Columbia River Briefing and Update
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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
“…the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places, in common with the citizens of the Territory, and of erecting temporary buildings for curing them, together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries....”

—1855 Treaty with the Nez Perce
Four Tribes’ Ceded Lands

Combined ceded area:

- 66,591 square miles
- More than 25% of the entire Columbia Basin
- 55% of the rivers and streams that are still accessible to salmon
- Includes almost all of the salmon habitat above Bonneville Dam
Columbia River Treaty

- Treaty came into force in 1964, no end date
- Canada builds three dams, US builds Libby – no passage
- Twin goals:
  - optimize hydropower
  - coordinate flood control
- Treaty may be terminated with 10 years notice
- Tribes not consulted, no fish & wildlife coordination
River Level at The Dalles Dam

- Historical Observed...
- Post-Treaty Observed...

- Flow pushed earlier in the year
- Lower spring and summer flows

October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September
Columbia Basin Tribes

15 tribes with management authorities and responsibilities affected by the Columbia River Treaty

2009 - Formed
2010 - Common Views
2011 - First Nations G2G
Permanent Floods Created Upriver to Protect Portland from Flooding

Relocating a Church from Waldo
Now under Koocanusa Reservoir

Mica Dam built in 1973

Kinbasket Reservoir
Drawdown Effects

Vanport Flood, near Portland
Broad Regional Consensus Achieved: Modify the Treaty
(U.S. Entity Dec 13, 2013)

Recommendation Elements:

- Add ecosystem-based functions
  Restore fish passage to historic locations
- Recalculate Canadian Entitlement (~$300m)
- Address flood control management post-2024
- Recognize Water Supply Interests
- Adapt for Climate Change impacts
U.S. Department of State

- U.S. President expected to initiate formal negotiations with Canada this year (OMB Circular 175)
- Tribes seeking formal role in the negotiation process
- Tribal goal is to keep the ecosystem as a primary “driver” in the negotiations and successful outcome