

Columbia River Fishery Management

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Outline

- Managed Resources
 - ESA and non-ESA species
- Role of harvest
- Management Framework
 - *US vs OR*
 - Tribal
 - Compact
 - North of Falcon/PFMC
 - Allocations
- Policy Issues
 - Policies guiding harvest
 - Colville agreement
 - Commercial Gears



Managed Resources

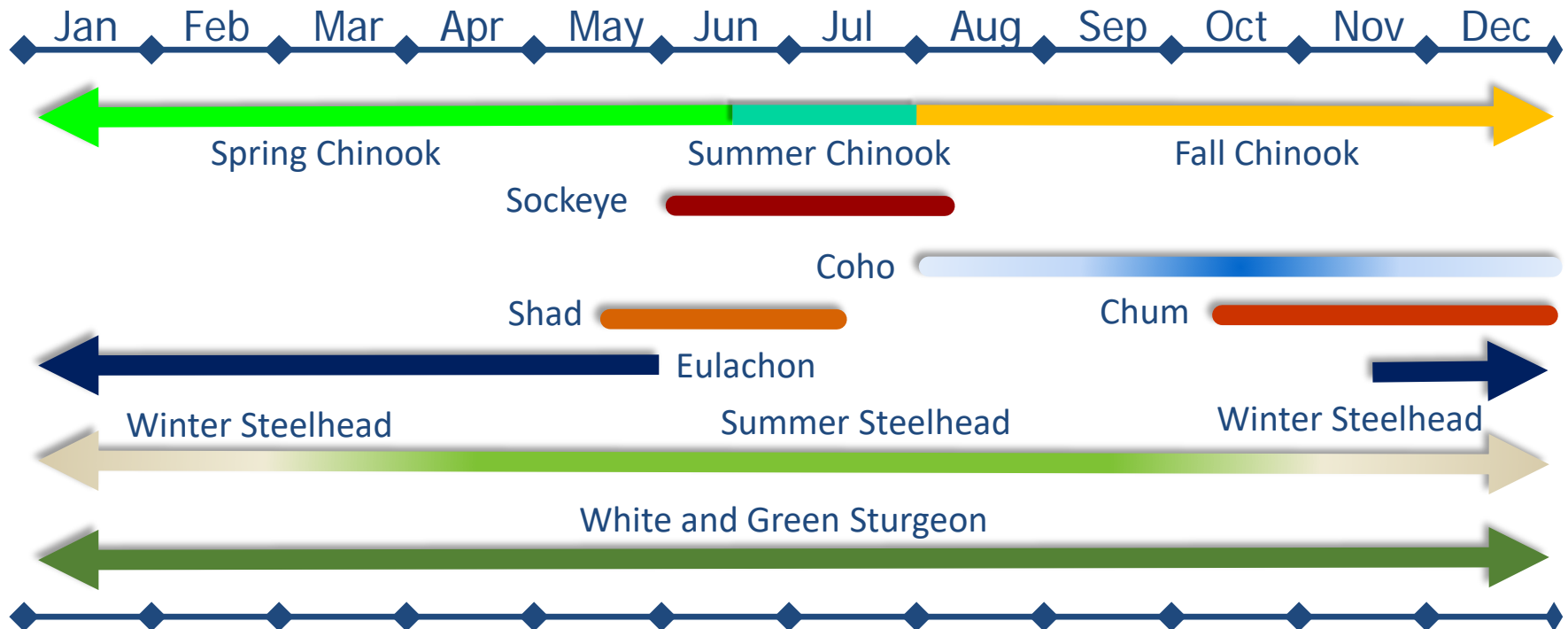
Endangered Species

- First Columbia River listing in 1992
- ESA-listed fish in every major tributary
 - Spring Chinook
 - Fall Chinook
 - Steelhead
 - Sockeye
 - Coho
 - Chum
 - Green Sturgeon
 - Bull Trout
 - Eulachon



Managed Resources

Annual presence



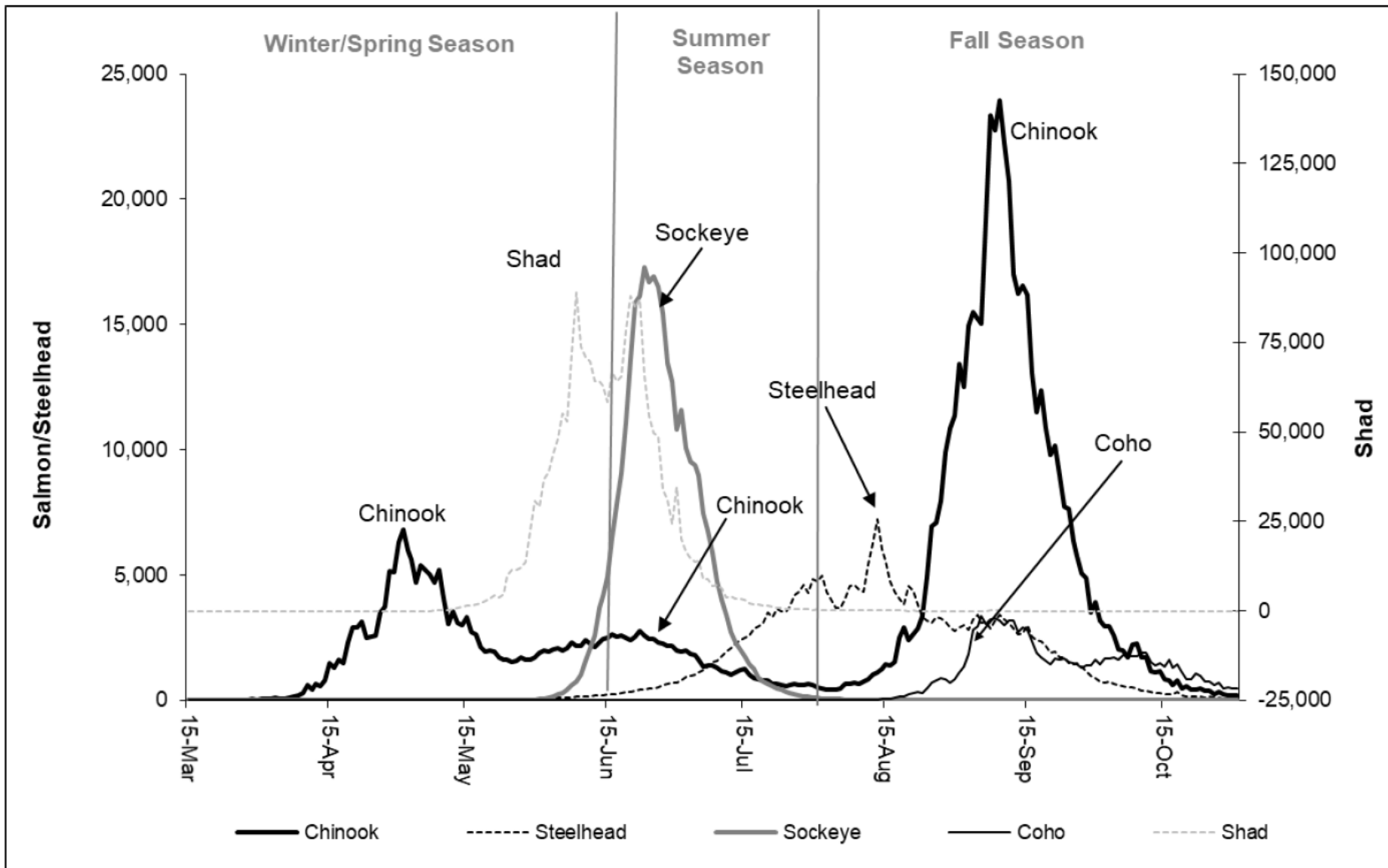
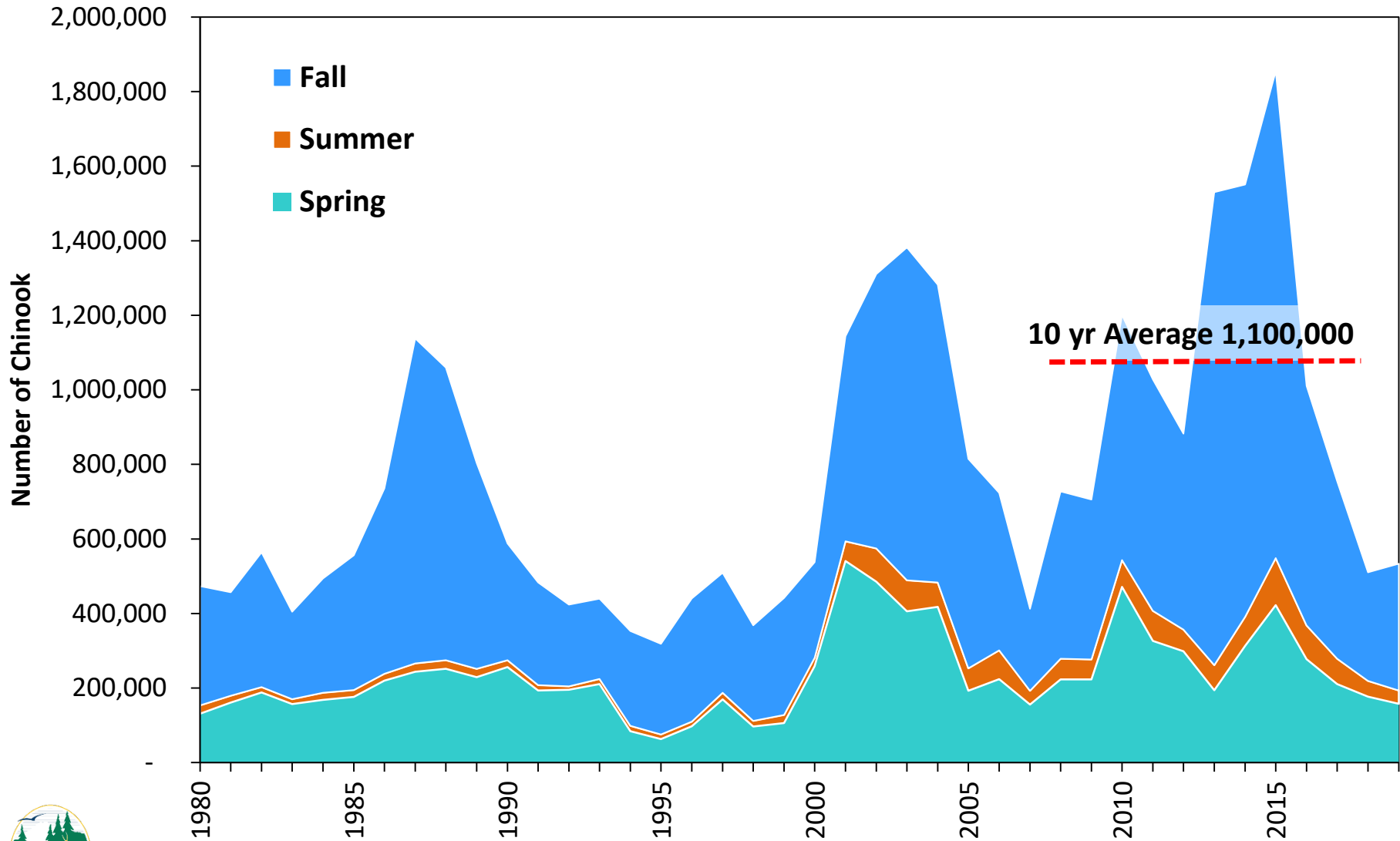


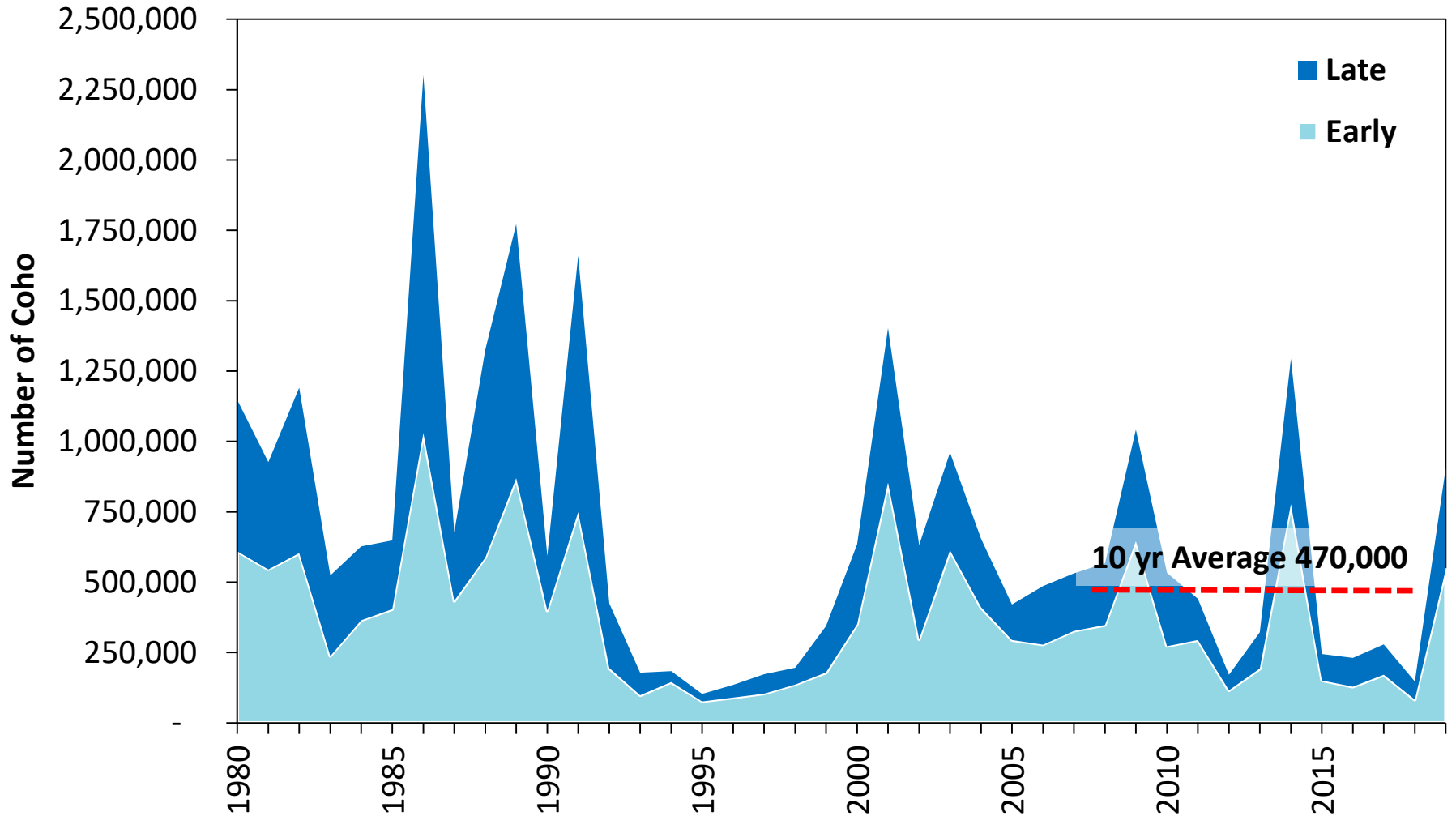
Figure 1. Average daily counts of salmon, steelhead, and American Shad at Bonneville Dam, 2008–2018.



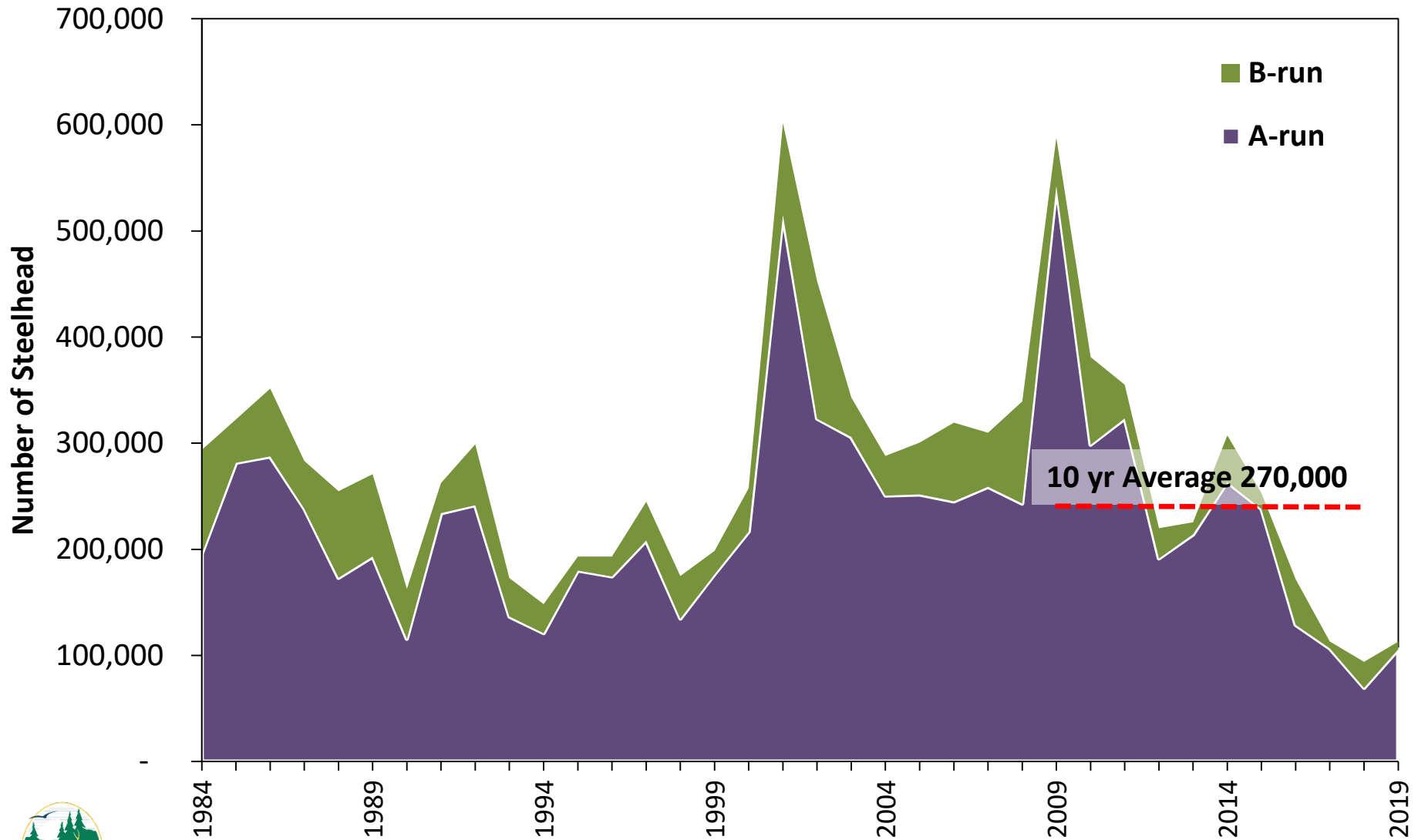
Managed Resources - Chinook



Managed Resources – Coho (ocean abundance)



Managed Resources – (summer) Steelhead



Managed Resources - Constraints

Fisheries and typical constraining stocks

- Eulachon – Run size and permitting (ESA)
- Sturgeon
 - Green Sturgeon (ESA)
 - White Sturgeon quotas and population parameters
- Shad – Sockeye (ESA) bycatch in commercial fishery
- Spring Chinook season – Upriver Spring Chinook (ESA)
- Summer (steelhead and salmon) season
 - A-index steelhead (ESA)
 - Snake River sockeye (ESA)
 - Summer Chinook escapement goal and sharing allocations
- Fall (steelhead and salmon) season
 - A and B-index steelhead (ESA)
 - Tule Chinook (in-river and ocean sharing; ESA)
 - Snake River Wild (in-river rate; ESA surrogate of Upriver Brights)



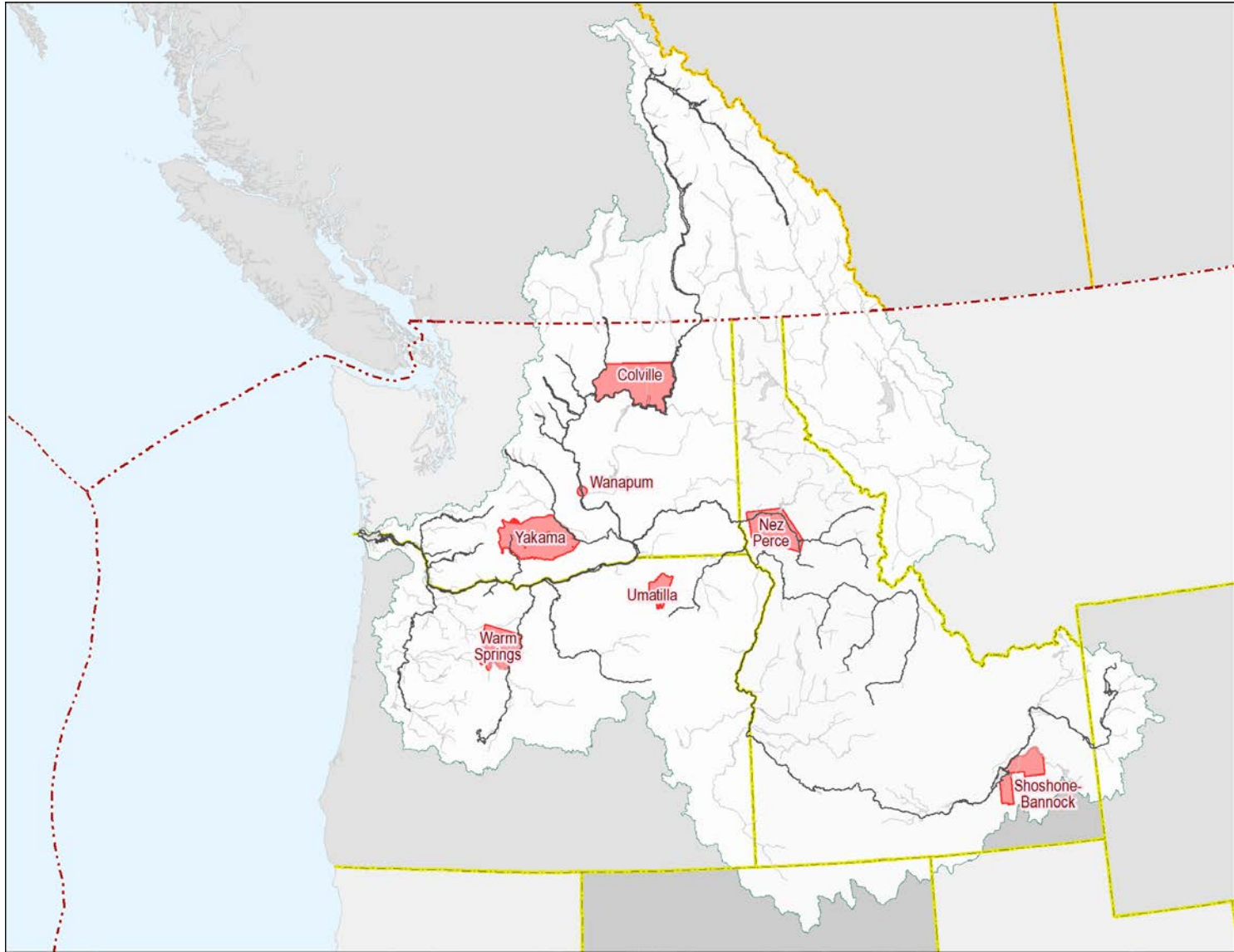
Role of Harvest in Salmon Recovery

The "All H" approach to recovery

- Sum of 4 "H"s + predation = Recovery
- Harvest is a tool for recovery also
 - Selective harvest manages hatchery fish
 - Maintains stakeholder support
 - Provides economic benefits



Manage Framework – Tribal (reservations)



Manage Framework – Tribal

- Treaty tribes
 - Shares based on treaty language, court decisions and meeting needs
- Non-treaty tribes
 - Allocation share is provided to tribal fisheries
 - Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
 - Federally recognized tribe not part of *US vs OR*
 - Colville-WDFW agreement (later slide)
 - » Primarily summer Chinook and sockeye; other salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon
 - » Provide resources to co-manage populations
 - Regions 1 and 2
 - Wanapum
 - RCW 77.12.453 – ‘....director may issue permits...Wanapum band of Indians to take salmon...for ceremonial and subsistence purposes...’
 - Wanapum Fishing Framework
 - » Primarily spring Chinook; summer/fall Chinook, coho, sockeye and sturgeon
 - Region 3

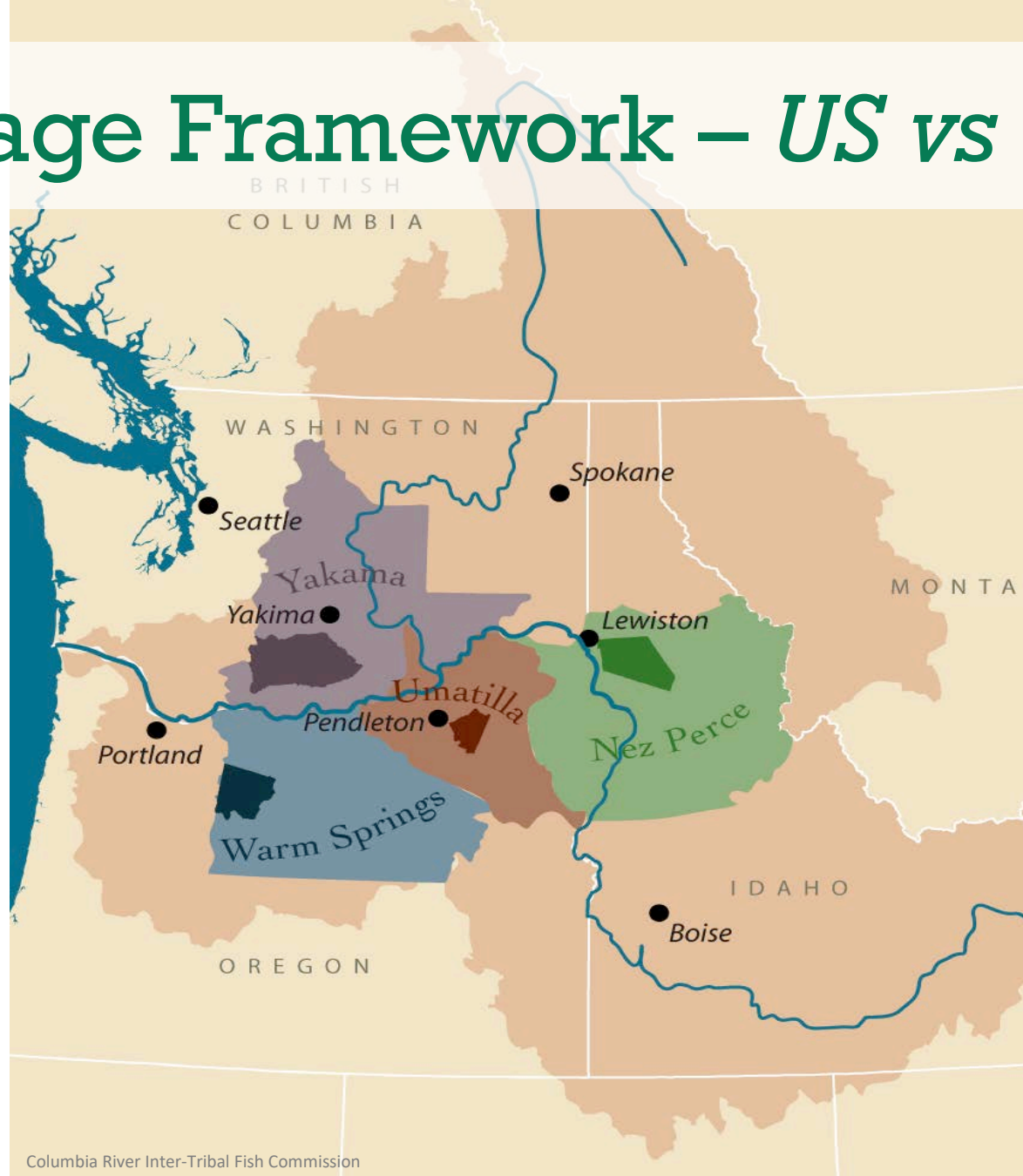


Manage Framework – *US vs OR*

- Parties include OR, WA, ID, Treaty tribes
 - Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama, (Shoshone-Bannock)
 - WDFW represents WA recreational, commercial and non-treaty tribal interests (Colville and Wanapum)
- 2018-2027 Management Agreement
 - Advisory committees (i.e., Technical, Production, Regulatory)
 - » TAC - Forecast, runsize updates, run reconstruction, mortality rates, ESA accounting, Joint State Staff Reports
 - » PAC – hatchery production
 - » RCC – regulation coordination



Manage Framework – *US vs OR*



Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission



Manage Framework – *US vs OR*

– Background

- 1855 Treaties

- "That the exclusive right of taking fish in the streams running through and bordering said reservation is hereby secured to said Indians; and at all other usual and accustomed stations, in common with the citizens of the United States"

- In 1918, Congress allows the states of Oregon and Washington to enter into an interstate compact for the purpose of jointly regulating commercial fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River.

- 1950's-60's, states attempt to enforce regulations on tribal fishers



Manage Framework – *US vs OR*

– Background

- 1968 – Sohappy vs. Smith (Yakama seeking treaty rights)
 - U.S. files U.S. vs. OR
- 1969 – Judge Belloni ruling
 - tribes have a right to a fair share of the available harvest and the state is limited in its power to regulate the exercise of the Indians' federal treaty rights
 - state may regulate treaty fisheries only when reasonable and necessary for conservation, the state's conservation regulations must not discriminate against the Indians and must be the least restrictive means



Manage Framework – *US vs OR*

– Background

- 1969 – Judge Belloni ruling
 - unfair to manage the Columbia Basin salmon such that few fish survive to reach the tribes' usual and accustomed fishing places
 - tribes have an absolute right to that fishery and thus are entitled to a fair share of the fish produced by the Columbia River system
 - in regulating tribal fisheries for conservation purposes, the protection of treaty fishing rights must be an objective co-equal with regulation for other users
 - modifies to Judge Boldt's 50% rule (upheld in 1976)
- State interventions
 - Washington is granted intervention (1974)
 - Idaho files to intervene fall season but withdraws (1979)
 - Idaho seeks to intervene. The district court denies Idaho intervention but the Ninth Circuit reverses. Idaho is granted intervention. (1985)



Manage Framework – *US vs OR*

– Background

- Other interventions
 - Fishing unions/associations denied
 - Shoshone-Bannock granted limited intervention (1986)
 - Makah Tribe denied (1988)
 - Colville Tribe denied (1992 and 1999)
- Fishery Management Plans
 - 1977 five-year plan approved by Judge Belloni
 - » Establishes harvest sharing and creates TAC
 - 1988 ten-year plan addresses shortcomings
 - Interim agreements



Manage Framework – Compact

- Adopted in 1915 and ratified by congress in 1918
- Fishery decision-making authority – fisheries not habitat
 - Provides concurrent jurisdiction of Columbia commercial fisheries (recreational – Joint State Hearing)
 - » Including tribal fisheries for regulations pertaining to non-treaty fish buyers
 - » Salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, smelt, shad
 - » Establishes non-NOF seasons and provides in-season management actions to modify fisheries
 - i.e., adjust for lower runsize, impacts remain to expand fisheries



Manage Framework – Compact

- Procedure
 - Mutual consent
 - Representative from each state (WDFW/ODFW)
 - » OR – one representative must be within 25 miles of where commercial fishing is permitted
 - » Introductions, reports, testimony
 - Tribal comments
 - Public comment
 - Public notification by WDFW/ODFW websites and email distributions



Manage Framework – NOF

- North of Falcon / Pacific Fishery Management Council
 - Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Fall Chinook, Coho, Steelhead
 - Coordinate with lower river and upper river constituents and staff (and OR staff)
 - Model commercial and recreational fisheries
 - » Provide river inputs (impacts) into PFMC process
 - Summer Chinook = Ocean + in-river
 - Fall Tule Chinook = Ocean + in-river
 - Fall Snake River Wild (Upriver Bright) = in-river
 - Lower Columbia River Natural coho = Ocean + in-river
 - » Ocean abundance minus ocean catches = river mouth runsize to manage from
 - Generate rules (pamphlet) for recreational and set expectations for commercial



Policy Issues

- WA Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (2013-2023) – C-3620
 - Key elements include joint state concurrency, harvest allocations, alternative gear development, conservation and increased recreational priority
 - 5-year performance review (2013-2017)
 - » Several key elements not being met primarily due to expectations not being met
 - » On-going Joint Commission Workgroup process to improve concurrency in 2019 and consider other future modifications
- WA Lower Columbia Sturgeon Policy
 - Population monitoring
 - Harvest opportunities



Policy Issues

- Upper Columbia River Fish Management Plan (under revision)
 - Salmon and steelhead recreational fishery management framework from Snake River on upstream
 - Establishes upper Columbia priority for summer chinook and sockeye
 - » Provides guidance – previous version not formally adopted as policy
 - Includes *US vs OR*, Wanapum, C-3620, conservation objectives, Colville agreement
- Colville-WDFW Harvest Agreement
 - Provide Colville opportunity to harvest fair share of salmon/steelhead
 - Meet conservation objective and provide recreational opportunity
 - Co-manage resources
 - Harvest sharing matrices by stock
 - » Summer Chinook (and Fall Chinook)
 - » Spring Chinook
 - » Sockeye
 - » Summer Steelhead – conservation fisheries scenarios



Policy Issues – Commercial Gear

- Commission policy objective – develop alternative gears to replace gillnet use in the mainstream
- Five year review found inadequate progress.
- Alternative gears – pound net, purse and beach seine. Solve some older problems, create some newer problems.



‘The hardest thing to do in baseball is hit a round ball with a round bat squarely.’ - Ted Williams

Questions?

