



Cultural and Educational Releases

Spokane River Forum – April 26, 2023

Conor Giorgi, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*

Contributions by:

Thomas Biladeau, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*

Rick Raymondi, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*

Casey Baldwin, *Confederated Tribes of
The Colville Reservation*

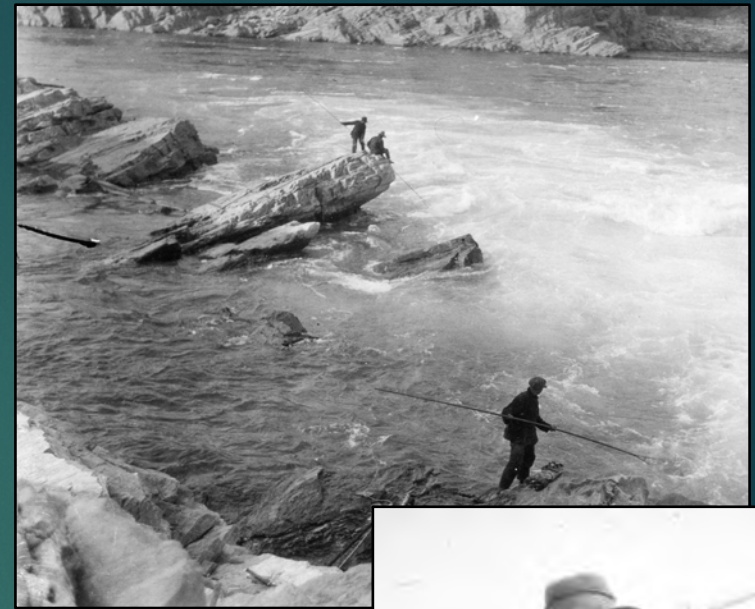
Laura Robinson, *UCUT*



C&E Releases Objectives

“A parallel effort to the phased approach for reintroduction”

- Meets short-term goals for blocked area tribes
 - Cultural/Spiritual connections
 - Harvest opportunities
- Proof of concept for reintroduction efforts
 - Small-scale behavior and survival monitoring
 - Spawning and production monitoring
- Societal awareness and education of reintroduction efforts and benefits
 - Community and media engagement
 - Political engagement



Cultural and Educational Releases

UCUT Tribes, 2017-present



Hangman Creek, 2019



Sherman Creek Net Pens, 2021



Hangman Creek, 2020

>20,000 Juvenile Chinook

Cultural and Educational Releases

UCUT Tribes, 2017-present

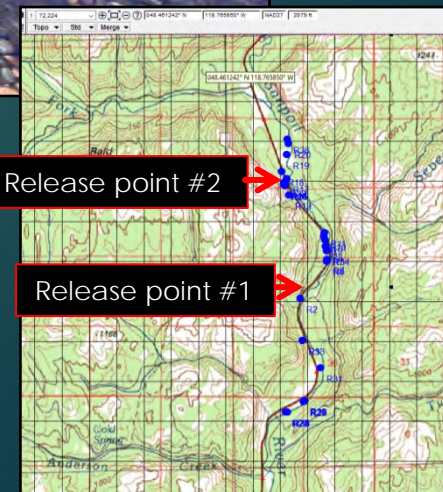
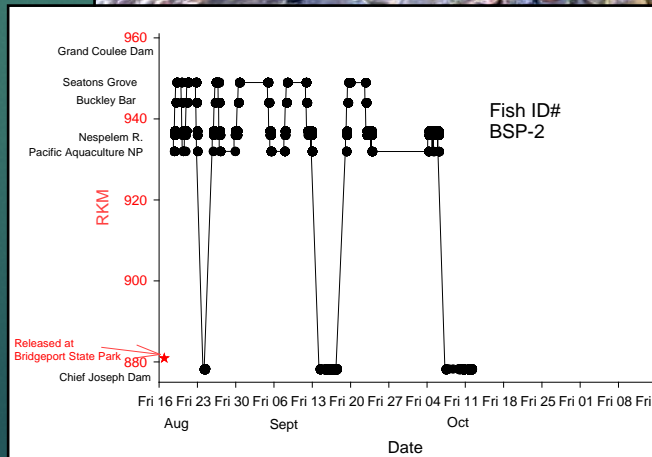


> 1,400 Adult Chinook

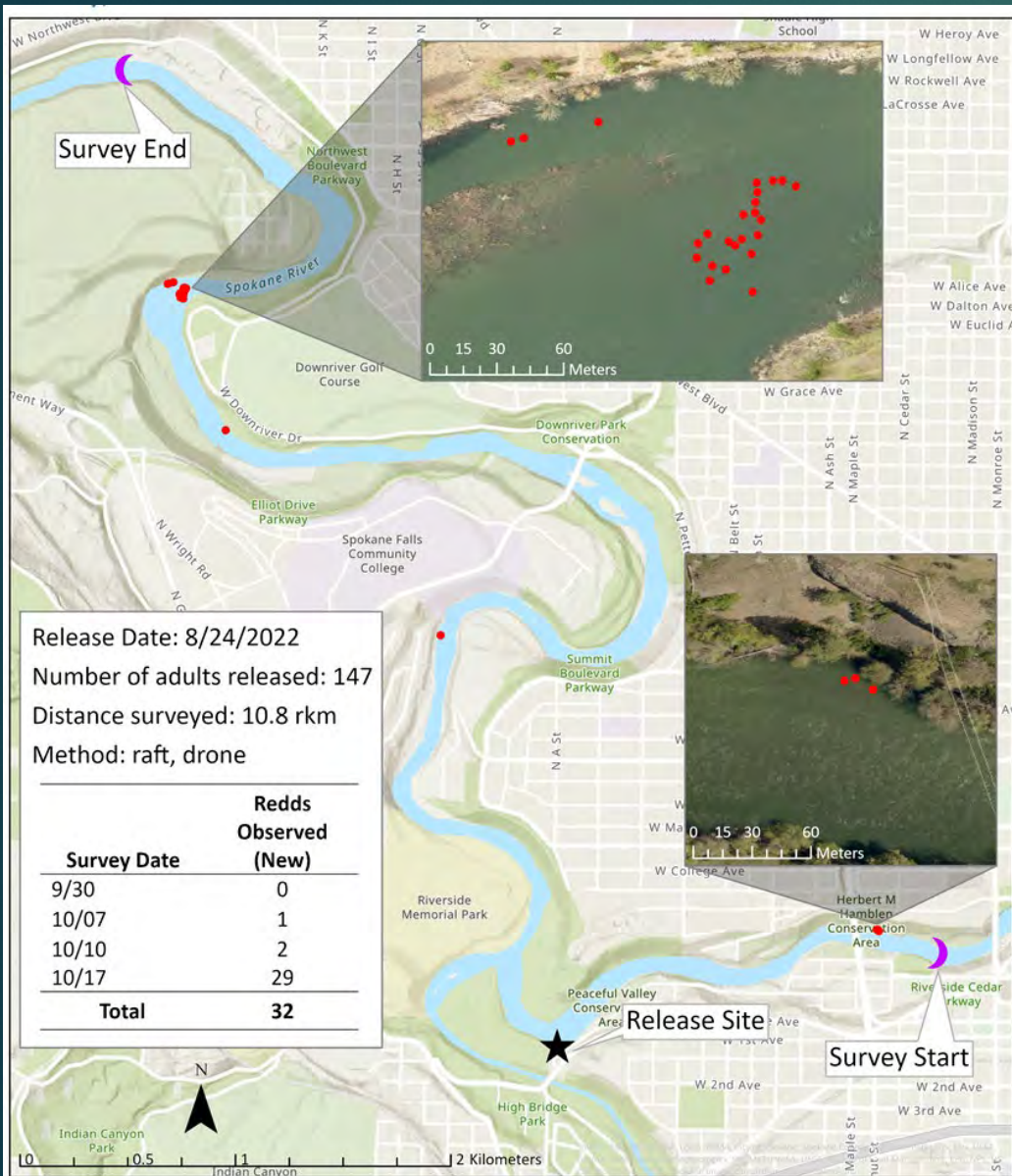
Post-release behavior, documented spawning: Sanpoil R., Tshimikain Ck., Little Spokane R. and Rufus Woods



Redds



Post-release behavior, documented spawning: Spokane River



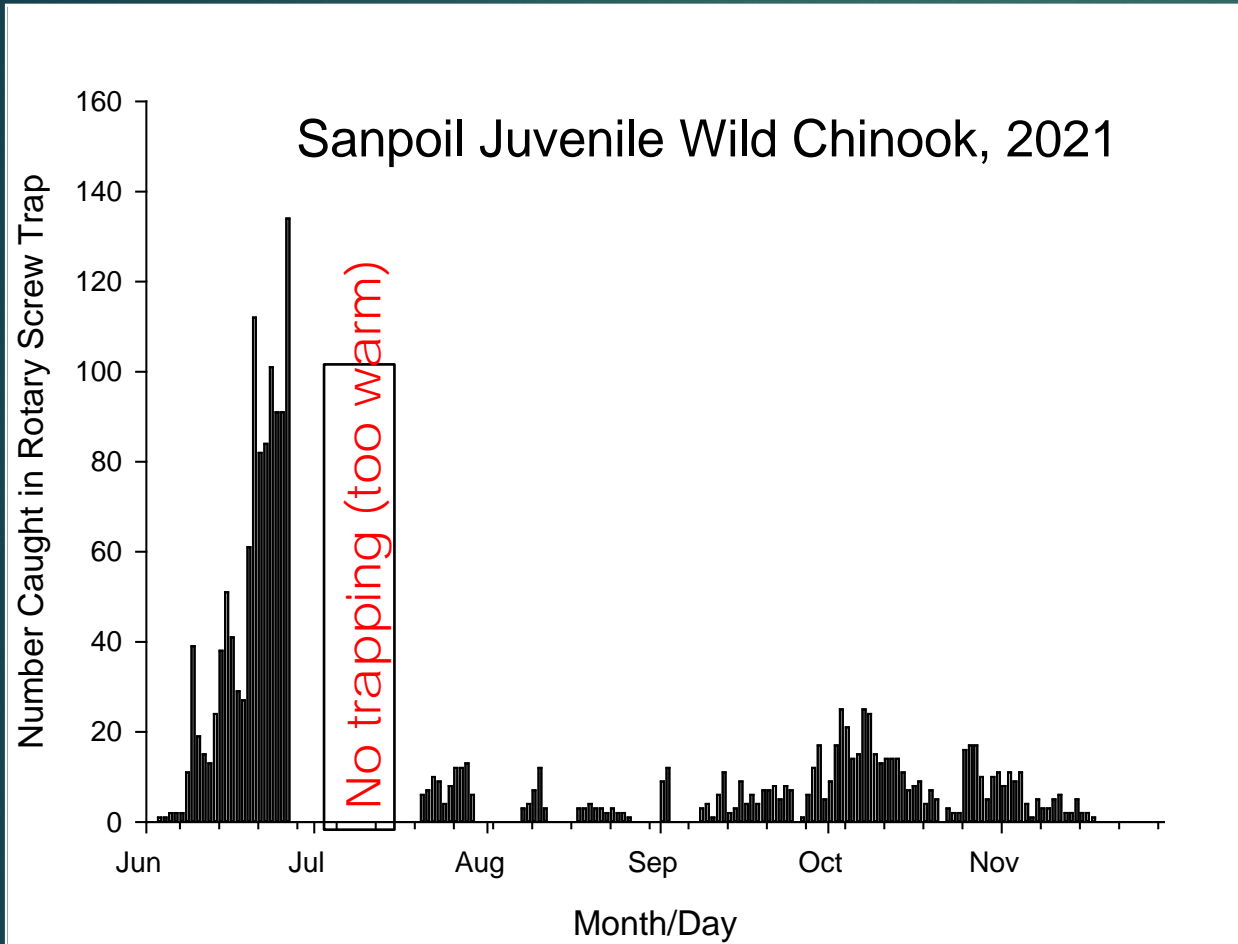
Documented production of wild juveniles: Tshimikain Creek

- Caught 1,065 juvenile Chinook between March 3 – April 14, 2022
- Mean length of 39mm



Documented production of wild juveniles: Sanpoil River

- Caught 1,071 juvenile Chinook between June 3-26, 2021
(the trap only samples a fraction of the river)
- Caught another 743 between July 20 and Nov 18



Community Engagement

Spokane, WA
National AFS Conference

August, 2022



Media Outreach

3/14/23, 11:19 AM Spokane Tribe releases 146 Chinook salmon into Spokane River, highlighting increasing respect given to indigenous knowledge

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane Tribe releases 146 Chinook salmon into Spokane River, highlighting increasing respect given to indigenous knowledge



The Spokane Tribe and volunteers help release 146 adult chinook salmon to the Spokane River at Sandhill Bridge in Prosper Park on Wednesday. The release is part of the Spokane Tribe's and other Upper Columbia Tribe's longstanding efforts to reintroduce salmon into the upper reaches of the Columbia River basin. (COURTESY SPOKESMAN-NEWS)

By Bill Franovich
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Spring salmon sightings on the Columbia River

U.S. efforts to return salmon to Upper Columbia River gaining traction, some caught in BC waters

However, recent reports on social media and to the Trail Times indicate salmon may indeed be back.

"Chinook Salmon are being encountered in recreational fisheries in the Columbia River between the US-Canada border and the Hugh Kesley-side Dam," confirmed a spokesperson from the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Rural Development and Natural Resources (the ministry).



"There is also a possibility some may have entered the Arrow Lakes via the navigation lock at Hugh Kesley-side Dam."

The provincial and federal governments joined the Syilx Okanagan, Ktunaxa, and Secwepemc Indigenous Nations in July 2019 in creating the "Bringing the Salmon Home" the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative."

The initiative has completed initial studies on habitat, rearing, implementation, and established several committees and sub-committees to discuss further action. (see Annual Report 2021-2022: Bringing the Salmon Home)

Salmon was a vital lifeline for Indigenous peoples and migrated up the Columbia River to spawn in Upper and Lower Arrow and Slocan Lakes, as well as the Pend d'Oreille and Salmo Rivers and their tributaries.

3/14/23, 11:19 AM Thousands of Juvenile Chinook Captured in the Upper Columbia, Reintroducing Adult Salmon Yields Successful Spawning and

Thousands of Juvenile Chinook Captured in the Upper Columbia, Reintroducing Adult Salmon Yields Successful Spawning and Reproduction

Michelle Campobasso | Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife Public Relations Specialist Nov 29, 2022



CTFW staff release adult chinook

Michelle Campobasso | Colville Tribes

(Nespelem, Wash. Novem chinook were captured in juveniles were produced in These studies in the Sanp blocked area.

Upper Columbia United Tribes receive salmon reintroduction funds



Upper Columbia United Tribes (Editor's note: In August 2019, 30 spawning adult chinook salmon were released in the Columbia River above Chief Joseph Dam by the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Colville Tribes Fish and Game Department as a major first step to reintroduce the salmon to their native waters in the upper Columbia River system)

SPokane— The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) secured more than \$3 million in funding in the Washington State supplemental budget for salmon reintroduction in the upper Columbia. These monies will go to three member tribes (Colville, Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene) to invest in efforts they are leading to restore salmon, revitalize tribal culture, and strengthen the region's economy by implementing salmon reintroduction activities in the Spokane and Columbia rivers and their tributaries. The majority of these funds will be provided through the Washington

3/14/23, 11:17 AM Salmon may soon return to the Spokane and Columbia Rivers | Lifestyle | kxii.com

Salmon may soon return to the Spokane and Columbia Rivers

By Will Wisley
Apr 5, 2022



SPOKANE, Wash. — Salmon may soon be reintroduced to the Spokane and Columbia Rivers.

The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) secured over \$3 million in funding to bring salmon back to the Inland Northwest. The money will go to Colville, Spokane and Coeur d'Alene member tribes to restore salmon, revitalize tribal culture and strengthen the region's economy.

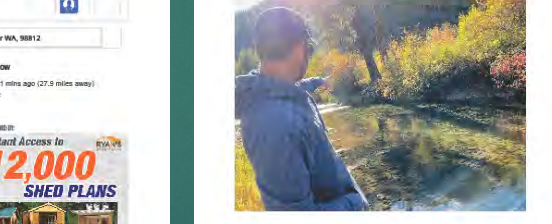
Salmon have been blocked from the upper Columbia for nearly 110 years due to the development of five hydropower dams without fish passage facilities. Since 2015, the tribes in the upper Columbia have been leading an effort to reintroduce anadromous fish to areas upstream of Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee, and Spokane River dams.

or accepting their role in this most righteous of endeavors," said Hemene James, Chairman of

Tribe ask for more support for salmon reintroduction to the Upper Columbia | Northwest News Network

Tribes ask for more support for salmon reintroduction to the Upper Columbia

NWNews | By Courtney Flatt
Published November 17, 2021 at 4:00 PM PST



Casey Baldwin, a research scientist with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, points out a salmon nest, or redd, on the Sanpoil River.

Upper Columbia tribes want help to continue reintroducing salmon above Grand Coulee Dam.

Native American tribes, who want help to continue reintroducing salmon above Grand Coulee Dam, asked for support to continue fish survival studies at Northwest Power and Conservation Council meetings this week. The tribes said they need support for donor stocks, rearing equipment and equipment for the acoustic and PIT tagging studies.

New Posting
KMUN/KTCS Coast Comm...
https://www.nwnewsnetwork.org/2021/11/17/tribes-ask-for-more-support-for-salmon-reintroduction-to-the-upper-columbia

3/14/23, 11:09 AM \$3 million will help tribes study salmon reintroduction in the Upper Columbia Basin | KNKX Public Radio

\$3 million will help tribes study salmon reintroduction in the Upper Columbia Basin

NWNews | By Courtney Flatt
Published April 11, 2022 at 10:36 AM PDT



A line of about a dozen people passed buckets of summer chinook salmon to be released into Hangman Creek.

Bringing salmon back to the Upper Columbia River will take a lot of time and a lot of money, according to the Upper Columbia United Tribes.

The tribes recently received \$3 million from Washington's supplemental budget – a big

For decades, dams have kept salmon out of the Spokane River. Now, tribes are studying how to bring the fish back | The Spokesman-Review

For decades, dams have kept salmon out of the Spokane River. Now, tribes are studying how to bring the fish back

NWNews | Spokane
For decades, dams have kept salmon out of the Spokane River. Now, tribes are studying how to bring the fish back



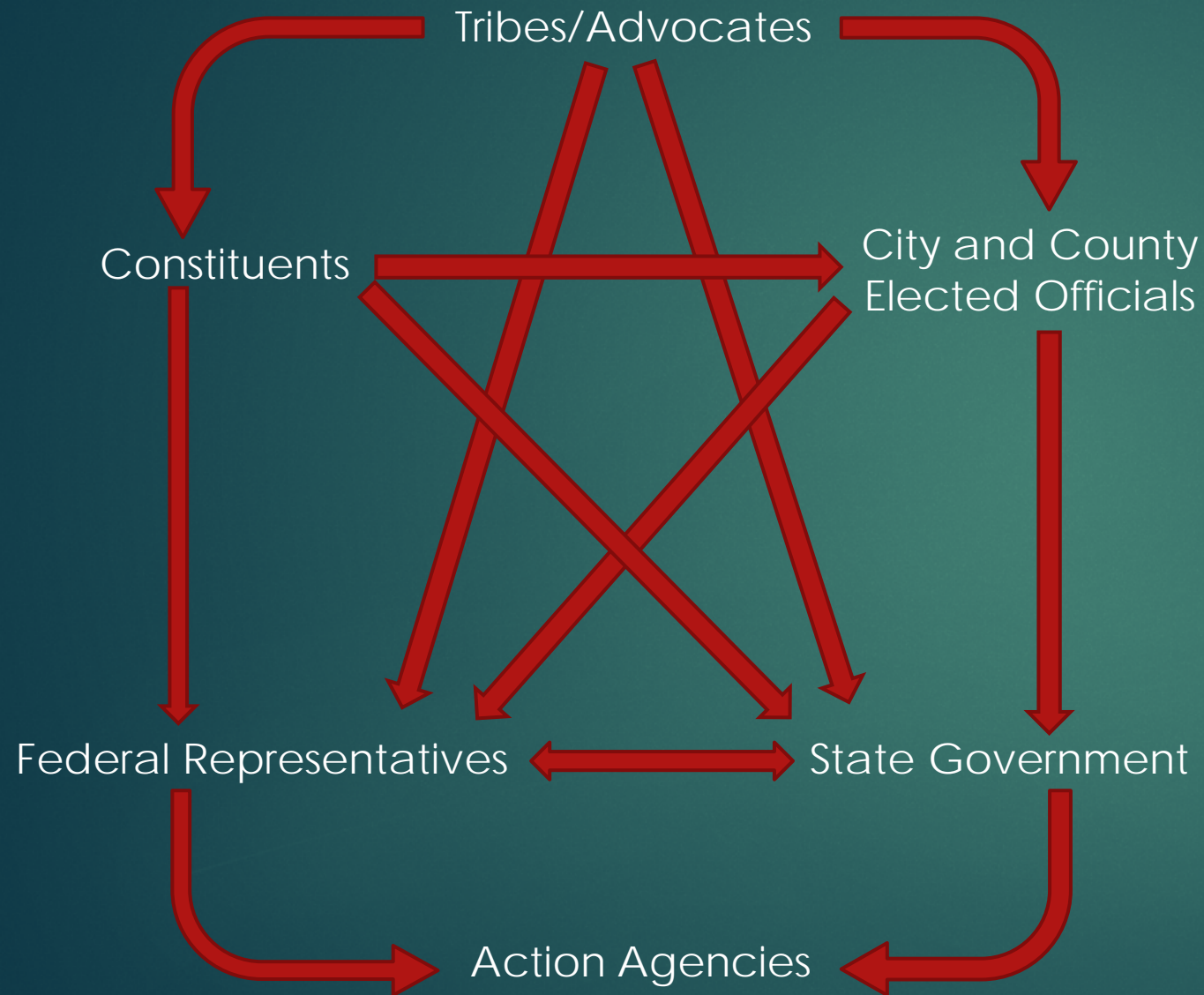
Aaron Penney, center, of the Nez Perce Tribe and Tony Kock, right, of the U.S. Geological Survey, hand a net full of baby salmon down to a line of volunteers who quickly transferred them to Latah Creek on Wednesday. The fish were raised at a Coeur d'Alene tribe hatchery. (Liese Tronley/The Spokesman-Review)

By Colin Tervan
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Dozens of cigar-sized fish wriggled in Vice Peace's net, their silver-green scales glistening in the sun. A moment later, the yearling chinook salmon disappeared into the rushing brown waters of Hangman Creek. And a second after that, a juvenile bald eagle soared 90 feet overhead, as if on queue.

https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2022/mar/17/for-decades-dams-have-kept-salmon-out-of-the-spokane/

Political Engagement



Upper Columbia United Tribes Phase 2 Implementation Plan

The Phase 2 Implementation Plan is 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.

Positive step for 80+ year old trust and environmental issue

Currently in Place

- Clear implementation path to assess feasibility for full reintroduction
- Collaborative framework with state and federal agencies

Highlights

- No changes to power production, flood control, or irrigation benefits to the dams
- No intention of using ESA-protected fish

Benefits

- Tribal cultural restitution
- Climate change resiliency
 - Access to higher elevation, colder water habitat
- Greater salmon returns in the Columbia River Basin
 - 41,000+ summer Chinook and 76,000+ Sockeye, annually
- Ecosystem benefits
- Recreational and economic benefits for local communities
 - Lake Roosevelt sturgeon reintroduction: \$520,000+ into the local economy for a 4-month fishery, annually

What Congress can do:

Urge responsible federal agencies to fund the plan with current appropriations and funding mechanisms: \$176 million

- For comparison, Grand Coulee revenue in that timeframe will exceed \$38.8 billion

Direct federal agencies to use existing authorities and, if necessary, pursue additional authorizations to conduct fish passage studies and implementation

Cultural and Educational Releases

- A successful start to meeting some short-term tribal goals
- Public awareness and education of reintroduction efforts and benefits
- A proof of concept for the Phased approach