



Returning Salmon to the Spokane River

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...and many others



Photo cred: Michael Visintainer, Silver Bow Fly Shop

The Parallel Paths

Lead Entity

Preparing our waters for the return of salmon

Phase 2
Implementation
Plan

Figuring out how to return them

Cultural &
Educational
Releases

Hell, let's just do it!



Chinook released in the Little Spokane River, 2021
Photo cred: Nick James Photography

Dams in the Columbia River Basin

Dam construction resulted in a loss of more than half of the fish habitat in the Columbia River Basin.



Historic Salmon Runs

- 10 million – 16 million adults returned to Columbia Basin (pre-1850)
- Upper Columbia natural-origin fish (Columbia Basin Partnership Taskforce):

Adult Returns	Historical	Current
Spring Chinook	~ 260,000	0
Summer Chinook	~ 695,000	0
Fall Chinook	~ 680,000	0
Sockeye	> 800,000	0

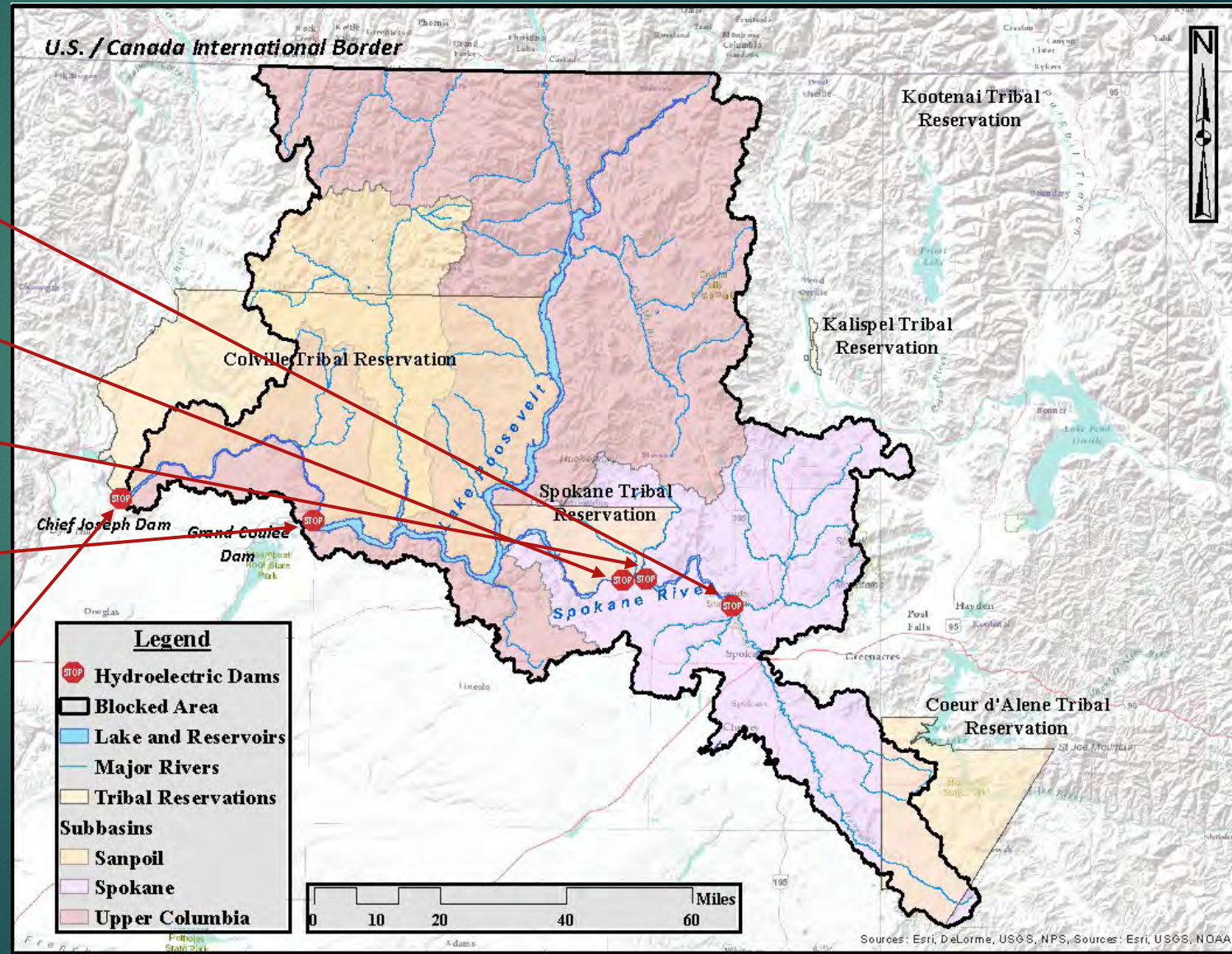
- Spokane River: 100,000's

Map Source: Seattle Times

Sources: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
EMILY M. ENG / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Blocked Area Hydro Development in UCUT Territories

1. Nine Mile Dam (1908)
2. Little Falls Dam (1911)
3. Long Lake Dam (1915)
4. Grand Coulee Dam (1941)
5. Chief Joseph Dam (1955)

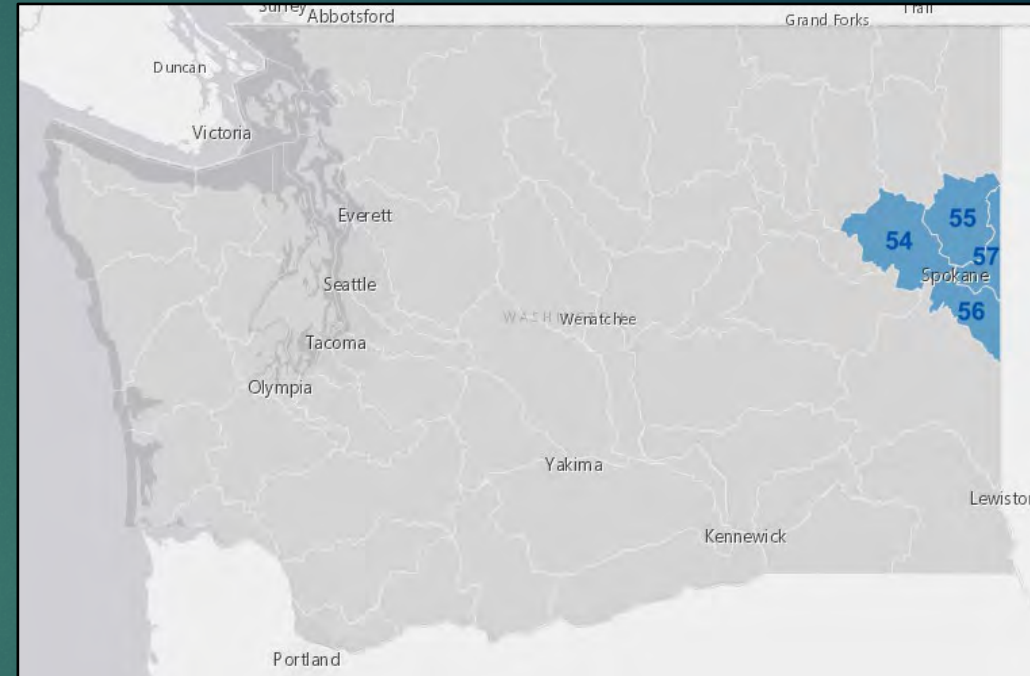


Preparing Our Waters for the Return of Salmon



Spokane River Watershed "Lead Entity"

- Local, watershed-based restoration organization
- Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy to guide the watershed
- Increase resources and funding for restoration in the Spokane
- *Complements* reintroduction



Pictures courtesy of WDFW & RCO

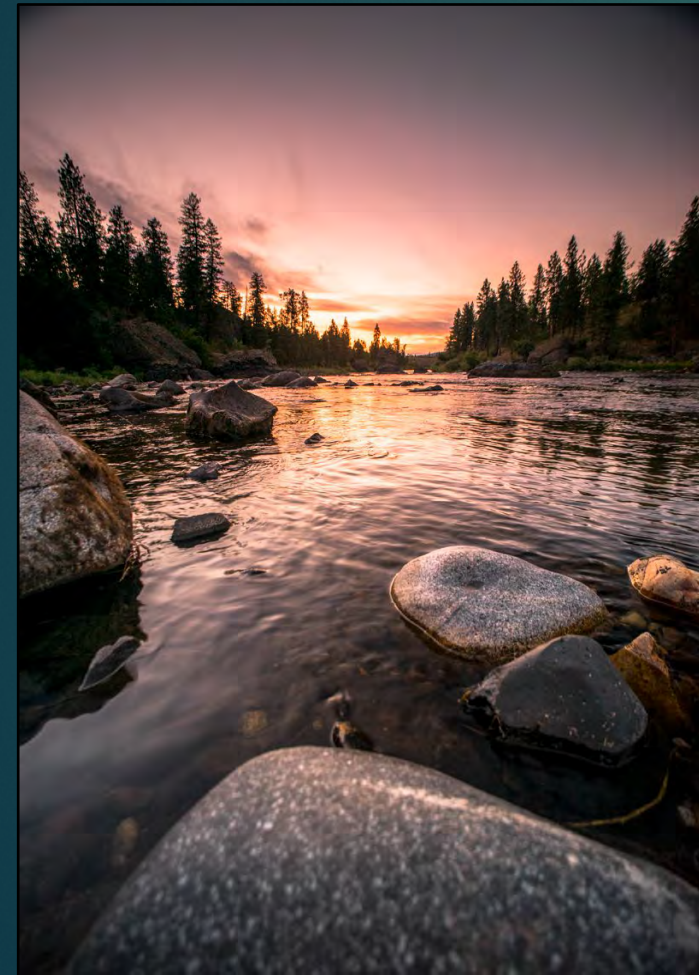


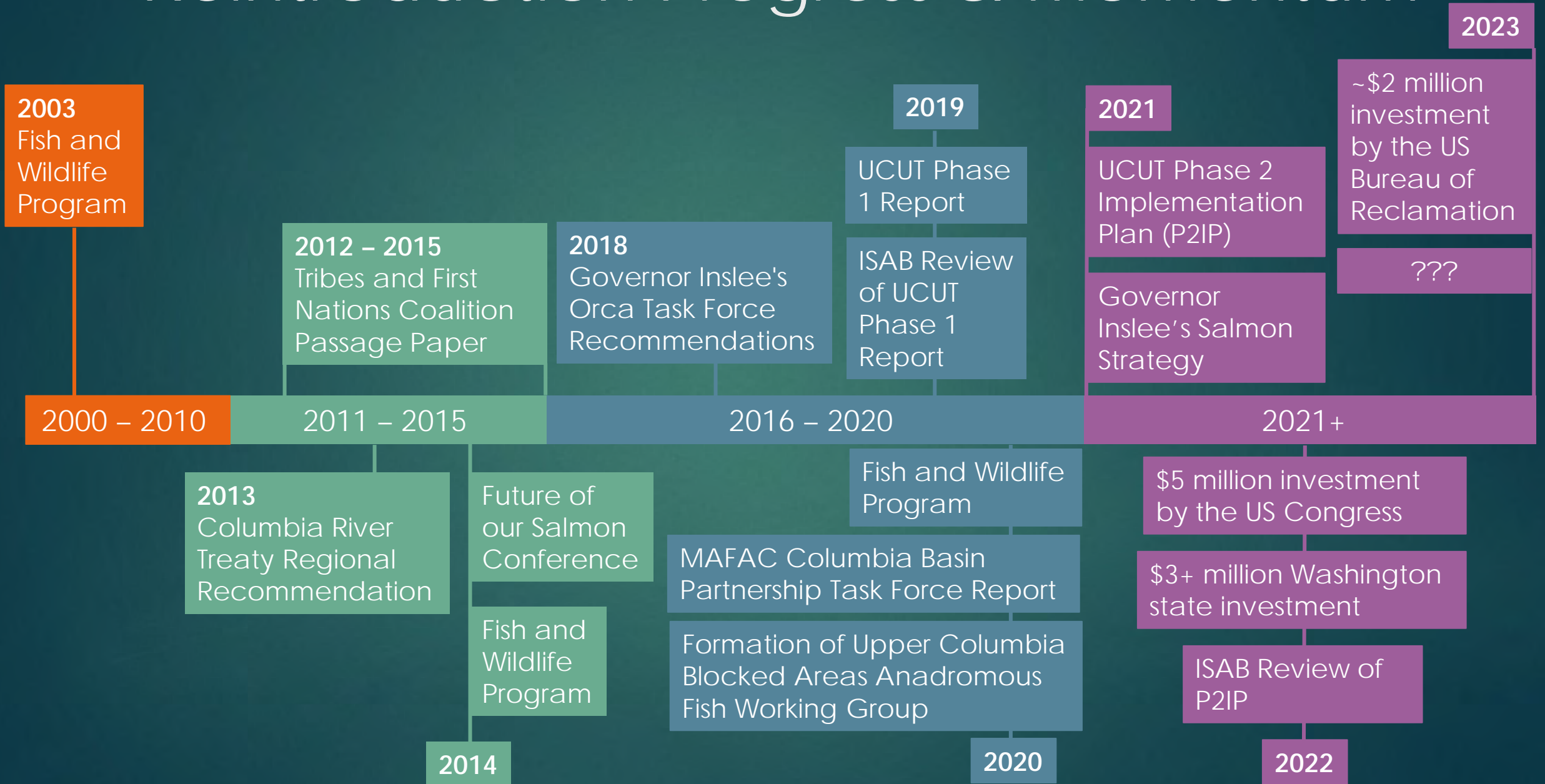
Photo Credit: Michael Visintainer, Silver Bow Fly Shop

How? The Phase 2 Implementation Plan "P2IP"

- Fish passage & reintroduction scientific investigations of feasibility
 - Conservative hatchery production
 - Fish behavior and survival
 - Downstream and upstream fish passage
- 2 steps over 21 years
- \$300 million
 - ~ 1 year of Bonneville Power Administration fish & wildlife mitigation costs in the Columbia Basin
 - Average ~\$14 million/year



Reintroduction Progress & Momentum



Cultural and Educational Releases

- A successful start to meeting some short-term tribal goals
- Public awareness and education of reintroduction efforts and benefits
- Proof of concepts for the P2IP

Cultural and Educational Releases

UCUT Tribes, 2017-present



> 1,400 Adult Chinook

Cultural and Educational Releases

UCUT Tribes, 2017-present



Hangman Creek, 2019



Sherman Creek Net Pens, 2021



Spokane River, 2023

>20,000 Juvenile Chinook

2017 Juvenile Release



750 yearling summer
Chinook released to
Tshimikain Creek

3 dams w/o fish passage,
120km of storage reservoir,
current operations and
conditions

Then 9 more dams

90 detected below CJD

24 at or below BON, even
more survived

In 2019 we
received a
detection...

*"She Who Retraces Her
Steps"*

Migrated upstream, passing
9 mainstem dams

Entered hatchery ladder at
base of Chief Joseph Dam

Policy constraints prohibited
live transfer



nucucšnetk^w



In 2020, 3 siblings returned to the Columbia

All 3 likely contributed to Columbia River fisheries

1 received from a Nez Perce fish processor in Oregon

Proof of Concepts:

Fish can survive under current conditions and operations

CJH ladder can collect adults

Basin-wide benefits

Healing

sye'us'uslsh

"she who repeatedly (swims) dives"



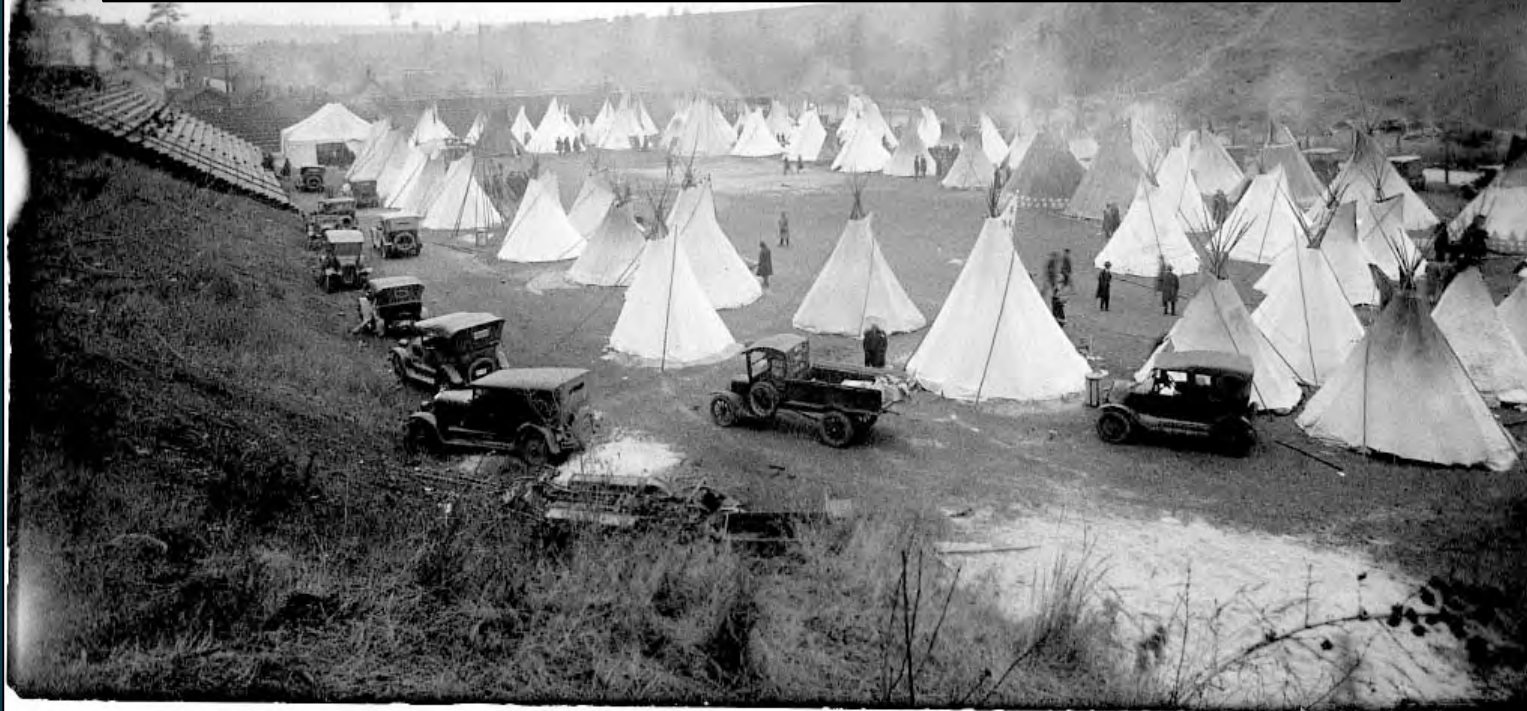
Hangman Creek
July 12, 2022



Salmon History and Culture

"The Coeur d'Alene's and the Spokane's were really close peoples. One of the things they had was the salmon celebration in the fall. It was a time of our villages and tribes coming together where everyone was happy. Even the eagles would come...."

- Marlene Sproul, CDA Tribe





Questions?

