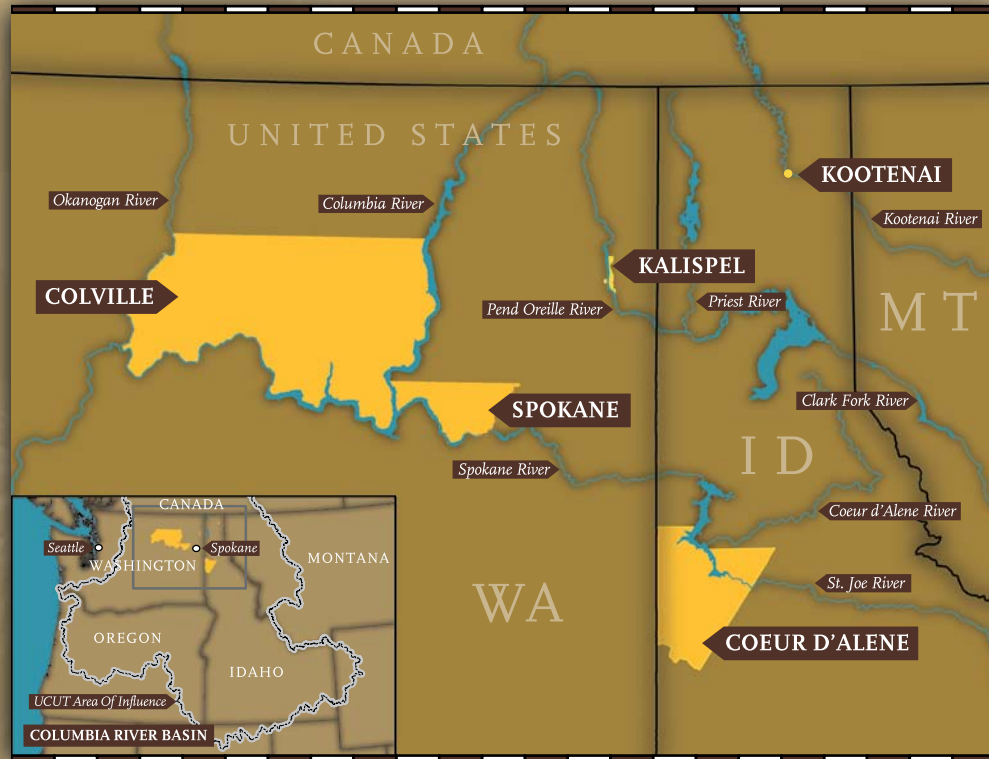


United
for the benefit of all

Past | *Present* | *Future*



The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) formed in 1983 by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Spokane Tribe of Indians, with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation joining in 1999. Together, the tribes manage and influence nearly 2 million acres of reservation land and waterways and millions of acres more of off-reservation areas for the betterment of the people, forests, fish, and wildlife of the greater Inland Northwest.

As sovereign nations, our tribes are charged with using our land and natural resources in ways that protect and enhance those resources. The UCUT is five tribes that have come together to maintain our vital resources for present and future generations.

The UCUT:

- Provides a unified voice for our region through structured, organized, and collaborative efforts of tribal staff and elected officials from each tribe.
- Ensures a healthy future for the traditional lands and waters of our ancestors and for the benefit of all people.
- Takes a proactive, coordinated, and science-based approach to promote culture, forests, fish, water, wildlife, and healthy habitats.

The mission of the Upper Columbia United Tribes is to Unite for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Treaty/Executive Order Rights, Sovereignty, Culture, Fish, Water, Wildlife, Habitat, and other interests and issues of common concern in our respective territories through a structured process of cooperation and coordination for the benefit of all people.

Past.

The geographic area of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) comprises the second and third largest tributaries in the Columbia River system (Kootenai and Pend Oreille rivers). Traditional tribal use areas and present reservation lands have inadequate populations of anadromous fish (like salmon, lamprey and steelhead), and resident fish (like rainbow trout, kokanee, sturgeon, and burbot), water, plants, wildlife, crustaceans, mussels and more.

Resident fish like rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout, as well as sturgeon, and burbot were once abundant throughout the Upper Columbia River Basin. These native fish provided unfailing and continuous resources that sustained tribal needs during periods when salmon, a staple of winter diets, might not have been present. Resident fish provided spiritual, nutritional, and cultural needs and served as a critical component to a healthy ecosystem.

Wildlife provided a very important role as food, clothing and shelter. Wildlife resources and their habitats were degraded and the Tribes were forced to take an aggressive protection, mitigation and enhancement role to salvage these vital resources.

For the last 9,000 years, the Summer Chinook salmon harvest is estimated at 300,000 salmon per year (during a typical season) at Kettle Falls, Little Falls, Little Spokane River, Spokane Falls and other fisheries.

Grand Coulee Dam (built in 1941) and Chief Joseph Dam (built in 1955) completely blocked salmon, steelhead, and other anadromous fish (such as bull trout, sturgeon, and lamprey) passage to the Spokane River, Pend Oreille River and the main stem Columbia River and all of its upriver tributaries.

The Northwest Power Act in 1980 and the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program did not provide adequate relief for the restoration or recovery of either salmon and steelhead or native resident fish.

Present.

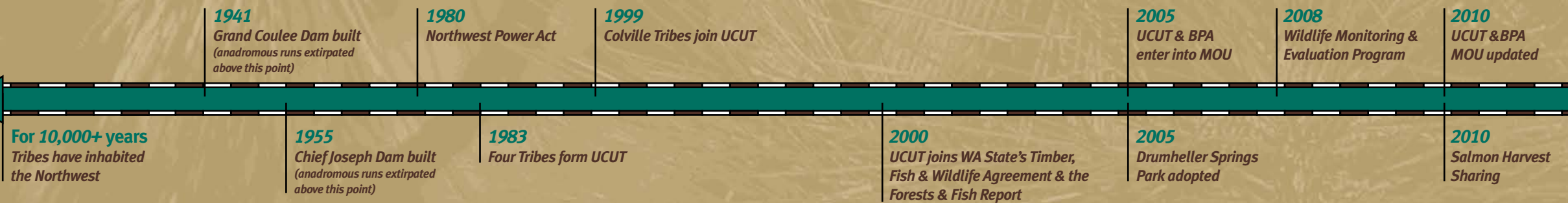
The impact of building dams often devastates many species of fish. The UCUT developed a team of expert staff to assist in protecting remaining resources, mitigating and restoring past damages, preventing additional losses in present times, and building a strategic future that will benefit all people and the resources we all rely on.

In May 2005, UCUT and the Bonneville Power Administration entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate fish and wildlife mitigation efforts. The MOU was updated in April 2010.

The Tribes initiated salmon harvest sharing, restoring a centuries-old tradition, starting in 2010.

Efforts to restore and recover all aspects of the ecosystem including forests, fish, wildlife, rangelands, cultural and other natural resources continue to take place.

Past and present day uses of land and water resources weaken the ability of ecosystems to function in a healthy manner, can degrade fish and wildlife habitat and water resources, and can significantly and negatively impact the integrity and longevity of cultural resources.



Future.

To continue working toward its mission, the UCUT are dedicated to the restoration and best management practices for the ecosystem as a whole. Future plans include:

Hydro-System

Develop measurable system-wide objectives and implement actions to manage reservoir levels, river flows, drafting, and flood risk. Strive to allow passage for native species into all historic areas throughout the complex system of dams and tributaries.

Habitat

Take action for land and water resources in order to meet the primary needs of the ecosystem, including native fish and wildlife resources, and to protect, mitigate and restore native salmon and other anadromous fish, regional trout populations and other resident fish species, wildlife and their habitats. Achieve water quality and quantity necessary for a healthy ecosystem and for sustainable economic development and growth.

Harvest

Manage recovery and restoration of fish, wildlife, and other cultural resources to fulfill subsistence, cultural and other needs and uses. Ensure an equitable allocation of lower-Columbia River and ocean salmon harvest in order to protect Upper Columbia River resources and provide for the needs of the UCUT.

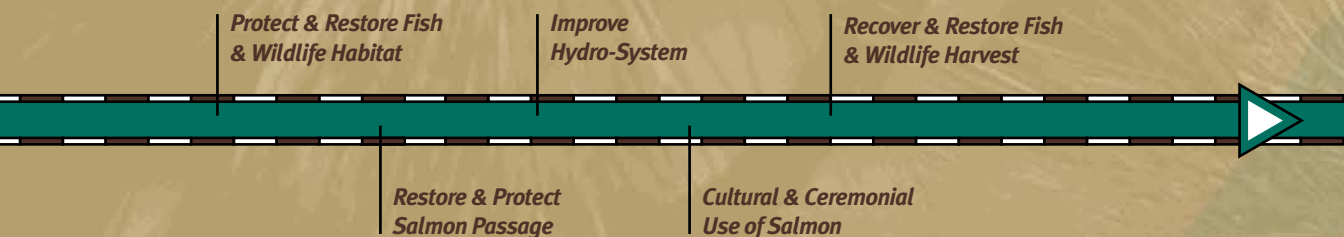
Salmon Passage

Restore and protect salmon and steelhead and other fish passage to their original habitats in the Upper Columbia River and its tributaries. This includes science-based investigation and the potential development of fish passage capacity at Chief Joseph Dam, Grand Coulee Dam and in the Spokane River.

Cultural & Ceremonial Use

Continue the sharing of salmon and other fish resources, including how to conduct salmon selective harvest techniques and practices. Incorporate ceremonial and sustenance use, including the sharing of cultural and ceremonial knowledge and techniques wherever practicable.

The UCUT has the infrastructure, expertise, and support in place to implement the goals, objectives, and tasks that will be necessary to successfully and adaptively manage the UCUT's short-term, mid-term, and long term strategic plans. The UCUT will continue to work with a variety of agencies and groups to develop long-term agreements and implementation of critical fish and wildlife projects in the Upper Columbia River ecoregion.





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