



Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review

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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission



First Foods





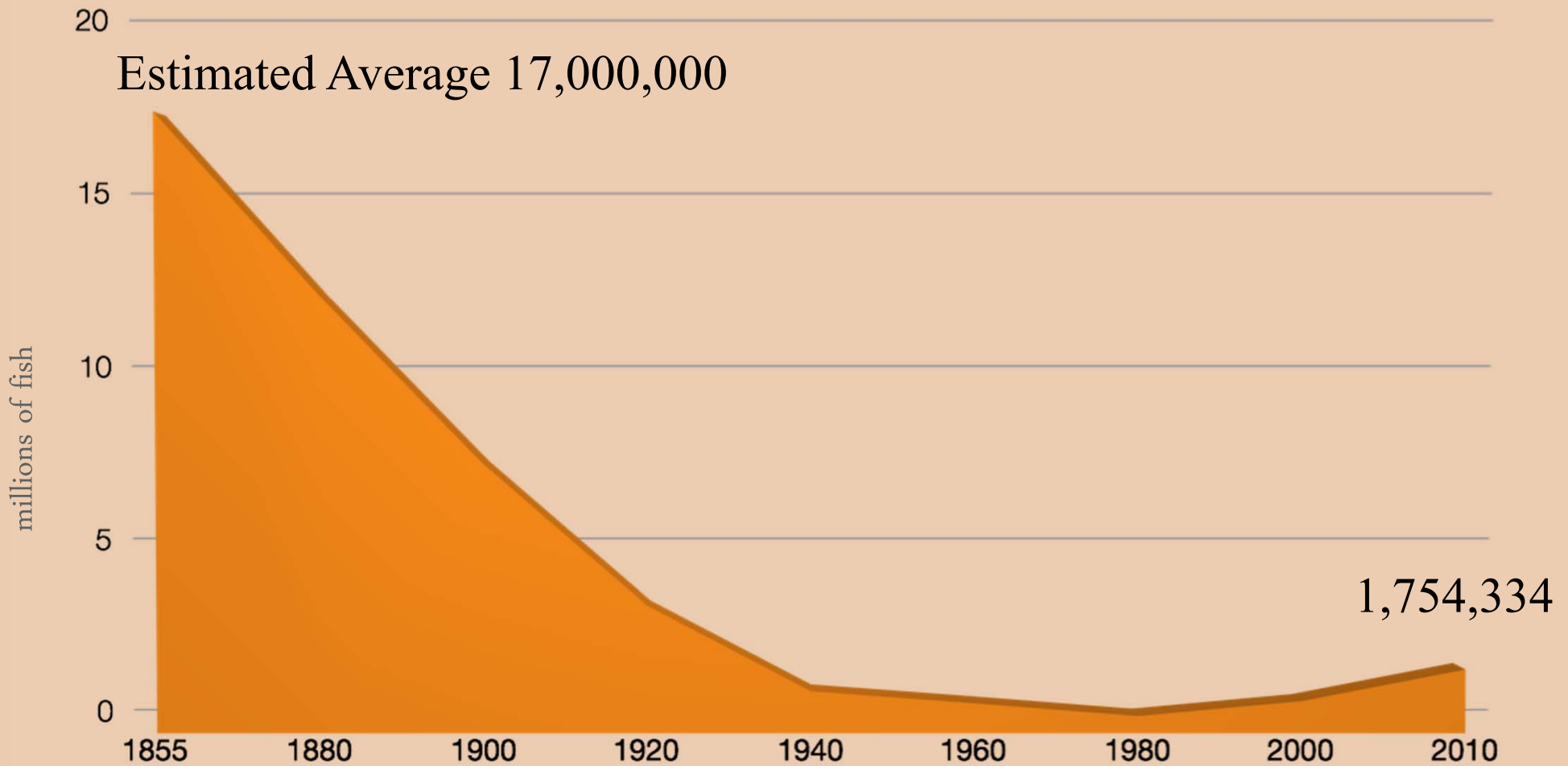
*Arrival of The Noyah Indians to The Wallawalla Treaty
May 26 1855*

“...the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places, in common with the citizens of the Territory, and of erecting temporary buildings for curing them: together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries....”

—1855 Treaty with the Yakima

Salmon decline

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





Columbia Basin Tribes

15 tribes with
management
authorities and
responsibilities
affected by the
Columbia River
Treaty





Celilo Falls tribal fishery

On the Columbia River near The Dalles, Oregon
(inundated by The Dalles Dam in 1957)

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Kettle Falls tribal fishery

On the Columbia River in Washington State
(inundated by Grand Coulee Dam in 1940)

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Impacts from dramatic reservoir level changes

Spokane River in Washington State, impacts from Grand Coulee Reservoir Drawdown (*cultural resources, contamination in dust*)



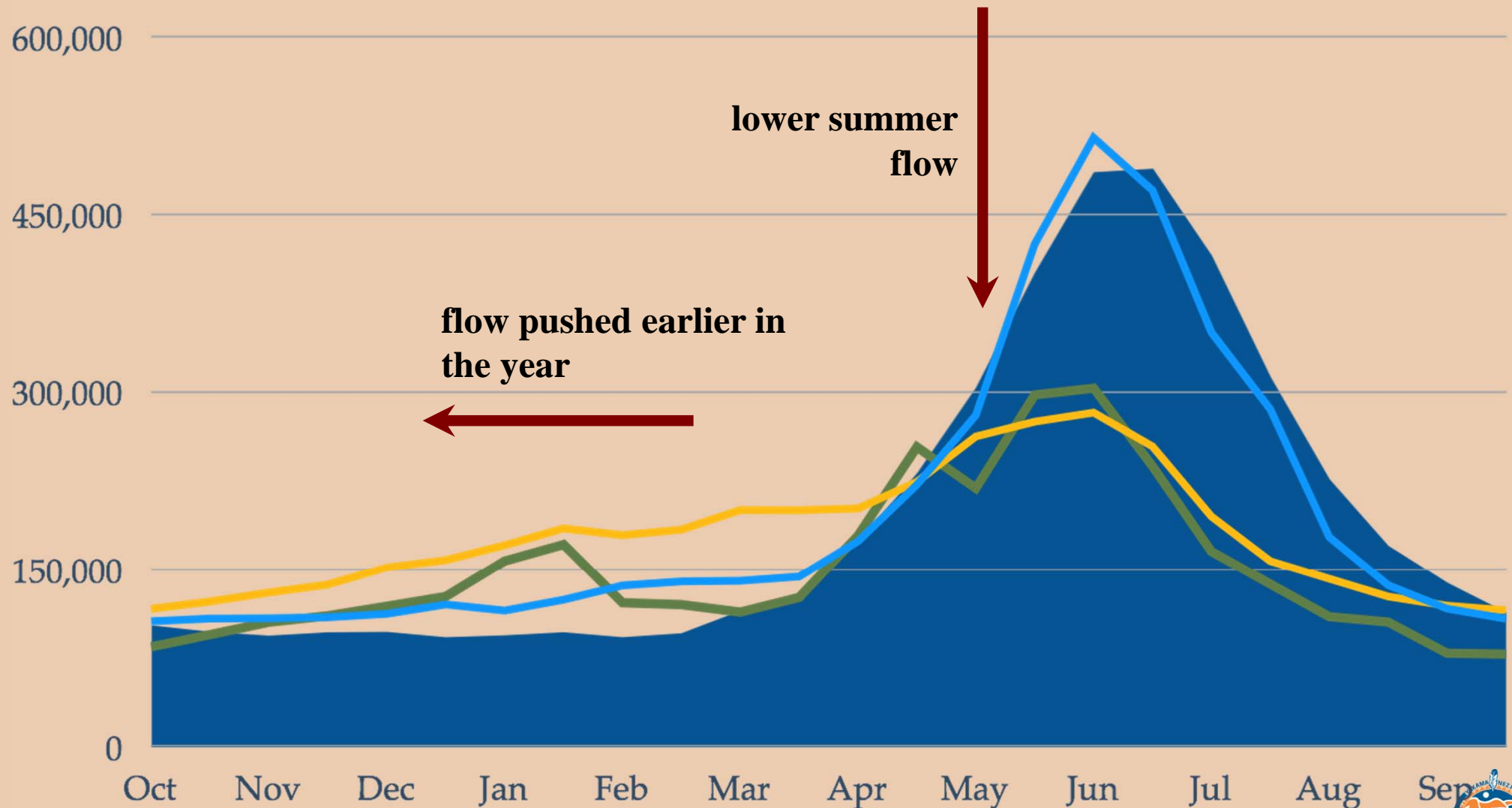


Fish and Wildlife Impacts

On the Upper Snake River in Idaho (*salmon blockage in 1901*)
Loss of salmon impacted wildlife and other ecosystem functions

River level at The Dalles

- Pre-Treaty Observed (1948-1968)
- Post-Treaty Observed (1974-1992)
- Federal Biological Opinion (WY 2009)
- Historical Observed (1900-1920)



Tribal Issues with Treaty

No **tribal consultation** during negotiation nor **tribal representation** during implementation

Adopted hydropower and flood control as management goals, **disregarding fisheries** and other ecosystem elements

Flood control plan moved a permanent flood upriver and **eliminated annual flooding** and freshets

Grand Coulee and Treaty projects built without **passage** and eliminated salmon **spawning habitat**

Benefits of Treaty system **not shared** with tribes

Col. Basin Tribes' Goals

Governance – a seat at the table during Treaty Review, negotiations for a new Treaty followed by implementation

Incorporate **ecosystem-based function** into Treaty Review and new Treaty

Restore spring freshet while balancing tribal needs in upper reservoirs

Restore salmon runs and protect **salmon passage** at all historic locations

Share in benefits of coordinated systems



Ecosystem-based management approach

- ❖ Restore and preserve tribal natural and cultural resources
- ❖ Restore spring freshets:
 - ❖ Helps to restore estuary
 - ❖ Helps move fish
- ❖ Minimize draw downs at upper reservoirs

A robust ecosystem-based assessment needs to be incorporated into the Treaty Review, equal to hydropower and flood control assessment



U.S. Commitments

- ❖ Payment for flood control benefits ~ \$65 million total through 2024 (over 50 years, a good deal for US)
- ❖ Canada is entitled to one-half of the downstream power benefit produced by U.S. projects due to new Canadian storage ~ \$300 million annually
- ❖ After 2024, U.S. reservoirs are subject to “effective use” - they must be fully used for flood control before we can ask Canada for assistance (bad)





Sovereign Participation Process

(U.S. Entity/Federal Government, Tribes, States)

- ❖ **Government-to-government level:** decision makers
- ❖ **Sovereign Review Team:** guides technical analysis, resolves process issues
- ❖ **Sovereign Technical Team:** modeling and technical analysis



Sovereign Participation Process

Progress to Date

- ❖ Iteration #1: Completed June 2012, base line information
- ❖ Iteration #2: Currently finalizing analysis, broad range of scenarios modeled
- ❖ Iteration #3: Regional consensus sought on narrower range of options, outcome to be presented to the US State Department



Tribal Concerns:

- ❖ Schedule leading to September 2014 should not result in lack of a completed ecosystem analysis
- ❖ Climate change analysis is needed for improved weather and runoff forecasting on both sides of the border
- ❖ Tribes lack resources to fully participate and contribute our expertise
- ❖ Coordination with Canada and First Nations could be increased



Tribal Concerns:

Flood risk management

- ❖ USACE is reluctant to change or increase flows that may result in flood risks. USACE will not agree to anything outside of status quo.
- ❖ What is Flood Risk Management?

Risk = Cost × Probability

Risk ≠ Probability

- ❖ Why is this important?

Salmon survival improves with better spring freshet. Due to flood controls, this creates havoc in upriver reservoirs, perhaps for little flood risk benefit. Relaxed flood control can increase salmon survival, reduce havoc in upriver reservoirs, and improve estuary health.



Steps Forward:

- ❖ Sovereign Participation Process, or some variant, will likely continue beyond 2014
- ❖ Treaty options are to continue, terminate or modify (enhance/modernize)
- ❖ Senate ratification needed for new treaty and potentially for major changes

Regional Consensus is Key to Success

