

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Don't Pollute:

Avoid polluting rivers, streams and lakes with garbage, waste, fuel or other contaminants.

Report a Poacher:

Call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline: 1-800-477-6224.

Share Information:

Report sightings, including dead or dying sturgeon, to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 1 Office, Spokane: 509-892-1001.

Educate Yourself and Others:

Visit the web site at www.uppercolumbiasturgeon.org

E-mail Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel at deannep@spokanetribe.com for information about school programs, a guest speaker for community groups or to receive additional brochures.

PARTNERS

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| BC Hydro | Lake Roosevelt Forum |
| BC Ministry of Environment | Living Rivers Fund |
| Bonneville Power Administration | Oregon State University |
| Canadian Columbia Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission | Revelstoke Rod and Gun Club |
| Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program | Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society |
| Columbia Basin Trust | Selkirk College |
| Columbia-Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership | Spokane Tribe of Indians |
| Columbia Power Corporation | Teck Cominco Metals Ltd. (Trail Operations) |
| Colville Confederated Tribes | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Environment Canada/Endangered Species Recovery Fund | USGS Western Fisheries Research Center |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada | University of California - Davis |
| Freshwater Fisheries Society of British Columbia | University of Idaho |
| Golder Associates Limited | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Habitat Conservation Trust Fund | West Kootenay Naturalists |
| | World Wildlife Fund |
| | Zellstoff Celgar Limited |

UPPER COLUMBIA WHITE STURGEON RECOVERY INITIATIVE



Helping Hands for Ancients of the Deep

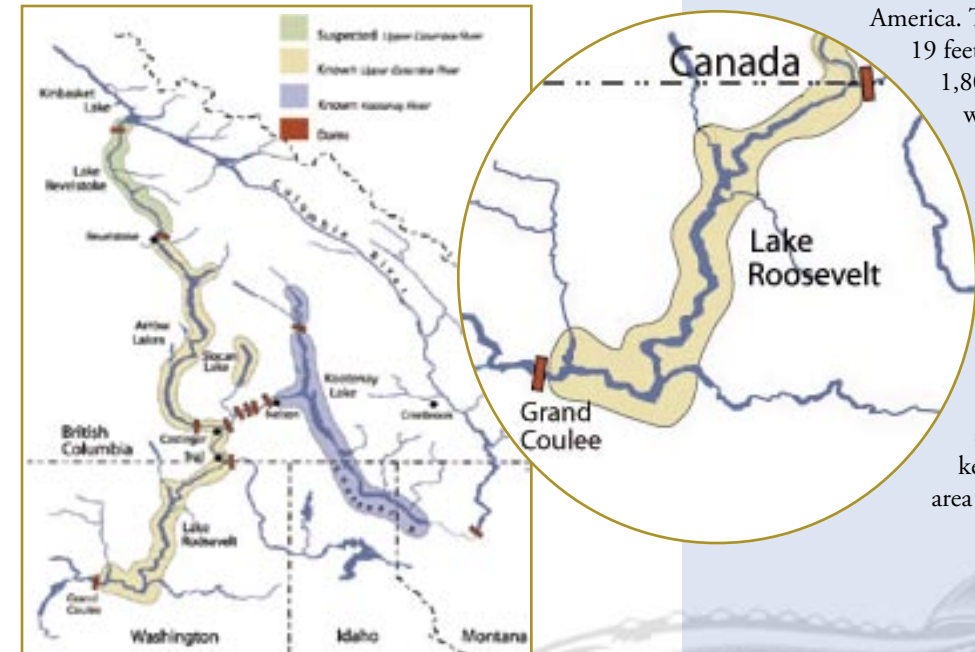


OUR MISSION AND CHALLENGE

Our mission is to restore healthy and sustainable populations of upper Columbia River white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) by working collaboratively with American and Canadian government entities, Tribes, industries, community and environmental groups, and the general public.

This mission is particularly important because the construction of dams in both the United States and Canada have isolated upper Columbia white sturgeon from those found in the nearby Kootenai River and the lower Columbia River.

Once abundant in the area from Grand Coulee Dam to Revelstoke, Canada, their decline has been dramatic. American and Canadian sponsored studies currently indicate about 3,000 adult white sturgeon remain. These remaining sturgeon are over 30 years old and show few signs of successful reproduction. Therefore, immediate action is required to avoid functional extinction within 40 years.



A 175 MILLION YEAR HISTORY

Sturgeon date back to when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Over the course of 175 million years, this exceptional species survived ice ages, volcanic eruptions, and other huge environmental changes.

White sturgeon also hold the distinction of being the largest freshwater fish in North America. They can reach 19 feet in length, 1,800 pounds in weight and live for more than 100 years. Throughout the ages, they have continued to provide regional biodiversity and a cultural keystone for area Tribes.

Helping Hands

THREATS TO SURVIVAL

The upper Columbia River has changed radically from the end of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century. Hydroelectric dams have changed the habitat characteristics of the Columbia River, causing changes in hydrology, water temperature and chemistry. Further, the addition of contaminants to the river, rural and urban development, and the introduction of non-native fish also contributed to the vastly different environment in which sturgeon are currently trying to survive.

Which of these changes represent the most serious threats to white sturgeon survival is not fully understood. What is known is that the habitat conditions and aquatic community of today are very different than it was before dams, development and settlement of the area.

Learning more about how the upper Columbia's aquatic community and habitat functions today is critically important to restoring sturgeon to a healthy and sustainable population.



TO LEARN MORE:

www.uppercolumbiasturgeon.org



ACTIONS

The Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative calls for American and Canadian partners to undertake a suite of actions, including research and monitoring activities, habitat

restoration, and use of conservation hatcheries as a stop-gap measure to ensure the continuation of the population until natural recruitment can be restored.

Activities in the United States are focused from Grand Coulee Dam to the Canadian border. A biologist, a team of researchers and a specially equipped sturgeon boat provide partners the ability to work quickly and effectively.

2004-2005 U.S. RECOVERY HIGHLIGHTS

Sturgeon Releases: In May, 2004, about 1,800 hatchery raised yearlings were released in the northern reaches of Lake Roosevelt. In February and May 2005, 3,600 yearlings were released in the same areas.

Hatchery Fish Performance: Assessments show good growth rates in the northern reaches, indicating sufficient and suitable food sources are available. No wild young-of-the-year were found in fall surveys despite observations of successful spawning and hatching of larvae during the spring.

Assessment and Sampling: Adult fish found in the northern reaches average six feet in length and are in good condition. The potential for collecting sufficient broodstock fish for future U.S. hatchery supplementation efforts is good.

Monitoring: The movements of sturgeon outfitted with acoustic transmitter tags were monitored in the northern reach. Results indicate sturgeon travel extensively throughout the study area, and occasionally

upstream into Canada during the summer.

Spawning Assessments:

Documentation of spawning activity in the U.S. began in spring, 2005. Ripe adults outfitted with radio tags were located in the northern reach, eggs were subsequently collected a couple of miles downstream, and larvae were captured as far as fifteen miles downstream.

Communication and Outreach: The web site www.uppercolumbiasturgeon.org gives people of all ages access to both general and highly technical information. Print materials and school programs are also available to support public outreach.



MEET THE RECOVERY TEAM

The recovery team is comprised of over 25 partners. The team includes American and Canadian experts with a wide range of knowledge including sturgeon biology, fish culture, recovery of endangered species, genetics, operation of hydropower facilities, habitat restoration and hatcheries. They also represent various organizations and interests that are committed to recovery efforts: government and tribal agencies, environmental and community groups, and industry.

After initiating activities in 2000, the team has successfully developed a recovery plan. The plan is comprehensive and includes:

- the biology and status of upper Columbia white sturgeon
- hypotheses for their decline
- existing restoration and management efforts
- recovery goals, objectives, targets, and monitoring
- five, ten and 50 year implementation schedules

Funding for recovery team activities comes from several sources, and specific implementation activities are managed by various partners.

For the United States, the majority of funding comes from the Bonneville Power Administration Fish and Wildlife Program. Recommendations for this funding come from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council Fish and Wildlife Program.

Coordination and implementation of United States activity occurs through the Lake Roosevelt Sturgeon Recovery Project. The project is a cooperative effort amongst the Spokane Tribe of Indians, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Colville Confederated Tribes. The Spokane Tribe of Indians coordinates these efforts.

www.uppercolumbiasturgeon.org