



# CRITFC All-Staff Meeting

Paul Lumley, Yakama  
Executive Director  
February 20, 2014



**Natural  
Resources are  
Central to  
Tribal Culture**



# First Foods



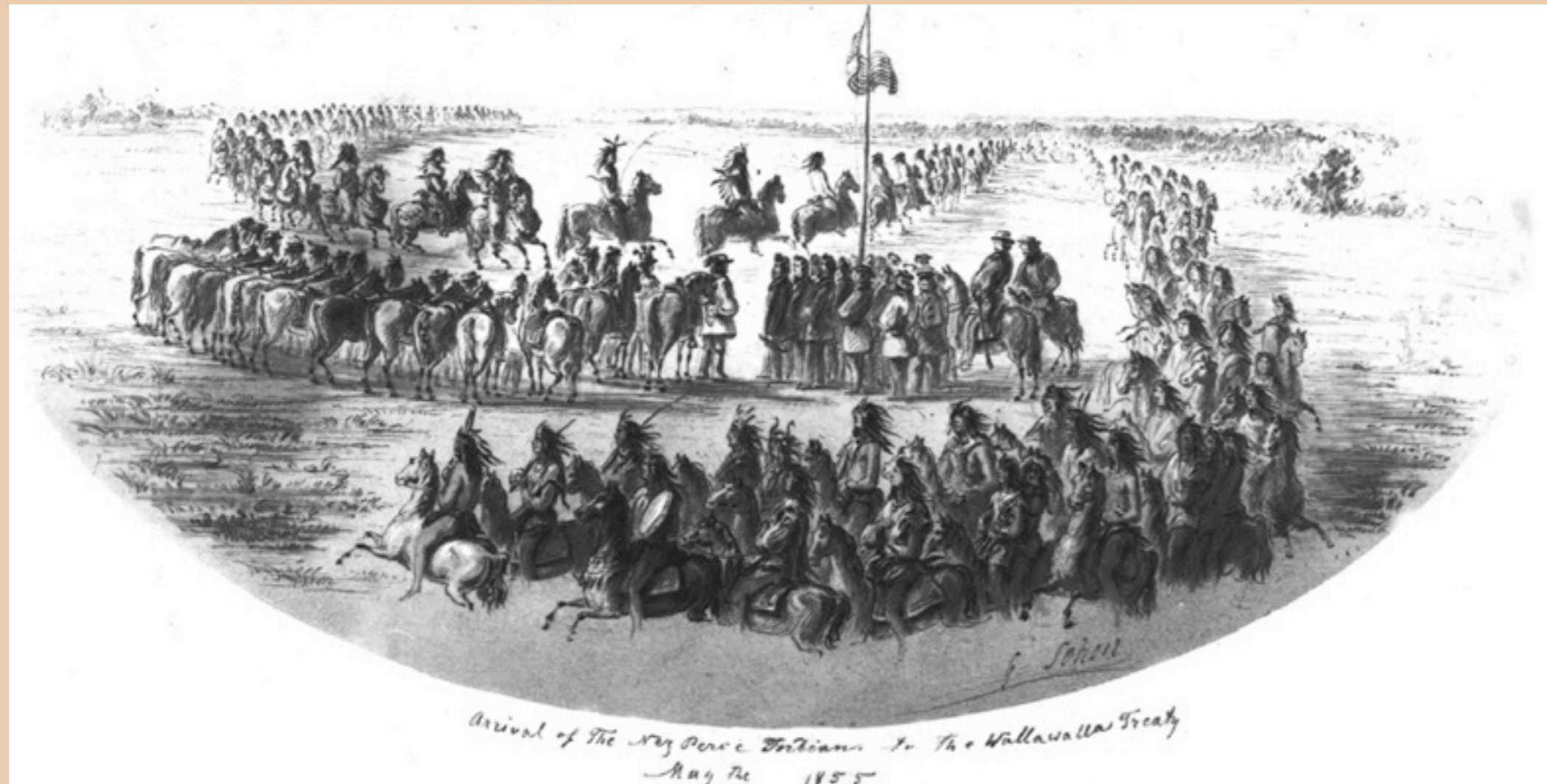
**Berries**

**Salmon**

**Water**

**Game**

**Roots**



“...the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places, in common with the citizens of the Territory, and of erecting temporary buildings for curing them: together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries....”

—1855 Treaty with the Yakima

# Exercising Treaty-Reserved Fishing Right Challenged

## *Rifle-Toting Indians Go Fishing*

### States' Agents Make No Bid To Interfere

Yakimas Say Commission Officials  
Acted Without Proper Warrants

By LEVERETT RICHARDS  
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

COOKS, Wash. (Special) — Yakima Indians, guarded by riflemen, Monday continued to fish in their ancestral waters defying agents of the Washington Departments of Fisheries and Game.

The Indians took about 200 pounds of plump spring Chinook salmon from their nets about 6 a.m. Monday under the protection of their armed guards.

Squads of Washington enforcement agents patrolling the river by boat and car made no effort to stop them.

"We don't propose to take on groups of armed Indians," a Washington Department of Fisheries official in Olympia told The Oregonian.

Washington officials will discuss the situation with Oregon officials in Portland at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, they said.

Alvin Settler, "attorney general" for the Columbia River Fish Commission established by George Umtuch of the Yakima Nation, said that his group is planning to file action in federal district court against the Washington officers.

#### Charges Told

He said they would be

"We are fishing on our own treaty land," Settler contended. "No one but a treaty Indian has any right here."

To make his point Settler's Indians Monday were posting "No Trespass" signs all around the site, adding "No Entry Without Permit." Someone had penned in a grimmer word of caution: "Indian Land. Trespassers Shall Be Shot."

The scant 200 pounds of fish caught Monday is the first to go to market. Settler said he would buy the fish for 50 cents a pound and truck it to his base in The Dalles, where he has been a fisherman and buyer of fish from the Indians for years.

#### Sites Assigned

He said the Yakima Tribal Council had assigned 64 individual fishing sites along the Columbia, but that "about 30 of these fishermen" have broken with the tribal council and joined the (Indian) fish commission group. He said about a dozen Indians are actually fishing the river now.

About a dozen Indians were on the Coos site Monday, two or three armed with rifles. Two families live at the site most of the year, taking a vacation in winter. A half dozen



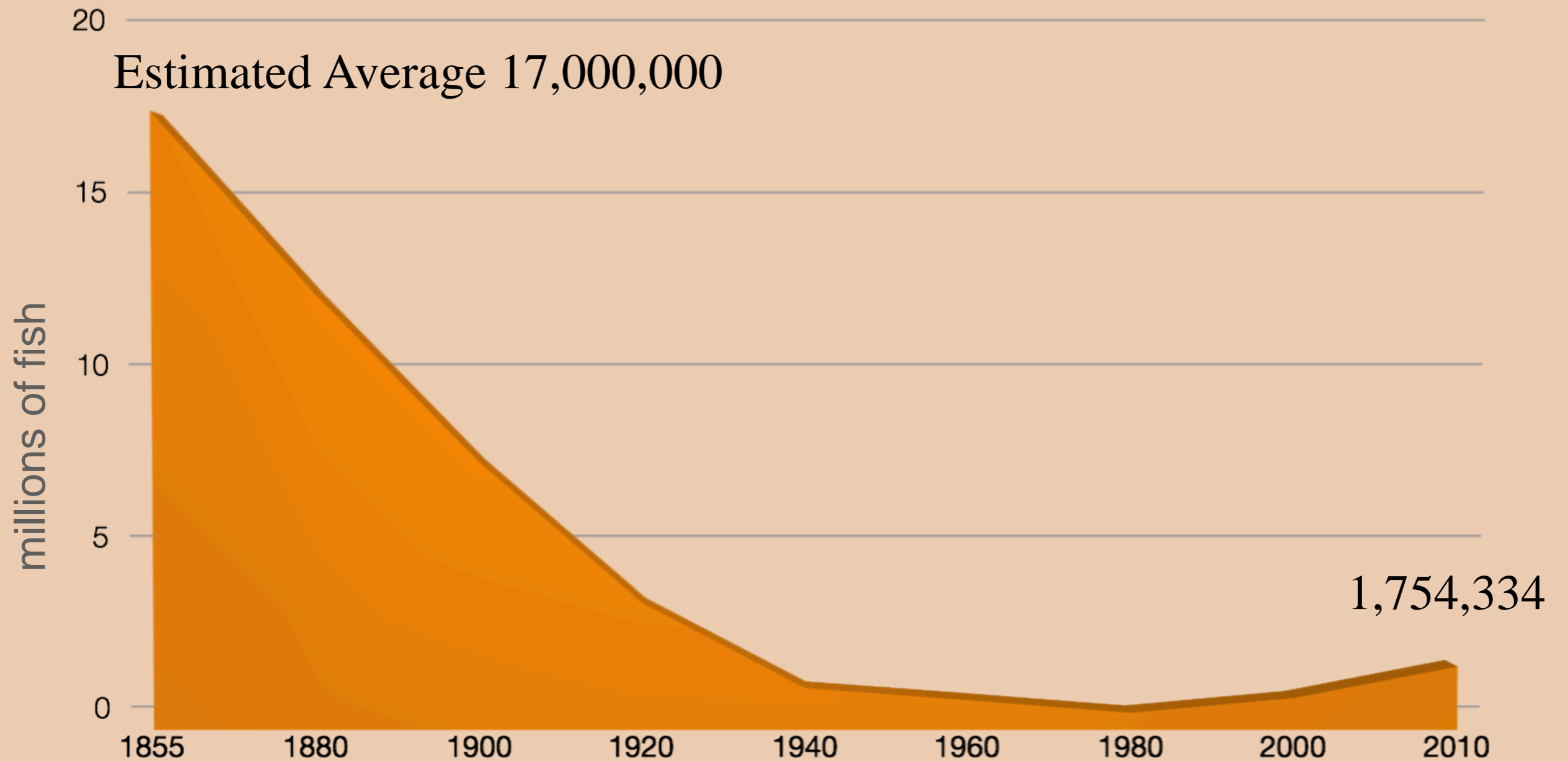
FISHING WAS FAIR at Coos Indian fishing site on Columbia River 12 miles east of

der, secretary of "Columbia River Fish Commission," background, stands guard with rifle overlooking fishing grounds.

The Oregonian  
April 26, 1966

# Salmon Decline

Returning Columbia River salmon (chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho)





# Celilo Falls Tribal Fishery

On the Columbia River near The Dalles, Oregon  
*(inundated by The Dalles Dam in 1957)*

# Four Tribes' Ceded Lands

Combined ceded area:

- 66,591 square miles
- More than 25% of the entire Columbia Basin
- 55% of the rivers and streams that are still accessible to salmon
- Includes almost all of the salmon habitat above Bonneville Dam





## CRITFC Mission Statement:

To ensure a unified voice in the overall management of the fishery resources, and as managers, to protect reserved treaty rights through the exercise of the inherent sovereign powers of the tribes.





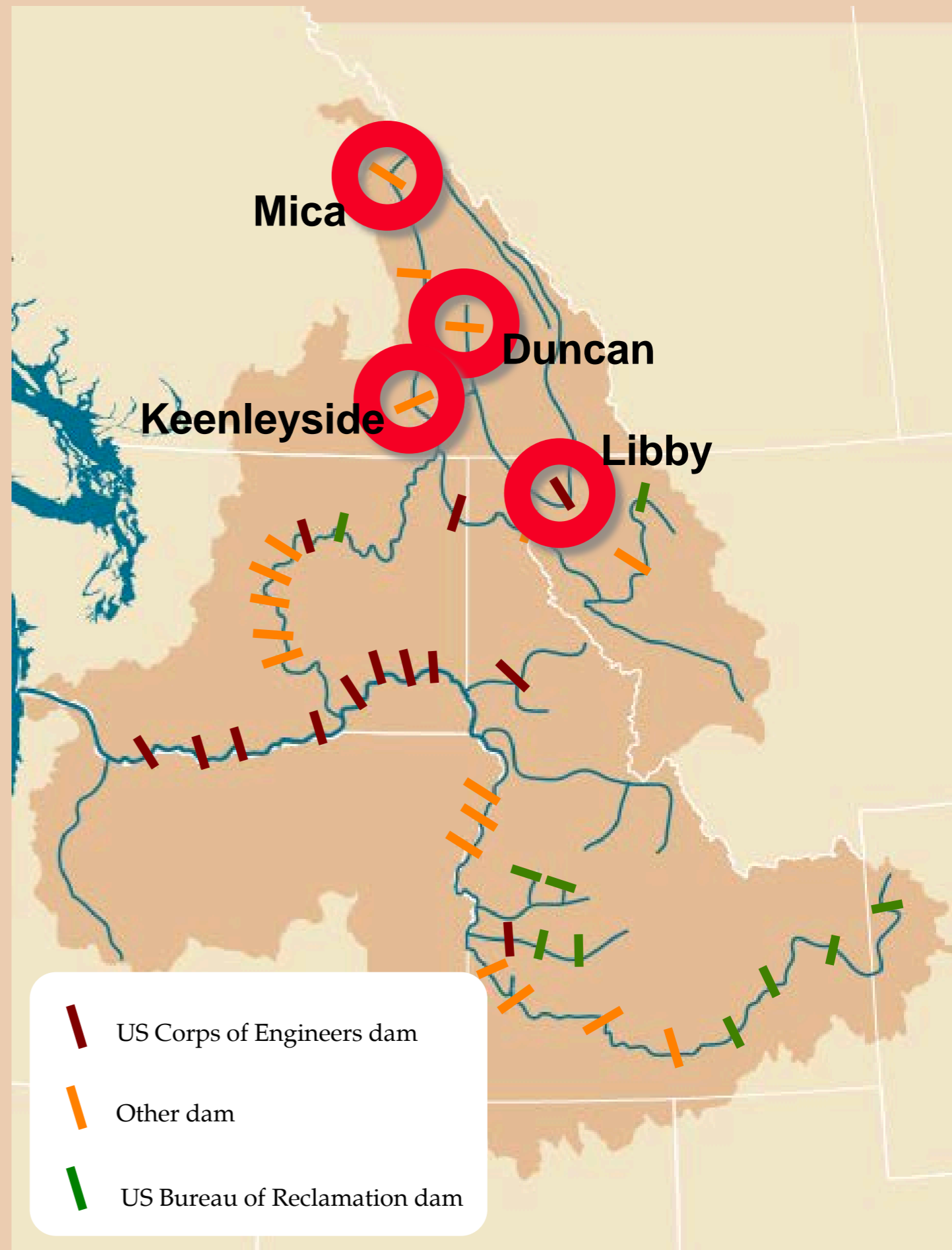
# Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit

“Spirit of the Salmon” 1995 · Goal of 4 million salmon returning by 2020

*Updated in 2013 !!!*

# Columbia River Treaty

- Treaty came into force in 1964, no end date
- Canada builds three dams, US builds Libby – no passage
- Twin goals:
  - optimize hydropower
  - coordinate flood control
- With 10 year notice, Treaty may be terminated in 2024
- Tribes not consulted, no fish & wildlife coordination





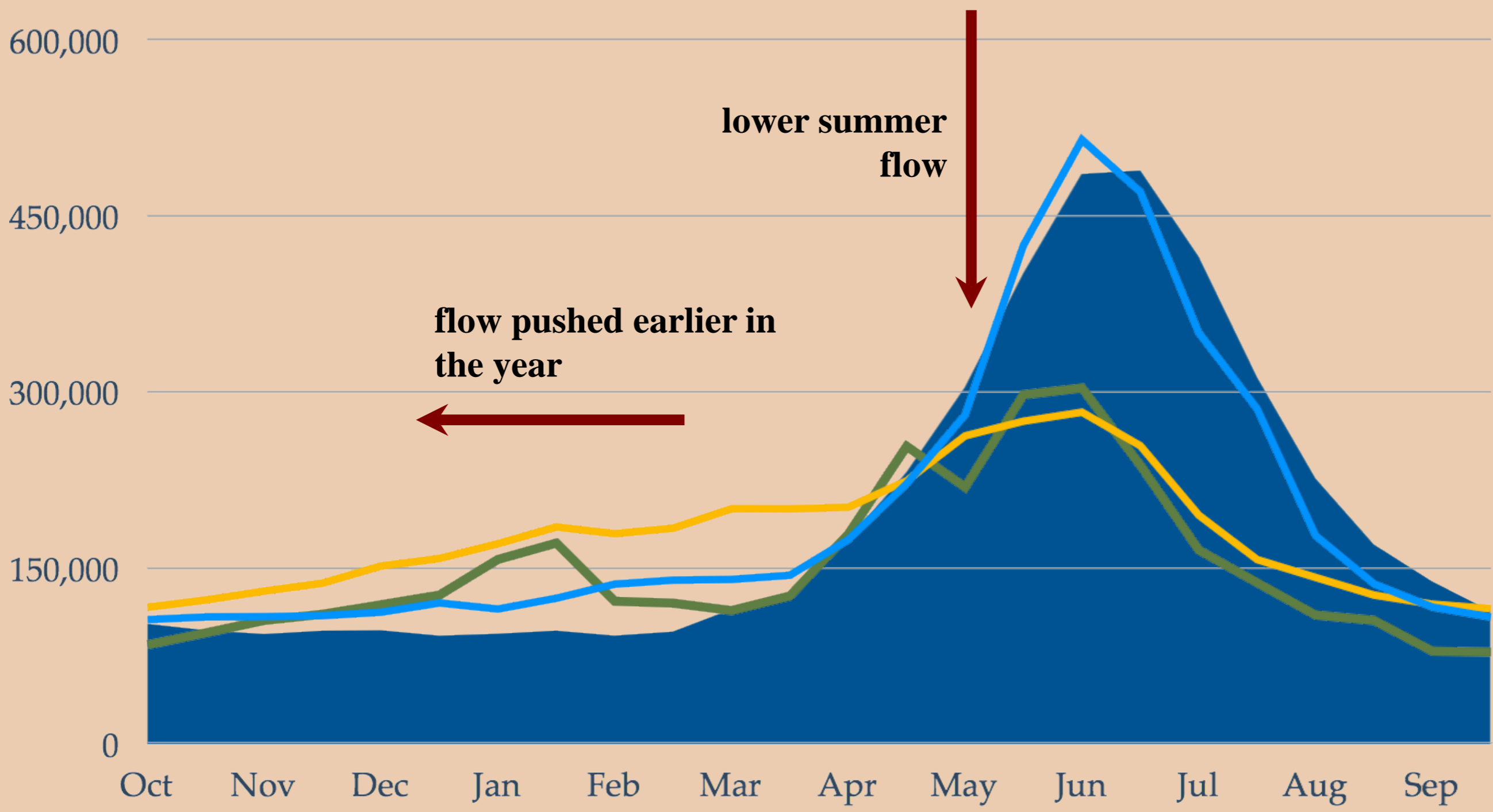
# Columbia Basin Tribes

15 tribes with  
management  
authorities and  
responsibilities  
affected by the  
Columbia River  
Treaty

*Coalition formed 2009  
Common Views Doc 2010*

# River Level at The Dalles Dam

- Pre-Treaty Observed (1948-1968)
- Post-Treaty Observed (1974-1992)
- Federal Biological Opinion (WY 2009)
- Historical Observed (1900-1920)



# Ecosystem-based Management Approach

- Restore and preserve tribal natural and cultural resources
- Restore spring freshets:
  - Helps to restore estuary
  - Helps move fish
- Minimize draw downs at upper reservoirs
- Restore fish passage to all historic locations.

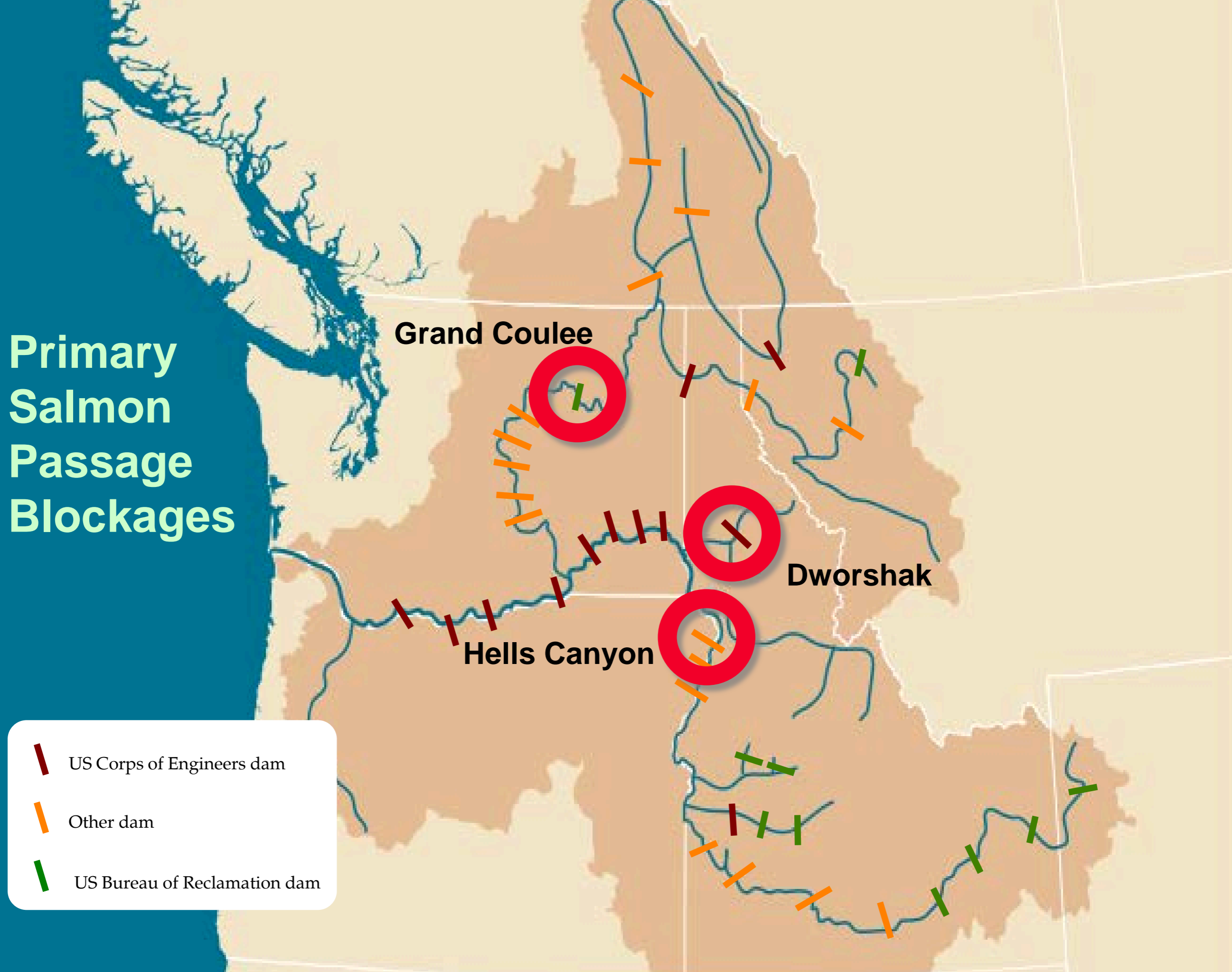


# Impacts from Dramatic Reservoir Level Changes

Spokane River in Washington State, impacts from Grand Coulee Reservoir Drawdown  
*Cultural resources impacted, dust (contaminated in some cases)*



# Primary Salmon Passage Blockages



Grand Coulee

Dworshak

Hells Canyon

- US Corps of Engineers dam
- Other dam
- US Bureau of Reclamation dam



# FUTURE OF OUR SALMON 2014

*A Vision of Restoration in the Columbia River Basin*

## Restoring Historical Fish Passage

**April 23-24, 2014**

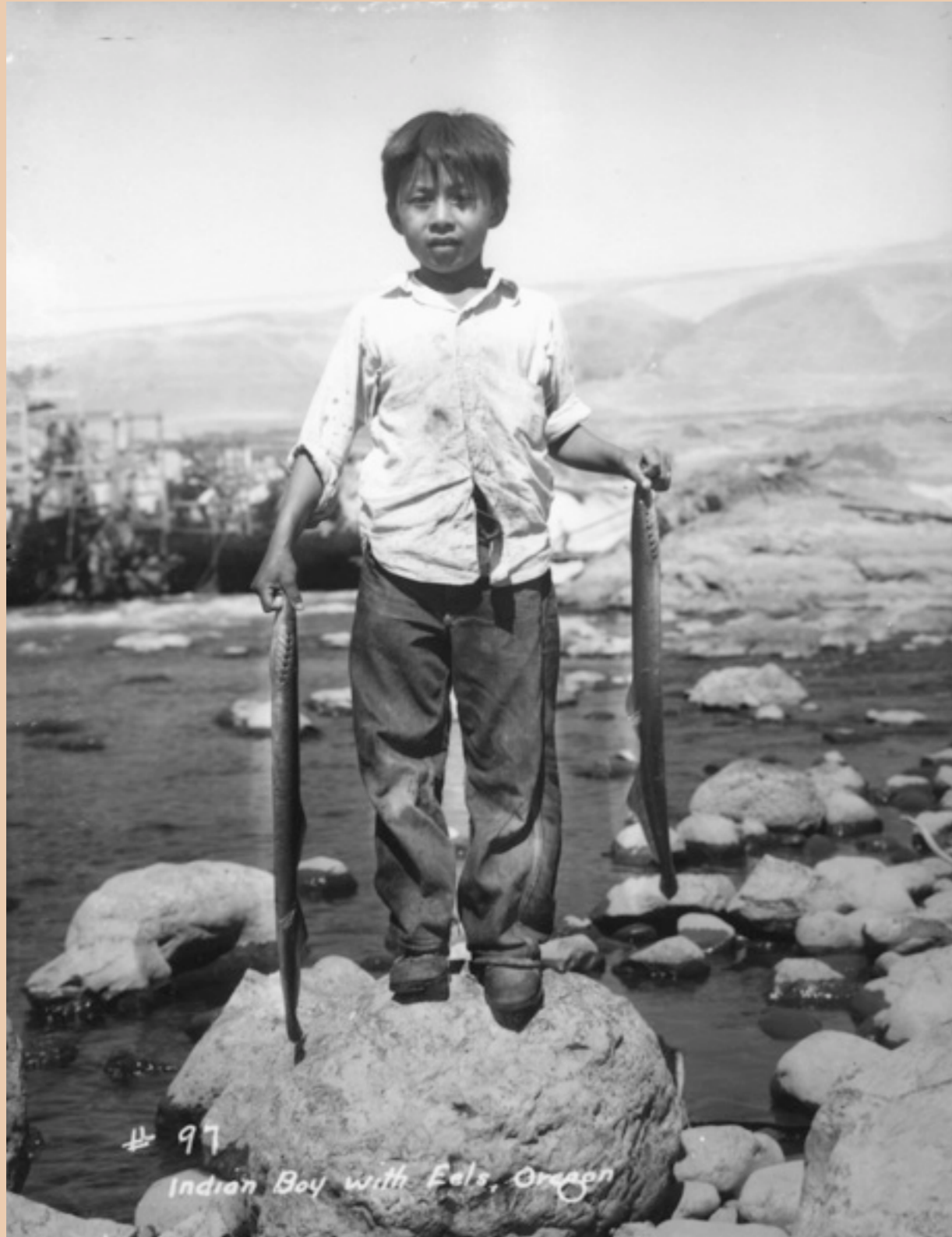
Oregon Convention Center · Portland, Oregon

Developing a unified strategy to restore fish passage to historical locations in the Columbia River Basin.

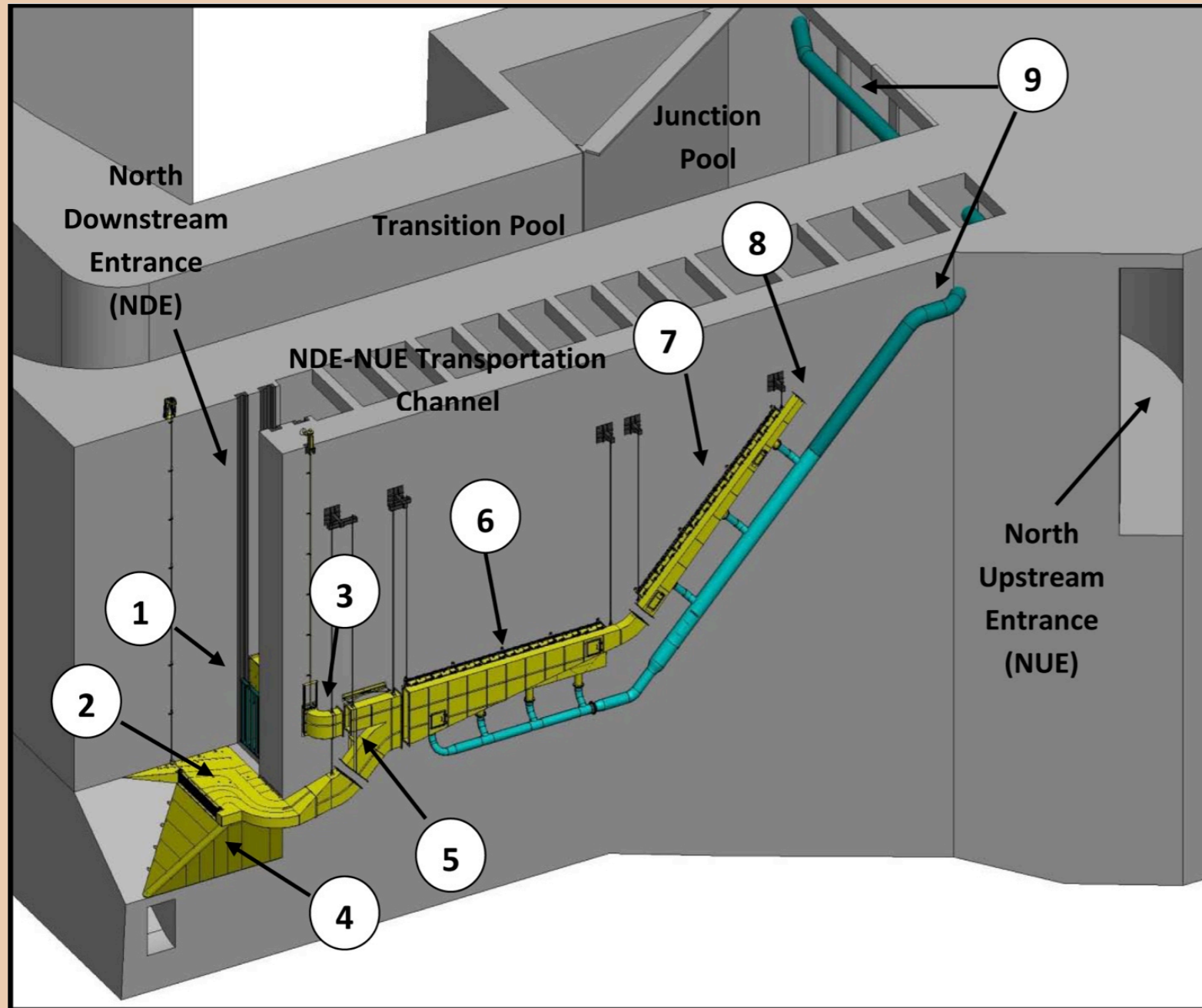
Salmon · Lamprey · Sturgeon · Bull Trout

[www.critfc.org/future](http://www.critfc.org/future)

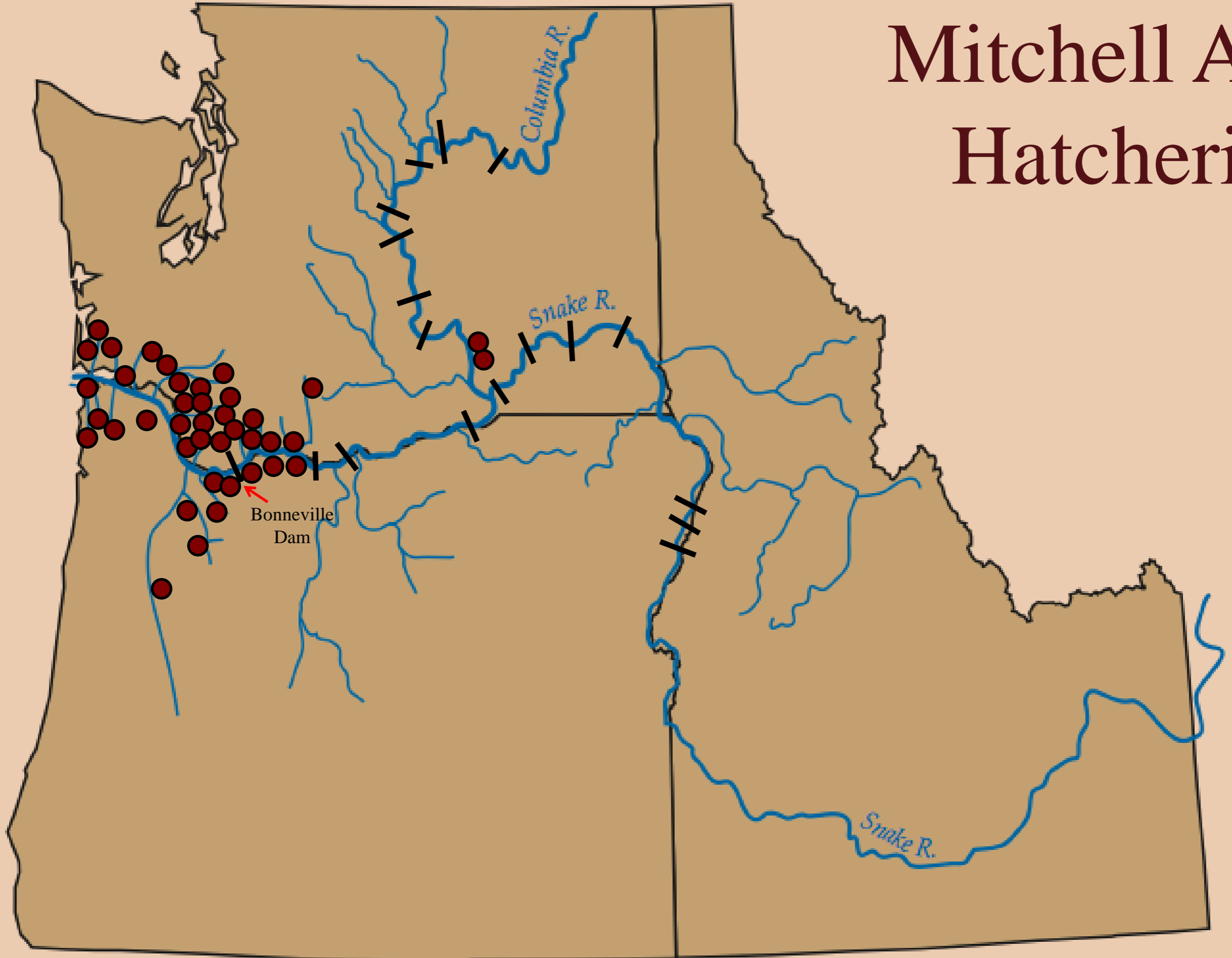




# Lamprey Flume System at Bonneville Dam



# Mitchell Act Hatcheries



# Using Hatcheries to Rebuild Naturally Spawning Salmon Populations

**There's more to hatcheries that science:**

- Hatcheries are an obligation – Mitigation for effects of dams
- Legal obligations:
  - US v. Oregon Management Agreements
  - Accords
  - Pacific Salmon Treaty



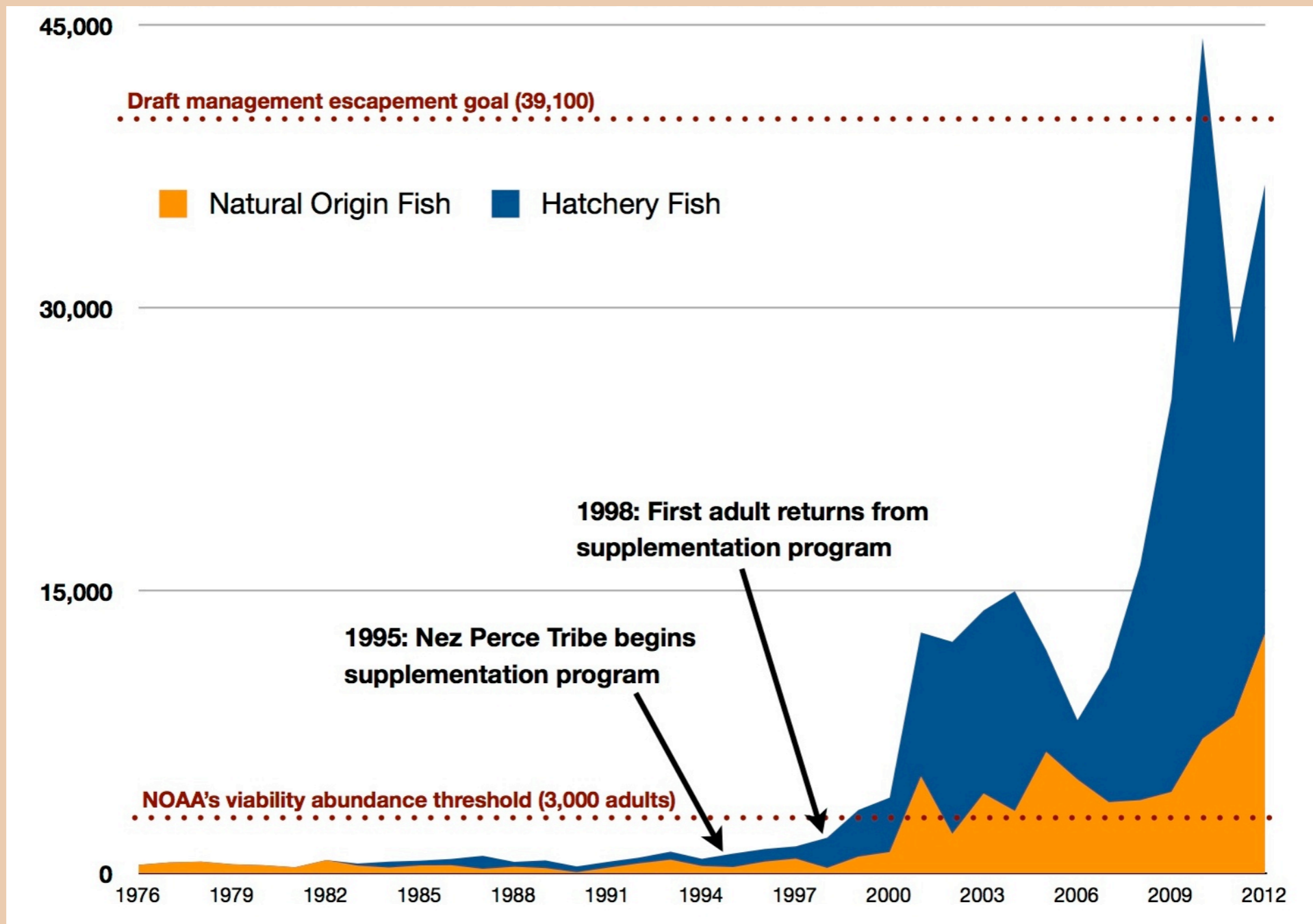
# Supplementation: Using Hatcheries to Rebuild Natural Populations

Tribal hatchery programs:

- **Snake River Fall Chinook**, huge returns, record redd counts (ESA de-listing on the horizon?)
- **Coho** re-introduction in the Yakama, Umatilla, Wenatchee and Clearwater rivers
- **Spring Chinook** re-introduction in the Umatilla and Walla Walla rivers

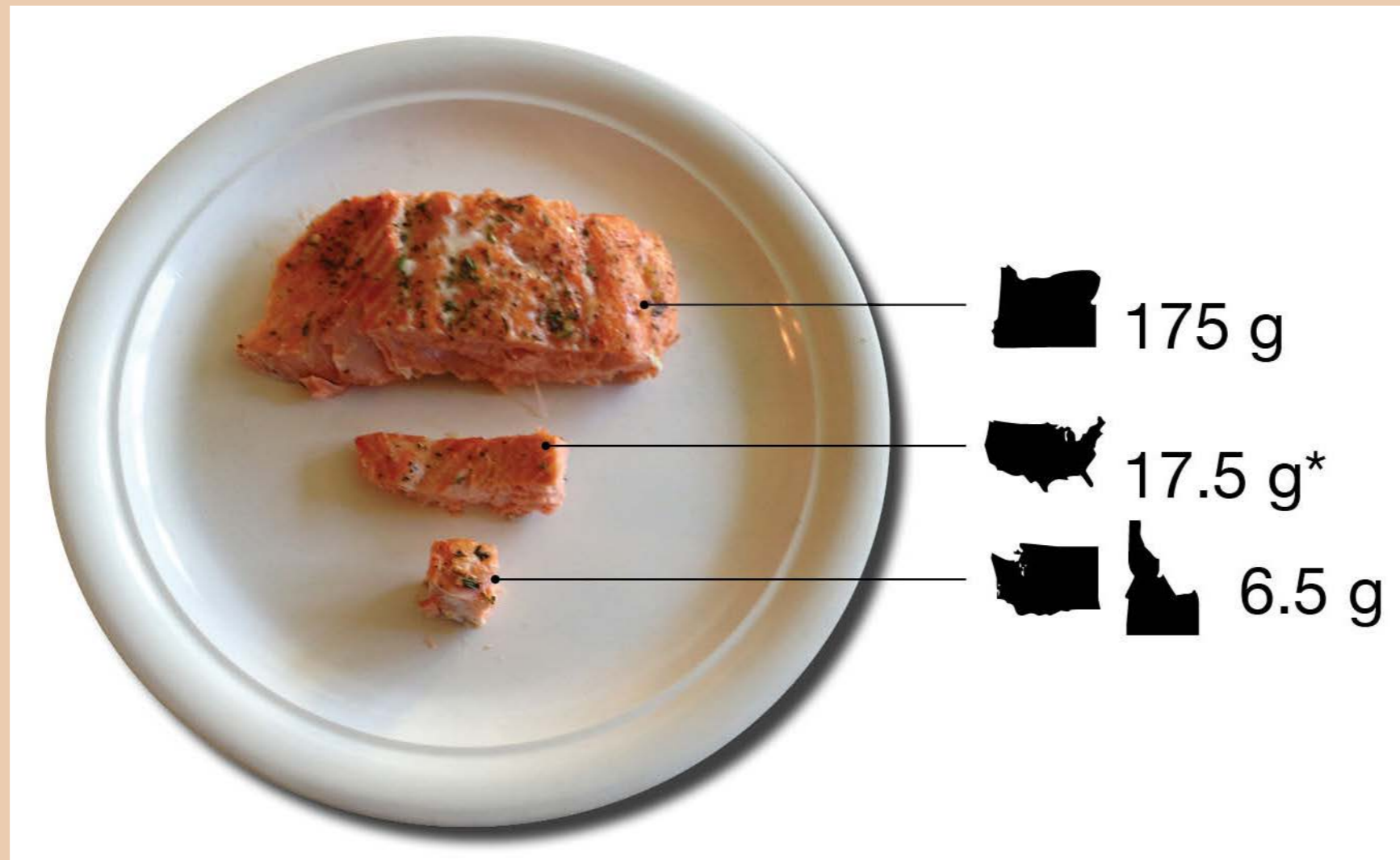


# Fall Chinook Passage at Lower Granite Dam



# Water Quality Determines Fish Quality

- States set allowable pollution levels
- Based on fish consumption and risk level





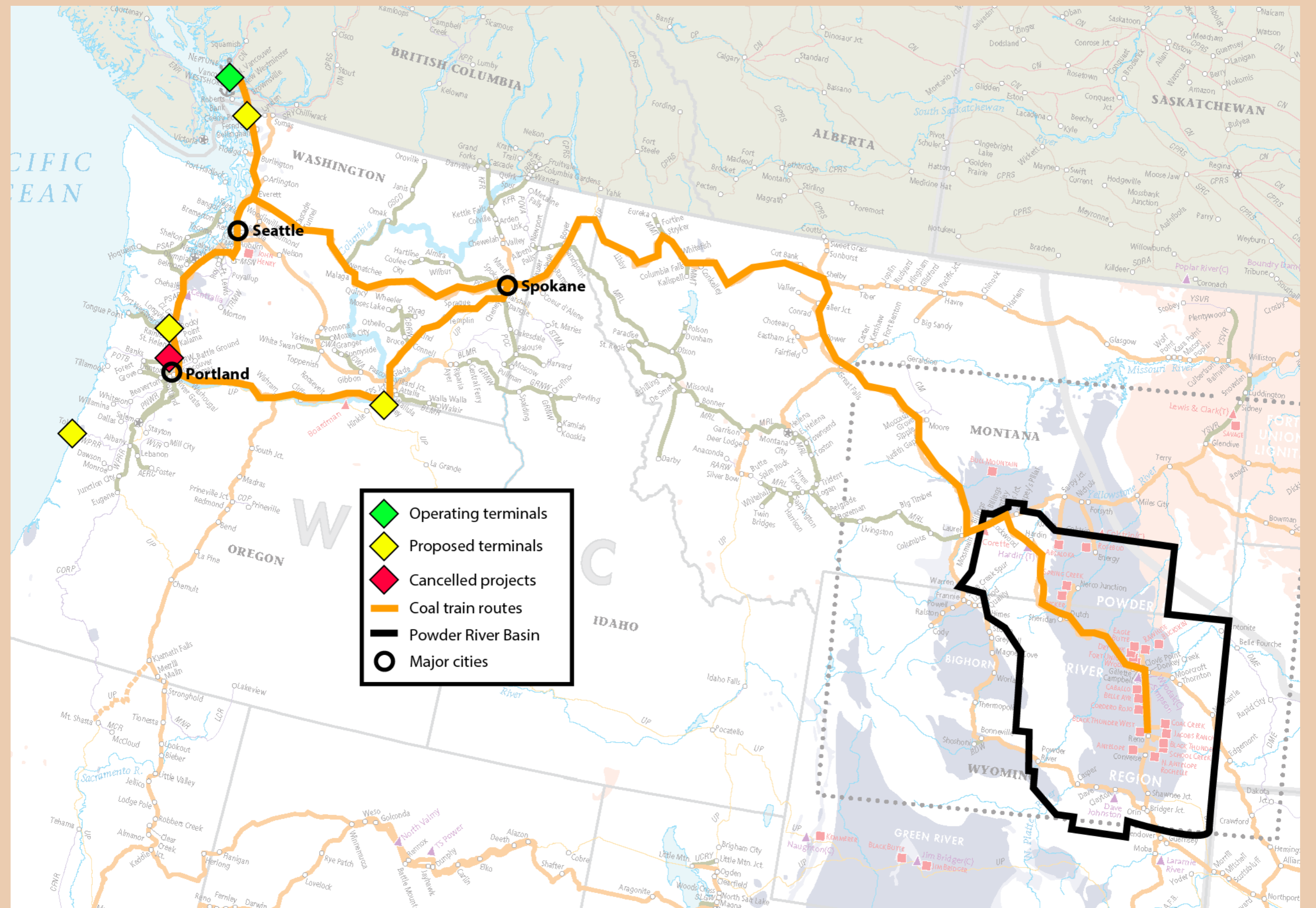
“The tribes believe that the long-term solution to this problem isn’t keeping people from eating contaminated fish, it’s keeping fish from being contaminated in the first place.”







— *Joel Moffett, CRITFC Chairman*



# Proposals to Transport Oil and Coal Along the Columbia River





-  Operating terminals
-  Proposed terminals
-  Cancelled projects
-  Coal train routes
-  Powder River Basin
-  Major cities



There are 2-4 coal  
and trains  
currently traveling  
the Gorge on a  
daily basis



*[Photos: Daniel Dancer]*



# Tribal Concerns

- Treaty Rights Concerns
  - Cultural resources impacts
  - Loss of treaty fishing sites
- Environmental
  - Increased coal dust in the Columbia River Gorge
  - Water quality effects from coal runoff
  - Mercury returns from burning coal
  - Increased risks of oil contamination and spills
- Transportation
  - Increased rail traffic
  - Increased barge traffic

Tribal  
Lifestyles are  
Not Relics of  
the Past

*Warm Springs tribal  
lamprey harvest in  
Oregon City, Oregon*





# Fish and Wildlife Impacts

Loss of salmon has affected more than tribal members.

The loss has also severely impacted wildlife and other ecosystem functions.



Tribal elders taught us that if we take care of the First Foods, the First Foods will take care of us