

# Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

---

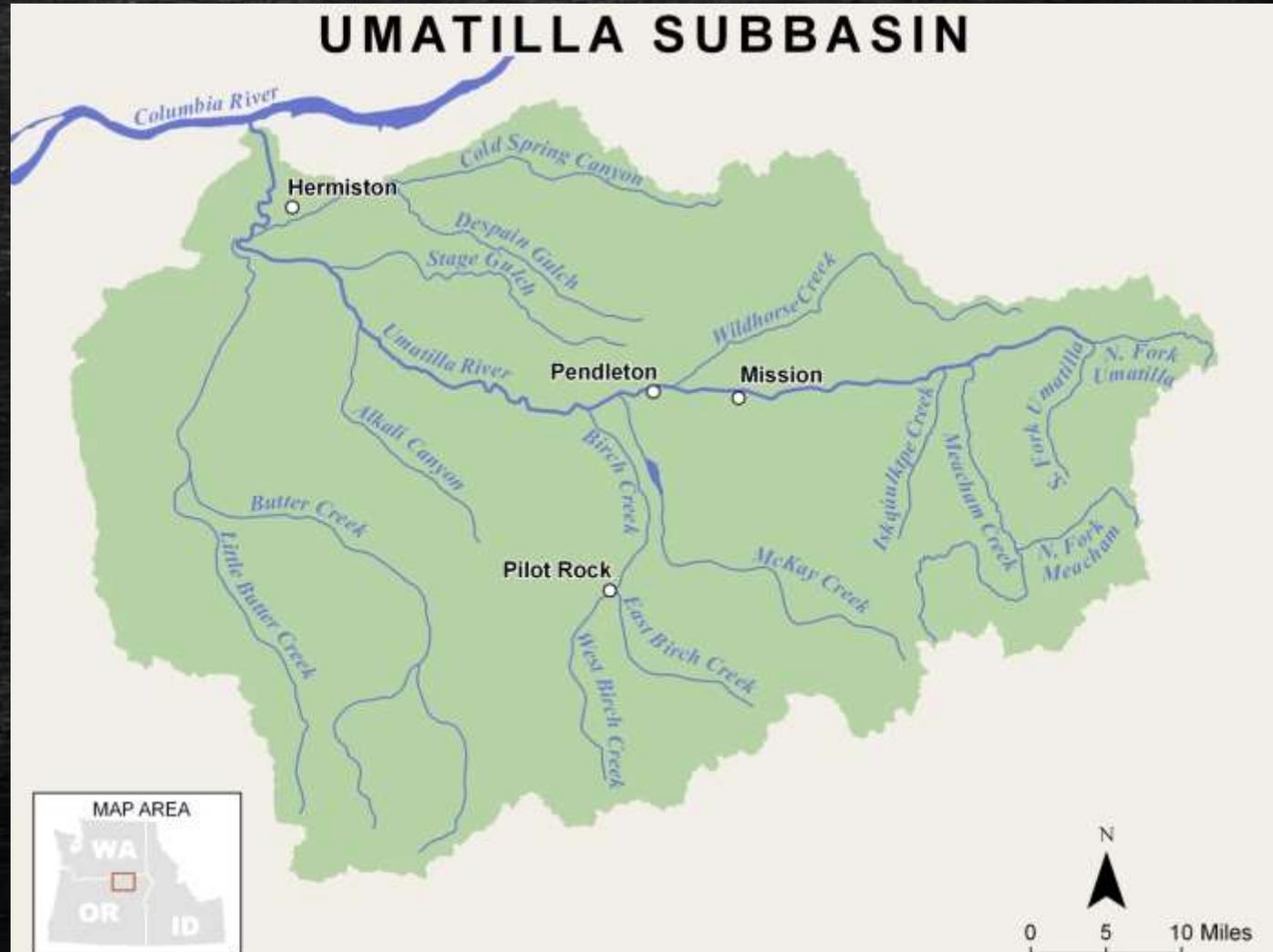
Umatilla Habitat Project

# 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.