

Henry Lorenzen
Chair
Oregon

Bill Bradbury
Oregon

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

W. Bill Booth
Vice Chair
Idaho

James Yost
Idaho

Pat Smith
Montana

Jennifer Anders
Montana

September 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Policy Analyst/Biologist, Washington and Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

SUBJECT: Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) Update

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: DR Michel, Executive Director of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), and John Sirois, Committee Coordinator for the UCUT.

Summary: DR Michel and John Sirois will provide an overview of UCUT work that is underway and designed to inform and implement actions identified in the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. Items to be discussed include fish passage work, an update on habitat actions, and an economic study.

Relevance: 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program priority measure: *Investigate blocked area mitigation*

Workplan: Council Workplan Objective 2.B *Assist Phase I feasibility study for reintroduction above CJ/GC*

Background: The Upper Columbia United Tribes is a tribal consortium representing the five major tribes in the area: the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. UCUT was formed to ensure a healthy future for the traditional territorial lands of our ancestors and takes a proactive and collaborative approach to promoting Indian culture, fish, water, wildlife and habitat. UCUT was formed in 1982

and the five tribes manage and influence almost 2 million acres of reservation land and off-reservation areas for the people and wildlife of the Northwest. Their mission is: *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.*

The Council's 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program identified a phased, science-based approach for investigating reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. The work that UCUT has underway will help the Council meet the objectives identified for Phase 1 of the reintroduction effort.

More Info: The Spokane Tribe of Indians, one of the UCUT member tribes, began work on a Council-BPA co-sponsored project to investigate habitat suitability and potential in the blocked waters of the upper Columbia. The work was contracted in August of 2016 and runs through December 2017. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, another member tribe, has also begun work on assessing habitat potential on the reservation. The UCUT are also collaborating with federal agencies, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Columbia Basin Tribes and First Nations to conduct a Risk Assessment, Donor Broodstock Assessment, and Life-Cycle Modeling that will assist Phase 1 of the reintroduction investigation called for in the Council's Program.

Link to the UCUT Fish Passage Page http://www.ucut.org/fish_passage.ydev



UCUT
UPPER COLUMBIA
UNITED TRIBES

United
for the benefit of all

NPCC Update – September 13, 2016

Upper Columbia United Tribes

- **Coeur d'Alene Tribe (ID):**
2,188 Members | 335,500 acres
- **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (WA):**
9,353 Members | 1.4 million acres
- **Kalispel Tribe of Indians (WA):**
409 Members | 4,700 acres
- **Kootenai Tribe of Idaho:**
145 Members | 2,200 acres
- **Spokane Tribe of Indians (WA):**
2,621 Members | 156,000 acres



Upper Columbia United Tribes

UCUT Mission Statement

To Unite the 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 for the benefit of all people.





UCUT
UPPER COLUMBIA
UNITED TRIBES

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Together, the Upper Columbia United Tribes manage and influence:

2 million acres of reservation land.

At least 14 million acres of aboriginal territories, 500 miles of waterways, 40 interior lakes, and 30 dams and reservoirs.

For the benefit of all people - forests, fish, wildlife, and native plants and habitat.



UCUT
UPPER COLUMBIA
UNITED TRIBES

Anadromous Fish Mitigation

Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams blocked anadromous fish passage that has not been mitigated with anadromous fish in-kind, in-place.

The Upper Columbia Tribes have been the most impacted by the FCRPS, and the least mitigated.

The 2014 Amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Program addresses this in its “Anadromous Fish Mitigation and Blocked Area Strategy”







2004 - Intermountain Province Plan Spokane Subbasin Management Plan

“Columbia River Basin Level Goal 2D:

Reintroduce anadromous fish into blocked areas where feasible.”

“Province Level Objective 2D1:

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



Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

2014

Chpt. IV. Strategies; Part 3; No. 3. *Anadromous Fish Mitigation in Blocked Areas Strategy:*

“Mitigate through implementation of a variety of actions that may include *passage investigation, reintroduction of anadromous fish*, habitat improvements, and harvest opportunities for the loss of salmon and in blocked areas of the Columbia Basin that historically had runs of anadromous fish.

Flexibility in approach is needed to develop a program that addresses anadromous fish losses.”



Fish Passage and Reintroduction Habitat Assessment

- The Habitat Assessment is using multiple models including:
 - Intrinsic Potential
 - EDT (Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment)
 - Large Mainstem Chinook Spawning Potential
- To inform the suitability of habitat for reintroduced anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.



Habitat Assessment (continued)

- **The Habitat Assessment models**
 - **Use life stage trajectories to estimate the number of juveniles or adults that can be supported in each reach during each life stage.**
 - **Use adult and juvenile productivity and capacity estimates for each reach and life stage.**
- **This is a collaborative effort funded by BPA through the Fish and Wildlife Program, Bureau of Reclamation; and with Non-BPA, Tribal Funding.**



Risk Assessment Efforts

Risk Assessment –

- **Determination of Donor Stock Selection**
- **Evaluate Current and Historic Pathogen Disease Burdens and Risks**
- **Assess Ecological Interactions (Competition, Predation, and Ecosystem Function)**
- **Funded by the Upper Columbia United Tribes**



Life Cycle Modeling

Life Cycle Modeling – uses Risk Assessment outputs and other best available information to estimate juvenile and adult abundance (escapement, harvest, brood-stock, etc.), for different species, under various:

- Fish Passage and
- Reintroduction Scenarios of various geographic scope, w/ and w/out Hatchery Inputs.
- Funded by UCUT



Anadromous Fish Mitigation in Blocked Areas - Partners / Collaboration

The UCUT are collaborating 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 evaluation of passage options at high-head dams.**



Economic Analysis – Earth Economics

The UCUT are partnering with other Tribes and Non-government Organizations to:

Conduct a natural capital evaluation of Columbia River Basin Ecosystem-Based Function for modernization of the Columbia River Treaty.

Will provide a basis for an equitable comparison of economic Costs and Benefits.



Outreach and Education

UCUT continues its leadership in collaboration and tribal, federal, state, and county partnerships – a truly regional effort - using best available information;

Transparency in process and results; and

Broad outreach for public comments and input.



Historic Canoe Journey – Kettle Falls 2016

Historic Canoe Journey - 2016















Upper Columbia United Tribes

25 W. Main, Suite 434
Spokane, WA 99201

509.838.1057

www.ucut.org
info@ucut-nsn.org



UCUT
UPPER COLUMBIA
UNITED TRIBES