

# Suppression of Fish Consumption

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- *“The white people have ruined the country of the Snake Indians and should therefore treat them well. Almost all the natives are now obliged to live on roots; game can scarcely be seen any more.”*

– Charles Preuss, Fremont’s Expedition



# “Suppression”

- Suppressed fish consumption is due to both “contamination (i.e. polluted fish)” and “depletion (i.e. reduced fish numbers).” These concepts are interrelated and may be a consequent of inadequate WQS.
- As an example, pesticides have contributed to both the contamination and depletion of salmon in the PNW. Pesticides disrupt salmon development and their ability to home to their natal streams.

# Coyote Story



- Once in that time long ago, Ejupa, the coyote, decided to go fishing in the country of the Yellowstone. Before he started he made a huge round fish basket of willows, for the fish were big and plentiful in Yellowstone country. When he finished weaving his willow basket, he lined it carefully with pitch so that it would hold water to keep his fish fresh on the journey home. Off he went carrying the basket on his back. Fishing was good, better than he had dreamed it would be. After just one day the coyote had his basket nearly full. Water to keep the fish fresh made his load almost too heavy for Ejupa to carry, but he staggered down the trail, resting whenever he became tired. The coyote had gone just a little way when he stumbled over a rock and fell. Swoosh! All the water and all his beautiful fish spilled out onto the ground. The water rushed off downhill with the fish splashing along on it. Ejupa ran after the water shouting, “Stop, stop! I worked hard to catch those fish. Now, water, you are taking them away.! On and on ran the coyote, but the stream ran faster. It seemed to grow as it bounced and splashed along.
- Faster and faster it raced, and Ejupa strained to match its speed. Finally he caught up with the rushing stream, but still could do nothing for he had forgotten his basket. Then the coyote cut across a little hill and got ahead of the water. He quickly built a rock dam across its path to stop it from running on, but the water kept flowing right over the dam, making a roaring waterfall. Ejupa watched the water carrying all his beautiful fish and cried out in anger, “I’ll stop you yet. Just wait and see!” Then he ran on fast as the wind ahead of the rushing water. He came to another rocky place and built another dam, higher than the last one, “try to go over this!”, he shouted as the water rushed toward him. The stream flowed on, a river now, filling the place behind the dam until it made a great lake. Ejupa watched with a pleased smile on his face.

# ...moved to secure their livelihood.



- As Sven Liljeblad put it,
  - *a territory was called tebiwa, “native Land,” it was anywhere...he could find something to eat. He also considered open to his exploitation the areas beyond, as far as he could go and could safely pitch his tipi.”*
  - *Rivers and Fisheries of Shoshone and Bannock Peoples. Albers et al*

# Early Accounts of Subsistence

- August 19, 1805
  - Lemhi River
  - Meriwether Lewis noted:
    - “the salmon is the principal object of their pursuit” ...
    - “the natives subsisted on fish and roots principally.”
  - Historic estimates of Salmon River fish consumed/person was approximately 700 lbs/year.



# Snake River Fishing

- October 1, 1843
- “when the salmon come up the river in the spring, they are so abundant that they (the Shoshone) merely throw in their spears at random, certain of bringing out a fish”
  - John C. Fremont
- October 2, 1843
- “Below the falls the fish rise in such multitudes that the Indians can pierce them with their spears without looking”
  - Charles Preuss

# Article IV – Fort Bridger Treaty

- **Article IV** of the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 provides, “The Indians herein named agree...they will make said reservations their permanent home, and they will make no permanent settlement elsewhere; **but they shall have the right to hunt on the unoccupied lands of the United States so long as game may be found thereon**, and so long as peace subsists among the whites and Indians on the borders of the hunting districts.”



# ...the Right to hunt on Unoccupied Lands



**So long as the game may be found  
there on...**



# Clean Water Act

- The CWA does not directly reference “suppression” and how it should be considered in developing a fish consumption rate or WQS criteria.
- But, suppressed effects and unsuppressed exposure are recognized in EPA goals and guidelines.

# EPA's Guidelines for Exposure Assessment (1992)

- Expressly recognize that it is acceptable for agencies to consider future exposure (e.g. unsuppressed exposure) in setting future – oriented environmental standards (e.g. cleanup standards or water quality standards).

**In EPA's *Human Health Ambient Water Quality Criteria and Fish Consumption Rates Frequently Asked Questions (2013)*, under the goals of the human health ambient water quality criteria, they state:**

- *“It is also important to avoid any suppression effect that may occur when a fish consumption rate for a given subpopulation reflects an artificially diminished level of consumption from an appropriate baseline level of consumption for that subpopulation because of a perception that fish are contaminated with pollutants.”*

## Advisory - Mercury Found in Fish Meat

If you catch and eat trout and sucker from the **American Falls Reservoir** or the **Lower Portneuf River**, you should limit the amount of fish meat you eat in a month. The levels of mercury found in trout and sucker, can affect a child's ability to learn and, in adults, long-term exposure may increase risk of heart attacks. It is advised that you follow the guidelines below.

For more information call Hunter Osborne at 239-4564.

**Rainbow Cutthroat Hybrid Trout**



**Rainbow Trout**



**Brown Trout**



TROUT

### Limited Meals

- Children 6-years-old and younger should eat three or less, 4 ounce meals of trout per month.
- Adults should eat five or less, 8 ounce meals of trout per month.

**Utah Sucker**



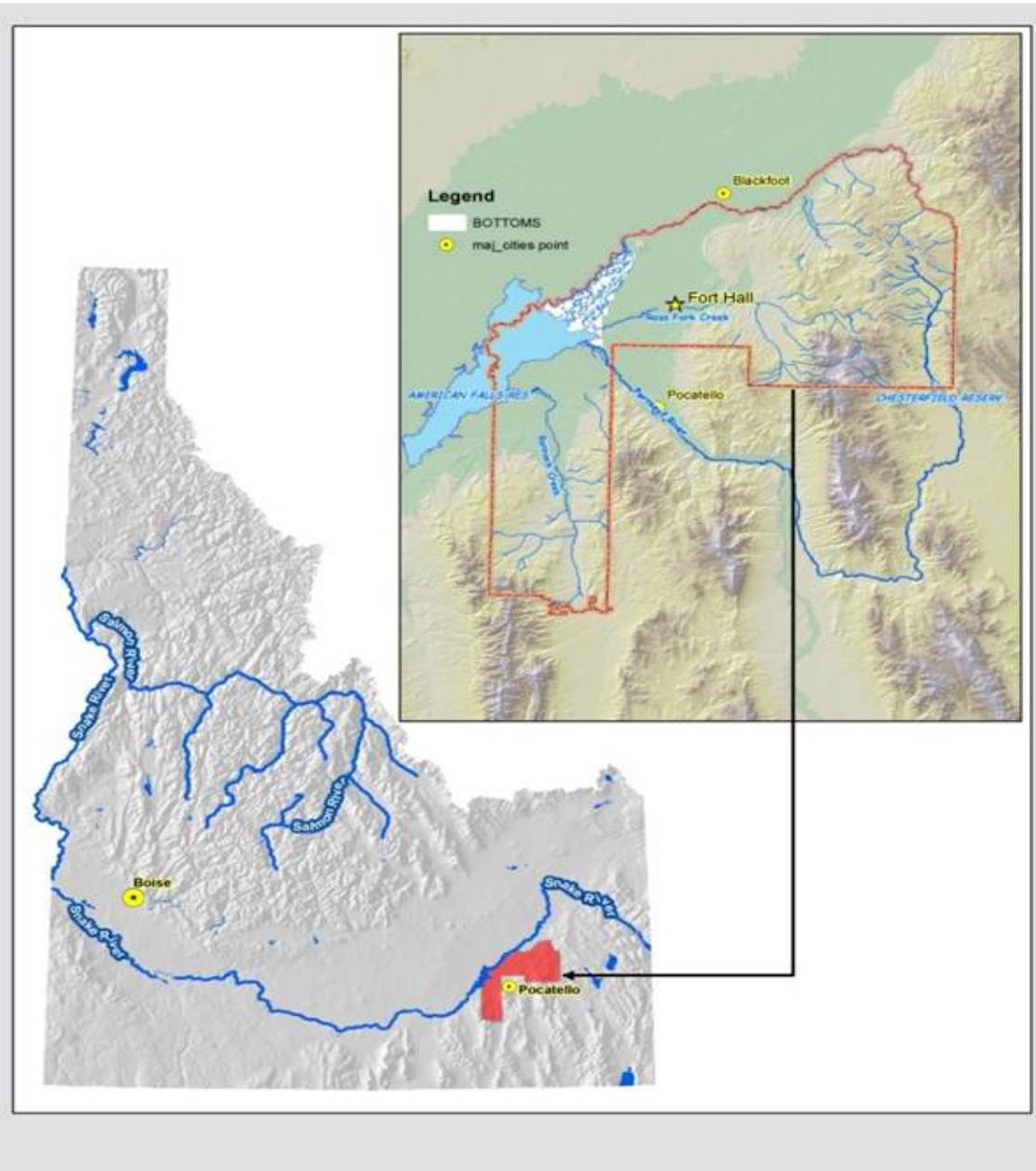
SUCKER

### Limited Meals

- Children 6-years-old and younger should eat one or less, 4 ounce meals of trout in a month.
- Pregnant women, women planning pregnancy, and nursing mothers should eat one or less, 8 ounce meal per month.
- General public should eat two or less, 8 ounce meals of trout in a month.

# TMDLs and the Fort Hall Reservation

- Approximately 550,000 Acres
- 6,000 Members
- American Falls Subbasin, Blackfoot and Portneuf River TMDL's addresses waters and pollutants currently 303(d) listed
- We are surrounded by water quality limited stream segments.
- Suppression Effects



# Agriculture



# Municipalities and Industry



# Land Management



# Hydropower



# “Downward Spiral”

- The “downward spiral” of inadequate WQS based on suppressed fish consumption lead to the diminished health and safety of people consuming fish for subsistence, traditional, cultural, and/or religious purposes.
- Where Tribal members have already reduced their harvest of fish from contaminated, depleted, blocked, or extirpated habitat, the use of current consumption rates could result in underestimations of potential fish consumption rates.

# To Avoid the “Downward Spiral”

- regulatory agencies should identify appropriate, protective, and robust fish consumption baselines and employ these baselines in setting and approving WQS.
- One appropriate baseline should be the assurance that tribes are able to fully and healthfully fulfill their treaty- and trust-protected rights to catch and consume fish.

# Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Fish Consumption Survey

We are reaching out to Tribal members now.

If you get a call, or someone knocks on your door, please participate.

**Fish consumption information will help the Tribe define water quality standards**

**Tribal members are encouraged to help if selected to participate**

**There is some incentives to encourage participation**

**Your personal information is kept strictly confidential – it is not shared with any person or agency**

## Incentive for Participation

- If You Complete the 1<sup>st</sup> Interview, you receive a \$40 Gift Card\*
- If You Complete 2<sup>nd</sup> interview, you are entered into a raffle

\* The gift card is can be used at Sage Hill, TP Gas, or TP Grocery.

## Shoshone Bannock Tribe Fish Consumption Survey

As a people and a culture that is built on fish consumption, the Shoshone Bannock Tribe has been asked to conduct an in-depth survey on fish consumption by Tribal members. The data from this study may inform our water quality standards here on tribal lands and pending State of Idaho Clean Water Act water quality standards.

This important study is being conducted by Pacific Market Research with the full support of the Fort Hall Business Council. Prospective participants are selected anonymously from our Tribal membership rolls in a 50 mile radius of the reservation. Using guidelines from the National Cancer Institute, participants are asked about their food consumption over two, 24 hour periods. **It's critical that people respond to BOTH surveys.**

# Water is the Source of Life



# Tribal Resource Management



- **Emphasize healthy rivers and watersheds with abundant and diverse native species assemblages.**

# Treaty Rights Protection

## STATEMENT OF POLICY:

- The Shoshone Bannock Tribes (Tribes) will pursue, promote, and where necessary, initiate efforts to restore the Snake River systems and affected unoccupied lands to a natural condition. This includes the restoration of component resources to conditions which most closely represents the ecological features associated with a natural riverine ecosystem. In addition, the Tribes will work to ensure the protection, preservation, and where appropriate-the enhancement of Rights reserved by the Tribes under the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 (Treaty) and any inherent aboriginal rights.

# Fish Accord Overview

Funding Commitment from Bonneville Power Administration for \$61 million over 10 years (2008-2018).

Provides for an integrated program for fish and wildlife restoration.

Designed to take an active role in salmon recovery and protect the resources Tribal members rely on for subsistence.

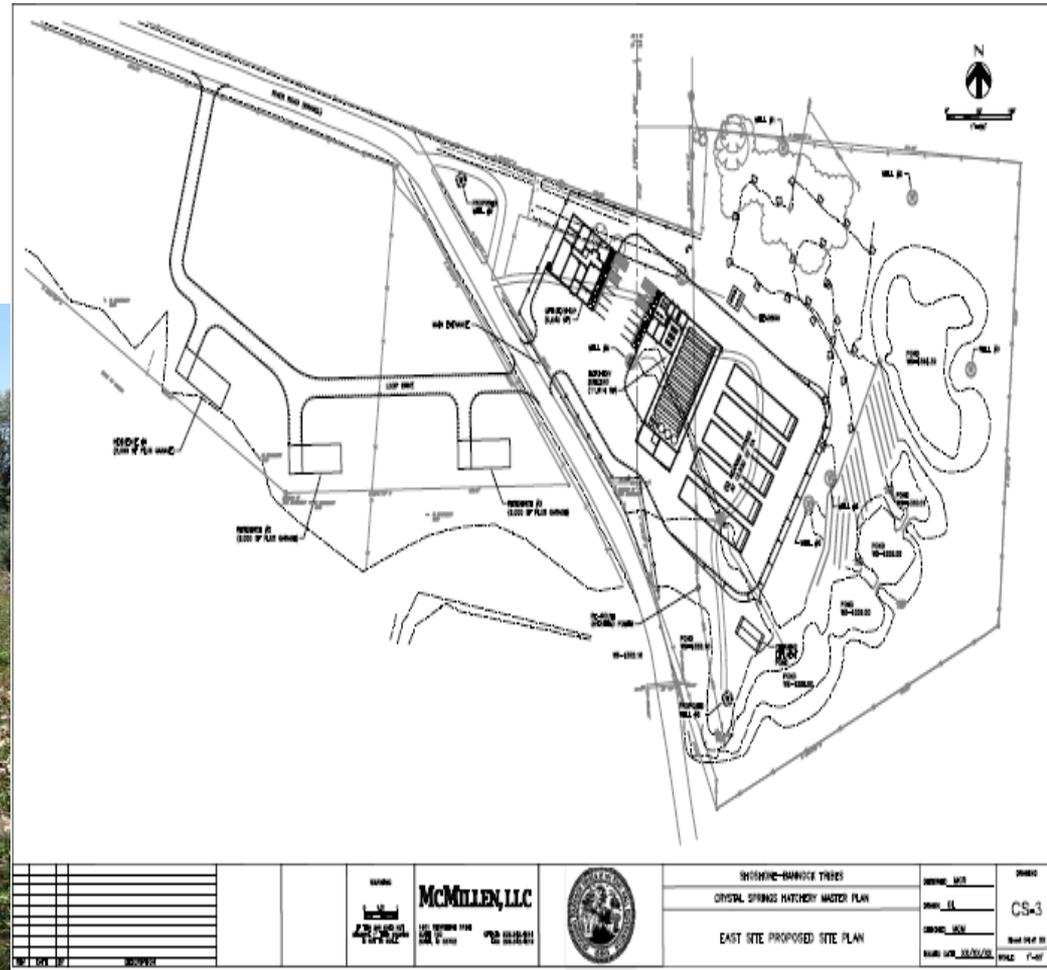
# Accord Projects

- Tribal Supplementation Project
- Salmon River Habitat Enhancement Program
- Yankee Fork Floodplain Restoration
- Salmon River Basin Nutrient Enhancement Project
- ESA Habitat Program
- Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Program
- Snake River Sockeye Research Project
- Crystal Springs Hatchery
- Fort Hall Stream Restoration
- Idaho Supplementation Studies
- Administration Program

# CRYSTAL SPRINGS HATCHERY

Rear Salmon River Chinook salmon and steelhead for release as pre-smolts or equivalents.

Rear Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout to supplement on-reservation populations.



# For Future Generations

