Nez Perce Tribe
Department of Fisheries Resource Management
Emmit Taylor, Jr.





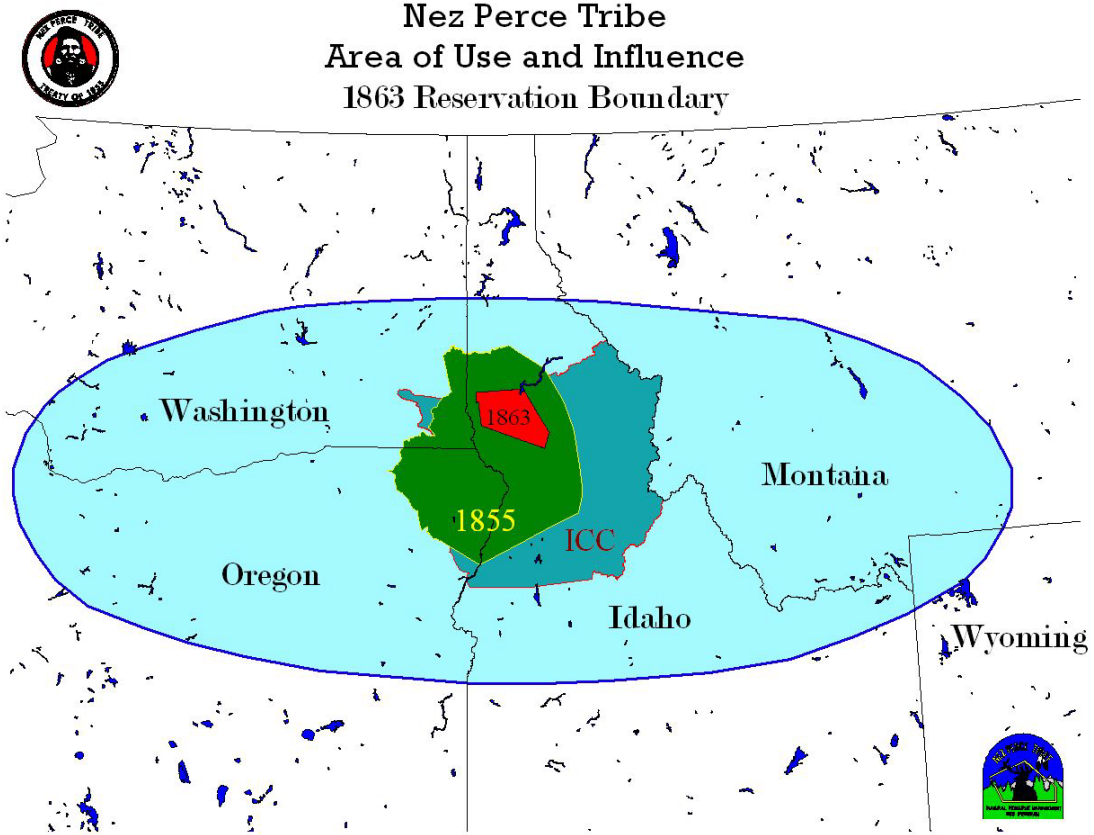


Photo Credit: Mary Edwards, Montana Pagano



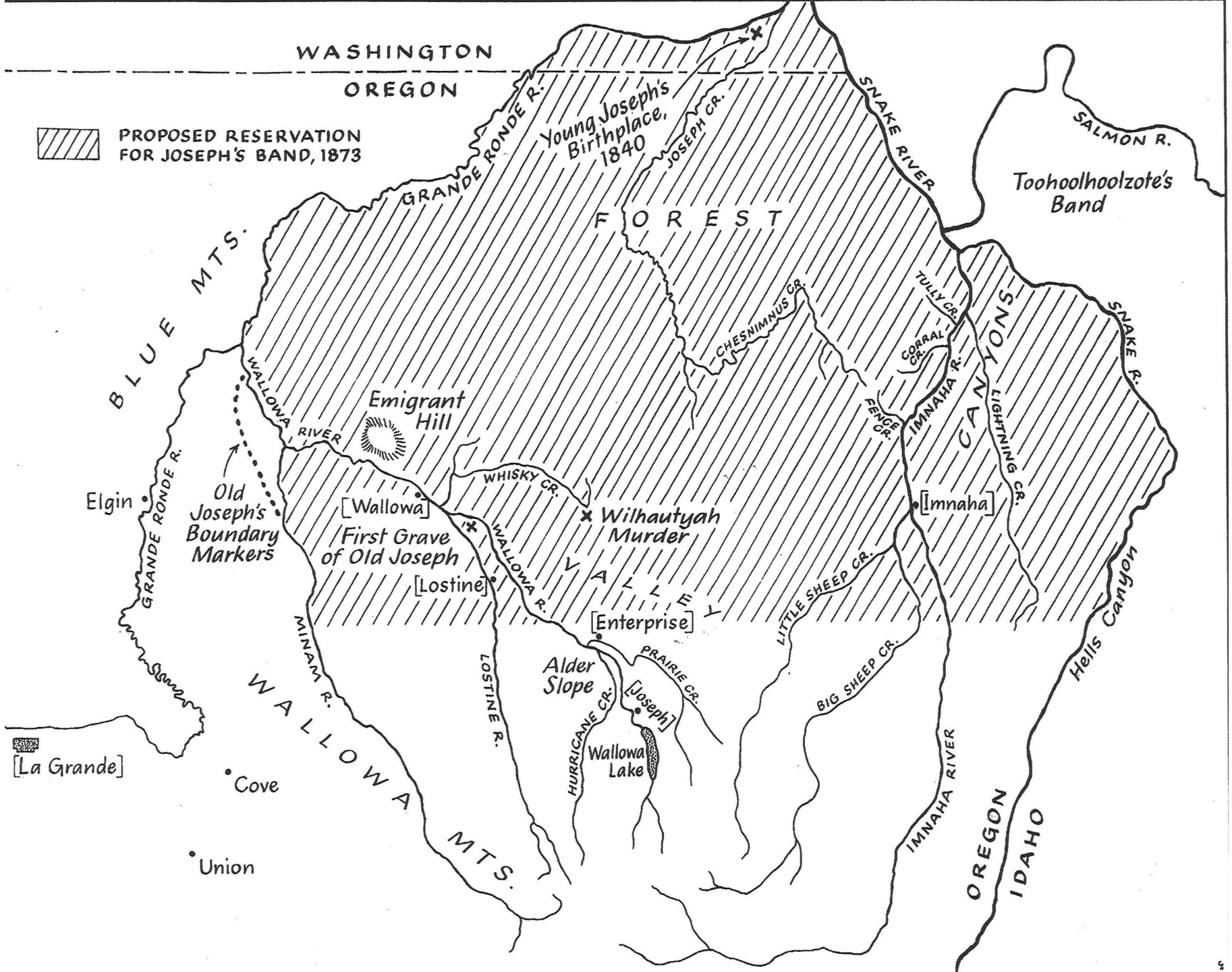
Nez Perce Tribe (NiMiiPuu)

- Homeland is approximately 13 million acres in North Central Idaho, NE Oregon and SE Washington
- Approximately 3,650 Tribal members
- Have 4 Treaties with the United States Government
- Still very connected Spiritually and Culturally to Weetes Piika (Mother Earth)

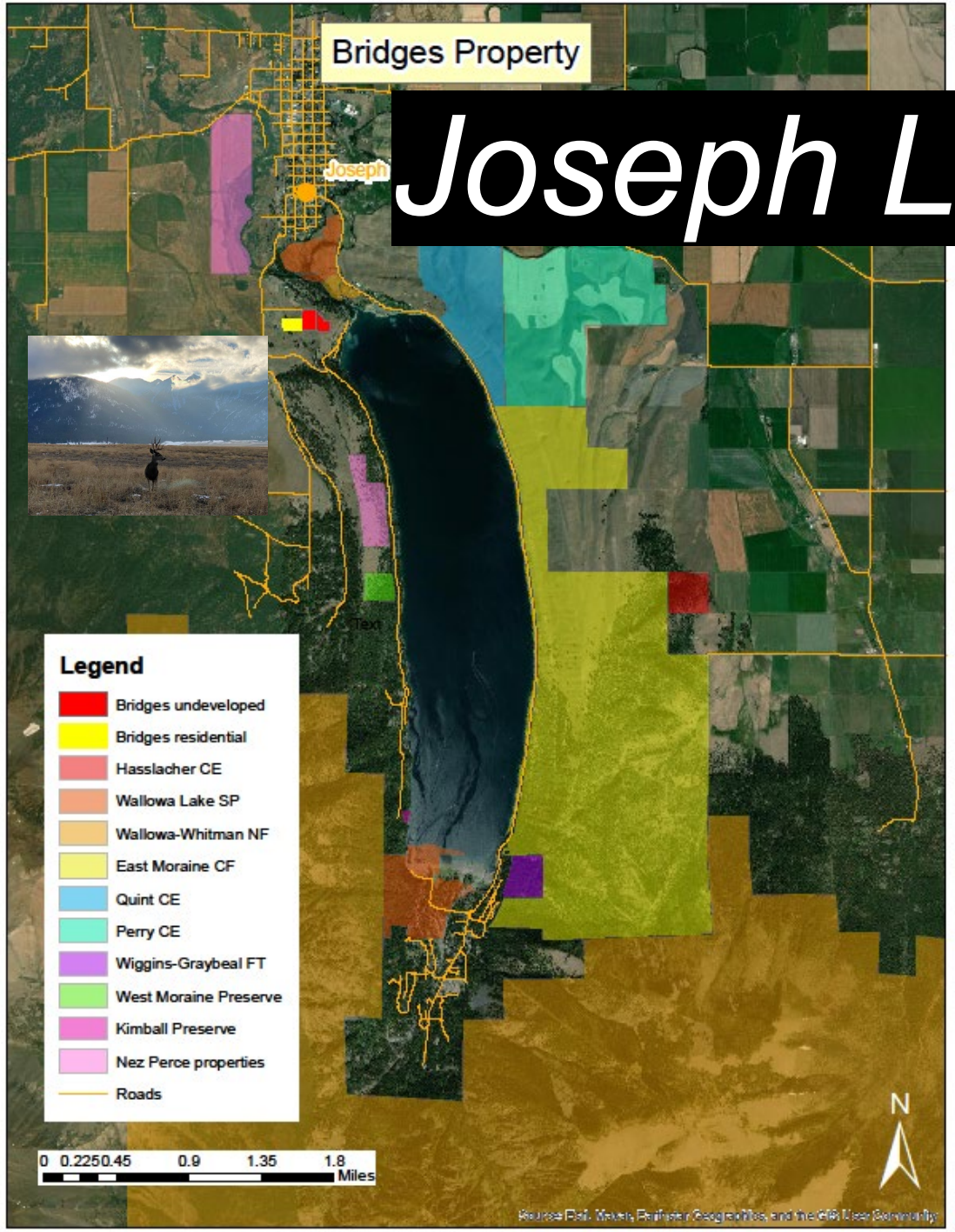







WASHINGTON
OREGON
PROPOSED RESERVATION FOR JOSEPH'S BAND, 1873
Young Joseph's Birthplace, 1840
JOSEPH CR.
GRANDE RONDE R.
SNAKE RIVER
SALMON R.
Toohoolhoolzote's Band
FOREST
BLUE MTS.
CHESNIMNUS CR.
TULLY CR.
CORRAL CR.
IMNAHA R.
SNAKE R.
CANYONS
LIGHTNING CR.
FENCE CR.
WALLOWA RIVER
Emigrant Hill
WHISKY CR.
Elgin
GRANDE RONDE R.
Old Joseph's Boundary Markers
[Wallowa]
First Grave of Old Joseph
Wilhautyah Murder
[Imnaha]
[Lostine]
WALLOWA R.
VALLEY
LITTLE SHEEP CR.
[Enterprise]
MINAM R.
LOSTINE R.
Alder Slope
PRAIRIE CR.
HURRICANE CR.
[Joseph]
Wallowa Lake
BIG SHEEP CR.
Hells Canyon
IMNAHA RIVER
[La Grande]
Cove
WALLOWA MTS.
Union
OREGON
IDAHO

Joseph Land Ownership

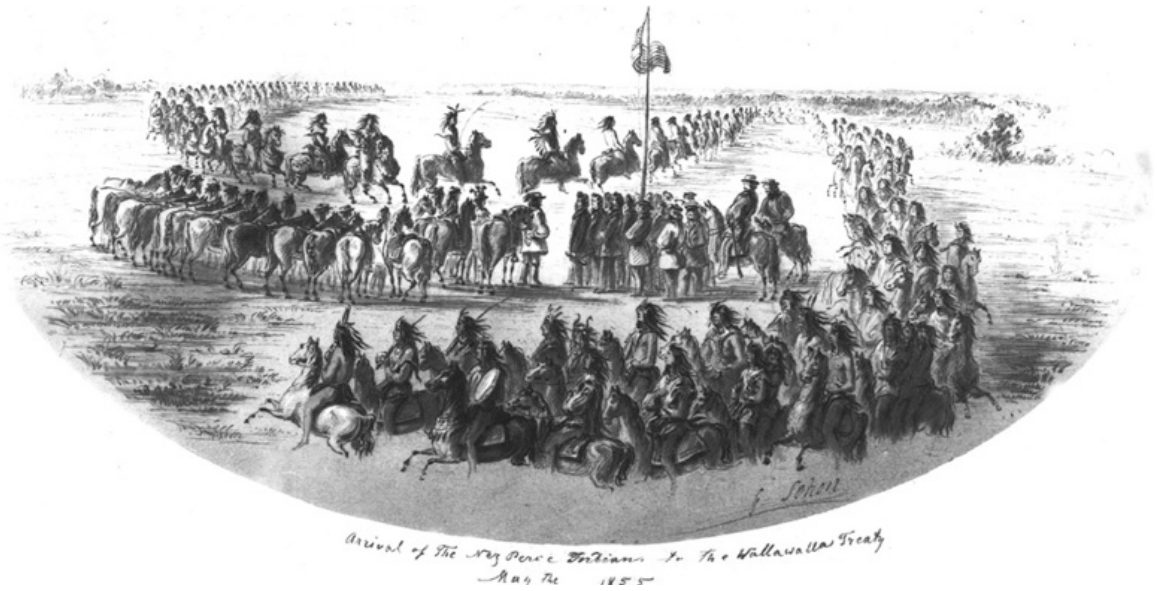








Treaty of 1855

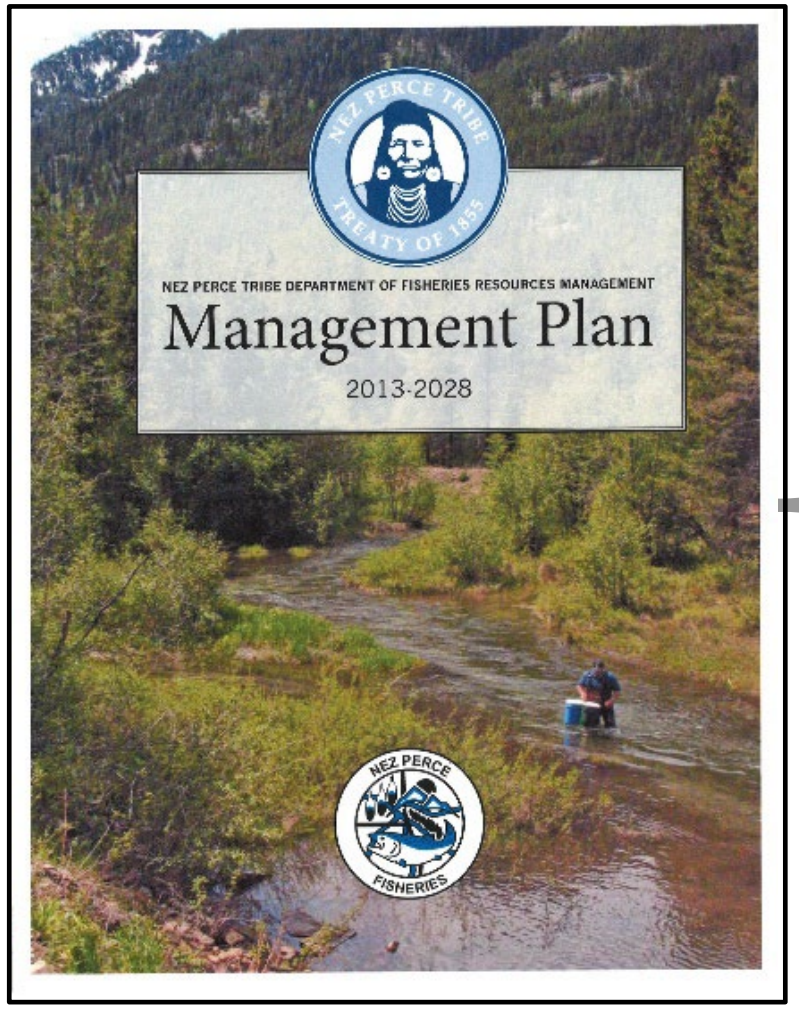




The exclusive right of taking fish in all the streams where running through or bordering said reservation is further secured to said Indians; as also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places in common with citizens of the Territory; and of erecting temporary buildings for curing, together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries, and pasturing their horses and cattle upon open and unclaimed land."

1855 Treaty with the Nez Perce Tribe, Article 3

DFRM Management Plan

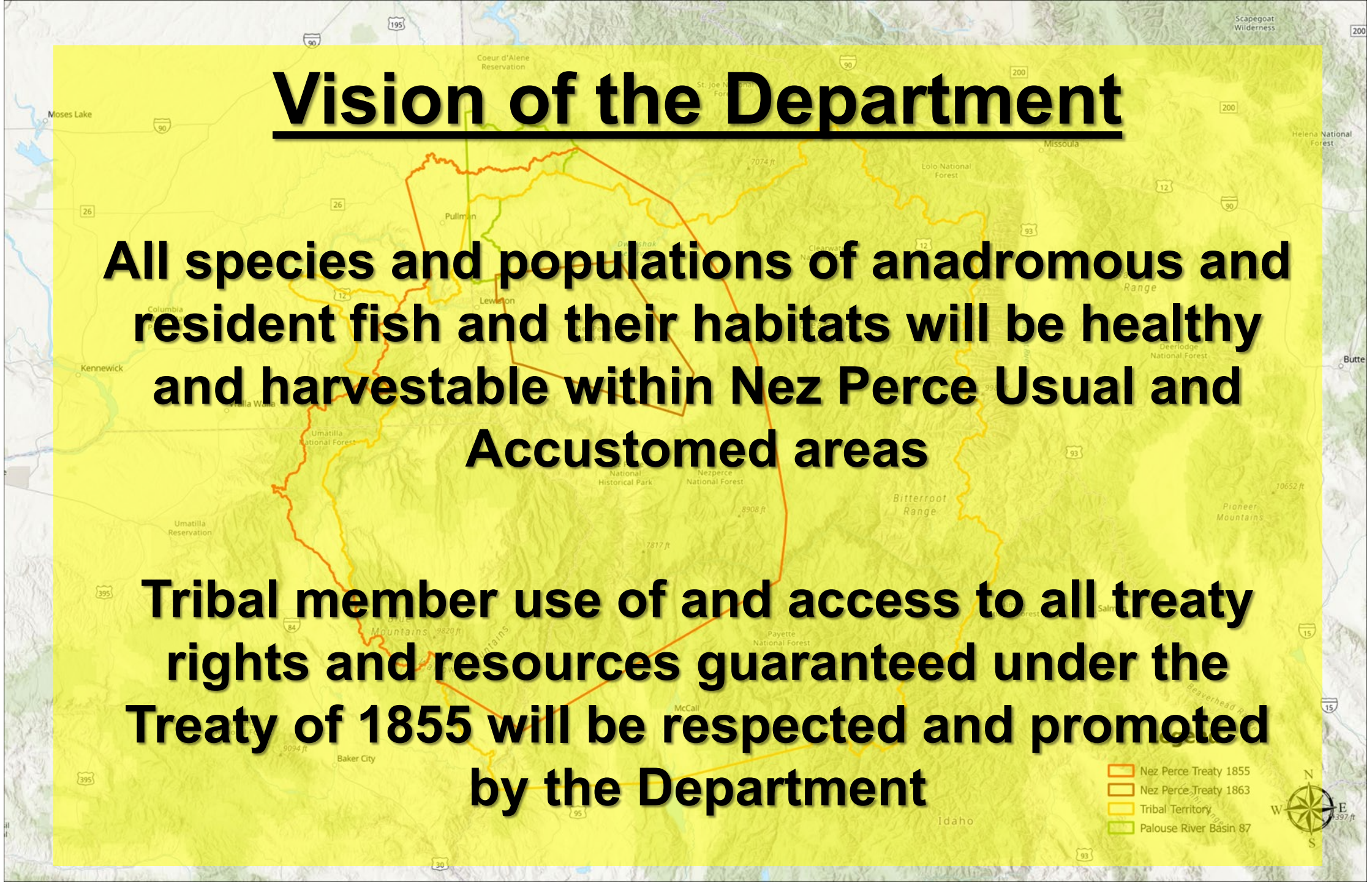


This Management Plan is designed to provide direction to the Department of Fisheries Resources Management (Department or DFRM) employees to implement a program consistent with Nez Perce treaty-reserved rights that will: restore a balance with nature, bring fish populations and their habitats to healthy conditions, and provide harvest opportunities for tribal members.

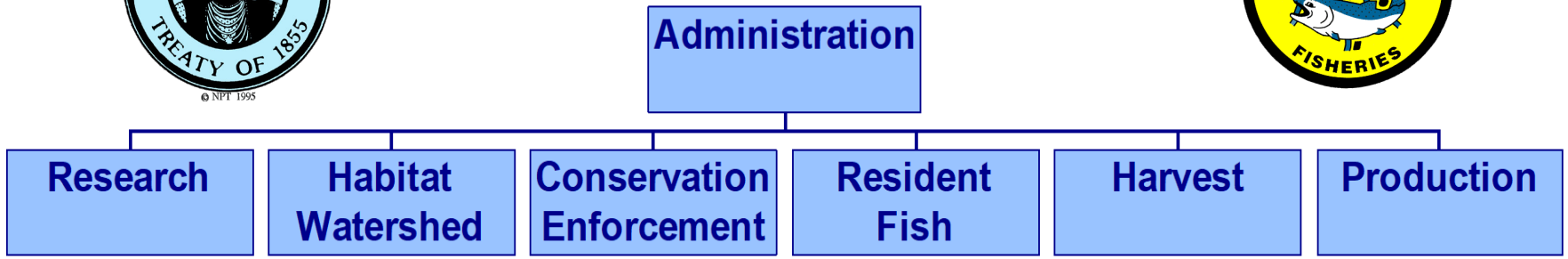
Vision of the Department

All species and populations of anadromous and resident fish and their habitats will be healthy and harvestable within Nez Perce Usual and Accustomed areas

Tribal member use of and access to all treaty rights and resources guaranteed under the Treaty of 1855 will be respected and promoted by the Department



DFRM Organizational Chart



- One of the largest Tribal Fisheries Program in the U.S.
- $28 million annually (56 Contracts) for Fisheries Management & Restoration
- Employees:
  - 192 Full Time, 40 Seasonal
  - 51% NPT, 3% other Tribe, 46% non-Indian
- Offices:
  - Headquarters: Lapwai, Idaho
  - 6 Field Offices: Sweetwater, Orofino, McCall, Powell and Grangeville, Idaho and Joseph, Oregon



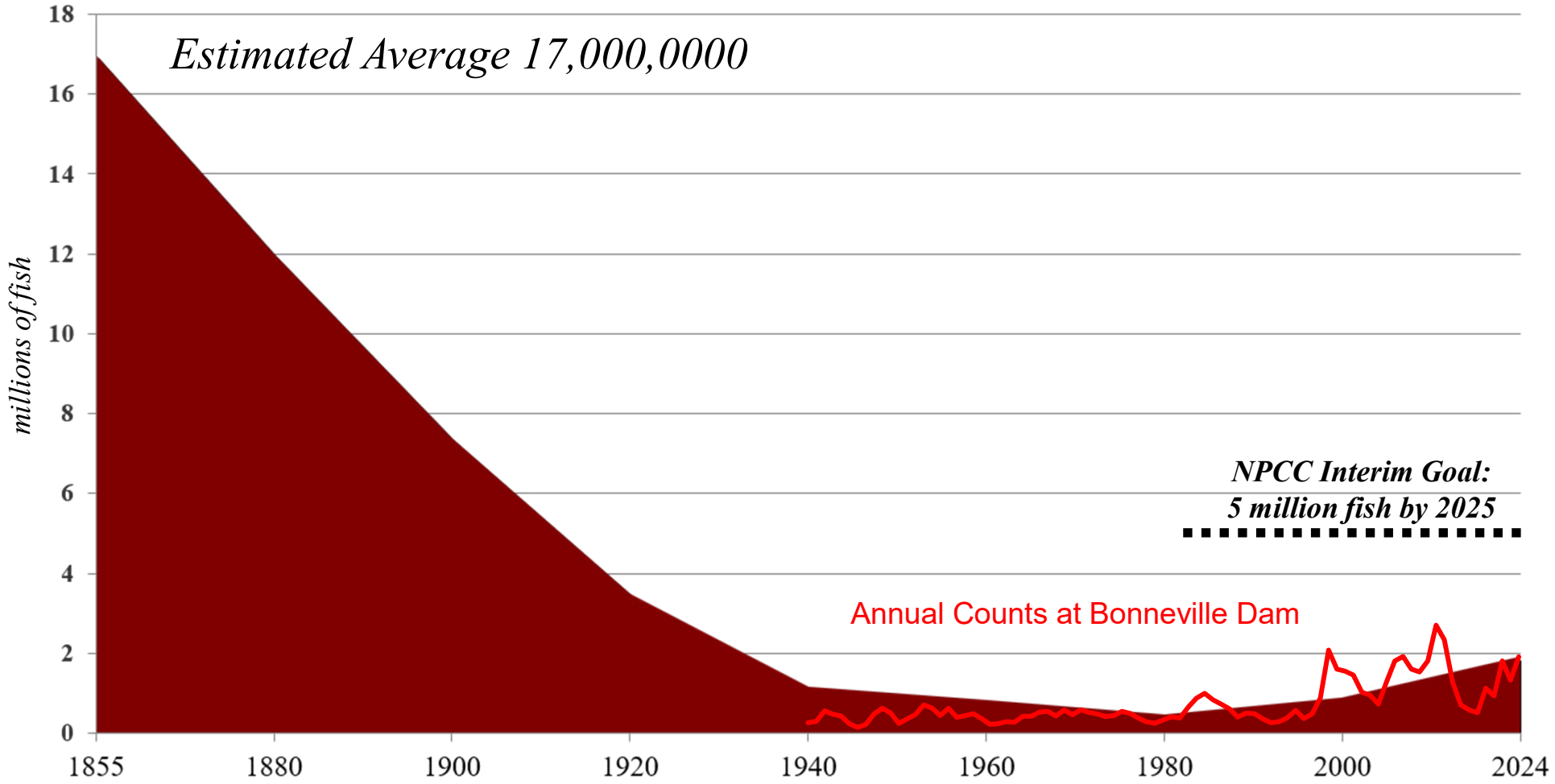
Our Management Expertise



- Harvest Management & Enforcement
- Hatchery Management
- Fishery Science/Research & Monitoring
- Habitat Restoration
- Partner in Columbia River Hydro Operations

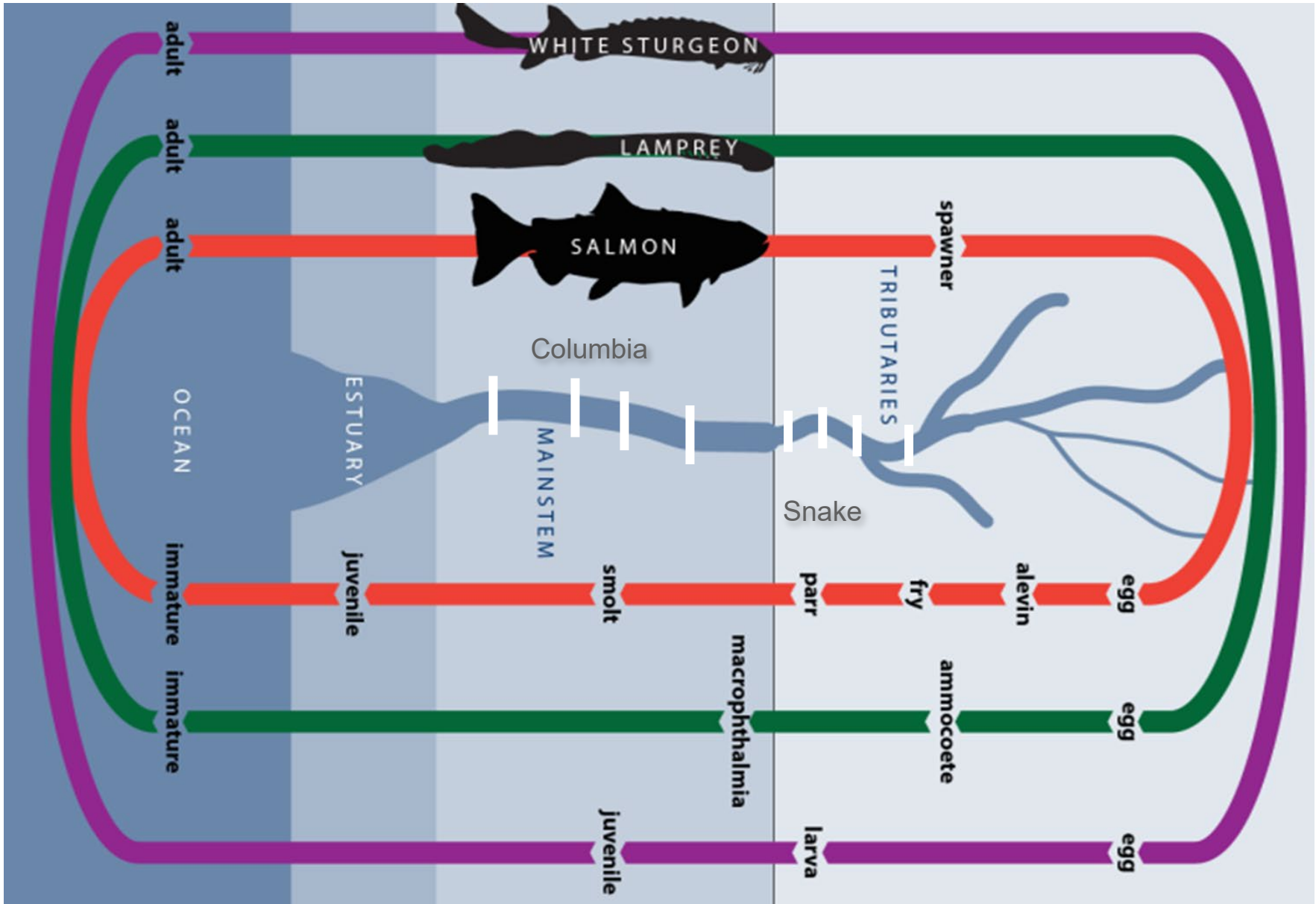
COLUMBIA BASIN

Returning Columbia River salmon (chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho)



Source: CRITFC. 1855 Data from NPCC historical run estimates; 1880-1920 data points extrapolated from Columbia River cannery output; 1940-present: dam counts & river mouth estimates

Gravel-to-Gravel Management



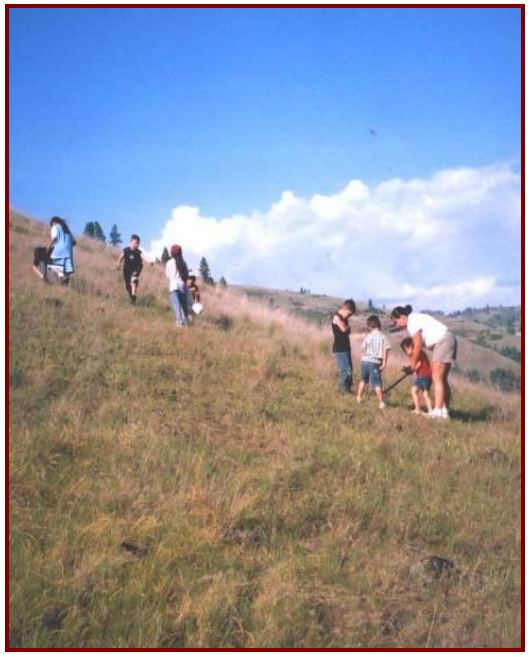
Our Program is About People & Fish

The Nez Perce

- Tribal members & their families who rely on salmon for food and livelihoods
- Tribal fishers have always ensured fish are in the rivers to create next generation of fish
- Salmon have a place in the every day lives of the Nez Perce

Department Employees

- Individuals who bring skills, dedication, and experience to management of fish for the benefit of Nez Perce tribal members, the fish themselves, and other users
- As a workforce, salmon are in our lives everyday as we do our work



Present Circumstances

Families in Poverty	29.4%
Unemployment	19.8%
In winter 62%	
Ratio of Tribal Death Rate to Non-Tribal Death Rate	1.7



Traditional activities such as fishing, hunting and gathering roots, berries and medicinal plants also build self-esteem for Nez Perce peoples – and this has the capability to reduce the level of death by accident, violence, and suicide affecting our people. When you engage in cultural activities you build pride. You are helped to understand what it is to be Nez Perce. In this way, the salmon, the game, the roots and the berries and the plants are the pillars of our world. – Leroy Seth

Questions?

