Background on Columbia River Basin Systems and Dams

Snake River Basin

Future of our Salmon Conference
Technical Workshop
March 18 – 20, 2014

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Snake River Basin
Dam construction eliminating fish passage
Snake River Basin

• 1901 – Swan Falls eliminates runs on Snake River upstream
• 1910 – 1940 - Dams eliminating runs on tributary rivers
  – Owyhee (Owyhee River);
  – Arrowrock (Boise River);
  – Black Canyon (Payette River);
  – Wallowa (Wallowa River);
  – Harpster (South Fork Clearwater River); and
  – Lewiston (Clearwater River)
• 1950 – 1960’s - Hells Canyon Complex eliminates runs upstream of Hells Canyon
• 1970’s – Dworshak Dam eliminates runs on North Fork Clearwater River
Dam construction significantly altering fish passage
Snake River Basin

• 1930’s – 1960’s – Mainstem Columbia Dams – Bonneville, Dalles, John Day and McNary

• 1950’s – 1970’s – Lower Snake River Dams – Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite
Dam removal restoring fish passage
Snake River Basin

• 1960’s – 1970’s
  – Harpster Dam (South Fork Clearwater River)
  – Lewiston Dam (Clearwater River)
Let's walk through those rivers and dams
What are we left with?
And the Fish Populations in Those Areas?

- 32 spring/summer Chinook populations (Clearwater extirpated/reintroduced)
- 1 fall Chinook population
- 24 steelhead populations
- 1 sockeye population
- Coho – extirpated/reintroduced
- Lamprey – life support

All Snake River Salmon and Steelhead populations ESA Listed … or extirpated
How Has That Affected the Tribe?

“...the economic cycle can generally be summarized as ten months of salmon fishing and two months of berry picking, with hunting most of the year...”

Indian Claims Commission
As Go the Salmon Runs, So Go the Salmon People

- Higher rates of unemployment and poverty
- Higher rates of diabetes, inflammatory and cardiovascular disease
- High rate of alcoholism and suicides
Fish and Fishing are a Necessary Part of Restoring Balance
Where do the runs need to be restored?

Everywhere
Where does passage need to be restored?

Look to the red