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November 9, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington staff

SUBJECT: Discussion with Tribal Policy Representatives from the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Honorable Chairwoman Carol Evans, Spokane Tribal Business Council, Jarred-Michael Erickson, Coville Business Council Member and Fisheries Committee Chair, Caj Matheson, Natural Resources Director, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Joe Maroney, Director of Fishery and Water Resources, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Department Director, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Introductory slides presented by Tom Biladeau, Habitat Restoration Biologist, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Summary: The 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program contains a strategy titled 'Anadromous fish mitigation in blocked areas.' One of the measures under this strategy calls for a science-based and phased approach to investigating the reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, including juvenile and adult passage at the dams.

Policy representatives from the UCUT member tribes would like to engage the Council in a discussion of a collaborative approach to mitigation of anadromous fish losses in the blocked areas. UCUT has recently developed a strategic plan called [*The Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing the Feasibility of Reintroduced Salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin*](#) (P2IP).

Relevance: A collective approach is anticipated in the Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, stating, "...the Council, in collaboration with other relevant entities will decide how to proceed."

Background: The Council established anadromous fish losses in two documents adopted by the Council in 1987 (See: "[Compilation of Information on Salmon and Steelhead Losses in the Columbia River Basin](#)" and the "[Numerical Estimates of Hydropower-related Losses](#),") A call for an investigation of the feasibility of anadromous fish passage above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams has been included in Council fish and wildlife programs since at least the [2003 Mainstem Amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program](#).

More Info: [Fish Passage and Reintroduction into the U.S. and Canadian Upper Columbia Basin](#)

[UCUT Phase 1 report](#)

ISAB Review of the Upper Columbia United Tribes' *Fish Passage and Reintroduction Phase 1 Report: Investigations Upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams* (Reintroduction Report) [ISAB 2019-3](#)

A black and white photograph of a river with large logs and people working in the water. The scene is dynamic, with white water rapids and several large logs floating in the current. In the foreground, a person is standing on a log, holding a long pole. In the background, another person is visible on a higher log. The overall atmosphere is one of active river management or restoration work.

Fish Passage and Reintroduction: The Phase 2 Implementation Plan “P2IP”

A stepwise and scientifically adaptive approach to test the feasibility of restoring salmon to the Upper Columbia River basin that is focused on collaboration, cost effectiveness and benefits for the entire region.

Stepwise and Adaptive

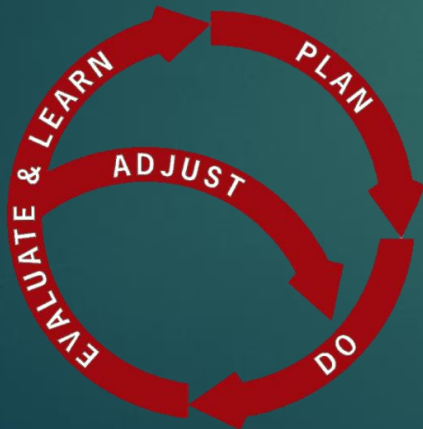
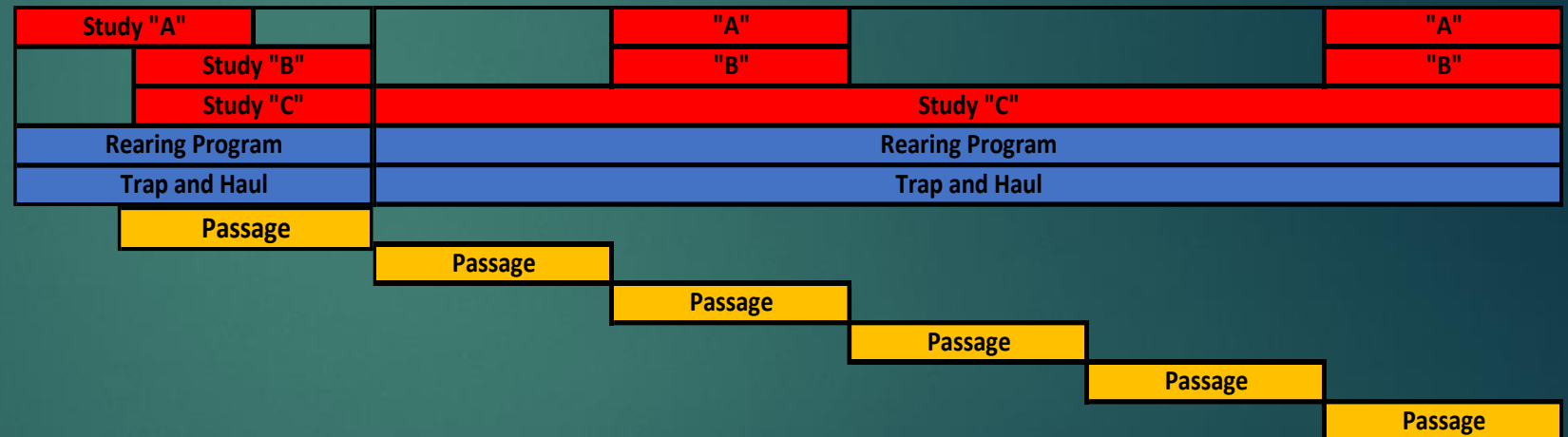
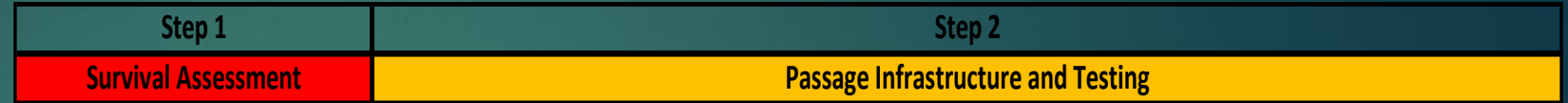
- 20+ Years, 2 Major Steps

- Step 1: Baseline Data

- Informing Adaptive Approach

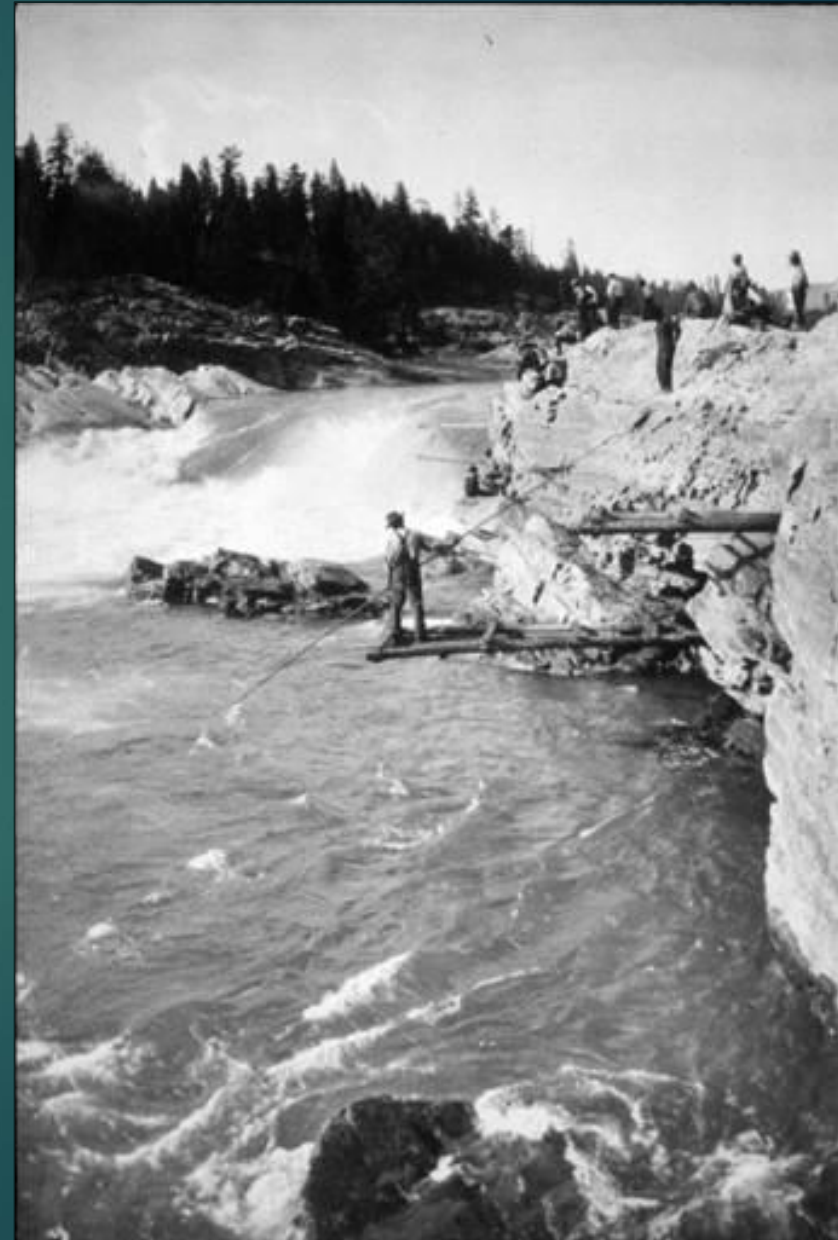
- Step 2: Passage Install & Test

- Complimentary RM&E



P2IP Highlights

- Projected costs estimated at \$176 million, ~\$8.5 million/year
- No operational changes to power, flood risk management, or irrigation
- Answers the fundamental feasibility questions around permanent salmon reintroduction
- Interim upstream and downstream passage at five hydroelectric dams
- Increased natural and hatchery-origin salmon throughout the Columbia River system
- More fish available for harvest
- Support for local and marine ecosystems
- Salmon in the UCR will add diversity and resiliency to climate change
- Health and economic benefits to all communities in the Upper Columbia Region
- A step toward restoring the cultural and spiritual heritage for the UCR tribes



Develop a Collaborative NPCC/UCUT Approach

2014 Program

“The Council in collaboration with the other relevant entities will decide how to proceed.”

2020 Addendum

“Continue to make progress on the program’s phased approach to evaluate the possibility of reintroducing anadromous fish above Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams.”

The UCUT Tribes request that the Council work with us to develop an approach to determine how to proceed with this work.

Identify Program Funds

- 2003 Mainstem Amendments

“Evaluate the feasibility of reintroducing anadromous fish into blocked areas, including above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.”

- 2014 Program Anadromous Fish Mitigation in Blocked Areas Strategy

“Pursue a science-based phased approach to investigating the reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.”

- 2014 Program Emerging Priorities

“Investigate blocked area mitigation options through reintroduction, passage and habitat improvement, and implement if warranted.”

- 2020 Addendum

“Continue to make progress on the program’s phased approach to evaluate the possibility of reintroducing anadromous fish above Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph.”



MAINSTEM AMENDMENTS
TO THE
COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
PROGRAM
NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Council Document 2003-11

Columbia
River Basin
Fish and Wildlife
Program

2014/2020

The UCUT Tribes ask the Council to identify Program funds to implement this long-term vision, outlined in the Fish and Wildlife Program.

Aid in Rearing Space and Donor Stocks

- Access to juvenile fish to implement feasibility testing is critical to implementation
- Rearing and acclimation in the blocked area is important for valid studies on returning adults
- Existing programs may be able to provide eggs, but rearing space appears limited
- NOAA and USFWS are supportive and ready to work with us on necessary consultations



The UCUT Tribes ask that the Council aid in securing needed donor stocks and identifying/developing rearing space to support needed studies and cultural and educational releases.

Collaborate with Regional Partners

Comment period for the P2IP: August 9 – November 1, 2021



Meetings since August 10	Planned and/or pending meetings
Blocked Areas Anadromous Fish Working Group	Columbia River Policy Advisory Group
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Eastern Washington Council of Governments
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	CRITFC, USRT, and Indigenous Nations
NOAA	Mid-Columbia Public Utility Districts
Bonneville Power Administration	State and federal elected officials
Washington NPCC Council Members	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Oregon NPCC Council Members	Pacific Fishery Management Council
Idaho NPCC Council Member	
NPCC FW Division Staff	

The UCUT Tribes invite the Council to engage in our outreach efforts and participate in regional discussions to move this work forward.

Council Support of the P2IP

- Coordinating with agencies via BAAFWG
 - BOR, BPA, NOAA, NPS, USACE, USFWS, WDFW



The UCUT Tribes request that the Council provide support for the P2IP as it satisfies Program measures laid out and adopted in the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program and further reinforced in the 2020 Addendum.



Key Considerations

- Work with the UCUT Tribes to develop an approach to determine how to proceed with this work
- Identify Program funds to implement this work
- Aid in securing needed donor stocks and identifying/developing rearing space to support needed studies and cultural and educational releases
- Engage in UCUT outreach efforts and participate in regional discussions
- Support of the P2IP as it satisfies Program measures laid out and adopted in the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program and further reinforced in the 2020 Addendum