Phase 1: Upper Columbia Fish Passage & Reintroduction

The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), with support from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and others, have completed an extensive investigation into the reintroduction of anadromous fish to accessible habitats upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.

In 2019 UCUT compiled these investigations into a comprehensive Phase 1 report, synthesizing results from the various studies into one document. Individual components of the report include a risk and donor stock assessment, evaluations of riverine and reservoir habitats, options for potential fish passage facilities at both dams, as well as life cycle modeling of various management scenarios and survival assumptions. Upper Columbia populations of Summer Chinook and Sockeye were selected as the top candidates for donor stocks, given their availability and disease histories. Selection of these donor stocks is further supported by the quantity and condition of habitats in the region.

Multiple reviews of fish passage indicate that technologies for juvenile and adult passage at both of the projects exist, however more intensive research coordinated with engineers and dam operators is necessary to determine the most effective type of passage facilities and their configuration. Lastly, life cycle modeling has indicated that, under a suite of management actions, the establishment of viable populations is possible and could provide substantial benefits to the Columbia River Basin.

Please RSVP by following this link or direct questions or comments to Tobias Kock at fisheriesengineeringscience@gmail.com