

The Upper Columbia River and the FCRPS

Fish and Wildlife Program
Amendments:
Upper Columbia United Tribes

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

Approximately 1/4 of all hydropower generated by the FCRPS is Generated in the Upper Columbia



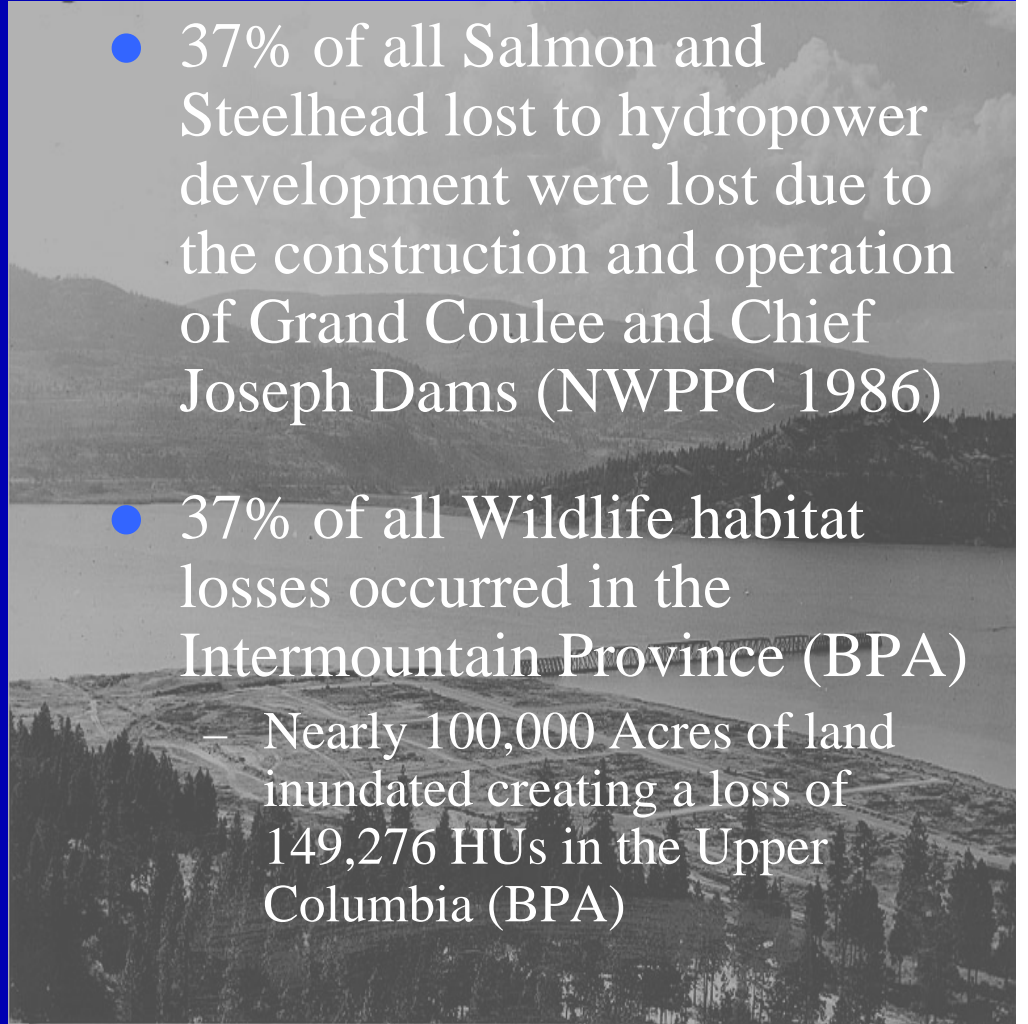
Hydropower Impacts to Fish and Wildlife



Hydropower Impacts to Fish and Wildlife



- 37% of all Salmon and Steelhead lost to hydropower development were lost due to the construction and operation of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams (NWPPC 1986)
- 37% of all Wildlife habitat losses occurred in the Intermountain Province (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

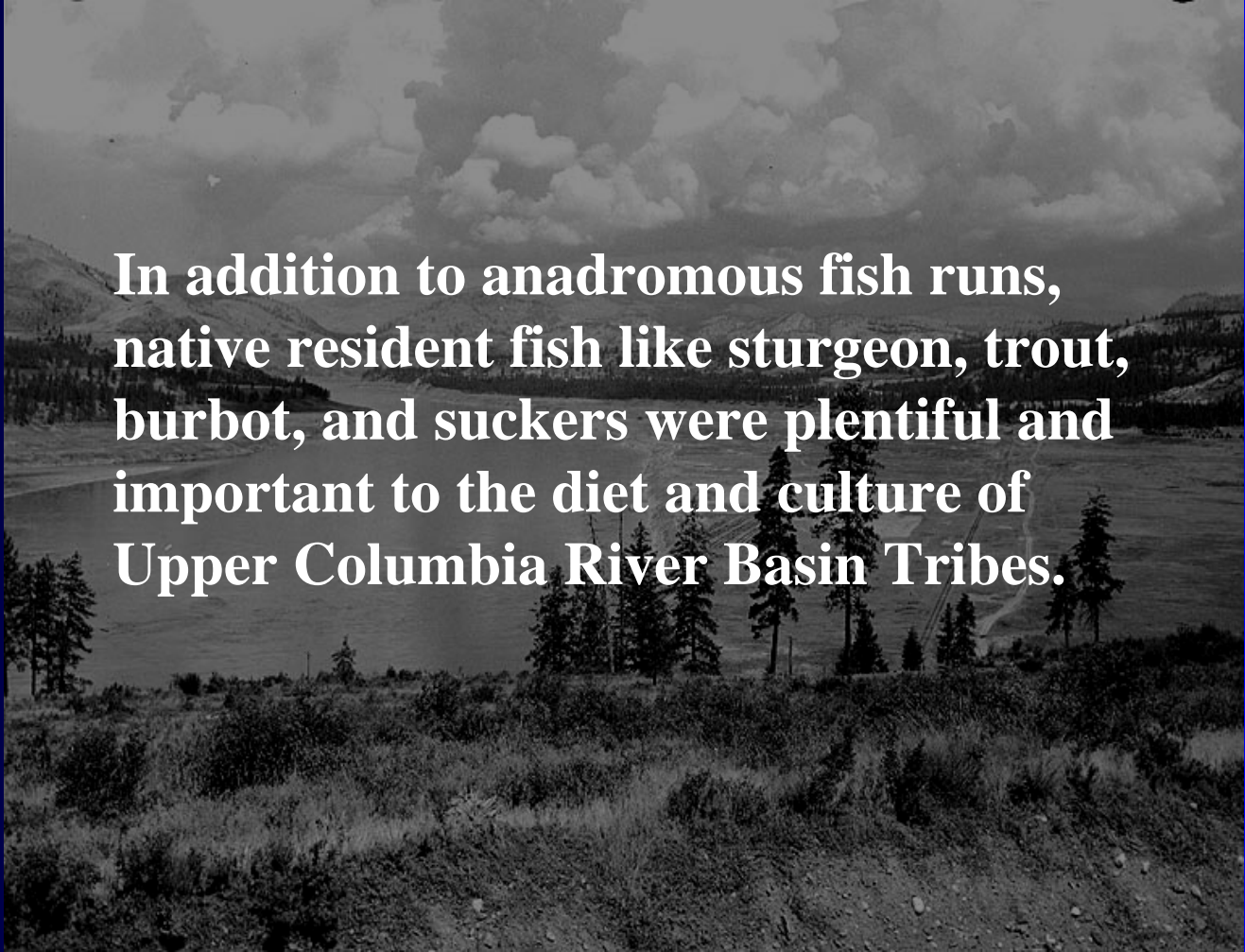
Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



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

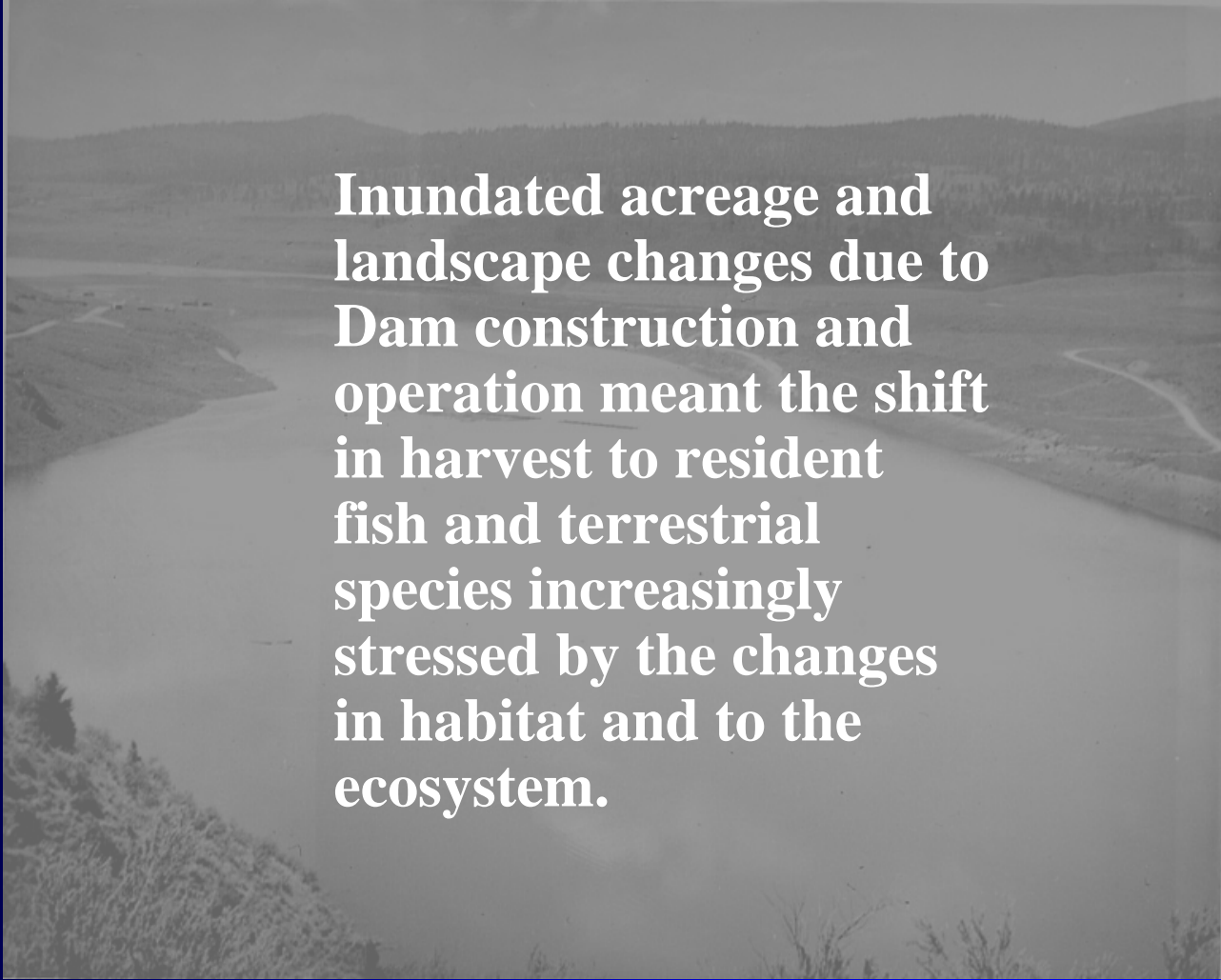


*Pictures of Nee bridge covered by
water.
Mouth of Spokane R.*

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.

UCUT Needs within the Upper Columbia River



UCUT Needs and the NWPCC F&W Program



UCUT Needs and the NWPCC 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."
 - 2000 Program identified other mitigation needs exist beyond Resident Fish

UCUT Needs and the NWPCC F&W Program

- Wildlife Plan adopted in the 1987 Program
 - Identified habitat losses by Hydroelectric Project
 - All Mitigation in the Intermountain is less than 85% completed
 - Two of the Dams are mitigated at less than 50%
 - 2000 Program Policy requires a shift in focus and priorities to areas under mitigated



UCUT Allocation Proposal

- Focuses on BPA hydropower obligations
 - Dam Hydropower Allocations
 - Regional benefits
 - Proportional impacts
- Uses internal prioritization and flexibility to meet biological milestones
 - Identifies specific outcomes to be met over the 10 year period
 - Allows for shifting of priorities annually to meet all outcomes over the ten-year term

UCUT Funding Proposal

- UCUT has submitted completed plans, measures, cost estimates, and a regional allocation proposal
- UCUT prepared to enter 10 year funding agreements in 2009

Fisheries Priorities

- Develop adult and juvenile anadromous fish passage capabilities at FCRPS dams
- A comprehensive mitigation program of native resident fish restoration and native/non-native fish enhancements through resident fish substitution policy and resident fish mitigation

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
- Complete Operational losses assessments and begin mitigation implementation

UCUT Non-Native Fish Selection Criteria



Conclusion

- Consider the disparity: magnitude of the losses (F&W) and gains (aMW and salmon flows) due to dams vs. mitigation contributions
- Mitigation and compensation is required under NWPA.
- Policies are present that support continued Tribal mitigation compensation in the Upper Columbia Ecoregion.

Recommendations

- Diligently implement the Fish and Wildlife Program consistent with the Power Act
- Implement 10 year funding commitments with UCUT member Tribes
- Focus on BPA obligations for FCRPS impacts
- Fund Intermountain Province at levels equitable with past impacts and current benefits
- Shift R,M, & E focus to Provincial scale for consistency and comparability at similar geographic scales
- Implement BEF like standards for M&E at the watershed scale in 10 year timelines
- Rectify in-lieu funding issues within the Program as guidance for BPA funding.