

A large concrete dam with multiple spillways is shown in a lush, green environment. Water is cascading over the spillways, creating a misty spray. The dam is surrounded by dense evergreen forests and mountains in the background under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The foreground shows a wooden walkway with a metal railing.

**Will the Snake River Dams
Be Breached?**

Disclaimer:

Nothing I say today should be construed as in any way representative of opinions or policies of the Montana Public Service Commission



WASHINGTON'S LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS



WASHINGTON'S LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS

Will they be breached?



To those who think that would never happen, study the process that led to the Klamath Dam breach completed Jan. 2024

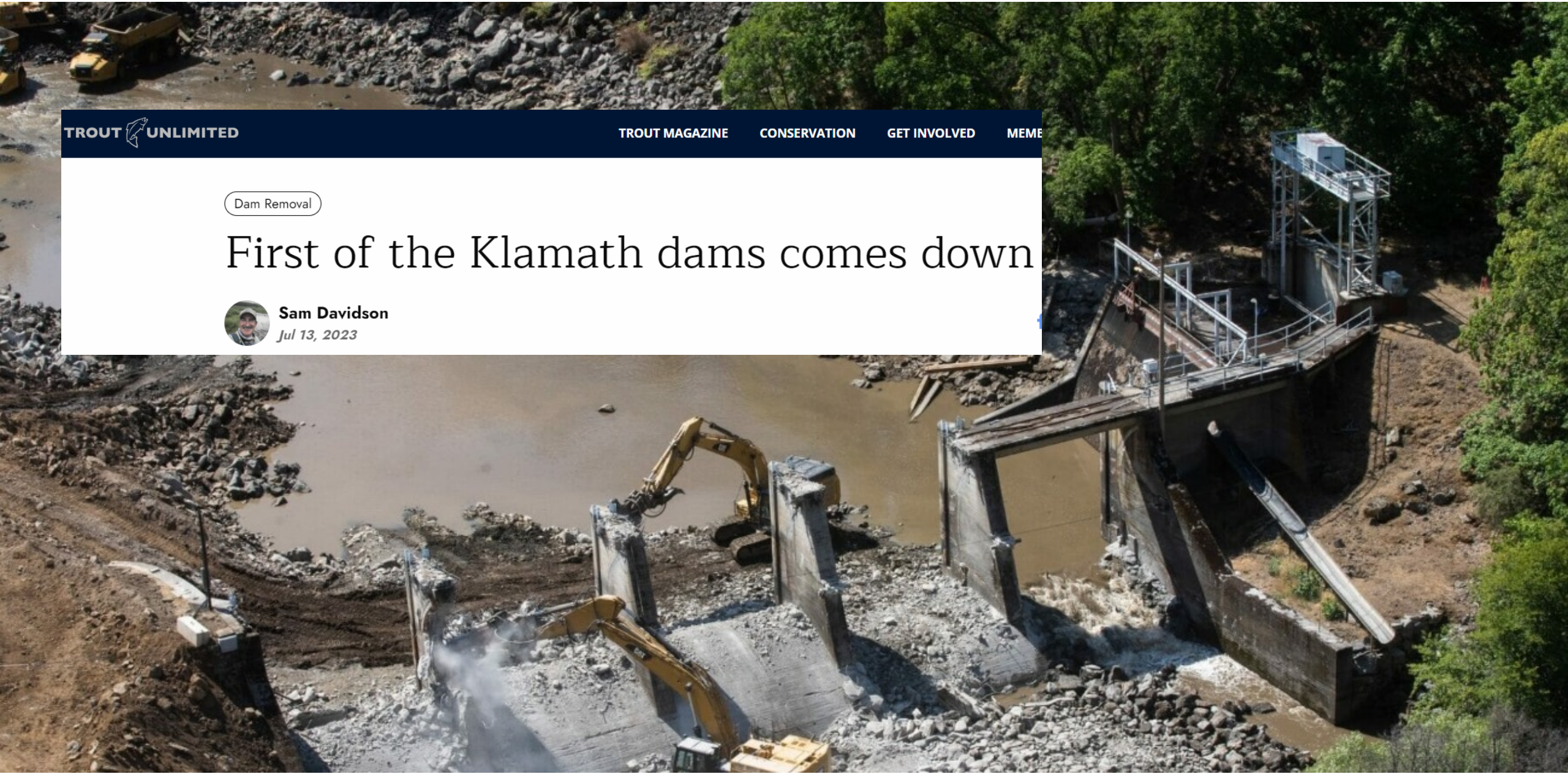
Dam Removal

First of the Klamath dams comes down



Sam Davidson

Jul 13, 2023



The background of the slide is a photograph of a large dam on a river. The water is turbulent and white with foam as it flows over the dam. In the background, there are green hills and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on semi-transparent blue rounded rectangles.

Memorandum of Understanding Related to Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative

**signed 12/14/23 by
Oregon and Washington Governors
five federal agencies
four tribes**


Un-invited: Montana, Idaho, and six other tribes



Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative

**92 pages including tables, attachments,
and appendices ...**

**A proposal to the Biden Administration
from the “Six Sovereigns”**



**Memorandum of Understanding
Signed 12/14/23**

**19 pages in response to CBRI proposal signed by
4 tribal leaders**

Oregon and Washington state representatives

9 conservation group representatives

5 Federal representatives

CBRI OBJECTIVES of PROPOSAL by the Six Sovereigns

“Objective 1: “Develop and advance an urgent, comprehensive strategy to (a) restore salmon and steelhead to “healthy and abundant levels” consistent with NOAA’s Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBP) and Rebuilding reports; and (b) complete the actions and investments necessary to secure continuity of services associated with Lower Snake River (LSR) restoration prior to LSR dam breaching.”



CBRI OBJECTIVES

“Objective 2: Ensure that all native species, regardless of listing status, are considered in the comprehensive strategy in a way that improves ecosystem function in the Columbia River and its tributaries”

“Objective 3: Ensure interim fish measures are adequate to minimize additional generational decline of fish populations.

CBRI OBJECTIVES

“Objective 4: Invest in and support communities and economic sectors (e.g., energy, transportation, agriculture, and recreation) in a manner that is consistent with meeting decarbonization goals and mandates and integration of renewables, delivers “affordable and clean power”, improves resiliency and adaptability to climate change and supports “the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region”, and “[honors] commitments to Tribal Nations”.

CBRI OBJECTIVES

“Objective 5: Secure necessary regulatory compliance, authorizations, and appropriations for implementation of the strategy with an urgency reflecting the needs of the fish.”

“Objective 6: Ensure that the strategy and associated federal actions “honor Federal commitments to Tribal Nations” and address past and ongoing inequities related to Columbia Basin development to reflect and uphold federal Treaty and trust responsibilities to Columbia Basin tribes.”



APPENDIX A
DOE PROGRAM PROPOSAL:
ADVANCING TRIBAL ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY
in the PACIFIC NORTHWEST

1. Tribal Energy Sovereignty Resource Planning Process

2. Tribal Energy Sovereignty Project Development



APPENDIX A: Examples of FUNDING AVAILABLE

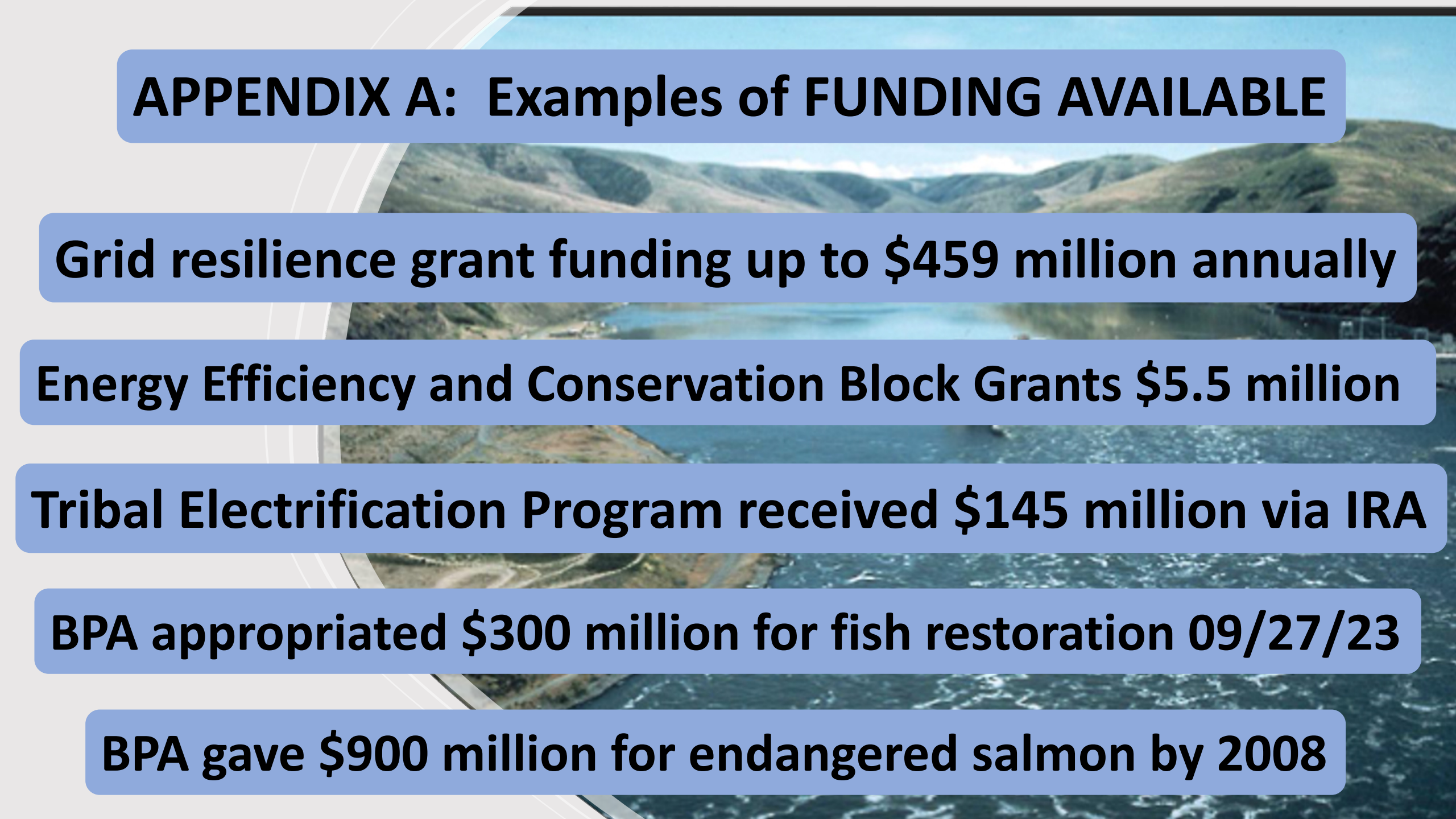
Grid resilience grant funding up to \$459 million annually

National Clean Investment Fund \$14 billion

Efficient Electric Appliance Rebates \$225 million

Energy Improvement in Rural and Remote Areas \$1 billion

\$20 billion DOE Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program

An aerial photograph of a river valley with rolling green and brown mountains in the background. The river flows through the center of the valley, surrounded by lush vegetation and some buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

APPENDIX A: Examples of FUNDING AVAILABLE


Grid resilience grant funding up to \$459 million annually

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants \$5.5 million

Tribal Electrification Program received \$145 million via IRA

BPA appropriated \$300 million for fish restoration 09/27/23

BPA gave \$900 million for endangered salmon by 2008



**Memorandum of Understanding
Signed 12/14/23**

**Bonneville Power Administration
was one of the Federal Signees**

**A representative of BPA pointed out that the
MOU is not identical to the CBRI**



Memorandum of Understanding

**16 WHEREAS
11 NOW THEREFOREs**

“2. USC Commitments in Support of the” CBRI

MOU THEREFORE #2

“2. USG Commitments in Support of the” CBRI

- (1) the outcome of the environmental compliance and 2.1...The Parties recognize that the USG Commitments and actions identified in this MOU could change depending on associated Federal agency decision-making processes or**
- (2) congressional action to authorize and fund the breach of the four lower Snake River dams**



**Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
Four-State
Public Utility Commission Meeting**

Portland, Oregon January 11, 2024

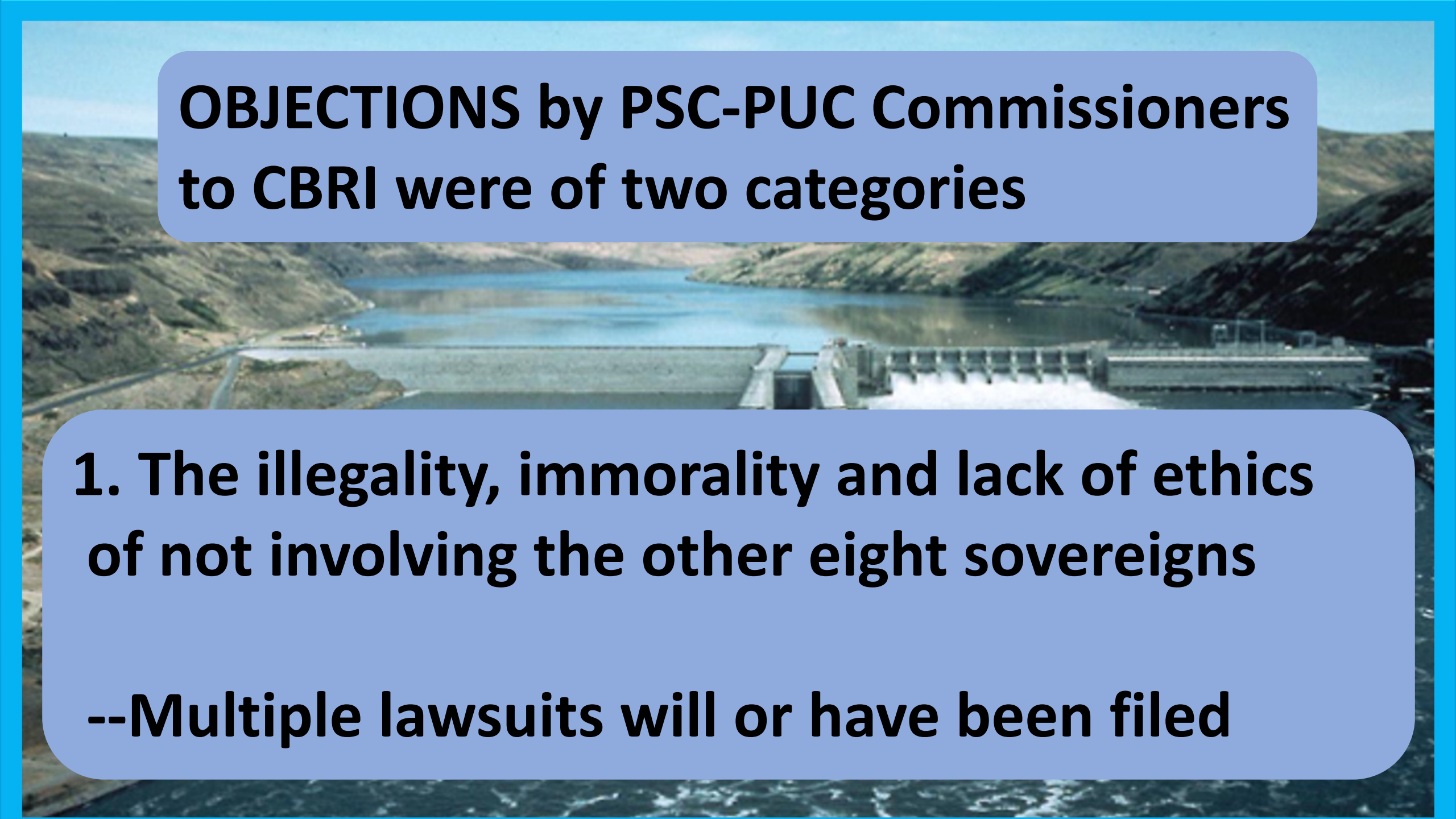
Commissioner Round Table Discussion

**Focus of discussion was what
BPA Chief Executive Officer John Hairston proclaimed
“the Fish Agreement”**

AKA Columbia Basin Salmon Agreement

AKA Secret Agreement to Breach Snake River Dams


**Memorandum of Understanding
in response to CBRI Proposal**



OBJECTIONS by PSC-PUC Commissioners to CBRI were of two categories

1. The illegality, immorality and lack of ethics of not involving the other eight sovereigns

--Multiple lawsuits will or have been filed

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river is in the foreground, flowing through a valley. The hills are covered in sparse vegetation, and a dam is visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

The 08/4/2022 Joint Motion Related to CBRI

The federal government “committed to developing strategies through inclusive regional collaborative processes...”

**Then left out multiple tribes
and the states of Montana and Idaho**



Category #2
of OBJECTIONS by commissioners to CBRI

questionable premises of the document itself

Questionable Premise #1:

Honoring 1855 Treaties
between the U.S. and Tribes
gives Tribes complete control
over these rivers and dams

An aerial photograph of a large dam and reservoir. The dam is a long, grey concrete structure with several spillways. Water is cascading over the spillways, creating white foam. The reservoir is a large, dark blue body of water. The surrounding landscape consists of rolling hills and mountains with sparse vegetation, under a clear blue sky.

MULTIPLE 1855 TREATIES U.S. and TRIBES

VAGUELY REFERENCED in CBRI - MOU

LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO IDENTICAL

IN TREATIES with

the four tribes that signed CBRI

MULTIPLE 1855 TREATIES U.S. and TRIBES

**ABSENCE of DELINEATION or CLEAR
DEFINITION of WATER RIGHTS**

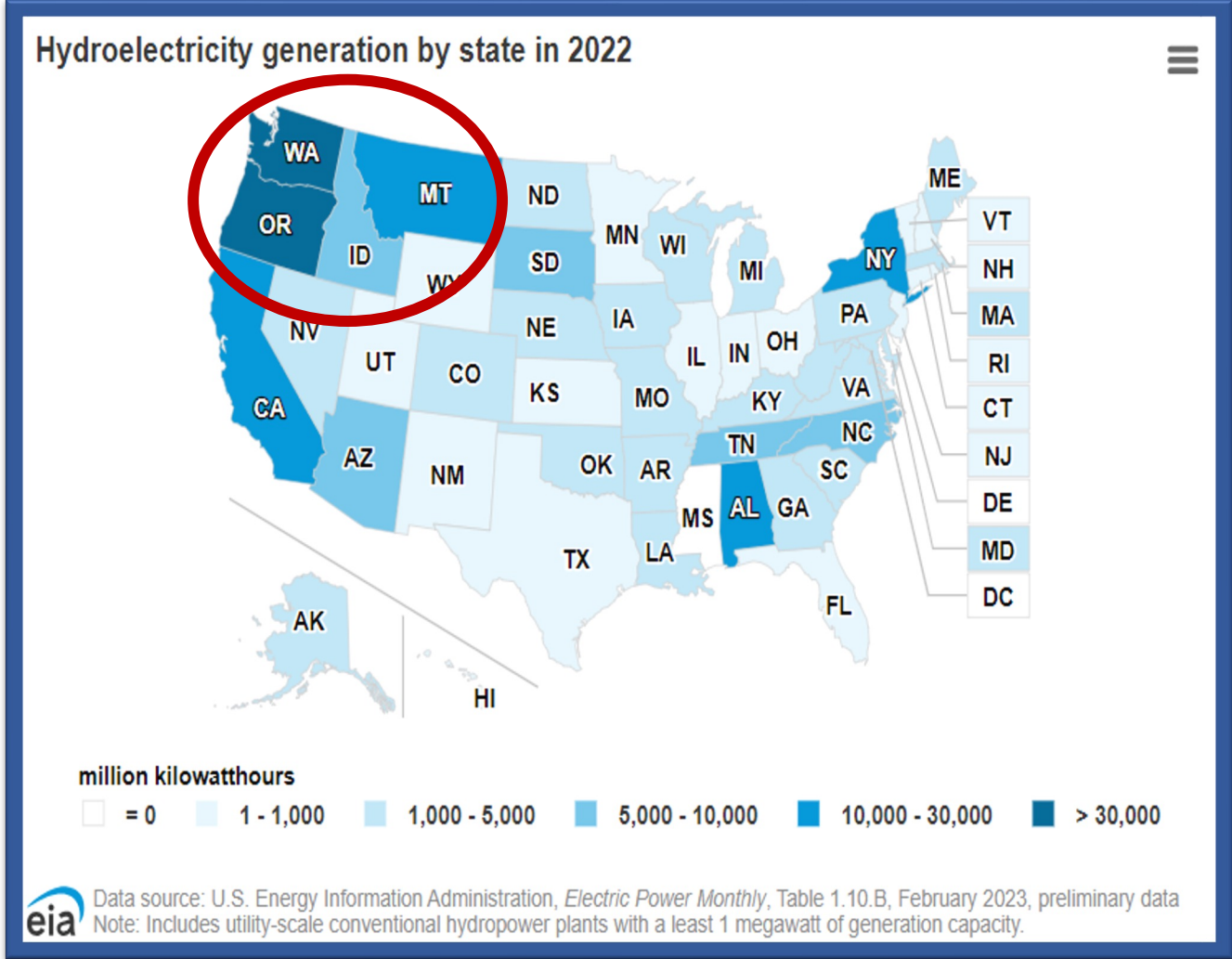
**WOULD IT WITHSTAND
UNBIASED LEGAL REVIEW ?**

Highly Questionable Premise #2



**Megawatts from Hydropower can be
replaced by solar and wind**

Clean, Green,
renewable
**HYDROELECTRIC
POWER**
is our **STRONG
SUIT**



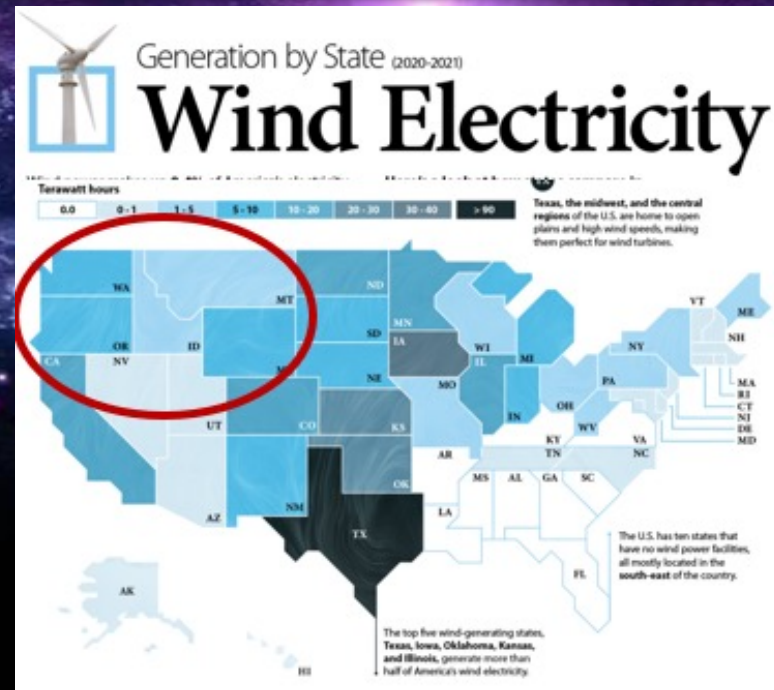
Renewable Power in the Pacific Northwest:

IS NOT SOLAR

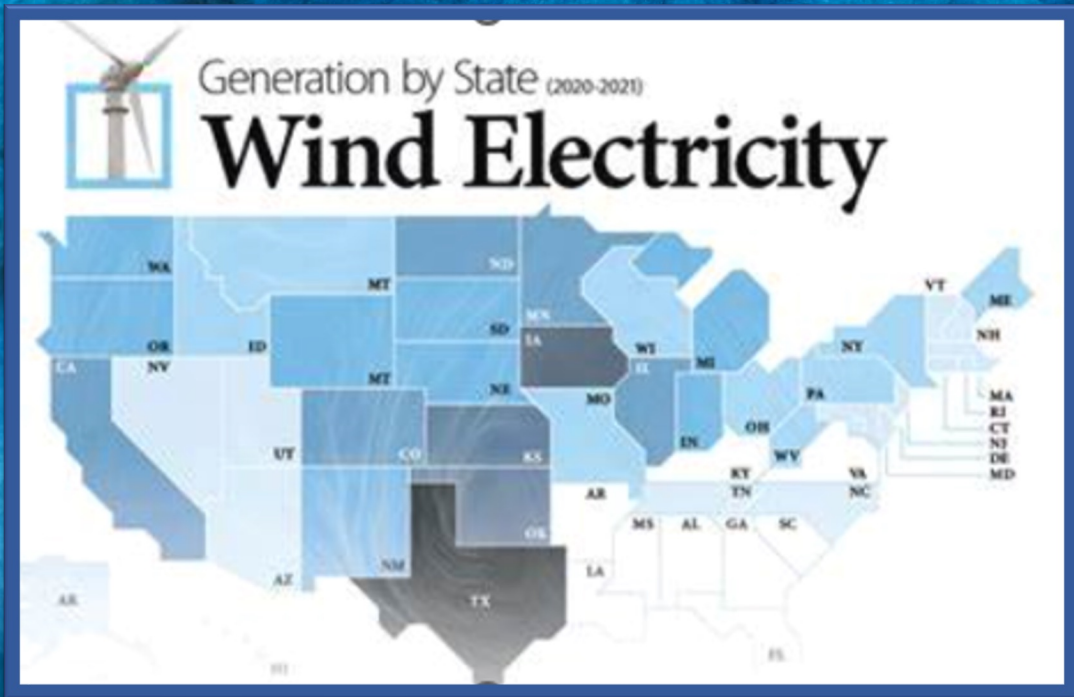
NOT WIND

Hydroelectric is > 75%
of Renewable Energy

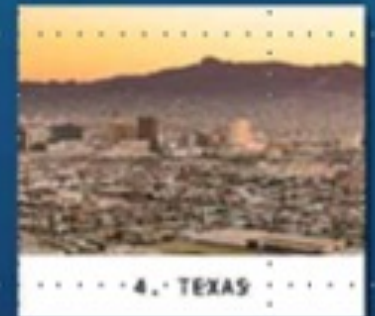
City	Sunny	Partly Sunny	Total Days With Sun
Billings	89	112	201
Glasgow	86	111	197
Great Falls	79	106	185
Helena	82	104	186
Kalispell	70	81	151
Missoula	75	83	158



Take a look at the sunny, windy California

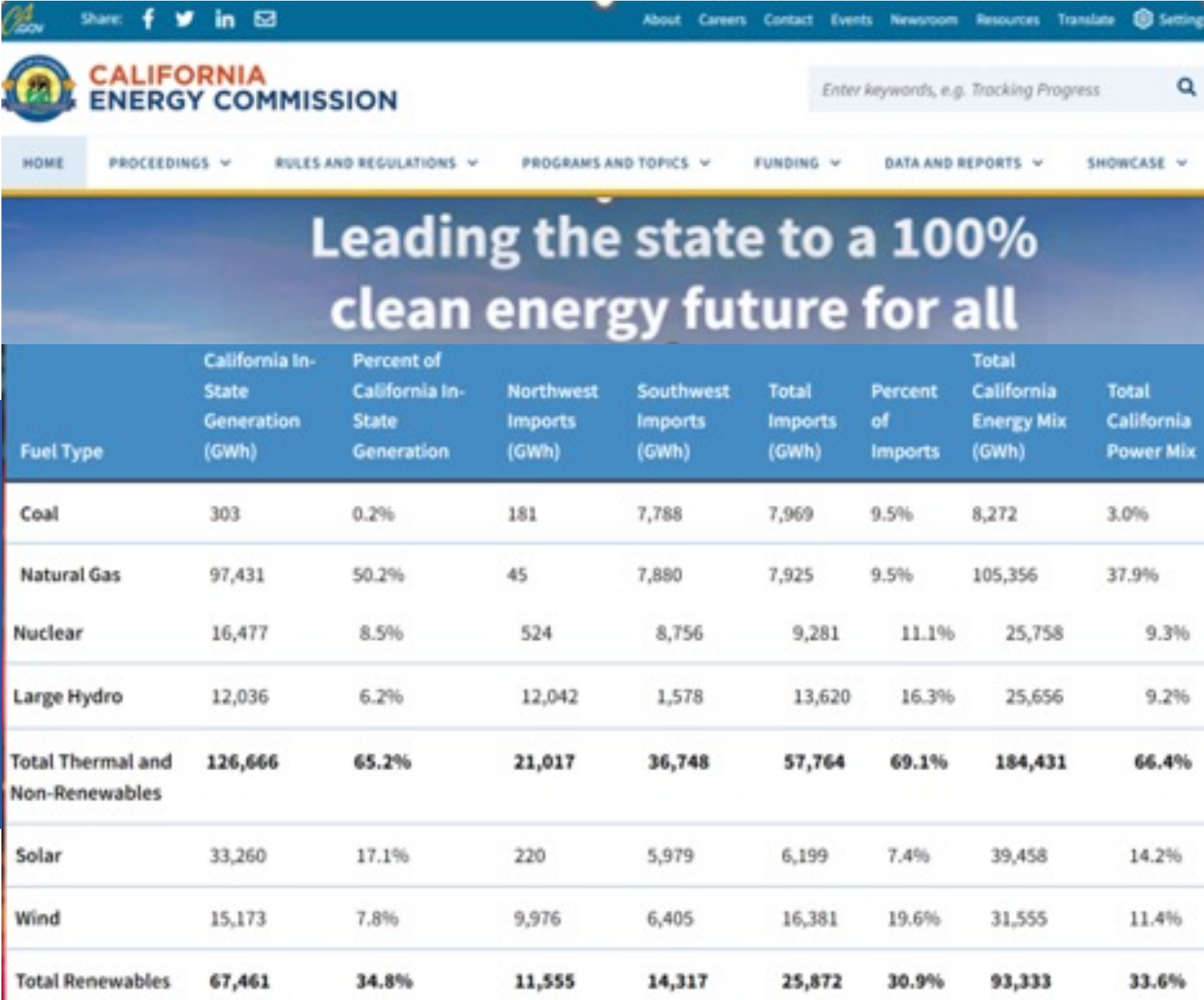


U.S. SUNNIEST STATES



2021

California's Portfolio For Energy Generation And Energy Importation



The screenshot shows the California Energy Commission website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with social media links and a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a banner with the text "Leading the state to a 100% clean energy future for all". The main content area features a table with the following data:

Fuel Type	California In-State Generation (GWh)	Percent of California In-State Generation	Northwest Imports (GWh)	Southwest Imports (GWh)	Total Imports (GWh)	Percent of Imports	Total California Energy Mix (GWh)	Total California Power Mix
Coal	303	0.2%	181	7,788	7,969	9.5%	8,272	3.0%
Natural Gas	97,431	50.2%	45	7,880	7,925	9.5%	105,356	37.9%
Nuclear	16,477	8.5%	524	8,756	9,281	11.1%	25,758	9.3%
Large Hydro	12,036	6.2%	12,042	1,578	13,620	16.3%	25,656	9.2%
Total Thermal and Non-Renewables	126,666	65.2%	21,017	36,748	57,764	69.1%	184,431	66.4%
Solar	33,260	17.1%	220	5,979	6,199	7.4%	39,458	14.2%
Wind	15,173	7.8%	9,976	6,405	16,381	19.6%	31,555	11.4%
Total Renewables	67,461	34.8%	11,555	14,317	25,872	30.9%	93,333	33.6%

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2022

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Total Thermal and Unspecified	97,110	47.78%	12,710	21,653	34,363		121,473	45.77%
Nuclear	17,627	8.67%	397	8,342	8,739		26,366	9.18%
Large Hydro	14,607	7.19%	10,803	1,118	11,921		26,528	9.24%
Biomass	5,366	2.64%	771	25	797		6,162	2.15%
Geothermal	11,110	5.47%	253	2,048	2,301		13,412	4.67%
Small Hydro	3,005	1.48%	211	13	225		3,230	1.12%
Solar	40,494	19.92%	231	8,225	8,456		48,950	17.04%
Wind	13,938	6.86%	8,804	8,357	17,161		31,099	10.83%
Total Non-GHG and Renewables	106,147	52.22%	21,471	28,129	49,599		155,747	54.23%
Total Energy	203,257	100.0%	34,180	49,782	83,962		287,220	100.0%

**40 + years of using
solar and wind
power in
California**

**SOLAR & WIND
PROVIDE < 1/3 of
California electricity**

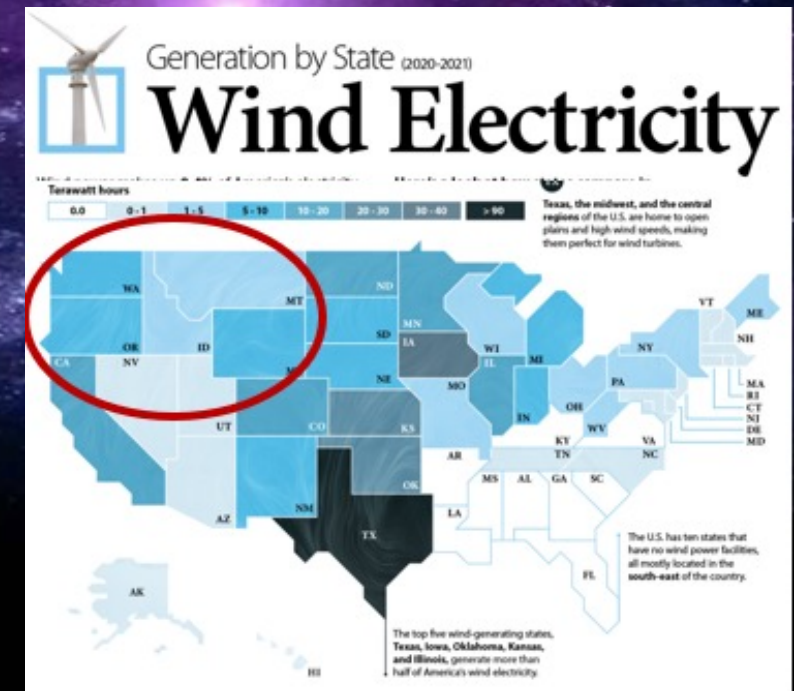
**40 + years of
\$\$ subsidies for
solar and wind
projects**

**NATURAL GAS,
a HYDROCARBON
is California's #1
electricity source**

SOLAR AND WIND provide less than 28% of electricity in sunny, windy California

And it is thought solar and wind can replace hydropower Megawatt for Megawatt in the Pacific Northwest ?

U.S. SUNNIEST STATES



Highly Questionable Premise #3:

IMPACT of these dams
on FISH HABITAT
is a LEGITIMATE
USE of hundreds of
MILLIONS MORE
TAXPAYER DOLLARS

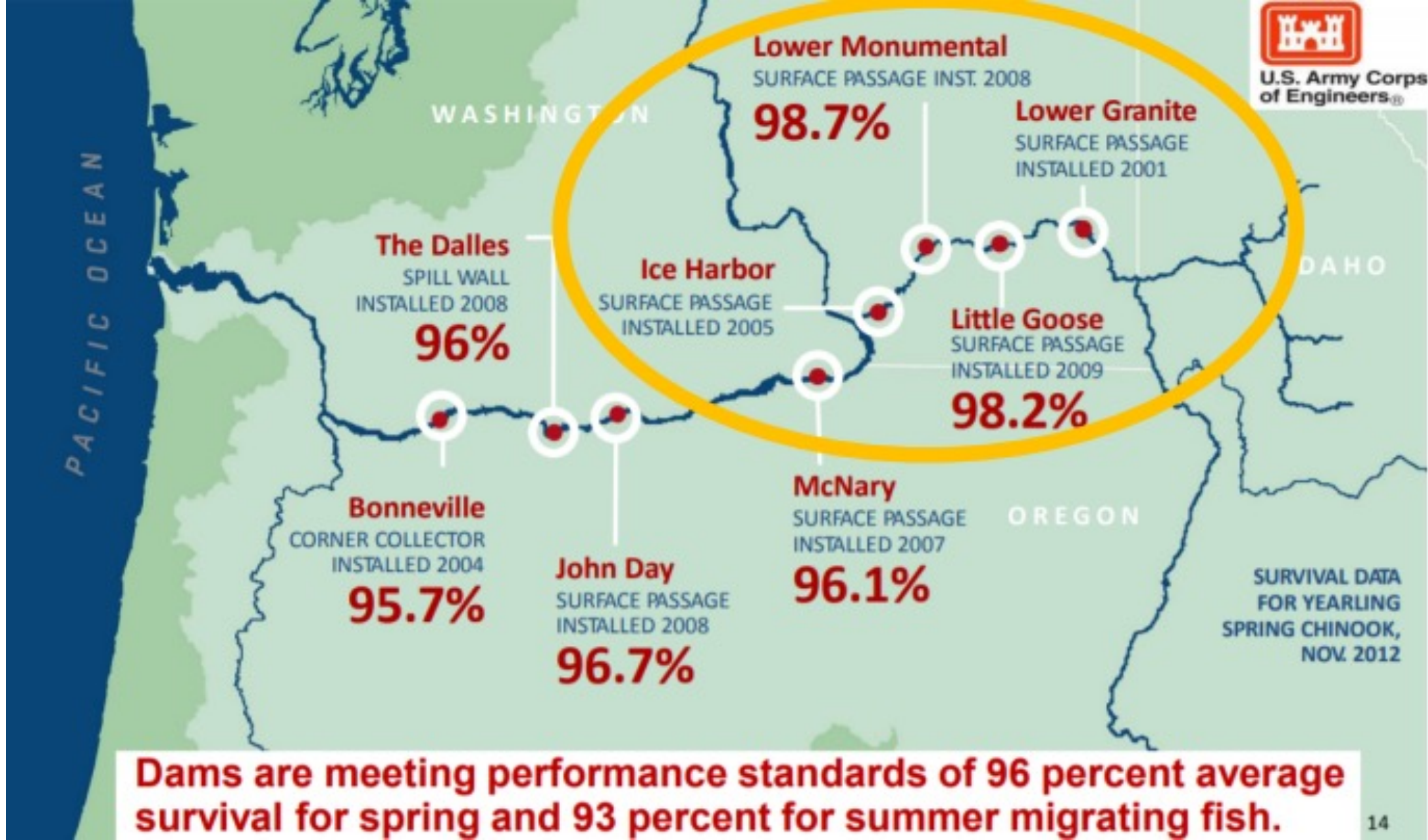


Let's look at the evidence

By 2008, BPA
put in \$900
million into
fish habitat
restoration



Outcome ?



Delving into the dams

Federal legislative tour shows staffers how critical lower Snake River dams are to the region

October 2023 issue of *Wheat Life*

“Lower Granite Dam’s retrofitted fish passage technology...and... counting fish returns... Lower Granite Dam has hit 98% fish passage.”



CBRI OBJECTIVES

“Objective 3:

Ensure interim fish measures are adequate to minimize additional generational decline of fish populations.

Oregon State University

Study 7/2023



Nine billion spent for improving fish habitat

Conclusion: While hatchery-reared salmon numbers have increased, no increase in wild, naturally spawning salmon

CBRI OBJECTIVES

“Objective 2:

Ensure that all native species, regardless of listing status, are considered in the comprehensive strategy in a way that improves ecosystem function in the Columbia River and its tributaries”



COLUMBIA BASIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE

BILLIONS MORE TAX DOLLARS GOING FOR FISH RECOVERY

**HUNDREDS of THOUSANDS of CITIZENS
at RISK for LOSING POWER, IRRIGATION and NAVIGATION**

OPENING the DOOR for MORE LAWSUITS

COLUMBIA BASIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE



**BASED on VAGUE LANGUAGE
ABOUT FISHING RIGHTS
in 1855 TREATIES**

Klamath Dams Down: Will Ranches Survive?

Dam removal proponents claimed the project would help salmon, but steelhead trout are dead, and salmon spawning beds were destroyed

By California Globe, February 23, 2024 2:55 am



“Ironically, dam removal proponents claimed the project would help salmon, but now the Klamath River is being polluted with millions of cubic yards of decomposed algae, organic deposition, chemicals, and fine silt that has built up behind the dams. Dead steelhead trout and other species are floating to the banks. Any salmon spawning beds in the Klamath River were undoubtedly destroyed. At press time, conditions in the Klamath River were not likely survivable for the salmon juveniles that were beginning to emerge from the tributary rivers and creeks on their way to the ocean.”





COLUMBIA BASIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE

WHY are federal agencies and two state governments using your tax dollars to place you and hundreds of thousands of your neighbors at risk?

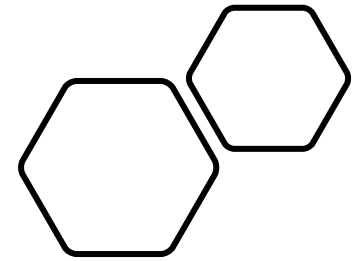


















WASHINGTON'S LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS in the news LATELY POSSIBLE CLOSURE for the sake of fish











Transmission for 150 GW in some phase of study;

In the phase of Design group considering what is most efficient and cost effective: reconductoring, reconfiguring, high efficiency transmission products

Making most efficient use of current corridors—including under-utilized existing corridors and right of way whenever possible



E-grid projects Generation Interconnection Reform

BPA completed its 2023 Cluster Study—14 projects emerged
Currently in phase of permitting and design
Generation Interconnection Reform

KREBC transmission collaborative—Montana's own Robyn Arnold spear-heading this;



**Bonneville Power Administration
PUC-PSC Annual Meeting**

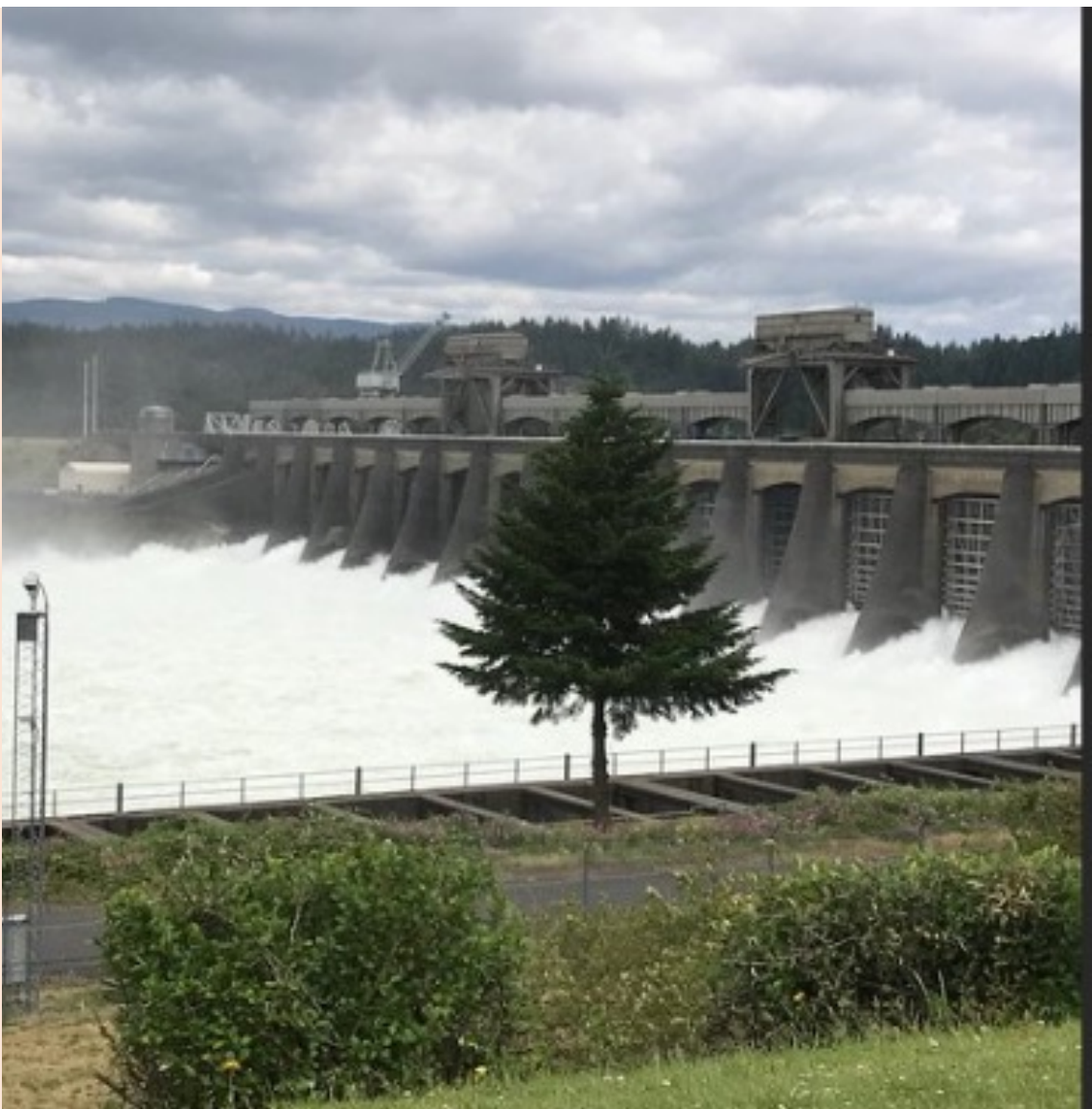
Portland, Oregon January 11, 2024





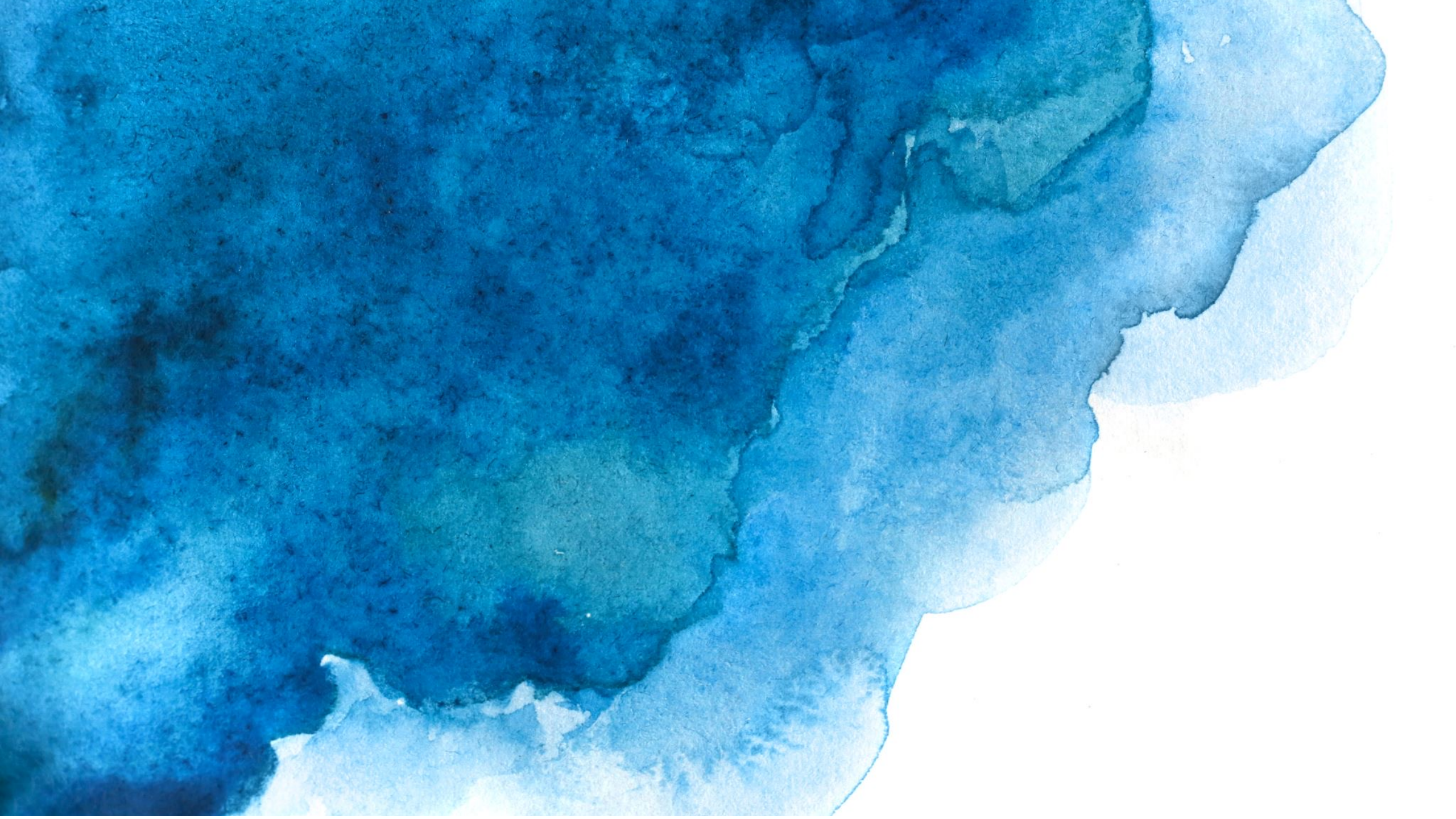


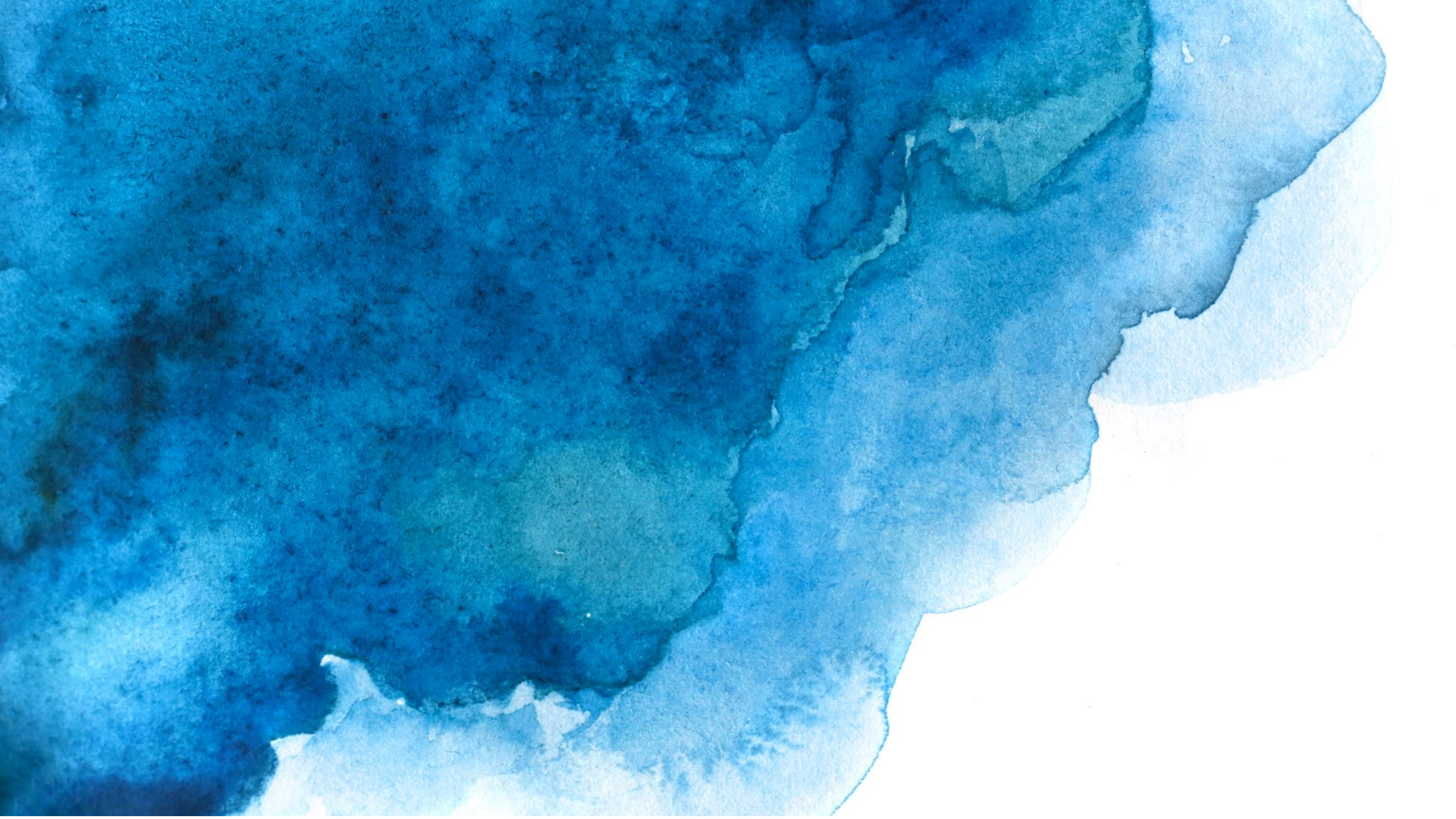
















**THE IMPACT
on FISH
HABITAT
is the
NUMBER ONE
concern**



“Lower Granite Dam’s retrofitted fish passage technology...and... counting fish returns...It’s no wonder Lower Granite Dam has hit 98% fish passage.”

Delving into the dams

Federal legislative tour shows staffers how critical lower Snake River dams are to the region

October 2023 issue of *Wheat Life*

Lower Snake River Dam System Educational Tour

August 23, 2023