MEMORANDUM:

TO: Kalispel Business Committee

FROM: Deane Osterman, Executive Director Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Approve the UCUT Phase I report regarding salmon reintroduction upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.

COUNCIL ACTION:

MOTION: Darren Holmes

SECOND: Betty Piengkham

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Darren Holmes

Betty Piengkham

VOTE

YES ( )
NO ( )
ABSTAIN ( )

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

FOR: 3
AGAINST: 0

DATED: 4-9-19

SIGNED: }
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Kalispel Business Committee is the duly Constituted governing body of the Kalispel Tribe by the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws for the Kalispel Tribe; and

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribe, the Kalispel Business Committee is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security and general welfare of the Kalispel Tribe and all reservation residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Kalispel Natural Resource Department to approve the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) Phase I report regarding the feasibility of salmon reintroduction upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.

WHEREAS, the Kalispel Natural Resource Department has been working with staff from UCUT, other UCUT tribes, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and contractors to complete the Phase I report.

WHEREAS, the Phase I report recommends moving forward with non-ESA listed stocks (summer/fall Chinook and Sockeye) and that there is adequate habitat potential above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Kalispel Business Committee do hereby approve the UCUT Phase I report regarding salmon reintroduction upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.
CERTIFICATION

The Kalispel Business Committee adopted the foregoing RESOLUTION at a meeting held on the ___ day of April, 2019, at the Tribal office on the Kalispel Indian Reservation near Usk, Washington, with the required quorum present by a vote of ___ FOR and ___ AGAINST.

GLEN NENEMA, CHAIRMAN
KALISPHEL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
(TERM EXPIRES JUNE 2020)

DARREN HOLMES, SECRETARY
KALISPHEL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
(TERM EXPIRES JUNE 2019)
Memo

To: Deane Osterman, Executive Director

From: Joe Maroney

Date: April 1, 2019

RE: Background information on UCUt Phase I Report

For the last two years, I have been working with staff from UCUt, other UCUt tribes, WDFW and contractors to complete the Phase I report. The title of the report is “Investigation of Reintroducing Anadromous Salmon to Historical Habitat Upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams on the Columbia River”.

The report identifies four initial goals for reintroducing anadromous salmon to habitat located upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. The four goals are:

1. Restore naturally spawning and hatchery-based runs of Sockeye and Chinook Salmon into the upper Columbia River basin, above Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee and Canadian dams to meet native peoples’ cultural and spiritual values and benefits for all, including subsistence and harvest opportunities.
2. Increase Columbia River basin fish abundance, habitat diversity, ecosystem health and long-term sustainability of salmon and other fish species.
3. Establish and increase ceremonial and subsistence, sport and commercial fish harvest opportunities for all communities and citizens along the Columbia River in the U.S. and Canada — for the benefit of all.
4. Restoring access and population structure of resident bull trout, lamprey, sturgeon and other native fish species to historical habitat.

This report examines spring and summer/fall Chinook, Sockeye, and steelhead; however, the possible achievement of goals is specific to summer/fall Chinook and Sockeye Salmon while considering passage at only Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. Passage at Spokane River and Canadian dams, and resulting population dynamics, has not yet been assessed with life cycle modeling but will be analyzed as part of future work in appropriate forums.
The goals will be achieved by providing salmon access to the hundreds of miles of stream habitat in areas of the upper Columbia River basin currently blocked by Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. Ideally, this will be accomplished by providing adult and juvenile fish passage at all anthropogenic barriers that currently prevent Chinook, Sockeye, Coho and steelhead access to historical habitat.

An important component of this effort is to further develop the sources of fish needed for the reintroduction. It is envisioned that a combination of hatchery production and translocation of surplus adults returning to rivers and hatchery facilities located downstream of Chief Joseph Dam will be the methods of choice but may vary by species. Natural and hatchery production of fish from the blocked area will then generate more fish returning to CJD which will increase the abundance of fish available to further seed the reintroduction effort.

Both Grand Coulee Dam and Chief Joseph Dam operations provide significant flood control, irrigation and power benefits to the region. Therefore, an important consideration of the effort is to minimize any negative impacts the reintroduction effort may have on these benefits, while still achieving identified goals to the extent possible.

The creation of abundant salmon runs in the upper Columbia River will support tribal ceremonies, rights, and traditions, increase First Foods abundance and bolster tribal and local economies. It will begin to address the issue of inadequate mitigation for the people most affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System. Finally, it will begin the healing process from a historic wrong that the United States Government has bestowed upon the native people of the region when they decided not to provide fish passage at Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.