



Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review

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Columbia River Treaty

- Treaty came into force in 1964, no end date.
- Canada builds three dams, U.S. gets to build Libby.
- Twin goals: optimize hydropower and coordinate flood control.
- With a 10 year notice, Treaty may be terminated starting in 2024 (Sept 2014).
- **No mention of tribes, fish or wildlife**



U.S. Commitments

- Payment for flood control benefits ~ \$65 million total over the years (good deal for US)
- Canada receives title to one-half the downstream power benefit produced by U.S. projects due to Canadian storage ~ \$300 million annually (bad)
- After 2024, the other US reservoirs must be used for flood control before we can ask Canada for assistance (bad)



Implementation

- Designation of an Entity by each Party

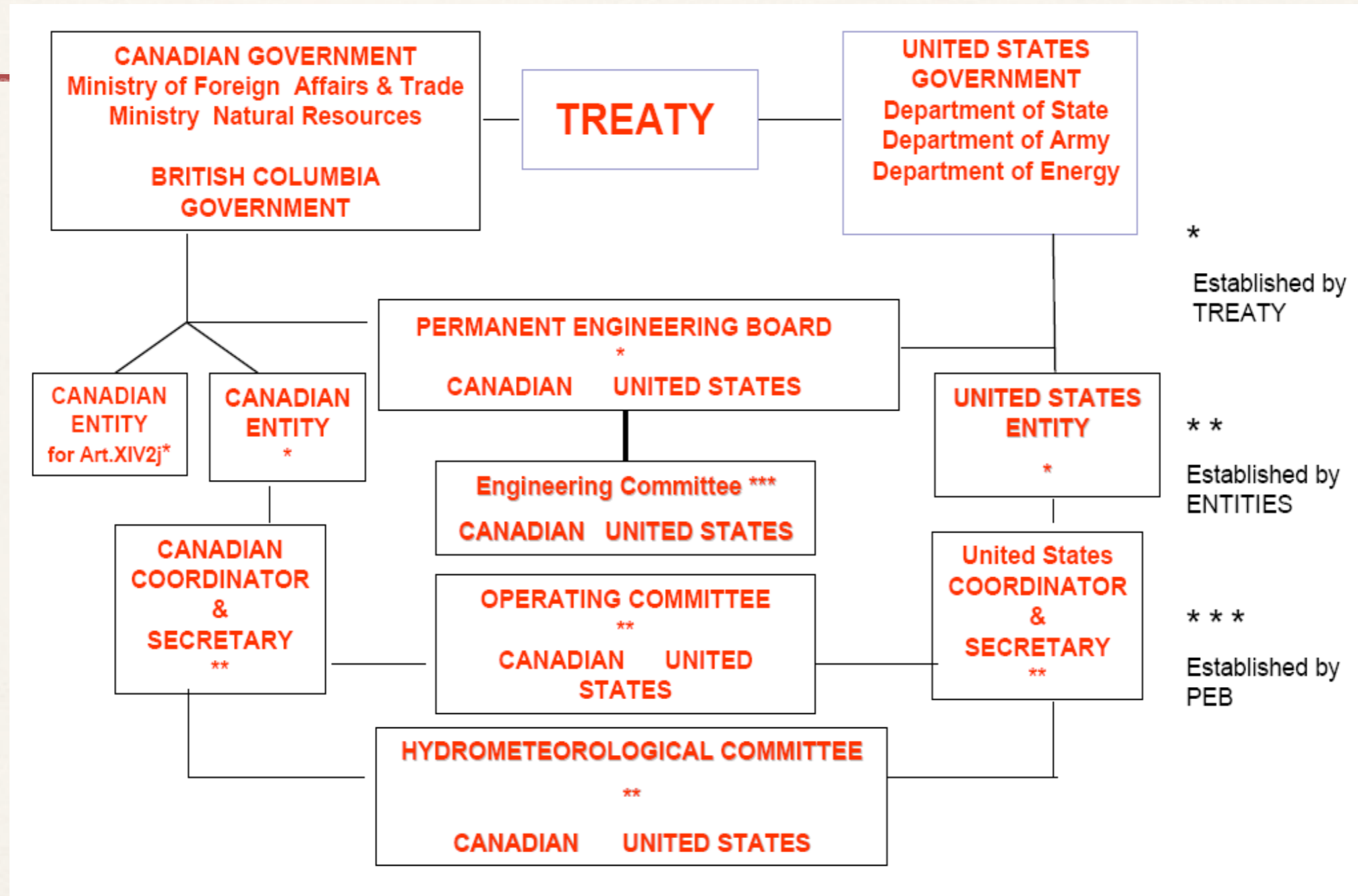
“charged with the duty to formulate and carry out operating arrangements necessary to implement the Treaty”

- Formation of the Permanent Engineering Board

4 members, two from each country, reporting at least annually to the U.S. and Canada



Treaty Operations





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*)





Kettle Falls tribal fishery

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



Impacts from dramatic reservoir level changes



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



Tribal Issues with Treaty

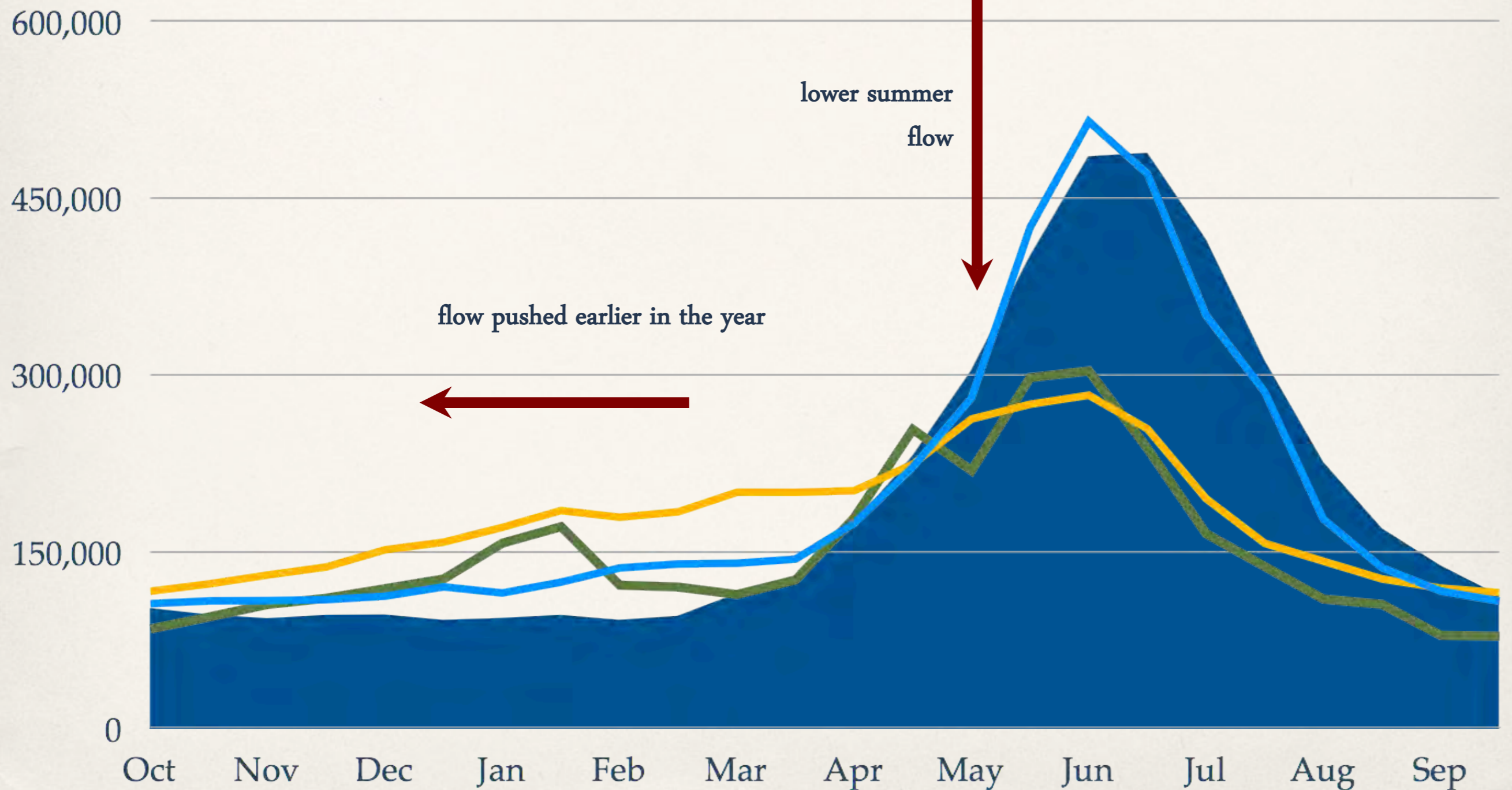
- No **tribal consultation** during negotiation nor **tribal representation** during implementation
- Adopted hydropower and flood control as management goals, **disregarding fisheries** and other ecosystem elements
- Flood control plan **eliminated annual flooding** and freshets, **moved flood upriver**
- Grand Coulee and Treaty projects **built without passage and eliminated salmon spawning habitat**
- Benefits of Treaty system **not shared** with tribes



River level at The Dalles

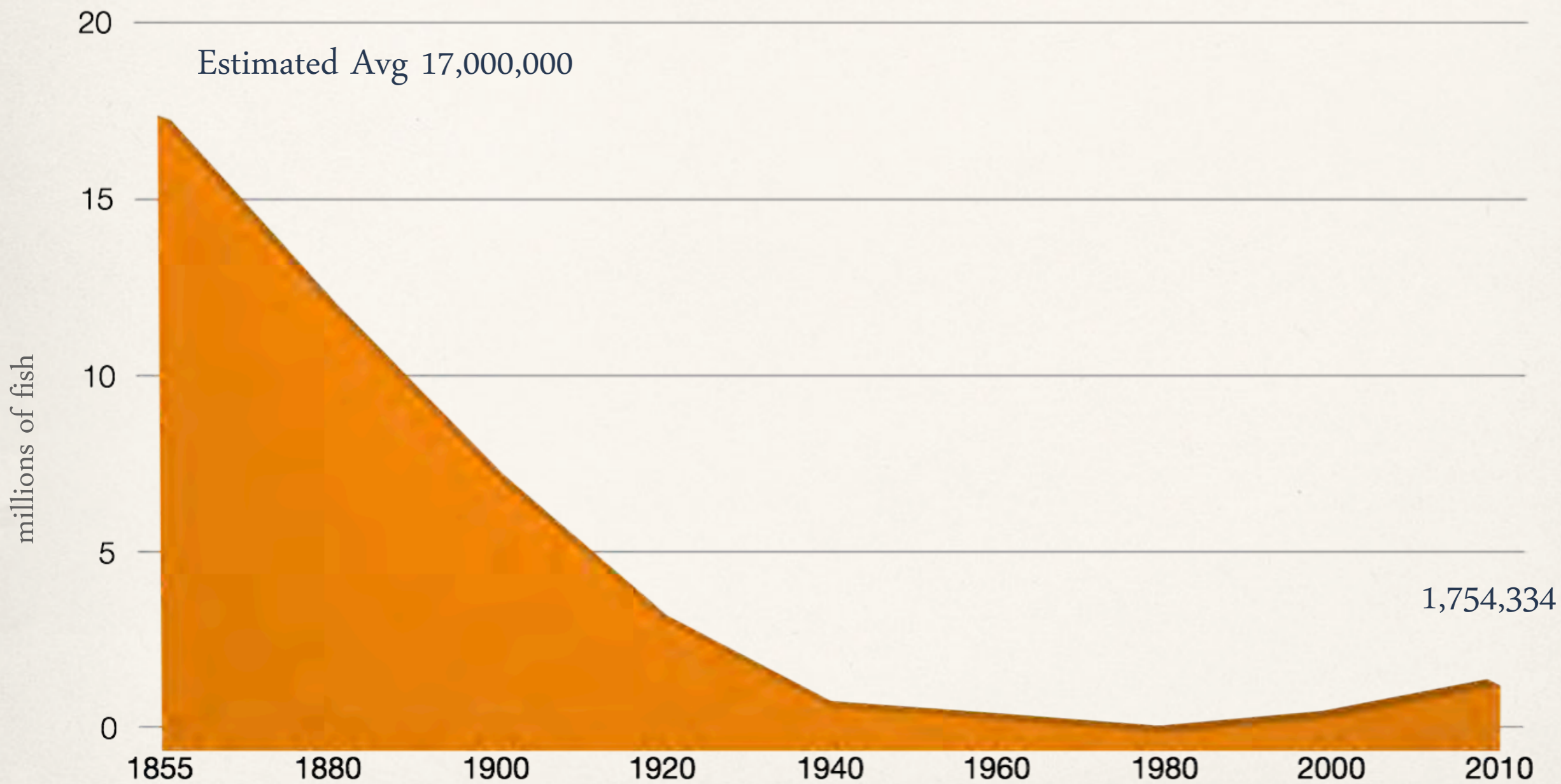
— Pre-Treaty Observed (1948-1968)
— Federal Biological Opinion (WY 2009)

— Post-Treaty Observed (1974-1992)
■ Historical Observed (1900-1920)



Salmon Decline

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



Columbia Basin Tribes' Goals

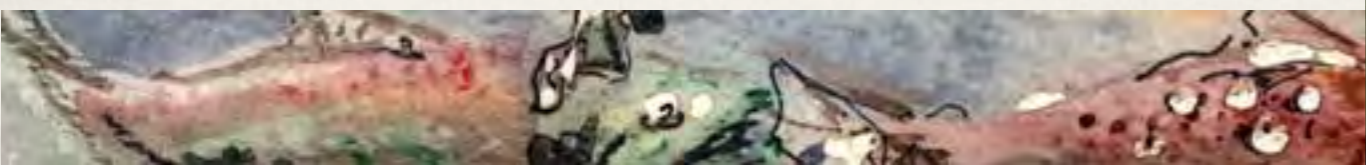
- Governance – a seat at the table (review, negotiations and implementation)
- Incorporate ecosystem based function into Treaty Review and new Treaty
- Restore spring freshet, while balancing tribal needs in upper reservoirs
- Restore and protect salmon passage at all historic locations (above Grand Coulee, Hells Canyon Complex and Dworshak)
- 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

“Robust” ecosystem assessment needs to be incorporated equal with the hydro-power and flood control



Sovereign Participation Process

(Federal, 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: starting now, broad range of scenarios being modeled
- Iteration #3: probably starts January 2013, narrower range of options to present 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
- All parties need to take the tribes' proposal for salmon passage seriously
- USACE is reluctant to analyze scenarios that increase flows that may result in increased flood risks
- Tribes lack resources to fully participate and contribute our expertise
- Coordination with First Nations of Canada could be increased



Steps Forward:

- Sovereign Participation Process will likely continue beyond September 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

