

The Upper Columbia River and the FCRPS

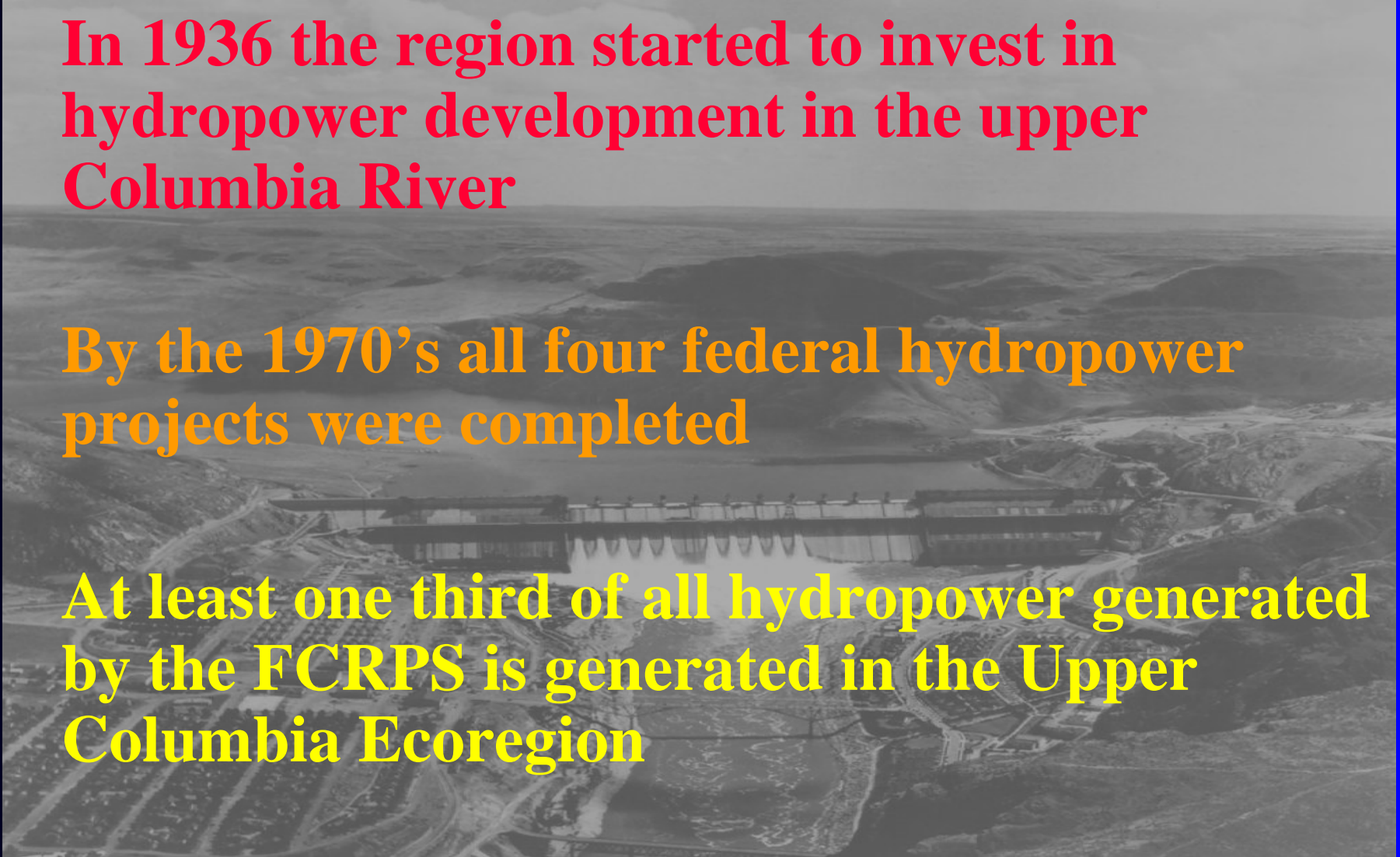
BPA Fish and Wildlife Mitigation in
the Upper Columbia River EcoRegion

Hydropower Development

In 1936 the region started to invest in hydropower development in the upper Columbia River

By the 1970's all four federal hydropower projects were completed

At least one third of all hydropower generated by the FCRPS is generated in the Upper Columbia Ecoregion



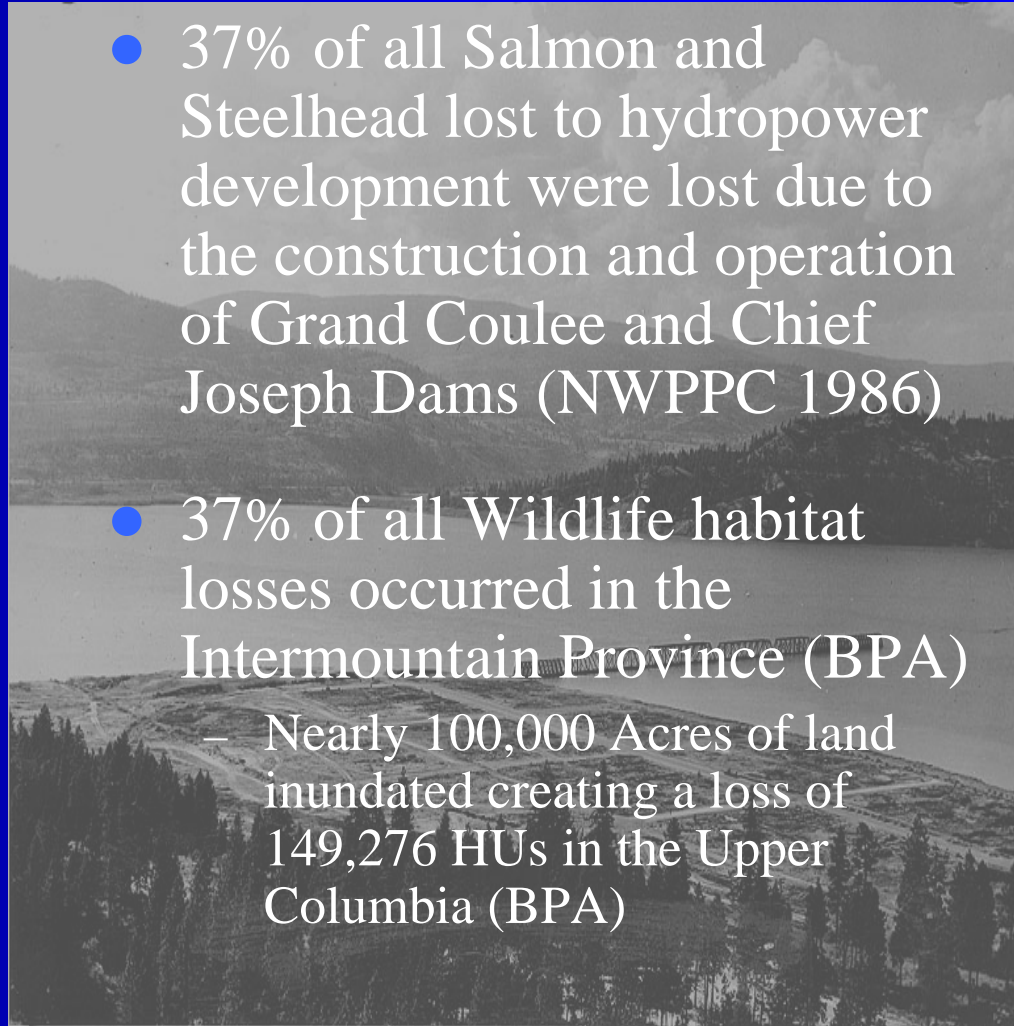
Hydropower Impacts to Fish and Wildlife



Hydropower Impacts to Fish and Wildlife



- 37% of all Salmon and Steelhead lost to hydropower development were lost due to the construction and operation of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams (NWPPC 1986)
- 37% of all Wildlife habitat losses occurred in the Intermountain Province (BPA)
 - Nearly 100,000 Acres of land inundated creating a loss of 149,276 HUs in the Upper Columbia (BPA)



Loss of Resources Means A Loss of Culture



Blockage by Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams meant that the five UCUT members lost access to salmon resources and several other fisheries

Blockage and Inundation Mean Change

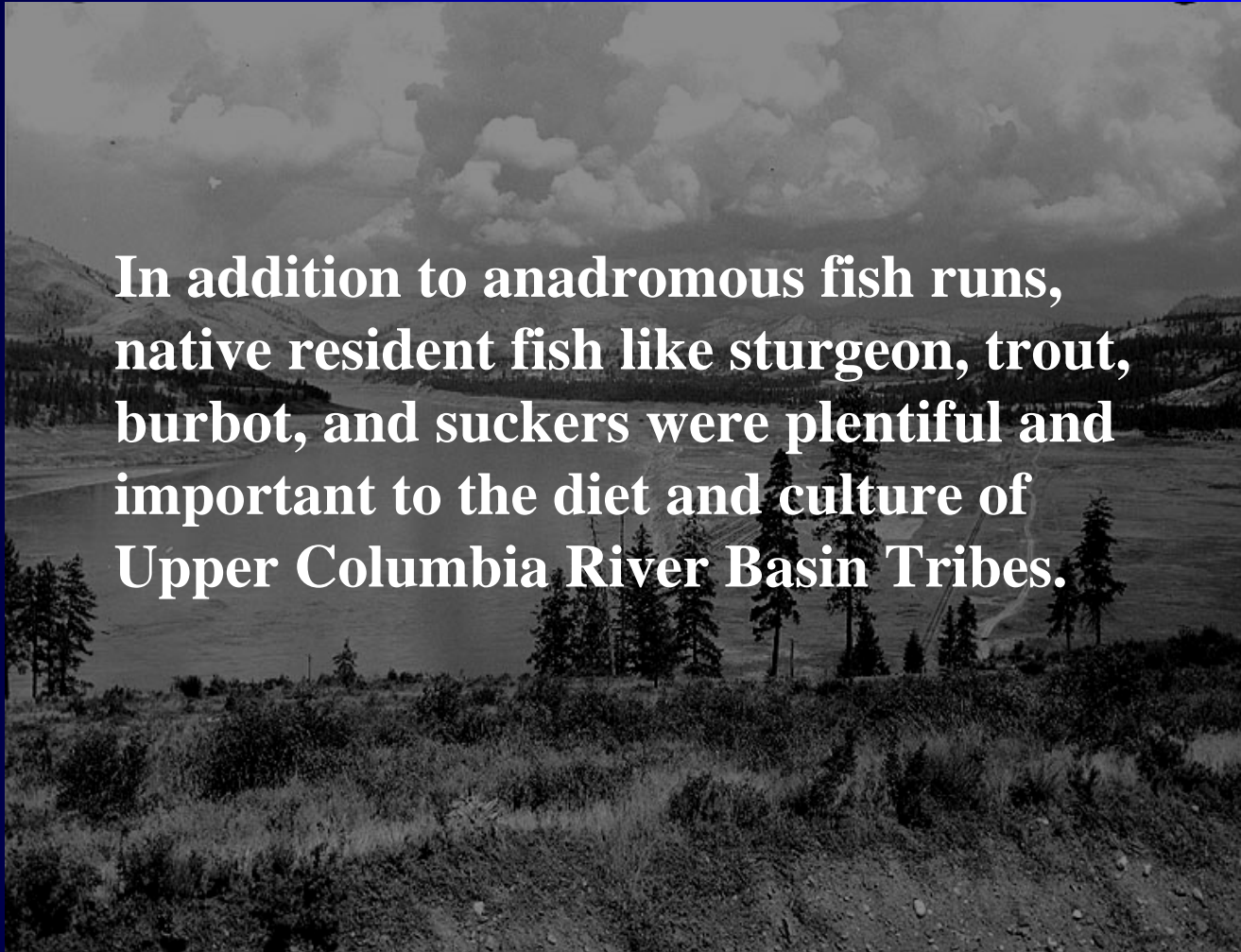


Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change

In addition to anadromous fish runs, native resident fish like sturgeon, trout, burbot, and suckers were plentiful and important to the diet and culture of Upper Columbia River Basin Tribes.



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change

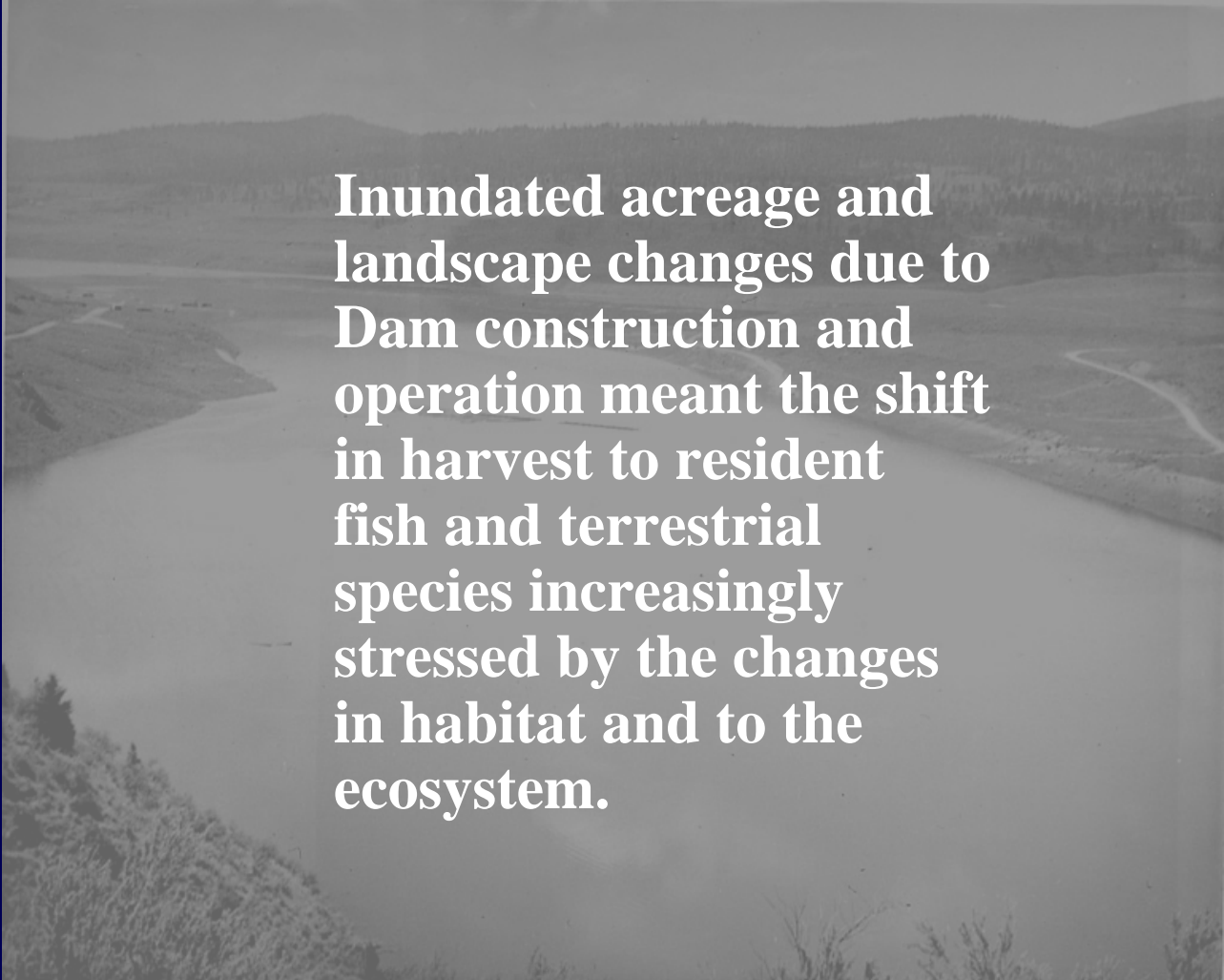


*Pictures of Nee bridge covered by
water. Mouth of Spokane R.*

Blockage and Inundation Mean Change



Blockage and Inundation Mean Change

A grayscale photograph of a wide river valley. In the background, a long dam stretches across the valley. The river flows through the center of the valley, surrounded by hills and fields. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Inundated acreage and landscape changes due to Dam construction and operation meant the shift in harvest to resident fish and terrestrial species increasingly stressed by the changes in habitat and to the ecosystem.

Fisheries Priorities

- Develop adult and juvenile anadromous fish passage capabilities
- A comprehensive mitigation program of native resident fish restoration and native/non-native fish substitution

Wildlife Priorities

- Fully mitigate wildlife losses caused by hydropower development (both FCRPS and FERC dams)
- Provide habitats that support life requisites for all native and desired wildlife and botanical species
- Provide harvestable surplus of selected species to meet the subsistence, cultural, and religious needs of the UCUT Tribes and society as a whole (e.g., cultural needs)
- Maximize ecosystem connectivity to promote population viability

UCUT Management Framework

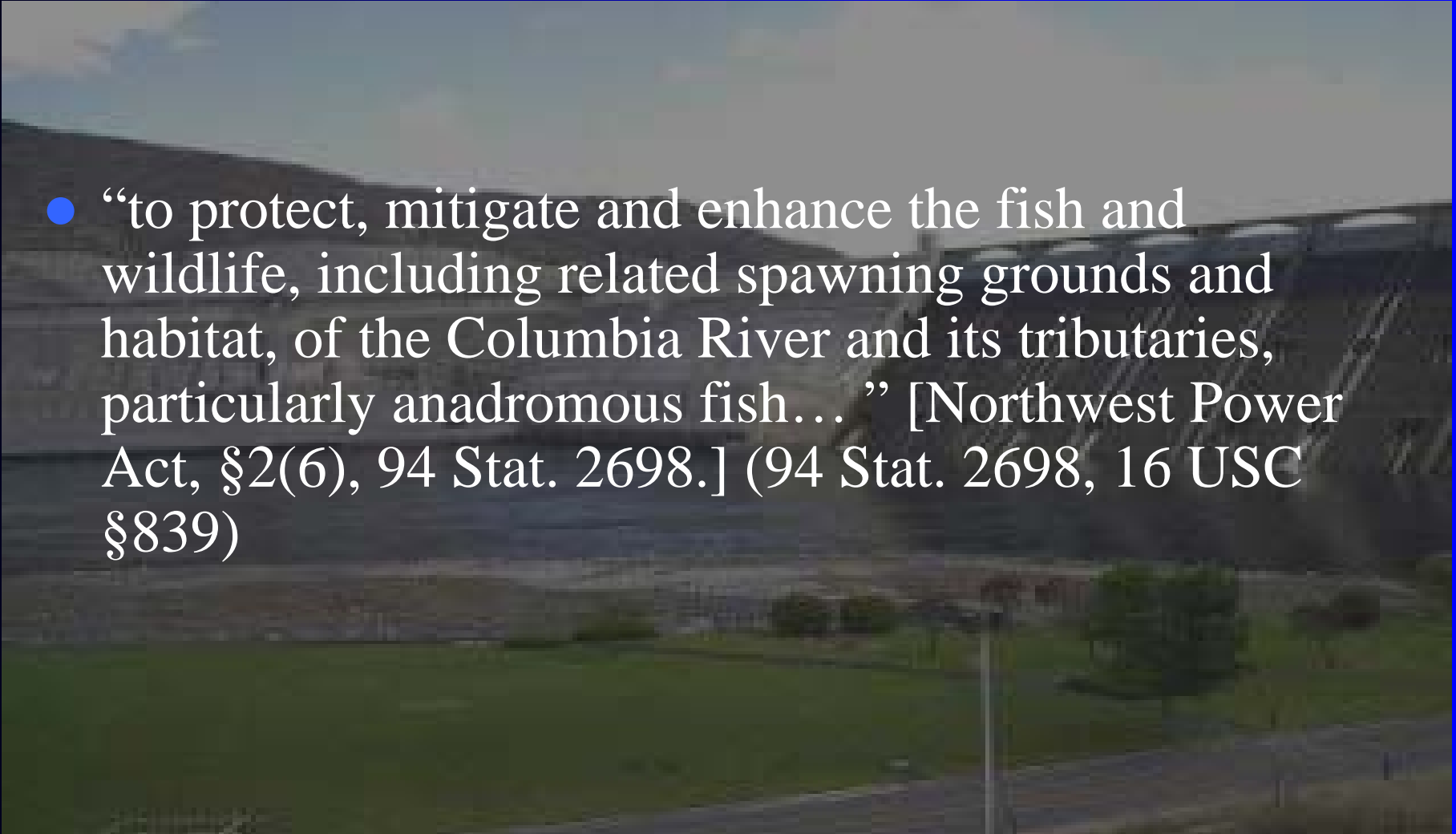


Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act



Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “to protect, mitigate and enhance the fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat, of the Columbia River and its tributaries, particularly anadromous fish...” [Northwest Power Act, §2(6), 94 Stat. 2698.] (94 Stat. 2698, 16 USC §839)



Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “Enhancement measures may be used, in appropriate circumstances, as a means of achieving offsite protection and mitigation with respect to compensation for losses arising from the development and operation of the hydroelectric facilities of the Columbia River and its tributaries as a system.”
[Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(8)(A), 94 Stat. 2709.]

Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “To the extent the program provides for coordination of its measures with additional measures (including additional enhancement measures to deal with impacts caused by factors other than the development and operation of electric power facilities and programs), such additional measures are to be implemented in accordance with agreements among the appropriate parties providing for the administration and funding of such additional measures.” [Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(8)(C), 94 Stat. 2710.]

Upper Columbia River and the 1980 Power Act

- “The Administrator shall use the Bonneville Power Administration fund and the authorities available to the Administrator under this chapter and other laws administered by the Administrator to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife to the extent affected by the development and operation of any hydroelectric project of the Columbia River...”
[Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(10)(A), 94 Stat. 2710.]

Upper Columbia River and the NWPCC F&W Program



Upper Columbia River and the NWPPCC F&W Program

- **Resident Fish Substitution Policy – 1987**
 - Allowed for UCUT to substitute Salmon losses with Resident Fish communities
- **Reaffirmed and prioritized in the 1994/95 and 2000 programs**
 - "Because these losses have endured mostly unmitigated for more than 50 Years [as of 1994 Program], and because in-kind mitigation cannot occur, the Council intends that in any project ranking and selection process, projects satisfying these priorities be clearly distinguished from other projects."
 - Identifies other mitigation needs exist beyond Resident Fish

Upper Columbia River and the NWPCC F&W Program

- Wildlife Plan adopted in the 1987 Program

- Identified habitat losses by Hydroelectric Project

- All Mitigation in the Intermountain is less than 50% completed

- Two of the Dams are mitigated at less than 17%
- 2000 Program Policy requires a shift in focus and priorities to areas under mitigated



UCUT FY 06 – FY 15 Funding Proposal

- UCUT subbasin planning
 - Derived regionally accepted goals, objectives and strategies
 - Included “measures” to implement the plans
- 10 year budgeting exercise
 - Completed with regional interests
 - Distilled down to UCUT interests
- Further refined into a geographical allocation proposal and 10 year budgeting exercise

UCUT FY 06 – FY 15 Funding Proposal

- Uses internal prioritization and flexibility to meet biological milestones
- Identifies specific outcomes to be achieved over the 10-year period
- Allows for shifting of priorities annually to meet all outcomes over the 10-year term

UCUT Allocation Proposal

- Focuses on BPA hydropower obligations
 - Hydropower allocations per dam
 - Regional benefits
 - Measured proportional impacts

UCUT Allocation Proposal

- Identifies BPA obligations that will likely sunset
- Clear biological objectives and actions to achieve deliverables
- Adaptive management built into projects
- Long-term agreement would lower costs associated with annual processes
- Include both ESA and non-ESA projects

UCUT Allocation Proposal

- UCUT has submitted completed subbasin plans, Program measures, cost estimates, and a regional allocation proposal
- Based upon current Fish and Wildlife Expense Budget
- UCUT prepared to enter long-term funding agreements in 2006

Conclusion

- Consider the disparity: magnitude of the loss (F&W) and gains (aMW and salmon flows) due to dams vs. past/present mitigation funding.
- Mitigation and compensation is required under NWPA.
- Policies are present that support continued Tribal mitigation compensation.

Recommendations

- Diligently implement the Fish and Wildlife Program consistent with the Power Act
- Implement 10 year funding commitments with UCUT
- Focus on BPA obligations for FCRPS impacts
- Fund Upper Columbia Ecoregion (Intermountain Province, Kootenai and Okanogan subbasins) at levels equitable with past impacts and current benefits