

Revering the River – Then and Now (and Later)

Expo 50 H₂O Symposium – May 30, 2024

Revering the river – then and now

Bob Dellwo is a Spokane city councilman and a co-author, with historian John Fahey, of a book about the Spokane River, written in conjunction with their work on the Centennial Trail. Dellwo wrote the following as an epilogue to that book.

By Bob Dellwo

In 1973, during the planning of the Expo '74 world's fair, after a meeting about Indian and tribal participation, the Spokane Tribal Council and I had an early evening meal at the Black Angus restaurant.

Afterward, we stood in the twilight, viewing that part of the falls of the Spokane River.

Chief Alex Sherwood said:

"I remember this river so well as it was before the dams. My father and grandfather used to tell me how it was before the white man came, when, right below where we are standing, Indians from all over would gather every year for the annual salmon fishery."

Alex continued:

"It was beautiful then, with thousands coming for many miles.

"You could hear the shouting welcomes as they arrived, the dancing, the singing, the trading, the games, the races, always the hearty hugs — and the fish! The fish sometimes so thick it seemed that they filled the river."

The other men stood in silent remembrance.

"Sometimes, even now, I find a lonely spot where the river still runs wild.

"I find myself talking to it; I might ask, 'River, do you remember how it used to be — the game, the fish, the pure water, the roar of the falls, boats, canoes, fishing platforms? You fed and took care of our people then. For thousands of years, we walked your banks and used your waters. You would always answer when our chiefs called to you with their

prayer to the river spirit.'

"Sometimes, I stand and shout, 'River, do you remember us?'"

We stood quite a while in silence, and then one asked, "You are our chief, Alex; say the prayer."

Alex stepped forward toward the falls; he spread his arms, and his voice intoned an ancient prayer that turned into a chant.

The other men pounded lightly in time.

When Alex had finished, he looked at me and saw the question in my eyes.

"I will try to tell you in English a little of what the prayer says.

"It says: 'River that comes to us from the mountains and goes to the ocean, don't forget your people. We need your water to drink and to wash. It brings us our food. We travel on it in our canoes. We play in it, and we have a trail that runs along your banks and joins our tribes.

"We thank you for these things. Bring us again, as you have every year, the salmon that keep us together as a people and feed us through the winters. Remember!'"

This is how we, who also love the river, can answer:

"Alex, the river will remember. In the minds and hearts of thousands of people who one day will run, walk, bicycle, kayak and canoe the Centennial Trail, it will remember."

To promote the widest possible dialogue — and to assure a diversity of opinion on issues affecting the community, the nation and the world — The Spokesman-Review and Spokane Chronicle will make space available each Sunday for a locally written column.

Manuscripts should be no more than 900 words long and may be submitted to The Spokesman-Review and Spokane Chronicle, W999 Riverside Ave., Spokane 99201.

We reserve the right to edit.

Conor Giorgi, Anadromous Program Manager
Spokane Tribe of Indians

Contributions from:

Warren Seyler, Spokane Tribe of Indians

Alex Sherwood, Spokane Tribe of Indians

Bob Dellwo, former Spokane City Councilman

And many others

River, do you remember us?



Photo cred: Inlander



Photo cred: Warren Seyler



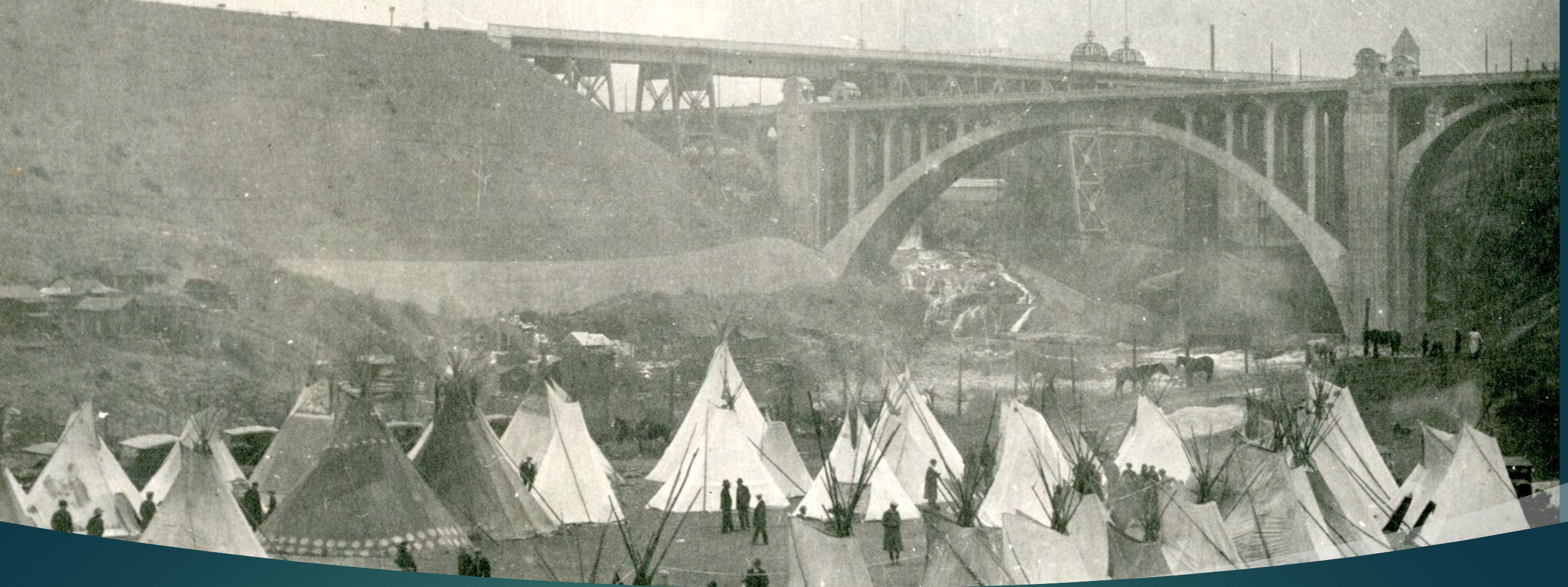


No. 79









River, *how* do you remember us?





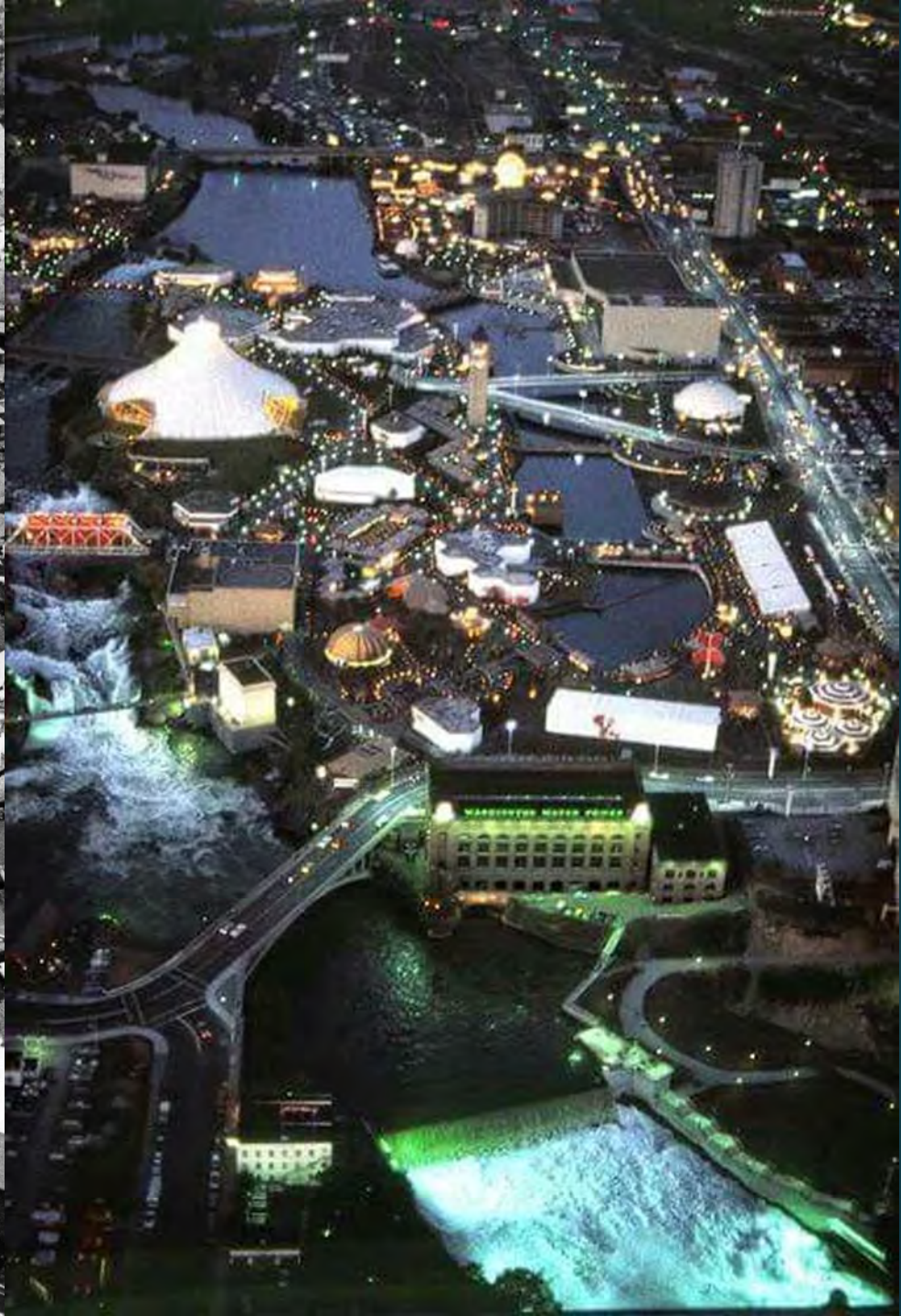
SPOKANE FALLS 1895



Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture



Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture







A Transformative Time

Fish Passage and Salmon Reintroduction

Ecosystem-based River Restoration

1950's

2020's



Settlement Agreement

P2IP Federal Investment

A commitment by the U.S. Government to fully fund and support the UCUT's 20-year Phase 2 Implementation Plan

- BPA = \$10M per year
- 4 other fed. agencies fund remainder
- Access to Chief Joseph Hatchery salmon & facility





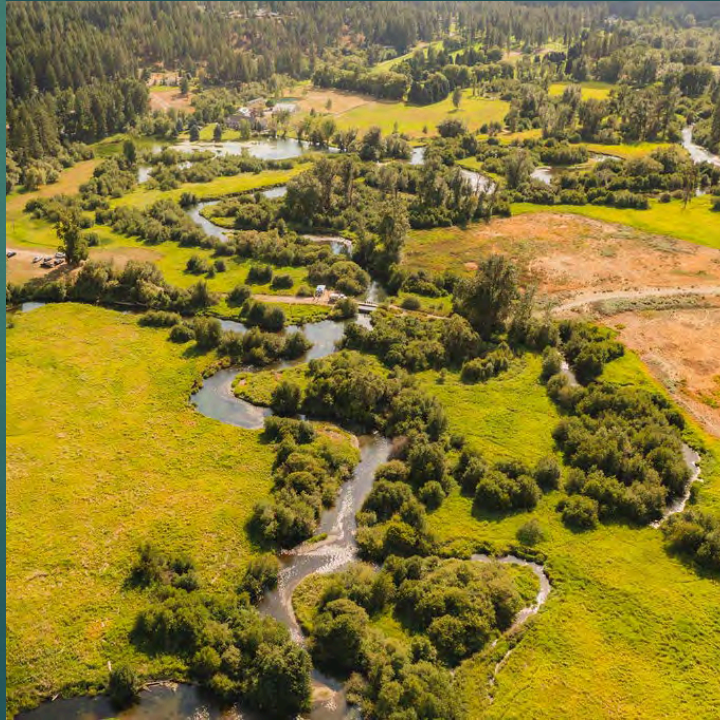
P2IP Return on Investment

- Development of Aquaculture Facilities
 - sqweyu'
 - Little Spokane
- Fish Behavior and Survival Studies
- Interim Fish Passage Facilities
- Ongoing operations, monitoring, and adaptive management

Body of information for Phase 3 decision-making. Permanent full-scale reintroduction.

What will these fish need?

- Cold water
- Clean water
- Complex habitat
- Connected habitat



Lead Entity Recognition

Washington State Recreation and
Conservation Office

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

- Local, watershed-based restoration organization
- Coordinated restoration strategy amongst stakeholders
- Increased access to restoration funding opportunities
- Participation in a state-wide restoration community



**Spokane Salmon
Restoration**
COLLABORATIVE



SSRC Status

1. Initiating Governments

- Administration and By-Laws
- Roles and Responsibilities

2. Technical Committee

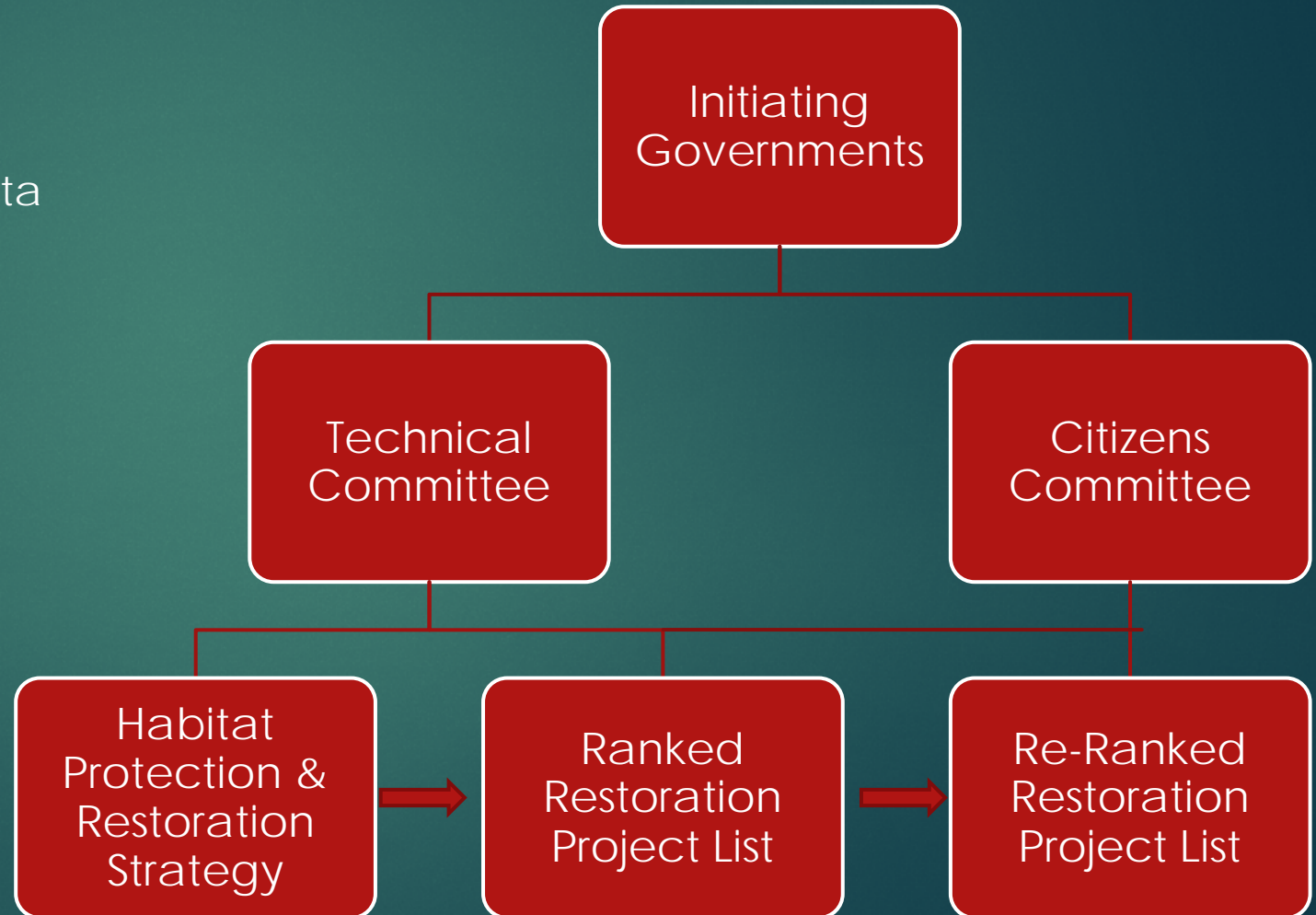
- Data collection effort, filling data gaps
- "Limiting Factors Analysis"
- Supporting partner projects

3. Citizens Committee

- Under development

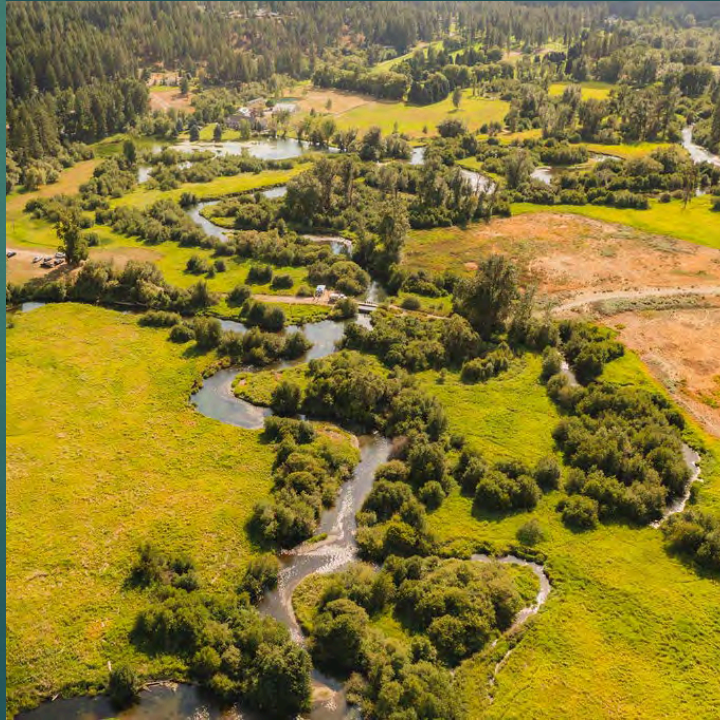
Guiding Documents:

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



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River, how *will* you remember us?

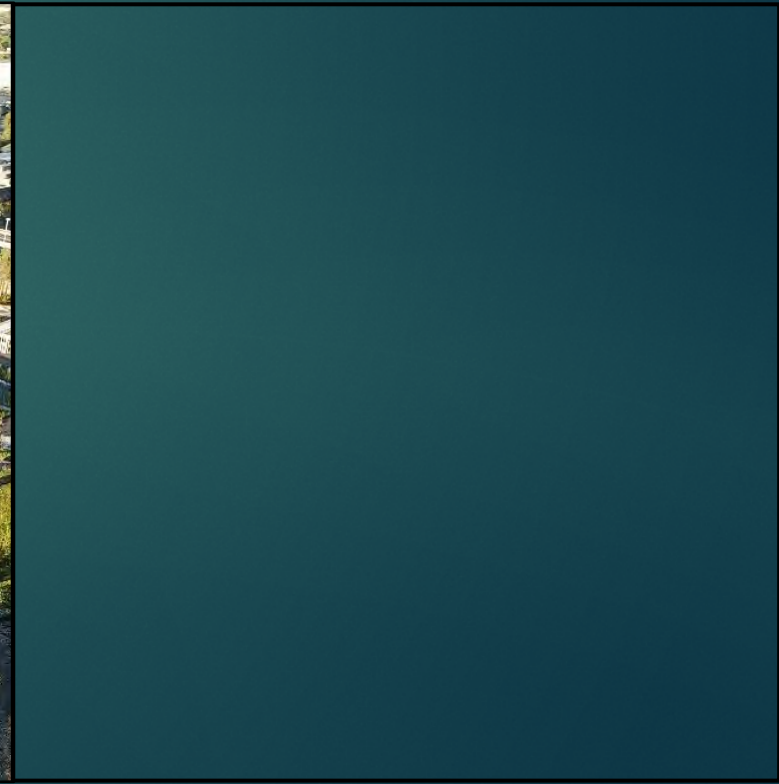
1960's



2020's



2070's



Questions?

