



UCUT RESOLUTION 2019-005
UCUT Phase 1 Fish Passage Report

WHEREAS: The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) is a duly constituted intertribal commission of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians, by authority of the Constitution and By-Laws for the UCUT; and

WHEREAS: under the Constitution and By-Laws of the UCUT, the Commission is charged with the duty of protection, preservation, and enhancement of Treaty/Executive Order Rights, sovereignty, culture, fish, water, wildlife, habitat and other interests and issues of common concern; and

WHEREAS: once abundant anadromous fish species of Salmon, steelhead, and lamprey, our people's primary food source, were blocked from the UCUT homelands and tributaries; the Spokane River in 1910 and later the upper Columbia River with the construction of Grand Coulee Dam which began in 1933; and

WHEREAS: the Columbia Basin Tribes and First Nations developed the Joint Paper "Fish Passage and Reintroduction into the U.S. and Canadian Upper Columbia Basin" (CBTFN 2015) to inform the federal governments, and other sovereigns and stakeholders on how anadromous salmon can be reintroduced into the upper Columbia River Basin. (UCUT Phase 1 Report); and

WHEREAS: the Upper Columbia United Tribes collaborated on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) 2014 Amendments for a phased approach to reintroduce Salmon into the historic habitats above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams; and

WHEREAS: the UCUT Central staff worked with each member Tribes' staff in the consensus committee format to comprehensively complete Phase 1 investigations into the reintroduction of salmon into those historic habitats; and

WHEREAS: The UCUT corresponding report to Phase 1: pre-assessment planning for reintroduction and fish passage has been finalized with the conclusion that reintroduction of Salmon to the United States portion of the blocked area of the Upper Columbia River is likely to achieve identified tribal goals for the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS: the Phase 1 summarizes the current state of the Region's understanding of the information on the feasibility of Salmon and steelhead reintroductions, and includes recommended next steps in the pursuit of our goal to have healthy and harvestable populations of Salmon and steelhead within all UCUT member waters; and is intended to be updated as new information and technology becomes available;

WHEREAS: The Upper Columbia United Tribes staff worked with each member Tribes' staff to develop and finalize a FISH PASSAGE AND REINTRODUCTION PHASE 1 REPORT: INVESTIGATIONS UPSTREAM OF CHIEF JOSEPH AND GRAND COULEE DAMS ("REPORT"); and

WHEREAS: Each of the Upper Columbia United Tribes Councils has passed supporting resolutions of the REPORT and authorized their staff to continue to move this effort forward; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the UCUT Commission does hereby endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the REPORT; and

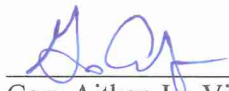
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the UCUT Commission approves the UCUT to move forward with the sharing of the REPORT with Columbia Basin Tribes and First Nations, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the NPCC, and other key partners in the federal, state and local agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the UCUT Commission approves the UCUT staff and member Tribes' staff to move forward in coordination with key partners to Phase 2: Experimental, pilot scale Salmon reintroductions and testing of interim passage facilities with the Upper Columbia River upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the UCUT Chairman or his/her designee is authorized to sign any documents related to the action on behalf of the Upper Columbia United Tribes Commission.

CERTIFICATION

The Upper Columbia United Tribes adopted the foregoing RESOLUTION at the quarterly meeting held on the 11th day of April 2019, at Airway Heights, Washington, with the required quorum present, by a vote of 3 FOR, 0_AGAINST, 0 ABSTAIN, 2_ABSENT.



Gary Aitken Jr., Vice Chairman, Upper Columbia United Tribes

Motion: Ernie Stensgar

Second: Danny Kieffer

Voting Record: 3-0-0-2 (CCT and Kalispel Tribe)