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August 7, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Laura Robinson

SUBJECT: Presentation by CRITFC on their 10-Year Accord Summary

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Jaime Pinkham, Executive Director, CRITFC
Aja DeCoteau, Watershed Department Manager, CRITFC
Jeremy Fivecrows, Public Affairs Specialist, CRITFC
Tom Iverson, Consultant

Summary: The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC) Columbia Basin Fish Accords Ten-year Report is an overview of the tribal efforts and accomplishments facilitated by funding from the Lower River Tribes' Columbia River Fish Accords. It includes background information about the tribes and their connection to the natural resources of the Columbia Basin and the importance of salmon to their history and culture. The report features sections on fish status and trends and hydropower operations to give context to the state of the fish and the river over the course of the last decade. The report highlights tribal projects and successes for topic areas including Habitat Projects, Propagation, Lamprey and Sturgeon, RM&E, Predators and Invasive Species, Climate Change, and Partnerships and Coordination. Most of these topic areas include detailed maps, graphs and metrics, or charts to highlight various aspects of the work completed. The CRITFC team worked closely with the Yakama Nation STAR project and other partners to assemble this comprehensive report.

Background: CRITFC represents the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes on regional fisheries issues. Their mission is to, “ensure a unified voice in the overall management of the fishery resources, and as managers, to protect reserved treaty rights through the exercise of the inherent sovereign powers of the tribes,” which they accomplish through four goals:

1. Put fish back in the rivers and protect watershed where fish live
2. Protect tribal treaty fishing rights
3. Share salmon culture
4. Provide Fisher Services

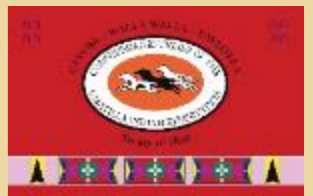
CRITFC and three of the CRITFC tribes – Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama – signed Columbia Basin Fish Accord agreements on May 2, 2008 with the Bonneville Power Administration.

More Info:

- [Memorandum of Agreement](#) with the Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- [CRITFC's Accord Projects](#)



TEN YEAR REPORT 2008-2017



Our Strength is From the Fish

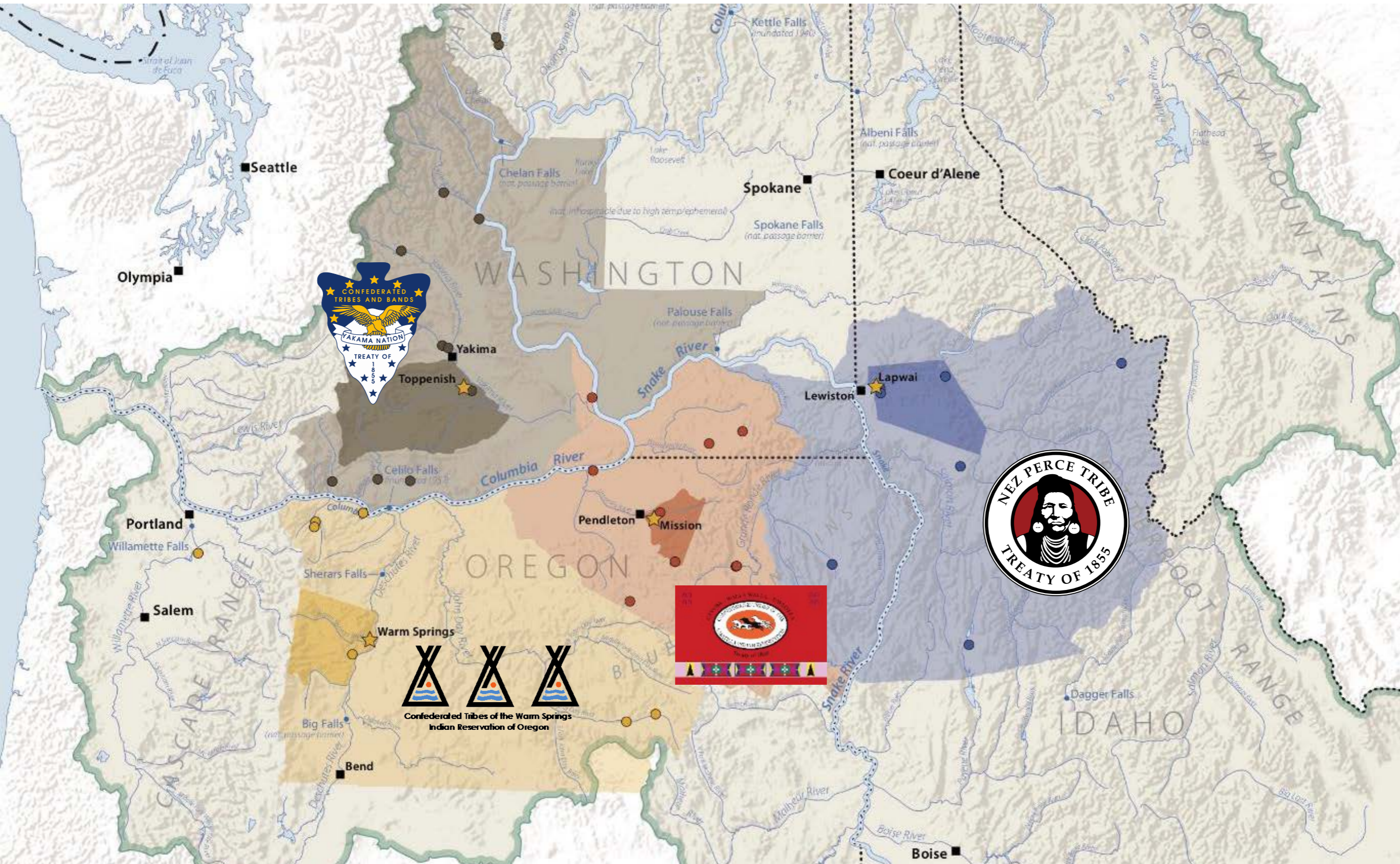
My strength is from
the fish; my blood is
from the fish, from
the roots and
berries.

The fish and game
are the essence of
my life.

—Chief Weninock, Yakama, 1915



Ceded Territories



Tribal Efforts

- 20 years of effective salmon restoration focused on reversing the decline of fish runs
- 1995 *Wy-kan-ush-mi Wa-kish-wit*, Spirit of the Salmon, **gravel-to-gravel management**
- 2006-7 funding uncertainty and **gavel-to-gavel hydrosystem management**



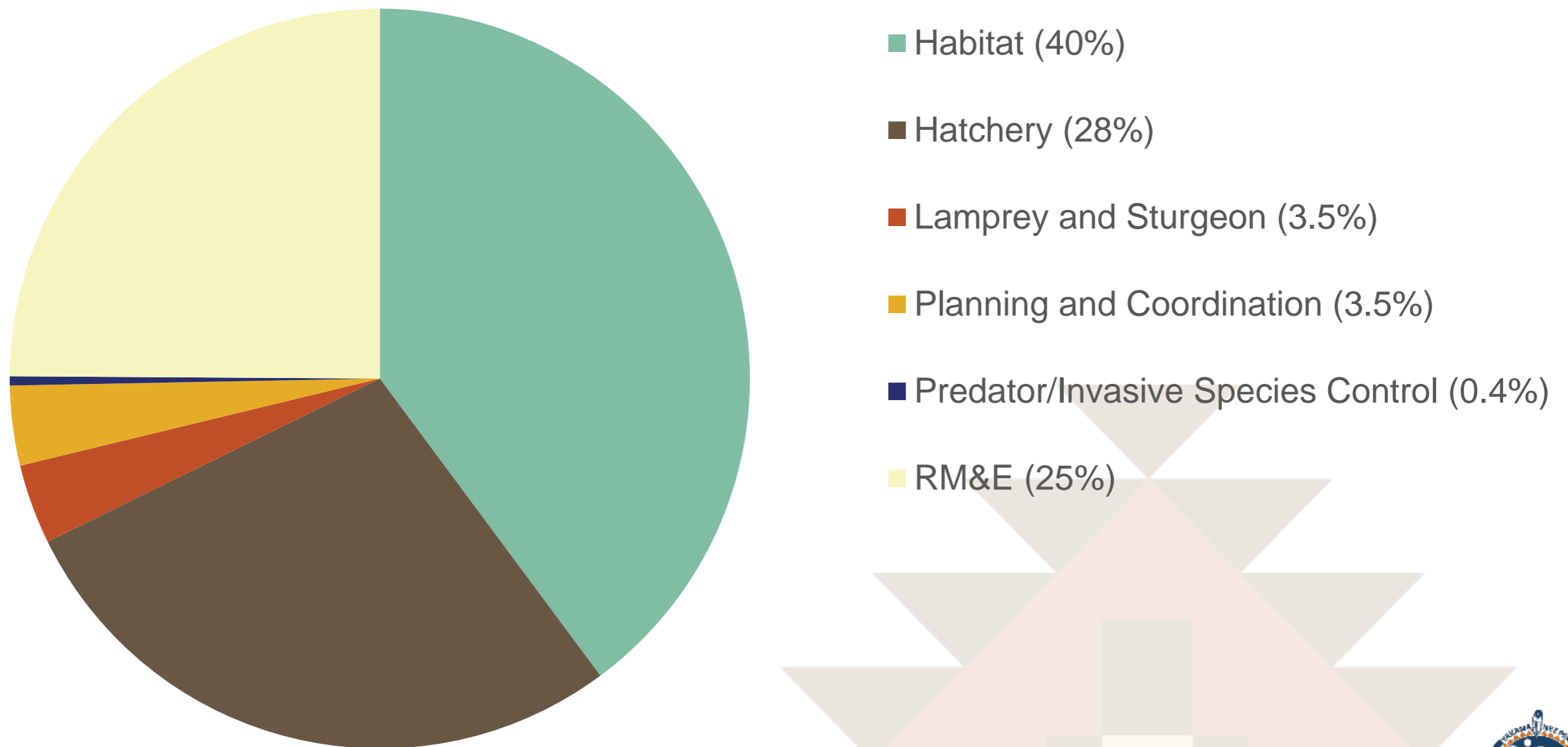
Lower River Tribes Fish Accords

- Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama and CRITFC with the BPA, USCOE, and USBOR
- 10-year funding commitment provided stability and certainty



Adaptive Management

18% of BPA Fish and Wildlife Budget from 2008-2017



Status and Trends

- **SR Spr/Sum Chinook** - 28,000/year is similar to the previous 10-year average
- **UC Spr Chinook** - 4,000/year is almost double the previous 10-year average
- **SR Fall Chinook** - 18,000/year is more than double the previous 10-year average
- **Lamprey** are still in peril but mainstem survival is improving

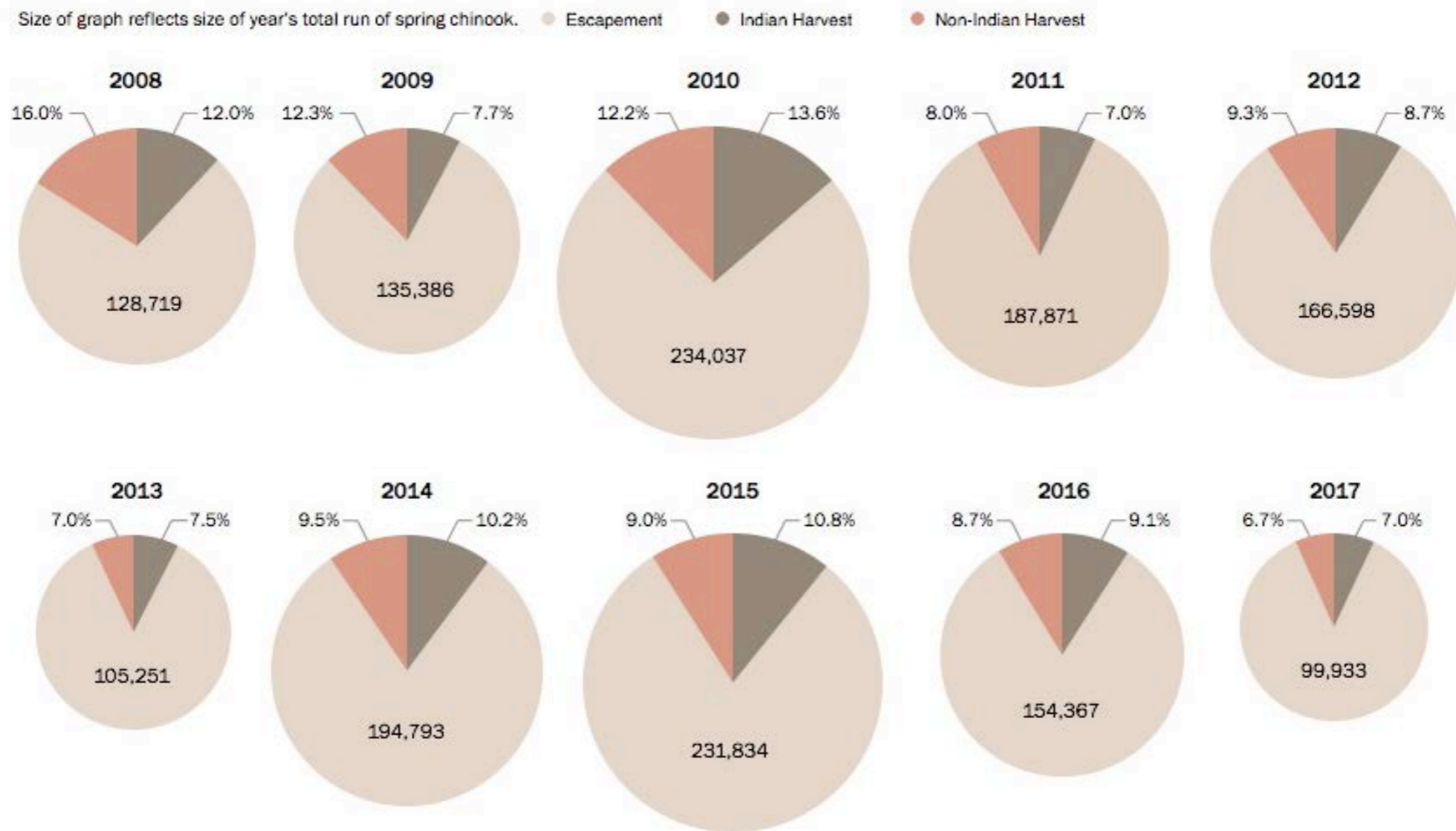


The 2015 NOAA Status Assessment for Columbia Basin stocks indicated that most populations are doing well; however, none are ready to be removed from the endangered species list.



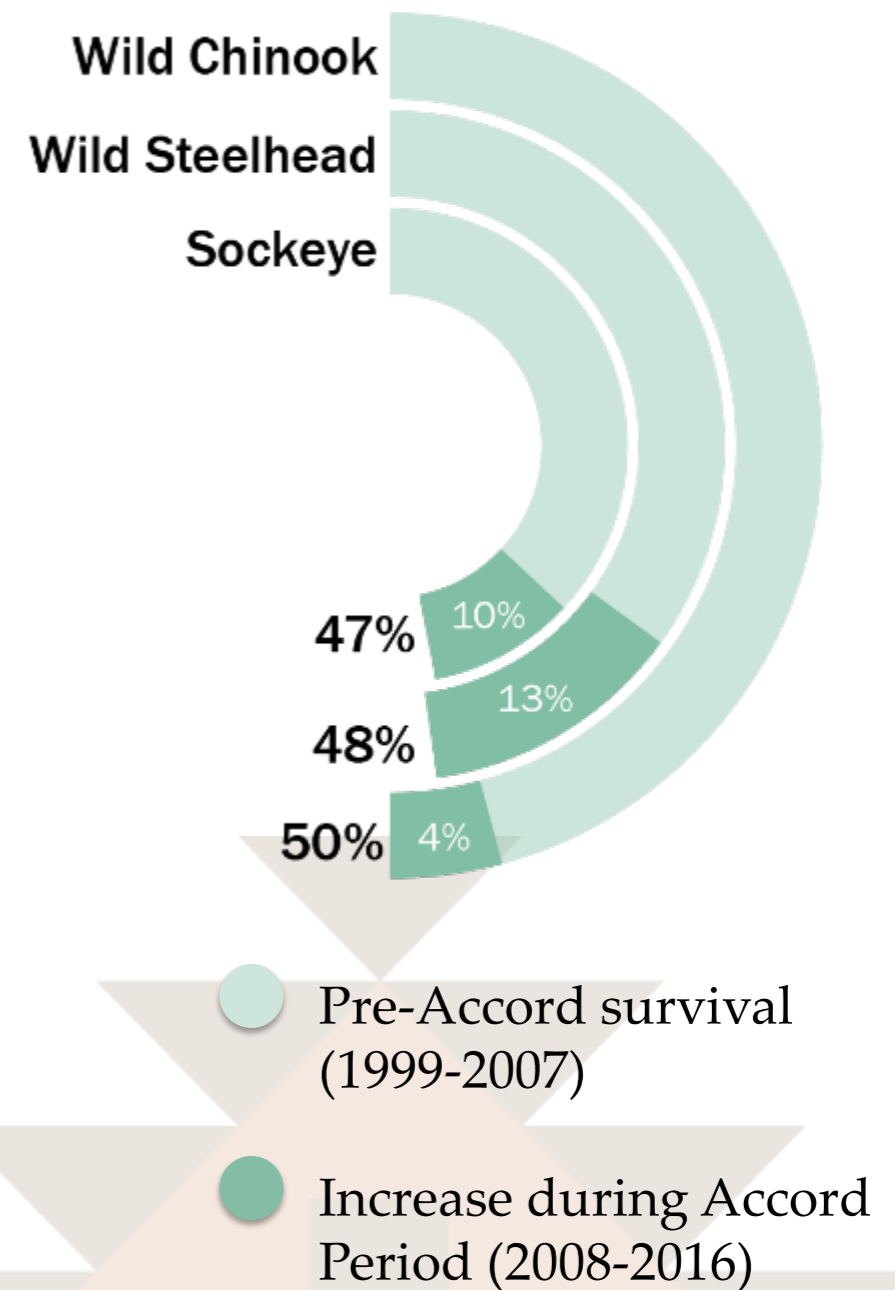
Harvest

Columbia River Upriver Spring Chinook Run Sizes and Mainstem Harvest Percentage



Hydropower Operations

Accords secured spill and hydro operations that benefit fish through safer passage routes, decreased travel time, and cooling water temperatures



\$2.7 billion 2008-2017 BPA Foregone Revenues and Power Purchases*



Columbia River Fish Mitigation Program

\$1.7 billion 2008-2016 USACE Columbia River Fish Mitigation (CRFM) Program



Surface Passage Improvement



Fish Screen and Turbine Bypass Improvement



Turbine Survival Upgrade



Juvenile Fish Transportation



Predator Control Structure



Adult Passage Improvement



Lamprey Passage Improvement



The Dalles Dam spillway wall



Propagation

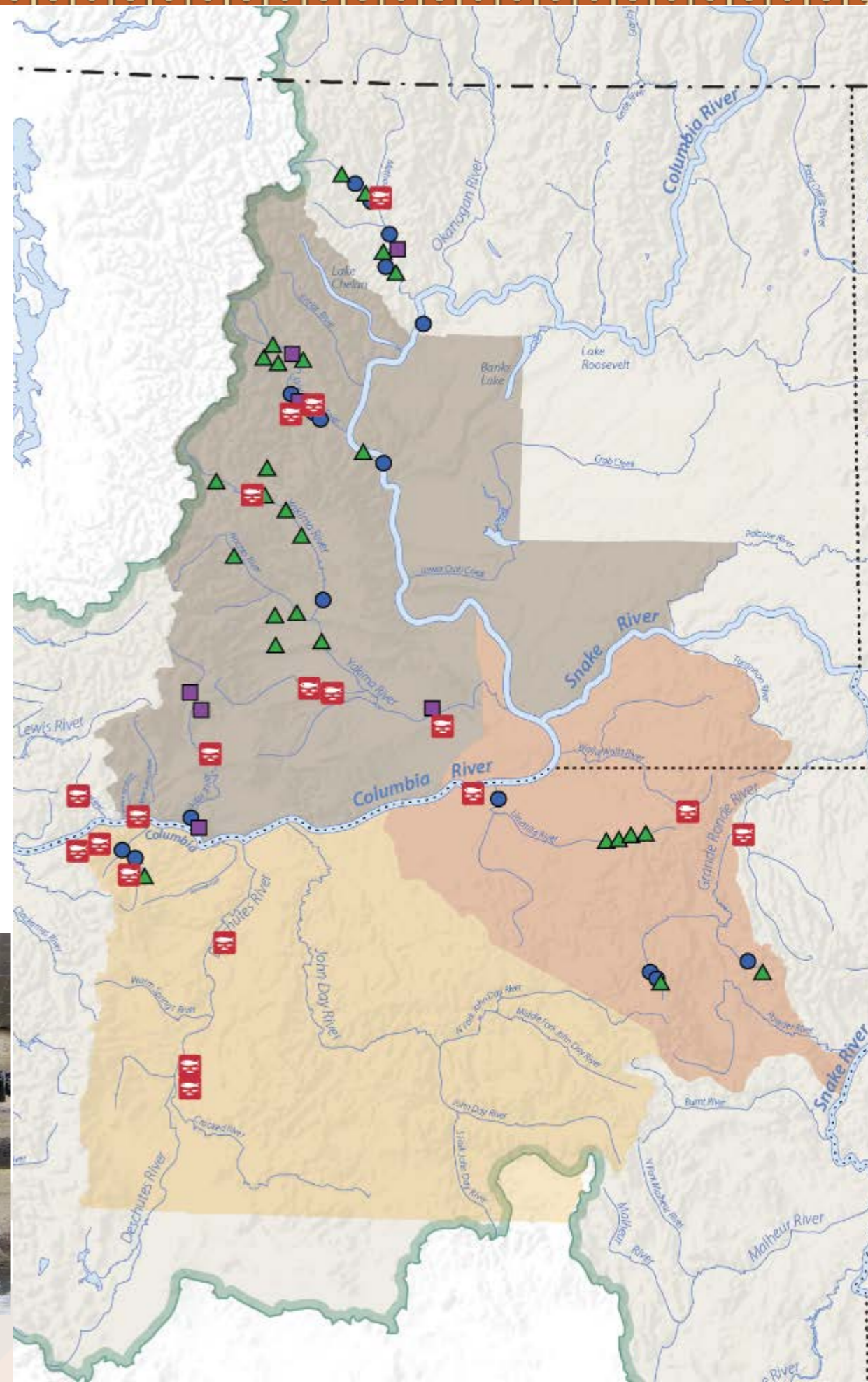
28% of Accord funding

BPA funds approximately 15% of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead hatchery production.
(13M out of 88M released annually)

Other funding sources include: Mitchell Act, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, other Northwest Power Act, USFWS National Fish Hatcheries, public and private utility mitigation programs.



Accords-funded propagation worksites

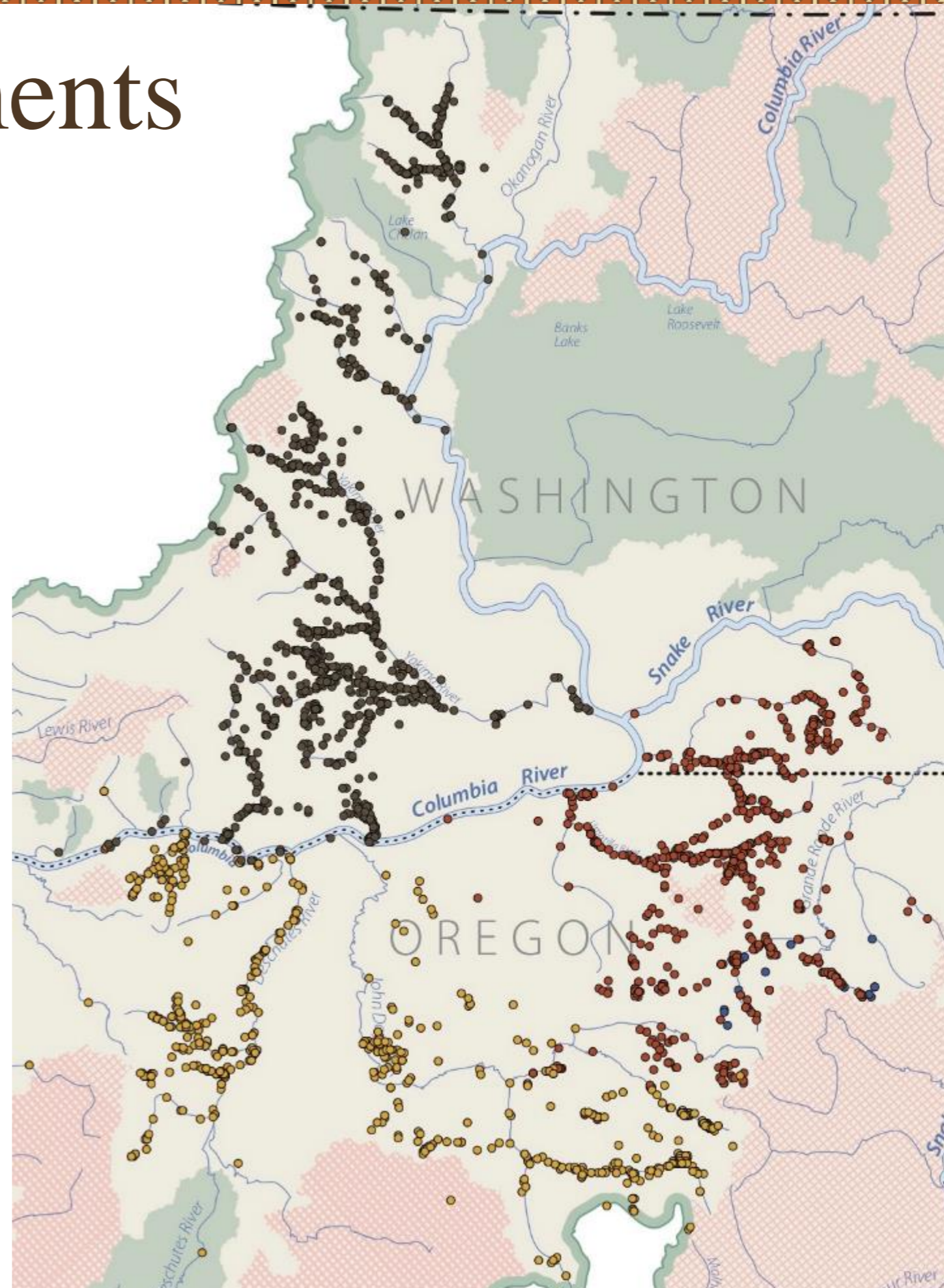


Habitat Improvements

40% of Accord funding

14,586 in-stream actions and **404** out-of-stream actions including:

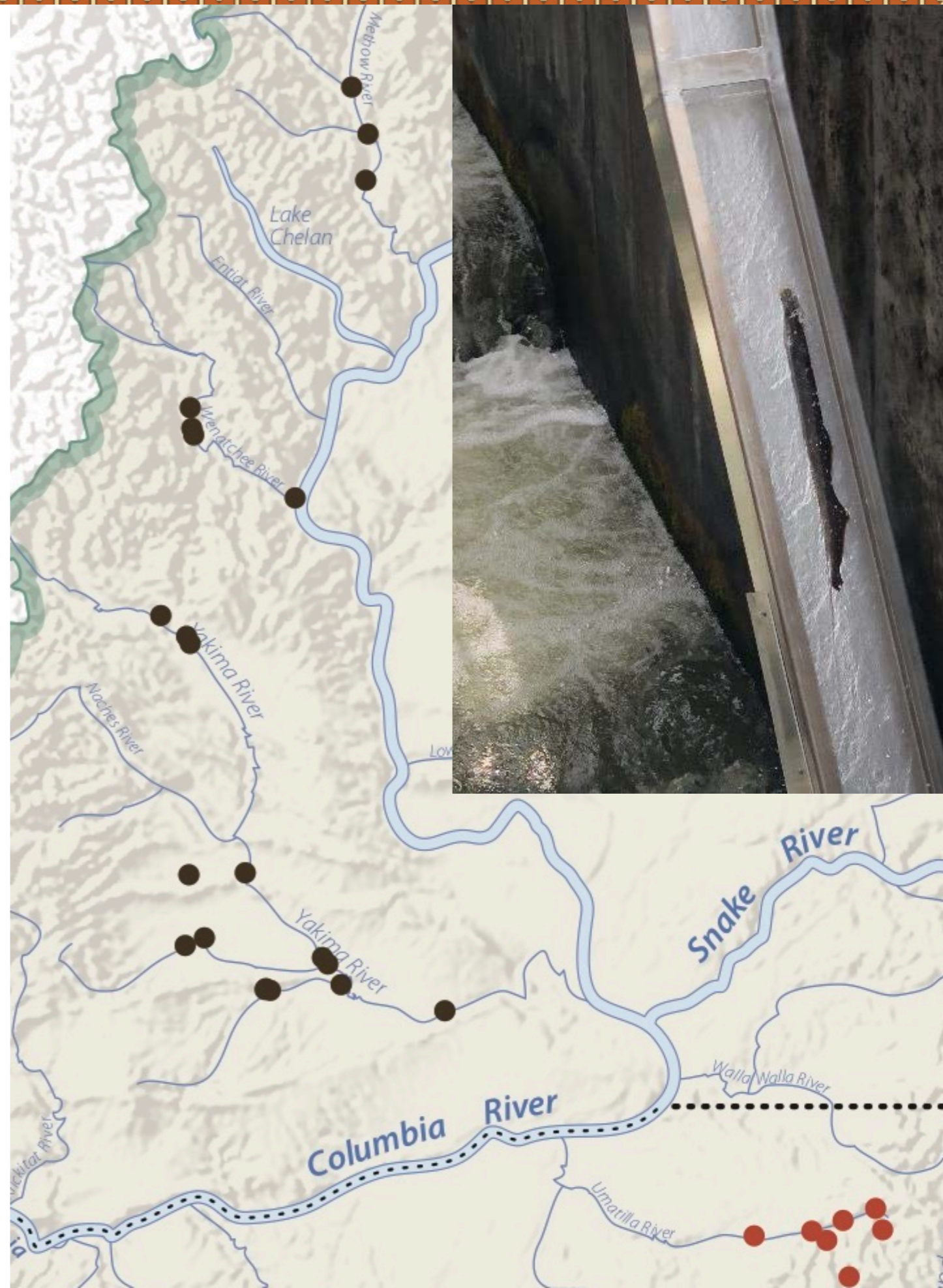
- **968,621 acres** of habitat protected, treated, or maintained (an area the size of Rhode Island)
- **7,236 miles** stream protected or improved
- **397 barriers** improved or removed
- **37.3 billion gallons** water protected and conserved each year



Lamprey

3.5% of Accord funding · \$47.8M CRFM
(incl. sturgeon work)

- BPA – Developed best management practices and protocols for artificial production of lamprey, better understanding of their life history, etc...
- CRFM – lamprey passage improvements



Lamprey translocation sites

Sturgeon

3.5% of Accord funding
(combined with lamprey work)



- Completed a collaborative and comprehensive strategic plan
- Completed a sturgeon hatchery review
- Facilitated, monitored, and evaluated implementation of appropriate hatchery actions
- Collaborated with other sturgeon conservation, management, and restoration projects



Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation

25% of Accord funding

- Supplementation
- Harvest
- Habitat
- Information Management
- Genetics
- Hydrosystem Operations
- Habitat Effectiveness
- Production Monitoring
- Climate Change
- Predation



Predators and Invasive Species

0.4% of Accord funding



Piscivorous Fish

- N. Pikeminnow
- Bass
- Walleye
- Channel Catfish
- N. Pike



Avian Predation



Sea Lions



Aquatic Invasives

- Quagga mussels
- Zebra mussels
- Aquatic plants



GROWING CONCERN

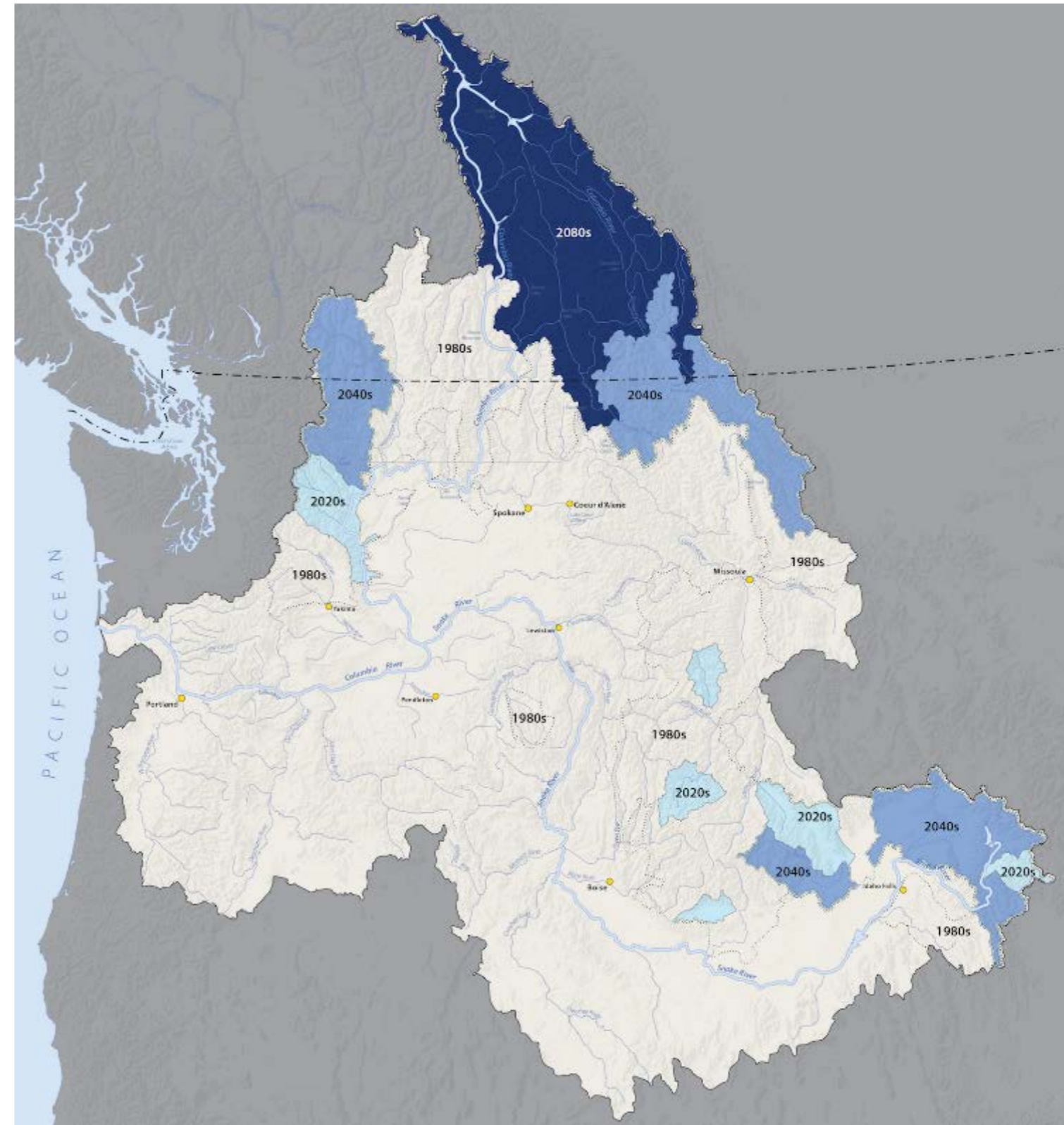
Climate Change

Projected climate change impacts:

- Higher summer water temperatures
- Lower summer flows
- Higher peak winter flows
- Earlier spring runoff
- Changing ocean conditions (warmer and increased acidification)
- Sea level rise
- CRITFC assists member tribes in development of adaptive management strategies and tools to help protect their First Foods in a changing climate
- Research efforts focused on modeling future changes to water temperature in certain Columbia River subbasins and assessing impacts on fish species and communities

Snow-dominant Basins

Map shows predicted hydrology at the basin level, so only displays relatively large areas that are snow-dominant. Other basins have snow-dominant portions, but averaging contributing watersheds makes them transitional or rain-dominant



Partnerships and Coordination

3.5% of Accord funding

Tribal staff participate in over a **hundred** different workgroups, workshops, education and outreach opportunities.

FCRPS Operations

- RIOG
- TMT
- SCT
- FPOM
- FPAC

NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program

- NPCC
- NPCC F&W Committee
- NPCC Workshops and Workgroups

US v Oregon Fisheries Management Agreement

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Production Advisory Committee

Other coordination

- BPA processes
- Recovery boards
- Watershed Councils
- Columbia River Treaty
- Great Northern Landscape Cooperative
- NOAA Columbia Basin Task Force
- USFWS Lamprey Conserv. Initiative
- Columbia Basin White Sturgeon Planning Framework



Future of Our Salmon Conference

- 2011: A Vision of **Restoration** in the Columbia River Basin
- 2012: A Focus on **Hatchery Policy**
- 2014: Restoring Fish to all **Historic Locations** in the Columbia River Basin
- 2016: **Healthy Floodplains, Living Rivers**

(The 2014 and 2016 conferences were co-hosted by 15 US tribes and 17 Canadian First Nations)



Looking Forward

Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit: The Spirit of the Salmon

- Put the fish back into the rivers
- Expand on partnerships created through the Accords
- Secure the resources necessary to carry out the restoration work
- Find new or expanded solutions to the Institutional, Technical and Community Development recommendations

