

Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing Feasibility of Reintroduced Salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin



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For the Spokane County Bar Indian
Law Conference, 2024

Presentation Details

- Background
- Milestones so far
- P2IP Settlement
- NEPA process
- Current implementation



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

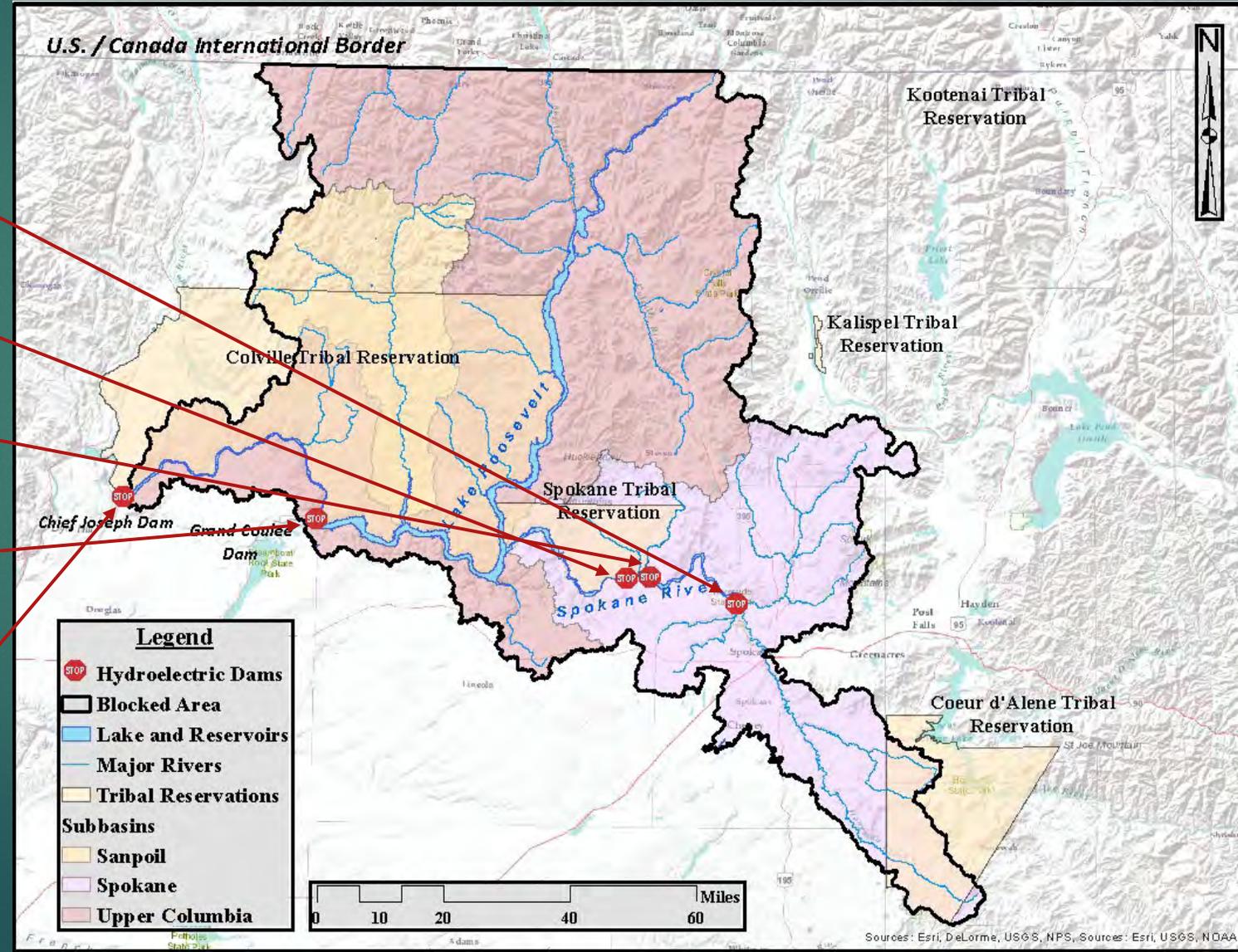
Map Source: Seattle Times

Salmon and Culture

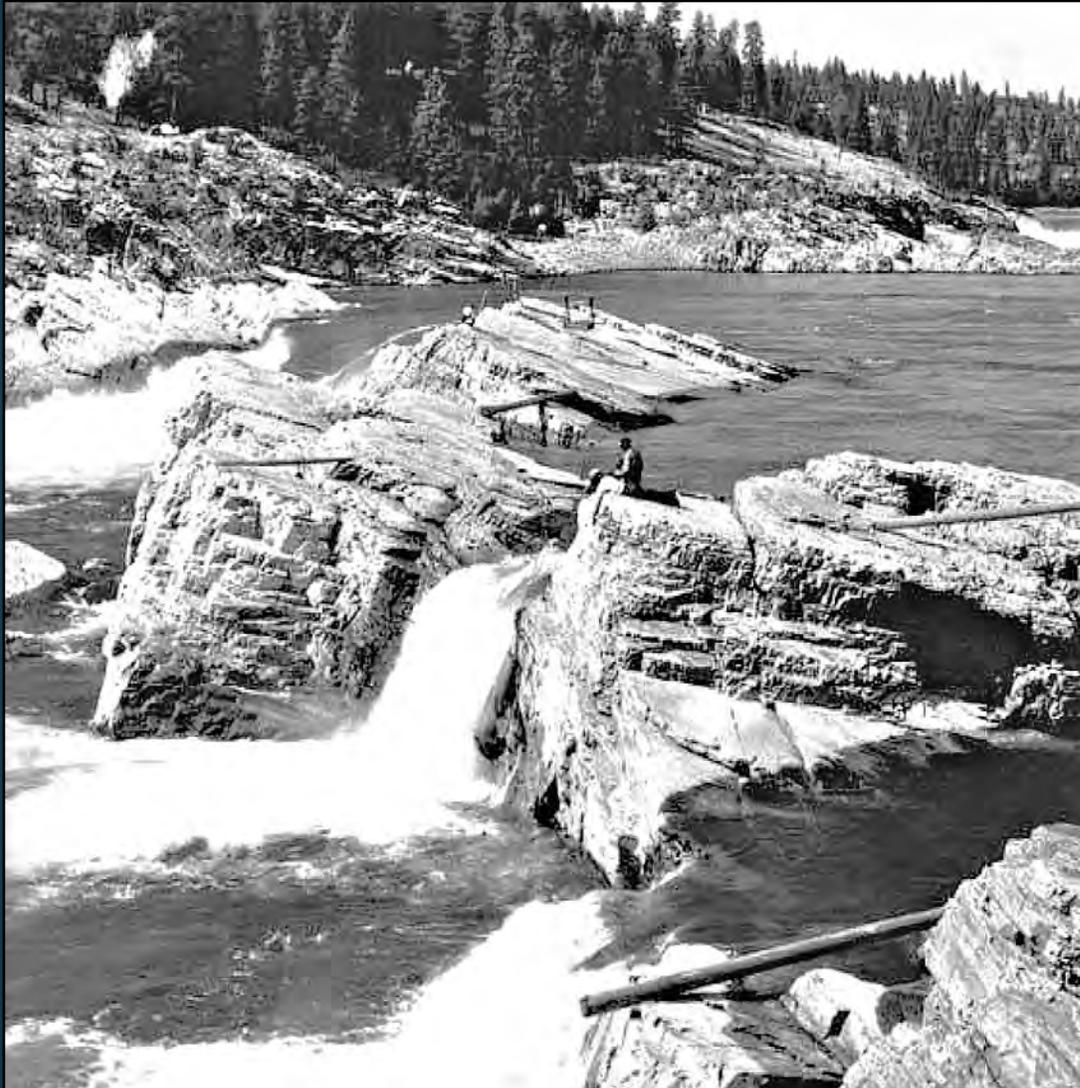


Blocked Area Hydro Development in UCUT Territories

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)

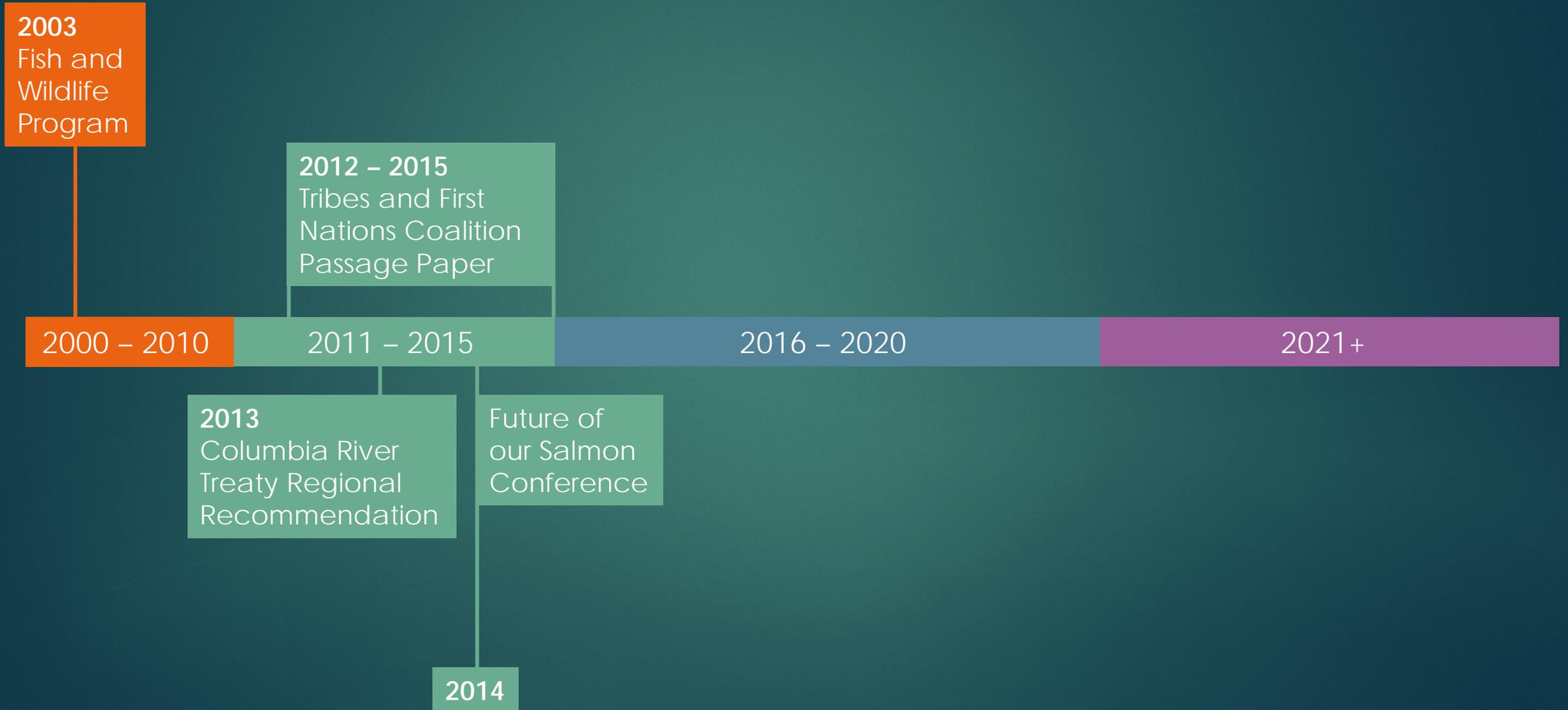


Kettle Falls: Upper Columbia River





Milestones



2003
Fish and
Wildlife
Program

2012 - 2015
Tribes and First
Nations Coalition
Passage Paper

2000 - 2010

2011 - 2015

2016 - 2020

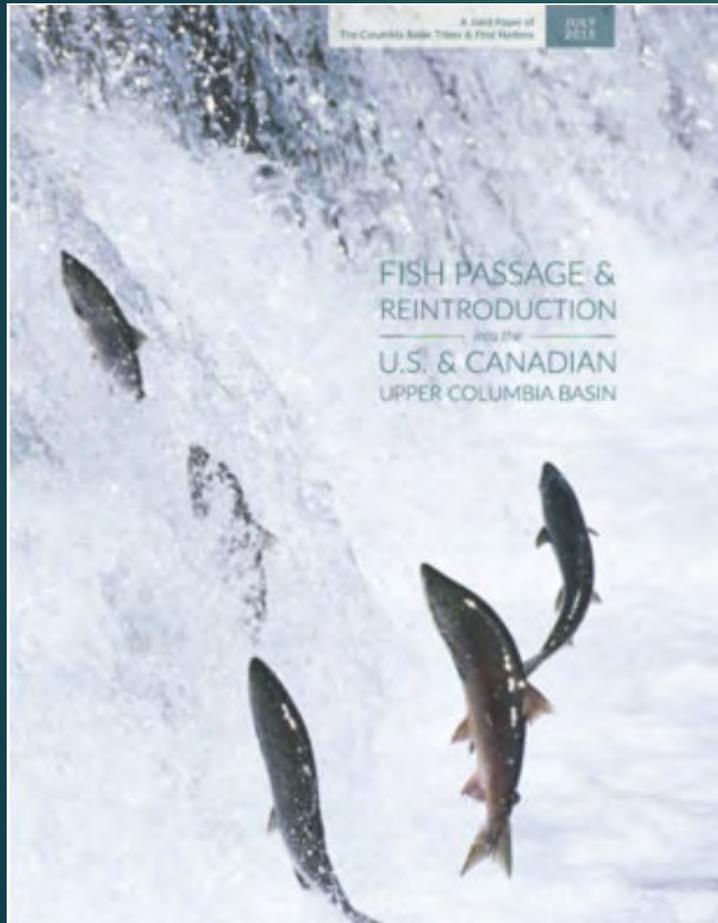
2021+

2013
Columbia River
Treaty Regional
Recommendation

Future of
our Salmon
Conference

2014

Tribes and First Nations Joint Passage Paper



The tribes and First Nations' proposal for restoring fish passage into the upper Columbia River would proceed in an incremental approach with work progressing to the next phase only after successful conclusions or outcomes from the previous phase.

Phase I: Pre-assessment planning for reintroduction and fish passage. See the eight steps above and subsequent section for a detailed Phase I study program (some steps would proceed concurrently).

Phase II: Experimental, pilot-scale salmon reintroductions and interim passage facilities.

Phase III: Construct permanent juvenile and adult passage facilities and supporting propagation facilities. Implement priority habitat improvements.

Phase IV: Monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management. Continue needed habitat improvements.

2014 Fish and Wildlife Program

Anadromous Fish Mitigation in Blocked Areas Strategy

Phase 1:

Evaluate passage studies at hydroelectric projects, including Chief Joseph & Grand Coulee Dams

Investigate possible cost of upstream and downstream passage options

Investigate habitat availability, suitability and salmon survival potential in habitats above GCD

Phase 2:

Design and test reintroduction strategies and fish passage facilities at CJD & GCD

Reintroduction pilot projects

Monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management

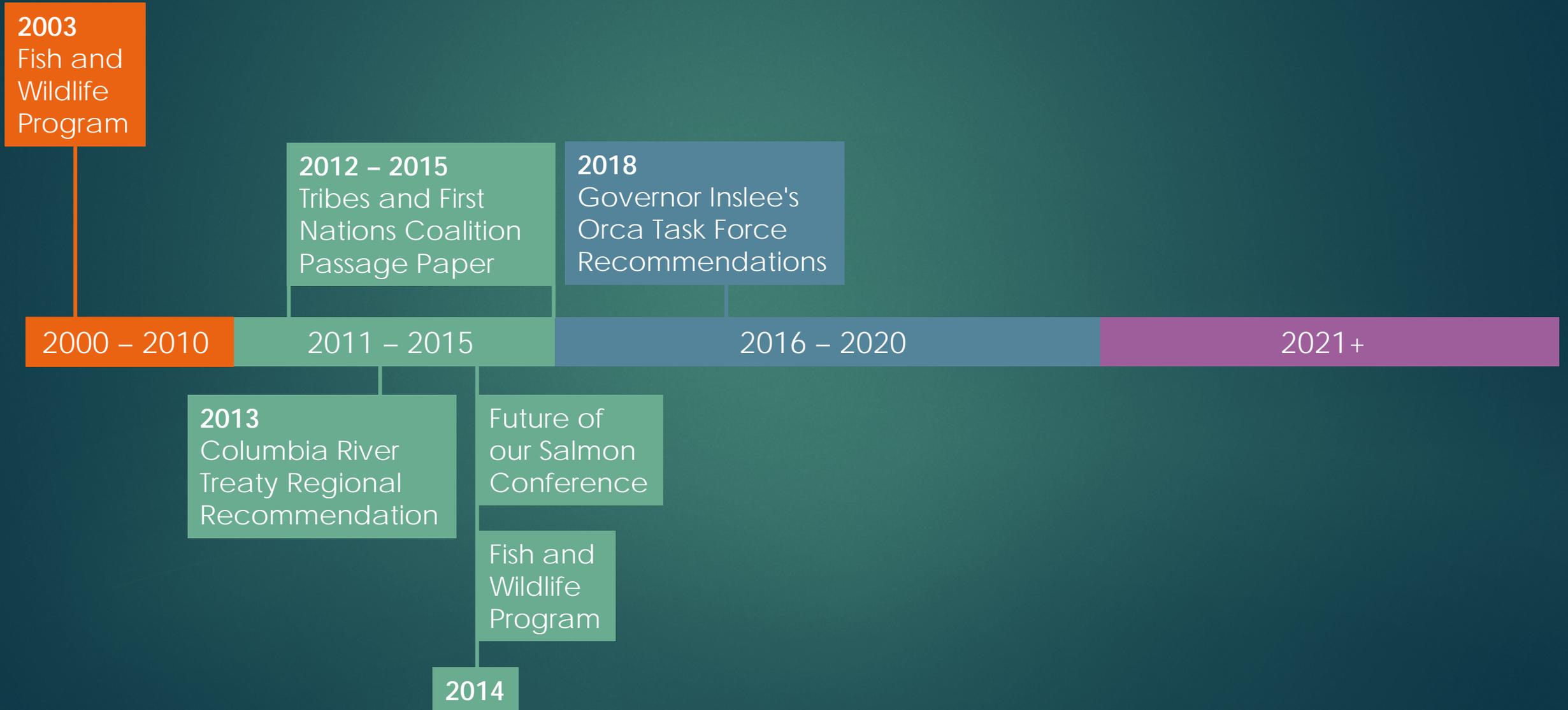
Phase 3:

Review results to determine implementation and permanent inclusion to the Program

The logo features a stylized, abstract representation of a river basin or fish passage, composed of numerous small, light blue, teardrop-shaped elements arranged in a circular, fan-like pattern. The text is positioned to the left of this graphic.

Columbia
River Basin
Fish and Wildlife
Program 2014

Milestones



Phase 1 Report, 2019

Report & supporting documents available at UCUT.org

- Donor stocks are available
- Risks are manageable
- Large quantities of habitat are available
- Fish passage technology exists
- Salmon survival potential is promising

Tribal funds for Phase 1:

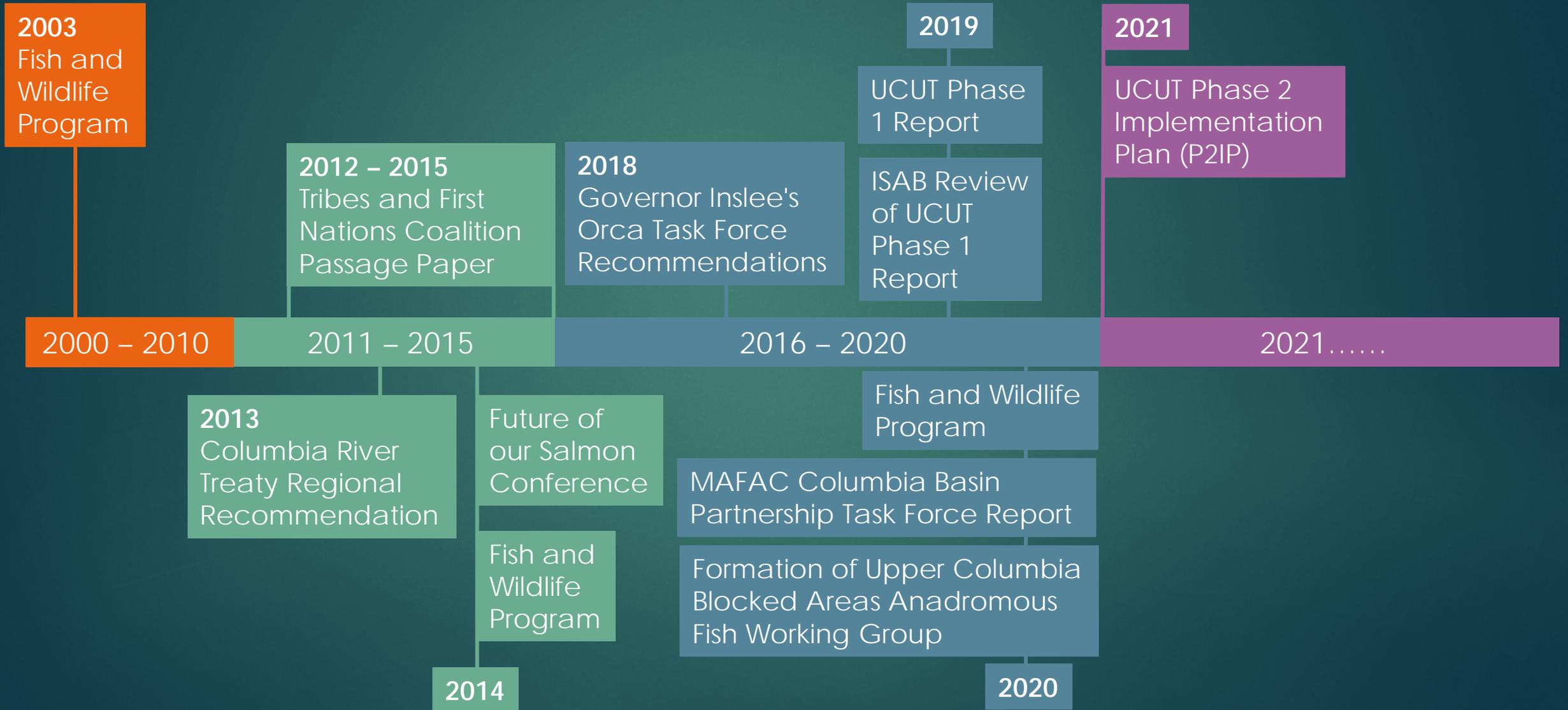
\$1.8 million

Federal funds received for Phase 1:

BPA: \$100,000

BOR: \$50,000

Milestones





Fish Passage and Reintroduction: The Phase 2 Implementation Plan "P2IP"

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.

Regional Collaboration



Collaborative Working Groups	Coordination/Information Sharing Groups
Blocked Areas Anadromous Fish Working Group	Columbia River Policy Advisory Group
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Eastern Washington Council of Governments
NOAA/NMFS	CRITFC, USRT, Cowlitz Tribe, & Indigenous Nations
Bonneville Power Administration	Avista Utilities
Bureau of Reclamation	State and Federal elected officials
US Army Corps of Engineers	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Pacific Fishery Management Council
Northwest Power and Conservation Council	Council on Environmental Quality (White House)
NPCC FW Division Staff	Columbia Basin Development League
State Council Members	Regional Municipalities
CRSRI (Canadian Reintroduction Entity)	Scientific Societies/Organizations
Columbia River Treaty Negotiating Team	Public Outreach
Mid-Columbia Public Utility Districts	

Implementation Partners

This work involves many...

US Geological Survey

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mid-Columbia Public Utility Districts

US Bureau of Reclamation

US Army Corps of Engineers

Avista

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

UCUT organization and member tribes

Others...



49 likes
bureau_of_reclamation Reclamation's #CPNRegion joined the Upper Columbia United Tribes and #USGS to release more than 500 juvenile chinook salmon below Grand Coulee Dam in Washington. The fish release



Tribes quietly lead the way in reintroducing salmon in the Upper Columbia River System

By Eli FRANCOVICH The Spokesman-Review Apr 9, 2021

An adult chinook is swimming in Hangman Creek for the first time in more than 100 years, a symbolic victory for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe

July 13, 2022 | Updated Wed., July 13, 2022 at 11:25 a.m.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW
Spokane, Washington Est. May 20, 1889

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

Courtney Flatt
April 06, 2022 / 3:20 pm



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

Aug 24, 2022 | Updated Wed., Aug 24, 2022 at 8:24 p.m.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



1 OF 6 // Casey Baldwin, a research scientist with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, points out a salmon nest, or redd, on the Sanpoil River.

Courtney Flatt / NW News Network



Salmon spawning above Grand Coulee Dam a 'hopeful' sight

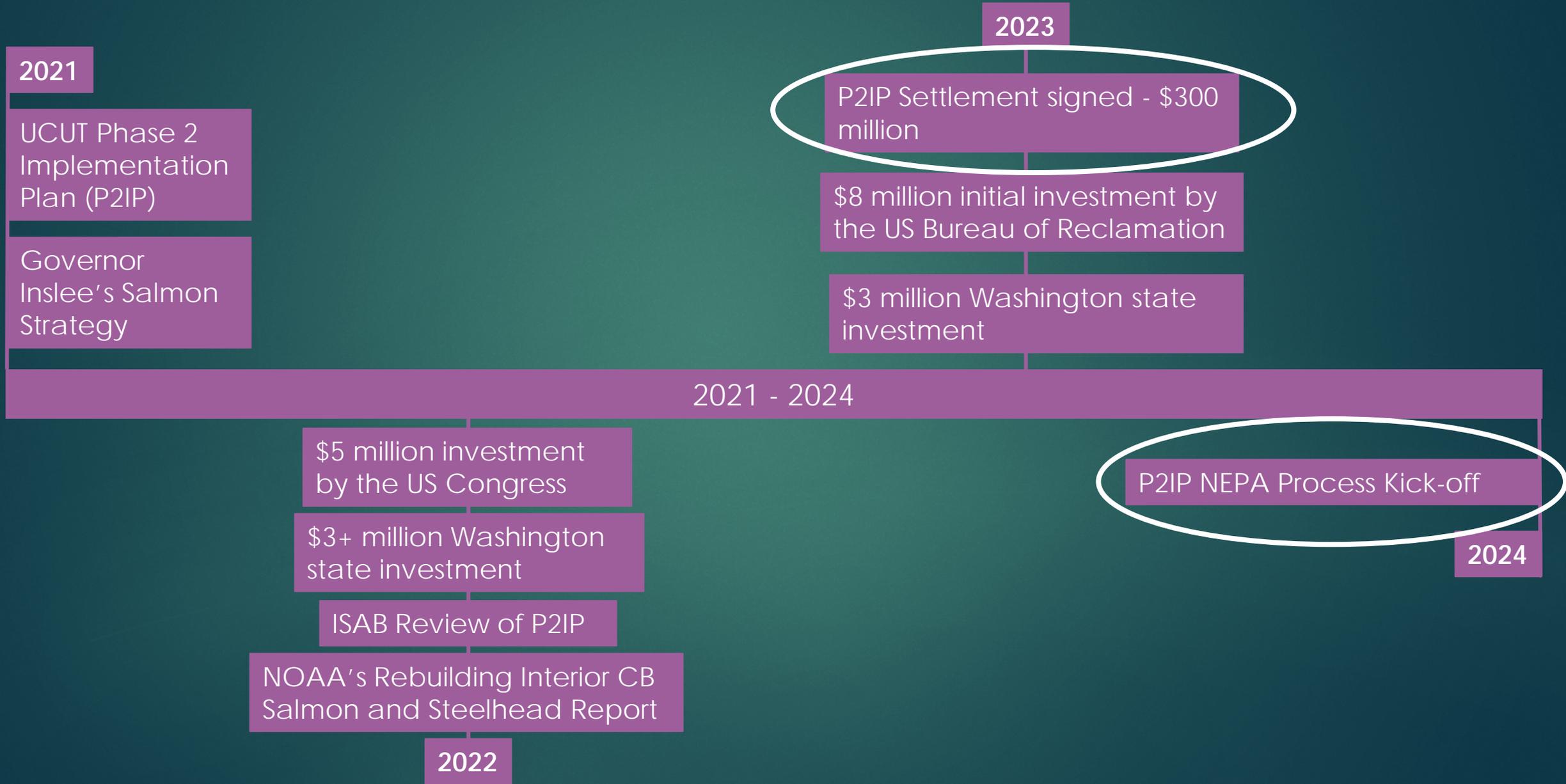


Thousands of Juvenile Chinook Captured in the Upper Columbia, Reintroducing Adult Salmon Yields Successful Spawning and Reproduction

Michelle Campobasso | Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife Public Relations Specialist Nov 29, 2022 Updated Jan 16, 2023



Milestones



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING & MEDIATED SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

Through mediated discussions in *National Wildlife Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service (NWF v. NMFS)*, 3:01-cv-640-SI (D. Or.), *Coeur d'Alene Tribe v. Bonneville Power Administration*, 20-73762 (9th Cir.), and *Spokane Tribe of Indians v. Bonneville Power Administration*, 20-73775 (9th Cir.), the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the United States (collectively, the "Parties") have reached agreement to use their sovereign powers to pursue a proactive, collaborative, and science-based approach to implementing the Phase 2 Implementation Plan (P2IP) and other actions that benefit the fish, wildlife, diverse habitat, and Indian culture in the Northwest.

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding and Mediated Settlement Agreement (Agreement) sets out the Parties' commitments regarding funding and implementation of the P2IP, a scientific and stepwise approach to test the feasibility of, and ultimately to implement, the reintroduction of anadromous salmonids in blocked area habitats in the Upper Columbia River Basin above Chief Joseph Dam (blocked areas). The Agreement also contains commitments integral to the Parties' desires to pursue more comprehensive and collaborative basin-wide solutions to restoring salmon and other native fish populations, while honoring Federal commitments to Tribal Nations, delivering affordable and reliable clean power, and meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region. As set forth below, the Parties therefore agree to seek a long-term stay, administrative closure, and/or dismissal without prejudice to reinstatement of pending Tribal litigation (defined below) so they can redirect their efforts to fully supporting and implementing this Agreement.

P2IP

Settlement

Agreement

P2IP Settlement Agreement

- December 2020, Coeur d'Alene and Spokane tribes filed a lawsuit against BPA for not considering reintroduction in the Final CRSO EIS
- September 2023, lawsuit settled
 - US Government (USBR, USFWS, NMFS, USACE, BPA) and the Coeur d'Alene, Colville, & Spokane tribes
- 20-year period
 - Litigation paused

P2IP Settlement Agreement Commitments

- Duration: in place thru December 2043
 - September 2041: Parties determine whether to extend the agreement (P2IP) or execute new agreement (Phase 3)
- Funding:
 - \$200 million committed funding from BPA (\$10 million annually)
 - Additional \$100 million to be sought by appropriating agencies
- ESA: Stocks not on threatened or endangered list or proposed for listing
- Dam operations: not intended to materially change operations, any changes will be decided on by the Parties

P2IP Settlement Agreement Commitments

- Environmental Compliance: PEA process
- Use of Chief Joseph Hatchery facilities and production
- Use of surplus eggs and juveniles (USFWS)
- Affirm BPA, USACE, USBR, USFWS, and NMFS authorities to fund, support, and implement agreement
- Note on Avista dams on the Spokane River:
 - BPA funds cannot be used for activities at the dams
 - But funds from appropriating agencies may
 - “Parties agree to collaborate and work together in good faith and in a timely and efficient manner to address actions that may be required to fully fund and implement P2IP as they may relate to dams and facilities on the Spokane River.”

P2IP Settlement Agreement Cont...

- Additional agreements with each tribe
- Specific communication protocols among the Parties
- Dispute resolution
- Parties agree not to initiate new litigation

P2IP NEPA

Process



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

WELCOME

**Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing the
Feasibility of Reintroduced Salmon in the
Upper Columbia River Basin**

Programmatic Environmental Assessment



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION



P2IP Programmatic Environmental Assessment

- Broad/high-level NEPA review
- Assess environmental impacts of a suite of actions:
 - Federal funding of the P2IP
 - Issuing permits for P2IP actions
 - Providing eggs and fish from existing hatcheries
- Subsequent site-specific NEPA reviews may be tiered from the PEA
 - Efficiencies and cost savings





— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Providing Public Comment

Public scoping under the NEPA is a crucial process that allows the following:

- . An opportunity for citizens to provide input on the Proposed Action to help shape the direction of the project
- . Early identification of concerns and potential resource impacts
- . Identification of issues with the Proposed Action to guide the development of alternatives to the Proposed Action
- . Comment inclusion in the project file and is shared with the decision-makers.

How to submit a comment?

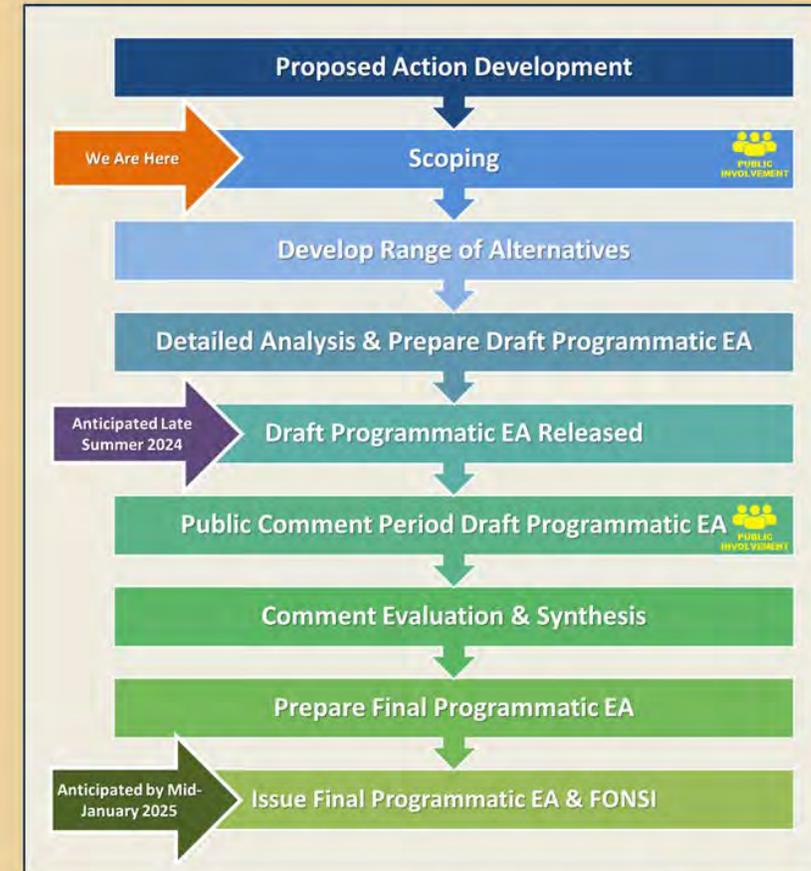
- . Via comment cards located at the comment table
- . Via email to: bor-sha-p2ip_peaproject@usbr.gov
- . Via the virtual meeting room at www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/p2ip-salmon-reintroduction-programmatic-ea-nepa
- . Via mail to

Mel Yenke, Natural Resource Specialist
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
 1150 N Curtis Road
 Boise, ID 83706-1234



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of Engineers®

All comments will be reviewed by Reclamation, Bonneville, and USACE. Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are most useful and referred to as substantive comments.



Comments must be submitted or postmarked by March 18th 2024.

18th





Providing Public Comment

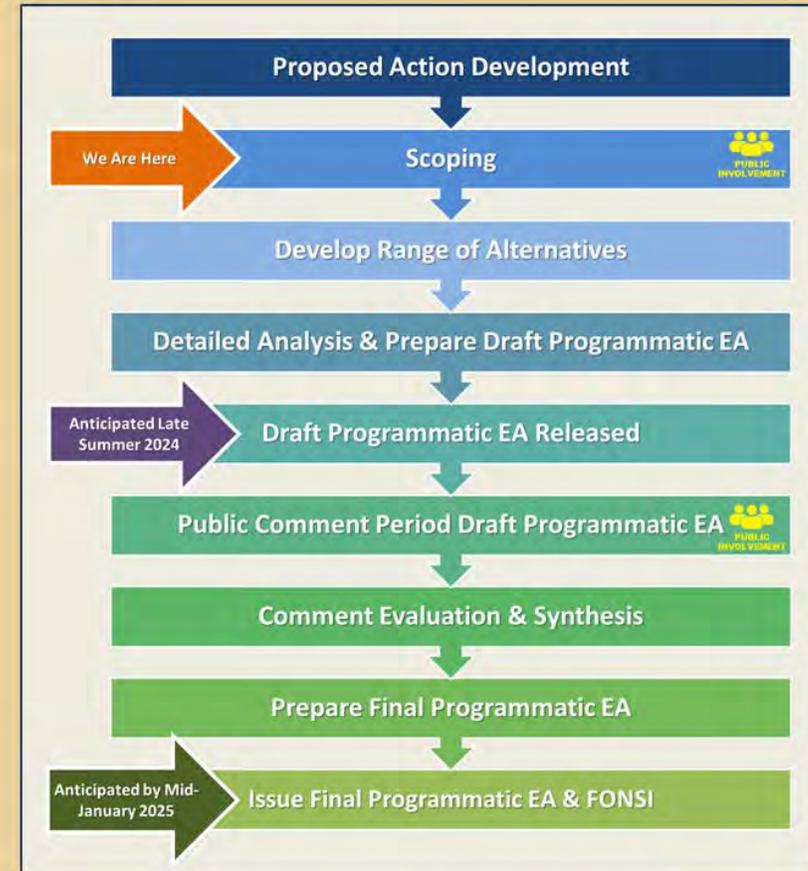
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18th



Plans for 2024 and near term

- Implementing salmon studies
 - Juvenile Chinook movement and survival – year 3 (2024)
 - Juvenile Sockeye Salmon survival – year 1 (2025)
- Fish Passage planning and design
- Design and planning for acclimation sites
- Continuing to pursue grant funding
- NEPA process
- Increasing capacity at the tribes and the UCUT organization

Thank you



To keep following the story:

facebook.com/uppercolumbiaunitedtribes/
ucut.org



P2IP: Objectives and Timeline

