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July 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton

SUBJECT: Invasive Northern Pike in the Pend Oreille River

Northern pike, illegally introduced to the Clark Fork River, Montana have emigrated to the Box Canyon Reservoir and become firmly established. The population has expanded its range and exponentially increased in number from 300 in 2004 to over 10,000 in 2011. Dramatic declines of most other species have been documented as a result of predation and competition with northern pike. Northern pike threaten to undermine significant investments by the Tribe, State and Federal agencies, private utilities, USACE, and BPA to restore native species, including ESA-listed bull trout. Furthermore, northern pike pose significant risks to the anadromous fisheries of the Columbia River basin and the trust/treaty fisheries of the lower Columbia River tribes if left to emigrate further downstream. Illegal introductions to neighboring waters are imminent and threaten economically important resident fisheries.

Although northern pike have contributed to a marked increase in angler effort recently, exploitation alone cannot control or reverse their expansion. The Kalispel Tribe proposes a suite of measures to combat northern pike proliferation in the Columbia Basin, consisting of: declassification of northern pike as a gamefish; designation as an invasive species; liberalization of regulations and mandatory retention; rewarding harvest through derbies and tournaments; education and outreach to both the public and elected officials in the Pacific Northwest; and implementing a long-term mechanical control/suppression program.

Representatives Deane Osterman, Executive Director, Natural Resources, Joe Maroney, Director of Fishery and Water Resources, and Jason Connor, Fisheries Project Manager, from the Kalispel Tribe of Indians will present the Council with information about this considerable threat.

Invasive Northern Pike in Box Canyon Reservoir: The Kalispel Perspective

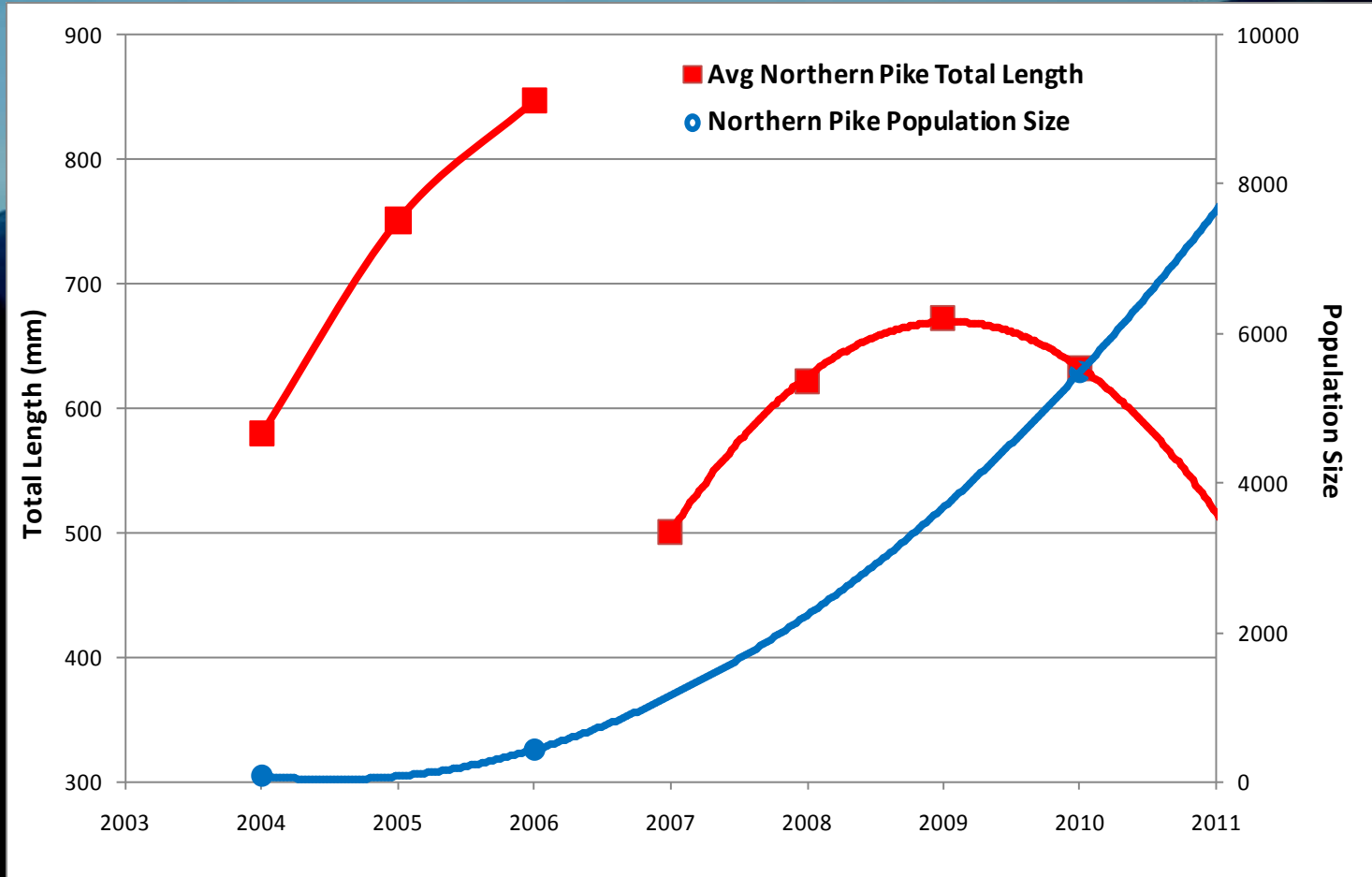
Presented by
Deane Osterman
Kalispel Tribe of Indians
August, 2011



Current Status of BCR Fishery

- Rapidly expanding in number and range
- Estimated population growth from few hundred to over 5,500 adults in the past 5 years (likely >10,000 reservoir-wide)
- Abundance of most other species declining significantly
- Substantial increase in angler interest
 - From ~4,000 hrs 1990 to ~76,000 hrs in 2010
- Angler harvest alone cannot control or reverse expansion
 - Environmental toxins (Mercury, PCBs, Dioxin/Furan)

Trends in Size Structure and Population



■ The “glory days” of trophy NP are behind us

Local and Regional Threats of NP expansion

- Undermining of significant investment (>\$500 million) in native species restoration in POR through FERC license implementation (e.g. fish passage, hatchery, habitat recovery)
- Largemouth bass hatchery operations
- Illegal introductions to neighboring waters
- Compensatory responses (stunting)
- Downstream movement to Columbia imminent
- ESA recovery of salmon/steelhead and fishing impacts (tribal, commercial, recreational)

KNRD Plans

- Implementation of NP suppression program
 - Secure funding for long-term control/suppression
 - Monitor BCR NP population (SPIN gill nets)
 - Monitor BCR warmwater fishery (GN, FN, EF)
- Coordination, outreach and education
 - Invasive species designation
 - Provide outreach and education to public and elected officials
 - Liberalize regulations/mandatory retention
 - Promote harvest (derbies/tournaments)

Questions?

