPC Approved projects in FY 02 in the Intermountain Province

Fisheries Priorities

- Develop adult and juvenile anadromous fish passage capabilities
- A comprehensive mitigation program of native resident fish restoration and native/non-native fish substitution

Wildlife Priorities

- Fully mitigate wildlife losses caused by hydropower development (both FCRPS and FERC dams)
- Provide habitats that support life requisites for all native and desired wildlife and botanical species
- Provide harvestable surplus of selected species to meet the subsistence, cultural, and religious needs of the UCUT Tribes, and additionally society as a whole (e.g., cultural needs)
- Maximize ecosystem connectivity to promote population viability

UCUT Management Framework



History Leads to Conclusion

History:

- Consider the disparity: magnitude of the loss (F&W) vs. gains (aMW and salmon flows) due to dams.
 - Disproportionate F&W mitigation funding vs. impact.
- Mitigation and compensation is required under FPA.
- Policies are present that support continued Tribal mitigation compensation.

Conclusion:

Upper Columbia Blocked Area mitigation is not a priority and is expendable.

Recommendations

- Diligently implement the Program consistent with the Power Act
- Maintain and prioritize resident fish substitution implementation (2000 Program)
- Maintain and prioritize substitution/mitigation implementation (2000 Program)
- Maintain vigilance in implementing the 2000 Program and its policies
- Fund Intermountain Province programs/projects at levels equitable with past impacts and current benefits

Take Home Messages

- 1 Upper Columbia Blocked area has had the greatest impact; it is where BPA generates the most benefits; it is an area with lower mitigation funding.
- 2 Council continue to support its long-standing substitution policy and language.
- 3 Council support wildlife habitat mitigation until HU's are fully mitigated and recognize that continued terrestrial mitigation will be necessary (for operational and anadromous fish losses).