

Kendra:

The Kalispel Tribe (Tribe) has reviewed the draft January 29, 2016 report, *Critical Uncertainties for the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program*, and offer the following comments.

- The Tribe is concerned that the draft report sets the stage for a Fish and Wildlife Program that is heavily focused on research which will require a substantial amount of money to implement, thus taking away money from on-the-ground mitigation projects. All aspects of research should be consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Program and the Northwest Power Act. One component the Tribe is supportive of is the goal of decreasing redundancy and increasing integration, efficiency and cost effectiveness in research, monitoring and evaluation within projects.
- The draft report considers reintroduction of anadromous fish in the context of creating “*self-sustaining*”, productive and resilient populations. A requirement that reintroduced populations of salmon and steelhead be self-sustaining is too narrow. The Tribe views the purpose of reintroduction above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams as a restoration or replenishment of an ecosystem’s food web, or provision of sufficient salmon for tribes to restore their culture, spirituality and healthy First Foods diet which is consistent with the Northwest Power Act. The report should reflect the legal and social importance of a reintroduction’s purpose in considering critical uncertainties.
- The Tribe is encouraged that the IEAB and ISRP recognize the uncertainties regarding non-native species; however they need to define this further in that the real issues are non-native invasives. Most aquatic invasive species within the Columbia Basin are fish. The Tribe is encouraged that the draft report specifically mentions that non-natives such as smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, and lake trout have become more widely established as predators on native fish throughout the Columbia Basin. Emphasis should have been placed on trying to suppressing and/or eradicating non-native invasive fish species that negatively impact salmon, steelhead, and native resident fish due to predation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any question, feel free to contact me at (509) 447-7272. Thanks.

Joe

Joseph R. Maroney
Director of Fishery & Water Resources
Kalispel Natural Resource Dept.
P.O. Box 39
Usk, WA 99180
Phone: (509) 447-7272

Fax: (509) 445-5302

Email: jmaroney@kalispeltribe.com

