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# *Cultural Foundations, Challenges and Opportunities of Floodplains*



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np□k<sup>w</sup>átk<sup>w</sup>....Big River



**Kettle Falls Before Grand Coulee Dam, Largest Salmon Fishery in West**

# The River, Our Ancestor



Life along the River



# Traditional Guiding Principles

## Cultural Relevance of Rivers

- Protect, preserve and enhance our First Foods.
- “Four Chiefs” sacrificed their bodies for the people; Salmon, Bear, Service Berry, Bitterroot
- In providing for the people, we must take care of these Four Chiefs with respect and honor.

# The River, Our Provider



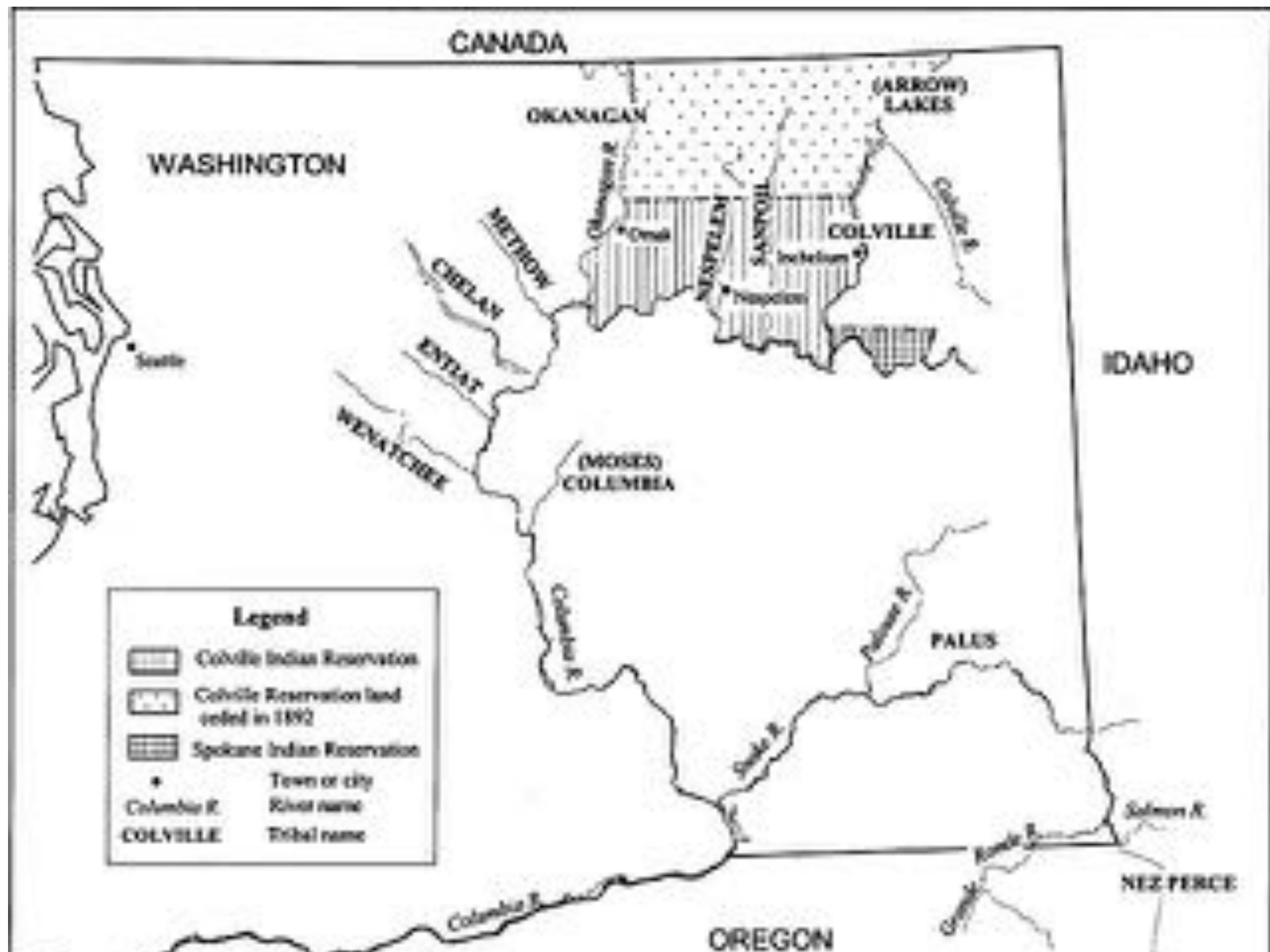
# The River, Our Spirituality





# The River, Our Spirituality







# Floods in Homelands

- All of our homes were built facing East, with one exception; *along rivers and waterways*
- When at Fish Camp; Always face the water in case a flood would happen
- We used keen knowledge of the river to safely provide for our families.

# Floods Feed Our Plants

- The cultural and traditional beliefs bound to the environment have sustained our people for tens of thousands of years.
- These gifts of the First Foods also carry a responsibility of active stewardship of those gifts; It is our foundation.
- We honor that responsibility by taking action on Climate Change Impacts to ensure the environment will provide for generations to come

# Floods Feed Our Plants



# Moving Plants

- Estuaries provide that area for plants to take hold
- Medicinal plants and special plants can be located near the banks of the river and tributaries
- The floods nourish existing populations and help establish ones downriver

# Entiat River into Columbia





# Climate Change and Tribes



3rd U.S. National Climate Assessment clearly states  
***“climate change impacts on many of the 567 federally recognized tribes and other tribal and indigenous groups in the U.S. are projected to be especially severe, since these impacts are compounded by a number of persistent social and economic problems.”***

# Climate Change in the Northwest

- Hotter years
- Smaller snowpack
- Earlier snowmelt
- More evaporation and dryness
- More flood-control releases
- Less groundwater
- More droughts
- More fires
- Disappearing Habitat
- Massive Die-Offs of Keystone Species



# The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples called upon States to adopt an agreement with;

- **a strong human rights based approach reflected in the operative provisions of the agreement, and**
- **covers all aspects of the agreement such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, capacity building, and specifically recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples**



In 2015 Sockeye mortality coincided with hundreds of Columbia River White Sturgeon die off



# Impacts to Traditional Medicines, Foods, Habitat and Soil Productivity

Areas burned projects to double by 2040 and triple by 2080.

Probability of more than 2M acres burning in a single year:

Historically	5%
In 2080	33%



**Warmer Temperatures Have Increased the Number and Extent of Fires since 1970**



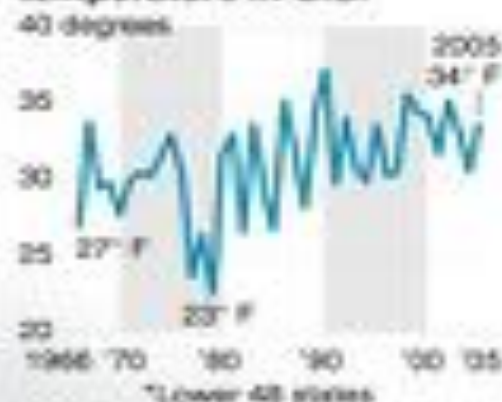
# Spending winter farther north

As the temperature across the U.S. has gotten warmer from 1966 to 2005, many bird species are spending their winters farther north.

Change in winter destination,  
20 species with the most movement

● Winter 1966-67 ● Winter 2005-06

Average January temperature in U.S.\*



0 200 mi

0 200 km

# Traditional Knowledge as Direction

- Climate Change is happening, we need to listen to the land, water and animals
- They can give us some clues on what is happening
- Our Projects are all affected by Climate Change AND could be a point of collaboration of all to work toward a better world

# Conclusions

Indigenous Peoples rights and traditional knowledge have been recognized and identified as tools going forward

Nationally, there are many groups working on Climate Change and adapting actions

Local efforts and community movements see salmon survival as a keystone in how well the PNW is addressing climate change.

**Partnerships are crucial to making significant change. We can accomplish so much more together!**



Water is humble, yet the most powerful



# Questions?

Thank You for Your Time  
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