

**NEW KIDS
ON THE
BLOCK**

Development of a Lead Entity in the Spokane River Watershed

CONOR GIORGI – ANADROMOUS PROGRAM MANAGER,
SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS

With contributions from Andy Dunau

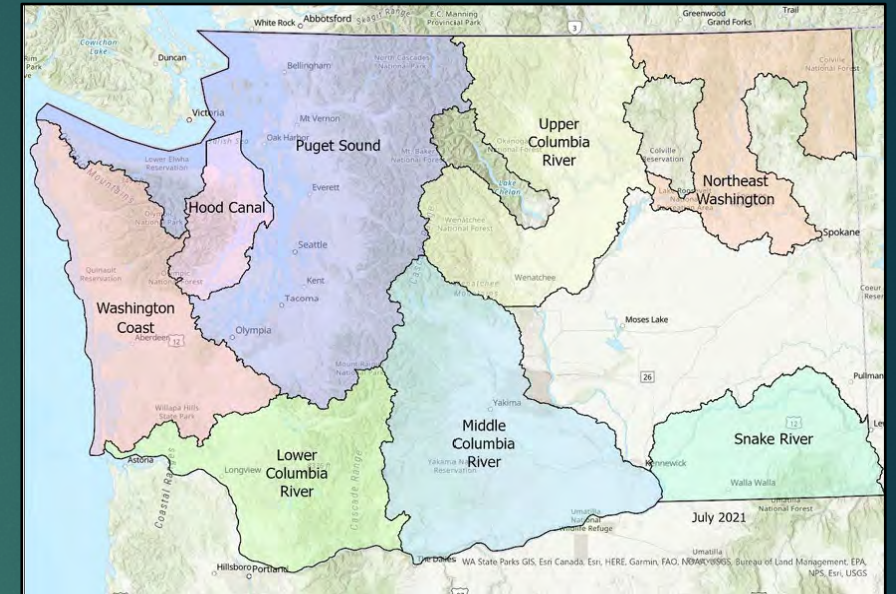
SPOKANE RIVER FORUM CONFERENCE

APRIL 26, 2023

Background – The NE Region

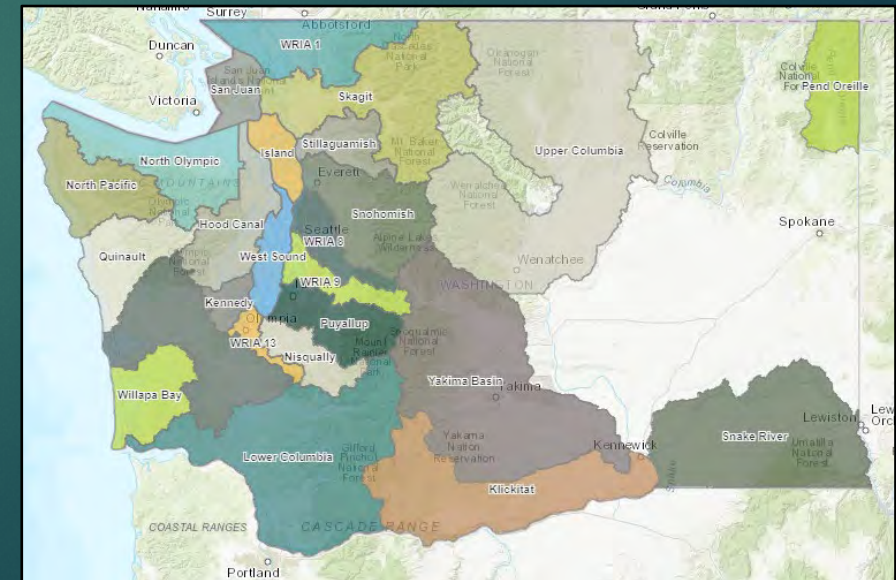
You don't already have a Lead Entity?

- NE declined regionalization (~2007)
- No anadromy
- No ESA (Redband Trout = State Species of Concern)



Pend Oreille Salmonid Recovery Team

- Kalispel Tribe
- Pend Oreille County
- Bull Trout (listed) and Cutthroat Trout



Why Now? Why Spokane?

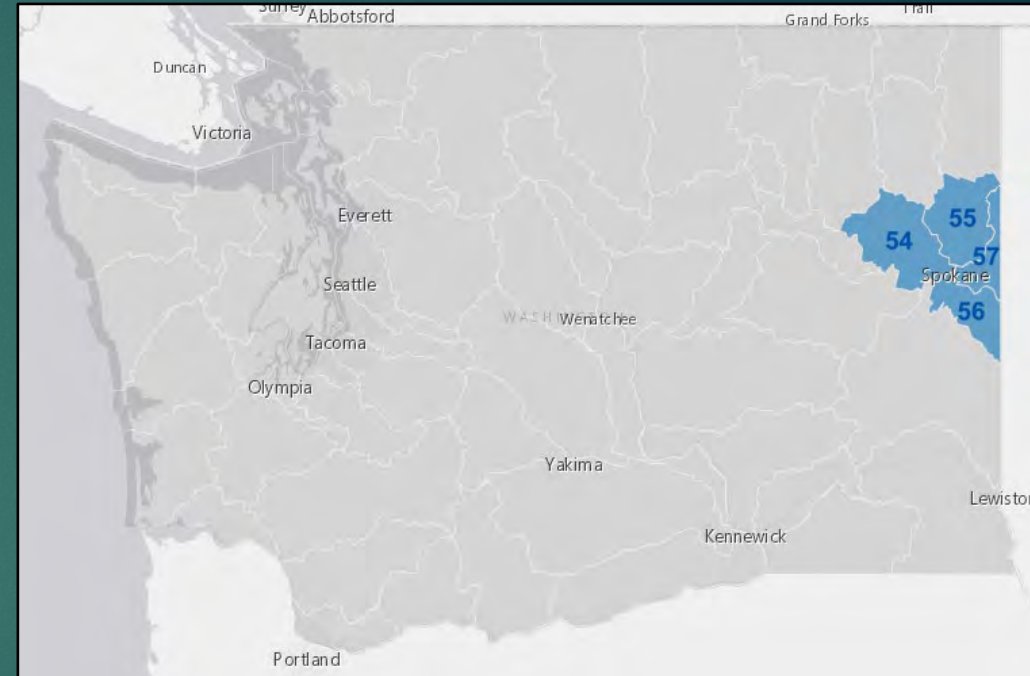
- The opportunity of UCR fish passage & reintroduction is being recognized
 - NPCC Fish & Wildlife Program (2003, 2014, 2020)
 - CRT Regional Recommendation (2013)
 - Orca Task Force (2018)
 - Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (2020)
 - Gov's Salmon Strategy (2021)
 - NOAA "Rebuilding Report" (2022)
- Current monitoring and restoration:
 - Performed independently
 - Individual organizations (ECY, DFW, Tribes, CD, NGOs, and others)
 - Address specific issues (e.g., water quality)
- Value in a comprehensive, coordinated approach



What's the vision?



- Local, watershed-based restoration organization
 - Spokane River Watershed
 - Spokane Tribe, "fiscal agent"
- Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy to guide the watershed
- Increase resources and funding for restoration in the Spokane
- Complement and support reintroduction

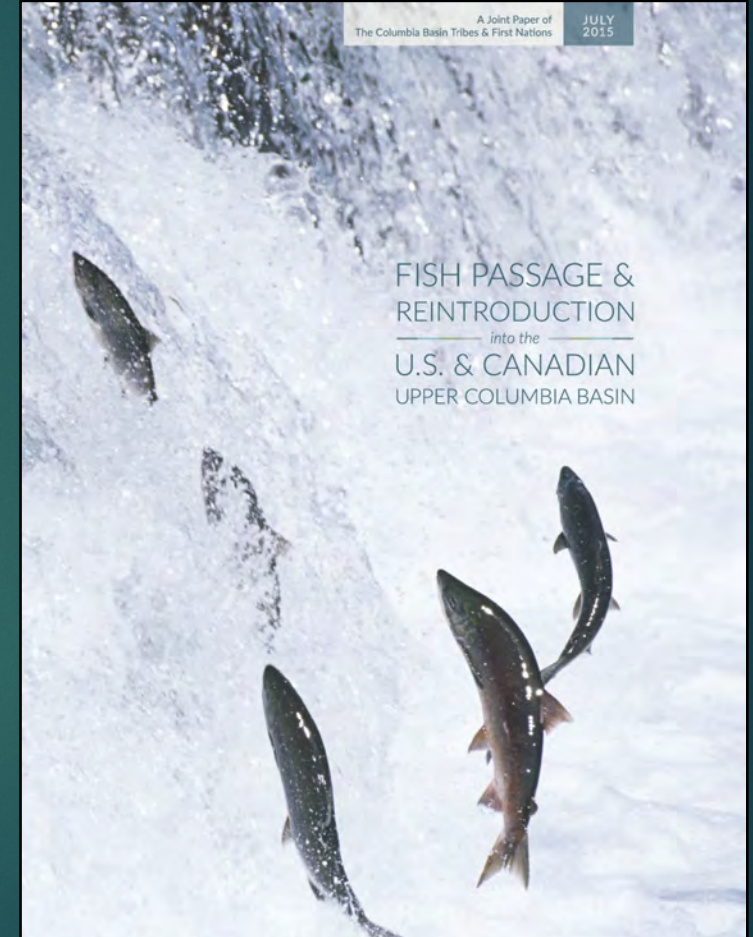


The Lead Entity is *Complementary* to...



Lead Entity is NOT:

- Working on the Phased Approach
- Putting fish in the water
- Making fisheries management decisions



Lead Entity IS:

- Preparing our waters for salmon
- Leveraging related research and projects
- May contribute to life cycle modeling



General Structure

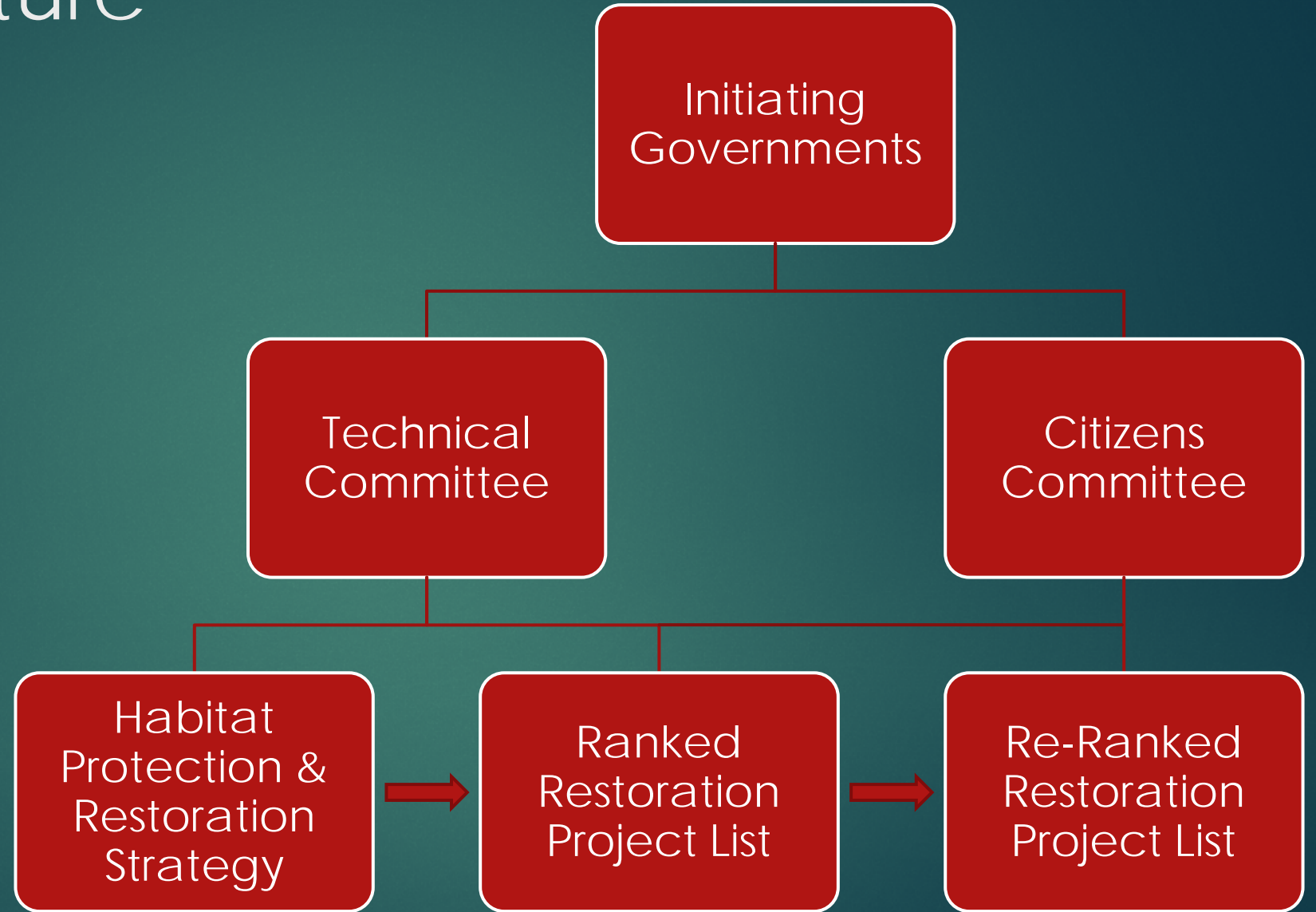
1. Initiating Governments

2. Technical Committee

3. Citizens Committee

4. Guiding Documents:

- Habitat Protection & Restoration Strategy
- (Re)Ranked Restoration Project List



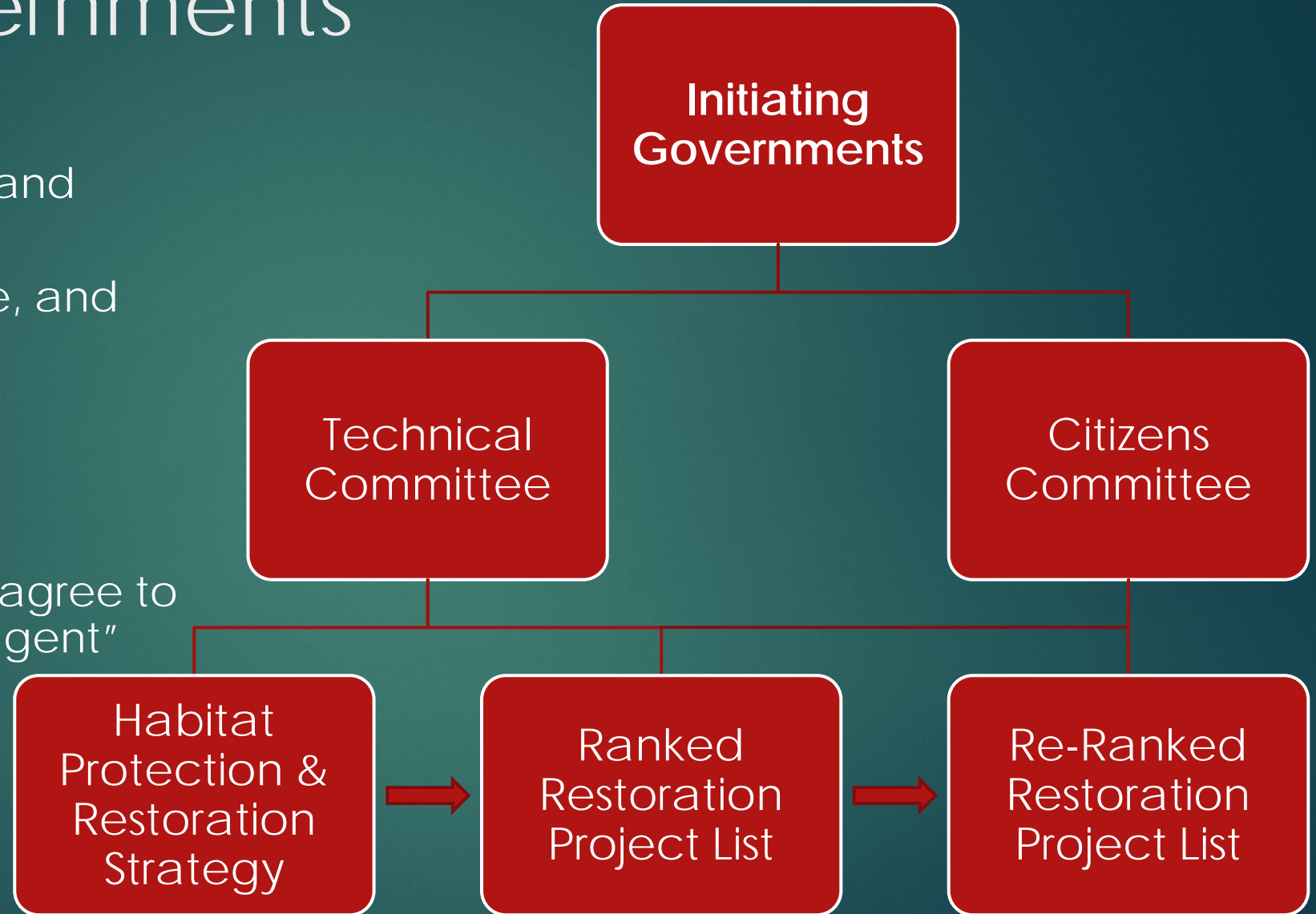
Initiating Governments

Outreach in 2022-2023

- Spokane Tribe of Indians and Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Lincoln, Stevens, Spokane, and Pend Oreille Counties;
- City of Spokane

Resolutions – support for the concept of the Lead Entity, agree to participate, identify “fiscal agent”

- ✓ Lincoln Co.
- ✓ Stevens Co.
- ✓ City of Spokane
- Others pending



Technical Committee

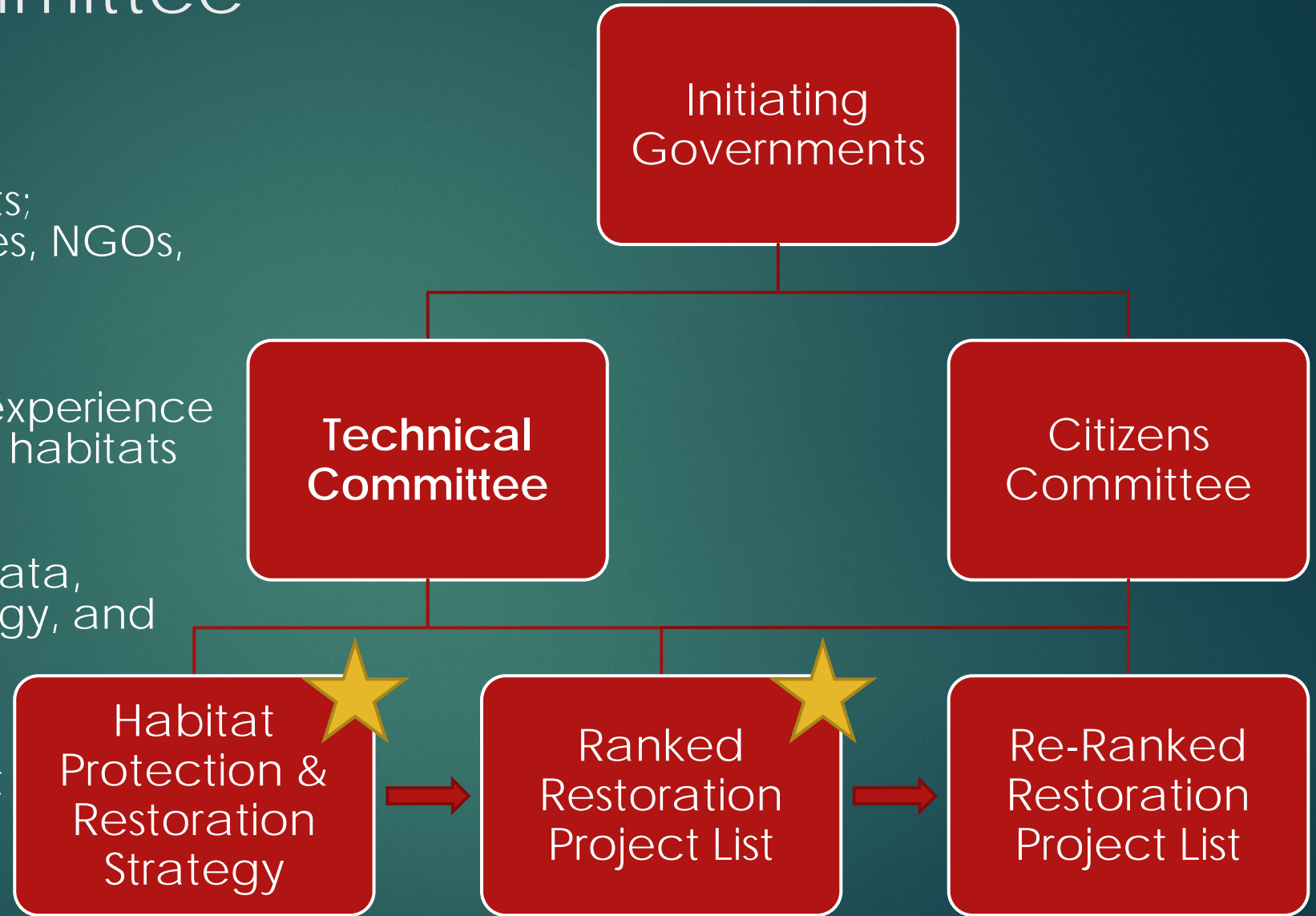
Convened in 2022

1. Local technical experts; governments, agencies, NGOs, and businesses

2. Boots-on-the-ground experience in the watersheds and habitats

3. Provide expertise on data, analysis, habitat strategy, and projects

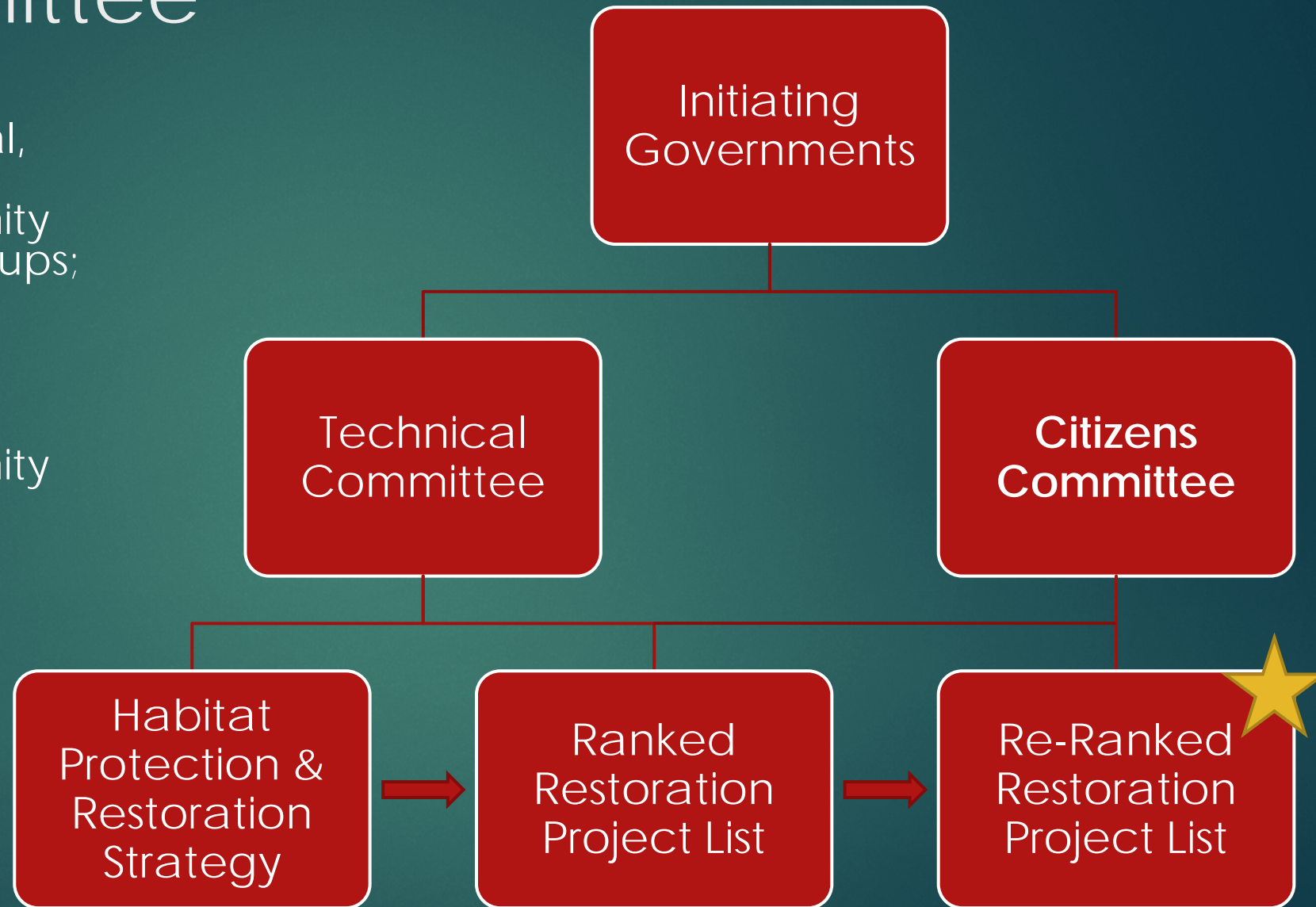
4. Create ranked project list based on biological benefit



Citizens Committee

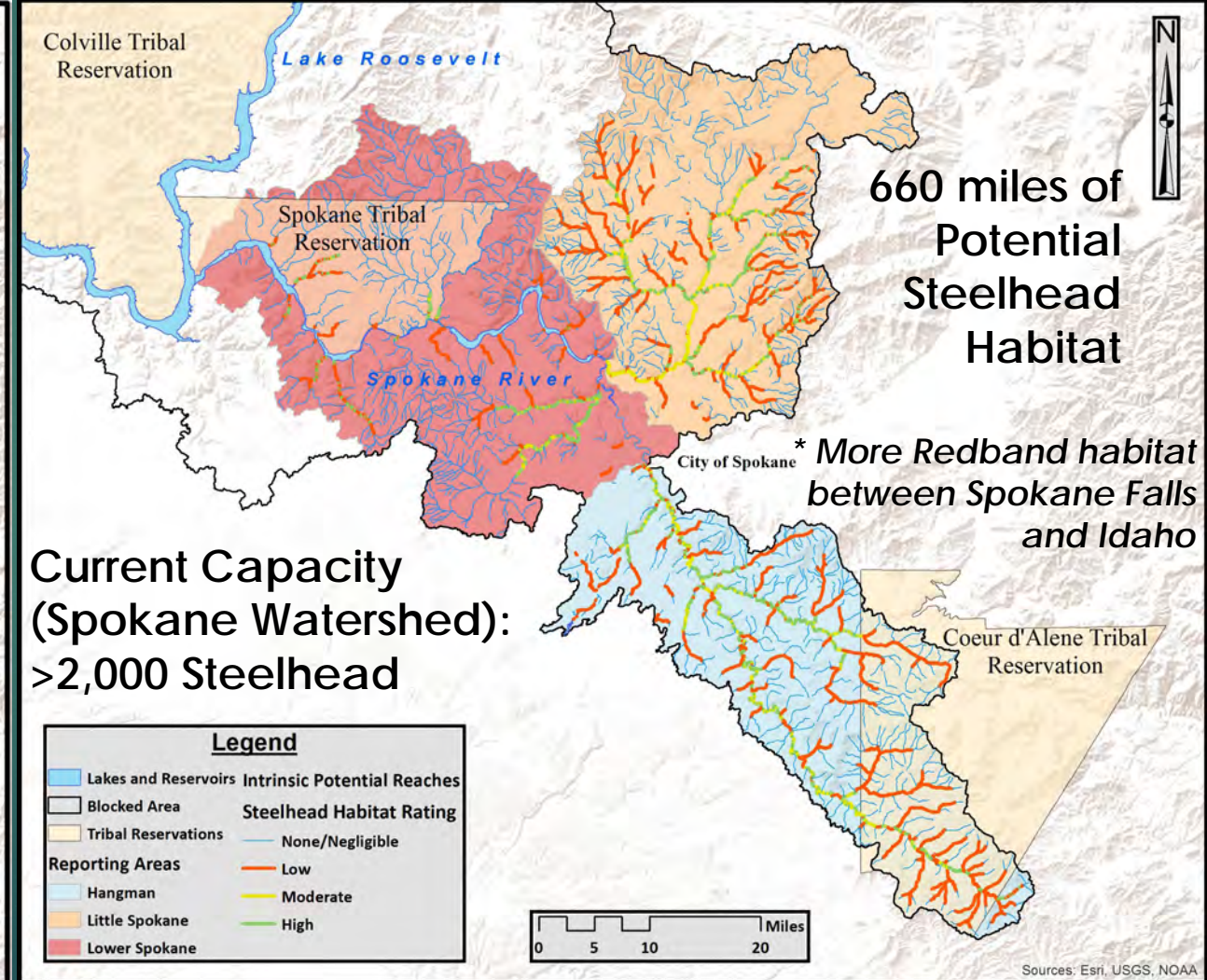
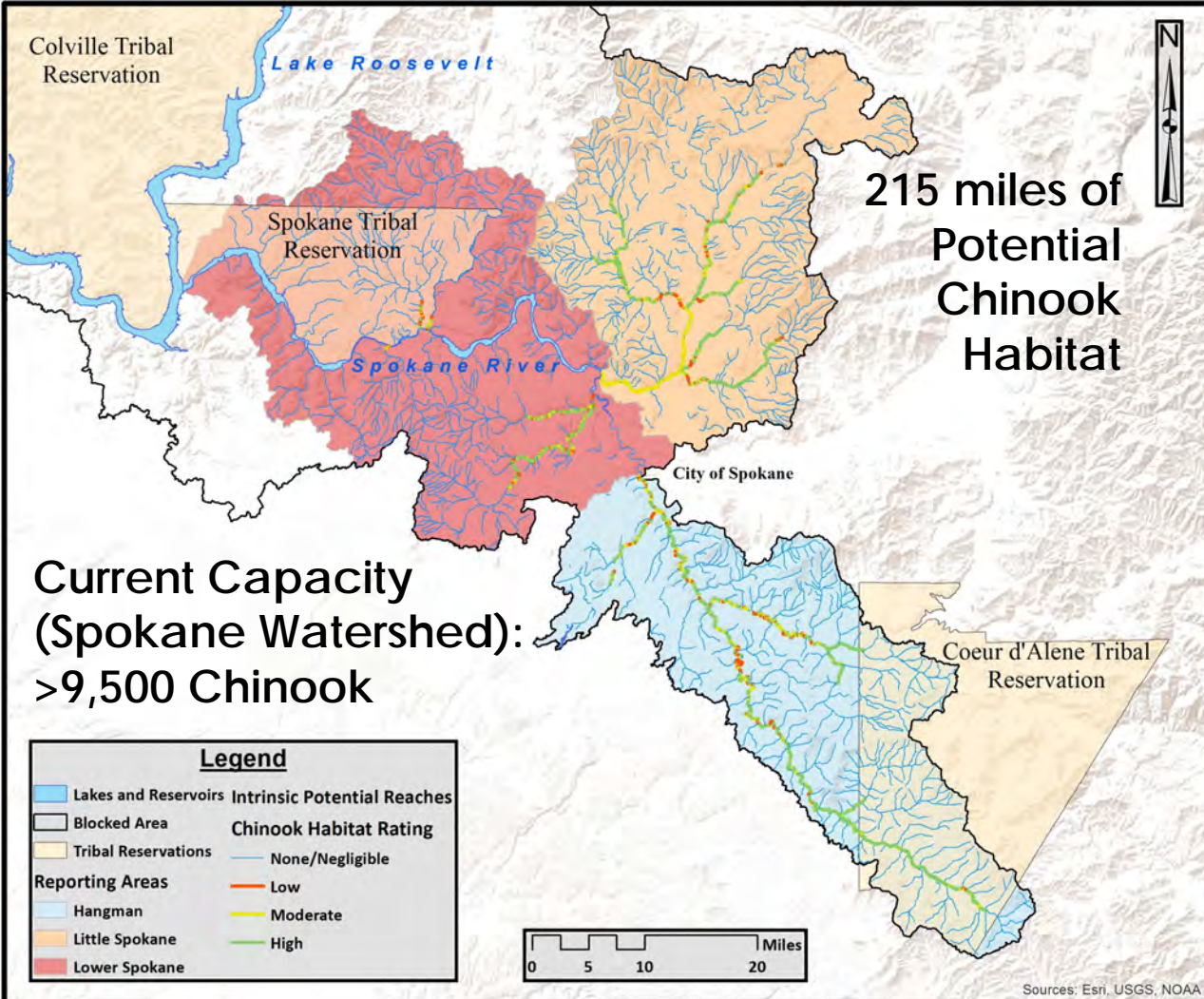
Convening in 2023

1. Representatives of local, state, and tribal governments; community and environmental groups; and industries
2. Ensure priorities and projects have community support, outreach
3. Re-rank the project list based on community values
4. Submit list to SRFB for funding



Technical Committee Progress

- Leverage modeling work performed under Phase 1
 - Intrinsic Potential, Ecosystem Diagnosis & Treatment (EDT)



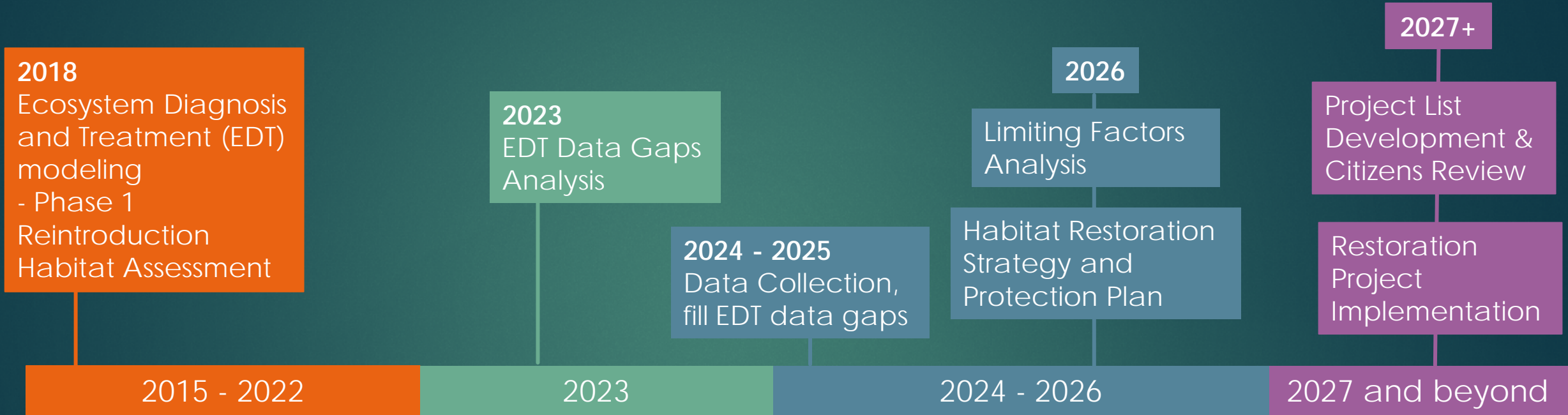
Technical Committee Progress

1. **Data Gaps Analysis** – Identify data gaps from previous habitat modeling efforts
2. **Data Collection** – fill data gaps and model
3. **Limiting Factors Analysis** – What are the impairments and where?
4. **Habitat Restoration and Protection Strategy** – Prescriptions on how to correct limiting factors, protect what's intact
5. **Develop restoration project list** (based on biological benefit) – send to Citizens Committee



Photo of Technical Team during a site visit

Technical Committee Timeline





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... you got the right stuff



Questions?