

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

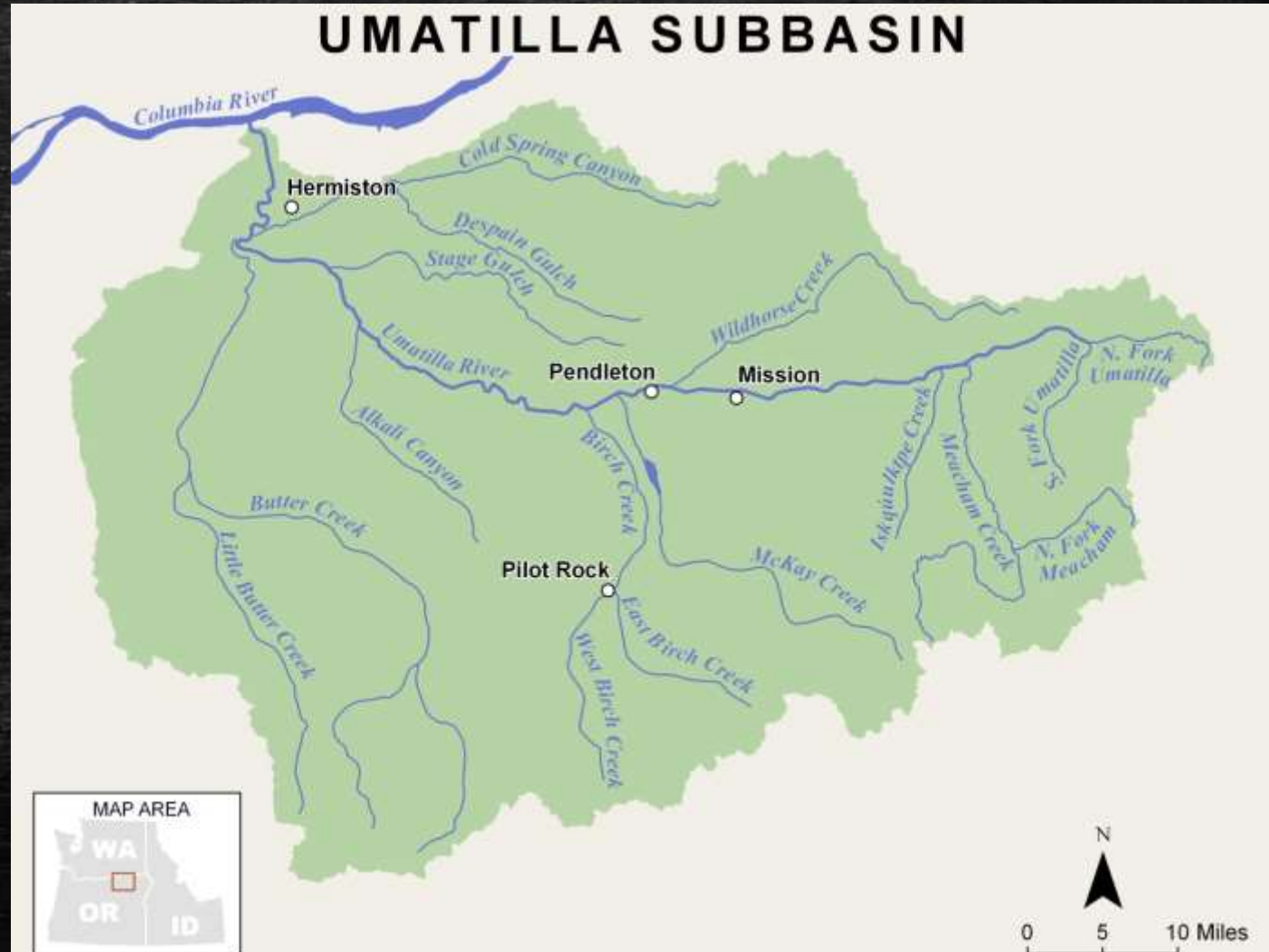
Umatilla Habitat Project

1855 Treaty Ceded Lands



CTUIR Project Priority Areas

- Meacham Creek
- Birch Creek
- Upper Umatilla River
- Iskquiktpe Creek



CTUIR Fisheries Habitat Restoration

Current Emphasis

- Watershed-scale approach
 - Stream forming processes: physical, chemical, and biological
 - Recognize connections between processes over time & space
 - Address these processes at multiple scales
- Restoration of Process
 - Restoration toward a fixed endpoint addresses symptoms
 - Restoration of processes provides stable fish habitat
- Natural variability is OK in river systems
 - Geomorphic stability vs. absolute stability
 - Designed flexibility for give and take (some limitations)

CTUIR Fisheries Habitat Program

Goals + Objectives

Protect, enhance and restore functional floodplain, channel and watershed processes to provide sustainable and healthy habitat for aquatic species of the First Food order.

- 1) Develop comprehensive and scientifically defensible restoration strategies based on the most recent and best available scientific information. (Includes prioritizing actions and geographic areas)
- 2) Maintain and apply an updated knowledge of floodplain, channel and watershed function as it relates to healthy aquatic conditions and fish populations.
- 3) Build and maintain cooperative and coordinated relationships with other key agencies and stakeholders in order to maximize project efficiency, effectiveness and success.

“Extending the Table”

Using the First Foods to Guide Fisheries Restoration

Water

What physical and ecological processes are important for providing water quality and fish habitat that supports aquatic First Foods?

Salmon

Chinook

Coho

Sockeye

Steelhead

Lamprey

Mussels

Trout

Whitefish

Suckers

Deer

Mule Deer

RM Elk

WTD

Bighorn

Mtn Goat

Moose

Cous

Celery

Camas

Bitterroot

Huckleberry

Chokecherry

Using a First Foods River Vision to Guide Fisheries Restoration

Serving Order

1

Water



2

Salmon



3

Deer



4

Cous



5

Huckleberry



River Vision Touchstones (Processes):

Hydrology

Geomorphology

Connectivity

Riparian
Vegetation

Aquatic
Biota

Birch Creek Watershed Passage Barriers

Limiting Factors

- Passage / Entrainment
- In-Channel Characteristics



Funding Agency Concerns

The Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) reviews Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) funded projects. Recent comments have requested more information on the procedures used to identify restoration priorities:

- 1) What are the tributary habitat limiting factors impacting the health of ESA listed Mid-Columbia River summer steelhead and other native fish?
- 2) What tributary improvement actions would provide the most freshwater production benefits to listed salmonids?
- 3) How effective are tributary improvement actions at providing benefits to listed steelhead in addition to floodplain physical and ecological response?

In Other Words, The Scientists Ask:

- What are the things in Birch Creek that are limiting the success of Steelhead?
Is what we are doing working at these things?
- What actions can we take to fix those things to give us the best possible benefits for the fish?
Is there a way we can produce more fish in Birch Creek?
- How much benefit can we expect to get for doing those actions, and what might be other benefits to the ecosystem and floodplain?
What would it look like to do these actions?

Our Concerns, and You

We came today to share our project vision, goals and objectives.

We also recognize that partnering with the landowners and individuals in the Birch Creek watershed has been a key factor in our success that we have already experienced.

We are looking for community participants in creating the Birch Creek Assessment and Action Plan, and beyond.